

1782
March 30th
Robert Levers
Esq^r

~~Northampton County~~

~~Philadelphia~~

Public Service
The Honorable
Major General Lincoln
Secretary of War

Easton March 30th 1782

Sir

Yesterday in the afternoon a certain Person, who called himself James Gaing, was brought before me, on suspicion of being a Prisoner of War, belonging to Lord Cornwallis's captured Army, he said he had at Norfolk in Virginia, deserted from the British (he belonged to the 33^d Regiment) before the Surrender, but from many circumstances, being convinced he was no deserter, I committed him to the Gaol in this Town, giving strict orders to search him, lest he might have letters &c. with him. In consequence of which it appears, by a discharge, found with him, from the Hospital at Norfolk, dated the 22^d July 1781, his Name is James Brice, a Corporal in Lt. Col. Balper's Company of the 23^d Regiment, and he has since confessed he is a Prisoner of War, that at York in Pennsylvania he was with a Party of Six to hunt wood, and took that opportunity to make his escape, and came thers far, on his way towards some Relations he has in the Jerseys, at some distance from Brunswick. That he had no intention to attempt to go to New York. He is a Scotchman I have since wrote to the Skipper of the Ferry, to examine and stop all Travellers, that he may have reason to suspect. There will be some Recruits sent from hence next Week to Reading, with whom this Prisoner of War may be forwarded. As there is no Provisional Post here, in what manner, our Prisoners of War, should others be taken up to be subsisted, until they can be removed from hence.

Having been applied to by the Wife of one Clinberfoose, a Hebrarian Prisoner of War, now in Gaol, to endeavor to get him enlarged, and his confinement whilst other Prisoners have their Liberty, appearing to be the Result of Anger and Resentment, rather than a just Punishment for Demerit, sufficient Security having been received for his forthcoming, from time to time. For since the year 1780, I take the Liberty to engage a few moments of your time, in representing the case of this man, as it has come to my Knowledge. This Hebrarian Prisoner by his own account, Isaac Clinberfoose, by name, was taken at Saratoga at the Reduction of General Burgoyne and his Army by General Gates, that remaining among the Prisoners at Winter Hill, till November 1778, when they were about to be removed to Virginia, he left them and went to Boston and there varied working for different Gentlemen till May 1779. That one Mr. John Smith with whom he worked at Boston, went with him to General Heath, who gave him a Pass, which he says he lost with his Pocket Book. That in May 1779, he left Boston, and worked at several places about eight miles from thence, after which he left that Country and came to Mansfield in Jersey, where not finding much work, he departed from thence and came to Valentine Beidleman's, who keeps a mill in Suspect County in Jersey, about a mile from Easton, in August 1779. And staying there about a month and half, he went from thence to one Henry Glaines, a neighbour of said Beidleman's, at which Glaines he continued about Ten months. After the Ten months were expired he married the daughter of one John Werts of Philipburgh a Town in Jersey opposite Easton, and worked about from place to

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place

place in that neighbourhood. That during the Ten months he
lived with Haines, Doctor Andrew Ladley of Easton who acted as a
Commissary of Prisoners went into the Jerseys to Mr. Haines and charged
him not to let Clinberfoose go, without acquainting him. Soon after
and a little before Haines' death in the year 1780, Clinberfoose being in
Easton Mr. Ladley thought it best to secure him and put him in Gaol
where he remained Live Days. And then Mr. Haines, Mr. Beidleman
and one Philip Michael became his Securites, and he was released
from his Confinement. That Clinberfoose having worked Twenty
Eight days and an half for Mr. Ladley, ^{in the course of last Summer and Fall} partly as a mason, and partly
as a Labourer, and receiving as he said no pay therefor, and being
again wanted by Mr. Ladley to assist in quarrying a considerable
quantity of Stone for him, which Clinberfoose seemed unwilling to
do, alledging he could not live so without pay, upon which Clinber-
foose says, Mr. Beidleman told him, that he should bring Clinber-
foose over to Easton and take up the Bond, and that Clinberfoose
should be put into Gaol. This happened sometime in February
last. That Mr. Ladley having lately been at Philadelphia, and
as he wrote me, (as I had frequently said) that I could not persuade
myself to believe, that the Board of War would continue an
officer as Commissary of Prisoners in this place for more than the
space of thirteen months past, there being no possible duty for
him to perform, and which at the same time appeared to be loading
the Public with unnecessary Burdens, which were already in
essentials, almost too heavy) "was empowered by the Board of
War to collect the Prisoners in the County, and wait their orders
for the disposal of them, ^{at which} he thought he was not a Commissary of
Prisoners, he Mr. Ladley meeting with Clinberfoose in this for
beat him in a very cruel manner, making as it is said stole
in his Head with a Stick he wears, afterward committed up
to Gaol, where he now lays, and as his Wife tells me, is in a few
days to be sent off to Reading. She tells me, he has ever used
her with Tenderness and Affection, has an Infant sucking at her
Breast. He bears a general good character among the Neigh-
bours at Philipsburgh, and can bring undoubted good Security
for his appearance at all times, whenever he shall be called for.
In behalf of this poor Woman and Child I therefore use the
Freedom to solicit in her behalf, that if it may be judged
consistent with the Public Weal, her Husband, Isaac Clinberfoose
may be permitted to remain with her, and be discharged from his
Confinement, ^{until he shall be called on for an exchange or} upon giving such Security as may be required.

I am with great Careem and Regard

Sir

Your Honors
most obedient Servants

Robert Levers