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THE LOST ARCHIVES OF THE CHEROKEE NATION

Edited by

JAMES WILLIAM HAGY AND STANLEY J. FOLMSBEE*

PART III, 1777

There is an unexplained gap in the Cherokee Archives from April 12, 1775, the date of the last letter in Part II, to January 24, 1777. The most logical explanation is the beginning of hostilities between the colonies and the mother country and the confusion which resulted. The British agents remained loyal to England and tried to induce the Indians to do the same. Oucnonstotah of the Cherokees favored a peaceful policy at the beginning of the war, but some of the younger leaders wanted to fight the Americans. The most belligerent of these young men was Dragging Canoe, who had opposed the sale of land to the Transylvania Company in March of 1775, the subject of the last letter in Part II, and also the leasing and later sale of lands to the settlers along the Holston, Watauga, and Nolichucky rivers. He saw in the outbreak of the American Revolution an opportunity for the Indians to recover their lost lands, and ignoring the advice of the British agents, he led a Cherokee attack against the Wataugans. Not only was it unsuccessful, but the Americans retaliated with a raid which destroyed many Indian towns and forced numerous Cherokees to seek refuge among the Creeks or with the British in West Florida.¹ This was the situation when David Taitt, the deputy superintendent of the Creeks, wrote Oucnonstotah in January 1777.

DAVID TAITT TO OUCONNOSTOTAH, 24 JANUARY 1777, PP. 189-192
To Oconostota at Chote
Brother

Two Days ago I received your talk to your Brother Mr. Cameron² and as he is now in Pensacola, I send you this talk to acquaint you of the Intentions of

*For the editors' introduction see Part I, *Publications*, No. 43 (1971), 112-13.

¹ R. S. Cotterill, *The Southern Indians* (Norman, Okla., 1954), 37-43. See also Arthur G. Barnes, "The Virginia-North Carolina Frontier in 1776; William Preston, William Christian and the Military" (unpublished Master's thesis, William and Mary College, 1969).

² Alexander Cameron was deputy superintendent of Indian affairs. Page numbers in the headings are to Virginia Papers, Item 71, Vol. II, Papers of the Continental Congress (The National Archives, Washington, D. C.).

your Brothers the Creeks to assist you in your distress. Some of the Chiefs of the upper Creeks are now here with me also some of the Cowitaws. They have agreed to your talk and as soon as their warriors come in from hunting they will fix a time to set out for your nation and Expect to be at Chatanukee about the full of next moon and desire you to send runner to that place to meet them[.] be sure not to neglect this and keep runners out toward Wataga [Watauga] to watch the motions of your Enemy and See if they move towards you & Send intelligence to your Brothers the Creeks. They are much surprised at Seeing So many Young men coming daily to this nations from yours at a time that you must Stand in need of their assistance at home and have sent back all your party but two to Carry your talk to your Father & Brother.

I believe what you say about telling Lies to the Virginians to be very right and hope that now as I have got your Brothers the Creeks to assist you, that you will hold no more talks with your Enemy who only want to frighten you to make a peace and give up your Land to them[.] They may have it in their power to treat you like Slaves whenever they please, to Convince you that it is not in the Virginians power to humble your any further, I will acquaint you with what the great Kings people has done to the Rebels on the North Side of Virginia.

When your Brother Mr. Cameron was here he sent you a talk by Thomas Temple and told you that the Kings Army had beat the Rebels at a place Called Long Island took a great many prisoners there and followed the Rebels to New York a very great Town and took that and about three thousand prisoners, and four Days ago I received a letter from your father acquainting me that the Kings Army had again beat the Rebels above New york and entirely defeated them[.] they took every Strong fort with 70 cannon a great Deal of Provisions and Military Stores in the fort[.] The Rebell Generals with a few of their men Escaped to Philadelphia a great Town Close by Virginia and a General with ten thousand of the Kings Soldiers was within ten miles of that Town in Order to take it[.] another great Army came from Canada and took the forts of Crown Point & Ticondaroga and burnt the Rebels fleet that was There. in all these engagements a great Number of the Rebels were killed, and now your Brothers here have begun by attacking a party of the Rebels that were Scouting on the forntiers [*sic*] of Georgia. They Killed four men took Six Rifles and two horses non of the Redmen were hurt, and partys are now gon to attack them again[.]

Now I hope that you will not listen to or give any more talks to the Virginians and desire that [you] will as Soon as possible free your nation of the men that hold Correspondance with your Enemies. what is, Harlen [Harlan?] Fallen [Fowling?] & Blankenship³ doing about you[?] it is such bad men as these that have deceived you[. You] ought to look on them as Enemies and use them as such; and now as your Traders are on the path going to your nation with goods I hope you will take Care of them and use them well who supply the wants of your people[.] You see by this that your father [has] not forgot you nor forsaken although you have done wrong in holding such Talks with your & his Enemies and even Entertaining them in your own Town, but I hope that you will now act like a wise and thro[w] the bad people away who have so much imposed upon your Brothers never desir'd them Cause to hurt any of you, but desired you move to the Draging Canoe where you might have all your women & Children Defended that you could the easier defeat your Enemy. if you act

³ A man by the name of Ellis Harlan (or Harland) was a pro-American trader among the Cherokees. See John P. Brown, *Old Frontiers* (Kingsport, 1938), 11n, 149; Samuel C. Williams, *Tennessee During the Revolutionary War* (Nashville, 1944), 54. The others (William Fowling and John Blankenship) were probably the same.

properly you may be assured that I will do everything in my power to Send you assistance Soon in testimony of which I Send You a String of Wampum.
Little Tallassie 24th Jany. 1777

David Taitt
Deputy Superintendant
Creek Nation

Like David Taitt, John Stuart remained loyal to the Mother Country. He proved to be such a loyalist in Charleston that he had to withdraw from the society of that community upon the beginning of hostilities. He was accused by his enemies of encouraging the Indians and slaves to rise up, and his friends advised him to leave Charleston. He went first to his plantation at Lady's Island, South Carolina, and then to Savannah; however, the governor there warned him he was about to be captured, and so he took passage on a British ship to St. Augustine. Later he moved again to Pensacola. From the two last posts he continued to direct the affairs of the Southern Department until his death in 1779.⁴

At Pensacola Stuart heard of the devastating raids in 1776 on the Cherokee settlements by the invading Virginia forces under Colonel William Christian, who had demanded a meeting with Attakullakulla, Ouconnostotah, and Dragging Canoe. The last named refused to attend, but the others duly appeared at a meeting in which Christian demanded that Ouconnostotah turn Cameron and Dragging Canoe over to him.⁵ Christian also got the Cherokees to agree to meet at Long Island in July 1777, for the signing of a treaty.⁶ Stuart wrote Ouconnostotah emphasizing his power as sole agent, his knowledge of what had transpired, and his continued desire to assist the Cherokees.

JOHN STUART TO OUCONNASTOTE, 6 FEBRUARY 1777, PP. 201-203

By John Stuart Esqr. His majesty's Sole
Agent for and Superindant of Indian Affairs
in the Southern District of North America

A Talk to the Warrior of Chote Ouconnastoté
My Friend

Your Beloved man Mr. Cameron has shown me two Talks which he received from You since he left your Nation—as also his answers which agree perfectly with my Sentiments. I have also been fully informed of all that passed

⁴ John R. Alden, *John Stuart and the Southern Colonial Frontier* (Ann Arbor, 1944), 170-71.

⁵ They were not turned over although Ouconnostotah agreed to do so. Cameron was away at Pensacola to obtain ammunition at the time.

⁶ Brown, *Old Frontiers*, 156-60.

in your Nation, from the time that my Brother first went there untill the time that the Virginians left your Towns to return to their own Country[.] You might have prevented your Young men from the rash step they took[.] I know the weight which your Talks have but as you did not then join Mr. Cameron & my Brother in Endeavouring to hinder their taking up the Hatchet, You ought not to have thought of taking the Virginians by the hand without having first consulted Mr. Cameron or me. You say you are grown old and that you was obliged to act the part you did, in order to save your Corn—but I think you are very old indeed in your mind as well as Your Body, or else the brave Oucconnastote would never have been induced through fear, to have laid a Trap for getting Mr. Cameron delivered to the Rebels. he was in a particular manner put under Your protection, and I thought that the great Warrior of Choté would have died rather then have consented that their Beloved man should fall into the hands of the Rebels, or suffer his Towns to be burnt without firing one gun[.] what then must I think of your becoming the Instrument for attempting to betray him.—my Friend—it was not with the Virginians only that you attempted to play a double game—but this is a disagreeable Subject and I shall say no more upon it.

Your People were rash and did not Listen to my advice[.] Yet still I consider you all as my Children. I am sorry for your sufferings, and shall still be you Friend and Father; I am doing my utmost to send you assistance, and to supply your wants by encouraging Traders to carry goods amongst you. Your People who are here come Naked[.] I have cloathed them & fed them. this is the great King's Bounty, who does not throw away his children for a small fault—but I hope and appeal that you never will take hold of the Rebels or lay down the hatchet without my advice and consent, this you have promised me and I expect that you will not Break your promise. In confidence of which I have engaged the Creeks to send you assistance. The King's Army is victorious every where and the Rebels who bragg'd so much of their valor, fly before them like the deer before wolves & Tygers. there [*sic*] great army is dispersed and not finding protection in their strong forts and walls have sought in an inglorious flight[;] thus we may reasonably expect will soon bring about a Peace, and that the Rebels will return to their duty and I think I can promise you that when this desirable Event takes place, if you continue to behave well, your Interests shall not be neglected, and that I will make a better peace for you than you can for Yourselves[.] In the meantime I expect that when I call upon you, you will be ready, and willing to obey

John Stuart

Pensacola 6th February 1777

A letter somewhat like that of Stuart's arrived from Governor Patrick Henry of Virginia. In it he told the Cherokees they had the protection of Virginia as long as they behaved themselves and attended the forthcoming meeting at Long Island. The letter was delivered by Nathaniel Gist, who had lived in the Cherokee country for a number of years and at first had supported the English.⁷

⁷ *Ibid.*, 158.

PATRICK HENRY TO OUCONOSTOTAH, 3 MARCH 1777, PP. 207-208.

Brother Ouconostotah

Col Nathaniel Gist one of our Generals Warriars Captains, will deliver you this Talk. Receive him kindly And Use him well—I Expect that you And your Warriars And head men will Not fail to meet Col. Christian, Col. Preston and Col. Shelby^s at the Fort Near the great Island To confirm the peace. In order to shew you and your Nation the Friendship of the Virginians Toward them, & of our Desiar to Strengthen the Chain Friendship with you, I assure you that the Cherokees Shall be considered—as intituled to the Protection of Virginia. If any Nation or people Shall Strike you or your people, Let me know it, & the Virginian Warriours Shall march to your Assistance & help you take Vengeance on your Enemy. If you or your People Shall Stand in Need of Provisions, Powder, Salt, or any thing else, you Shall be furnished with it. If your old men Women or Children Shall be in Danger in their Towns, let them Come into our Country, and we will take them into our Houses, & build Forts for them either in your Country or in ours to keep them from being hurt—Brothers Listen well

I have Now made you the offer of Friendship of All the people of Virginia. If you Accept of it, we Shall live happy and become one people with you. But if you Listen to bad Talks, our Warriars, will again cary the war into your Country & Spare Nothing you have, or any of your People[.] I Shall be Sorry for it. But I have offered you Friendship first. Dont refuse it, but let us be friends—

Brother ouconostotah. The Council of Headmen who presides over the whole Country of Virginia have agreed to this Letter & advise me to send it to you. I have written it with my own Hand & hope you will give your Answer to our Commissioners at the Fort. If the Dragging Canoe or any One else of your People who are afraid, will Come in & be friendly our People have orders not to hurt them, but will Receive them well & make Peace with them, Farewell Brother

Patrick Henry Jr
March 3d 1777—

(A Cobby)

On July 20, 1777, the Cherokees signed two treaties at Long Island; one, "The Treaty of Long Island of Holston, July, 1777," with the North Carolinians, which has been printed under Archibald Henderson's editorship in *The North Carolina Historical Review*,⁸ and another with the Virginians. The treaty with the Virginians which varies somewhat in wording from the North Carolina treaty, apparently has not been published before.

TREATY OF JULY 20, 1777, PP. 221-222.

Articles of a Treaty of Peace made and concluded at Fort Henry near the Great Island on Holston River on the 20th July 1777 between the Commissioners from the Commonwealth of Virginia in behalf of that State of the one Part,

⁸ Evan Shelby. The "great Island" is the Long Island of the Holston.

⁹ Vol. VIII (January, 1931), 55-116.

PP. 207-208.

, will deliver
that you And
, Col. Preston
the peace. In
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you, I assure
Protection of
Let me know
help you take
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and the Subscribing Chiefs of that Part of the Cherokee Nation called the Overhill Indians in Behalf of all their People of the other Part.—

Article 1. That Hostilities Shall forever cease between the Said Cherokees and the People of Virginia from this Time and that Peace Friendship and mutual Confidence Shall take place. If either Party is attacked by any Nation of Indians whatsoever, the other Party is to give such assistance as may be required as soon as Men can be raised for that Purpose after the Requisition is made, without Pay or Reward.¹⁰

Article 2. All White or Negro Prisoners belonging to any of the united States among the said Cherokees, if any there be shall be given up immediately to the Person who Shall be appointed to reside at Chote, as an Agent for the State of Virginia, To Whom also the Said Cherokees are to deliver all Horses, Cattle, or other Property belonging to the People of Virginia, which they have taken since the beginning of the late War, that can possibly be discovered and procured.

Article 3. That no White Man Shall be Suffered to reside in or pass through the Overhill Towns without a proper Certificate signed by three Magistrates in the County of Washington in Virginia or in the County of Watauga in North Carolina, to be produced to and approved of by the Agent at Chota. Any Person failing or neglecting to comply herewith is to be apprehended by the Said Cherokees and delivered to the Sd. Agent who they are to assist in conducting to the Commanding Officer at Fort Henry; and the Said Cherokees may apply to their own use all the Effects Such person may be in Possession of at the Time they are taken in the Nation. And Should any Runaway Negroes get into the Overhill Towns, the Cherokees are to secure Such Slaves until the agent can give Notice to the Owner, who, on receiving them are to pay a Reward as the Agent may Judge Reasonable.

Article 4. That all White Men residing in, or passing through the Overhill Country properly authorized or certified as aforesaid, are to be protected in their Persons and Property, and to be at Liberty to remove in Safety when they desire it. If any White Man Shall murder an Indian he Shall be delivered up to a Magistrate in Washington County to be tried and put to Death according to the Laws of the State. And if any Indian Shall murder a White Man the Said Indian is to be put to Death by the Cherokees in the Presence of the Agent at Chota, or two Magistrates in the County of Washington.

Article 5. That as many White People have settled on Lands below the Boundary between Virginia and the Cherokees commonly called Donelson's Line which Lands they have repeatedly claimed in the Course of this Treaty and which makes it necessary to extend and fix a new Boundary and to make a just and equitable purchase of the Lands contained herein. It is therefore agreed by and between the said Commissioners in Behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia of the one part, and the subscribing Chiefs, in behalf of the said Cherokees on the other Part: in free and open Treaty without Restraint, Fear, Reserve or Compulsion of either Party, That a Boundary Line between the People of Virginia and the Cherokees be established and the Lands within the Same be Sold and made over to the Said Commonwealth. Which Line is to begin at the lower corner of

¹⁰ The North Carolina treaty does not contain this mutual defense agreement.

Donelson's Line on the north Side of the River Holston, and to run thence down that River according to the meanders thereof and binding thereon including the great Island, to the mouth of Clouds Creek, being the Second Creek below the Warriors Ford at the Mouth of Carter's Valley, Thence running a straight Line to a high Point on Cumberland Mountain, between three and five miles below or westward of the great Pass which leads to the Settlements on the Kentucky. This last mentioned Line is to be considered as the Boundary, between Virginia and the Cherokees; and all the Lands between the Said Line, and that run by Col. Donelson; and between the Said River and Cumberland Mountain as low as the new Boundary is to be the Present Purchase. For which tract of Land or so much thereof as may be within the Limits of Virginia, when the Boundary between the States of Virginia and North Carolina is extended, the said Commissioners agree, in behalf of the Commonwealth to give the said Cherokees two hundred Cows and one hundred Sheep to be delivered at the Great Island, when the said Line shall be run from the River to Cumberland Mountain to which the said Cherokees promise to send Deputies and twenty Young Men on due Notice of the Time being given them. And for and in Consideration of the said stocks of Cattle and Sheep the said Chiefs do for themselves and their Nation sell make over and convey to the said Commonwealth all the Lands contained within the above described Bounds and do hereby for ever quit and relinquish all right Title Claim or Interest in and to the said Lands or any Part thereof and they agree that the same may be held enjoyed and occupied by the Purchasers and that they have a just right and are fully able to sell and convey the said Lands in as full clear and ample a Manner as any Lands can possibly be, or ever have been sold made over or conveyed by any Indians Whatever.

Article 6. And to prevent as far as possible any Cause or Pretence on either side to break and infringe on the Peace so happily established between Virginia and the Cherokees, it is agreed by the Commissioners aforesaid and Indian Chiefs that no white Man on any Pretence whatever shall build plant improve, settle, hunt, or drive any Stock below the said Boundary, on pain of being drove off by the Indians and his Property of every kind taken from him. But all Persons who are or may hereafter settle above the said Line are quietly and peaceably to reside thereon without being molested, disturbed or hindered by any Cherokee Indian or Indians. And should the stocks of those who Settle near above the line range over the same into the Indian Land, they are not to be claimed by any Indian; nor the Owner or any Person for him be prevented from hunting them, provided such person do not carry a Gun, otherwise the Gun and Stock are both forfeited to the Indians, or any other Person who, on due Proof, can make it appear. Nor is any Indian to hunt or carry a Gun within the said Purchase without License first obtained from two justices, nor to travel from any of the Towns over the Hills to any Part within the said Boundary without a Pass from the Agent. This article shall be in Force until a proper Law is made to prevent encroachments on the Indian Lands and no longer.

Article 7. That all the Goods of every kind given by the Commonwealth of Virginia to the said Cherokees are to be delivered them by one of the Commissioners who with a Party of Men shall escort them some distance out of the Settlement.¹¹

¹¹ The North Carolina treaty had no Article 7.

Memorandum. Before Signing that the Tassel in council Yesterday objected against giving up the great Island opposite to Fort Henry to any Person or Country whatever except Col. Nathl. Gist for whom it was reserved by the Cherokees. The Raven did the same this day in Behalf of the Indians and desired that Col. Gist might sit down upon it when he pleased, as it belonged to them and him to hold good Talks on.

This reserve was made before signing.

Read, interpreted signed and ratified in the Island Opposite to the Fort by the Parties present

William Christian (seal)	his mark
Wm. Preston (seal)	Katagulla, or (seal)
Evan Shelby (seal)	the Pot Clay
Witnesses	Chilhowey
Dan Smith (seal)	his mark
Isaac Shelby (seal)	Tuckosey (seal)
Jas Thompson (seal)	or the rabbit [illegible word]
Jacob Womack (seal)	his mark
Isaac Bledsoe (seal)	Attasah, or the
Wm. Sharpe (seal)	North Warrior — Mouth of
	the River
	his mark
	Occunostotah
	of Chote (seal)
	his mark
Annehah of Tuskegee	Atakullakulla
his mark	Tuskoego & Natchey Creek (seal)
(seal)	his mark
Inne ke hu jah, the girl of Tuskegee	Thayetach or
his mark	the old Tassel
(seal)	of Toque (seal)
Tillehah, or the Chesnut of Telliko	his mark
(seal)	Savanukeh, or (seal)
his mark	the Raven of Chote
Toos tooh	his mark
Mouth of the river (seal)	Willanawa (seal)
his mark	of Toque
Kolanna, or the Raven from ye mouth of Telliko (seal)	his mark
his mark	Qucelookah
(seal)	of Highwassey (seal)
Awoyah, or The Pidgeon, Natchey Creek	his mark
his mark	Ootossateh
(seal)	of Highwassey (seal)
his mark	his mark
Shatukah, of Settiko (seal)	Ookossekah, or
his mark	the White Owl from (seal)
(seal)	Natchey Creek
his mark	his mark
Sunnewah, from the Island (seal)	Ooskuah or (seal)
	Abram of Chilhowey

A shortage of provisions among the Cherokees helps to account for their agreeing to the Treaty of Long Island. Governor Patrick Henry of Virginia had promised them goods before the treaty and the treaty itself provided for cattle and sheep to be turned over to the Cherokees. But the Virginians were unable to fulfill their promises although they made attempts to do so from 1777 to 1779.¹² Henry and his Indian agent, Joseph Martin, tried to keep the hopes of the Cherokees alive.¹³

PATRICK HENRY TO OUCONOSTOTAH, 15 NOVEMBER 1777,
P. 209

Brother Ouconostotah. Wms.burgh Novr. 15th 1777

I write this Letter to you by my War Captain Martin. He is to go to Chote with my Brothers the Cherokees that came here with Colo. Gist.¹⁴ Three of your People that staid at Wms.burgh & did not cross the Water with Colo. Gist, were uneasy to go home and would not stay, but set off by themselves. For fear any wicked person might hurt them, I directed Capt. James Thompson to go along with them & take Care of them. The Pigeon is dead as your people tell me of sickness. I am very sorry for him because he was a good man. My Heart & the Hearts of all the Virginians are stil good towards you & your people. We will always keep the Peace we made with you. Goods are very scarce with us yet. I have directed Captain Martin to get some from Charles Town to sell to your People. I am in Hopes to get some this Winter, & whenever I do, I shall think of you & your Nation. Use Capt. Martin well he is a good man, & tell him anything you want me to hear. I am Your Brother

P. Henry

and mind no Talk from
any white man but him
as he is a beloved man
and Speaks truth

PATRICK HENRY TO OUCONOSTOTAH, NO DATE, PP. 213-215

Brother Ouconostotah.

I am glad to hear by my War Captain Martin that you are well. I am in good Health & stil keep by me the Pipe of Peace that you and your Warriors smoaked in with me at Williamsburgh, when we had the good Talks together, which I shall always remember. I hope you & your People will always remember them & live with me & my People in Peace & like Brothers ought to do— Captain Martin will carry out Some Goods to trade with your people for their Skins. They are not many, but as I promised you to spare a part of what I got, I send them to be sold among you, & to shew you I don't forget what I promised. I send you a Matchcoat & a few other things, as a present to you my Brother, as a Token of my Love.

¹² Randolph C. Downes, "Cherokee-American Relations in the Upper Tennessee Valley, 1776-1791," *East Tennessee Historical Society's Publications*, No. 8 (1936) 36.

¹³ Martin was appointed in November 1777; his agency was located at Long Island. Cotterill, *The Southern Indians*, 45.

¹⁴ Col. Nathaniel Gist. See Brown, *Old Frontiers*, 157-58.

Your friend Captain Martin has told me that the Line which was run is not convenient for you, & that you want it to come higher up the River Holston. I have agreed to it, because I don't want to distress you in anything, & have given Orders to have it alter'd a few Miles, to take in the fording place into your Land. Capt. Martin who is a good man & a friend to your people, also tells me Colo. Gist wants to take away this Island at Holston, from you. I have desired him to write to me what you & your people say about it, as there was some misunderstanding about it; for Colo. Gist says you gave him the ground to do what he would with it. Tell me if you did give it to him or not, & Justice shall be done to both Sides.

Capt. Martin also mentions to me to exchange the sheep you were to have for powder & Salt. I will do it, & send it up as soon as I can.

I depend upon your using Capt. Martin well & that you suffer no Harm to be done to him, for he is a good man & a good Friend to you & your Nation. Whenever you want to say anything to me, tell it to him, & he is honest & will tell it to me truly. I hope to get more Goods soon, for we have almost conquer'd our Enemies.—When I get more you & your people shall have part. Let the Virginians & the Cherokees always be Brothers. I am

yr. friend & Brother
P. Henry

When the American government appointed Edward Wilkinson¹⁵ as its Indian Agent, he tried to keep the Cherokees happy and provided as the Virginians had failed. He also sought to keep them loyal to the American cause.

EDWARD WILKINSON TO OUNNESTOTA, 5 JULY 1778,
PP. 181-184

Friend and Brother

Seneca July 5th 1778

I am glad to hear that you are all quiet, and intend to have nothing but good Talks. I hope you will be so, and never Lissen to any bad Talks, but mind your Planting, and Hunting, which will make you, and your People Live easy. I almost every Day hear something about your People, or our People, but I give little Credit to any thing of what I hear, unless I have it from good Authority. I suppose you have heard that Colo. Williamson is gone against the People of Augustine, who used frequently to come to Georgia, Plunder their Plantations, and Drive off their Cattle, and Horses on his way thither. he has killed one great Rogue named Moore and taken some prisoners, and several who went there from Carolina some time ago, have come back and join'd the Colonel—Your outlying People some Days ago, sent for the Mankiller of Tellico [and] Chote, Chenisk, and the Glass¹⁶ to go, and hear a Talk they were to hold, but they declined going as they thought it would not be a good One, however they have

¹⁵ Wilkinson was active in the Cherokee country a number of years before the Revolution as a trader. In 1770 he made an agreement with the Cherokees to cancel some debts in return for a cession of land. Stuart would not approve this, while the Indians considered their debt to be paid. After a trip to London, Wilkinson managed to get some payment from the funds from the New Purchase. He used his influence among the Cherokees to win them over from Britain and was rewarded with the position of Indian agent. Alden, *John Stuart*, 153, 210, 300.

¹⁶ Cherokee chiefs.

sent George Downing, and Two, or Three Young Fellows to hear it. The Carpenter said what is very true, that he saved Capt. Stuarts Life,¹⁷ and now he is doing all in his power to destroy his Nation. We haven't heard anything bad from the Creek Nation, and if they will not disturb us, the Colonel will not disturb them—I send you agreeable to your request Two Keggs Rum, and a Bagg of Salt, and one Bagg Salt, for the Prince Willinawah. I should have also sent him some Rum, but I am just out, however I will send him some at another time. I am

Your Friend and Brother
Edw. Wilkinson

P. S.

Moore is the Man who Murdered Capt. Jerrard, and Robed him.

¹⁷ Attakullakulla (Little Carpenter, or The Carpenter) saved Stuart's life during the French and Indian War. *Ibid.*, 118-20; Brown, *Old Frontiers*, 103-104.