

**George Mason to George Washington, May 6, 1758,
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.
Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of
America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

FROM COLONEL GEORGE MASON.

RACE GROUND AT BOGGESS'S Saturday 6th May 1758—5 O'Clock p: m: —

DEAR SIR,—The Bearer French Mason, a Relation of mine, has an Inclination to serve his Country upon the Intended Expedition: I recommended him to the President for a Lieutenancy in the Regiment now raising; but unfortunately before he reached Wmsburg every Commission was disposed of; otherwise he was sure of succeeding, as the President would have done him any service in his power—As there are some Vacancys in your Regiment, his Honour has been so kind to give him a Letter of Recommendation to you—Had I known of these Vacancys I should have taken the Liberty of applying to you sooner on his Behalf; for as he proposes to continue longer in the service than this Campaign & push his fortune in that way of Life, I would prefer a Commission in your Regiment; & it would give me great satisfaction that he was under the immediate Command of a Gentleman for whom I have so high an Esteem. You may be assured, Sir, that I would not recommend a Person to your Favour, whom I did not from my own knowledge, believe to be a young fellow of Spirit & Integrity—He has lived a good while with me & if I am not greatly deceived, he has personal Bravery that will carry him thro' any Danger with Reputation & this Opinion I am the more confirmed in, as he never was a flashy fellow. He has been but little in Company & has not that Address which is requisite to set a Man in an Advantageous light at first; but he is a very modest lad, & does not want parts; & I am confident will endeavour to deserve your good opinion as well as to support

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the Character I have given him. He this moment came up from Wmsburg & found me here & as I thought there was no time to be lost I advised him to set off instantly for Winchester, as soon as I could procure this scrap of paper, & get a place in the Crowd to sit down to write—If he fails in a Commission, he had thoughts of going out a Volunteer but as he has but a Small Fortune, I advised him against it—Whatever you are so kind to do for him on this occasion I shall always regard as a particular obligation on me—I beg You'll excuse this trouble & believe me on all occasions very Sincerely, Dear Sir, Yr. most obt. Hble Servt.

G. MASON.

I have really wrote this in such a Hurry that I am afraid its hardly intelligible.¹

¹ The "Race Ground at Boggess's" from which this letter is dated is pointed out to-day as near the present Pohick Church [about six miles below Mount Vernon]. And the race of Bogges has disappeared as completely as the race-course itself, though the older inhabitants in the neighborhood still recall the name. It is difficult now, in driving over this quiet, rather deserted locality, to picture the gay scenes of the early days, when the gentry of the country, the Fairfaxes, Lees, Washingtons, Masons, and others, indulged in one of their favorite amusements on this old race-ground. The yellow manuscript, with its faintly traced characters, penned by Colonel Mason in such haste, amidst the crowd and confusion of that May afternoon in 1758, still seems, however, to carry with it a suggestion of the genial, stirring, eighteenth-century life of which it was once a part.—MISS ROWLAND.