

**Bryan Fairfax to George Washington, December 6, 1770,
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.
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FROM BRYAN FAIRFAX, ESQ.

TOWLSTON Decr. the 6th. 1770.

DEAR SIR

I am very glad to hear of your safe Return¹ which I had begun to doubt of—

Poor Rockwood died on his way Home—

I have inclosed a Letter which I received this Fall from Mr. Montgomerie. Please to let me know your Determination, and if you should be inclinable (which I doubt of) to receive a payment from him, and make one to him as Mrs. Savage's Attorney, and will inform me of the place it would be agreeable to you to meet him I will endeavor to be there if possible and the Weather tolerable.

I am Dr Sir Yr. most obedt. BRYAN FAIRFAX

I think Mr. Montgomerie will be answerable to Mrs. Savage—

I had almost forgot to inform you that Mr. Harrison could not undertake the Suit vs Mr. Mason as he had been retained by him and no Suit has been yet brought as I expected to have seen you soon after I received Mr. Harrison's Letter: so that in Case you don't agree to Mr. Montgomerie's proposal, I hope you'll direct the Suit to be brought by any one you

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think proper; For tho' we can't refuse an actual payment from Mr. Montgomerie, we may one upon condition of repaying it to him²—

1 Washington set out on his journey to the Ohio on October 5, and reached home December 1, 1770.

2 DR. SIR, Having received your favour of the 6th. I profess myself at a loss to know what answer to give to it, and to consult a Lawyer every time we are puzzled by the duplicity of Mrs. Savage's Conduct woud sink a large portion of her Annuity, or entail a heavy expense upon ourselves.— I think as you do, that it woud seem odd to refuse the actual tender of Mrs. Savage's Annuity from the Doctrs. Agent at a time when we are threatening his Security with a Suit on this Acct.;—And I am of opinion, that if we were to do receive the money from him, we could not legally withhold payment thereof from her Attorney (who is one and the same person) without submitting our Reasons for so doing to the Publick attention, and her Letters she has expressly required may not be seen—Without exposing these as the grounds of our refusal we can have no pretext to detain the money in our hands—to keep it there would contribute nothing to the relief of Mrs. Savage's necessities but very probably expose ourselves to Censure—and to pay the money to any Person not legally authoriz'd to receive it would I believe be equally Imprudent—In short, view the matter in whatever light one will, there is nothing but doubt & difficulties before us; and I see no effectual method of serving Mrs. Savage without falling into some snare which we may not easily extricate ourselves from for I must confess that I have no good opinion of Mrs. Savages honour on the one hand—On the [other] our attempts to serve her will give us little to expect from the Doctors Friendship if we should [several illegible words] on the whole, can we, do you think, avoid coming to a Settlement with Mr. Montgomerie without Incurring the Imputation of disingenuity on the one hand—or, being too particular in plain in our Reason's for it on the other; If this can be done I should be for letting the matter sleep awhile till we cou'd write a joint Letter to Mra. Savage informing her of the predicament in which her Affairs respecting the Bond stand & to beg that she will be steady & fixd to some point or no longer expect us to become the dupes of her fickleness and folly.—If you think this method can be adopted no time should be lost in putting it in execution, if you think it cannot or ought not I am willing to pursue any other you shall advise as I own that I am more per [manuscript torn], more I think of the matter.— I am Dr. Sir Yr. Most Obedt. Go. W—N Decr. 22th. 2770 (Washington's reply.)