

Lewis March 18th 1841

The Hon. Major Thomas Stockton

Dear Sir, I was not able to see you after I obtained my letters from Mr. Bayard. But will lay them before you in person as soon as I hear of your appointment. John M. West Esq. Laban L Lyons, John D. Rodney & myself and the candidates, I have been informed since my return as Mr. Lyons has declined, and been appointed by the Governor. West Master he has handed over to Mr. Rodney his Brother in Law his petition with the names thereon, and his letters. Nearly all this has been accomplished through the ~~through~~ Hon. Caleb S and Joshua S Layton who are Mr. Rodney's very active friends (so report says). I was informed by a friend this evening that Mr. Rodney used as a plea against me that I had a Brother in office. I will in reply say, that I have at least thirty influential relatives and well know that not one sixth of them ever held an office. The Rodney & Layton family are the near relatives of Mr. J. D. Rodney and I say there is not three Rodneys of his family but what have had or now have office, and there is not one in the Layton family but what have recently had or now have an office. Dr. H. F. Hall is the only near relation Mr. Rodney has, but what has had or holds an office, and he has a salary of several hundred dollars a year from Government, a part of his time for attending the lands on the ~~private~~ private John M. West Esq. an applicant and an Uncle to Mr. Rodney and Lyons holds three commissions at this time, from the Governor and County. Mr. Lyons holds one from Caleb S Layton his Brother in Law holds one & Lawden a Layton also. In fact Mr. Rodney has

very few persons in their family but have some taste of office
I respect all these gentlemen, But merely state this against their shallowness
to the appointment, I need this office on account of losses sustained,
and a sickly family, I was raised in the limits of Lewis, but as my
business is small, (Should I be so fortunate as to receive this appointment)
I shall move into Lewis at once, I have letters from - Governor
Cooper, & also Hassell, Peter S. James Parker, Dr. Joseph & George
Maucler, Wm. Dunning Esq. & C. L. Wells. W. O. Meador, C. G. Ridgely, Doctors
Harris & Marsh, & Wolfe, A. & J. D. Marshall & many others in super
Dad - J. Lofland & Butler - J. M. Darby, D. Barry, John M. Clayton, J. W. Houston
J. R. Mc Fee - Judge Harrington - P. Spavin - Judge Milligan & others
in upper counties, and could have obtained one thousand names
on petition if asked no doubt, but deemed it unnecessary, I shall
have letters setting forth the political course of Lewis West Esq. and
the opinion as regards and early change in this office, his own party
were becoming very much dissatisfied at his holding the office so
long. If convenient I will be thankful to hear from your
kind as to prospects, and promise secrecy.

With sentiments of highest respects,

Your Obedt. humble Servt

Robert A. Houston



Lewis recd
March 20th 1843

Mayor Thomas Stockton Esq.

New Castle

Delaware