

**Robert Stewart to George Washington, December 5, 1755, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

**FROM CAPTAIN ROBERT STEWART. <sup>1</sup>**

WINCHESTER 5th. Decem 1755

SIR

I sent to the Fort for a return of the Troop, and was inform'd that it was included in the General Return, which was regularly Transmitted You; however if you choose to have a seperate Return of the Troop including the small Detachmt. at the Grass-Guard, You'll Please signifie it by Mr. Boyd's return hither, and I shall be particularly carefull in having it done exactly to your Orders —

As Colo Stephens has been here ever since my arrival, and has no doubt fully advis'd you of the occurrences in these Quarters I will not Trouble you with a Detail of them.

The Backwardness of the Populance, and a prevalent Spirit of opposition, to the Service in some of whom better might be expected, has render'd my utmost Efforts to compleat the Troop in a great measure ineffectual; with all my Industry, and all the address & vigilance Hughs is master of, have only been able to procure five Recruits in near two weeks; this has determin'd me with consent & advice of the Lieut. Colo. to send Hughs with a Drum into the Back Counties of Pensilvania & Mariland with Letters to some Gentn. with whose assistance I make no doubt of his meeting with Success. —

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I expect Sr. William Bickley here in ten Days with some Recruits for me; I hope by the time limited for Hughs's return vizl. a month from this Date is elapsed; I shall be compleated, at least to my Establishment; notwithstanding the Troops suffering so much by Desertion, and should be vastly glad timious Orders were given for our Arms & Accutremts. as having them sometime before taking the Field, would greatly facilitate the Training of the Men & Horses, which you know is absolutely essential to their being serviceable

I am with Respect Your Mo:Obt:hbLeServt. ROBERT STEWART

1 Of Prince William County, Virginia.