

George William Fairfax to George Washington, March 12, 1770, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM THE HON. G. W. FAIRFAX, ESQ.

BELVOIR, March 12th. 1770

DEAR SIR

I think you are extremely right in not submitting to Mr. Barry's¹ terms, and I wish it was in my Power to give you a more Satisfactory Accot. of what you desire, not only to oblige you, but to flusterate Barry's intentions for I despise such.—All I know about Mr. Russel's² Claim to the Chapple Lands, is from a Will now in my Possession of Mr. Johnstons,³ wherein he devises all his Real & Personal Estate to Mr. Russell, who particularly desired me to litigate the matter with the present Possessor, and to take Possession of the Place on Bull Skin where Patrick Mathews lived.⁴ the latter I did, but did not choose to take up a dispute of that sort with a neighbour, and since I have heard that Mr. Waller⁵ or some of the Gentr. below are employ'd to Prosecute it.

When Doctor Cockburn⁶ wanted to purchase the Land, I remember the bar to it was from Mr. Johnstons not being willing to join in the conveyance unless they would pay him a hundred pounds, and the Doctor shew'd me old Mr. Mercers opinion which was clear in Johnstons favor, and since it has been corroborated by that of the Attorney Genl. in England, but how just I cant pretend to say, I suppose you know that Jonston administered

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on Browns Estate and has paid several Sums of Money, not only for the Principal, but to his Widow in lieu of Dower, &ca. and that the Act of Limitation will not run against Mr. Russell in this Case. Tho I must confess I wish it was determined one way or another, if in Mr. Russells favor I am to have the refusal, and in that case you should be soon accomidated, and I Question whether you cannot do it now, for you must know your and the Chaple Corner Tree near the Road, which is also my mine and I believe yours, for upon running my Line it takes in a slipe of Land joining along the Creek. However Sir, I will look over some Papers, and perhaps may give you a better insight to this affair, shortly.

Colo. & Mrs. Fairfax joins in their Compts. to you Mrs. Washington and Miss Custis, with

Dear Sir Your Most Obedt. humble Servt. G. W. FAIRFAX

1 John Barry

2 William Russell, of Fairfax County.

3 Captain George Johnston, of Fairfax County.

4 Washington in his Ledger describes this land as "552 Acres of Land on the south fork of Bullskin."

5 Benjamin Waller, of Williamsburg?

6 Martin Cockburn was from the West Indies, and Mrs. Cockburn was a Miss Bronaugh, a relative of the Masons, of Gunston.—BISHOP MEADE.