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LETTERS OF GOVERNOR WILLIAM BLOUNT

EDITED BY PHILIP M. HAMER

William Blount, the oldest of the eight children of Jacob and Barbara Gray Blount, was born in North Carolina, March 26, 1749. He entered public life as an officer in the army of revolutionary North Carolina in 1776 and was thereafter, until his death, almost continuously in public office. He served in both houses of the North Carolina legislature and in the Continental Congress. He was a member of the Convention of 1787 that framed the Constitution of the United States and of the North Carolina convention that ratified the Constitution. In 1790 President Washington appointed him to the office of governor of the Territory of the United States South of the River Ohio (more briefly known as the Southwest Territory). Blount was the president of the convention that in 1796 framed the constitution under which the Southwest Territory became the state of Tennessee. He was one of Tennessee's first United States Senators, but his service in the Senate was brief. He was charged with conspiracy to attack the nearby possessions, Florida and Louisiana, of a friendly power, Spain, and was expelled from the Senate. Almost at once he was elected to the Tennessee Senate and was chosen to be speaker of that body. Further political preferment at the hands of Tennesseans was prevented by his death on March 21, 1800.

The following letters were written by William Blount during the six years of his service as governor of the Southwest Territory. The originals are in the Draper Collection of Manuscripts in the possession of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Permission to print them has kindly been given by that society. The editor has attempted to give in printed form as accurate a reproduction as possible of the capitalization, punctuation, and spelling of the originals. Only the formal conclusions and signatures have been omitted.

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To Daniel Smith¹

At Mr Yancey's in the ceded Territory of the
United States South of the River Ohio October
11th 1790.

Dear Sir,

I arrived here yesterday. My servant was [sick] on the Road or I should have been here five days sooner.— I find it necessary to fill the Commissions for the civil officers on this Side Cumberland Mountain before I come over to your part of the state, this I shall do as soon as I can and then come on.— I shall much need your assistance but shall do the best I can without you taking it for granted that you will have no Objection [to] authenticating my executive Acts upon my Record of them. When I shall be over I can form no positive Opinion but it shall certainly be as soon as the Business here to be done will permit

*"The Answer of Governor Blount to The Address of
the officers and other Inhabitants of the County of
Greene,"* November 8, 1790.

Gentlemen,

With you I have long since been convinced that a Separation of this Territory from the State of North Carolina would tend to the Happyness of both and as a Member of her Legislature ever did what was in my power to effect so desirable an Event and in my present Station I shall be equally diligent in my Endeavours to realize that Happyness which We have all anticipated.

I thank you for your Congratulations and Assurances of Support to the Dignity and Energy of Government

To General Daniel Smith

Mr Cobbs² April 17th 1791

Dear Sir,

On the 26th of last Month Cox, Gilbert and Strother³ and

¹Daniel Smith was one of the first settlers in the Cumberland region. In 1790 he was appointed secretary of the Southwest Territory.

²For some time after his arrival in the territory Blount made his home with William Cobb on the Watauga River, not far from the present Johnson City.

³Zachariah Cox, Thomas Gilbert, John Strother, and others were members of the Tennessee Company to which Georgia had sold land in the Muscle Shoals region. They planned to promote a settlement near the Shoals. Because of the fact that this region lay within territory that the United States had recognized as belonging to the Indians, President Washington issued a proclamation forbidding the making of the proposed settlement. It was attempted, nevertheless, but was broken up by the Indians.

WILLIAM BLOUNT

MEMOR

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twenty nine other armed men left the Mouth of French Broad and proceeded down the River, I believe only three of them were of this Territory namely James Hubbard, Peter Bryan and John Riddle. What operation the Conduct of these People may have on the Treaty is impossible for me to tell but if it has not a bad one I have no doubt I shall have a good Treaty.—⁴ I have not received any official Information from either of the Secretaries since your departure but I am informed through a Channel to which I pay full faith that all the Goods contained in my Estimate and more too are ordered by the President to be forwarded to me via Richmond. Whether the Land Law is passed or not I am also uninformed but I suspect it is not. General Seveir⁵ is not returned. Judge Campbell⁶ has proceeded on to Philadelphia— A Mr Anderson⁷ of the State of Delaware is appointed in the Place of Mr Perry resigned but not yet arrived. Congress have passed an Act authorizing the President so to extend the ten Miles square for the permanent seat of Government as to include Alexandria, the Mouth of the eastern Branch and the Mouth of Hunting Creek that is they have passed an Act agreeable to his wishes and design in the Report which you saw when here. The Act imposing a duty on distilled spirits from the Growth of the United States is also passed the duty on the lowest proof is 9 Cents per Gallon and higher according to the Proof if stilled in any Town or Village and upon all stills sit up in the Country 60 Cents per Gallon. It is said that this Act does not extend to either of the territorial Districts. The next Congress meet in October— The President is now on his Tour to the Southward.— Major King⁸ from the Cherokees writes me that he has found one of the Chickasaws at Chota who informed as well as he could understand that both the Canoes in which were the four Chickasaws

⁴The Treaty of the Holston, negotiated with the Cherokee Indians by William Blount, was signed on July 2, 1791. By it the Indians ceded a considerable tract of land in what now is Tennessee.

⁵John Sevier was Brigadier-General of the militia of Washington District of the Southwest Territory. In a number of letters by Blount and in some other contemporary records the name was spelled Seveir.

⁶David Campbell was one of the judges of the Southwest Territory.

⁷Joseph Inslee Anderson was one of the judges of the Southwest Territory. A biographical sketch by Fay E. McMillan is in *East Tenn. Hist. Soc., Publications*, No. 2 (Knoxville, 1930), 81-93.

⁸Robert King, for whom the town of Kingston, Tennessee, was named.

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were over turned in the Tennessee about the Suck,⁹ that they
got on shore with the loss of all their Presents, Cloathing & arms
to the runing Water Town, that after being there some Time they
discovered the Cherokees would kill them which induced them
to quit the Cherokees under the Cover of a dark rainy Night
almost naked and without arms. What has become of the other
three I have not heard— Major King ordered the one that he
found up to Gen. Cocks in order that he might pass the Wilder-
ness with the Bearer Mr Allison¹⁰ having first procured him
some Cloaths which I shall pay for.— I wish you would take
the earliest opportunity of stating the Treatment of these Chac-
taws fairly to the Mountain Leader¹¹ for I suspect it will be
mistated and perhaps much to my Injury— If the Choctaw
comes with Mr Allison you can write by him— I forwarded the
Letter to the Chickasaws which you copied as soon as I knew
the Tennessee People had pushed off that is I put it into the
Hands of King to forward from the Cherokees— If you have
Leisure I shall be happy to see you at the Treaty I do not mean
on any particular Business—

To Joseph Martin¹²

Treaty Ground June 6th 1791

Dear Sir,

Why did you not write me by an old man who told you he was
coming to this Place.— Reports have prevailed to your dis-
advantage which are happily contradicted in decided Terms by
Mr Ore and Mr Hacket and Capt. Fauche witnesses your en-
deavours to put the Indians in the proper way of Thinking for
which I return you my Thanks, pray continue them. I shall be
glad to see you and Mr Madison with you— I do not promise
to employ him as an Interpreter but if I do not it will be because
the Indians object to him and I do not know their sentiments on
that head yet.

⁹A treacherous place in the Tennessee River, a few miles below Chattanooga. For many years it was a great hinderance to navigation of the river.

¹⁰Probably David Allison with whom Blount was at times associated in land speculations.

¹¹Otherwise known as Piamingo, a Chickasaw chieftain.

¹²Note by L. C. Draper: "At this period Gen. Martin was trading in the Cherokee nation."

To Joseph Martin

Treaty Ground near the Mouth of
French Broad on the Bank of the
Holston¹³ June 16th 1791

Dear Sir,

Your Letters of the 14th and 15th Instant by Mr. Davidson and Mr Shields I have received for both of which I am much obliged to you. I am very sorry for the Offence that the Bloody Fellow and Watts have taken and am at a loss how to remove it. I am sure it was not intended. If I was to write to them I do not suppose it would have any good Effect.— I can only request my good Sir that you will use your Influence to convince them that no offence has been intended and to aid Major King with your Advice when you see he stands in need of Advice.— I thank you for your friendly offices and beg that you will continue them to the bringing about the Treaty which for days past has appeared in a very promising way.— You may assure the Indians in the strongest Terms of good Treatment and I assure you it is their true Interest to come in and treat.— I really wish they would so conduct themselves as that it may be in the Power of the United States to make them a much happier People than they are or can be if they do not treat.— Colonels Shelby and Kennedy arrived here yesterday from Kentucky with a Deposition respecting the Injury that Country has sustained [from] the Cherokees and their Injuries had been so great that Nothing but the approaching Treaty prevented an army marching before this for the Destruction of the Chickamogga Towns— The People at large of Kentucky were so determined on this Measure that it was with great difficulty they could be restrained by the more thinking part of the officers.— Be pleased to show this Letter to Major King—

To John Sevier

Mr Cobbs January 2d 1792

Dear Sir,

I have granted the License to Jo¹⁴ as extensively as he wished. Mr Allison sat off for Philadelphia on Wednesday and I have

¹³On the site of the present Knoxville. The Tennessee River from Knoxville to the mouth of the Little Tennessee was then called the Holston.

¹⁴John Sevier's oldest son, Joseph.

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to beg your Pardon for not giving you timely Information but
it really never occurred to me until the very Morning he was
about to sit out and then it was too late to answer any good
Purpose to you. I lament with you the Loss of so many valuable
Men particularly that of Captain Tipton¹⁵ he was certainly a
young Man of great Bravery and worth.— Mr Allison informed
me that he directed Mr Nuolick to send up to your Care from
Richmond a Box of glass If it is come I beg you to take the
first opportunity of forwarding it down to Knoxville¹⁶ or to
Evan's Ferry perhaps Jo can carry it in his waggon. I shall
be at Jonesboro, I believe on Wednesday on my way to Knox-
ville.—

To John Sevier

Jonesboro. Thursday March 8th 92

Dear Sir

I am thus far on my way to Knoxville with my family and
should have been happy in Meeting you here but as I have not
I console myself with the Hope of shortly seeing you at Knox-
ville on your long threatened visit to that part of the Country.—
On Tuesday I paid a Visit to Colonel Tipton,¹⁷ my Reception
was kind and the Interview very satisfactory.— Conciliation
and Public Happiness were the Objects. While I was there the
Petition of which you have heard was committed to the flames
by the Colonel Himself in presence of Dd Allison. I was first
induced to think of this Visit by Communications made to me
by Judge Campbell and am truly pleased with the Event.—
Mr Allison went off yesterday quite uneasy lest by some mistake
the several notes he had written you giving you Information of
the Time he would set out had failed to reach you in Time—

¹⁵Captain Jacob Tipton, commander of a company of volunteers from the South-
west Territory, was killed in the battle in which, on November 4, 1791, the North-
western Indians defeated the army of General Arthur St. Clair in the present state
of Ohio.

¹⁶Presumably this glass was intended for Governor Blount's home. As early as
July 22, 1791, Blount had determined to make the place where he negotiated the
treaty with the Cherokee his future home and the capital of the territory, and had
decided to name it Knoxville. The town was laid out and Blount purchased a lot at
the first sale, October 3, 1791. His home still stands and has been placed in the
custody of the Governor William Blount Mansion Association.

¹⁷John Tipton was the leader of a faction that was hostile to John Sevier during
the days of the State of Franklin and after.

To Daniel Smith

Knoxville April 27th 1792

Dear Sir,

I have not yet heard from David Allison so that I know not how my Proposals for a Treaty with the Chickasaws and Choctaws will be received.— All I know respecting these Nations as to the Intentions of Congress towards them is contained in some Letters from the Secretary of War to their Chiefs which are committed to the Bearer and Mr A. Foster to deliver. The Seals are not closed and they have my Instructions to give you and General Robertson the reading of them before they are.— On the 21st the Cherokee Chiefs arrived from Philadelphia¹⁸ with Mr Shaw and on the 23d proceeded down the River to Coyatee with their own and the Goods of the Nation for the annual allowance where a General meeting of the Nation is to take place shortly say within twenty days and the national Goods to be divided— Their own amount to about 3700 dollars and those for the Nation about 1700.— I am strongly solicited to attend this meeting and shall do it and its probable Mrs Blount will accompany me— I have promised them for Provisions twenty Cattle & some meal and it appears to me essential that I should be there. You recollect the Character we heard of Shaw inquire further on that Head of Judge Campbell.— The Journey of the Chiefs to Philadelphia altogether will cost about ten thousand dollars. You will no doubt ask but how will you conduct yourself at this meeting I answer in such manner as shall leave the United States at liberty to punish the offending Indians or not as they please that is I will neither promise Forgiveness nor demand Satisfaction— A Book is brought forward containing all the Talks held at Philadelphia and it appears the Chiefs acknowledge the signing and understanding the Treaty but have egregiously lied as to the means and manner of its being brought about so much that for my own Justification I must reply to it particularly. I would more properly have said in gratification of my own Feelings I can say nothing about the Running of the Line until after the meeting at Coyatee and it may be that they and myself may so agree as to need no Com-

¹⁸Some of the Cherokee, dissatisfied with the payment that was provided them in the Treaty of the Holston for the ceded lands, went to Philadelphia and secured some additional compensation.

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Knoxville April 27th 1792

Allison so that I know not the Chickasaws and Choc-respecting these Nations towards them is contained in War to their Chiefs which A. Foster to deliver. The y Instructions to give you f them before they are.— rived from Philadelphia¹⁸ eeded down the River to ds of the Nation for the eeting of the Nation is to ys and the national Goods t to about 3700 dollars — I am strongly solicited it and its probable Mrs promised them for Pro- it appears to me essential he Character we heard of f Judge Campbell.— The altogether will cost about ubsut ask but how will you nswer in such manner as y to punish the offending will neither promise For- Book is brought forward elphia and it appears the derstanding the Treaty but and manner of its being own Justification I must re properly have said in an say nothing about the eeting at Coyatee and it agree as to need no Com-

yment that was provided them in to Philadelphia and secured some

missioners in extending the Line near this Place— I shall try for it but I fear I shall not succeed.— The very day I ordered a draft in Hawkins of a Company to be sent for the Protection of the Frontiers of Mero District the Wife of Harper Ratcliff and Children were killed — (See the Knoxville Gazette).—¹⁹ Sundry Horses stolen and a Party of Indians pursued and fired on by Colonel Cox of Russell County— This last Circumstance was much complained of by the uper Towns as the Party fired on did not happen to be the same that took the Horses— All this so alarmed the People of this County that I could not think of marching men from it and have been obliged to issue an Order for the Company to range on the Frontiers of it.— I have not yet ordered another to be raised in lieu from any other County— You know how reluctantly I order drafts.— I have Hopes that Hostilities will cease and that the two Companies ordered out of the Cumberland People will be sufficient for to protect the Frontiers.

Its pretty certain Bowls²⁰ has left the Creeks and that McGillivray is returning to that Nation— I shall not forward Thornberry's Deposition to the Secretary of War until I again hear from you— If you take it over again I beg you to insert the Circumstance of double Head having a Pass signed by me as this would be a great Proof of his having been at the Treaty and of his being the same who signed it for it may be that Northern People may wish to have it understood that the mischief is done by Indians who were not at the Treaty and who do not consider themselves bound by it— Pray persivere in your Determination to take the Deposition of Doct Waters on this Subject. In taking Thornberry's anew it will be best to take notice of such Things as he can swere to fully and particularly, putting in the Mischief done at Cumberland generally will destroy even that which is particularly mentioned

From what I have heard there is no doubt but Double Head is guilty as charged by Thornberry.— Judge Campbell has found great difficulty *in his Mind* in setting out, I have furnished a guard for him and used every argument to send him

¹⁹This was the first paper published in Tennessee. A file for the years 1791-95 is in the possession of the Tennessee Historical Society in Nashville. A photostatic copy of this file is in the McClung Collection of the Lawson McGhee Library in Knoxville.

²⁰William Augustus Bowles was an adventurer in the Creek Nation and a rival of the Creek chieftain, Alexander McGillivray.

forward— I wish him well and that much attention should be paid to him— If he is not attended to it will afford great Pleasure to a man who deserves Pain only at my Hands— I must tell you if the lower Towns are not furnished it will not be for the want of a just Statement of their Conduct so far as it has come to my knowledge— I shall lay out two new Counties as soon as Judge Campbell returns— Please communicate the Contents of this Letter to General Robertson²¹ as I may not write him so fully.—

To Daniel Smith

Governor Blount's Compliments to Secretary Smith, will thank him to cause the Patents inclosed herewith to be recorded pay the Expense and sent back to him. The Expense shall be repaid.— April 29th 1792.—

P. S. Since writing and closing my Letter to you a Letter is to hand from Allison in which is the following Paragraph "The Secretary of War observed Governor Blounts Plans were certainly founded on Policy as well as the true Principles of Justice that he would venture to assure me every part should be complied with and that I might write the Governor to that Purport which I have now done as nearly as I can recollect in his own words"— This was the answer of the first Interview so that it is not fully and absolutely to be depended upon as the President was to be consulted, but promises well— Allison's letter was dated March 25th and he adds as soon as he has a positive answer after the President is consulted he will inform me by Express.

To Daniel Smith

July 24th 1792

Dear Sir,

Smith, Foster and Robertson are returned with a large and full Representation of the Chickasaws and about one hundred and twenty Chactaws among whom are some Chiefs of Consequence— As yet the greater part are out upon Harper for the Benefit of Grass for their Horses.— No News of Allison nor my Boats.— A Party are gone down to the Mouth of Duck to meet them.— McCabe wishes you to send down two Hogsheads

²¹James Robertson was a leading figure in the Cumberland settlement and Brigadier-General of the militia of Mero District of the Southwest Territory.

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rick is nearly out.— It seems a Meeting of the District is to
take place at Nashville on Saturday to draw up a State of Suf-
ferings &c &c. I wish you to be present and I shall be happy
to see you then and at all other Times— Suppose you come
down on Thursday that we may talk Things over and over on
Friday.—

To John Sevier

Knoxville May 31st. 1793.

Sir,

That I had a right to call an Assembly when it should be as-
certained to me that there were five thousand male inhabitants
in the Territory of full age, I never had a doubt but I doubted
whether it would be to the benefit of the people for me so to do.
Hence I referred the question Assembly or no Assembly to the
people at large, Believing they were the best judges of it, and
that the people at large would not be otherwise than pleased at
the decision of the majority. In making this reference, I en-
deavoured to do it in such terms as to express no opinion or wish
of my own, for nor against the question, nor have I in any letter
or verbal communication expressed my wishes against an As-
sembly— but on the contrary if the people wished an Assembly
I wished them to have it, and still wish it, if the people believe
it will be for their benefit. It has been said by some persons,
and I would willingly hope upon good motives, that the question
has been taken hastily, and that the people have been surprised
into a negative of the question, and that if it was again put it
would be determined in the affirmative upon better information
and a more perfect knowledge of their affairs and situation.

It is my wish that the question should be considered as yet
open for their determination. Observe I say *wish* for I can only
recommend or request of the people, not order it, and I con-
sidered my former circular letter on that head as recommenda-
tory not mandatory. That was the mode in which the census
was taken, and it met the approbation of the people. The bustle
made at several of the county courts about the act respecting
the tax upon proceedings at law would appear to me to be pre-
mature, and can tend only to sow an impolitic and unwise de-
gree of dissatisfaction among the unthinking but well meaning
part of the people. The right to disapprove that act is vested

in Congress only. The necessity for the Governor and Judges to pass an act on that subject was evident. Some Clerks and other Officers had demanded and received the tax imposed by the law of North Carolina, others had declined it. Those who had received the taxes, without the act, were without any power to call them to account for the sums received, and certainly it could not be consistent with the public interest that they should collect them for their own use and benefit. This was an evil that a Grand Jury presented as a grievance, as I have been informed. The object of the act was to please not to displease the people. The taxes when collected are for the common benefit of the people at large and will be appropriated by a legislature whenever that event takes place and not till then.

No body will say that the Ordinance the temporary constitution of this country is a good one—but it is to be observed that it is temporary not permanent. If certain liberties are given up temporarily, temporary benefits are given in lieu, that is the expense of government, of which the people bear no part, not even the tax of an excise, for it is borne by the federal government.

My object in administering the government has been to please the people as far as I could consistent with the duties I owed the federal government, having always in view their happiness. The pleasure of pleasing to me is a great one, but unmerited censure gives no pain except that of reflecting that it is drawn on me by the address of people who have not maturely thought on the subject, or have objects in view different from that of the public good

To John Sevier

Knoxville Sunday June 2d 1793

Dear Sir

By the Bearer Mr Roulstone²² I had the Pleasure of your letters as well as your friendly verbal Communications for which I return you my Thanks.— The present Bussle is very disagreeable to me and has been unquestionably raised for the Benefit on designing Persons as they hope but with proper address and Temper I hope these Disturbers will be disappointed of their object if an assembly does take place and it is my earnest wish that the People will vote for an assembly.

²²George Roulstone was editor and publisher of the *Knoxville Gazette*.

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Monday June 2d 1793

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Knoxville Gazette.

Having referred this question to the People I do not *scarcely* feel myself at liberty to call one if they determine against it— Herewith you have a Copy of a circular letters to the Colonels of the Counties which I hope will have a good effect and which you will use as you judge most proper for the Peace and Order of Government— The news Paper contains the news of this place very correctly detailed.— I believe the Cherokee Chiefs will accept the Invitation of the President to visit him at Philadelphia—Watts, the Bloody Fellow and many other Chiefs are to be at Chota today if not before to determine on that question— Your son Joseph is just sitting out with a good quantity of Linsey & other articles to take the Trade they and their Party which will be numerous bring up.— Mrs Blount has been long sitting out on a visit to her Friends in Carolina, will now *certainly* leave this on friday the 7th Instant and take Jonesboro in her way— I shall accompany her if no unforeseen Event takes place to prevent it and we will be at Jonesboro on Monday the 10th when and where I will be happy to meet you and we will talk all Things over; for the present permit me to say my friendship for you ever has been and is of the most inviolable kind. [P. S.] I am without Information from the Northward almost Time immemorial I mean official

To John Sevier

Granaway's Sunday June 16th 1793

Private

Dear Sir,

Would it not be well indeed *best* for you to issue your Orders to the lower Counties and forward them by Mr Roulstoune It would seem as if they came on the spur of the Occasion.— Had you not best order Lovely as Major of Brigade to hold himself in Readiness— This would show that you are quite in earnest in going yourself and upon that being *really* believed depends the whole utility of the whole Order.—

I will be back²³ between the 1st & 10th Septr. keep Peace until that Time (my Return) and ill as Congress have behaved in neglecting to give Power to the President I flatter myself I will procure some Thing to be done for the Relief of the Fron-

²³Blount made a trip to Philadelphia, then the seat of government of the United States, where he made a plea for the adoption by the federal government of a more vigorous Indian policy in defense of the inhabitants of the southwestern frontier.

tiers, my Abilities and Exertions shall not be wanting— At the Court of Oyer I hope proper steps will be taken by yourself and other leading Characters to quiet the minds of the People.— Mr Roulstoune will teach People to believe as he comes down that he has Orders for a Campaign— I consider him entirely confidential and have thought it best he should do so

To John Sevier

Philadelphia August 28th 1793—

Dear Sir

By this Conveyance I write to the Judges a Letter which I presume they will receive at the Washington Superior Court and which I request them to shew to you not knowing how better to inform you of the State of Things here. Whatever may be the Event of Things on the Frontiers I can assure you the Exertions of General Pickens and myself in favour of those distressed People have not here been wanting.

It is here strongly hoped nay believed that the Northern Tribes will make a Peace and on that Event Wayne's Army with the aid of the Militia of the Southern Territory and others can easily chastise our perfidious Yellow Brethren to the South.

All the Payrolls of your Brigade have been audited and reported on and the Payment *secured* but no Payments as Things are arranged can be made here.

Mr Allison is continued Paymaster and comes out with me in a Carriage as he is too low in Health to ride on horse. I have also the Pleasure of Major Sevier's Company and we expect to leave this on Monday and proceed on Via Richmond as fast as we can for Knoxville taking Jonesboro in our way where I count on the Pleasure of seeing you and speaking more at large

[To John Sevier ?]

Knoxville October 28th 1793

Dear Sir,

I find Evans's Company will be at Home until Monday next which is pay day for them at this place

It appears to me best to avoid the Charge of Partiality to them as well as to save public expence to discharge them as well as Richardson's and to that Purport I inclose you a Public Order— It will be easy to order them on duty on Monday next when they will be generally here if wanted— Short Services will show best

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To John Sevier

Knoxville, October 28th 1793—

Sir

You will please discharge Captain Evan's Company of
Mounted Infantry of Knox County as well as Captain Richard-
son's of Greene— I hope Captain Harrison's who are to be con-
tinued in Service for the period they were called out will be
sufficient enough at the different posts as mentioned to you for
a few days until Richardsons & Evan's can recruit and if neces-
sary until other companies of the same description can be called
either from Hawkins Sullivan or Jefferson—

To John Sevier

Friday Morning—[1793]

Dear Sir,

Harrison's Horse are here and not to be mustered until Tues-
day— There are ten Indians in the Point between Campbell's
& the Garrison.— The weather is fine and open & Time enough
for Harrison to go and scour the Point for those ten Indians
before Tuesday— He can go as far as Campbells tonight.

To John Sevier

Knoxville January 9th 1794

Dear Sir,

I have made a Peace with the Cherokees in which I have great
Faith.— The Particulars are not worth mentioning and if they
were it would take more Time than I have to spare to give
them.— My anxiety to see you continues unabated— I beg
you to come as soon as your Health will permit.— Mr Mc-
Clung²⁴ at my Request had made you Debtor for a Piece
of Linnen which your son Joseph the Bearer will deliver to you.—
[P. S.] You ought to write to Doctr. White²⁵ to push forward
the Payment of your Brigade—²⁶ General Smith & myself have
both done so

²⁴Charles McClung was a lawyer, surveyor, and merchant of Knoxville. He was
a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1796.

²⁵Dr. James White of Davidson County was elected delegate from the Southwest
Territory to the United States Congress on September 3, 1794.

²⁶In 1793, while Blount was on his visit to Philadelphia, the Cherokee Indians
invaded the white settlements and killed settlers within a few miles of Knoxville. In

[To John Sevier]

Knoxville February 9th 1794

Dear Sir,

By your son Joseph I send you some of the most interesting Papers that I have received— By the Publication of Genet's Instructions you will see that his Conduct appears justified but the Censure falls on his Nation.— This looks as if peace would not continue with France.— By the last Post I had letters from my Brother but the Business of Congress was in such Newness that he gave me no Information as to what would be done on the many very important Subjects then.— I expect the Pleasure of seeing you here prior to the fourth Monday in this Month as I presume the Meeting of the Representatives²⁷ will not (it need not) continue above two days.— We enjoy a very unexpected degree of Peace. Good [*sic*] send it may continue.— I expect to hear from the Chiefs on the Subject of Peace in the Course of this week I mean a permanent one—

To John Sevier

Knoxville March 20th 1795

Dear Sir,

Letters from General Robertson inform that the Chickasaws have lately killed ten Creeks and made six Prisoners— Thus a war between the Creeks and Chickasaws is beyond all doubt— I am anxious for the Return of Major Evans to know what Part the United States mean to act on the occasion.— All accounts from the Cherokees promise a Continuance of Peace with them: I hope throughout the Summer.

The last Letters from Doctor White say in *positive Terms* that Sevier's Brigade will not be paid until an appropriation of money is by Congress made for that Purpose.— I hope the Doctor has offered a Bill to that effect.— Every day's experience points out in stronger Terms the necessity for a State in preference to a territorial Government.— I wish you had been in Philadelphia during this session of Congress, you certainly

violation of orders for the maintenance of a defensive policy that the United States government had issued, but with the approval of Secretary Daniel Smith who was acting-governor during Blount's absence, John Sevier led his troops in a successful offensive against the Cherokee as far to the south as the Coosa River in Georgia. Congress refused to pay Sevier's men for their services in this campaign.

²⁷The first meeting of the House of Representatives of the territorial legislature was February 24, 1794.

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might have contributed to the Procuring Justice for the brave
Men who had the Honor to serve under you—

General Smith is here and much hurt that the Payment has
been delayed for a duty so essential to the Preservation & Happy-
ness of the Country at the Time it was performed under his
Order—

To Isaac Shelby²⁸

Knoxville December 21st 1795

Dear Sir,

Having a direct Conveyance by a Citizen of your State I write
you

Very late Information from a full Council of the Creek Chiefs
held at the Tuckabatchees and also from the lower Cherokees
continue the pleasing assurances of Peace with the United States
in which I place full Faith— The Creeks complain against the
Georgians for lately killing seventeen of their Nation upon the
Oconee River for taking a few Pumpkins & corn from the Fields
when they were very hungry yet they say they will not retaliate
but demand Satisfaction of the United States according to the
Treaty of New York.— The Creeks are also determined to be
at Peace with the Chickasaws if the Chickasaws are willing and
Captain Chisholm²⁹ is now gone with overtures to that Purport
from the Creek Chiefs to the Chickasaw Nation.—

Captain Chisholm is thus engaged as a Mediator between those
two nations by the authority of the United States.— Having
yourself once been a Citizen in this Country I am induced to
believe a List of the Members of Convention³⁰ will not be un-
acceptable to you— I inclose you such a List so far as I have
heard from the different Counties.— I also inclose you the last
Number of the Knoxville Gazette

²⁸Isaac Shelby was governor of Kentucky.

²⁹John Chisholm of Blount Conspiracy fame.

³⁰Elections for delegates to the convention that framed the first constitution of
the state of Tennessee were held on December 18 and 19, 1795.