

Humphrey Knight to George Washington, September 2, 1758, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM HUMPHREY KNIGHT.

MOUNT VERNON: Sepbr the 2d: 1758

SIR I Receivd yours and I am very sorry you have not Receid. all the Letters I have sent, I can Evedently make it appear that I have wrote six and Lodgd, to be carried up to you but sending some has miscarried I shall write the oftner for the futer I must Needs think you want to hear from your Estate often Especially this year as mr John Washington is Absent, but I hope all things will be taken cair of that your Honr was pleasd to Intrust me with,¹ as to our Crop I believe we have as good as any in the County our corn is Exceeding good according to the Drouth of the summer and I Dont see a better crop of Tobco. any where than we have got we have not housd above a room yet, but shall cut very fast now, we have about 50 thousand that will soon be In the house the other a smaller Size but I hope will be good Yesterday we had a very fine rain which has set the Mill to work again She has lain IDle chieff of the Sumer but I hope will want water no more this fall, I hope we shall make a hhd. a shear if the fall turns out favourable our negros has been very Sickly but lost none 2 or 3 is Sick now but I hope soon will get out our Stock is all well we have raisd Eight Calves this Summer which is all we had Dropt, As to the oats I think we shall make 300 bushels and I hope more I believe theyr. the best sort, As to ye Carpentrs I have minded em all I posably could, and has whipt em when I could see a fault Old Kit is a very poor hand at any thing, the great house has took a vast Deal of Sawing work besides a vast Deal of other work which the Carptrs Did, puling Down the old works and

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Raising the new which was a long time about and puling ye nails out of ye shingles making Scaffield for the workmen as to puling Down the old plastering and leaths out of ye rooms I made the home house people Do and all other work as they could, ye Carptrs has repaired some old Tobco. houses at muddyhole and mended ye. mill house set up some hhds. and built a new Quartrs. at muddy hole, which I wrote to you before to A Quint your Hr. the misfortune we had in loosing the Quartr by fier ye Scantlin for the great house is all got out of white oak which made it abundance ye Teadiousn. to get, Searching ye woods to get all white oak this Day we Counted ye sheep their is 65 old sheep and 48 Lambs I beleive no Mistake The Carpentrs now is geting leaths to leath the great house and has got a great part of them they are to leath it Mr. Patterson tells me he will see it is well Dun, and hurry em about it we shall keep no more about it than Needfull I have taken other work for em to Do when that is Dun, as to the wheat our one people has thrasht it out and safe headed in hhds. their is 45 bushels of old wheat the Rest went in Colo Carlyles Sloop which was 168 bushels which I wrote to you before As to the new wheat we Sewd but 5 bushels which has made about 20 bushels the old field ground will not bring wheat worth while Sewing I have 70 thousand Tobco hills which we tended Last year at muddy hole and this year I have put it in Corn and it is very fine Corn I gave it a good Distance on purpose to sew it in wheat I purpose Soon to Sew it, it will bring as good wheat as the ground in fredrick the Drouth has bin so Despart it was not posable to plow the old fields in time for wheat besides it is Useless to Sew mean ground Sir I hope your opinion will agree with mine in that affair I shall wait some time hoping for your answer Mr Grymess. Vessell first and last had nine hhd of Tobco. of yours from hunting Creek wairhouse I have got in all the Rents I can and has paid Moxleys order that was in ye hands of Mr. piper and taken in ye order, I have paid the leavies and other Small Accts which I was oblidgd to pay I hope no Extravagant Charges I shall Receive all the money I can for you and take cair of it after I Receive it I cant posable now Draw up the acct of my Receiving and paying for you, but I will Imediatly Draw it up and inclose it in a letter and send it up I shall Drive on making ye meadow we begun last Fall but I am scar'd it wont stand I am Sir Your Most Hble Servant to Commd

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HUMPHREY KNIGHT

Will Gates & Nathan Williamson is design'd. to move of your land. Sir I was oblidge to let Burrus have 2/6 shillings before he would go away:

H. K.

1 This is the last letter from Humphrey Knight to his employer: the faithful steward was soon to finish his labors. In Washington's Ledger, opposite his account, is the following: "Note, this Humphrey Knight was an Overseer of mine & died while his second crop was growing — his share of which it is supposed could not amount to so much as the Ballce. of the Acct. for which he is here credited — viz — £ 30. 15. 9½" Knight's term of service was from June 20, 1757, to about September 9, 1758.