

Thomas Walker to George Washington, December 17, 1755, two same date; Report on Troop Strength, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM COMMISSARY WALKER.

FORT CUMBERLAND December ye 17 1755

SR

I have done the best in my power with the Carolina Cattle, Having killed ten of the best that was brought up and finding them unfit for use drove the others up to Daniel Cresaps Plantation which is the best chance we have of keeping them alive—As I could not engage the wintering of them below through the scarcity of Fodder.—Some are left below & some on the south Branch to winter Some are sold and some to be stall fed many are dead & missing as it was impossible to keep them from eating Ivey when drove through the Barren hills that abound with that Shrub. Mr. Shepherd will Shew you a State of his account on which I have wrote to prevent changing the weight of the Beef is Right according to Mr. Dicks Tryal. —The Ballance due to Shepherd is 437 –7 –9 I docked him of nine days keeping ye Cattle [illegible] in consideration that he was to have only a proper proportion for driving to Fort Cumberland & my having taken some off his lands at the South Branch which will be some cost to lodge at proper Stations.

Yours of ye 3d Inst: I received here when it was too late to propose drawing back to Carolina as Provinder could not be had on the Road to keep them alive.—I have ordered

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Mr. Rutherford to forward the Salt with all possible Dispatch.—I shall spare no pains to do everything in my power for the good of the Service, & am Sensible Much depends on me but could I have the pleasure of your assistance a few days, I make no doubt things would soon be in a fair way here. Your tender replemand I must agree there was room for as I was detained five days longer than was Expected when I parted with you by bad weather & other accidents but am in hopes it will not be attended with any great Inconvenience.¹ The weather is extreamly cold that our Beef cannot take hurt at present I am Sr.

Your Most Hble Servt. THOS WALKER

¹ Washington writes to Colonel Stephen, November 28, 1755: "I received your two letters by Jenkins last night, and was greatly surprised to hear that Commissary Walker was not arrived at camp, when he came away. He set out from Williamsburg about the 12th instant, with orders to proceed immediately up; but such disobedience of commands, as I have generally met with, is insufferable, and shall not go unpunished."