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## From A Remote Frontier

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FROM A REMOTE FRONTIER

**LETTERS AND REPORTS PASSING BETWEEN THE COMMANDERS AT APALACHE (ST. MARKS), GOVERNOR GRANT AT ST. AUGUSTINE, GENERAL HALDIMAND AT PENSACOLA, AND GENERAL GAGE, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF AT NEW YORK, 1766-1767.**

*Swettenham to Gage*

Apalachie 13th Janry 1766

Sir,

I arrived here the 9th of December 1765, together with Ensn Wright & Mr. Doyson-Surgeons Mate, to the Hospital, to relieve Lieut. Pampellonne, Ensign Hawkins and Mr. Jenkins, Surgeons Mate, to the 9th regiment. We had a journey of three hundred & odd miles; through the Creek nation, the Indians seem to be very quiet, & well disposed at present, if I had a few Baubels and some Rum to give them: I would make them very servisable, but their is neither presents nor much provision, till a Ship comes; they are a People that won't trust, & as they know, there is little to give them, they will not come near the Fort. I inclose your Excellency a return of the State of the Garrison, Artillery, & Ordinance Stores, as likewise, one of the Barracks Signed by Sergt Dunbar, who conformable to your orders to Lieut. Pampellonne, was appointed Barracks Master to the Garrison, the tenth of October 1764. he has ever since acted in that capacity & begs of me to ask your Excellency what Salary

Note-This series of documents has been edited with an introduction by Mark F. Boyd (see this *Quarterly*, the issue of January 1941). 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 from the Public Archives of Canada, to whom grateful acknowledgment is made. *Ed.*

you choose to allow him, & on whom he is to draw for it: You will see by the Return of the Barracks, that they are very much out of repairs, they are so very bad, that when it rains, the men can't keep anything dry in their Rooms. If there is not something done to them ; in a short time, they will entirely go to ruin; Mr. Moncrieff, the Engineer told me when I was leaving St. Augustine, that he intended to come here, in a few months but if he should not, & if your Excellency will allow me, whatever sum you may think it worth ; I will endeavour to get them put in some sort of order. The Fort in my opinion is in very good condition, and I think with ammunition, provision & sixty men, it might hold out any time against any number of Indians. Ensign Hawkins, Mr. Wright's predecessor, was appointed in consequence of an order from Colonel Robinson, a Commissary for this Garrison. Mr. Wright now acts in that capacity, & he would look on it as a particular favour, if your Excellency would inform him what salary he is to receive & on whom he is to draw for it.

I am Sir,

Your Excellencys most obedt.

Most Humble Servant

George Swettenham Lieut : 9th Regt.

[W. L. Clements Library]

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*Gage to Swettenham*

New York June 10th 1766

Sir,

I received your letter of the 13th January, with the Return therein mentioned, and am sorry to find that Your Barracks are so much out of Repair, As You are in the District of Brigadier Taylor, You will report to him every thing relative to Your Post, who will give Necessary Orders, for

Repairs of Barracks &ca. As the Commissary and Barracks Master General must fix the allowance, given to the Commissary and Barrack Master at Your Post, this belonging particularly to their Departments, I shall speak to Colonel Robertson to write about the Barrack Master; With respect to Your Commissary his pay was fixed at One Shilling Sterling pr. Day, but as he is under the Commissary General of East Florida, he is the Person who must be spoke to, and who must Settle that Affair, from the time he was appointed Commissary General of the. Province.

I am glad to find that the Savages are peaceably inclined and hope they will continue so.

I am, Sir, &ca

Lieut. Swettenham, Appalachie

[W. L. Clements Library]

*Pampellonne to Gage*

St. Augustine June 21st  
1766

Sir,

I had the honour of receiving your two last letters the one of the 19th Novbr & the other y 26th April both on the same day. The happiness I felt in meeting with your Excellencies approbation, I cannot in words sufficiently express, as also your obliging terms relative to Mr. Magra's affair, in which your desire I would send in the charge to the commanding officer of the Regt. I have some accounts of his by me, but imagining they would be of no great service to me have never sent them, one of them is a receipt from Mr. Fish of this place, for the sum of one hundred and five mill'd Dollars for freightage of the clothing from Georgia to this post. Others are relative to some disbursed on the said account. In regard to what he got

## FROM A REMOTE FRONTIER

385

from me I can assure your Excellency that had I not advanced him some, the cloathing of the Regt run a risque of being totally spoilt, by the time it would have arrived at Pensacola. I had all the Bales put on shore at Providence in order to be opened and air'd and was obliged to hire People to repack them in the same manner. I paid in the same place six Dollars for the use of a large flat, which I employed, in carrying the Bales to and fro' from the schooner, and which I have charged to my Contingent account. It is deliver'd in to Brigadier Taylor, who in his Return from Pensacola will I hope be pleased to consider of it.

By Your Excellencies Letter of the 26th of April I find Governor Grant is displeas'd at my having chartered a vessell to bring me provisions from Pensacola. I am very sorry, Sir, I should offend any person, but dare venture to assert that every officer who had been of my standing in the Service would have acted in the same manner for the good of that Service. If your Excellency will please to consider the situation the men were in, your opinion of this affair will still I hope happily continue in my favour. As it is necessary for me to begin somewhat higher than my own time of commanding, hope my letter will not be too tedious to your Excellency. After Capt. Harries's unfortunate accident and before the arrival of a vessell from Major Ogilvie, the men were in great distress, at her coming they got some present relief but were always at short allowance, till such time as Capt. Lawrence and myself arrived there. The Provisions got from the Live Oak and the few I brought in the transport, were judg'd by Ens Hawkins, who acted as commissary, to be sufficient for the Garrison for nine months. The men having for a long time before my arrival, been at four or five Rations per week, I advis'd with Mr. Hawkins, and allow'd

them full rations for about seven weeks at the expiration of which time I reduc'd it to six and from that to five without them feeling any want as the Indians were continually bringing in fresh provisions, which I encouraged in them to the utmost of my power, sometimes by the delivery of a few trifling presents to them, sometimes by giving them some Rice or Bread, which was their general Cry and on which subject I received a letter from Your Excellency in which you was pleased to approve of my giving them some now and then. As I constantly sent a Regular return of what Provisions were in the store both to Governor Grant and my Commanding Officer, they could not fail of knowing how the Garrison stood effected, and therefore sending a Supply before that ran out. The vessell the Governor sent from hence had unfortunately a passage of eight weeks, from whence I had just reason to imagine some Accident had befell her, besides Sir, not knowing she had sail'd, could not form any judgement when she might be expected. The Best part of the Months of July and August we were at very short allowance and oblig'd to live upon clams and oysters, it not being the seasons for Indians to hunt. The Men being constantly oblig'd to be in the water in that hot time of the year it threw many of them into sickness. About the beginning of the month of August a vessell came in from Pensacola with some goods for the Interpreter, at that time there was in the store a Barrell of Flour and one of Pork, but having luckily brought me a Barrell of Pork and a Cask of Rice, which I had wrote for, for my own use, I threw them into the King's store, judging that my private interest was of no weight when so many were concern'd. therefore charg'd the same as I was. I further bought from the Master of the vessell a Barrell of Pork and half

## FROM A REMOTE FRONTIER

387

a cask of rice he had to spare. Some time before this happen'r Ens Hawkins came up to me to inform me of the shortage of the provisions, and to consult about methods of procuring some. We then fell upon the scheme of sending the Interpreter into the Nation to buy Corn from the Indians and with that view gave him some things out of the present goods, but not having any strouds by me was oblig'd to take a piece from him for which he charged me thirty Dollars, an also seven more for his trouble in going up. The latter, Sir, I don't think he has by any means a right to, being paid by his Majesty, and also the only person I could send upon such an emergency, besides his speaking the language. Your Excellency I hope will be pleas'd to take it into your consideration. Toward the latter end of August, the provisions growing shorter and the men grumbling very much, I began to consider of chartering the above mentioned vessell, but upon consulting with Mr. Hawkins, deferr'd it till the last day of the month, hoping the vessell might appear in sight by that time, but none coming charter'd her on ye 1st of Septr. at the same time making this agreement that if the said vessell should meet with her before she had got out of the Bay the Charter party was to be null and void. About ye 8th and 9th of the same month the vessell appeared in sight from this place. At the return of the vessell I chartered I rec'd a Letter from Governor Johnstone who having rec'd intelligence that I had got a supply, sent me none, at the same time disapproving of my conduct, and informing me that he would enter his Protest against it and therefore I could have good cause not to pay him. A secon'd letter I rec'd from him seems intirely to confute the first. I refer your Excellency to the two Letters which I inclose. There was no demurrage Sir in the Case.

Had any sinister accident happened I should in all probability have incurred your Excellencies displeasure for not having done what I did. It would have rendered me very unhappy from the goodness you have been pleased to show me of which I shall always retain the most grateful remembrance. I beg your Excellencies pardon for troubling you so much, but hope from your wonted goodness you'll excuse it. I remain

With the most profound respect

Yr. Excellency's Most obedient and oblig'd  
humble servt

James Pampellonne

[W. L. Clements Library]

**A FARE ROLL OF THE DETACHMENT OF THE 9TH REGIMENT APALACHE**

1st Oct. 1766

Robt. Bates, Sergt	Willm Humphries
James Hart, Corporal	Alexr Harkless
Richd Buttler, Drumr	Willm Karnathan
Hugh Alford	Timy Larkin
James Brien	John Mackie
John Bailey	Willm Manlie
Joab Basset	Saml Moodey on comand
John Blackham	James McDonald
Willm Chatham	Willm Paul
Willm Craddock	Isaac Price
Joseph Chilcott	Simd Rowland
Thos Cock	Willm Todd
Daniel Dibble	John Tomnshend
John Fisher	John Welsh
Conrod Froddinburg	Saml Williams
Benjn Grigg	Willm Warloys Gunner Artillery
Thos Griffiths	Willm Martross do

[Public Archives of Canada, Haldimand Series, vol. 17, p. 92]

Note-The roll checks closely with the report of item 47. It shows a distinct reduction in the force as reported in the enclosure to item 32.

*Grant to Jenkins*

31st December, [1766]

Council Chamber St Augustine

Sir,

Ensign Wright the present Commanding Officer



## FROM A REMOTE FRONTIER

389

at St. Marks Appalache informs me in his letter of the 27th ultimo (which I lately received by express) that the fort was much damaged the 23d of October last in a Hurricane which begun at four in the Morning and continued with great violence till nine the water rising twelve foot higher than it dos in Spring tides Mr. Wright mentions that he saved with some difficulty the ammuni- tion and the Greatest part of the Provision. The Et. Florida Schooner sails in a few days with a supply of Provisions for the Garrison of St. Marks it would be imprudent to leave that Fort in a defenceless state for any time as it is situated in the center of a powerfull Indian Nation I must therefore desire you to order Mr. Moncrief the Engineer to proceed with the two Ordnance carpenters who are upon the establishment of this Province on board the Et. Florida Mr. Moncrief is to put the Fort of St. Marks in a state of defence against any attack which may be unexpectedly made by Indians and he is to make such repairs in the Magazines as he shall think necessary for the Preservation of His Majesty's Stores & Provisions whatever expence is incured for the service which I have pointed out shall be paid when Mr. Moncrief returns the repairs of the Barracks and any additions which may be thought necessary for the security of the Fort must be postponed [!] till a report has been made to the Commander in Chief of His Majestys Forces in America, as my instructions is only to provide for the safety of the troops upon the present emergency, it would be improper to put Government to any expence by hiring other artificers in room of those of the Ordnance you will therefore give directions to postpone the work which the two carpenters are employed upon till their return to this place.

When Mr. Moncrief has completed the service which he is now ordered upon, he may either return with the artificers by the East Florida or by land as he shall think proper.

I am, Sir, Your most humble servant  
James Grant.

A true copy

[Signed] Wm. Jenkins.

[Public Archives of Canada, Haldimand Series, vol. 17, p. 305]

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*Jenkins to Gage*

Sir:

I was Honored with your Excellencys Letter of the 2st November. The Corpl and seven recruits for the 9th Regiment arriv'd here on Fryday last. Lieut Swettenham of the 9th Regimt came here the same day Express from Pensacola he was sent by the Brigadier in a vessell belonging to Mr Henderson which was to have cald at St Augustine but met with bad Whouthter [*sic*] at Sea and put into Charles Town in Distress.

I recv'd a Letter from Ensign Wright the Commanding Officer at Apalach dated the 27th November by Express, acquainting me that on the 23d October at four o'clock in the Morning, they were alarmed with the Water Dashing against the Fort Gate, being much higher than they ever had seen it there, the Wind was Easterly, but soon came to the Southard, and blew very hard, at 9 o'clock the Water was Six Foot high in the Fort, and about 12 Foot higher than the Common Spring Tides. He Says that had not the Wind Changed to the Westward at 9 o'clock, he believes the Fort would have been Washed down. The Outward Fort Gate was washed down, the Picketts round the Fort were wash'd away, the Inward Fort Gate was Forced open The Front of the Bumproofs ruin'd

FROM A REMOTE FRONTIER

391

and most of the Doors and Windows Wash'd away, the greatest part of the bark blown of [f] the Mens barracks, Two Centry Boxes broken to Pieces, the Blacksmiths Fire place wash'd away, Ten Thousand shingles Wash'd away, and several Chord of Wood Wash'd away. The Indian presents all Damaged and one Cask of Rice and half a Cask of Peas.

I received a Letter from His Excellency Governor Grant Dated the 31st December, a Copy of which I send you Inclosed, desiring that Mr Moncrief the Engineer might be sent with the two Carpenters who are upon the Establishment of this Province to Repair the Damage done to the Fort. I have sent Mr Moncrief with the two Carpenters and a Soldier belonging to the 9th Regiment who is by Trade a Mason on Board the East Florida who sail'd with Twelve Months Provisions for that Garrison. I have the honour to be

Sir, Your Excellencys

Most Humble and Most obedt Servant

Wm Jenkins, Capt 9th Regimt

St. Augustine

Jany 13th 1767

[W. L. Clements Library]

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*Gage to Haldimand*

New York March 20th 1767

Sir :

\* \* \* \* \*

Capt. Jenkins of the 9th Regt. has acquainted me in a letter from St. Augustine of 13th Jany that the Post of Appalachi had been near overflowed by a surprizing high Tide; and that great damage has been done to the Fort. Gov. Grant applied to Capt. Jenkins upon this occasion that Engineer Moncrieffe and some artificers might be sent to put the Fort immediately in a state of Defence,

but leaves the Repairs of Barracks and other matters, which Report should be made to me. You will be so good to look into this affair, but do as little as possible in it. And if you know any use in this post to the Service you will acquaint me of it.

I am with great Regard,  
Sir, Your most obedient humble servant,  
Thos. Gage

to Brigdr. Genl Haldimand.

[Public Archives of Canada, Haldimand Papers]

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New York April 30th 1767

*Gage to Grant*

Sir,

Captain Jenkins of the 9th Regiment has acquainted me of the Danger that has threatened the little Post of Appalachie, and of the Damage it has Sustained by the Extraordinary rise of the waters. I hope everything has been done for its' immediate Security in the manner You have directed; And I have wrote to Brigadr Genl Haldimand, concerning the State of the Barracks, and other Repairs that may be wanted. Upon all the Enquirys I have made concerning the use or Importance of that Post, the Reports made me are that no Traders resort thither, or were there any accounts of Settlers going there. You will be the best and properest Judge of these matters, and I would therefore beg the favor of You to acquaint me of what use You conceive that Place at present to be?, or whether You think it worth the Expence of Maintaining? The present Plan is to retrench Expences, and to Collect Scattered Troops as much as possible.

We hear frequently of Numbers of Settlers Embarking for your Government, but no accounts that

your neighbors have any prospect of Increase: I Heartily wish every thing may proceed agreeable to your Intentions, Having the Honor to be with great Regard,

Sir

&ca

His Excellcy Govr Grant  
St. Augustine  
[W. L. Clements Library]

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*Haldimand to Gage*                      *Transl. from the French*  
Pensacola, April 31 [sic], 1767  
By Mr. Sullivan

Sir :                      \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*

For several months there has not been any news from the Apalachees, I shall send an officer there as soon as it is possible, to find out the condition of the post, and to prevent their making any use- less expense. I am not yet sufficiently informed about its importance to give you my opinion about it, but at any rate I believe that an officer and twenty are sufficient there, and I shall withdraw the rest here at the first opportunity.

\*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*

[Public Archives of Canada, Haldimand Papers]

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*Haldimand to Gage*                      *Transl. from the French*  
June 16, 1767 [In reply to his  
letter of May 1st.]

Sir:                      \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*   \*

Lieut. Pittman left on the 12th for the Apa- lachees with the surveyor (Mr. Gauld) who is em- ployed by the Admiralty to draw up the chart of

these coasts. I hope that they will be back soon and that I shall be able to send you an exact statement of that post, and that you may judge of its usefulness by their report. \* \* \*

[Public Archives of Canada, Haldimand Papers]

RETURN OF THE GARRISON OF APALACHE BELONGING TO 9th REG OF FOOT  
JULY Ye 8th 1767

Companies	Officers Present				Non commiss'd		Effective Rank & File					Since last Return							
	Captain	Lieutenant	Ensign	Surgeons Mate	Sergeants	Drummers	Fitt for Duty	Sick Present	On command	Recruiting	On Furlow	Total	recruited	Dead	Deserted	Discharged	Recommended	Join'd	Removed
Genl Whitmore...				1			1	1				3							
Lieut Col. Taylor							4					4							
Major Ogilvies...			1				1	1				2							
Capt. Harris's...			1		1	1	14		26			40							
Capt. Algwards...							1					1							
Capt. Jenkins...							1	4				5							
Capt. Peytons...							6					6							
Total.....			2	1	1	1	28	1	32			61							

N. B. Capt. Harris absent Oct. ye 5th 1764 by leave of Gen. Gage.  
Lieut Swettenham absent Octb. ye 2d 1766 by his Majestys leave  
The one on command Genl. Pensacola. The one on command Major's, Pensacola  
One Serjt. Capt. Harris's on command, Pensacola. Of the above 26 of Capt. Harris's Company, 18 on command Pensacola; 8 at St. Augustine; the 4 of Capt. Jenkins's on command 3 at Pensacola.  
1 at St. Augustine. ... The two Artillery fitt for duty  
1 man of Capt. Harris's Company sent on command to Pensacola since the above was wrote.

JAMES WRIGHT  
Ensign in the 9th Regt. Commanding at Apalache

[PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA, Haldimand Series, Vol. 17, p. 138.]

*Wright to Haldimand*

Fort St. Marks, Apalacha

July 9th 1767

Sir,

I was favoured with yours by Mr. Pittman and all expresses sent here for St. Augustine I shall be able to forward at all times of the year provided there be horses and saddles allowed. I was obliged to send my own this last time, as to the communication from here to Pensacola Mr. Pittman can inform you better than I can, I wanted to send to Pensacola after the. Flood but could not get an Indian to go.

Ensign Moncrieff, Engineer, was sent here last Jany. by His Excellency Governor Grant but he did nothing to the Barracks which are in very bad repair, the Guard house is irreparable, the cisterns leaky. The oven small and badly situated. When Mr. Sinnolt came here, there was no other place for him but a very damp casement. I have sett four men to work to put the room next to mine in tolerable repair for him till I have the pleasure of receiving your orders.

I have the honour of inclosing you the returns of the state of the Garrison, Barracks, Barrack Tools, Artillery, Stores, and Provisions stores &c.

Doctor Dyason has informed me that one of the men is so bad with a cairus bone that he despairs of curing him here with the medicines he has here and he fears delaying of it till medicines could come from St. Augustine, would be attended with fatal consequences I thought proper to send him by Mr. Gall. [Gauld]

The cloathing belonging to the party of this Regiment at Pensacola have been here some time and I am afraid will be spoild before I have an oppor-

tunity of sending it as we have not a dry place to keep it in.

I am Sir, Your most obedient servant  
James Wright

[Addressed :] to Frederick Haldiman Esq.  
[Public Archives of Canada, Haldimand Series]

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*Haldimand to Wright*

July 29, 1767

Sir,

I take the opportunity of Mr. Barrow a merchand of this place, who sailes for Appalachia, to answer your letter of the 9th of July, delivered to me by Mr. Pittman ; who acquaintes me likewise of the bad situation of your barracks, and gard house, since there is a positif order not to be at any expence about, untill I receive proper directions from the Commander in chief, you will therefore keep them in the best order you can without expence, and by what I here of the situation of your post, you can with a little industry make it comfortable and prevent the casernat spoiling. You will likewise, make as much Garden as you can since the Provisions runs a great risk before they arrive at your post it would be an advantage, if your peoples, by dint of the green an roots they may raise and the fish they may kill, could leave [live] with only apart of the rations they would spare, and leave [live] in a more wholesome manner ; you could likewise breed hens, pigeons &c. which would be a great resource for you and your party, in short it is necessary in this part of the world to be industrious and by that means prevent your people to leave [live] to much upon salt provisions besides that digging gardens in the proper season is a very wholesome exercise for them.



**FROM A REMOTE FRONTIER**

397

The sick man you send is in the hospital and will be taken care of.

I send the return of the number of clothing wanted for the party of the 9th quartered here, you will be pleased to send them by the return of the vessell. I have likewise desyred the master of it, to balast sayd vessell, with stonnes and to take as much of it as he conveniently can, as it is by way of a tryall, and for H. M. Service, you will be pleased to assist him with sufficient nombre of men to load and for the future never to let any of these stones be carried away, except by my orders.

Mr. Sinot the Indian Comisary having proper directions from Mr. Steward [Stuart] the Superintendant about regulating the trade and other Indian matters, you will give him all asistance he may be in want of; and keep prisonner in your fort any person he should find necessary to have arrested ; he requiring it to you in writing.

[unsigned]

[Public Archives of Canada, Haldimand Series vol. 17, p. 311]