

**Augusta County, Virginia, War Council, July 27, 1756,  
Proceedings, Letters to Washington and Accompanying  
Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames  
of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

*At a Council of War held at Augusta Court House (in obedience to his honr. the  
governors orders) by the under named officers*

Present

Colo. JOHN BUCHANAN

DAVID STEWART

Major JOHN BROWN

Captains JOSEPH CULTIN

ROBERT SCOT

PATRICK MARTIN

WILLIAM CHRISTIAN<sup>1</sup>

ROBERT BRECKINRIDGE

JAMES LOCKART

ISRAEL CHRISTIAN

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SAMUEL STALNAKER

THOMAS ARMSTRONG

Who having taken their Seats proceeded to Business Whereas his honour the governor has Sent Repeated orders to the officers of the militia of this County to meet and consult on the most proper places to build forts along the frontiers for the protection of the inhabitants. It is therefore unanimously agreed by the said council that a fort be built at Petersons on the south branch of Potowmack nigh mill Creek at Some Convenient Spot of ground for a fort, which is left to the Direction of the officers appointed for that Service, also another fort to be built at Hughmans mill on Sheltons track—And Another fort to be Constructed at the most Convenient place and the pass of the Greatest Importance between the above said track and the house of Mathew harper on Bull pasture which is to be built at the Discretion: of the officer appointed for that purpose Also a fort to be Constructed: at Mathew harpers on some Convenient Spot there, and as fort to be Erected at Capt. John millers on Jacksons river, and as the frontiers are properly protected by the forts of Capt. Hog, Breckinridge, & Dickinson, There is no want of a fort unto the mouth of Johns Creek, a Branch of Craigs Creek, at which place a fort is to be Erected and as Fort William is Sufficient to guard that Important pass the next Convenient Place South West of fort William is at Neal M.Neals where a fort is ordered to Be Built at or night that plantation, and the next fort to be Built at Capt. James Campbles and a fort is to be Built at Capt. Vanses where a Large Body of men is to be kept as it is a Very Important pass also a fort to be Constructed at John masons on the South Side of Rounoak

It is Agreed that the Following number of Men is necessary to be placed at Each fort

Men

At masons fort30

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At Vanses70

At Campbles fort50

At Mo.Neals fort30

At fort William50

At Johns Creek50

At Capt. Dickinsons40

At Capt. Breckinridge fort50

At Capt. millers fort50

At harpers fort50

At Trout Rock fort50

At Hughmans fort50

At Lestersons50

Dinwiddie60

680 men in all to protect the fronteers

It is agreed that the Commanding officers give Orders that Fort Vans be made at least one hundred feet Square in the Clear and that the Stockades be at least 14 feet Long that all the other forts be made 60 feet Square with Two Bastions in each fort provided the Same Be agreeable to Capt. Peter Hog who is Supposed to have his honr. the governors orders

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to oversee the Constructing of the said Chain of forts The Distance Between Each fort above mentioned or the places agreed for them to be Built are as follows (Viz)

Miles

From the County Line to Petersons 2

From Petersons to Hughmans mill18

From thence to Trout Rock17

From Trout Rock to Mathew harpers20

From Thence to Capt. Millers18

From Thence to fort Dinwiddie15

From Thence to Capt. Breckinridges fort13

From Thence to Fort Dickinson13

From Thence to Johns Creek25

From Thence to Fort William20

From fort William to Neal Mc.Neals13

From Thence to Capt. Campbles13

From Thence to Capt. Vanses12

From Thence to John Masons25

From Thence to the first Inhabitants in halifax County South Side of Ye Ridge20

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By which we find our fronteers Extends 250 Miles in all<sup>2</sup>

The afores. Resolves are Signed by All the officers Present the 27th. of July 1756 Test  
JOHN BUCHANAN WM PRESTON CR. County DAVID STEWART JOHN BROWN  
JOSEPH CULTAN ROBT. SCOTT JAMES LOCKART ISRAEL CHRISTIAN WM.  
CHRISTIAN JAMES MITCHELL ROBERT BRECKINRIDGE THOMAS ARMSTRONG  
PATRICK MARTIN STALNAKER

1 The William Christian mentioned could not have been Captain Israel Christian's son of the same name, who twenty years after was a prominent man, unless he was a wonderfully precocious boy in 1756.—WADDELL.

2 Of these forts but one or two were built before the project was abandoned.