

**Robert Stewart to George Washington, September 27, 1757, 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.**

FORT LOUDOUN Sep 27th 1757

SIR,—Yesterday afternoon an unexpected occurrence brought in part a very extraordinary Scheme of Villainy to Light—The Girl kept by the Quartermasr. had some difference with Bonnet a Soldier that waited on Hamilton, Bonnet reported that Hamilton in Compy. with Jones (late Serjts.) went off wt. an intention not to return; upon which I order'd a Court of enquiry & Inclose you a Copy of its Proceedings from which & various hints I receiv'd in different Channels concluded it possible to make further Discoveries by getting Hamilton's House and those of his intimates Searched, the preparative steps thereto I conducted wt. the utmost secrecy & after a number of Warrants were Sign'd by Justice Speake the only Constable in Town (Thos. Wood) refus'd to act nor was one in Town would serve his Country on that office till Mr. Woodrow very generously accepted & with indefatigable assiduity executed it he accompanied by several officers spent the whole night in searching many of the Houses in Town & some in its Neighbourhood, and several things belonging to the Regiment were found; those in whose possession the things were found, was this day brought before the Justices Swearingen, Linsey & Speake who Bound them over to the next Court as they were at a loss how to act for want of the Laws relative thereto Inclos'd is a Copy of their proceedings—Lieut. Buckner and the Adjutant went off last night to King's Ferry where it's said some things are conceal'd but are not yet return'd

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As there's no Quarter Masr. and the Stores in the greatest Confusion I judg'd it expedient to postpone their removal till your further Orders —

Twenty Cherokee Warriours and a Squaw arriv'd here this Evening I heard of their coming last sunday and desir'd Mr. Gist to acquaint his Father by Express of it which he says he did, but no accots. from ye. Father The few Indians that were here before went out to meet the 20 just arriv'd, they had some Conversation together, none of them would come into Town but Encamp'd on a Rising near it. Burras says that they told him Captn. Gist stays away designedly and thinks the Cherokees not good.

Lieut. Campbell brought back Walker—he saw another of our Deserters amongst the R. Americans in Lancaster but the Commanding Officer there refus'd to deliver him up—I am

With the highest Esteem & Respect Dear Sir Your most assured & Very obedient hble  
Servt. ROBERT STEWART