

him to come to Bakers Fort which is about five miles on this side of Pawlins's & stands on the new Road that was lately made, there is part of a Company of Militia posted there under the Command of Capt Middagh who will send an Escort hither with any such Express or with any Letter that might be recommended to his Care. I am &c I. Ridout. Letter Bk. III

[Sharpe to St. Clair.]

Fort Frederick the 8<sup>th</sup> of July 1758. 10 o'Clock A. M.  
D<sup>r</sup> S<sup>r</sup>

I send this after your Express to inform you that Major Wells & I are just come back from the Town Creek whither I carried him as I find M<sup>r</sup> Ridout has informed you to see the Country thro which he is to open a Road between Sidling Hill & that Place. The Major agrees with me that Capt Shelbys Report was a very just one & that a very good Road might be opened between this Place & Fort Cumberland by 350 men in less than three weeks proper Parties being appointed to cover them & that when it shall be opened it will not much exceed fifty miles in Length. As there was a bad place just beyond Licking Creek which it was necessary to open first that some Provision Waggons might go on with Major Wells's Companies to Sidling Hill we left Capt Jocelyne there with the Remainder of his Detachment being 36 men & a hundred of the best of Major Wells's men to open it, the worst of the Major's men in number about 50 were left here to recover themselves & then to come on with the Provision Waggons as soon as the abovementioned Passage should be opened. I did indeed expect that more work would have been done by them before this time than there is, however as waggons can pass the Rest of the Majors men shall go off this Evening & the Major will join his two Companies to morrow morning early & proceed to Sidling Hill. As I shall be obliged to keep a Party of 50 men constantly going with the Canoes there will remain but about 200 to work upon the Road, a Force much too small for such a Task especially as many of them will do nothing but cover the Rest. As to the Carolina Troops I give over all Thoughts of seeing them, & were they to come I am told they will not work till they are assured of being paid. I find the Canoes could not go beyond the Old Town I expect them back this Evening or to morrow morning but as the 50 men that convoyed them up were obliged to stay with the Stores till a Command could come down from Fort Cumberland to receive them I shall be at a Loss to make up another Party to convoy them up the next Trip. I cannot write to the General lest your Express