

Fredericksburg, Virginia, Militia to George Washington, April 25, 1775, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM THE INDEPENDENT COMPANY OF SPOTSYLVANIA.

FREDERICKSBG. April 26th. 1775

SIR)

By intelligence from Williamsburg it appears that Capt. Collins of his Majesty s Navy at the head of 15 Marines carried off the Powder from the Magazine in that City on the night of Thursday last and conveyed it on board his Vessell by Order of the Governor. The Gentlemen of the Independant Company of this Town think this first Public insult is not to be tamely submitted to and determine with your approbation to join any other bodies of armed Men who are willing to appear in support of the honour of Virginia as well as to secure any the Military Stores yet remaining in the Magazine. It is proposed to March on Saturday next¹ for Williamsburg properly accoutred as Light Horsemen.

Expresses are sent off to inform the Commanding Officers of Companies in the adjacent Counties of this our Resolution & we shall wait prepared for your Instructions & their assistance. We are Sir Your humble Servants

HUGH MERCER² G. WEEDON³ ALEXANDER SPOTSWOOD⁴ JOHN WILLIS⁵ _____

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As we are not sufficiently supplied with Powder, it may be proper to request the Gentlemen who join us from Fairfax or Prince William, to come provided with an over pro portion of that Article.

1 April the 29th.

2 General Hugh Mercer was at this time a practising physician in Fredericksburg. "His house, in which was his apothecary-shop, stood on the s.w. corner of Princess Ann and Amelia sts.: it was a long frame building, of antique architecture, and a story and a half in height."—HOWE, *Virginia History and Antiquities*.

3 General George Weedon was commissioned a lieutenant in the Virginia regiment by Washington, July 36, 1757, and served through the Forbes campaign. During the interval between the French war and the Revolution, Howe tells us that he was an innkeeper in Fredericksburg.

4 General Alexander Spotswood, son of John and Mary (Dandridge) Spotswood, and grandson of Governor Alexander Spotswood, was born in Virginia, and died there December 20, 1818. He married Elizabeth Washington, a niece of George Washington.

5 Probably a grandson or grandnephew of Colonel Henry Willis, the founder of Fredericksburg, who married Mildred, only daughter of Lawrence and Mildred (Warner) Washington.