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From a Remote Frontier: San Marcos de Apalache, 1763-1769 (continued)

Mark F. Boyd



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FROM A REMOTE FRONTIER

(continued)

LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS PASSING BETWEEN JOHN
STUART, SUPERINTENDENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
AND CAPTAIN HARRIES IN COMMAND AT APALACHE
(ST. MARKS), AND GENERAL GAGE, THEIR COM-
MANDER IN CHIEF AT NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 1764

Stuart to Gage

Apalache 29th September 1764

Sir

I had the honour of writing to your Excellency from Saint Augustine 19th July. Captain Lawrence in the Live Oak, having anchored off that Place with stores, I embarked in His vessel for this place and arrived here the 13th Curr after a passage of 48 days, having sailed from Augustine the 28th July. It was upon our passage here that I received from Capt. Lawrence Duplicate of your Excellency's Letter of 19th June, had I received it when at St. Augustine I should have despatched talks to the Cherokees, from thence, requiring them to send parties to the Ohio, to intercept any supplies from the French at the Illinois, to the Delaware and Shawnese or any other disaffected Tribes, and to seize the persons and goods of the Traders which might probably have reached in time, but I this day despatch a messenger to them thro' the

Note - This series of documents has been edited with an introduction by Mark F. Boyd, see this *Quarterly* the issue of January last. Though they have been obtained from several sources, the series is unusually complete and together tells the story of St. Marks during the British occupation. It will be continued for several numbers. The documents herewith are from the W. L. Clements Library of the University of Michigan, and grateful acknowledgement is made to Mr. Howard Peckham, curator of manuscripts, for copies and for permission to publish them. *Ed.*

Creek Nation, with Talks upon that subject & acquainting them with Major Loftus's destination recommending to them in the strongest terms, to render him all the friendly Offices in their Power. The Cherokee Nation is at a great Distance from Fort Massiac which I take to be Fort Assumption situated near the confluence of the Cherokee and Ohio Rivers, and Fifteen Leagues from Fort de Chartres. Cannoes from the overhill Cherokee villages are generally 22 Days going down stream, so far. and by land it is a journey of 27 Days, which I look upon to be near 700 miles by land- the Cherokees have often brought Scalps and prisoners from it, and during the war between us and them went there for supplies and ammunition &ca. But the Chickasaws are much nearer to that Fort and by their situation much more capable of being serviceable to the Major, and, I hope, I shall be soon enough at Mobile, to obey your Excellency's Directions in giving him all the assistance in my Power; as I propose sailing tomorrow.

On my arrival I conveyed the leading men of Five Creek villages in the neighborhood of this fort whose names and distances your Excellency has inclosed. I transmit your Excellency a copy of what I said to them and their answer, during their stay here they drank freely and I endeavoured to discover their temper and disposition, and I find that their Uneasiness and that of their Nation proceeds principally from Jealousy on Account of their lands. As I understand Col Grant is arrived in His Government, I send this by an Indian who goes Express to Saint Augustine, with what information I am capable of giving him for his government in whatever he may have to transact with the Creeks on his arrival, amongst which a very Material, but I suspect a Difficult & delicate point will be the settlement of a Boundary

Line to their mutual satisfaction which I sincerely wish may be happily effected.

In justice to Captain Lawrence of the sloop Live Oak, I cannot omit mentioning him, as having great merit in his way ; he has been very indefatigable in marking out the Channel into this difficult harbour by placing buoys and stakes on the shoals -and I think His care and vigilance may always be depended on, I have the Honor of being with the greatest Respect

Sir Your Excellency's
most obedient & most humble servant

JOHN STUART

His Excellency the Honble Major Gen Gage
Commander in Chief &ca &ca &ca New York

Indian Talk by John Stuart

Copy to General Gage

Apalache 25th September 1764

Friends & Brothers

The Great King George

Your & our common Father has been pleased to appoint me his agent, and to entrust me with the management and direction of whatever concerns the Indians. As it is his gracious will & intention, so it is my indispensable duty to promote Harmony, Peace and Friendship between his white and red children. With this view I am now come to see you and as far as I can to remove any Obstacle to the Accomplishment of this Desirable end.

When with the Governor of Virginia, the Two Carolina's & Georgia, I met last year the leading men of your as well as of the other great Nations at Augusta in Georgia, I then, in the Name and by Order of the great King declar'd his gracious & benevolent Intentions towards you, and Ex-

plained the Motives that induced him to remove the French & Spaniards beyond the Mississippi. That the disorder and confusion, occasioned by their false insinuations and misrepresentations might be totally removed and succeeded by Peace & Good Order between the Indian Nations & his Subjects. That the chain of Friendship should be strengthened and brightened, by a plentiful and well regulated trade upon terms of mutual advantage and security. I now repeat the same to you, because the head men who are now here, were not at that meeting. And for the same reason I shall recite the Treaty that was solemnly entered into by the Deputies of the Respective Nations & Us. And I must acquaint you that your reaping the great advantages & happiness offered to you in his Majesties Royal Friendship & Powerful Protection will depend on your strict observation and performance of the Said Treaty by a peaceable and Friendly demeanor to the White People in General, by good treatment of your Traders whose lives and Properties must be inviolably Secured and protected, otherwise you cannot expect any will be permitted or so mad as to go amongst you.

I likewise recommend to you in particular, who reside in the neighborhood of this Fort, to behave like Friends & Brothers to the English who have succeeded the Spaniards in the possession of it and who are more able and willing to assist you in every respect, and you will upon all occasions find them when well used, kind & Obliging as Brothers ought to be.

I sent your Nation a copy of the King's Royal Instructions to his Governor concerning your Lands, which you may be assured will be strictly observed, nor shall they anywhere be settled beyond the limits established at the late Congress without your consent. I have no more to add but

to wish you plenty of Game, Peace & Prosperity,
that you may multiply, and your Children grow
up to be men & Women.

JOHN STUART

Chehayache's Response to Stuart
Copy to General Gage

Apalache 27th Sept. 1764

Chehayache, Head Warrior of Chescatalenssa
Return'd the following answer to the above Talk
Brother

I now see you are the Great Kings beloved man
come to smoke with us, we have shaken, hands to-
gether and my heart is glad. The Spaniards are
gone and you are now on the ground which we lent
them, we approve of it, and shall always hold you
fast as Brothers,

I heard the treaty read which our head Warrior
& you made at Augusta, and it agrees in every par-
ticular with what they told us.

You recommend to us to be upon friendly terms
with the White Men who live in the Fort. It is
our intention to live like Brothers with all White
Men and with them.

Harries to Gage

Appalache Sepr 29th, 1764

I have had the honour lately of receiving sevl
letters from Yr Excellency, amongst wch my leave
of absence, wch Lt. Pompellone's arrival the 25th
Instant enables me to embrace, and for wch I think
it incumbent on me to return my most grateful
thanks. my present condition on acct of my rup-
ture obliges me to take my servant with me to N.
York, and if agreeable to Yr Excellency's pleasure
will take him to England, otherwise shall leave

him with Lt. Lindsey of the 9th regiment, who I understand is on the recruiting duty at N. York. Capt Reynold of the 9th was allowed to bring with him his servant who was a grenadier from the Havannah to England. I am sorry, very sorry, if any part of my conduct shd meet with yr disapprobation since I left St. Augustine, it must proceed entirely from an error in Judgment. I thought it was not in my power to dispense with a positive order from my Commanding Officer, nor had I ever the vanity to put my Judgement in competition with Coll Robertson's, who is owned by all who have the pleasure of his acquaintance to be a gentleman of excellent good sence, therefore would not presume to say what was detrimental or not detrimental to the service for he might have reasons to determine him, wch he was no ways obliged to communicate to me: it is most certain if I had been invested with discretionary power I shd have acted after a different manner, as three officers then on board very well knew, whom I informed of this affair, & who acquiesced in my sentiments: I hope I shall not be so unhappy as to be any ways obnoxious to yr Excellency's displeasure. this fort is abt three hundred foot in circumference, with nine small angles, an inner & an outward gate, with a small stockade before the entrance into the garrison: there is no danger from the Savage Indians in attacking this place, the greatest is, lest any of the men shd be cut off when sent out in parties for wood and water, the artificers by digging a well within the garrison will be able to remove the greatest of the two evils. I believe at present there is not the least danger in any respect whatsoever, Capt Stuart Agent & Superintendent of Indian affairs can inform you more perfectly as to the disposition of the Creek nations, who has just finished his letter

to Yr Excellency. the outpost is of no other service than a protection to the working men at a quarry of stone [that] lies near it and is the first mark or signal discovered from the bay to point out this place. I am much concerned to inform Yr Excellency that three men deserted from this garrison the 24th of July last, viz: John Brown, a Scotsman, Joseph Tomblison an Englishman & Danl Canfield an Irishman draughted into this regiment from [the] Royal Scotch. I had no opportunity of informing either you or Major Ogilvie sooner. I suppose they are gone to South Carolina. great many repairs are wanting here wch Mr. Pamplellone will be now able to perform. with the greatest respect

I am Yr Excellency's
most obliged and obedt humble servt

JON. HARRIES

(This series will be continued in the next number.)