

# Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections

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## Documents Online

**Title:** Letter from William Irvine to David Grier

**Date:** June 25, 1777

**Location:** I-Friends-2013-4

### Contact:

Archives & Special Collections  
Waidner-Spahr Library  
Dickinson College  
P.O. Box 1773  
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

[archives@dickinson.edu](mailto:archives@dickinson.edu)

Dear Col:

Carlisle June 25<sup>th</sup> 1777

all the news I have at present is that  
Capt: M<sup>o</sup>: Dowd will March about 20 men  
in a day or two to Bhitada - neither Brown  
nor Graham will serve - you are kind to  
ask me to Recommend Officers - I fear I have  
intended on your privilege already - you  
ask my Opinion whether you will advance  
the present Officers. & then you will have  
only Ensigns to make - this will undoubtedly  
be the best way provided the Officers are  
deserving men - which you must now be  
a much better Judge of than I can possibly  
be - for there is no way to know an Officer  
but by being in Service with them -  
for this reason I wish you would appoint  
such as you know will Beat the test - If  
at any time a clever fellow comes in my way  
I will recommend him to you

I expect to send you a Volunter or two  
very soon - Blankets I fear will <sup>be</sup> got with  
great difficulty - However hope some will  
soon be sent to Philad<sup>a</sup>. - I am sorry you  
are all so sickly - but hope as you have  
now got what is called a seasoning you  
will stand the rest of the Campaign well  
Pray make my Respectfull Compliments  
to all the Gentlemen of the Regt: & believe  
me to be Dear Sir with great regard

Your friend &  
Thumblers  
Wm Irvine

Col. David Greig -

le  
from Francis  
letter

o M



On the Service of the United States

Lt. Col: David Grier

Commanding the 7<sup>th</sup> Penn: Reg<sup>t</sup>

Head Quarters

Jersey

This Irish-born doctor settled in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, after service in the French and Indian War, and he joined a Pennsylvania regiment in 1776, eventually rising to become a Continental Army general. He was later a member of the Continental Congress and a U.S. Congressman.

At the date of this Revolutionary War letter, Irvine was on parole in Carlisle, having been captured at Trois Rivières in June 1776. He writes, as colonel of the 7th Pennsylvania Regiment, to another officer with those troops, discussing officers for the regiment, new recruits, and supplies. *"All the news I have at present is that Capt. McDowel will March about 20 men in a day or two to Philada. – neither Brown nor Graham will serve – you are kind to Ask me to Recommend Officers – I fear I have intruded on your privilege already – you ask my Opinion whether you will advance the present Officers & then you will have only Ensign to make – this will undoubtedly be the best way provided the Officers are deserving men – which you must now be a much better Judge off than I can possibly be – for there is no way to know an Officer but by being in service with him – for this reason I wish you would appoint such as you know will Bear the test – If at any time a Cliver fellow comes in my way I will recommend him to you –*

*"I expect to send you a Volunteer or two very soon – Blankets I fear will be got with great difficulty – however hope some will soon be sent to Philada. – I am sorry you are all so sickly – but hope as you have now got what is called a seasoning you will stand the rest of the Campain well – pray make my Respectfull Compliments to all the Gentlemen of the Regt. & believe me to be Dear Sir with great regard Your friend & Humble Servt. Wm. Irvine."*

Irvine has also addressed the letter to Grier at "Head Quarters Jersey" and has franked it, *"On the Service of the United States."*