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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

LETTERS AND REPORTS PASSING BETWEEN LIEUTENANT JAMES PAMPELLONNE IN COMMAND AT APALACHE (ST. MARKS) AND GENERAL GAGE, HIS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, AT NEW YORK, 1764-1765.

Pampellonne to Gage

Apalache Fort Septbr 29th 1764

Sir,

According to order from your Excellency to Major Ogilvie, I arrived at this post the 25th last. to relieve Capt. Harries, on board the King of Prussia Schooner. I have had the satisfaction of meeting Capt. Stuart, Superintendent of Indian affairs to the Southward, on board the Live Oak Capt. Lawrence. He had then called a congress of the Chief Indians hereabouts at which I was present, everything went smoothly on, & there appeared the strongest reasons to imagine they departed well pleased, as Capt. Stuart writes by this opportunity, shall refer your Excellency to his Letter, shall in the meantime take particular care to obey your orders, relative to this post, to the utmost of my Capacity. As the Navigation to this place is very Difficult beg leave to represent to your Excellencies notice, the great care and assistance that Capt. Lawrence gave me on my arrival, as well in conducting us in, as in many other cases. I do not think it would be acting conformable to Justice if

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 widely scattered 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 in this instalment are from the W. L. Clements Library of the University of Michigan, and grateful acknowledgment is made to Mr. Howard Peckham, curator of manuscripts, for copies and for permission to publish them. *Ed.*

I did not do it. The cloathing of your Regt is safe on board under the Care of Sergt Rushin, Lt Magra, who sail'd with me, at my Departure from St. Augustine, having left me at Providence, intending as he told me to embark for England. Make no Doubt of its arriving safe at Pensacola from whence it will be forwarded by the speediest method. I was obliged to advance him sixty Dollars on acct of the Cloathing, also for his Sergt Subsistence to the 24th of October next, which was twelve more, for which sum he gave me three Bills upon your Excellency, which shall not presume to send till I receive your further orders. Inclosed is a return of the State of the Garrison, Ammunition & Provisions. Shall by the first opportunity send you the best plan I possibly can of so irregular a fort, it consisting of nine angles, the houses inside built of wood, covered on top with bark and are at present in a very crazy condition but as the four artificers are here, hope soon to be able to put everything in proper order, and to your Excellencies satisfaction, both in regard to the treatment of the Indians and also to the supporting the Fort. We have at this place three canoes for use in cutting and supplying ourselves with wood and as the face of affairs may be changed with our Neighbors round about us, have purchased from Capt Lawrence two swivel Guns, as they will serve to protect my men in the Canoes when they proceed up and down the River, wood cutting, by preventing the too near approach of an Enemy. His demand was thirty Dollars, as I did not think the charge great on account of their utility, have taken the liberty of giving him an order for the said sum. By the return of the Detacht of this Garrison you will find that three men have deserted from it the 24th of July, am therefore deficient of the Complement of Men you ordered.

Propose acquainting Major Ogilvie of the State of the place by the first opportunity.

I am With the greatest Respect
Your Excellencies Most obedt. humbl Servant
James Pampellonne Lieut. 9th Regt.

I forgot to mention to your Excellency a Coil of Cordage taken up by Capt Harries for the use of the place, the charge of which I have inserted in the order given him for the Swivels.

* * *

Pampellonne to Gage

Apalache October 18th 1764

Sir,

Since the Departure of Capt Harries I received by the Sloop Courtney, John Williams, Master, the Dispatches you sent to Pensacola, and found them to be duplicates of those formerly sent to Capt. Harries but having never seen any of your Excellencies orders or instructions relative to this Garrison from him, am extremely glad they arrived.

In this sloop the two six pounders came which you ordered for this post, the charge of freightage amounts to thirty Dollars which I have paid and taken a proper receipt for. The Carriages came in the Live Oak from St. Augustine. Shall take care to place them where most useful.

On perusing your Excellencies letter I find Capt. Harries seem'd apprehensive of the bad designs of the Indians in this neighbourhood at present I cannot say I have any such apprehensions, but shall not act with less caution upon that account, as I have long ago perceived that the Creeks are grown extremely jealous of our proceedings, but cannot as yet bring the nation to be unanimous in breaking with us. Having been but a short time in this place, am not as yet able to send your Excellency any exact information of the Indian towns and families near this Fort. But as I am making strict inquiry into these things (by means of the inter-

preter Capt. Stuart left me) shall not fail by the first opportunity, sending an exact state of everything, as also the best plan, I can, of the place. I have appointed according to your Excellencies orders, notified to me in your Letter, Robert Dunbar Sergt. in this Regt., and a man who has always behaved himself extremely well, Barrack Master, to the Fort, till your pleasure is further known. The men of Capt. Harries's Company having lost all their bedding in their return from Pensacola to this Garrison, have thought it proper to mention it, as they have nothing to lie on. In my first letter to your Excellency I informed you of my having bought two swivels from Capt. Lawrence for which I gave him an order upon Col. Robertson, hope he will honour it. They will prove very serviceable in many respects.

Inclosed I send your Excellency an exact account of what is wanting in the barracks, as also the Dimensions of each room and the state they are in, drawn out by the Sergt. Hope by next spring to put the fort in a quite different order from what it is at present, and that my conduct shall be such as to meet with your approbation. I have likewise sent a list of what tools the artificers stand in need of. The Scythes I thought would be extremely necessary for keeping down the tall grass and thereby preventing any Indians from lurking in it.

The Indians coming frequently in small bodies to this Fort to get provisions, should be glad to have your Excellencies orders, relative thereto, as they oftentimes will not take a denial, having been so accustomed to get what they wanted from the Spaniards, who did not dare to refuse they anything. Wishing your Excellency a perfect enjoyment of health, with everything else desirable, I remain

With the greatest Respect

Your Excellencies Most Obedient and humble Servt.
James Pampellonne Lieut. 9 Regiment

RETURN OF THE PRESENT STATE OF THE BARRACKS IN THE GARRISON OF APPLATCHA
OCTR 16th 1764

297

	BEDDING					UTINCLES													
	Coverlids	Blankits	Paleyases	Pillow cases	Sheets	Potts	Fire shovels	Flesh forks	Tongs	Pot Hooks	Large Bowls	Small Do.	Trenchers	Spoons	Ledils	Buckits	Polkers	Coal Boxes	Candel Sticks
Servisable.....	23	20	4	4	19	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Unservisable.....	4	10	3	..	9	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wanting to Compleat	42	45	61	61	111	..	5	8	5	8	22	22	65	65	8	5	5	5	5
Totals.....	69	75	68	65	139	10	5	8	5	8	22	22	65	65	8	5	5	5	5

NB the number of the Detachment, artificers Included, now present - total 65

ROBT. DUNBAR, B:M:

STATE OF THE BARRACKS IN THE GARRISON OF APALACHE 16th OCTR 1764

Number of rooms		Feet	Inches	Feet	Inches
1	The Commanding officers two rooms.....	17	By	53.	
2	Ensign Hawkins and Doctor Jackson two rooms.....	17		19	
3	Soldiers Barracks two platformes one on each side.	26		17	
4	Soldiers Barracks two platforms one on each side.....	28		19	
5	Soldiers Barrachs two platforms one on each side.....	16		16	
6	Soldiers Barracks without any platform or Bed stead.	16		16	
7	the Guard house one Guard Bed But no Door.....	19		11	
8	a Small Room for Confinement.....	10		12	
9	one Store Room.....	18		17	
10	Store Room.....	18		17	
	5 small rooms without platforms or Bed steads.	10		8	
	One Stone Kitchen.....	10		12	
	4 Bumproofs one not finished outside the Garrison.....	33		19	
	one Kitchen for the soldiers out of repair Do	16		16	

NB the above Barracks all out of Repair for want of thatching and Boarding Being Covered with Bark the steers all break down, Lockes and Keys wanting for the Barrack Roomes.
 ROBT. DUNBAR B. M.

List of Carpenters & Smiths tools Wanted for the Garrison-Appalacha Viz :

- 2 Pitt saws and two Dozn. of files for the Same
- 2 Crosscut saws with one Dozn. files for Do.
- 4000 twenty Penny Nails
- 3000 Fifteen Penny Do.
- 3000 Twelve Penny Do.
- 2000 Thirty Penny Do.
- 1000 Brads of Different sorts, such as half inch: Inch; and
Inch & half
- Wanted for the Smith one Sawe plate one hand Vice
- Two scythes

James Pampellonne
Lieut. 9th Regt.

Pampellonne to Gage

Apalache Decr. 6th 1764

Sir,

In my letter to Your Excellency by way of Pensacola, dated in October last, I informed you of everything that had happened during the short time I had then been here. I can now have the pleasure of acquainting you that things are in a much better situation having since that time kept the Garrison employed at King's Works. I have burnt as much lime and charcoal for the Masons and Smiths, as will last me six or eight months. I have compleated an excellent stone well twenty-two feet deep within the Fort, which saves the trouble of sending seven or eight miles up the River everyday for water, and banishes all apprehensions I was under for the safety of my men, should the Indians break out. The Ditch around my fort I have likewise widened and deepened. The necessary repairs within the place I am carrying on also but fear I shall be obliged to put a stop to them before half compleated my reason for it is this. The artificers sent here by Your Excellency intend leaving this place as soon as their time is expired, should be extremely glad to know what steps I shall take concerning them as their leaving this place will greatly prejudice the service, and the works requi-

site to compleat the Fort Barracks &ca will take up much more time than the short space of four or five months will admit off. Menzies the Master Carpenter and his assistant are as serviceable men as his Majesty could possibly have in this place, and I shall find a great loss in them. The other two with good looking after do very well. I have a corpl in the garrison who is by trade a Mason. I have employed him also in making the well, repairing the oven, & several other jobs about the fort. I allow him half a pint of Rum per day but nothing more till I have the pleasure of hearing from you.

I enclose your Excellency a return of the state of my Garrison, the small number of sick down in it will prove the place to be far from unwholesome. I have also sent a lot of these things that are really wanted to compleat the magazine. In regard to the cannon we could very well mount two more on the Rampart with some swivels, should your Excellency think proper to allow them. But should you not think proper to allow them, am still able to maintain the Fort against the whole Creek Nation.

I have lately sent my Interpreter amongst them, in order to bring me an exact account of their towns, their distance from my Fort, as nigh as he can judge the number of Gunmen each town is capable of turning out, and the names of the Chiefs who have the most power and influence over them, with the means of their having obtained it. At his return I shall transmit the whole to your Excellency by way of St. Augustine to which place I shall dispatch an express in three or four weeks at farthest. The Chief Indians at present are all peaceably disposed and have sent me down good talks from every part.

The Master Carpenter has given me in writing a plan of a saw mill which can be made at a small expence only having a couple of saws sent or bought for that purpose and four horses to work it, as the men will never be able in the heat of the Weather to saw many boards, and he by that means would be able to go on the faster with the repairs wanting for the Garrison. The materials are all at hand, and he could do it all in two months. I have nothing farther to mention to your Excellency concerning this post but remain with the greatest respect

Your Excellencies Most obedient Most humble
Servant James Pampellonne

* * *

Gage to Pampellonne

New York Jany. 7th 1765

Sir :

I Have received Your Letter of the 18th of October inclosing a State of the Barracks at Appalache, a Return of the Bedding and Utenciles, and a List of Carpenters & Smith's Tools wanted for the use of your Garrison. You don't take notice of the Tools Sent you from hence. I dare Say the Person You have appointed as Barrack Master is proper for the Employment.

Lieut Col. Robertson will discharge the Acct: You Sent for the Swivel Guns which will be usefull in your Boats, likewise the thirty dollars of freightage for the Six Pounders.

It is lucky that You are on such good terms with the Indians, You must be as Sparing as You can of the Provisions, but You can't help giving them Some at Times when they come to You, tho' as little as Circumstances will admit.

The Return of Bedding and Tools will be given to Colonel Robertson, but nothing can be Sent You

by this Opportunity. I am well persuaded that You will put everything in the best order, and do every-thing proper for the Carrying on the Service.

I am, Sir, &ca

Lieut. Pompelone 9th Reg: at Appalache

* * *

Pampellonne to Gage

Jan. 21, 1765

Sir,

In my last to your Excellency by way of Carolina, bearing date the 6th of Decbr last, I mentioned everything I could then think of relative to the state of the Garrison. I must now beg leave to refer you to my letter of the 18th of October, in which I mentioned the distressful state the men of Capt. Harries's company where in at my arrival at this Fort.

As Capt. Harries has not concerned himself about it, hope your Excellency will not take amiss my memorialing you in their behalf, and as Major Ogilvie [is] commander the regiment have inclosed the Memorial to him, that he might send it to your Excellency. The men are really almost perish'd for want of bedding, and the cold in Winter is very severe here. Ensign Hawkins memorial will arrive at the same time, he has really been a great sufferer and is a very careful good officer. I have caused the Memorial to be dated the 18th of October last which was the time I first mentioned it to your Excellency. The Company was all compleat when they embarked, and they lost all their necessaries and bedding. I have all the provision money in my hands since I've been here, and should be glad to know what you choose should be done with it, as there is a great deal of working money due to the men of the Garrison. If you think proper

might pay them out of it. Inclosed I send your Excellency a return of the state of the Garrison, also the truest accounts I can procure of the towns around me, the number of gunmen they contain and the miles distant from the Fort. My stores of Artillery remain in the same situation as in my last. As my artificers intend quitting me when their time is up, I can employ a Smith and Mason from my own people if you choose, your Excellency can allow them anything you think proper, they are both good workmen. I have nothing further to inform you off, the Indians remaining very quiet at present. I oblige the Traders to inform me of all their motions, and when they had any talks among themselves I am soon acquainted with the Purport of it.

I am, With the greatest respect
Your Excellency's Most Obedient humbl Servt
James Pampellonne

Apalache Jan ye 21st 1765

* * *

Gage to Pampellonne

New York March 7th 1765

Sir,

I Received your Letter of the 29th September from Appalache, Inclosing a Return of the Detachment under Your Command, and a State of the Provisions and Ordnance Store in that. Garrison; I am sorry to understand that Lieut. Magra, has drawn you in to Advance him Money on any Account, as I Am afraid it may be Difficult to recover it ; He has passed from hence thro' the Carolina's, St. Augustin, &ca, and in every place has made use of Different pretences to borrow Money; I have mentioned to Captain Campbell Paymaster to the Regiment, who will be the Bearer of this,

to Endeavor to reimburse You, the Subsistence Advanced to the Sergeant.

I take this Opportunity to inform You, that the Strictest Economy must be attended to in respect of every Contingent Charge, and no Expence is to be incurred, till the Service Occasioning it, is approved of; And no Draughts are to be made for the future, on the Commander in Chief, but any Repairs &ca, that may be absolutely necessary, are to be represented previous to their being Undertaken to Major Ogilvie, who from the Advices He has lately been sent from hence, will know how to proceed, and give You further direction thereon.

I shall be obliged to You for the Plan of the Fort, and Environs, that You are pleased to say, You propose sending Me.

I am, Sir &ca

Lieut. Pampelone Appalachie.

Gage to Pampellonne

New York April 1st 1765

Sir :

I Am to Acknowledge the Receipt of Your Letters of the 6th December, and 21st January with the several Returns and other Inclosures, that of the 18th of October to which You make a reference in both, has never been received.

You will I hope before this reaches You, have received My Letter of the 7th of March, by which You'll see no Works are to be carried on, but such as are essentially Necessary, and approved of by Major Ogilvie; who must provide for the Expences attending the same, as no Bills are to be drawn for the future on the Commander in Chief.

I approve very much of the Works You have gone on with hitherto, that of the Well is usefull and may save the Lives of many Men, in Case of

any future Commotions with the Indians, but You must not apply the Money, Stopt for Provisions, to the Payment of the Artificers Wages, this Money being deducted from the Paymaster of Your Regiment he'll of course charge You therewith, and send You the less subsistence for the Company under Your Command, so that You'll not be able to pay Your Men, if You make such application thereof, You must regard this Money as Your Men's Subsistence, and by informing the Paymaster from time to time of what Sums You have in your hands from these Stoppages, he'll be able to regulate your Accounts, and it will save trouble to all parties.

The Payment of the Artificers &ca must be an after Consideration and you will hear further from Major Ogilvie on this Subject.

I am, Sir, &ca

Lieut. Pampelone
Commanding at Appalachie.

* * *

Pampellonne to Gage

Apr. 11, 1765

Sir,

I received yours of the 7th of Jany last and hope your Excellency will be satisfied with my proceedings here. The tools sent in from thence are all to the fore. Should have sent you the Return of them, but having at that time never been touch'd or made use of, did not indeed think of it. Hope your Excellency will not be displeas'd with me for it, as I have taken all the care possible of them.

In regard to the freightage of the two six pounders I paid Capt. Robert Mackinen of ye 35th Regt for them. The two swivels I gave a bill for on Col. Robertson.

The artificers time being expired, have fulfill'd the Contract between them and Col. Robertson, and have given bills for the Ballance of their pay with their two months advance upon him at New York, not having cash sufficient to pay them, they besides chusing rather to get Bills. The Indians are still very quiet and like me very well, fair words and few promises, is my method with them Sir, In regard to their getting Rum and provisions I give them as little as I can well help & tho' I plead poverty, yet all won't do they expecting it much. Inclosed I send Your Excellency an exact state of the Artificer's Money due, their two month's pay advance being added to their Ballance, their Receipts I inclose to Col. Robertson being in full of all demands. The two carpenters go by Land to Pensacola, the Smith and Mason are building a canoe to go by water.

I have put the fort in such order as to render all attempts from the Indians fruitless. Numbers of their Chiefs have been down here and always re-

RETURN OF THE DETACH. OF THE 9TH. REGIMENT & ROYAL ARTILLERY,
APALACHE, APRIL 10TH. 1765

REGIMENTS	Commissioned Officers present fit for duty			Non commissioned officers present fit for duty		Effective rank and file		
	Captain	Lieutenant	Ensn	Sergeants	Drumms	Fit for duty	Sick present	Total
Detacht. of the 9th.....		1	1	2	1	55	1	56
Royal artillery.	3	....	3
Total.	1	1	2	1	58	1	59

N.B.: John Vipond gon to New York, with Capt. Harries, on account of his being in an unfirm state of health.

JAMES PAMPELLONNE
Lieut. 9th Regt.
Commanding at Apalache

turn'd well satisfied. I shall do my utmost endeavour to keep well with them, and hope every-thing will be carried on to your satisfaction.

I am with the greatest Respect

Yr Excellencies Most Obedt humble Servt

James Pampellonne

Apalache

April ye 11th 1765

Footnote: The Carpenters tools and the others are all safe and locked up. My provisions will last till the Latter end of July. The Small species of Provisions are nigh expended, they were only to last six months and have now served seven.

* * *

Pampellonne to Gage

St. Marks Octobr y 11th 1765

Sir,

In the last letter I had the honour of writing you by the way of Pensacola, I informed your Excellency of the necessity I was under of Chartering a Schooner at that time in the River, to bring Provisions from that place, those in my Fort being within a week or so totally expended. Since that letter I received from Governor Grant a supply of thirty-nine Barrls of flour & ten of Pork, just as mine were quite out. The vessel sailed from Augustine y 10th of July and did not arrive here till ye 9th of Septr. which long passage made me imagine some accident had happen'd her and was the occasion of my taking the above Step, the Better to preserve my Garrison, and keep my men in due order. The vessel is since that arrived from Pensacola but without supplies. The Governor there having heard that I had recd some. The Charter party is not paid, till such time as the affair of the Protest, which the Governor informs me he will enter, is settled. As he seem'd to Blame me, the answer I returned him was, viz, that

what I had done was really for the best and that I should have rendered myself culpable to your Excellency had I not done it, being well afraid the Garrison would otherwise have been evacuated.

Don't imagine I shall be at this post, by the time this letter will arrive to your Excellency, being informed by my commanding officer that I am to be relieved. Shall leave the Fort quite differently situated from what I found it. And happy if I have had the good luck to meet with your approbation. I was so nearly distressed once that I was obliged to send my Interpreter and one of my men to the Nation to buy all the Corn they could and bring it down. They brought me one large Canoe load.

John Lindsay of the Royal Artillery belonging to the Detachment at Pensacola and sent here by Col: Robertson, till some could arrive from St. Augustine, was sent to his Command there, according to an order I had received from Major Ogilvie.

Inclosed your Excellency has a return of the State of my Garrison. Have pursuant to your order drawn no bills upon the Government, but paid for the Rice and Pork I got out of the Pensacola Schooner and shall charge in the Contingent Account. The working money in Capt. Harries's time and mine have sent in to the Paymaster with each man's name signed to the sum.

I am, With the greatest respect
Yr Excellencies Most obedt. & most humble servt.
James Pampellonne

* * *

Johnstone (Governor of West Florida)
to Pampellonne

Pensacola 18th September 1765

Sir,

As I understand a Schooner was met near your Port with the Provisions you press so earnestly

for, I have therefore despatched this vessel immediately, that you may settle with him.

It appears a very extraordinary Proceeding to me to enter into a Charter Party at Appalache, by which the voyage is to begin there, for so large a sum for so small a vessel, which is taken up on The King's account, and arrives loaded with Skins, and yet the Person will not dissolve the Charter Party, tho' he has been at no Expence.

Surely Sir, this vessel could have been taken up cheaper here than there, and you deprived me of the Power of sending it for nothing in the King's Boats. Upon the whole, it appears to me an improper Transaction. That an Interpreter should not trade. That Ward is unworthy of your Favor.

It is very probable he will not sail immediately with this Dispatch. In which case, I shall enter my protest, and therefore You will have good Cause not to pay him.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant
G. W. Johnstone

Lieut. Pampellonne Comm.g. at Apalache)

* * *

Gage to Pampellonne

New York 19th Novm. 1765

Sir

Yours of the 1st Sep. I received the 17th Instant, I am extremely sorry to find you were drove to such extremities for want of Provisions, and can't but approve of every step you took to procure them. For the Future You will please to send all returns relative to your Fort, to Colonel Taylor, who will use every Endeavor to furnish it with what may be necessary.

I am sorry it is not in my power, to give you any hopes in regard to Mr. Magra's Affair, in

short he is so bad a man, and so much in Debt. to the Regt. that the commanding officer of it, has order's, to dispose of his Commission, as soon as it arrives in England, what is become of him, I cannot learn, he is so Worthless I fear Many of his Creditor's will Suffer, for he has defrauded every person that he could impose on, I think it will be necessary for you to send in your Charge to the Commanding Officer of the 22d. Regiment, who will Consider it if in his Power.

I am Sir &ca.

T. G.

(This series will be continued in the next number)