

William Crawford to George Washington, November 14, 1774, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM MAJOR WILLIAM CRAWFORD.

STEWARTS CROSSING November 14th. 1774

SIR

I yesterday returnd from our Late Expedition against the Shawnees,¹ and I think we may with Propriety Say we have had Great Sucksess as we have maid them Senceable of their Vileny and weekness, and I hop maid peace with them on such a footing as will be Lasting if we make them adhare to the termes of the agreement which is as follows

First they have to give up all the Prisoners taken ever by them in war both white People and Negro's and all the horses Stolen or taken by them Since Last War, and further no Endien for the futer is to hunt on the East side of the Ohio nor no white man one the West side as that seems to have bin the Cause of Som of the Disturbence between our people and them, and for the performance of the Same the have given up four Chief men to be Keep as Hostages for there futer behaviour Which is to be Releved yearly or as they may Chuse They Shawnees has Complyd with the Terms but the mingoes Did not Like the Conditions and had a mind to deceive us but Lord Dunmore discoverd there intentions which was to Slip of, while we was Setling matters with the Shawnees the mingoes intended to Slip of to the Lakes and take there Prisoners with them and horses which the had Stole²

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Lord Dunmore ordered my self with 240 men to set out in the Night which was to march to a Town about 40 Miles Distant from our Camp & up Siotha, where we understood the hole of the mingoes was to Rendezvous at the Day following in order to pursue there Journey This intelgence came by Johnny Mounture³ Son of Captain Monture hom you formerly knew.

from the number of Endiens there in our Camp, we marched out of camp under Pretence of going to Hockhaken for more Provisions few new of our seting of any how and none new where we was going to, till the Next Day, our march was performd with as much speed as Posable and arrived at a Town calld the Salt Lick town they ensuing night and at day break we got round the Town (or half) and the remainder was sent to a small town⁴ at half a miles distance, but unfortunetly one of our men was Discovered by the Endiens ho Lay out from the town at a distance at a Log which the man was Creeping up Which obblidged the man to Kill the Endien as he was discovered by them this hapned before daylight which did us much Damage as Chief part [of the Indians] maid there Eascap in the dark but we got 14 Prisoners and Killd 6 and wound Saveral more, got all there bagage and horses 10 of there Guns and two⁵ white Prisoners, the mount of the Plunder sold for £400 beside what was returnd to a mohake Endien that was there the hole [of the Mingoes] was ready for to start and was to have set of on that morning tha[t] we attackd them, Lord Dunmore has got 11 Prisoners and has Returned the rest to the nation, and the reast is to be returnd upon Compliyence with his Lord ship Demand for other Perticequalors I refair you to Majr Connallys. Letter

I have Run your Land at the round bottom Again and will Send you a new Draft of it, by Val Crawford ho is to be at your house in a few Days at or before Christmass I would send it now but the Bearer cannot wait as he is on his Journey Them Drafts of Land on the Litle Kahaway I shall send them to you and Leve you at your Choyce to do as you Like

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One favour I would ask you if it did not sute, when Those Negros of Mercers are Sold and they are Sold at Creadit (12 months) I would be Glad to Purchess a boy and Girle about 14 or 15 years old Each or older if Such are Sold Tho I would not have you put your Self to any Trouble more for me than Sutes you⁶

I spooke to Lord Dunmore about your Land at Charters and the round bottom and it hapned that Mr Cresap was present when we spooke of it Cresap was Laying Down his Claim and I was walking by Camp [He] wanted it run for him by a warrent which he had Purchest and [I] then told his Lordship the nature of your Claim before Cresaps farce⁷ upon which he said no more at that time but wanted me to Survay it for him also and return it

I told him I cold not at any rate do such a thing as I had survayd it for you

We have Built you a house at your Land opposite the mouth of Hockhaking and Cleard about 8 acres of Land of all the Small Timber my Brother Val Crawford Says if you Proceed on in improving your Land next Summer he would Still do it for you as usel he has had the Misfortune to Loose his son Moses he Died with the Biles⁸ fever I am Sir your most Huml Sarvant

W., CRAWFORD

1 After the battle of Point Pleasant, October 10, 1774, General Lewis marched his division of the Virginia forces, according to orders received on the 9th, to join Lord Dunmore's division on the Pickaway plains. From this point the plan of action was to push forward and destroy the Indian towns. Upon their arrival, however, they found that the Shawnees had already sued for peace, and a treaty was in progress at Camp Charlotte, which was speedily effected. For the successful termination of the War Lord Dunmore received many letters of thanks and congratulation from the Virginians (American Archives, 4th series, vol. i. p. 1019), although later, probably on account of his attitude in the beginning of the Revolution, they questioned so seriously his motives in the management of this Indian War.

2 It is well known that Logan, the Mingo chief, was not present at the treaty of Camp Charlotte, and that it was there that his famous speech is supposed to have been delivered to Lord Dunmore by Gibson. If so, its eloquence evidently made no impression on Major Crawford, for he does not refer to it.

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3 John Montour, son of Andrew Montour, a half-blood Indian, was a man of information and education, but a great savage. His father, whose Indian name was Satteliu, was the oldest son of Madame Montour, a French-Canadian woman, and Roland Montour, a Seneca brave. Andrew, who was known to Washington, was a captain of a company of Indians in the English service in the Old French War, and rose to be a major. — BUTTERFIELD.

4 Major Crawford probably means that they surrounded the town with one half their force, and sent the remainder, etc.

5 Butterfield (Washington-Crawford Letters) prints this “200,” inserting “two” in brackets; but it is plainly “two” in the manuscript, not 200.

6 Crawford, like Washington, was a slave-owner. At his death in 1782 he was possessed of several slaves. In that part of the trans-Alleghany country where Crawford lived, which was finally confirmed to Pennsylvania, no slaves were enumerated after the year 1780. — BUTTERFIELD.

7 face.

8 Bilious.