

1804
Jan 18

Canaan State New York Jan. 16th 1804

Sir Considering the Importance of the Militia & the Confidence your
Excellency reposes in them I think it the Duty of Every Citizen to make
all the exertion in their power that will prove to their Advantage. which
I think will be a sufficient excuse for the trouble I shall give you
in communicating my Ideas on that Subject. As it comes within the
Limits of your Office as Commander in Chief of the Militia to Introduce
rules of Discipline Permit me Sir to communicate the within
Manuscript for your Consideration. If on Examination you find the
System worthy of your Approbation Please to give it your Signature
that I may have the benefit of the Copy which will enable me in
my Circumstances to draw the Proceedings of a Field Day. I have
shown the Manuscript to a number of Military Caretakers which have
all approved of it & wish that it might be circulated for the Bene-
fit of the Militia. I shall not make any remarks on the Manuscript
it must speak for itself otherwise than the Plate makes the Formation
of a Company very plain. As Children are in General Aspiring
after the Caricton of a Soldier I think a Military Catechism would
Excite that Ambition in their young minds that it would not only
learn them to read but it would likewise give them that knowledge
into the Duties of a Soldier that they would be able to turn out whe-
n ever their Strength would admit in Defense of the Glorious Liberties
purchased by their Fathers for them at the risk of their Lives.

If on Examination you find the System not worthy of Practice please
to make it manifest & you will much Oblige your friend & Hum^{ble} Serv^t

Joseph Lord

To his Excellency Thomas Jefferson Esq^r
President of the United States of America

Lo 3 Joseph A. Day's answer N. 11 Jan. 1804
no 2 Jan. 29

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

[Handwritten signature or name, possibly "Joseph A. Day", written in cursive.]

[Faint handwritten text at the bottom of the page, possibly a date or reference.]