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## Documents Online

**Title:** Letter from James Smith to Frederick Muhlenberg

**Date:** February 24, 1783

**Location:** I-Purchase-1967-10

### Contact:

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Philadelphia 24<sup>th</sup> July 1783

Sir

The delay I have met with in receiv-

ing a sum of money due me from this State, and as just a debt as any contracted since the Commencement of the present war, has given me great cause of complaint. On the seventh of July 1781. Peter W. Lynn State agent One hundred and fifty head of Cattle, for which he gave me an Order upon Col. Jacob Morgan for £3427-11-8, S. I had money in full payment, after a delay of several days offered to pay me fifteen hundred pounds State Money, which I refused, and after being detained a shewen weeks, totally refused payment of any part of the debt, and denied the Authority of their agent for making the purchase, upon this I returned to Carlisle and brought an Action against W. Lynn, - W. Lynn producing his Authority, Council agreed to leave it to an Arbitration, and wrote the Court at Carlisle to nominate proper persons to settle all matters in variance between the said parties, Inclosed you have the Report,

upon report being filled and Judgment as of that  
Term, I obtained a copy of the report from the  
Prothonotaries Office, and some time afterwards waited  
upon Council with an expectation of receiving the  
money due me, when to my great surprize I found  
that Council had ordered a writ of error in Order  
to delay payment, — I would here have to  
mention, that when I bargained with Mr. Bygon  
the troops at Carlisle was starving for want of meat,  
and I had a more advantageous offer from the State  
agent of Maryland Mr. Mardock, that when Mr. Bygon  
bought those cattle, I engaged myself by articles of  
Agreement to take an equal number of Cattle in  
payment any period between the time of purchase  
and the 15<sup>th</sup> of May following, — a Committee of your  
Honorable House had my claim before them last  
Year and informed me they had adopted ways and  
means for the payment thereof, after being thus  
delayed I hope the Honorable House will order  
Immediate payment, and enable me to discharge  
debts for which I am now for part of those cattle  
sold their agents. I also here have to mention that  
my attending upon this business at sundry times  
has subjected me to an Expence of two hundred

pounds, for which I shall expect restitution,

I have the honor to  
be with the greatest respect,

Sir

Yours most Obedt.

Wm. Smith

J. W. Smith

The Hon.

Friedrich Muhlensberg

Letter from James  
Smith of Fort Laramie  
read Feb. 24. 1803 in Am.

Frederick Madenbough Esq.

Parents



Mail Address:  
Post Office Drawer No. 257  
WEATOGUE, CONNECTICUT

PAUL F. HOAG

Area Code 203  
Telephone 658-6817

"For Autographs"

Charter Member The Manuscript Society

ORIGINAL AUTOGRAPH LETTERS, DOCUMENTS, MANUSCRIPTS, ETC.

All items guaranteed as represented.

ABBREVIATIONS: ALS-Autograph Letter Signed; LS-Letter Signed  
ADS-Autograph Document Signed; DS-Document Signed; p-Page  
pp-Pages; 4to-Quarto; 8vo-Octavo; 12mo.-Duodecimo

February 24th,  
1783  
Philadelphia.

SIRS:

The delay I have met with in receiving a sum due me from this state and as just a Debt as any contracted since the commencement THE PRESENT WAR, has given me great cause of complaint. On the 7th of February 1781 I sold Mr Lyon, State agent ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY HEAD OF CATTLE FOR WHICH he gave me an order upon Col Jacob Morgan for 3427 Pounds 11 Shillings, eight Pence...money in full payment. After a delay of several days offered to pay me Fifteen hundred Pounds State money, which I refused and after being detained eleven weeks totally refused payment of any part of the Debt and denied the authority of the Debt and their agent for making the purchase. Upon this I returned to Carlisle and bought an action against Mr Lyon producing his authority, council agreed to leave it to arbitration, and wrote the Council at Carlisle to nominate proper persons to settle all matters... in between said parties. Inclosed you have the Report. Upon Report being filled ( or filed) and Judgement as of that town. I obtained a copy (sic) of the Report from the...office and some time afterwards waited upon the Council with an expectation of receiving the money due me, when to my great surprise, found that the Council had ordered a Writ of War (sic) in order to delay payment. I would beg here to mention that when I bargained with Mr Lyon, THE TROOPS AT CARLISLE WERE STARVING FOR WANT OF and I had a MORE ADVANTAGEOUS OFFER FROM THE STATE AGENT OF MARYLAND, MR MURDOCK, and when Mr Lyon...those cattle, I enjoyed engaged myself by articles of agreement

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TO TAKE AN EQUAL NUMBER OF CATTLE IN PAYMENT ANY PERIOD BETWEEN  
THE TIME OF PURCHASE AND THE 15TH OF MAY FOLLOWING. A committee  
of your honorable House will order immediate payment and enable me  
to discharge Debts for which I am sued for part of the cattle sold  
through agent. I also beg leave to mention that my attending upon  
this business at sundry times have subjected me to an expense of  
two hundred Pounds for which I shall expect resitution.

I have the honor to be, with the greatest Respect

Sir

Your most Ob't

Hble Serv't

JAS SMITH.

The Hon'ble

Frederick Muhlenburgh. (With address page