

Allan MacRae to George Washington, September 3, 1754, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM MR. ALLAN MACRAE. ¹

DUMFRIS Sept. 3 1754

DR. COLO.

Mr Wright returnd from Wmsburgh on Monday Night, & woud have immediatly have waited on you, but I knew Your Goodnature, & hatred of Ceremony will excusd it, as he had no Letters for You, or indeed to any others tho he called on both the Colo. Fairfax's for their commds. He was kindly recd. by the Governr. Who told him there Could be nothing done till the rising of the assemply, when he should be rememberd, & is the Case with all those, who were in waiting for Comissns.; I am very sensible the kind reception Mr. Wright met with, is chiefly owing to your kind & generous Recomendation, which justly challenges his, & my grateful acknowledgements: I hope he will be able to Shew, it was not a Misplaced Generosity, but that a Commisn. is only the necessary reward of Merit —

Mr Wright brings nothing more remarkable than that the assemply had Voted £20.000 to be rais'd by a poll tax of 5/. 2/ whereof to be paid in Decm. & the other 3/ or 30hd Tobo. to be paid in June next. We Cant tell how it is to be applyd, or by whom Disposed. The assemply 't was thought woud rise this day.

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I should be glad to know Mrs Fairfax is quite recover'd, & that the Ladys are as you wish them to be pray my acceptable Complimts. to the Ladys & Gent. of the Regimt. & am—
usque ad: as far as you pleasd

Dr Colo Y Most Obbg'd & obed Servt. ALLAN MACRAE

Its said Letters from the atty. indicate some hopes of yet succeeding in having the pistole affair determined in favr. of the Country,² & that he is establish'd in this attorney's place. Its thought this favourable turn of his affairs is owing to the alacrity with which the assembly Voted the 10.000£ as appear'd by the Journals of the House sent to Brittain.

1 Appointed a trustee of the town of Dumfrees, Prince William County, March, 1761. Married a Miss Washington. Their daughter Nancy married Colonel Roger West.

2 It had been a custom in former times that when the Governor signed a patent for land he should receive a fee of a pistole for every such signature, which was a perquisite of his office. This fee had been revived by Governor Dinwiddie, but the House of Burgesses considered it an onerous exaction, and determined to resist it. As the Governor refused to sign patents on any other terms, the Burgesses had the year before passed some spirited resolves, and sent an agent to England with a petition to the King's Council, that this custom might be abolished. The agent was Peyton Randolph, then Attorney-General of Virginia, and afterwards President of the first American Congress. While he was absent the Governor wrote to a correspondent in England: "I have had a great deal of trouble and uneasiness from the factious disputes and violent heats of a most impudent, troublesome party here, in regard to that silly fee of a pistole; they are very full of the success of their agent, which I give small notice to." The Attorney-General returned, without effecting his whole object, but the Board of Trade made new regulations, by which relief was afforded in certain cases, and the fee was prohibited except where the quantity of land was more than one hundred acres.—SPARKS.