

Lib. No. 86 as also the Reasons which induced this Board to take off the Reserve

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April 29<sup>th</sup> 1774.

Gen<sup>n</sup>

I have this Day received a Letter from M<sup>r</sup> John Hanson Deputy Surveyor of Frederick County, by which I am informed that he has Surveyed for John Swan, Walter Hanson Jenifer & Andrew Scott, nine Tracts of Land to the westward of Fort Cumberland, containing in the whole Three Thousand Acres. As the Land Office has been shut for several years and every Person in the Province, precluded the making Surveys in that part of the Country; I must beg and insist, on behalf of the Lord Proprietor that you do not make out Patents for any of the above mentioned Lands, nor Patents for any Lands Surveyed or to be Surveyed to any other Person to the westward of Fort Cumberland, until his Lordship's Pleasure be fully known, I have also received Information that James Brooks, Robert Smith Jonathan Boucher, Thomas Johnson Jun<sup>r</sup> Anthony Stewart, James Tilghman, David Stewart & others, have made or are actually now making Surveys not only to the westward of Fort Cumberland, but have located Warrants to the westward of a Meridian Line drawn from the head of the North Branch of Potowmack River to its intersection of the west Line, run between Maryland & Pennsylvania & even have proceeded in their Locations to the Westward of the Allegany Mountains, against his Majesty's express command by his Proclamation issued the 7<sup>th</sup> October 1763. You must be very sensible that the Proprietor's noble Predecessors have cautiously avoided giving any Offence, by granting Lands to the westward of the Line settled between the Crown and Lord Fairfax, for altho' there cannot be a doubt, but the Fountain Head of the South Branch, was the Spot intended where the Meridian Line was to be set off as the western Boundary of Maryland; yet, I presume, they waited for a favourable Opportunity of bringing this matter before the King in Council, when there would not be the least doubt of his Majesty's Equity & Justice: That time appears now not to be far off; for as the Pennsylvanians have imprisoned an Officer acting under Commission from Lord Dunmore, and his Lordship in return hath caused three Magistrates acting under Commission from Governor Penn to be arrested and carried to Williamsburgh; it is very likely that these Steps may very soon bring the extention of those Governments before his Majesty in Council, where only they can be settled. Should this be the Case, it would be a favourable time for the Proprietor to put in his Claim to all the Land lying to the Eastward of a Meridian drawn from the head Spring of

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