

That time I should proceed towards Fort Frederick on the 23rd Ult with
about 100 Men which I doubted not but I should be able to assemble.
At the same time that I wrote this Letter to Col. Stanwix
I sent others to the several Capt. of Militia in Frederick County
advising them of my being at Frederick Town in my way to the
Frontiers & requiring them to join me without Delay, I had the Sa-
tisfaction to hear next Day that they were all in Motion in Obedience
to the Orders I had issued & found that I should be able to march
with at least the Number that I had given Col. Stanwix room to
expect, but in the Evening of the 22^d I had the pleasure to receive
a second Letter from Capt. Dagnorothy dated the 17th wherein he told
me that another Party of Cherokees had returned to Fort Cumberland
the Night before with two Scalps which they had taken within 100 Yds
of Fort Duquesne. I had assured him that the Party of the Enemy
which had been represented to him by the other Cherokees as so formi-
dable a Body was no more than a Scalping Party & that they took nei-
ther Artillery nor Carriages with them; they declared that they had
lain in Sight of Fort Duquesne when the Enemy marched thence &
were very positive that their Number did not at most exceed two or three
hundred. Being told what the Cherokees who first came in & who gave
the Alarm had insisted on they said that they were Young Men & had
been frightened that some Cannon had been indeed fired at the French
Fort while they were in Sight of it & when the Enemy's Party marched
thence & they supposed that on the Report of these Guns & seeing the
Tracks of the Enemy's Party or perhaps the Party itself they had been
alarmed & that their Fear made them magnify the Objects that had
struck them; I presume this was pretty much the Case, tho perhaps as
these