

Alexander Hamilton to Edward Carrington, March 21, 1791

Image

Treasury Department
March 21st 1791.

Sir

You will probably have received
as this reaches you, a Commission as Supervisor
of the Revenue for the district of Virginia.
The compensation annexed to that office is to
consist of a Salary of One thousand dollars per
Annum and one per cent on the product of the duties
on the Spirits which shall be distilled within
your district, including those on fields. It is
presumed however that this compensation by
the true construction of the law does not commence
till the first of July next.

The subdivison of your district into surveys
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(The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, GLC00299 p.1)

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of Inspection has been deferred by the President,
to be done in the course of his Journey through the
district; in which he expects your aid; and that
he may have an opportunity of conversing with
you he will write to you from Georgetown fixing
a period at which you are to meet him at Rich=
=mond.

I give you this previous notice that you
may consult the law (a copy of which accompanies
this letter) and employ your reflections as well
on what will be a convenient subdivision of the
district as on the proper characters to be submitted
to the consideration of the President for Inspectors.

You will observe, that the law contemplates
three descriptions of Officers; a Supervisor, who
is to have the chief direction within a district —

Inspectors

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Inspectors who, under him, are to manage the
business within certain Surveys or subdivisions and
a third Class with no particular denomination,
who are to be appointed by the Supervisor and to
have the charge of a given number of distilleries
one or more as he shall assign to them.

It has been conceived here (though nothing
has been determined on) that your State will
require to be subdivided into Eight or Nine Surveys,
counting Kentucke as one. The allowance, which
is contemplated for an Inspector is a Salary of
Four hundred and fifty dollars per annum,
and a Commission of One percent of the product
of the duties within his Survey. This has been
found an adequate inducement in this state
to very respectable characters to accept the Office
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by him collected from the duties on spirits distilled
from foreign materials, and four per cent on those
collected from the duties on spirits distilled
from Domestic Materials.

I am with great consideration

Sir

Your Obed^t. Servant
Alexander Hamilton

Edward Carrington Esq^r.
Supervisor for the district of
Virginia. —

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(The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, GLC00299 p.4)