

George Washington to Robert McKenzie, November 20, 1760, Incomplete Draft, The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799. John C. Fitzpatrick, Editor.

***To CAPTAIN ROBERT MacKENZIE**

Mount Vernon, November 20, 1760.

Dear Sir: Had your Letter of the 17th, [12th] of August come to my hands before the 18th. Inst., I should not have given you the trouble of perusing my answer to it at this late Season. I am sorry you should think it necessary to introduce a request that is founded upon Reason and equity with an Apology, to me; had you claimd that as a Right, which you seem rather to ask as a favour I should have thought myself wanting in that justice which is the distinguishing Characterestick of an Honest Man to have with-held it from you.

But how to answer your purposes and at the same time to avoid the Imputation of Impertinence, I am I confess, a little more at a loss to determine. That Genl. Amherst may have heard of such a Person as I am, is probable; And this I dare venture to say is the Ultimate knowledge he has of me; how then should I appear to him in an Epistalory way and to set down and write a Certificate of your behaviour carries an Air of formality that seems more adapted to the soldiery than Officers. I must therefore beg the favour of you to make what use you please of this Letter.

For Sir, with not more pleasure than truth, I can declare to you, and the World, that while I had the honour of Commanding the Regiment, your conduct both as an Officer and Gentleman were unexceptionable good; and in every Instance, as far as I was capable of discerning, such, as to have merited applause from better judges. Since my time Colo.

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Byrd has been witness to your Behaviour and his Letter Recommendatory must I am perswaded do you more Service than my sanguine endeavours can. Altho he, nor no other Person, is more sensible of your worth nor more Inclind to contribute their best Offices towards the Completion of your wishes than etc.¹

¹Kenzie's request of Washington, dated Aug. 12, 1760, is in the Washington Papers and is printed in Hamilton's Letters to Washington, vol 3, p. 163.