

WASHINGTON'S COMMISSION

"To George Washington, Esq., one of the Adjutant Generals of the troops and forces in the Colony of Virginia:

"I, reposing especial trust and confidence in the ability, conduct and fidelity of you, the said George Washington, have appointed you my express messenger; and you are hereby authorized and empowered to proceed hence, with all convenient and possible dispatch, to the post or place, on the river Ohio, where the French have lately erected a fort or forts, or where the commandant of the French forces resides, in order to deliver my letter and message to him; and after waiting not exceeding one week for an answer, you are to take your leave and return immediately back.

"To this commission I have set my hand, and caused the great seal of this Dominion to be affixed, at the city of Williamsburg, the seal of my government, this thirteenth day of October, in the twenty-seventh year of the reign of his Majesty George the Second, King of Great Britain, etc., etc.

"Annoque Domini, 1753.

"ROBERT DINWIDDIE."

"To all to whom these presents may come or concern, greeting:

"Whereas, I have appointed George Washington, Esquire, by commission under the great seal, my express messenger to the commandant of the French forces on the river Ohio; and as he is charged with business of great importance to his Majesty and this Dominion, I hereby command all his Majesty's subjects, and particularly require all in alliance and amity with the Crown of Great Britain, and all others to whom this Passport may come, agreeably to the law of nations, to be aiding and assisting as a safeguard to the said George Washington and his attendants in his present passage to and from the river Ohio as aforesaid.

"ROBERT DINWIDDIE."