

Beekmantown Feb. 10th - 1816 -

Sir

I think it my duty to make the following statement to you as Commander in Chief of the militia of the State of New York - Some years since when I had the command of the 139th Regiment I observed John Owens to be an active smart and intelligent young Officer and selected him with (I think) the unanimous wish of all the Officers in the Regiment as my Adjutant. He performed his duty well. Since my promotion to the command of the 15th Brigade, I found that he had devoted much of his time to improve himself in military tactics, in which he was not surpassed by any Officer in the Brigade, besides he had equipped himself very handsomely not regarding any expense & from his frequent maneuvering the Regiment it acquired more order and discipline than any other in the Brigade - In September last he informed me that the Council of Appointment had succeeded him and appointed the then Quarter Master Thaddeus Carone as Adjutant. Upon inquiry I learnt that he had been succeeded as Adjutant by reason of some expression which he used at a conversation which took place some months before & immediately after the capture of the City of Washington, when I and some others were present, a part of which conversation was sworn to and sent to the Council, I made myself acquainted with all that conversation and particularly the words spoken by Mr Owens and am convinced ^{that} if the Deponents had sworn to the whole truth instead of a part only the Council ^{would not have} ~~instead~~ of succeeding him ~~would~~ ^{but} ~~have~~ ^{not} ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~appointed~~ the zeal he expressed for the honor of his Country

and the Bravery of the Militia ~~with~~ After I was satisfied with his
innocency & wanting a Person to attend me at my annual Review
(My Aid de Camp Captain Brown acting as Brigade Inspector in
the absence of Major Adell who was on a Journey to the State of Ohio)
I accepted of his proffered services as a Volunteer Aid for that
duty, and as he attended me upon that Occasion I feel myself
interested to convince you that his Accusers acted uncandid
and extremely unfair to detail only a part of the Conversation
without stating the whole Subject which led Mr Brown to express
himself in the manner represented to the Council, The whole of
which will or is already sworn to by Others who were present and
as soon as I receive the Affidavits will transmit them to your
Excellency & which I trust will not only satisfy your Ex-
cellency & the Council but induce them to reinstate him
in his former Command -

I have the honor to be
Your Excellency's Most Obedt
Servant
C. W. Van Gortlandt

his br
D. D. Tompkins

G. S. I have the best reason to believe these accusations
were ^{prepared} ~~made~~ against Mr Brown more to gratify private
resentment than any other Cause -

Copy of a letter
sent to Governor
Tompkins -

Feb - 10 - 1816

About the surrendering
John Owens -