

c. s. c. is redy. I am purchasing Pork for the Defence at 50<sup>s</sup> and it cant be had for less. I shall do all I can for you.

from your Humble Servant  
Jesse Hollingsworth

To the Honorable Councill  
of Safty, Annapolis

[John Gibson to Council.]

Talbot County 4<sup>th</sup> January 1777.

Council of Safty. Gent.

I imagine ere now you've had an impeachment laid before you by M<sup>r</sup> Chamberlaine against Jere. Colston, and others of Caroline County for forcibly taking a quantity of Salt from him. And lest you should not have the matter impartially laid before you Honors, I've thought proper at the request of the parties concerned to give a real and true State of their whole proceedings in going out in serch of salt and their coming in, viz. Colston being in extreem want of salt heard it was most likely to be had in Talbot County, and being well acquainted there, He proceeded through it making the strictest enquiry after salt, but could hear of none except that M<sup>r</sup> Chamberlaine had ingrossed. He then went to M<sup>r</sup> Chamberlaine with an intent to purchase, and finding him not at home, made his business known to the family, who told him M<sup>r</sup> Chamberlaine would certainly sell him none and also heard that he had refused selling to many before. Colston went a second time, when he was disappointed in the same manner. On his return he acquainted many as he pass'd with his business and the real want he was in, for he then had 1500 w<sup>t</sup> of Pork kill'd in his house, which had laid there some time for want of salt, which he could by no means procure and returned empty home again. He was then mentioning his case to his neighbours, who say'd they was in the like circumstances and knew not what to do. He then let them know he was informed Chamberlaine had a quantity of salt, at a plantation of his, (called plain Dealing) to the amount of 100 Bushels, but would not part with any of it to any person. Those men then after making the strictest enquiry after salt without success, pressed him to go with them, and seemed determined if Colston would join them, to deal plain with the ingrosser of that scarce article salt. They then proposed going with each of them a musket, and also money to buy as much as they had real present need of, which latter they would first offer to Chamberlaine's Trustee, and if he would not take the money and deliver the salt, they would take it by force, to this proposition Colston agreed, the time was appointed when to set out