

Thomas Walker to George Washington, November 26, 1755, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM COMMISSARY THOMAS WALKER. ¹

WINCHESTER November ye 26 1755

SIR

I received the instructions you left here, last night Colo: Stephen being a Connigochig² occasioned my not having them Sooner—. I have made enquiry into the state of the Cattle Under the care of Mr. Shepherd & Capt. Perry and am told by Capt. Perry and others than many of them are so weak they cannot be drove to Fort Cumberland, those that are fit to Slaughter I shall order up as fast as Salt can be provided to Salt them. The others I dont know what to do with unless you think proper to order them to be sold or leave them on the Hands of the Drovers. If they are ordered to be Sold the Publick must sustain a considerable Loss. if left on the Hands of the Drovers they perhaps ruined. Unless you think proper to lay in provison for more than twelve Hundred men I think five Hundred Hogs with what Beef is already purchased will be full as much as will be Used before the last of July at which time no doubt but fat Cattle may be had on good terms—Colo. Stephen informs me the Gentlemen in Maryland propose passing our money as theirs which I am doubtfull will Occasion Difficulty in geting so many watermen as is at this time wanted—Our stock of seasoned Timber is not near sufficient to make Cask for all the Beef and Pork that must be provided, that I think it may be best to dry the Pork and the best of the Beef as it will save Salt and be more convenient to carry—Salt is much wnted at the

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Fort but as some Waggons are gone from here and some from Connigochig hope that want will soon be removed—Should be glad of Particular instructions what to do with Mr. Shepherd as the matter is wholly left to you by the contract a copy of which is inclosed— Shall Spend some days at Conigochig in engaging watermen and hope to contract for what Pork we shall want at Court next Tuesday except what is on the South Branch which the owners will doubtless carry to Fort Cumberland as I shall give them all proper notice— If you should not approve of any part of my intentions hope you will as soon as opportunity permits acquaint me therewith and you may depend I shall always follow your directions to the utmost of my Power but as many unexpected things happen hope you will impute my freedom in giving My opinion in in this free plain manner to nothing but a desire of doing all I can for the good of the Service which I assure you nearly affects your

Most Humble Servt THOMAS WALKER

1 The ancestors of Dr. Thomas Walker, by tradition, were from Staffordshire, England. Captain Thomas Walker was a Burgess from Gloucester County, Virginia, in 1662, and again, in 1666, is so listed with the rank of Major. His grandson, Thomas Walker, lived in King and Queen County, and married there in 1707. He was the father of Thomas Walker, of the text, of "Castle Hill," Albemarle County; born, January 25, 1714; died, November 9, 1794. He is believed to have been the first white man who explored Kentucky. In 1753, Colonel Joshua Fry recommended to the Virginia Assembly an exploration with the view of the discovery of a route to the Pacific coast, and according to the Rev. James Maury, his "worthy friend and neighbor, Dr. Thomas Walker, was to be the chief conductor of the whole affair." He was a member of the House of Burgesses, of the Virginia Convention of 1775, and of the Council in 1777; one of the commissioners to treat with the Indians after the defeat of Andrew Lewis, and again, to run the boundary line between Virginia and North Carolina. He married twice, first in 1741, Mildred (Thornton), the widow of Nicholas Meriwether; second, Elizabeth Thornton, a cousin of General Washington. A deduction of his descendants is given in the "Memoir of Colonel Joshua Fry," by Rev. Philip Slaughter, D. D., and they comprise the honored names of Lewis, Fry, Duke, Gilmer, Wirt, Maury, Lindsay, Rives, Thornton, Page, and others.—BROCK.

2 At Conococheague.