

**John Blair to George Washington, February 5, 1758,  
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.  
Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of  
America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

**FROM THE HONORABLE JOHN BLAIR.**

WMSBURGH Feby. 5th. 1758.

SIR

Your two Letters of 30th. & 31st. Ult. were brought to me by yor. Express, on Friday afternoon; by whom, being desirous to consult, I sent them to Mr. Nelson immediately (his horse & he being well able, he said, to go on) but he & Mr. Secretary happening to be out of Town, I did not get them back till this afternoon, with their Advice.

As to your Several Reasons for leave to come hither we think them very cogent; and therefore, as I apprehend no damage can be expected to arise from it, and strong reasons for admitting it, You have my Leave to come to Williamsburgh for the Purposes mention'd in yor. first.

As to the contents of your Second, expressing yor. concern at such a Number of Indians coming to us, at such an unseasonable Time; we wish the Spring had been advanced first, & ye rigour of Winter over, before they came; but as Col Read in his of the 3d. Ult. says that a Runner was come to him with the News of 7 or 800 of them being but five days march behind him, and we have yet no certain Intelligence of them, I see no dependance on it. Once Mr. Adam Dickinson from Augusta who came to me the 28th. Ult for some Arms & Ammunition for his son John, Captain of a Company of Rangers, told me he

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heard that 600 were at Col. Reads, and that they were going to my Lord Loudoun, but that afterwds. he heard it was a Company of 40 or 50 only, & that the rest were behind; of which however we have no certainty. On the Report of their going to my Lord, Sir John St. Clair seem'd pleased, & said my Lord would make them wellcome; and by Mr. Nelson's advice I have writ, by that Mr. Dickinson, to Mr. Gist (as I intended to write to you) to encourage the Indians (of any number) to go to my Lord, who would receive & reward them well: and I desire you will press it upon him. But we are much surprised to hear that Mr. Gist is in no wise prepared to receive them, as our late Govr. told us that he had a £1000, pounds worth in Indian Goods left in his hands for such purpose. I desire a particular Acct. of what he has. We do not imagine their number will be any thing near so large as talkt of, and I hope they will not come this good while yet, unless they are going to my Lord. They are said to be Creeks & Cherokees together.

Col Read represented his want of Ammunition in the Magazine he built last year, to comply with Majr. Lewis's Orders to the severall Captains under him. Whereupon by advice of the Council I sent up to the Glebe als Osburns 6 Barls. of Powder ten Boxes of Shot 200 lb. wt. in Each, making 2 Ton of Shot, wch. is more than sufficient for the Powder, but he wanted Shot for the Powder he had by him. I likewise sent up to Capt. Dickinson 100 lb of Powder & 200 lb of Lead to supply his Company, and also ten Muskets wth. Bayonets & Cartouches, 20 Swords, 200 Gunflints, & 8 Trading Kettles for their Use.

We have hired two Transports to bring back our Two Companys from So. Carolina & are providing a large quantity of Bread & Flower to be sold there to pay off their Arrears to their coming away, & they are to be landed at Fredericksburgh.

I have not [to] add, but my hearty wishes for your perfect recovery, and to assure you that I am

Sir Yor. most hble Servant JOHN BLAIR, P.

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We hear Colo. Young has got his Comission come for this Government —