

**Clement Read to George Washington, March 15, 1757,  
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.  
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**FROM CLEMENT READ, ESQ.<sup>1</sup>**

LUNENBURG March 15th. 1757.

DEAR SIR,

About 10 Daies agoe, there came to my House twenty Six Indians of the Catawbis Nation, with two War Captains, Capt French, or the French Warrior, and Capt Butler, who I sent under the care of Robert Vaughan to Williamsburg where they desir'd to go before they March'd to you.

About 5 Daies agoe, there came to my House 93 of the same Nation with their King, Haglar, after they held a Council, it was determin'd, that the King, with his Brother and Conjurer, shou'd go to Wms. burg also and that ye others shou'd March directly to you; Whereupon, as their Numbers were great, the Country thro' which they were to pass thinly Inhabited, and as the Frontiers might be frightned at such an Appearance of painted Indians, I deemed it necessary to send a White Man along with them, And as Robert Vaughan was gone with the first 26, and as the Nation seem'd very fond of him, I thought I might please them in Sending his Brother Abra Vaughan with these to you, and they seem'd pleas'd that I did.<sup>2</sup>

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What I have to desire you Sir, is, that you would please to Satisfie Mr. Vaughan according to the trouble he has taken & must take I need not inform you that they are a very troublesome set of people, and their manner of travelling thro' the Inhabitants, must give their Guide a vast deal of trouble & fatigue, And as from this Consideration, & the Necessity of Keeping up a friendship with them, I have taken these Steps, in the Absence of his Honour the Governor, which I hope may be approved of.

As from Information of these Indians, I every day expect, Capt Johnny a Catawba & Mr. Abra Smith a Virginian, with 200 Cherokees and some more of the Catawba Nation which I must also send a White Man with as a Guide I must hope and take the freedom of recommending to you, the paying of Mr. Abra Vaughan to his Content, otherwise I have reason to fear, We shall hereafter get none to go on this Slavish Service; I need not add, that I am,

Dear Sir, Your unknown, but mo Obed Hum Servant P. S. CLEMENT READ

I have given Abra Vaughan twelve pounds ten shillings, all the money I have, to assist him in Carrying on to Winchester C. R.

1 Clement Read was one of the most influential men in Lunenburg County, as that county was originally laid out. He was appointed in 1745 the first clerk of the court, was county-lieutenant, and burgess for a series of years, first of Lunenburg and subsequently of Charlotte County. He was the ancestor of a numerous and distinguished family. His son Isaac was the lieutenant-colonel of the Fourth Virginia Regiment in the Revolution, and died in the service at Philadelphia. His son Thomas was also a leading man in the Revolution, was county-lieutenant of Charlotte, and its clerk for more than half a century. One of the daughters of Colonel Clement Read was the wife of Judge Paul Carrington the elder, and thus the progenitress of numerous distinguished descendants.—BROCK.  
2 Washington's theory was that, unless Indians were opposed to Indians, but small success was to be expected. He encouraged, therefore, every effort to conciliate both the Catawbas and Cherokees.