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JOHN SEVIER

Edited by SAMUEL C. WILLIAMS

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Knoxville, 5 April, 1798.
Sir: Yours of the 2nd Ultimo I have been honored with, and I am highly pleased with the measures you and your colleagues have taken respecting the affair of Judge Campbell. I am happy to learn, that the Secretary at War gives assurances that he will expedite and forward the treaty, as it is a thing much to be wished; the people being very uneasy and greatly distressed occasioned by their removal. It affords me much satisfaction to find that the President is so well disposed towards the interest of Tennessee; if he should continue favorable and direct the commissioners to promote as much as in them lies the interest of this State, it will so permanently place the confidence of the people in that character that his interest will forever be dear to them. I earnestly hope that Tennessee river will be made the line, nothing short of which can possibly place the State on a footing adequate to the welfare and cultivation of its local and natural advantages.
Honorable Joseph Anderson.

Knoxville, 5 April, 1798.
Sir: Yours of the 2d Ultimo came to hand on the 28th of same month, I am much pleased with the address of yourself and colleagues to the President on the subject of Judge Campbell's arrest; it meets my entire approbation, and I think it very suitable on such an occasion. I am extremely sorry for our critical situation with France, and fear it will become much more serious. I have not had any late accounts of the Commissioners, I hope they will shortly arrive, the people are becoming very uneasy, and anxious to return in time to make crops. I am sensible our delegation is doing every thing on that score that
is within their power. I thank you, sir, for the various information you have been pleased to favour me with, and beg you will do me the honor to continue your communications on all suitable opportunities.

The Indians continue extremely friendly, and am of opinion a good treaty may be had, if our Commissioners will act well their part.

Honorable Andrew Jackson.

Knoxville, 5 April, 1798.

Gentlemen: Your letter of the 9 Ultimo I had the honor to receive with a copy of your address to the President, and the Secretary of War's answer, and an extract of his letter to Colonel Butler, which was enclosed.

Permit me to observe, that your attention and prompt application to the President on the subject of Judge Campbell's arrest was highly characteristic of the representatives of a free people, and meets entire approbation. I am induced to believe that there has been no mistake on the side of Judge Campbell, as to the line; having an opportunity of a more minute investigation, am inclined to think that the two officers were mistaken in supposing the Judge to be within the Indian boundary.

I suppose that on an investigation it will be made appear that officers have acted contrary to their instructions, and if so Colonel Butler will be exculpated. I shall duly deliberate on the propriety of a publication of your communication to the President and the answer, observing to you at the same time, that I find it highly expedient to avoid every kind of irritation. The people removed are becoming very restless, their distress has been, and still is very great.

Some disorderly persons in Powels valley have lately killed several of the public horses, and wounded one of the soldiers, and I assure you I fear it will require considerable address to keep some of the sufferers within proper bounds.91

I am sorry to discover that our situation with France is becoming so critical, but still hope an open rupture may be avoided.

91Sevier was concerned and keeping in close touch with Col. Thomas Butler, in command of the troops of the United States Army, assembled to keep order on this frontier, as the following entry in his diary shows: "March 22: Went to Colo. Butler's camp, staid all night. 23rd: Rained; staid all night at camp with Colo. Butler. Sat. 24th: Rained and snowed and very stormy. Came back to Knoxville, etc." Tenn. Hist. Mag., V, 247. See n. 64, ante.
We have had no late accounts of the Commissioners I hope they are on the road.  

Knoxville, 9 April, 1798.

Sir: Your favor of February 26 and March 6 came to hand on 28 March, and those of January 29 and 30, and 1 February on the 7 Instant, such is the irregularity of the post. I am sorry to find in yours of the 6 March, that our envoys are not likely to be recognized by the French republic, and their mission of course must be unsuccessful. I fear our affairs will become very serious and alarming; the message from the Directory to the Council of five hundred seem to predict it in strong light.

Conciliatory measures will be most conducive to the public interest, if we possibly can obtain such terms, but of this I have my doubts, and fear matters are too far gone.

I have heard nothing of the Commissioners coming on; the people are becoming very uneasy, and fear they will not be able to return in time to make crops. I most sincerely thank you for the various information you have seen pleased to favor me with, since you left the state, and beg to be honored with a continuance of your communications. I am in the dark as to the Natchez posts; whether the Spanish government has evacuated them of not, or likely to do it.  
Honorable William Charles Cole Claiborne.

Knoxville, --- April, 1798.

Sir: I had the honor to receive yours of the 6 Ultimo, on the 28, with the copy of a letter to Lieutenant Colonel Butler, which you did me the honor to enclose.

I am perfectly satisfied that you had not given any orders despotic or inimical to the liberties of our citizens, and on the contrary that you were uninformed that any transaction of the kind had taken place until you received my letter of 6 February. I am induced to believe that the arrest of Judge Campbell was occasioned through mistake in the two subaltern officers who

---See n. 84, ante.

---Consult Andrew Elliott's Journal, 173-6. The fort at Natchez was abandoned by the Spanish forces March 30, 1798.

supposed the line between the two countries was found, was done in consequence of the order of David Clinton, courts of law were established, and signed.

Knoxville, --- April, 1798.

Permit me to show you the friendship of your friends in our state, especially the settlers, who have shown their readiness to sustain and uphold the peculiar obligations of gratitude, which you have expressed in your address to them.

Suffer me also to mention the reports that will be given of this Convention of the common council of the Tennessee state, John Adams, President.

Friends are at the same time to be reminded that it is to commerce they look for their prosperity, and that foreign goods for which the country is naturally adapted will arrive at this city in a large sum. They who claim the Indian claims shall be paid, and the citizens, gentlemen who have been so kind as to your distress, will have a remission of the tax which your patience has enforced.

...
supposed and believed him to be within the Indian boundary, the line being, as I am informed, very near the place where he was found. I further have reasons to believe that it was not done in conformity of any orders given by Colonel Butler.

David Campbell, esquire, one of the Judges of our superior courts of law and equity in this state, is the person who wrote and signed the name of "Campbell" to a late publication in a Knoxville newspaper.

Permit me to say sir, that I have, and entertain, a high sense of your friendship and attachment to the interest and welfare of our state, and particularly towards our unhappy frontier settlers, who have been obliged to remove from their farms. Your readiness to relieve their sufferings, lays this government under peculiar obligations, and wish for an opportunity to repay with gratitude, the munificent and paternal services rendered them in your administration.

Suffer me to assure you, notwithstanding some unfavorable reports that have been circulated to the prejudice of the people of this Country, that if occasion should require it, you may rely with full confidence on their firm and most zealous support in opposition to any invaders, that may attempt an attack on our common country.

John Adams, Esquire,
President of the United States.

Knoxville, 12 April, 1798.

Friends and Fellow Citizens: By late accounts from the delegation of this state, I have received information that the treaty is to commence as early as possible, and particularly in time, they expect, for you to return to make your summer crops. The goods for the treaty as I am informed are now in this state, coming on to this place, and I expect that the Commissioners will arrive in a day or two. By the general government there is a large sum appropriated for the purpose of extinguishing the Indian claim, and I have no doubt but it will be effected. Thus gentlemen you see the disposition of the government is to relieve your distresses; and, as such is the case, permit to recommend to you patience and fortitude, hoping, as I do, that a very short period will relieve your sufferings and reinstate you all at your homes and plantations.
I sincerely lament your sufferings, and shall always conceive it my duty, and feel a happiness in rendering you every service in my power.
The people lately removed from Powel’s valley.

Circular

Knoxville, 23 April, 1798.

Sir: So various and critical have been our American affairs, for three or four months past, I have not been able to furnish any accurate information that might be interesting and relied upon, for which reason I have delayed my communications.

With respect to European affairs they wear a very unpleasant aspect, notwithstanding the overtures made by the United States to the French nation, for an accommodation of any misunderstandings that have unfortunately taken place between the two governments; yet they refuse a recognition of our envoys, and no terms are likely to be listened to. It is to be lamented that the United States should be drove and compelled to abandon their neutrality at a time, especially, when they wish devoutly to be at peace and friendship with all the world. But should it be our unhappy lot to be impelled into the necessity of resorting to arms to defend our injured country, which I pray God to avert, I trust and sincerely hope that unanimity and an undivided sentiment will uniformly prevail amongst all ranks of Americans. I hope we shall not become the sport of foreign nations, nor the dupes of internal faction; let us be firm and permanently prepared to oppose any foreign invader that may dare to attack us. It must be recent in the memories of my fellow citizens, the calamities, distresses, and irretrievable damages sustained by divisions amongst the Americans in the course of the revolutionary war. Let the past be sufficiently a caution to prevent in us any future conduct that may involve this inviolable country in all the horrors of an inhuman civil war—one of the greatest calamities that ever afflicted a nation. George Walton, Alfred Moore, and John Steele, esquires.

are appointed of our own appointment. Walton is from Virginia, Alfred Moore is a well-known patriot, and Steele is a man of the highest interest and we can do nothing to make matters better. The treaty will come into effect in a few days. With the most interest we shall not fail to have the aid and support of our public funds. We cannot with any confidence and with considerable risks of embarking to the public interest, our public funds, and to the necessity of rendering the most probable services to the men that nothing short of their present unobstructed and enabled under exist.

The President therefore recommends to humanity, fastness, the bank of Wednesday, the citizens of the United States, and those in the state, to give their mercies, agreeably to the highly essential
are appointed commissioners to hold a treaty with the indians. Walton is from Georgia, Moore from North Carolina, and Steele from Virginia, gentlemen of high respectability, and from their known patriotism and abilities, I have every reason to believe, that the interest of the western country will be deliberately and duly considered.

The federal legislature has appropriated twenty five thousand eight hundred and eighty dollars, for the purpose of the negotiation, a sum that I hope will be fully commensurate and adequate to the object, and evince to our fellow citizens the good disposition of the federal executive and legislature towards the interest and welfare of this state, and particularly in the relief of our unhappy fellow citizens, who have been compelled to remove from their homes and plantations. It is expected the treaty will commence about the middle of next month; the commissioners have not as yet arrived, but are expected in a few days. With respect to the intended treaty, I presume it will be readily conceded that the state of Tennessee is very much interested in the event, and perhaps more so than may happen in any future period. On this important occasion, it would be particularly useful and beneficial to the executive to have the aid and instruction of the legislature; but as that body cannot with conveniency be convened, and at all times attended with considerable expence, and at the present would be embarrassing to the local circumstances of the members, and also our public funds, the executive will, therefore, be under the necessity of resorting to such measures as to him may appear most likely to promote the public interest, assuring his countrymen that nothing shall be lacking that may tend and lead to their present and future advantages, so far as he may be enabled under existing circumstances.

The President of the United States has thought proper to recommend to his fellow citizens the observance of a day of humiliation, fasting and prayer; and for that purpose hath set apart Wednesday the ninth of May, requesting on that day the citizens of the United States will abstain from all worldly occupations, and offer their devout addresses to the farther of mercies, agreeably to those forms or methods they have severally adopted. It is a subject of solemn consideration, and highly essential and expedient in my opinion. I therefore
recommend and hope the inhabitants of this State will pay that
due and sacred regard to the president's proclamation, that
the nature of the subject may merit and require.

This letter is intended to communicate such information as I
possess, and hope you will please make the same public in your
neighbourhood.

Knoxville, 24 April, 1798.

Sir: The state of Tennessee perhaps will never be more in-
terested in any event than in the present intended treaty; and,
as such is inevitably the case, I feel a duty incumbent on my
self to make every provision in my power in order to cause the
rights of the state respected, amply supported, and her interest
duly and regularly attended to. The executive considers him-
self bound to appoint some agents to attend the treaty, and of
course it will be necessary to furnish them with moderate sup-
plies. There is little money in the treasury here, which impels
me to make application to you, praying to be informed as early
as possible in what state the treasury of your district may be in,
and whether or not you can furnish about one thousand dollars,
or what sum can be had, in case you cannot advance the whole
amount. You will readily discover the necessity and great propiety
of the advance in this present emergency and crisis. Hoping and flatering myself that you will use your utmost in-
dustry to comply with the demand, which will very essentially
serve the public and very greatly oblige,
Robert Searey, esquire,
Treasurer of Mero district.

Knoxville, 24 April, 1798.

Sir: The Commissioners appointed to hold the treaty are ex-
pected here in a few days, George Walton, esquire, of Georgia,
and Colonel John Steele, of Virginia, are appointed in the place
of Aimes and Washington, an appointment, that I hope will
prove satisfactory to the people of Tennessee.

I feel myself much embarrassed on account of appointing
some agents to attend the treaty, not so much with respect to

96 The Commission, as originally appointed, was composed of Moore, of North
Carolina, Fisher Ames, the eminent Federalist statesman of Massachusetts, and Bush-
red Washington, of Virginia. The ability of these commissioners evidenced the con-
cern of the Federal government in the Cherokee situation in Tennessee.

them, as that is left under your care; and, if you will consider him
arrant. However, I think he ought to think on the same plan to appoint the
that supplies, as the determining Assembly, for it is necessary for
be more interesting, than on the indispenably necessary for
every thing of the government.

I am not doing it all myself; could it be done as I do, that
will do most good. I beg you will do to your friend, as
both. I beg you will not flatter myself, that you are
of the business, as you should you then, as you will the

I have written to you to be informed that you should be necessitated;
do not influence with General James
Mero district.

Sir: Your request before me, and the prospect of a
fortunate peace and plantations
State will pay that when the supplies are called for, the proclamation, that may be necessary.

I have given the same public in your

Knoxville, 24 April, 1798.

The State will never be more interested in the intended treaty; and, to make it incumbent on my conduct, in order to cause the objects of vessels to be carried, and her interest in the treaty to be considered him. The State, and the treaty, and of being informed that the district may be in the power of the vessels, and that the sum of one thousand dollars, which will not advance the whole cost of the vessels, is a necessity and great emergency and crisis. I am determined to use your utmost influence with the officers, and will very essentially

Knoxville, 24 April, 1798.

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them, as that of the supplies. We have no money in the treasury here, and, if we had, I am not certain that the treasurer would consider himself authorized to make any advance on my warrant. However, there is no doubt with me on that head for I think he ought. It must be conceded by every one, that will think on the subject, that the executive have an undoubted right to appoint the agents; this being the case, it necessarily implies that supplies of course ought to be furnished. I have come to the determination to try the event, without convening the Assembly, for that would cost at least double what would be necessary for the purpose of the supplies. The state will never be more interested, in my opinion in any event that may concern her, than on the present occasion; therefore, I conceive it my indispensable duty to make every exertion in my power to have every thing done that may be for the welfare of the government.

I am not determined as yet who will be the Agents, excepting yourself; could you find a freedom to serve, as one of that body, it will do me pleasure to give you the appointment; believing as I do, that it would give general satisfaction to the public and to your friends, having myself no doubt you would be useful to both. I beg, sir, you will please consider the subject, and I flatter myself you will have no objections to the undertaking of the business. Please to let me know as early as possible, and should you think proper to accept, as I trust and hope you will, you will then consider yourself as already appointed.

I have wrote to Mr. Searcy, the treasurer of your district, to be informed what monies may be in his hands, and that I shall be necessitated to draw on him for the use of the treaty, and, should it coincide with your own sentiments, please to use your influence with the treasurer, and urge him on the occasion.

General James Robertson,
Mero district.

Knoxville, 12 January, 1798.

Sir: Your esteemable letter of the 15 December Ultimo is now before me, and it is with great pleasure I observe there is a prospect of something likely to be done in favour of the unfortunate people, who have been compelled to remove from their plantations and improvements. Those distressed inhabitants
have been and are suffering very great injuries, both in their persons and properties; and, except some speedy relief is afforded, I am not able to foresee the consequences. I am constantly recommending to them patience and fortitude, notwithstanding they are becoming very restless and clamorous. In case a treaty should be set on foot, I beg leave to submit to your consideration an extinguishment of the Indian claim on the north side of Clinch as low down as the mouth of Emery’s river or the Cumberland road, up to the top of that mountain, and along the extreme height up to the Kentucky road—from the mouth of Clinch up the Tennessee to the Chilhowa mountain, along the extreme height thereof to the late line run by the commissioners. I mean this as a partial acquisition, in case no more could be obtained, of which you will be most capable of judging as to the propriety.


The copy of this letter was not forwarded to this office in time to be record it in its proper place.

Knoxville, 27 April, 1798.

Sir: By last mail I was honored with a letter from Secretary Pickering, enclosing the President’s proclamation. In the Secretary’s letter mention is made that he has furnished the agent with a number of the proclamations. Will you have the goodness to inform me whether or no you had any opportunity to send any of them to Mero, or do you know of any immediate opportunity. I wish to send a number of letters into that district of a public nature, one of the kind I do myself the honor to enclose you.

Colonel David Henley, Agent of the department of war.

Knoxville, 27 April, 1798.

Sir: I beg leave to communicate to you, in confidence, that I have it in contemplation for to send a suitable person into the Cherokee nation, in order to transact some business of importance, which will require both secrecy and address. You will much oblige me, would you undertake the mission, and knowing you can form an idea of the errand, I shall forbear saying more on the subject, only begging you will please to inform me imme-

Sir: The number of Indians in Georgia with whom I have not yet seen, from the time of the treaty, which I attended the last quarter. It is with the greatest case to your Excellency, that I have bitherto failed to render conduct with the various and much particulars of which I am from the duty of the service, to you, and to the department, are obliged to have notice of, I have procured for the Indian office; convinced, however, that those under so many and critical circumstances, a solemn and I believe a just one, too. Such be it, and upon the indelible index of history I shall extended and designed, to deplorably injure the rights and humanity of the nation, and feel the country for relief that shall be debt of gratitude and services.
injuries, both in their nature and consequence. I am convinced that the speed of Emery’s river and the Chilhowa mountain, and the Kentucky road—from the mouth of Emery’s river to the Chilhowa mountain, and the late line run by the acquisition, in case no other will be most capable of person, and William

Knoxville, 27 April, 1798.

Sir: There are daily complaints and petitions coming forward from the people of the valley, setting forth their distress, which I believe bears very heavy on the poor people of that quarter. I am solicited by some of the inhabitants to state their case to you, and if possible to obtain some more indulgence than has hitherto been afforded. They complain that at times the conduct of some of the officers appear to be very rigorous, and much pains are taken to apprehend the poor inhabitants, who are from their indigent circumstances, and extreme wants, obliged to visit their little late farms, in order to collect and procure something to supply their families upon. I am well convinced that the general government is disposed to render those unfortunate people relief; and I am also satisfied that the situation of American affairs require the utmost harmony and unanimity amongst ourselves at the present day. I believe, sir, in this you will readily concur with me in opinion. Such being the case, I most earnestly hope that every favorable indulgence you can consistently with your duty will be extended towards those unhappy sufferers; their case is truly deplorable, and I do not entertain a doubt but your tenderness and humanity will cause you to sympathize for their distresses, and feel for their embarrassed situation, and render them any relief that may be in your power.

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Butler, Commanding the federal troops in the state of Tennessee.

97Col. Ore on April 31 wrote from German Creek, where he resides and conducts a mercantile business, accepting, and promising to report at Knoxville for duty. Draper Mem., 11 DD, 134-5. On May 19 Ore wrote from Hiwassee Town of the Cherokees suggesting that assistant agents go among the Indians to assure them that they would be well fed at the treaty. Ibid., 40. Col. Ore was one of the early settlers of Grainger county, and a forceful figure of his generation, who is deserving of a biographical sketch for these Publications.
Knoxville, 4 May, 1798.

Sir: I learn with regret the menaced situation of our common country. I am led to believe that every prudent and honorable means have been pursued with ardent desire for the restoration of peace and harmony, but in case those laudable intentions of accommodation should fail, and nothing but a recourse to arms must be the alternative, be assured, sir, that my cordial and utmost exertions with the good people of the state shall and will be devoted in supporting and defending our country against any invader that may dare to attack us.

Not far from this place, and on the main river Holston I have a new and well erected set of iron works,\(^{\text{98}}\) suitable for the casting almost every kind of mettle, and manufacturing of bar iron; the same shall on the shortest notice be converted to any public use, that might be deemed expedient, and should be glad to be honored with any commands that might be thought necessary.

Honorable James McHenry,
Secretary of the department of war.

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Knoxville, 4 May, 1798.

Sir: Your favor of the 23 March Ultimo, I have the honor to acknowledge, is duly come to hand, with the enclosed proclamation which latter has been promulgated as extensively as possible agreeably to the short time for the purpose.

I learn with regret the menaced situation of the United States on the other hand I feel a consolation in hoping that nothing has been neglected on the part of our government to conciliate and amicably adjust any difference or complaints that have taken place. I beg you to believe, sir, that in case a war should take place between the United States and any of the European nations, that you will find us firmly disposed to lend every aid and support that may be within our power. You will please assure the President that I shall heartily and cordially together with the good people of this state cooperate in the protection of our common country.

Not far from this place and on the main river Holston, I have a valuable set of new iron works, suitable for casting of almost every kind of mettle and manufacturing of bar iron. The same

\(^{\text{98}}\)In Sullivan county near Kingsport, in partnership with his son-in-law, Walter King, who married Nancy Sevier, the fifth daughter, Feb. 19, 1795. Sevier's diary abounds in references to visits to these iron-works.
shall on the shortest notice if required be converted to any public use, and should be glad to be honored with any commands on that head.

Honorable Timothy Pickering,
Secretary of the department of state.

Knoxville, 8 May, 1798.

Sir: I feel real pleasure in announcing to you the happiness experienced by the people of Tennessee on a review of the choice made by the President; to conduct to Issue, which we trust, will be no less favorable in the end, than flattering in prospect, those rights of our citizens, from the enjoyment of which they have been hitherto held by the interference of Indian claims.

It would be a painful and certainly an unnecessary task to examine the ground on which opinion has differed, or to retrace those causes that has produced clamour in the appointment of Commissioners. We see the means of removing every foundation of complaint, and the names to whom this mission is committed, is accepted by us as the but testimony of the sincere wish of the Union to apply an efficient remedy to the past evils we have suffered.

In you, sir, we recognize with pleasure a mind conversant with the difficulties under which inhabitants of exposed frontiers unfailingly labour, not the least of which is misrepresentation, both of their views, and conduct. Secure as we feel from the effects this cause might otherwise produce, we see with satisfaction the management of our most important interests committed to your hands, assured that the trust can no where be more properly placed.

Accept my congratulations on your safe arrival, and also my full assurance of the most cheerful cooperation and firm support in every measure that will tend to facilitate the objects of your mission.

Colonel John Steele.99

99In his diary Sevier wrote, Tues., May 8: "John Steele, Colo., arrived escorted into town by the light horse." Sevier promptly addressed him, trusting to win him to a view favorable to the inhabitants who had been removed from Indian lands. It was such acts as this that won Sevier his unparalleled popularity with the common folk.
Knoxville, 9 May, 1798.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge yours of the 11 April Ultimo, with the paper containing the instructions to our envoys, and a copy of their dispatches which are amusing enough.

Mr Steele arrived here yesterday, Walton and Moore are daily expected; great complaints among the poor inhabitants, that have been forced from their farms and homes; their prospects for making crops is very doubtful. Your brother* is in good health and doing well. Pray write me on every opportunity, and let me know what you are all about. Tallyrand together with the Directory are great lovers of money, and understand the diplomatic negotiating business.

I take the liberty of enclosing you one of my circular letters. Honorable William Charles Cole Claiborne.

P. S. The President's late conduct towards this country has gained him much friendship, and, should he continue to manifest his regard, he will become much admired by the people.

Knoxville, 9 May, 1798.

Sir: I do myself the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of 23 March Ultimo, in which you express your uneasiness on account of the unfortunate people that has been compelled to remove; be assured sir that I do not entertain a most distant doubt of your real concern, and I feel fully convinced that both you and your colleagues have been sufficiently attentive towards those unhappy settlers' interests, and have done everything in your powers to serve them. I do most sincerely lament their condition, am extremely doubtful, that they will not be relieved in time to make crops. Mr Steele arrived here on yesterday; the other two gentlemen are expected in a day or two. I have great hopes that matters will go on well; appearances at the present are favorable. The President's late conduct towards this country has gained him much friendship, and should he continue to manifest his regard, he will be very much admired by the people. I am sorry the peace of our country is so likely to be disturbed. Should it be the case, I hope that our American

*Dr. Thomas A. Claiborne, then of Knoxville. Between Sevier and the two Claibornes there was a pronounced friendship. Sevier had induced William C. C. Claiborne to come to Tennessee to practice law, had taken the young man into his home until he could locate, and he did much to further Claiborne's promotion, which was spectacularly rapid. For an evidence of this friendship, see S. C. Williams, Beginnings of West Tennessee, 63.
Knoxville, 9 May, 1798.

The receipt of your 11 April instructions to our envoys, is amusing enough.

Hilton and Moore are daily the poor inhabitants, that their prospects of their brother is in good on every opportunity, out. Tallyrand together much money, and understand one of my circular letters. Harris.

Towards this country has and he continue to manifest by the people.

Knoxville, 9 May, 1798.

You will proceed from this place into the Cherokee nation; you will there endeavour to gain information from the Chiefs and others, their intentions with respect to the present intended treaty; if they intend to dispose of any of their claims to land, or not, if they be divided or unanimous either in disposing or refusing. If they mean selling, what part of country.

You will effect to be disinterested on the occasion; give no advice, except they request it, or the subject is introduced by some of their own party, on that occasion signify to them that the hunting is much diminished and is daily becoming more so; that in case the United States would engage to give them an annuity in addition to the present one that probably it might be much to their advantage, as they would get more goods in that way than they could possibly make by hunting; their old and young helpless people would be provided for; it would also prevent the young and foolish from going to war, for that would forfeit all their annuities. They claim much land, could sell a great deal and have enough left. They ought to learn to raise stocks and make crops of grain, which is by far the most profitable way of living, and the only sure way of living easy, well and becoming rich. Such is the manner in which all the machinal arts are supplied and carried on. Observe to all those that follow hunting, are always more and few in number, and many by that practice fell into nothing and is now no more. The Creek Nation is composed of about seventeen different tribes, yet they do not the whole of them amount to five thousand warriors. I mentioned this about the Creeks because they know it to be a fact. The Indian nations are as old as the white, and have been as numerous, but now there is a million of white persons to that of one Indian; their peculiar practices and manner of living has been the cause; therefore, it is time for the present existing tribes to quit the old forms.

A large trading town at the Muscle Shoals would be the mak-
ing of their country; every thing can be brought there by water, and a probability that everything would be as cheap, as at Philadelphia, or any other place. Contrast that place with Tellico, and shew them the advantage the Shoals would have by suffering every body to carry on trade at a place where every thing would be received for goods, and not confined to skins and furs; those articles would soon be done away, what then will be their condition if other arrangements are not made to receive such things as they can make and raise in their country? If a town was settled at the Shoals, in the room of one store, there might soon be several hundred, and every one trying to sell lowest; their country is well suited for raising stocks and grain, and the present race had better enjoy the fruits of those advantages, and make the best of it now than to leave it to the chance of their posterity, who may be foolish and loose it all. It is the duty of the old and leading men to leave those that stay behind them, in as safe a condition as possible, and not grasp, to hold too much, for fear they may lose all. The earth is the mother of all people; the great being above made it for all men, and they will all have a share of it.

By the law of nations, it is agreed that no people shall be entitled to more land than they can cultivate. Of course no people will sit and starve for want of land to work, when a neighboring nation has much more than they can make use of. Convince them by argument the great propriety of always being in friendship with the people of this quarter, for on such depends their success or ruin. Impress them with an idea, that whoever advises them to hold a large tract of country, and live by, and follow hunting, are their enemies, and will in the end cause them to be totally ruined. Endeavour to persuade them that the Point, or Mouth of Holston is the most suitable for the treaty; the Point I prefer.

The foregoing are the outlines of your mission, but the principal and sole object is for you to prepare them for as an extensive disposal of their claim, as can be possibly obtained. Recommending to you to be as private on the occasion, as the nature of your object will permit... 

Sir: You are acquainted with the appointment of the committee, it will not be out of place to mention that General Walton is in the service of the United States, and under a certain agreement.

I understand that the treaty cannot be made any sooner as I am informed you shall advise me when you hold your meetings.

I beg you to provide some diploma or article, I have another, the treaty signed by General Judson. Mero Dist.

Sir: I have received a communication of the 6... 

The crisis is about to come, in instance in which it is much more than in the treaty... sir, to soot... in the treaty... as it is stated to be...
nature of the object will admit, making use of all necessary caution and circumspection the importance of your business will necessarily require. The observations which are stated for you to make, as you will discover, are intended to prepare them for the primary object. They are truths, and notwithstanding intended for to answer peculiar purposes to this state, but will prove in the end, if attended to by the Indians, the very salvation of that nation.

Knoxville, 13 May, 1798. 108

Sir: Yours of the 6th Instant, I have been duly honored with, and while I am much pleased with your acceptance of the appointment of Agent, I regret much your indisposition, but hope it will not be so obstinate as to prevent your attendance on the treaty. Colonel Steele one of the Commissioners have arrived; Walton is expected tomorrow or next day, we have not had any certain accounts of Moore.

I understand that a time for the commencement of the treaty cannot be fixed, until more than one Commissioner arrives, as soon as I am informed with certainty of the time and place, I shall advise you immediately; in the mean time you will please hold yourself in readiness, to set out on the shortest notice.

I beg you will please to urge Mr. Searcy, the treasurer to provide some money. Unless he supplies me with some of that article, I fear I shall not be able to get any for the purpose of the treaty.

General James Robertson,
Mero District.

Knoxville, 13 May, 1798.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 6 Instant. You have justly observed that the present crisis is a very important one to the state. I assure you, in no instance in my opinion it will ever be more essentially concerned than in the event of the present intended treaty. Permit me, sir, to solicit your earnest exertions to procure for the use of the treaty the thousand dollars, which in my former letter, I stated to be necessary; if it should not be convenient for you

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108 This letter was printed as a part of the Robertson Correspondence in Amer. Hist. Mag., IV, 336.
to raise that amount, endeavour to furnish as large a sum as may be in your power. Should I fail in receiving a supply from you, I know of no other recourse. Colonel Steele one of the Commissioners have arrived several days since, Walton is expected to-morrow, we have had no accounts from Moore.

Robert Searcy esquire
Treasurer of Mero District

Knoxville, 14 May, 1798.

Sir: Viewing the importance of the present intended treaty, and the manner in which this state is so materially and essentially concerned and interested, I have deemed it necessary and highly expedient to appoint three Agents to attend the same, in behalf of this state. I have proceeded to appoint two (to wit) General James Robertson and Major LaChlan McIntosh, and for the third have taken the liberty to nominate yourself, should you think proper to serve in that capacity. I make no doubt your appointment will be very satisfactory to your fellow citizens in general, as also to myself and your other friends. Should you think proper to serve you will please signify the same to me as soon as possible, also your attendance at this place will be expected so soon as you can conveniently prepare for attending the treaty, which is supposed will be held either at South West Point, or Tellico Blockhouse.

Colonel Steele only, has as yet arrived, the other two Gentlemen are daily expected.

James Stewart, esquire,
Washington District.

Knoxville, 18 May, 1798.

Sir: It affords me pleasure to announce to you the general satisfaction experienced in this state on your appointment. The inhabitants of Tennessee feel on this occasion but one sentiment, an entire approbation of the executive choice.

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104LaChlan McIntosh, Jr., who had just come to Tennessee from Georgia and was advanced for appointment by ex-governor and Senator William Blount. "Major McIntosh will also be appointed. I wish you would take some pains to render this appointment acceptable to the people, especially to members of the General Assembly. Besides his being a man of talents and information as appears by his writings, he will have much influence with Mr. Walton. I think his appointment highly proper and that it will prove satisfactory to the State." Blount to Robertson, May 14. Am. Hist. Mag., VI, 359. Three were to attend as Tennessee's agents to represent that commonwealth's interests before the national commission.
They see a share in management of their most important interests committed to your hand, with assurance that this trust can no where be better placed. Your uniform exertions, in public life, to vindicate the rights of the too much neglected inhabitants of the frontier is accepted by them as proof that this solicitude will be coextensive with appointment.

The interference of claims between the Citizens of this state and the adjacent tribes of Indians has certainly been a source of much uneasiness; at length we see the adjudgment of this truly important trust committed to men whose names we receive as unequivocal proof of the sincerity of Government to apply an efficient remedy to the past evils we have suffered.

Accept my congratulations, on your safe arrival to this place, and fullest assurance of my most cheeral co-operation and firm support in whatever may tend to facilitate the objects of your mission.

George Walton, esquire.

Knoxville, 20 May, 1798.

Gentlemen: Presuming from the nature of the appointment, that two of the Commission are adequate to assume the functions of that trust, with which you are charged, I feel it a duty impressed on me to suggest to you the public wish in favour of such points, as seem most eligible to become the scene of your negotiations.

We are taught to believe that the latitude of choice is in some measure confined to Tellico, Belle Canton, and South West Point. Assuming on this belief, suffer me to suggest to you such reasonings, as from my knowledge of Indian habits, and more correct of the geography of that country (the acquisition of which seems to be at once both the object, and end of your mission) in support of the last, and which will apply with equal force to oppose the two first.

We believe the approaching treaty commenced at the instance of the state of Tennessee, and that it has for its primary object the removal of inconveniences thrown on her inhabitants by missionaries, to whom it was committed to designate the boundaries separating the two people.

163Belle Canton was on the site of the present Lenoir City.
In this view of the subject, some attention may perhaps be thought due to the general wish, where it is unopposed by more weighty considerations. Let it be added that the experience of ages to the belief that soil is with difficulty obtained in the rear of ground on which Indians treat, whilst they yield without much reluctance to that point. South West point is situated at the confluence of the rivers Tennessee and Clinch, and is yet within the extinguished limits of the Indian hunting grounds; the line passing up the right bank of the Tennessee leaves the confluence of the Holston with that river within the Indian boundary. The Holston and Clinch rivers, with the various streams falling into them, have their passage thro' far the most populous settlements of the state; to enjoy their communication with the parent stream, by which they communicate with each other, will readily suggest itself to you, and is of the utmost importance to their happiness.

At present the wants of one part of the state cannot be supplied with the redundancies of another without the delay of passports, and instances are not wanting of the most capricious detention, calculated only to fret the general tranquility. My present purpose is not to complain of the past, but to afford every aid to what I believe will be your endeavour to remove future inconveniences.

Should any weight be attached to the facility of supplies, or the conveniences of removing the goods destined for the treaty, the preference of a water, to land carriage, as opposed to Tellico admits of no comment; it is also calculated to remove all misunderstandings as to future construction of intended lines, as every object which negotiation can embrace as to bounds will be under your immediate view.

George Walton & John Steel, esquires, Commissioners on the part of the United States, to treat with the Cherokees.

Knoxville, May 31st, 1798.

Sir: In obedience to your instructions to me of the 12th, I immediately proceeded to the Cherokee nation by way of South West Point, to execute the same as far as was in my power, to this place yesterday by way of Tellico Blockhouse. The towns I visited were Hiwassee, Chistooee, Shoemach, Estanaula and

Amuch of the property of the former owners.

Fellowship, September 15, 1798.

Standing on the mountain about where I lodged, I observed a man who was loitering about.

My observation was correct, the man had been for business, and was now returning home.

He had instructed his family not to return to Washington, but to write to me, and I was to proceed to the Cherokee nation, and to see what could be done for the family.

After getting possession, they had prepared themselves at what was then the only hotel in the state, and stayed there. The Bowers' Hotel was then the only hotel in the state, and was about three miles from the city. It was a large and comfortable building, with several fine rooms, and was situated on the main street of the city.

The family consisted of a man, a woman, and a child. They were all very gentlemanly, and were engaged in the consumption trade. The man was a considerable trader, and was known by all the traders in the state. He had been a trader for many years, and was well respected by all who knew him.

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The attention may perhaps be directed to the fact that the experience obtained in the rear of the Tennessee leaves the Indian hunting grounds; whilst they yield without the delay of further passage through the most capricious of the state cannot be supplied without the delay of passing the general tranquility. My experience of the past, but to afford the facility of supplies, or goods destined for the treaty, carriage, as opposed to Tellico, was indolent to remove all misapprehension of intended lines, as well embrace as to bounds will not.

Knoxville, May 31st, 1798.

On the 12th, I went to the Chickasaw nation by way of South to the Tellico Blockhouse. The towns of Shoemach, Estanaula and Amachea where there was a general ball play at which were the principal chiefs of the nation, namely, John Watts, Bloody Fellow, Dick Justice, Glass, Taulontiska, Cabin, Chuleoah or Creek Linguister, Kittagisha, the Jobber’s son, the Badger, the Standing Turkey, James Vann and other chiefs, and a great majority of the most influential warriors, making the whole about seven hundred and fifty. The chiefs of the most note, who were not there, were the Little Turkey and Double Head. My ostensible business was the transaction of my own private business as was understood by your Excellency before my departure, tho’ I kept constantly in view the object of your instructions, and did whatever was in my power, in an informal or indirect way to forward the object of the approaching treaty, to wit, to induce the Indians to attend the call or invitation to the Commissioners of the United States to a treaty and to sell a part of their land for a valuable consideration which I presumed would be offered to them.

After I left South West Point the first Indian house I arrived at was Arthur Coody’s one of the interpreters with whom I stayed one day, and found him well disposed, and preferred the Point as the place for the treaty. The next day I saw Tuskegahhee, the Woman Holder and the Hare (Tarrapine) Chiefs of the second order, and about thirty warriors. I had much free conversation with them, and they appeared well disposed to the object of the treaty. At the Shoemach I saw and conversed with Glen Vann, a white trader, two Fallings, half breeds, who spoke English and young men of pretty good information. They said a number of chiefs, (not at a public council) had consulted together at Estanaula on their return from Tellico when the nation received the annuity, where it was agreed the treaty should be held at Estanaula. James Vann, a half breed, lives near this town, who from his wealth and extensiveness of his trade, together with his ability, has become a leading character, and is daily growing into consequence and importance in his nation. I was at his house three days, during which time several Chiefs and warriors visited him. Rum was given out freely, and of which he himself drank freely. I embraced this occasion to collect his sentiments; he was much opposed to the treaty being held at Tellico, and in favour of Estanaula, his

106 For Coody, see S. C. Williams, Early Travels in the Tennessee Country, 233.
opposition to Tellico proceeded from an opposition to the public store at that place, which he considered a great injury to his nation; he would prefer the Point or any other place to Tellico; he is opposed to a large sale of land, but appeared disposed to sell a lesser quantity to accommodate citizens of the United States resident in Tennessee. I repeat that he is a man of consequence and of rising importance. From James Vann's I proceeded with him to the Ball play at Amuchaka, forty miles from his house on our way we fell in with a large party of the Ball Players of the upper towns, and stayed with them one night, and next day I left them and passing the Ball play grounds I joined the players of the lower towns and returned with them to the play. This Ball play took place on Friday the 25th Instant. As I have before observed the principal Chiefs whose names I have before given, and others, and a great majority of the most influential warriors were at it. This afforded a very good opportunity for the objects of my mission as before stated, and I improved it to the best of my abilities. The Chiefs, however, notwithstanding my efforts to draw forth their sentiments appeared very tacit and reserved, which I attributed to a report in circulation among the warriors that they (the Chiefs) were to be bribed to sell lands. Watts, to my suggestions as to the little value of the lands adjacent to the white settlements, said that if the young warriors wanted to hunt Rabbits they might be opposed to the sale of those lands; he appeared very friendly in all his conduct and conversation. Late in the day of the Ball play Mr. Dinsmore appeared, collected the Chiefs and informed them he had the day before received a dispatch from the Commissioners at Knoxville directing him to inquire of them at what time it would be convenient for them and the warriors to meet the Commissioners in treaty. The Chiefs answered on the 14th June and added, as the Commissioners had referred the time to them, they considered they had a right to fix the place and named Estanaula as the place. To this Mr. Dinsmore replied that his business as Agent was distinct from the powers of the Commissioners; he had no right to agree to the place offered reasons against Estanaula; the Chiefs appeared determined and said they supposed land was the object; Dinsmore said it was. The Chiefs again said the object was

107Silas Dinsmore, agent of the Federal government to the Cherokees.
with the Commissioners; it was to buy their lands, and when they (the Chiefs) had business in view they never thought any distance too far to effect it; they supposed the Commissioners would come there. Mr. Dinsmore concluded by remarking that he was to see the Commissioners on the 29th at Belle Canton.

I had many conversations with Chiefs and warriors as I had great opportunities for, as well when they drank water as when they drank spirits, keeping always in view the object of my mission, most if not all of which were too loose and desultory to bear particular recital, but my opinion founded upon such information as I collected is, that with proper men and measures the Chiefs and warriors would agree to a Treaty at the Point, and that an advantageous purchase of land may be made. Tellico-Blockhouse is particularly offensive to a great number of the influential men of the nation. They say the goods sold there are old and rotten, hardly bear a second washing, and that they receive but a small price for their skins. Upon further inquiry I do not discover that it is certain that the British or French have not sent letters to the Cherokees. Such a report however prevails. Upon this visit to the nation I discover the number of the Cherokees is much lessened within a few years. It is accounted for by their emigrations to the west of the Mississippi and it is said many more contemplate going.\(^{108}\) In treaties with Indians it is generally believed that it is the Chiefs who sell lands; and, however true it may have been heretofore, my opinion is on the present occasion no lands will be purchased without the consent of the warriors. The Chiefs are governed by them, especially in the sale of lands; and if lands are to be purchased too much attention cannot be paid to the warriors; that is, the most leading of them. Great complaint is made that lately at Tellico Blockhouse notice has been taken only of Chiefs and that none others were allowed provisions.

I have the honor to be

Your Excellency's

most obedient servant

His Excellency, John Sevier

JAS ORE

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\(^{108}\) The earliest of these migrations, of which we can speak assuredly, was of small bands of dissatisfied Cherokees to St. Francis River in Arkansas, then Spanish territory, shortly after the Treaty of Hopewell in 1785. Later they removed to lands lying between the Arkansas and White rivers, where in 1803 they came under the jurisdiction of the United States. Another considerable migration occurred in 1794 or 1795, led by Chief The Bowl. Yet earlier western migrations of the Cherokees, of
Knoxville, 1 June, 1798.

Gentlemen: Messieurs Samuel Handley,109 Thomas Galliber, David Coldwell and Alexander Ford are a deputation from the people lately removed from their farms, from what is called Indian lands. The object of their mission is to lay before you the distressed situation of those unfortunate people who have been compelled to remove, with a hope and solicitude that you will render them some relief if in your power, of which I have no doubt will be the case.

The Commissioners on the part of the United States, to treat with the Cherokees.

Knoxville, 2 June, 1798.

Gentlemen: I hope I may be pardoned for being so inquisitive respecting the approaching treaty. The state of Tennessee being so materially concerned in the event, I hope will sufficiently apologize for the inquiry I am about to make. It is a request to be informed when and where the intended treaty is to be held; having to make some arrangements on the part of the state increases my solicitations on this occasion.

The Honorable, The Commissioners, on the part of the United States to treat with the Cherokees.

Knoxville, 6 June, 1798.

Sir: The Commissioners have requested the Indians to meet them near Tellico Blockhouse on the 25th Instant, and it is supposed that the treaty will be held at or near that place.

I have thought it would be proper for the Agents to attend at this place on the 20th Instance, at which time you will please give your attendance, in order that you may receive further instructions, and deliberate together on the business of your Agency.

James Robertson, James Stewart & Lachlen McIntosh, esquires, on the part of the state of Tennessee to attend the Treaty with the Cherokees.

which there were doubtless some, are shrouded in tradition. See John Howard Payne Ms., Ayres Collection, Newberry Library, Chicago.

109For Handley, see Ramsay’s Annals, passim.
Knoxville, 11 June, 1798.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 25th Ultimo, which come to hand on the 9th Instant, with the two papers enclosed.

I fear this will not find you in Philadelphia; therefore, shall be much shorter than I should otherwise have been. I believe with you, that a war with France is inevitable, and also hope with you, should it be the case, that the American people will have good sense enough to avoid division. Be assured, sir, it shall be my earnest study to have a perfect unanimity among the people in this quarter, and do not entertain a doubt but it will be easily effected.

I am sorry so much division still appears in the House of Representatives. Surely if a war is likely to take place, such violent opposition ought to be at an end, and all unite in a common defence of their country. I have read the instructions to the envoys, and think them fully ample and commensurate to every reasonable demand that could be made by the French. Also I have with much pleasure perused the communications and think our envoys’ address, of the 18th of January, masterly and unanswerable, and must be satisfactory to every impartial reader.

I observe much opposition to the raising of a regular army; I need not observe to you, or any other military Character, how inadequate a militia only will be to the protection of our country against invasions of regular armies. If America became invaded, and militia only to oppose the enemy, I shall fear very much the protection of the country will be a feeble one indeed—permit me to observe, that in case a war actually takes place, however disagreeable and burdensome regular armies may be, they must inevitably be resorted to, for the efficient and permanent protection of our country.110

Honorable Joseph Anderson.

Knoxville, 11 June, 1798.

Sir: Your two favours of the 16 and 24 Ultimo I had the pleasure to receive on the 9 Instant, also four enclosures of

110This letter and the following are instructive as to Sevier’s attitude towards an army made up of militia, in a struggle against trained regulars of France. He had led militia and volunteers in the Revolution and the Indian wars.
Gazettes and pamphlets. I am doubtful this will not find you in Philadelphia; therefore, shall only write you a short letter. You are pleased to ask my opinion of your envoys’ address to the French republic. I will give it you in a few words, that it is a production of talents, a general knowledge of National affairs, an ample and compleat justification of the Executive conduct, and unanswerable by the French Directory; these are my sentiments.

I discover you have much division in your house, respecting the mode of protection, either by an army of regulars or militia. You will readily grant I ought to be acquainted with the mode of Militia warfare, and also you know how highly that very valuable class of Citizens stand in my estimation. On the whole I believe that the American Militia are the bravest and most intrepid in the world; but after giving them all the credit that can be due, innumerable and conclusive objections may be stated that they are not a force by any means sufficient to protect our country against the invasions of regular armies; and suffer me to say that, if attacked by the French, and our opposition is to be by militia only, our expectations of defence will be illusive, vain, and visionary. Should the Ten of Twenty thousand regular troops be raised, as contemplated by some, I shall then have my doubts. Such an army, together with the aid of our militia, would be inadequate to an efficient protection. Permit me to say that, should a war take place, however disagreeable and burdensome regular armies may be, they must inevitably be immediately resorted to, for the protection and safety of the country. I have seen the instructions to the envoys, and so far as I am able of judging they are ample and commensurate to every reasonable claim, that could be made by France. Honorable William Charles Cole Claiborne.

Knoxville, 11 June, 1798.

Sir: I do myself the honor to acknowledge I have received your favour of the 25 Ultimo, with the several pamphlets therein enclosed. I have read the whole with pleasure, and am perfectly satisfied our government have discovered every reasonable disposition suitable for the purpose of re-establishing that friendship and harmony that a former period existed in so great a degree between the United States, and the French nation. I trust
doubtful this will not find you.

of your envoys' address to me, I am to write you a short letter.

of the Executive con-

of the Directory; these are my

in your house, respecting the formation of an army of regulars or militia, I am acquainted with the mode how highly that very service is esteemed. On the whole, we are the bravest and most capable of them all the credit that might be due to them. Objections may be stated which may appear insufficient to protect our frontier against the attacks of the French, and our opposition to them will be in the Ten of Twenty thousand and forty thousand, I shall then be able to act together with the aid of our European allies. Permit me, however disagreeable it may be, to insist on the necessity of the protection and safety of the United States. The envoys, and their amicable and commensurate intentions, are to be made by France.

Knoxville, 11 June, 1798.

Knoxville, 20 June, 1798.

Dear Sir: Yours of the first instance I had the pleasure to receive the sixteenth. Some considerable time since, I called on Colonel Henry to be informed what measures had been taken respecting the muster rolls of the Nickajack expedition. His answer was, that they had been forwarded to the Secretary of war's office, and that he had written him where they could be found. I suppose he has informed me candidly; it has not been in my power to apply a second time to Colonel Henry since I received your letter, but I will shortly do so, and inform you his answer. I am sorry that a war cannot be avoided; but, if it must be the case, I hope sincerely that our Americans will be unanimous in defending our country; division will ruin us, and it must be avoided.

Some of the Indian Chiefs have arrived at Tellico, and more daily expected, and as the Commissioners are all present I apprehend the negotiations will soon commence. All is peace in this country, and a prospect of fine crops.

Honorable William C. Claiborne.

11 Of September, 1794, Gen. James Robertson, of Mero District, and Maj. James Oreo, of Washington District, being the leaders in the successful campaign.
Knoxville, 24 June, 1798.

Dear Sir: I received your favour of the 17 instant on the 23rd and learn with much regret that you have not received my letter. I wrote some considerable time past by a Colonel Jones, who promised me that the same should have a sure and speedy conveyance; I did not entertain the smallest doubt, but Mr. Jones would be as good as his promise, he knowing the contents, which was requesting your attendance at this place on the 20th instant. If this should arrive before you have set out, let me entreat of you to come forward as speedily as possible to this place. To-morrow is the day appointed for the Indians to meet at Chota, and the treaty I expect will open in the course of this week, tho' I expect the Indians will be somewhat tardy in coming forward. Pray use your influence with Mr. Searcy to send forward some money.

General James Robertson,
Mero District.

Knoxville, 24 June, 1798.

Sir: It is some considerable time since I wrote you a second letter on the subject of raising some money for the use of our Agents at the treaty. As I have received no answer to my second, I am much at a loss to know what I may depend upon. I shall be very much embarrassed, indeed, if you have it not in your power to furnish me with the thousand dollars, or considerable part, in fact any part will be of great utility, and never will my opinion be of more essential service. Pray afford every assistance in your power, and send it forward as soon as possible. Whatever sum you may send forward, I will give a warrant and receipt for, to Mr. Mauldin of any other person you may choose to receive the same on your behalf.

Robert Searcy, esquire, public treasurer Mero District.

Knoxville, 25 June, 1798.

Gentlemen: I am honored this day with yours of the 21st instant. It affords me much pleasure to be informed that the Indians are about to assemble; hoping, as you have been pleased to suggest, that the treaty will shortly commence, and, also, should the objects of your mission be accomplished, I have not a doubt my friend the commissioner of the United States will place it before Congress, without delay. I am persuaded that the United States will shortly be represented there. The Honorable John Sevier, United States Senator.

Dear Sir:

The 24th. I received a letter from me, which I presume Claiborne has sent in some time since. The treaty is set out forward.

The treaty is entirely favorable to us. I wish, if desired, you could see their plans as far as formed. I assure you every other government in every part of the United States in my opinion is done every thing that was assuring the treaty. Government made. I am very speedily able to get our enemies to do it but little use could be made.

The enclosed have this company of the Honorable.

Dear Sir:

I have receipted the mail of the 21st instant, and its being
Knoxville, 24 June, 1798.

I have not received my letter post by a Colonel Jones, who have a sure and speedy conveyance; I have not received my letter from the 23rd, and a doubt remaining that nothing will be left undone by the Commissioners to designate the boundary in such a manner as to place it beyond the possibility of misconception. I flatter myself, with great hope, you will have a successful negotiation, and that the distressed people which have been removed will very shortly be permitted to return to their farms and habitations. The Honorable, The Commissioners on the part of the United States, to treat with the Cherokees.

Knoxville, 28th June, 1798.

Dear Sir: Yours of the 8th Instant, I was honored with on the 24th. I learn with surprise you have not received any letters from me, for I beg you to be assured that I write to you and Mr. Claiborne by almost every post, with few exceptions, since you set out for Congress.

The treaty is just about to commence; the prospects appear favorable, and I have no doubt a good treaty may be obtained if desired by the Commissioners; the people are still kept off their plantations, and the measures against them are as rigorous as formerly, a conduct very contrary to my expectations, as also every other person, a misfortune I am extremely sorry for; and I assure you it begins to lessen the people’s confidence in the government beyond calculation, and nothing but a good treaty, in my opinion, will ever regain that confidence, the people, a very short time since, so fully placed in the government. I have done every thing in my power to quiet the minds of the people, assuring them that I had every reason to believe that the government would afford them every kind of relief in the most speedy and ample manner; their patience is worn out, and the enemies to government are in an indirect manner making no little use of the opportunity to sour the minds of the people.

The emigration throughout the whole winter and spring to this country, is beyond the most sanguine expectation.

Honorable Joseph Anderson.

Knoxville, 4 July, 1798.

Dear Sir: No mail from Philadelphia last week, the stoppage of the mail between Staunton and this place has become very frequent, and it seems useless to complain with any expectation of its being remedied, tho’ the abuse is too great to be suffered. It
is a fact that one half of the papers and letters come to hand so late that we pay the postage for nothing; and another evil, I believe the half of the letters to and from this place neither comes or goes safe to hand.

The Indians comes in but slow to the treaty, tho' I am of opinion there will a great many attend after some time, nothing as yet is done in treaty. The people removed has obtained a few days to reap their grain, which has been suffering for the want of cutting.

Honorable Joseph Anderson and
William C. C. Claiborne.

Knoxville, 4th July, 1798.

Gentlemen: Having appointed you as Agents on the part of this State, to attend the ensuing treaty now about to be held between the United States and the Cherokee Indians, you will therefore please to repair to Tellico Blockhouse, at which place you will be on the sixth Instant prepared to attend the negotiations at whatever point they may open.

It will be impossible to instruct you in the minuitia of those interests, to which you are called to attend; as an outline, you will understand the State to require as extensive an extention of the Indian claim north of the Tennessee, as may be obtained.

The communication of the Holston and Clinch with the Tennessee, and the right hand of the last river from our Southeast boundary to its confluence with the Clinch, are points to which you will direct your attention, as also to secure from future molestation the settlements so far as they have progressed on the northern and western borders of the state. The connecting the districts of Mero and Hamilton now separated by a space of unextinguished hunting grounds of near eighty miles in width, will be considered by you Gentlemen as an object of great importance, as the inconveinences resulting from the present state of our settlements must be obvious to every mind conversant with the geography of the country, and is certainly too irksome to be continued, when the facts are fairly represented.

Among your duties will be an examination of the ground of the Cherokee claim, either as derived from original rights, or founded on treaties; and, if on investigation you shall find such right settle into a mere temporary use, antecedant to the Holston treaty, it may perhaps be proper to question the constitu-
tionality of that measure, that prostrated the guaranteed rights of the whole state, and to shew the Act of Cession, operative on the government prior to this treaty.

In all appointments however of this kind much must necessarily be left discretionary, and perhaps there is no instance where that discretion must be suffered to assume a wider range than on the present occasion. Accept the assurances of my belief that it cannot be better placed, and will in no instance be used more to the advantage of the state you represent.

I trust it is unnecessary to remind you that your duties, and your objects, will be so connected with the Commissioners on the part of the United States, that you will yield every thing of the interest and dignity of the State you represent to preserve yourselves well with them. Please advise me frequently of the features your negotiations assume.

Roads opened from this state, to any of the adjacent ones, and to settlements in various parts of our own State, will be of much utility and convenience, and also to have the privilege of the unmolested navigation of all rivers and waters within the chartered bounds of the State, and particularly to obtain, where it may be necessary, suitable ports for deposit, and carrying places from river to river, so as to facilitate, and make easy as possible the import and exportation of all the articles necessary for the commercial intercourse of the state.

You will please engage some suitable person to supply you with necessary stores for your support during your attendance at the treaty, and for the discharge of the same I will grant a warrant or warrants on the treasury for the necessary sum to be expended on that occasion, which is to be understood not to exceed in the whole expedition relative to the objects of your agency, one thousand dollars.

Wishing you every success compatible with the interest of the state.

James Robertson, James Stewart,
Lachlan McIntosh, esquires.