To Joseph Bass Esquire

Greeting,

We reposeing especial trust and confidence in your fidelity, courage, and good conduct do by these presents constitute and appoint you the said Joseph Bass to be Second Lieutenant (with the rank of Major) of an Independent Company of Cadets, whereof Samuel Shirley is Captain. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of a Second Lieutenant in leading, ordering, and exercising the said Company in arms both. Instruct your Officers and Soldiers to keep them in good Order and Discipline hereby commanding them to obey you as their Second Lieutenant and yourself to observe and follow such Orders and Instructions as you shall from time to time receive from the Council and Assembly of the said Colony and their Committees of Safety or any Superior Officers for the Service of said Colony, according to Military Rules and Discipline in pursuance of the Trust reposed in you. Dated at Exeter, the Thirtieth Day of March, Anno Domini 1776.

E. Thompson, Secretary

Meshech Weare, President of the Council.