

Library of Congress

**Virginia Council, November 15, 1756, Proceedings
on Frontier Defense, Letters to Washington and
Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of
the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus
Murray Hamilton.**

At a Council held Novemr. 15th 1756.

PRESENT

The Governor

John Blair

William Nelson

Thomas Nelson

Philip Grymes

Peter Randolph

Philip Ludwell Esqrs.

Mr Commissary

William Byrd Esqr.

Library of Congress

The Governor was pleased to communicate to the Board a Letter from Colonel Washington dated at Winchester the Ninth of November, with his Observations on the Situation of our Frontiers; and inclosing a Copy of the Council of War held in behalf of Fort Cumberland, with his Sentiments on the Matter. Upon reading which the Governor desired the Opinion of the Council, whether it would be adviseable in our present Circumstances to demolish Fort Cumberland, or reinforce it with a Number, and what Number, of Men, from the other small Forts. The Council having maturely considered the Affair were unanimously of Opinion by no means to abandon that Fort, as it would be giving up a large Extent of Country, but to reinforce it with a Hundred Men from Winchester; that Col. Washington be directed by his Honor to reside at Fort Cumberland; make the Fort as tenable as possible; and frequently send out strong Detachments to reconnoitre the Motions of the Enemy.¹

A true Copy NATHL. WALTHOE CL. COU.²

1 With this view of the subject Washington concurred, but was still of opinion that a better position ought to be chosen, and suggested that it should be in advance of Fort Cumberland, and somewhere in the vicinity of the Little Meadows. This he thought a proper enterprise for the combined efforts of Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, as the main object was to facilitate an expedition to the Ohio, or prevent an irruption of the enemy into either of those colonies.—SPARKS.

2 Nathaniel Walthoe, Clerk of the Council, Brock describes as an eccentric bachelor, and a warm personal friend of the second William Byrd, of "Westover," to whom he presented a fine portrait of himself, wearing his hat, and stipulated that it should be hung amongst others of distinguished personages possessed by Colonel Byrd. It is still in the possession of the Harrison family at "Lower Brandon," James River.