

**Adam Stephen to George Washington, November 7, 1755, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

**FROM COLONEL ADAM STEPHEN**

WINCHESTER Novr. 7th. 1755

SIR,

Last night the Detachment marchd with only Eight waggons at Last; There is no more Salt here, of which I have acquainted Mr. Dick, and desir'd him to forward the Quantity necessary, while the weather favour'd us So much. —

The Cattle from Carolina fall away much, and unless They are Slaughtered soon, they will not be worth while.—I have procur'd Several Cooper's Tools here, and mentiond what we want to Mr. Dick.—I am told Shepherd herds the Cattle Sent us by Govn Dobb's at £60 per month.—The Cattle from Augusta are all Save at Fort Cumberland; and as soon as Conveniences for Salting can be made—The Next Shall be ordered up—I wait here to See the Detachmn. from Frd by which is expected to-day; and to give Some necessary Orders, when I follow the Convoy which will halt at Edwards this night.—I have found it necessary, to prevent the people from Abandoning Their Valley on this Side the Blue Ridge, to Send a party of men to Henry Enoch's on Cape Caps—and promise a party to Walkin's Ferry to guard the Magazine of provisions there. I hope this will meet with your approbation, when you hear that the Pannic which prevails, is so great as to make them leave their plantations on Opecan,

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If a party is not Stationed on Cape Caps, the Enemy may come within four miles of Winchester before they are heard of, and indeed to Secure that Frontier properly—Maryland ought to have 100 men at Cressops, 100 at the Conattaways—With a party at the mouth of Little Cape Caps, another at Enochs, and another at the Mouth of Back Creek on Walkins Ferry.—However, a proper Number at Fort Cumberland; and a Fort with a Garrison of 1000 men near to Ross Town in pennsylvania, would render all this a great deal less necessary.

The Inhabitants of Pennsylvania are more scared than hurt—I can hear of no person that has seen this large Body of French & Indians—and am of Opinion that the Intelligence is not to be depended on—tho' by Govr. Morris' Letter to you it Seems he believes it,—But Mr. Irvine would certainly have heard Something of the matter if such a Number had come on this Side the mountains —

Capt. Woodward is returned with the party from Ross Town; without Seeing the Enemy; They Stay'd too short a time; The Indians being disappointed in their Attacks did not return as soon as they propos'd.

You see by the inclosed from Mr. Cittendon, that the French leave no stone unturned to secure all the Indians, on Susquehanna, and their Immisarrys are at this instant among the Cherokees—I have reason to believe His Honr. the Govern has been much Abus'd by the five Indians who pretend to be of the Cherokee Nation—I have reason to believe that they were straglers—There were only two Cherokees—The fellow who pretended to be Chief is a Shanoë,<sup>1</sup> one was an Adopted Catawba, another a Mingo—While Traders are employd in these important affairs nothing to our Advantage is to be Expected, and if ever we Secure an Interest among the Savages it must be Accomplished by men of weight and Integrity—I must own I look upon this to be So important to the Colonies, that no Expence, No pains, even by the Persons of greater Abilities is to be thought too much—Paris<sup>2</sup> pretensions to bring in the 200 Cherokees, appears to me by Advice from a Rational

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person, to be only a trick, to procure forgiveness, and recover the Govr Countenance, after so many Charges as have been justly lodged agt him by Mr. Gist. —

By a particular & intimate Acquaintance of Paris', it has been acknowledged that he was the principal Cause of our not having the Cherokees Last Spring. —

This moment arrived here Capt. Caton from Carnegochiga, who informs that 150 Marylanders, and 350 Pennsylvanians have marched towards the head of the Creek, but in the greatest disorder, without Command or knowledge of what they were about. There is not above ten men killd or taken which has occasioned all the Confusion in Pennsylvna. Sweringham was orderd out last tuesday w 100 men, to reconnoitre towards Sleepy-Creek, and the Warm Springs; but is not gone yet. he & Caton cannot make up the resu. between them—so many have run off. The Inhabitants are dastardly, and in a proper temper to have any joke impos'd upon them.—This argues the necessity of Compleating your Regimt. —

Would the three [illegible] join, we could destroy the Illlanan & Shanse<sup>3</sup> towns this winter —This Vigorous Step would most Effectually Secure our Frontiers.—If Paris ed go ag' the Shanse town they will Certainly be beat.—I have learned the French have a Fort at that place—I am with Respect

Sir. Yours ADAM STEPHEN Please to Order Up A Doctr. immediatly

1 Shawanese.

2 An Indian trader on the Holstein River.

3 Shawanese towns.