

FRAZER'S LETTER:

FORKS, August 27, 1753

MR. YOUNG:

I have been sent the Bearer on all haste to acquaint you what a narrow Escape William made from the French at Venango. I have sent him off there the same time that You ordered him, and from that time until he ran away, he only sold eight Buck's worth of Goods, which Custologa* took from him, and all his Corn, when he was making his Escape in the night. He is made a Caprain by the French, and next morning after William's Escape he delivered John Trotter and his Man to the French, who tied them fast and carried them away to their new Fort that they made a little from Weningo, at a Place called Caseoago† up French creek. The night that William ran away, that Afternoon Two French Men came to Weningo, who told William that there was no Danger, but William being a little afraid got all ready that night and came as far as Licking creek and there staid until Break of Day, and then came by way of land to the top of the Hill against my House, where he saw about one hundred of the French Dogs, all under Arms, and had Trotter and his Man then tied. Fourteen of them Followed William, and it being a foggy Morning he outran them, so there is nothing lost yet only those eight Bucks and all the Corn. I would have sent William down only I do not know every moment what Time I will be obliged to move my Goods from here to the back Woods.

I have thrown a Parcel of my own Goods against another Parcel of yours, and sell them since William came here. I have not got any Skins here this Summer, for there Has not been an Indian between Weningo at the Pict Country hunting this Summer, by reason of the French.

There is hardly any Indians now here at all, for yesterday there set off along with Capt. Trent and French Andrew the Heads of the Five Nations, the Picts, the Shawonese, the Owendats, the Delawares, for Virginia; and the Half King set off to the French Fort, with a strong Party along with him, to warn the French off their Land entirely, which if they did not comply to, then directly the Six Nations, the Picts, Shawonese, Owendats and the Delawares were to strike them without Loss of Time. The Half King was to be back in twenty Days from the time he went away, so were the Indians from Virginia.

Capt. Trent was here the night before last, and viewed the Ground the Fort is to be built upon, which they will begin in less than a month's time. The Money has been laid out for it already, and the great Guns are lying at Williamsburg, ready to bring up.

The French are daily deserting from the new Fort – one of them came here the other Day whom I sent to Capt. Trent; he was along with him to Virginia; he has given the true Account of the Number of French and all their Designs; there are exactly Twenty-Four Hundred of them in all; here is enclosed a Draught of the Fort the French built a little the other side of Sugar Creek, not far from Weningo, where they have eight Cannon. Which is all from your friend

JOHN FRAZER.

P. S. – The Captain of the French that took John Trotter from Weningo was the White French Man that lived last Winter at Log's Town.

* Custologa, the Indian chief, after whom Custologa's Town was named.

† This is undoubtedly Custologa's Town, but no fort is known to have been built there.