Dresden may 12th 1796

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General B: Lincoln.

Sir

I Recivd the honour of your letter, by which you inform me, that the president was pleased, to Apoint me, keeper of Sequine lighthouse; I am very hainely oblig'd to you for your Recomandation, and Shall depend upon, fullfilling my duties as a man of honour.

I See by your letter Sath. my Salary is fixed a 200 dolars p: annu which disapointes me very much; general Dearborn & others allways told me it was 300 dolars, you know my dear General all the difficulties, and expences, a light at Sequine is attended to, I dont want to have extravegent wages, but Should like, to save my Self if the first three years will Cost me money out of my pocket, which I Cam make you Sensible of. there is no feed on the Island, I must Carry two Cows, for my family, & keep them in hay, Sommer, & winter, which I must purchase, and Carry on the Island, with the greatest dificulty. I must keep also a horse

I Received the honour of your Letter, by which you inform me, that the president was pleased, to appoint me, keeper of Sequine light house; I am very haindly obliged to you for your Recomandation, and Shall depend upon, to fulfill my duties as a man of honour.

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I must sale 4 acres in order to burn them next year, after burnt clear them, Sow them, hire mann to hack the grain, and the hays Seed in; having no oxen on the Spote, then the third year, I Shall only have hay, for my three creatures.

Now My Dear General I hope you will take it into consideration, to assist an old

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deration I must Request the favour of you, to assist an old
Soldier, and to make an adition, to my Salary, or if you Camm
not make it your Self, to be so kind, as to make application
for me, when it is necessary. I think 100 £ per anum for the
three first years, will enable me, to bear the expenses,
necessary, for the beginning, and afterwards, I should not
say one word, to have it Reduced, to the 200 Dolars, per year,
first mentioned, which would not more then save my
town, & then enable me by that time, to Raise my hays,
potatoes &c: it is but a Small Sum, for a State, and will not
be Refused, if only you will be pleased, to make your observation
on the occasion.

I am in hopes, you will find my demand Reasonable and Beg's to Show me, So much favour, as to obtain my Request, for which I, and my family Shall be gratefull all their liv's time, & pray's for your welfare. I expect to go on the Island next week, in order to make Some preparations, toward the time I Shall be Callt upon, if the time of my tending the light Could be ascertain'd for fifty, or Sixty year, I Should take it as a favour. in Expectation of a favourable answer. I Remain

Sir

With the highest Esteem
your humble Servt
John Paterson