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Knoxville, 28 October, 1804.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 24th Sept. Ult., in which you notify the Executive that at the last session of Congress, the amendment to the Constitution of the United States, respecting the manner of voting for President and Vice President of the United States, has been ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the several States: (to wit) by those of Vermont, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, So. Carolina and Georgia. The Executive being at the Indian Treaty about the time of the arrival of your letter I hope will appologize sufficiently for not doing myself the honor of forwarding a more early acknowledgement.

The Honorable James Madison, Secretary of State.

Marble Springs, 1 Jan'y, 1805.

Gentlemen: I have been duly honored with your letter of the 1st instant, and much pleased to find Virginia has been so ready to co-operate in opening the navigation of the North fork of Holston. I shall immediately communicate the subject to the commissioners appointed on the part of Tennessee, and will with great pleasure do every thing in the power of the Executive to hasten on the business.

Fran's Preston and William King, Esqrs.

Knoxville, 17th January, 1805.

Gentlemen: I do myself the honor of enclosing you a copy of the Act for opening the navigation of the No. Fork of Holston river. By an Act of the Virginia Legislature on the same subject, Francis Preston, William King and Henry St John Dixon, Esqrs are appointed Commissioners on the part of that State, who will act in conjunction with you. It is expected and earnestly hoped you will take the earliest opportunity of carrying into effect so desirable and useful an object, and endeavour as soon as possible to remove the obstructions that have so long been complained of by our neighbouring citizens living in the State of Virginia. Every aid in the power of the Executive will be afforded you on the occasion.

Walter King,²⁷ John Alexander and Wm. Bradley, Esqrs.

²⁷ Walter King, of this commission, married Nancy, daughter of Governor Sevier, and operated iron works near Kingsport, Tenn. Governor Austin A. King, of Missouri, was their son.

Knoxville, 17th January, 1805.

Dear Sir: Adam Peck, Esquire,²⁸ I expect has finished cutting the road on the part of Tennessee that leads through the Nation into the State of Georgia. The law impowers the Governor to appoint a Commissioner to review the road and make report whether the same is opened and cut as the law contemplates. I have a wish that you may be the person provided you can make it convenient to accept the appointment, of which I will thank you to notify me as early as possible, and should you think proper to act you may prepare yourself as soon as convenient and set out, taking Knoxville in your route to be furnished with the necessary papers and documents; and also call on Mr. Peck on your way down as he I expect will accompany the Commissioner while he is reviewing.
Colonel Lillard.²⁹

Knoxville, 18 February, 1805.

Colo. Wm. Lillard: Together with this you will receive your appointment of Commissioner to view the road lately cut and opened by Adam Peck, Esq'r., leading from Tellico block house and South West Point through the Indian Nation into the State of Georgia.

For your instruction you will adhere to the Act of Assembly passed on the subject, the report of the Commissioners appointed to lay out and mark off the road, Mr. Peck's contract with the State, and such farther instructions as he may have received from the Executive touching the same. Copies of the whole you will also herewith receive.

It is expected you will make all possible diligence in viewing and ascertaining how far Mr. Peck has complied with his contract, and whether or not the aforesaid road is opened and cleared out agreeably thereto, and as contemplated by the Act of the Legislature and make report of the same to the Executive as soon as may be practicable.

²⁸ Adam Peck, of Jefferson county, was a member of the first and second legislatures of the State of Tennessee. He was the father of Judge Jacob Peck, of the Tennessee supreme court, and Judge J. H. Peck, U. S. district judge of Missouri.

²⁹ Wm. Lillard, of Cocke county, represented Jefferson county (before the organization of Cocke) in the legislature of 1797, and Cocke county in the General Assemblies of 1801, 1803, 1805, 1807, 1809, and 1815. He was one of the early settlers of Cocke county, and in 1783 assisted in organizing the Pigeon River men to strike a blow against the Cherokees east of the Alleghanies.

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Knoxville, 21st February, 1805.

Dear Sir: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 15th Ult., and have carefully examined the contents. With respect to the laws of the United States touching Indian affairs I make no doubt you are as well acquainted with them as myself, and also the treaties that have been made with the Cherokee Indians. If the persons have conducted in the manner you have been pleased to describe, I know of no law prohibiting such a conduct, nor do I believe that the General Government would ever notice or disapprove such a measure; and as to my own part I am inclined to think it a humane and benevolent act, and such a one I make no doubt has rendered many poor distressed individuals much comfort and relief; but, my friend, experience has taught you as well as myself that few, and too few, pay any regard to the sufferings of their fellow creatures. Permit me to advise your friends how necessary it is to be cautious and not expose themselves to any liability of the law, for if they do you may be assured there are always persons to be found mean enough to distress them. In a country like yours the first adventurers are not of the richest class of citizens and, if they should be dragged off to Nashville before a tribunal that perhaps would not have much lenity for their conditions, they might suffer greatly were they even not found guilty of any trespass. You know lawyers and other court officers will have their fees. I throw out these hints, as it is my wish your neighbors may not involve themselves, but be cautiously guarded against the dangers of expensive law suits. With respect to furnishing provisions on the road, it is my opinion that all that could be carried would not be sufficient together with the supplies furnished by the keepers of the stands, and I don't see why there should be any discontent on the subject. The Indians attend the road constantly; is it not as free for the passage of the whites? Or are the Indians entitled to greater privileges?

Elijah Chism, Esq.,³⁰ Jackson County.

Knoxville, 16th June, 1805.

Sir: I have done myself the honor of addressing several letters to you on the subject of the treaty, requesting to be informed when and where you had concluded to have the same held, but as yet have not the pleasure of hearing any thing from you on that sub-

³⁰ Chism had resided in Powell's Valley before his removal to Jackson county, which he represented in the General Assembly of 1805.

ject, which have led me to conclude that either yours or my letters, have miscarried. Permit me sir to solicit you will have the goodness to drop me a line informing when and where the treaty is to be held, provided the same is agreed upon.

Colonel Return J. Meigs, Agent for the Department of War.

Knoxville, June 27, 1805.

Sir: John Stewart who has lately been demanded by your Excellency as a fugitive from the justice of the State over which you preside, has been arrested and is now in custody of the Sheriff of Sumner County. I have instructed the Sheriff to deliver him to such person as may be authorized to receive and conduct him to Kentucky, and you will be pleased to appoint a person for that purpose at as early a day as may be convenient.

His Excellency, The Governor of Kentucky.

Knoxville, 12 August, 1805.

Sir: Your letter of the 25 July Ultimo is now before me. Unfortunately at the time of the arrival I was absent from home, otherwise I should have done myself the honor of replying immediately on the receipt of the same. I most cordially concur with you that the Indian aggressors ought to make restitution to McNabb³¹ for the damage they have done him, and you may assure yourself that I shall take the earliest measures to have the same effected. And also that they give a satisfactory explanation for the daring insult offered to the citizens of our Government.

Colonel James Scott, of Blount County.³²

Knoxville, 13 August, 1805.

Sir: The State of Tennessee is about entering into a contract with the agent of Phineas Miller and Eli Whitney, relative to the patent right of a machine or new invention for cleaning cotton, commonly called the saw gin;³³ and the Legislature has requested the

³¹ John McNabb, first major of Franklin State militia for Caswell (Jefferson) county, in 1785; served as justice of the peace in Greene and Jefferson counties.

³² For Col. Scott's record: Ramsey *Annals*, 564, 573, 644, 704. He also represented his county in the legislatures of 1799, 1803, 1805, and 1807.

³³ At this time cotton was raised in several counties in Middle Tennessee, and the state government was alert to the improved conditions promised by the Whitney gin, just recently invented. The great change wrought in the entire South by this invention is a familiar story. See entry under date of June 15, 1807, *sub*.

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Knoxville, June 27, 1805.
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Executive to use all the means in his power to procure information
 on the subject. Must therefore request the favour of your Excellency
 to inform me what is the conceived opinion in the State over which
 you preside respecting the said Miller and Whitney's right to the
 said machine, and what has been the event of the suits heretofore
 brought by Miller and Whitney against the citizens of the State of
 Georgia; and will thank you for such other information on the sub-
 ject as you may think will be useful to us in making the contract.

Our Legislature will convene about the middle of next month,
 and I should be happy to receive your answer against that time, or
 as soon thereafter as may be convenient.

His Excellency, The Governor of Georgia.

Knoxville, 29 Nov., 1805.

Sir: The Executive of Tennessee has been recently called on in a
 very pressing manner by the Secretary of the Department of War
 for a return of the militia of this State by the first day of January
 next.

I have to request you will please give directions for the making
 a return of the militia of your division to my office on or before
 the first day of January aforesaid if practicable; if not, as soon
 thereafter as possible. Also that you will please further to direct
 that the militia of your division without delay be placed and held
 in the most Compleat and perfect order.

Major Generals.

Knoxville, December 17th, 1805.

Sir: I have reasons to believe that Allen Twitty, Abraham Collins,
 James Rutherford and Read have gone into the Cherokee
 Nation with a considerable number of counterfit bank notes, with
 an intention of passing them to persons resident in the Nation. And
 also have reasons to believe that they passed some of their notes,
 which were counterfeits, to citizens of Blount County as they were
 on their way to the Nation. If it should be in your power I think
 it will be well to have them apprehended and sent to this place in
 order that their conduct may be inquired into by the authority of
 the United States. It is reported that Twitty and Collins have es-
 caped from North Carolina; and is thought that Rutherford and
 Read are connected with them in making and passing their notes.

If it should be in your power to have any of them apprehended while the bearer, Mr. James Edenton, is in the Nation, he will assist in conducting them to this place.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives:

I do myself the honor to lay before your honorable Bodies, for your perusal, a letter which I have lately received from his Excellency, the Governor of North Carolina, on the subject of documents relating to the land business of this State.

Knoxville, August 20th, 1806.³⁴

Circular

Knoxville, 15th May, 1807.

Sir: Inclosed is a copy of an act of Congress, "Authorizing the President of the United States to accept the services of a number of volunteer companies, not exceeding thirty thousand men." Should a collision take place with any of our neighbours,³⁵ this number will not be more than adequate to defensive measures for a very short period; and should our State, or any other, be deficient in its quota of volunteers, recourse must be had to the disagreeable and usual mode of drafting. I therefore hope and request that every officer, and all good citizens of the State will use their utmost diligence and influence in procuring and engaging as many volunteers as the nature of the case will afford. I beg leave to recommend engaging as many cavalry and mounted infantry as possible, as that kind of service is most familiar with the practice and custom heretofore pursued by the people of this country, a service that is performed with more dispatch, safety and ease to the soldier and also commands a better pay and remuneration for the dangers and fatigues they generally have to encounter. The sooner troops of this kind are engaged, the more certain will they be of being classed in the cavalry department. With respect to officering and organizing those who shall become engaged, the act itself will be your guide, and as it is necessary and desired that I should be kept informed of the progress of this business, I pray all those engaged in

³⁴ This is the only entry in the Journal for 1806 as it is preserved. The resignation of Wm. Maclin as secretary of state may account for this hiatus.

³⁵ The growing tension between Great Britain and this country led to this measure on the part of Congress. See message of September 24, 1807, *sub*.

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ongress, "Authorizing the e services of a number of thousand men." Should hbour,³⁵ this number will easures for a very short r, be deficient in its quota he disagreeable and usual request that every officer, se their utmost diligence g as many volunteers as eave to recommend en- antry as possible, as that practice and custom here- try, a service that is per- se to the soldier and also for the dangers and fa- The sooner troops of this they be of being classed to officering and organiz- e act itself will be your that I should be kept in- pray all those engaged in

1806 as it is preserved. The may account for this hiatus. and this country led to this of September 24, 1807, *sub*,

raising volunteers, to report, from time to time to George Wilson,³⁶ the Adjutant General, who will correspond with them on all the details, arising out of it. I would have made this communication more early, had it not been obvious that the public mind was in some degree agitated, occasioned by false information, signifying that many of the people were engaged in an unlawful enterprize, and entering on some illegal expedition, greatly to the injury and prejudice of the Union. I was at the time of this alarm, and at all times since, fully sensible of the falsity of such reports so far as respects Tennessee, and did not feel myself justifiable in giving my fellow citizens any unnecessary alarm and trouble, by calling them from their homes and necessary employments, on vague, spurious and incorrect information. The people of Tennessee have sufficiently evidenced to the world their firm attachment to the United States, and will always, I hope, give as strong proofs that they are not, nor ever will become, the dupes or puppets of a factious party. On the present occasion, I flatter myself they will signalize themselves the real supporters and defenders of their country, and I have the highest confidence in their patriotic spirit and bravery; and that no period can be so short as to prevent them from rendering their country the most ample and competent aid, to effectually check and render abortive, every machination or attack that may be meditated by its enemies. In order the more speedily to circulate and promulgate this communication, I have forwarded to each of the Majors and Brigadier Generals, and also each field officer of the respective Counties, a similar communication and copy of the law.

To the Treasurers or either of them of the Districts of East and West Tennessee:

By an act passed by the General Assembly on the 13th day of September, 1806, entitled "An act to carry into effect a contract

³⁶ George Wilson, the printer and publisher, at the age of twenty-one, removed from Virginia to Knoxville and joined the state's first printer in the establishment of the new *Impartial Observer*, in 1799. That partnership was dissolved in November, 1800, Wilson going to Jonesboro where he became that town's first printer. From 1801 to 1804 he conducted there the *Newspaper and Washington Advertiser*. At the end of 1804 Wilson returned to Knoxville, where he began *Wilson's Knoxville Gazette*, which took the place of Roulstone's old newspaper, the *Knoxville Gazette*. At this period he was serving as adjutant-general of militia. In 1818 Wilson removed to Nashville, where he published the *Nashville Gazette*. He there printed John Haywood's *Natural and Aboriginal History of Tennessee* (1823), the first work relating to the history of the state. See further, J. T. McGill, "George Wilson," in *Tenn. Hist. Mag.*, IV, 157-60.

between the State of Tennessee and Eli Whitney, and Phenias Miller" it appears that the Legislature are fully satisfied that the aforesaid Whitney and Miller are the true and lawful proprietors of the machine or new invention for cleaning cotton, commonly called the saw gin. The Executive is not in possession of any facts authorizing delay or further objections why they should not receive their money agreeably to contract, as stipulated by the act of Assembly passed October the 22nd day 1803, entitled "An Act to purchase for the state of Tennessee the patent right of Eli Whitney and Phineas Miller, of a new invention for cleaning cotton, commonly called the saw gin." It is therefore my opinion that the Treasurers of their respective departments pay unto Russell Goodrich, legal Attorney of Whitney and Miller, agreeably to the aforesaid contract. Given under my hand in Knoxville the 15th day of June, 1807.

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Senate. And Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives:

It would have afforded me, fellow citizens, much greater satisfaction to communicate to you in the early day of your meeting, circumstances of a more agreeable and satisfactory nature than I have at the present important crisis. Since your last separation very important and unexpected events have transpired and taken place. You have heard of the late unprovoked attack made upon the United States frigate the Chesapeake by the British ship of war *The Leopard*,³⁷ of the murder of our fellow citizens and degradation of the American flag together with other insults and outrages, committed on board the said frigate. It would be useless taking up your time in further detailing the particulars of the unprecedented and unprovoked outrage in consequence of which the President of the United States has necessarily requested this State's quota of militia. The necessary instructions have long since been issued and I inform you, with great pleasure, of the promptitude and alacrity with which the citizens of the State are tendering their services in defence of their injured and insulted country. It does them great honor and entitles them to the respect and confidence of their fellow citizens of their

³⁷ This attack, late in June, 1807, aroused the people of Tennessee when news reached the state. A public meeting was held at Nashville, Gen. James Winchester presiding, and Judge John Overton, Gen. Andrew Jackson, Jenkin Whiteside and Gen. James Robertson speaking. The press of the state was loud in denunciation of the outrage; and Tennesseans responded promptly to the call for volunteers. Instead of a declaration of war, President Jefferson employed the embargo as a form of economic pressure on Great Britain.

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neighbouring States. From the present prospect it may be safely re-
lied upon that a great sufficiency of volunteers will turn out to
answer the demand. I have no hesitation in saying that the late
attack made on the American ship the Chesapeake has created a
spirit of unanimity and resentment throughout the whole of the
United States, that have not been surpassed since the settlement of
America, and opportunity is only wanting in which they would suf-
ficiently chastise the Nation who could without provocation be guilty
of such aggressions.

Two respectable citizens in the course of the last Spring and
Summer have been murdered by some of our neighbouring Indians.
The executive has taken all the means in his power to discover the
aggressors, but as yet without effect, but intends continuing a
further inquiry until a discovery shall be made in order that the
perpetrators may be punished agreeable to the demerits of their
crimes.

Some laws passed by our General Assembly, particularly what is
called the Land Law, are very much reprobated in many parts of
the State, and in several instances been likely to occasion serious
consequences. Much clamor has been made, complaining of newly
created affairs alledging they were contemplated more for the emol-
uments of individuals than to answer any public utility. I shall
forbare saying more on this subject as you are the immediate rep-
resentatives from every County within the State, and your collective
knowledge and information must be more comprehensive than my
own. I have no doubt you will take immediately the whole under
your consideration, and make such alterations, amendments and re-
trenchments, as you in your wisdom may deem suitable and neces-
sary. Many that are settled on unlocated lands were by an act of
the last Assembly allowed a preference and short indulgence to en-
able them to secure their improvements, but there being no legal
and certain mode by which such *occupiers* could procure warrants
they have become alarmed fearing their labour should become lost,
by means of others laying warrants already in existence under form-
er laws of North Carolina, on their improvements. Permit me to
suggest, should such advantages be encouraged it would only ben-
efit a few individuals, ruin and distress many poor families and by
no means tend to promote the public utility. Those occupants, tho
many of them poor, are a servicable class of people and have their
usefulness in all governments, and are much entitled to the guard-
ianship and protection of the representatives of their country, who

I have no doubt will relieve from any further apprehensions of losing their improvements. The landed property of this State is meriting the highest consideration and demands the most serious and deliberate attention of the Legislature who will no doubt devise such measures as will render secure the legal and lawful holders thereof and by no means suffer them to be longer shackled with impediments that will sink the value of the same, after being recovered by a long and tedious course of law. Such circumstances render our most dear and best property of far less value and is highly injurious to the settlement and population of our State. The common and usual mode of taxation is amply sufficient to serve all the purposes of revenue and may be lessened, if thought necessary, provided no unnecessary expenditures are resorted to. The overplus and residue of the lands lying South of French Broad and Holston, exclusive of that allotted for the establishment of seminaries of learning, will be a desirable object for the purpose of appropriating the proceeds of the same to useful purposes, which may be considerable, in the opening the navigation of our rivers, cutting and cleaning out roads, erecting public buildings and useful manufactories. To all which, together with that of the public seminaries already provided for, I earnestly call your attention. The emigration into the State within the last twelve months exceed any thing of the kind that has heretofore taken place and it will be incumbent on the Legislature, as soon as practicable, in order to extend our settlements, to procure further relinquishments of our territorial claims which, I have no doubt, can be without difficulty obtained. The sooner so desirable an object can be procured so much greater in proportion will the interest of your constituents be promoted. Whenever the same can be effected it will most certainly place Tennessee amongst the most enviable and easy situations in the Union.

Humanity and policy call aloud for a revisal of the criminal code of our laws; experience has led the greater part of our most respectable sister States to abolish the inhuman and prompt mode of punishing with death those unhappy wretches who violate the laws of their country, and have substituted other modes (tho not exempted from punishment,) which greatly ameliorate the suffering of humanity and the culprit, and softens the distress of the unfortunate friends and relatives. Those States who have made the experiment give the property of the citizen to be equally if not better secured and protected than by those sanguinary laws. Would it not be highly worth the consideration of the Legislature to introduce

ther apprehensions of loss of property of this State is demands the most serious are who will no doubt de- the legal and lawful hold- m to be longer shackled of the same, after being law. Such circumstances of far less value and is ulation of our State. The mply sufficient to serve all ned, if thought necessary, resorted to. The overplus rench Broad and Holston, ishment of seminaries of e purpose of appropriating es, which may be consid- r rivers, cutting and clean- and useful manufactories. public seminaries already on. The emigration into exceed any thing of the it will be incumbent on order to extend our set- s of our territorial claims difficulty obtained. The cured so much greater in ents be promoted. When- certainly place Tennessee ions in the Union.

visal of the criminal code ter part of our most re- man and prompt mode of es who violate the laws r modes (tho not exempt- liorate the suffering of e distress of the unfortu- ho have made the experi- equally if not better se- nary laws. Would it not Legislature to introduce

some other mode lieu of the present whereby there would not be such repeated examples of cruelty exercised under the law of a republican government?

The past season has not been so propitious to our crops as it has in a common way heretofore been. It appears that our principal staple article of trade will be much lessened and is also likely to suffer in its value and of course will occasion the article of specie much more difficult and inconvenient to obtain. For your consideration permit me to suggest would it not be advisable and perhaps of greater interest to the State for the government to accept on the first instalments payable for lands on the south side of French Broad and Holston Rivers, from all those who may find it inconvenient to discharge the same, interest on the said instalments. I have the greater confidence in the propriety of such a measure as, in the first place, the lien on the lands will be continued as a sufficient security and in the second the interest will increase the funds of the State.

I am bound to state to your honorable body that I deeply regret the idea of being again involved in all the horrors of a barbarous and unnatural war, but at the same time am very consoled by believing and hoping our National Government has given no cause for the bringing about the calamity. I pray Heaven may avert the appeal to arms and blood shed, but should the direful event be inevitable I shall rest with the fullest confidence that your patriotism will be such as to afford all the aid in your power and that one sentiment alone will actuate and inspire us all with a full determination to defend to the last extremity our injured and insulted country. I deem it necessary to inform you that Hugh L. White, Esquire, one of the Judges of the Superior Courts of Law and Equity, has resigned and that William Maclin, Esquire, has resigned his office as Secretary of State. Temporary appointments have been made, and as they are important offices it may be proper to speedily supply the vacancies with permanent appointments.

Such for the present are the communications I deem necessary to lay before you. Sundry others in due time will be presented in the Course of the Session.

Knoxville, 24th Sept, 1807.

Knoxville, 2d August, 1807.

Sir: You will perceive by the enclosed copy of a letter from Robert Koyl³⁸ that a certain John Prigmore has been lately murdered by the Indians.

A certain Leonard Cash was also murdered last Spring in the neighbourhood of Flint River, and afterwards found in the Tennessee, with his body ripped open and head cut off, with other mutilations of as egregious nature. I have been farther informed (not official) that one other person has been murdered near the Shoals, said to be done by the Creeks. Such enormities are of too aggravating a kind, and such as will not be longer suffered to be committed on any of the citizens of Tennessee. I request you will be good enough to make diligent enquiry in order to discover the perpetrators that they may be dealt with agreeably to existing treaties, and the laws in such cases made and provided. I am unwilling to believe that the Cherokee chiefs would countenance such outrages; but, should it be discovered to be otherwise, their situation may soon become very disagreeable, unless they finally put an end to such aggressions. I shall expect that the Cherokees will make every necessary enquiry to discover the offenders; and, if found among their people, to make an immediate Surrender of the guilty person or persons. In so doing they will wipe away the foul stain that seems to be hanging over their Nation.

Colonel Meigs.

Knoxville, 20 December, 1807.

To the Black Fox, Head Chief of the Cherokee Nation,

Brother: Your letter of the 27 of August last has come duly to hand. I would have wrote you sometime ago, but was waiting to get a report from Colonel Meigs to find out, if in our power who or what Nation of people had murdered some of our citizens.

The Colonel about that time was going to Elk River, and promised he would endeavour to find out who had done the mischief. Since his return he has written to me, giving information that it was the Creeks that killed the two men. I am glad to hear it was not your people; but at the same time I am sorry to learn you suffer the Creeks to come so much among you, when you know they are

³⁸ Robert Coile (or Kyle) of Hawkins county. J. H. DeWitt, "Journal of John Sevier," *Tenn. Hist. Mag.*, V, 184.

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enemies to our people, and always do mischief whenever they have it in their power. Would you not think it unfriendly in us, if we have to suffer another Nation of people to pass through and live in our country, who would murder and destroy your people whenever they had an opportunity? Yes, brother you would think, and rightly too, that we did not act like friends. I am informed that the Creeks have built huts, and are living on the banks of the Tennessee. What business have they there? They have none only to be convenient to kill some of our people, and plunder our boats as they are going down the river. You know the Creek people are rogues, and you say steal from and rob your people. If it be true, why don't you drive them from out your country? For a people who both murder and steal ought not be suffered to live in any place. You are surely able to drive away the few that comes to do mischief, and disturb the peace of your people and ours. If their nation means to protect them in their murdering and plundering excursions, you then know where you can resort to for protection and strength enough to do yourselves justice. I state these circumstances to inform you how you ought to conduct towards the white people, who are your fathers, brothers, friends, and your good neighbours. I don't wish to be angry with you, but to enlighten your understandings that you may know how to take care of your own Nation (if you wish to continue such); and for you to prevent a bad people from doing damage to your nearest and best friends. You say "that when any thing has been wrong we are advised to settle it without spilling blood." Such is the practice I wish to see adopted; and, if the red people that killed our good and harmless men, had observed such a good rule, those poor murdered persons would have yet been living with their families, and their blood not spilt. I have written to the Creeks, and shall wait patiently to hear what they have to say; and, if it has been any of their people that committed the murders, I shall expect they will punish them agreeably to the existing treaties and laws established and provided for such cases. Should they refuse so to do, we shall then know what sort of people we have to deal with, and be prepared to protect our selves.

Some more occurrences, my friend, I must inform you of. There are several complaints come forward, stating that several white people, who have traveled by the way of what is called the Georgia Road, have been very illy treated by some of your people, their property taken from them and their lives threatened and endangered. A fellow called Good, or Sweet Water, at the Shoomake Village,

lately killed some of Mr. Lusk's hogs as he was driving through your nation to Georgia. He also presented his gun at Mr. Lusk (who is a very peaceable man) and threatened to shoot him. I shall rely, with confidence, you will enquire into those outrages, and put an immediate stop to such unfriendly and disorderly behavior, and also cause a just and full compensation to be made for the damages that have been done.

The way open for the redress of those complaints is to put an end to the outrages that produce them, and I persuade myself that the Chiefs of the Cherokee Nation, will take prompt and decisive Measures to effect it.

Care of Colo. R. Meigs, Agent of Indian affairs.

Knoxville, 20 December, 1807.

The Agent and Superintendent of the Creek Nation,

Sir: Early in the last spring and summer two men, citizens of Tennessee, in the vicinity of Elk River were murdered and robbed of their property in a most barbarous and egregious manner. Myself and Colo. Meigs, agent for the Cherokee Nation, have been at considerable trouble and pains to find out and ascertain who were the perpetrators of such shocking and unprovoked outrages. From every information we have collected, it appears and leaves with us no doubt that some person belonging to the Creek Nation have been guilty of those atrocious and horrid murders. I am unwilling to suppose that the Creek Chiefs would be base enough to encourage or countenance such flagrant and violent breaches of the treaties, which subsist between them and the United States. I therefore request that you will have, or cause to be had, an immediate enquiry and investigation; and discover, if possible, who have been the perpetrators of such bloody and inhuman murders; and if committed by any of the people belonging to the Creek Nation that you cause them to be instantly punished agreeably to the existing treaties and laws of the United States, made and provided for in such cases; otherwise, to deliver them to the proper authority in order they may be dealt with conformably to the treaties and laws aforesaid.

It is a fact that parties of the Creek Indians have crossed the Tennessee frequently in the course of the last spring and summer, and as frequently (exclusively of the murders alluded to) wan-

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tonly robbed and plundered a number of peaceable and helpless fam-
ilies. Such enormities will not always be submitted to, and in order
to support peace and harmony, the Executive of Tennessee most
earnestly requests that the Chiefs will immediately repress and put
an end to such violent outrages, and cause lawless bandittis to re-
main within their own bounds. The Executive is penetrated with
a due friendship to the Creek Nation; he might enlarge further on
such a state of things, and circumstances so important and so un-
expected, but it would be as afflicting to him to state the facts, as
it would be for you to hear them.

Marble Springs,³⁹ 23 June, 1809.

Dear Sir: With the approbation of Colo. Meigs I have requested
him to invite the Cherokee Chiefs to a meeting at the garrison⁴⁰ on

³⁹ Marble Springs in Knox county—a county abounding in the widely known
and used Tennessee marble—was the last home of John Sevier. It stood on
the right side of Martin Mill Pike about six miles south from the city, in a
secluded and picturesque spot near Neubert Springs. A bold spring there rushes
from a little hill, a spur of Bay's Mountain. From entries in his *Diary*, Sevier
seems to have removed his family from his plantation on the Nolachucky in
Washington county to Knoxville, Sept. 5, 1797. He lived in the town for quite
a while. It is likely that he purchased the farm at Marble Springs with the
purpose of moving there as soon as it could be placed in condition: "Friday,
Sept. 15, 1797. Paid \$4.50 for grubbing one acre and a half of ground at my
plantation, and for grubbing done some time ago."

It is said there was standing at the time an old log station, erected by the
former owner as protection against the Indians, and that this was enlarged by
Sevier from time to time, tacking one portion to another "till the structure
more resembled a hamlet than a single dwelling." Sevier at first occupied a
frame residence on the southwest corner of Cumberland Avenue and Water
(Central) Street, in Knoxville, but he planned to have a town residence of
brick. When, however, this brick building reached the top of the basement
story, Sevier found that to complete it would overtax his then depleted purse.
The lot and building, completed by another, are near St. John's Episcopal
Church in Knoxville. It was owned and occupied for many years by Rev. Dr.
James Park, of the Presbyterian Church.

Sevier's residences in Tennessee appear to have been, first, in the Keywood
neighborhood near Shelby's Fort (Bristol); in Turkeytown neighborhood in
Carter county, near the home of his father who lived on the Watauga across
from the present great textile plants near Elizabethton; probably for a short
while on the site of Telford Station, Washington county, where Sevier had
a mill; then the homes, "Mount Pleasant" and "Plum Grove," on the Nola-
chucky River, Washington county; the temporary Knoxville home; and "Marble
Springs," where he lived during his last years. Gilmore, evidently relying upon
conversations with Ramsey, the historian, says: "The principal apartment in
the Governor's house was the reception room, which occupied the whole of one
of the cabins, and was furnished in a manner approaching elegance, its puncheon
floor being partly covered on great occasions with an imported carpet which
had been presented to the Governor's wife, as the lady was universally styled,
by some one of her seaboard admirers. But the precious rug never made its
appearance except to honor some distinguished guest—some high official or
titled foreigner. They were no sooner gone than it was carefully dusted and
rolled away to one side of the room by Jeff and Susy, old servants, who had

the 20th August to commence our negotiations, which I hope will meet your expectation and concurrence. I presume you have made your calculation what sum you think may be necessary for carrying the treaty in its exterior position into effect. On this subject please write me, and I will endeavour to have provision made either with money or warrants to the amount, what ever may be ultimately required, for fully effecting and compleating the contemplated object. I have only requested the Chiefs to be invited, as I wish to avoid as much as possible all unnecessary expenditures. From both written and verbal communications immediately from the nation I have reason to anticipate a favourable treaty,⁴¹ unless prevented by some persons whose interest would induce them to prevent it, if in their power.

Gen'l James Robertson.

Knoxville, 6th August, 1809.

Sir: I received your letter of the 31 July Ult. I am sorry the Indian Chiefs cannot attend before the 25th Sept., and what has induced them to postpone the meeting is strange to me. I have seen several persons out of the Nation who informed me the Indians were preparing to meet on the 20th August. I should have no objections to the postponement did it not interfere with the meeting of the Assembly which convenes on the 18th September; and, my be-

been reared in the family." J. R. Gilmore, *John Sevier As A Commonwealth Builder* (New York, 1887), 311, confirmed by Putnam, the historian; Heiskell, *Andrew Jackson*, I, 364. Gilmore, as was his failing as historian and biographer, expanded by drawing on his imagination in the further statement: "The carpet was never known to remain on the floor overnight but on the single occasion when, in 1798, Louis Philippe and his brothers were on a visit to the Governor." The future king of the French visited Knoxville in April, 1797, before Sevier's family had left his Washington county home, and the only note in his *Diary* of this visit is: "April 29, 1797. Several Franchmen arrived, sons to the late Duke of Orleans," Williams, ed., *Early Travels*, 436.

The John Sevier Chapter, D. A. R., of Johnson City, marked the site of one of Sevier's Nolachucky homes on August 23, 1934 (sesqui-centennial of the beginning of the State of Franklin movement). The marker is of river rock capped by limestone blocks taken from the chimney of the home which is all of the residence that yet stands. The home and marker are on the John Sevier State Highway, leading from Embreeville to Greeneville.

⁴⁰ The new garrison at the mouth of the Hiwassee, called Hiwassee Garrison. Meigs spelled it "Highwassee."

⁴¹ On this contemplated treaty see another letter of Sevier to Robertson under date of April 11, 1809, in *Am. Hist. Mag.* (Nashville), V, 258. The treaty seems not to have been consummated, as none of that or the succeeding year appears in Royce, *Cherokee Nation*. See, also, correspondence in *Am. Hist. Mag.* (Nashville), V, 262-267.

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ing a member,⁴² places it out of my power to attend the treaty, which is absolutely necessary for me to do, as I have been engaged in making preparations for some time on that head. I am also fearful that the putting off so long will be inconvenient for General Robertson, who I expect in the Nation on his way to the treaty.

If the Indians cannot convene before the 25th of September, I am doubtful we can attend before late in October, or first of November, of which I will advise you so soon as I may hear from the General.

Colonel Return J. Meigs, Agent of Indian affairs.

Knoxville, 2 Sep., 1809.

Sir: On consulting General Robertson on the subject of the treaty he appears to be of opinion that as the Cherokee Chiefs did not choose or could not attend the time first proposed and to which they were invited, that we cannot on our parts make it convenient to commence the negotiation before the first day of December next, and in which opinion I myself coincide; and hope it will be fully as convenient, if not more so, to the Chiefs to meet us on that day to which time I beg you will please to notify and invite them:—I hope by this postponement, we shall get rid of a number of troublesome and jealous pated fellows, who will be out hunting; and I wish as much as possible to avoid the company of all such. And also inform Messrs. Clark and Lyon⁴³ of the intended time.

Colonel Meigs.

Knoxville, 18th September, 1809.

Sir: Yours of the 15 Inst., I have been duly honored with; and I am extremely happy to find that yourself and General Robertson agree so perfectly in regard to the time of holding the treaty. In regard to my own ideas on the subject am of opinion for various reasons that about the first of December will be the most proper time as it could not be held on the time first proposed, on which I have advised you in my letter of the 2d instant, which I presume

⁴² Sevier represented Knox county in the Senate of the General Assembly of 1809, which met just as he left the gubernatorial chair. Next he was sent to Congress, 1811-1815, from Hamilton District of Tennessee. He died while yet a member of Congress.

⁴³ Probably Thomas N. Clark of Kingston and Lyon of Bledsoe's Lick, Sumner county and later of Carthage.

ere this has went to hand. We shall not on the new arrangement be pestered with the rabble part of the Nation that at most other seasons would attend, by which means shall save a considerable expense, which we wish to avoid as much as possible. Any arrangement you may think proper to make with respect to the Kentucky convention with the Chickasaws will be perfectly agreeable to us, so as to suit your own convenience and not interfere with the meeting here. I most cordially agree with you that to procrastinate will answer very good purposes, and will in the end finally ensure success. I hope you will procure some confidential person to attend the meeting at Willstown⁴⁴ on the 24th. It will be of great importance to know of their conclusion. From information recently obtained the persons that seem most obstinate are those we knew to be friendly. No unfavorable circumstance I shall most certainly attend the treaty in person.⁴⁵

Colonel Meigs.

[THE END]

⁴⁴ A town of the Cherokees in North Alabama.

⁴⁵ The Executive Journal ends, as it began and continued, much devoted to Indian affairs—a fact commented on by the editor in the first installment. The clearing of Tennessee soil of the Indian title, and eventually, of the Indians themselves, was the main purpose of Sevier's administrations as governor.