

**George Washington to William Neale, October 19, 1767,  
The Writings of George Washington from the Original  
Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799. John C. Fitzpatrick,  
Editor.**

**\*To WILLIAM NEALE**

October 19, 1767.

Sir: I have receivd your Letter of the 15th. Ulto. the contents of which are some what misterious, and stand in need of further explination before I can be satisfied of the Equity of allowing £100 to Colo. Moore with Intt. thereon since Octr. 1758. True it is, that previous to my Marriage, my Wife informd me that she had engaged to purchase things at Mr. Chamberlaynes Sale to the amount of £100; but what was done in consequence of it she knew not altho she had declard her readiness to pay the money at any time when calld upon for that purpose by the late Speaker (who she lookd upon as an acting person in that Affair). Certain it also is that once, if not twice, since my Marriage I have spoke to that Gentleman to know what was done in consequence of her Engagement. What was to be the Issue of it. In short what I had to expect, or apprehend from it; and his answer to the best of my remembrance, was that he coud not well tell what to say about it, or something to this effect; from whence I concluded, and not I think improperly, that I was considered in the light of a Security only, for that Sum when demanded (which in truth I never expected wd. be the case after 9 years silence). How it comes to pass then that Colo. Moore shoud be chargd with it and I have no Intimation thereof in all this time, notwithstanding I enquired of the very person who coud best inform me: and why Colo. Moore shoud take upon himself to allow Interest thereon without my privity or consent (who alone was Interested and concerned in the event) I really cannot tell; but so extraordinary it appears, that you

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will please to let him know that I shall always be ready to settle the matter if we can) in an amicable and friendly manner; that I will strictly comply with whatever honour and justice may demand from my Wife's engagements; but that, I cannot (under present knowledge I have of the Affair) conceive myself bound by honr or good conscience to pay more than the original Sum (of £100 at any rate) as She before Marriage, and I ever since Marriage, have always been ready, and willing to settle and pay to the utmost extent of her promises.<sup>1</sup> I am Sir, etc.

William Neale was in King William County, Va.; the text of this letter is entered by Washington upon Neale's letter of Sept. 15, 1767. The original manuscript is in the possession of William Randolph Hearst, to whose courtesy the editor is indebted.