

**William Peachey to George Washington, August 22, 1757, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

**FROM CAPTAIN WILLIAM PEACHEY.<sup>1</sup>**

RICHMD. COUNTY 22d. Augst. 1757

DR. SIR

Having but an indifferent Hand at Complimts. I have hitherto referr'd writing to you & sho'd have still continued to do so, untill I cou'd hear something that might be new or entertaining, had not an Affair happened a little while since, that lays me undr. the Necessity of it, in Ordr. to prepare you (if not too late) for the hearing of a ps. of malice that none but the Devil or some of his Crew cou'd have invented, & to clear up my Character to you in that particular —

The Matter is this, I being on a Visit the other Day to Mr. Chas. Carter of Shirley or Corotomon, was asked in a very serious Manner by yt. Gent: in the presence of others (desiring me at the same Time to excuse his Curiosity) What was the real Intention of my Express to Wmsburg last Spring was a Year? The Question put me a little out of Humour, but as that Gent: used a good Deal of Ceremony to bring it about, I told him it was to Allarm the Country wt. ye great Danger the Frontiers were in from the Enimy & I related to him such particulars as I cou'd recollect of my Information at yt. Time; He held up his Hands & seemed to be surprised; I then thot. it was Time to know his Reason for asking me such a Question; To which he said as he was at Wmsburg wn. I came on that

## Library of Congress

Express he heard me give ye. same Accot. as I did to him at his own House and therefore cou'd not but be surprised to hear a very different Tale told & Me given for Authority to it, which determin'd him, the first Time he saw me, to know the Truth of the Matter. He says that Mr. Christopher Robinson told him he heard Colo. Richard Corbin say, that I affirm'd that my whole Business at that Time was to execute a Scheme of yours to cause the Assembly to levy largely both in Money & Men, and that there was not an Indian in yt. Neighborhood, that the Frontiers or even Winchester & the adjacent County did not appear to be in any more Danger at yt. Time than any other; Mr. Robinson also inform'd Mr. Carter, it was said, yt. that pe. of Deceit, or Imposition of yrs. (as they term it) has lessened the Governours & some of the leading Men's Esteem for you; or at least they make Use of it as a Reason for their Ill Treatment and the worse Opinion (they say) they have than formerly of you:—I hope Colo. Washington knows me bettr. than even to suppose I cou'd be guilty of a Thing of this Kind, therefore shall only add that You may depend I shall Use my Endeavour to trace the Matter till I find the Scoundrel that dares make himself the Author of such a scandalous Report—If you think fit to make Use of the above you are at full Liberty so to do.—There is another fine story the Governour is pleas'd to report of me, viz. That I generally mustered between 30 or 40 Men & had only 6 or 7. Pray Sir where was yr. Care or that of yr. Officers? to overlook so palpable a Breach of a well known Article of War: However I am only waiting to get a person who heard his Honr. say so, to make it appear how false & mean that Aspersion is. —

As I shall go to Wmsburg shortly I hope, if I shou'd find it necessary, you wont take it a miss, that I make Use of yr. Last to me on the So. Branch, for I understand that it is generally supposed in that part of the World, that some leading Man has plac'd my Character in a very bad Light to the Governr. or say they, his Honour wou'd never have reduced him & appointed a younger Capt. to be continued in the Regiment —

When I left Winchester I really forgot to draw up a Remonstrance as you directed for the Ballance of my pay, therefore wrote to the Governr., for ansr. he said he had not the least Objection to it, but I must apply to the pay-Master; I cou'd see that was only an Evasion,

## Library of Congress

so hope if you can put me in a Way to get it, you will, for I not only think it an Hardship to loose it, but a great piece of Injustice as I was not paid off till the 5th. or 6th. of July & consequently cou'd not leave the Service if there is no other method to be taken you'll be pleased to send me a Certificate that I was only paid to the first of June & continued in the Service till the 4th. of July, the Day that I came to Winchester—We have various Accots. of poor Spotswood I shou'd be extreemly glad to hear if you have had any News of him since I left you.—I wish I cou'd have continued wth. you, for the idle or rather sedentary Life that I am now obliged to lead & the Salt Water Air has brot. on an ugly Fevr. which I make no Doubt I shou'd have escaped if I had continued in the Mountains, tho' indeed, otherways I cou'd not have enjoyed much Satisfaction after hearing how my Character as well as most of the Gent.—of the Virga. Regimt. has been traduced & vilified, as I am inform'd by those too who ought chearfully to have supported, & stood by, Us—We have no News but wt. comes by the Norwd. papers which you generally get before We do, except that some French Privateers have been seen in the Mouth of the Bay & our Station Ship is gone out on the Cruise, so shall conclude wth. an hearty & sincere Wish that you may meet with more Satisfaction than I believe you have for some Time, and assuring you that I am wth. ye greatest Respect

Dr. Sir Yr. mo: obedt Humble Servt. WILLM. PEACHEY. Pray excuse incorrectness for I am at this Time much disordered —

1 Captain William Peachey, born in 1729, was the son of Samuel and Winifred (Griffin) Peachey, a grandson of William, and great-grandson of Samuel Peachey, who settled in Virginia in 1659. Captain Peachey (made a Colonel during the war of the Revolution) married Million Glasscock in 1748.