

## DRAFT OF LETTER CONCERNING UNIFORMS

To D. Potter Esq. Lieut. Coln. commandant of the 4th Regt. 2d. Brigade & 6t Division of the Militia of Massachusetts.

We the subscribers, Members of the Co. of Light Infantry commanded by Capt. J. Hazen belonging to the Regt. under your command; with due respect wish to lay before you a statement of the existing difficulties in our Co. This Co. was raised by voluntary enlistment & on the 6th June 1805 were organized; the causes which induced us to volunteer ourselves were a desire to obtain such Martial Knowledge that should our country's safety require, we might be found as able as we are willing to defend her injured rights against the attacks of any bold invader. We expected and were desirous to spend such a portion of our time and money as that our appearance on parade should reflect honour on ourselves and our country. But Sir our expectations have not been realized, we have not in our opinion been called upon for Military duty s often; nor have we when met been disciplined in a manner becoming such a Co. We have not even to this day a uniform established by the vote of the Co. nor by the Genl. of Brigade by which means the 31d Article of the 34 Factions of the Militia law cannot operate. We are now, and always have been desirous that the uniform of the Co. might be clarified but the same never has been proposed to the Co. for their approbation by the proper officer, except in one article. Reviewing [?] as we did the great want of Military discipline and due subordination with the existing difficulties respecting our uniform we did on the 19h of Oct. last present to our Capt. a statement of the above facts praying that our officers would use their exertions that a strict discipline might be established & that we on all occasions were willing and desirous to sacrifice our private intent so as to render ourselves respectable; which petition was signed by about every member present on that day. We have waited in anxious expectation that this petition would produce some good effect, in this however we are disappointed not anything has been done by our officers we remain as before. We now pray that your endeavours may be used that the foregoing evils may be speedily remedied by the proper officers & that you in your wisdom would direct us to such ways as that we may obtain the ends desired.

Bridgeton.