

CHEROKEE EMIGRATION.

ATHENS, (TENN.) Sept. 5.

We have been informed that a second detachment of Cherokees set out for the West on last Sunday. The emigration will now go on rapidly. In a few weeks the whole Cherokee nation East will be on their way to the West. We have observed that a correspondent of the *Western Georgian*, published at Rome, Georgia, has uttered some censures upon General Scott, and represented John Ross as being unpopular, and states that great dissension exists amongst the Indians. If we are correctly informed, and we think we are, these censures of Gen. Scott are wholly gratuitous, and the story of John Ross's unpopularity amongst his people entirely false. In our opinion, Gen. Scott is entitled to great credit for the correct and humane course he has pursued; and we are sure that a more popular man with his own people does not live than John Ross. There is, to be sure, some opposition to Mr. Ross by the Ridge party, but it is of no great consequence. The Ridge party are pretty nearly all gone. The few that now remain cannot produce much excitement — *Journal*.

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CORRESPONDENCE

ON THE SUBJECT OF THE

EMIGRATION OF INDIANS,

BETWEEN

THE 30th NOVEMBER, 1831, AND 27th DECEMBER, 1833,

WITH ABSTRACTS OF EXPENDITURES BY DISBURSING AGENTS,

IN THE

Removal and Subsistence of Indians, &c. &c.

FURNISHED

IN ANSWER TO A RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE, OF 27th DECEMBER, 1833.

BY THE

COMMISSARY GENERAL OF SUBSISTENCE.

VOL. III.

WASHINGTON:
PRINTED BY DUFF GREEN.
1835.

LETTERS FROM AGENTS AND OTHERS.

MONTICELLO, *January 1, 1832.*

SIR: A few days since I returned from the Cherokee nation, where I had been since I entered the service of the Government as enrolling agent for the Cherokees, except a few days of unavoidable absence on account of the sickness of my family.

Regular reports have been made to your department, by the superintendent, Maj. Currey, of our success and progress in the business of enrolment, and it is therefore unnecessary for me to say any thing on that subject. You are apprized that about this time and lately the business has been dull; of the causes you are or will be notified. My object in troubling the department with this letter, is merely to apprize you of a few facts connected with the improvements, south of Coffee's line, that may be enrolled for emigration or assessment. You are apprized that the President has determined this line to be the true line between the Cherokees and Creeks, and that he and the State of Georgia consider the land south of said line to have been purchased of the Creeks, and already paid for; the Cherokees have been ordered therefrom; and Georgia considers herself in the full possession of them, and has, for the last year, rented out all the improved places therein, as well as those places abandoned by the late emigrants. Your department has been asked, whether the improvements south of Coffee's line would be valued and paid for by the Government?

I wish to state a few facts, for I consider it my duty to do so. Attempts are making, I think, to swindle the Government, or I should have been silent. In the first place, many of the improvements within this line have been made by intruders or squatters, and not by Cherokees, who are endeavoring to put them in the hands of such as are entitled to the benefits of the enrolling system, and in that way get them paid for by the Government of the United States. Again, many of the Cherokees, who were ordered off as intruders on Creek, now Georgia, lands, have lost sight of their interest, and their places obtained for a trifle; also many of the improvements have received additional value by work done by the lessees, necessary in building, clearing lands, and fencing to protect their crops, so that it will be difficult to say what were the Indian improvements. I have several times been, and the other day, south of Coffee's line, and am perhaps better acquainted with all the facts than your superintendent can be. I shall return in a few days to the nation, where it will be unnecessary to remain long, unless some change takes place in the feelings of the Indians on the subject of enrolment. They will, almost with one accord, wait the return of their delegation from Washington, before they take their course, for they have been so instructed by the delegation, I understand. I am sorry to say that the efforts of the agents for enrolling, though they have been faithful, have been unattended with the desired success. Great pains and labor have been employed to explain to and to induce them to accept of the liberal terms of the President; for almost every settlement and town, in the limits of Georgia, have been visited by us; but few have yet enrolled,

compared to the whole number; and, among them, comparatively few real common Indians.

Please excuse the liberty I have taken in giving you this trouble.

With great respect,

Yours, &c.,

DAVIS A. REESE.

HON. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary War Department.

WESTERN CHEROKEE NATION,

Agent's Office, January 4, 1832.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of the instructions given, by the principal chief of the western Cherokees, to the delegation appointed to visit Washington, and of his two letters to me in connexion therewith, and mine in compliance, together with a copy of his letter to the principal chiefs of the old nation, written after the departure of the two members of the delegation, who were to visit their eastern brethren. These will exhibit all that has transpired in relation to the subject, since the date of my letter of the 10th November.

And believing it to be the duty of an agent to notice and report all facts connected with the public service, within the sphere of his agency, I have to present the following statement :

The instructions of the chief to the delegation are in the hand-writing of Gen. Samuel Houston, who purchased two of the Osage reserves from Col. A. P. Chouteau, having on them an ordinary saline, supposed to be of but little value; it is said he sold part of his interest in said purchase to Messrs. Thompson and Drenen, and subsequently that an additional sale of an interest therein has been made to another gentleman in Nashville, and it is expected that he will meet the delegation in Washington.

To which I deem it also my duty to add, that, from a conversation with the principal and second chief, I have good reason to believe that it is contemplated to apply for the removal of the Osage Union mission. I know it to be a favorite scheme with Gen. Houston; and as the instructions ask for a literal fulfilment of the treaty of 1828, which stipulates for the removal of all persons unacceptable to the Cherokees, I am induced to apprehend that an application will be made for the removal of said mission; and although I cannot believe that the department could ever be induced to cooperate in any unworthy purpose, yet I deem it my duty to state, that I consider the Union mission most judiciously located, as affording the superior advantage of conferring moral instruction to the children of the Cherokees, Creeks, and Osages, it being equally beneficial to each, increases its public utility, and, in my humble judgment, gives it high claims on the fostering care of the Government, an acquiescence with such application, if made, would be a sacrifice of the true interest of the Cherokees, to gratify the private views of a few individuals, as is clearly evinced from the fact that the national council has never intimated any desire for the removal of said mission.

After the departure of General Houston, I prevailed on the chief to write his enclosed letter to the principal chiefs of the old nation; I deemed it the first step requisite to the removal of existing difficulties; and should it succeed in producing the desired effect, it may afford an opportunity of nego-

tiating one or more supplementary articles to the treaty of 1828, with a view to secure more fully the interests of those who have and those who may hereafter wish to emigrate. The intimation in my letter of 10th November had reference to that particular object, and it can be best effected by preserving the true direction of the influence and interest that exists here.

Most respectfully submitted by

Your most obedient servant,

GEO. VASHON, *Indian Agent.*

The Hon. LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of War.

WESTERN CHEROKEE NATION,
Agent's Office, December 1, 1831.

SIR: I am requested, by Major John Jolly, the principal chief of the western Cherokees, to inform you that the following persons, viz., Major Alexander Saunders, Black Coat, the 2d chief of the nation, Capt. Rain Crow, Capt. John Rogers, jun., and Mr. Andrew M. Vann, have been duly appointed a delegation, and properly authorized to transact business for the nation. Mr. Edward Hicks is appointed their secretary; and it being the particular wish of Major Saunders, and the choice of the delegation; I am informed by the principal chief that the appointment of Capt. James Rogers, as interpreter to the delegation, has been approved.

The principal chief, Major Jolly, also informs me, that by a decree of the national council of November last, he is authorized to appropriate the next annuity for 1832, to bearing the expenses of the delegation, and, therefore, requests me to draw drafts in their favor; but the general instructions for my government does not afford me the privilege. I have, therefore, with a view to enable them to proceed, advanced \$550, which may be deducted from the next annuity, and placed to my credit, should it meet the approbation of the department.

The instruction given to the delegation by the principal chief, and addressed to the President of the United States, will exhibit to view all that has been presented to my consideration.

I have the honor to be,

Most respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

GEO. VASHON, *Indian Agent.*

The Honorable LEWIS CASS,
Secretary of War.

WESTERN CHEROKEE NATION,
Agent's Office, December 1, 1831.

SIR: I have the pleasure to inform you that the following persons compose the delegation appointed by the western Cherokees, viz., Major Alexander Saunders, Black Coat, 2d chief of the nation, Capt. Rain Crow, Capt. John Rogers, jun., and Mr. Andrew M. Vann; Mr. Edward Hicks, secretary, and Capt. James Rogers, interpreter to the delegation.

Some of the delegation intend visiting your agency, to consult with their eastern friends; and I am requested, by the principal chief, to solicit for them

exchanging land, or altering the lines of this nation, specified by the treaty of 1828; all of which is expressly forbidden.

Given under my hand, &c., December 1, 1831.

JOHN JOLLY, *Principal Chief.*

Subsequently acknowledged at agent's office, and original filed.

GEORGE VASHON, *U. S. Indian Agent.*

MOUTH OF ILLINOIS, *December 1, 1831.*

SIR: I wish you to be so good as to copy the instructions, which I have made out for the delegation which is appointed to visit Washington City. I wish you to be present at the last interpretation of them, and to witness my signature.

I wish you to write a letter to the Secretary of War, stating the fact of the delegation being authorized properly to transact business for the nation.

I wish you, if you please, to write to the agent of the old nation, to give all the necessary aid which may be required by those members who may pass by the old nation—Capt. John Rogers and Andrew M. Vann.

Your friend,

JOHN JOLLY, *his x mark.*

Principal Chief.

Witness: J. VANN.

Capt. GEORGE VASHON,
Cherokee Agent.

MOUTH OF ILLINOIS, *December 1, 1831.*

SIR: By a decree of the council of this nation of November last, I was authorized to appropriate the next annuity of 1832, to bearing the expenses of the delegation now about to set out for the City of Washington. This is to request that you will issue drafts for the purpose of enabling them to proceed forthwith to the execution of their duties.

Mr. John Drew having been appointed interpreter of the delegation, and having left the nation without accepting the situation, and it being the particular wish of Major Saunders, and the choice of the delegation, the appointment of James Rogers, as interpreter to the delegation has been approved, and it is hoped the agent will be pleased.

Your friend,

JOHN JOLLY, *his x mark.*

Principal Chief.

Witness: J. VANN.

Capt. GEORGE VASHON,
Cherokee Agent.

AGENT'S OFFICE, *December 2, 1831.*

SIR: In compliance with your request, I have copied your instructions to your delegation, and have also prepared the letters you requested me to write on the subject to the Secretary of War, and to Col. Montgomery, the agent east; all of which are ready for your examination; and if you should deem it requisite for me to add any thing thereto, I will, with great plea-

sure, comply to the utmost limit of duty and propriety. I regret that it is not in my power to comply with your request to draw drafts for the next annuity. The general instructions for my Government does not afford me that privilege; but, with a view to enable the delegation to proceed, I will advance \$550, and have requested the Secretary of War, in paying the annuity to the delegation, to deduct said amount advanced by me, and place it to my credit.

Most sincerely,
Your friend and brother,
GEO. VASHON,
Agent Cherokees west.

Major JOHN JOLLY,
Principal Chief.

WESTERN CHEROKEE NATION,
December 23, 1831.

MY FRIENDS AND BROTHERS: I have the pleasure to inform you that the western Cherokees have deemed it important to the protection of their rights, and the promotion of their future interests, to send a delegation to the city of Washington, to make such an arrangement with the Government of the United States as may be deemed requisite to effect said purpose; and, therefore, I have thought it advisable that part of the delegation should make a friendly visit to our brethren east, and explain to them fully the object of their mission; and, with that view, I have the pleasure of inviting your attention to the subject; and, in order to be correctly understood by all our brethren in the old nation, I have requested that the instructions, given to the delegation, may be exhibited to all who may wish to see them; and, as rumors have reached us that our eastern brethren have been induced to think that we feel unfriendly towards them, I hope you will do us the justice of affording our delegation an opportunity of making our denial of the charge publicly known to all our brethren.

Those who have joined us in the west have been welcomed as brothers. The country secured by the treaty of 1828, is considered the joint property of the Cherokees both east and west; and the first wish of my heart is to see all the Cherokees united as one people; and whenever you and your people should become disposed to join us in the west, and partake of our exemption from the troubles we left behind, you will find a hearty welcome awaiting your arrival.

My brother chief, if this communication should be any way acceptable to you, and if it should be in our power to afford you any assistance in promoting the future welfare of our people, you may rest assured of our zealous co-operation to effect it.

We are well satisfied with our country, but with a view to obtain some accession thereto, for the more ample accommodation of all our people, I would earnestly invite your attention to the subject, from a confidence that, by our joint efforts, we shall be able to provide more amply for their future welfare; and, as it seems, that providence has fixed the permanent home of the Cherokee nation west of the Mississippi, let us not repine at its decree; but let us rather rejoice that a home and a country for the Cherokees is securely provided, where they have a right to come whenever they choose to extricate themselves from the troubles that surround them.

We have performed the arduous duties of the pioneers of our nation; our

troubles are all over, and we are now securely resting in peaceful contentment; and with sentiments of the warmest regard for the general welfare of all our people, we invite you to come and join us in the west; that all our people may become united as a nation, in the country already secured for them; and to effect this object, let us, as brother chiefs, unite all our efforts in trying to obtain for our people whatever may be deemed essential to the promotion of the future prosperity of our nation.

In conclusion, permit me to express the hope that this communication may be received with corresponding sentiments; and that you will do me the favor to inform me whether it corresponds with your view of this important subject, as soon as you can make it convenient.

With the most respectful consideration,

I remain your friend and brother,

JOHN JOLLY.

To JOHN ROSS, Esq., *Principal Chief*, and
Geo. LOWRIE, Esq., *2d Chief*,
Cherokee nation east.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, *January 4, 1832.*

DEAR SIR: Mrs. Susan Graham, a widow, of the Choctaw nation, registered her name with the agent within six months after the ratification of the treaty of "Dancing Rabbit creek," for the purpose of entitling her to a section of land under the provisions of the 14th article of that treaty. She is apprehensive, from some cause, that it has not been entered, if received, nor forwarded to the War Department. Please inform me on this subject.

Most respectfully,

Your obedient,

F. E. PLUMMER.

Hon. LEWIS CASS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, *January 4, 1832.*

DEAR SIR: Misses Amelia and Letha Trahern, natives and citizens of the Choctaw nation, Mississippi, request to know whether their names have been forwarded to the War Department, for the purpose of obtaining a quarter section of land each, under and by virtue of the 19th article of the treaty of "Dancing Rabbit creek," held September 27, 1830. They are both minors and orphans. Please to address me on the subject.

Most respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

F. E. PLUMMER.

Hon. LEWIS CASS.

LEBANON, OHIO, *January 4, 1832.*

SIR: I am now in daily expectation of the return of the delegation of Wyandots, who left this State in October last, for the purpose of exploring the tract of country which I have offered them on the Missouri river, near the western line of the State of Missouri. When notified of their arrival, I shall immediately proceed to Upper Sandusky, for the purpose of entering upon a negotiation for the final cession of all the Wyandot lands in Ohio.

I received from Colonel Hamilton, last spring, a map of the Indian country west of Missouri and Arkansas, which I had in continual use during the summer and fall; and when the Wyandot delegation set out, I gave it to their conductor for his guide and government.

In making the contemplated treaty at Upper Sandusky, I shall greatly need a map of the Indian country. It is probable the old one may be lost, or unfit for use. Will you have the goodness to send me a *new map* as soon as possible, and direct it to Upper Sandusky.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES B. GARDINER,

Special Agent, &c.

Col. ELBERT HERRING,
Office Indian Affairs.

LEBANON, OHIO, *January 4, 1832.*

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that I have just received a letter from Upper Sandusky, stating that Captain Henry C. Brish had passed that place, on his return from Missouri; having, as my informant states, "*left the Senecas sixty miles west of St. Louis, in care of a Mr. Merritt.*"

I am entirely ignorant of the reasons which may have induced Captain Brish to abandon his charge, in lieu of conducting the Senecas to their ultimate destination, and remaining with them one year, as directed by his instructions from the department. I presume he will communicate with you either directly, or through Colonel McElvain, without delay.

I am also informed that Captain Brish left Mr. Walker and the exploring party of Wyandots, at St. Louis; and that they were on their return, and would set out as soon as they had sufficiently recovered from the fatigues of their journey up the Missouri. It is said they are *highly pleased with the country assigned them*. I am now in daily expectation of hearing of their arrival, when I shall immediately repair to Upper Sandusky, to enter upon a negotiation for the final cession of all the Wyandot lands in the State of Ohio. I flatter myself that I shall be able, in four or five weeks, to present you with a definitive treaty with this sagacious, intelligent, and *crafty* tribe of Indians; which will be of the highest importance to a large section of this State, and greatly in aid of the benevolent policy of the Government. You may rest assured of my utmost exertions to accomplish this desirable object.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect,

Your most obedient servant,

J. B. GARDINER,

Special Agent, &c.

Hon. LEWIS CASS, *Secretary of War.*

SUPERINTENDENCY OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

St. Louis, January 5, 1832.

SIR: On the 20th of December I referred you to Mr. Brish's report in relation to a party of the Senecas who had set out from Sandusky on their way to this place, by land, had been compelled to remain in Indiana; and that

Mr. Brish, the sub-agent, had returned in search of them. By the last mail I received the enclosed letters from that party, who, it appears, were joined by a party of emigrating Delawares; and, by their communication, it appears that those Senecas are in *distress*, and ask assistance. As I am not authorized to afford them any assistance previously to their arrival at this place, I will beg leave to suggest that some person be authorized and instructed to conduct them directly to their lands; and that means be afforded to such person to defray the expenses where they now remain, and on their journey.

I have the honor to be,

With high respect,

Your obedient servant,

WM. CLARK.

ELBERT HERRING, Esq.,

Indian Department, Washington City.

MUNSEYTOWN, DEL. Co., IA. Dec. 10, 1831.

RESPECTED FATHER: We, the undersigned, for ourselves and the remnant of the Senecas now with us, wish to make known to you our present difficulties, believing you to be our chief father and friend, whom our great father, the President, has provided for us. We wish you to know that, in our journey to the west of the Mississippi, we have already encountered much difficulty from bad weather, sickness, and loss of horses; and that we are now compelled to stop in this neighborhood, until the weather becomes favorable for travelling; and, further, that provisions are hard to be got here, and that we have not been furnished with the means of obtaining them, which was promised us from Government. The assistance received from Mr. McElvain has been long since expended, and we have been for some time past dependent on the generosity of our friend and interpreter, Martin Lane, who has expended nearly all his private funds for our use. In making this statement to you, we do not wish you to think that we charge the Government with our present difficulties—far from it. We know that the Government has made ample provision for our travelling comforts; but this provision has been withheld from us by some persons, acting under Government; and we are now, (Mr. McElvain having abandoned us to our own resources,) left without any protection or assistance from Government, other than what is obtained from private citizens, through the aid and exertions of our friend, Martin Lane. We feel ourselves, therefore, compelled to solicit your aid, believing you to be our present father, having the power and disposition to succor us in prosecuting the remainder of our journey. And should it please you to appoint our present interpreter, Martin Lane, to continue his charge of us as far as St. Louis, we would be much satisfied, as he has our full confidence, and has rendered us much assistance. But we do not wish to dictate to you.

You will please write us an answer to this letter as soon as convenient, and direct it to Munseytown post-office, Delaware county, Indiana.

Your friends,

SMALL CLOUD SPICER, his x mark.

SENECA JOHN, x

WIPINGSTICK, x

ISAAC WHITE, x

JOHN SHYE, his x mark.
 JACOB NICELY, x
 LITTLETOWN SPICER, x

To the Hon. WM. CLARK,
Principal Indian Agent for the Northwest Territory.

N. B. We wish you to direct your letters to us, under the address of Martin Lane, Indian interpreter.

P. S. To our dear friends, who have preceded us, under the care of Mr. Henry C. Brish, we would say:

We hope you have all arrived safe, and are now enjoying the pleasures of health and comfort. We are now encamped, for the winter, about ten miles northeast from this place; and, owing to the severe cold weather, together with much sickness, our journey has been very tedious and disagreeable. We have buried two of our number since we started: the first, Wipingstick's youngest child, at St. Mary's; the other Cayuga James's oldest child, about ten miles from this place. The loss of our horses is much against us. We have already lost eleven, which have died with but short sickness. Provisions are dear, and hard to be got. Twenty-six of the Delawares are joined with us, under the care of Capt. Pipe. They wish to remain with us until our arrival at St. Louis. Our whole number now is one hundred and two. As soon as the spring breaks up, and the weather becomes suitable for travelling, what then remains of us will then set out with all diligence, to meet you beyond the Mississippi.

We remain your friends,
 SMALL CLOUD SPICER, his x mark.
 SENECA JOHN, x
 WIPINGSTICK, x

DEAR FRIEND: As it will be some months before we can expect to see you at St. Louis, we wish you to take particular care of our property until our arrival; and should it be necessary for you to leave St. Louis before our arrival, you will be particular in leaving it in the care of some person who will honestly and faithfully attend to it. Small Cloud Spicer wishes you to forward to him, by the letter which may be returned in answer to this, the fifty dollars due him from George Heron, if you have collected it, as he will be under the necessity of purchasing a horse before he leaves this neighborhood.

Your friends,
 JACOB NICELY, his x mark.
 SMALL CLOUD SPICER, x

Mr. HENRY C. BRISH.

LEBANON, OHIO, *January 5, 1832.*

SIR: Information received within the last hour renders it necessary that I should write you again to-day.

Colonel Thomas B. Vanhorne arrived here this afternoon, and informs me that the Wyandots' delegation had passed through Dayton, and are probably at home by this time. He says that Mr. Walker declared in Dayton that they were determined not to cede, as they did not like the country

“*very well*,” and were particularly displeased with *their neighbors*, the whites of Missouri, who live contiguous. Such may, or *may not* be the case. But believing it probable that the *whites, half-breeds*, and the “*Christian party*,” so called, will be against treating on any reasonable terms, and feeling confident that the “*pagan*,” or *savage party*, (composing full half the nation,) *will be willing to treat*, on the policy of the Government, I wish to ask of you whether, in the event of such proving to be the state of feeling when I arrive at Upper Sandusky, I may be at liberty to make a treaty with the *savage party* for their proportion of the reservation. *They* have chiefs and head-men among them whom they recognize and obey. The treaty of 1817, to which I beg leave to refer you, divides the land among the individuals composing the tribe equally.

It is important I should have your instructions on this subject as soon as possible, to govern my conduct at Upper Sandusky, for which place I shall set out in a day or two. Please send *duplicates* of your reply to this letter; one to Upper Sandusky, and the other to the care of Colonel John McElvain, at Columbus, for fear of miscarriage, or delay of the northern mail from Columbus. I would be glad you would be as precise as you think necessary in your instructions.

I have the honor to be,

With great respect,

Your most obedient servant,

JAMES B. GARDINER.

Hon. LEWIS CASS,

Secretary of War.

COUNCIL-HOUSE, CHICKASAW NATION, *January 15, 1832.*

BROTHERS: Agreeably to the promise recently made you at the Choctaw Agency, we have convened the Chickasaws in council. The substance of the *talks* delivered by you to us, has been explained to them. We are not aware of the difficulties under which we labor, owing to the extension of the laws of the States of Mississippi and Alabama over us. It is a fact well known to the Government of the United States, that the red people cannot, from ignorance of civil jurisprudence, preserve their nationality thus.

Those who have, in a small degree, been removed from their pristine ignorance, justly appreciate the humane policy of the Government, to place them beyond the reach of this state of things, in a country where they can quietly sit down and content themselves with that mode of living best suited to their capacities. In a communication which we had the honor to address to Mr. Eaton, while Secretary of War, in June, 1829, we expressly acquitted the General Government, and more particularly its beloved Executive, from any sinister or impure motives, in requesting a general concurrence in a removal of the Indian tribes, west of the Mississippi river. That we believed that the General Government, in making this proposition to the tribes, had been influenced alone by the importunities of the States immediately interested in a removal; a foreseen collision with the States, if an attempt were made to resist the State authorities; and the consequent difficulties under which the tribes embraced within their chartered limits, would be placed. We are yet inclined to this opinion. The little knowledge which we possess, as well as that small share of experience which our heretofore isolated situation has taught us, incline us, as well as the General Go-