

Lewis Stephens to George Washington, September 20, 1757, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM LEWIS STEPHENS, ESQ. ¹

September ye. 20th. 1757 —

HONOURABLE SR./

I think it my Duty Indispencibly to acknowledge with Greatfullness Your Timeous Sending Immediate relief in our deep Distress also by Leaving a Number of men, for our Protection the which had it not been done we Should not had men to protect us, and certainly must have moved my Family to Some post for their Safety and Further Inform Your Honour, that by all Probability our Enemy is round us as by the Inclosed affadavit will Inform You also one of the Sentries Last night heard 3 Indian Hallowing in Different Parts, and a Gunn was heard Yesterday in the Evening by People Going to their habitations, about 2 miles distant from this place it was So near them and Samuel Nowels Plantation, and they Seeing Cattle run they Immediately returned and Gave in this account, all which Gives me Just reason to Suspect that the 3, Indians Seen Last night were Detached from their body in order to discovr the Country & thereby find where they may Strike, the next Stroke, there are about 46, People Safely Came in from Cacapon To Fry's Fort women & children Besides I am of oppinion that the Place of their General Randisvous, is about in the Cove between the heads, of this and Stony Creek Rivers, in the mountains, a Place Commodeous for Such Enemies to resort—I and others are well acquainted with the Place, and Could Pilot men there but have not a Sufficent Number of men to Go in Search

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of them, for we are weak at this time and know not when we shall be attackd, we Shall
always Give Intelidgence of what Occurence, and am with Due regard Your

Honours obedient Humble Servant LEWIS STEPHENS

1 Son of Peter Stephens, who came to Virginia in 1732. The town of Stephensburg, in Frederick County, was established in September, 1758, on 900 acres belonging to Lewis Stephens. Kercheval states that according to tradition Lord Fairfax was more partial to Stephensburg than to Winchester, and used his influence to have it made the seat of justice, but Wood, by treating one of the justices to a bowl of toddy, secured his vote for Winchester and settled the question. In 1887, Stephensburg and Newtown were incorporated and called stephen City.