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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, JOHN STUART, SUPERINTENDENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS, AND GENERAL GAGE, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, AT NEW YORK, 1768-1769

(Stuart to Gage)

Charles Town 17 May 1768

Sir :

* * * I also inclose your Excellency's copy of a talk delivered by a Creek Indian in the Cherokee Nation to the Young Warrior of Estatoe, Saluy who communicated it to Ensign Keough Commanding at Fort Prince George, it is expressive of much Malevolence to the back Inhabitants of this Province & Georgia. The Creeks who frequent the Cherokee Towns are considered by their Countrymen as Renegados & outlaws, most of them were concerned in the murders of our people and other Insults so often complained of, for which it would be dangerous for them to return home, they have an interest in promoting, and would obtain safety by, a Rupture between their Nation & us; and probably the Author of the Talk is one of or nearly connected with them; it does not seem to be the sense of the Creek Nation in general, who have of late behaved inoffensively to the Traders and inhabitants of the Province. By the Two inclosed

NOTE - This series of documents has been edited with an introduction by Mark F. Boyd (see this *Quarterly*, the issue of January 1941). This is the eighth and last instalment and includes documents from the W. L. Clements Library of the University of Michigan and from the Public Archives of Canada, to whom grateful acknowledgment is made. Letters from or to St. Marks are reproduced in full, but only pertinent paragraphs are extracted from those which refer only incidentally to that post. Though the documents have been brought together from numerous sources the series is uncommonly complete, and tells the full story of St. Marks during the British occupation. Ed.

abstracts of Mr. Sinnots letters it seems that the Spaniards have been tampering with them, but as there are white Traders in every Town in the Nation I think it impossible that any Persons with Supplies of ammunition can have been amongst them without my being made acquainted with such a material circumstance. Mr. Roderick Mackintosh is entirely silent upon the subject. * * *

I have the Honour of being with the greatest Respect,

Sir, Your Excellency's Most Obedient and most
humble servant

John Stuart

(W. L. Clements Library)

(Sinnott to Stuart)

(Extract of a Letter from Mr. Pierce Acton Sinnott Dated Saint Marks Appalachie 1st March 1768)

An old Indian Fellow arrived here with his Family from the Eastward the 1st of February, he informed me that he saw on a large Bay near Clousahatchie (I suppose the Bay of Tampa) three two masted Spanish vessels, two of them were at anchor, the third under sail comming into the Bay, comming pretty near to one of them he was beckoned and in the Creek tongue desired to come on Board and smoke; that they wanted to talk, which he says he did not care to do, he observed that they did not send a boat after him, I inquired if they had any cannon, he said he saw none but heard great guns fired.

(W. L. Clements Library)

St. Marks, Appallache 2nd March 1868

(Sinnott to Stuart)

Sir,

I had the Honor of writing to you yesterday by John Sellers who is going to Saint Augustine but

did not set out till this morning. I have just received a Letter from John Mealy at the Tomautly in which there is the following Paragraph.

I have no news to send only that the Indians who went to the Havannah are returned home & look very gay in their Spanish Cloaths. The Pack-horseman who is come down says that they arrived about a Week or Ten days ago, and are dressed in rich loud Cloaths. The Indian Fellow who follows Sellers with this hath just told me that a great part of the Nation want the Spaniards to live near them as they should then be better of [f] than now & that they have offered them Lands about the River Appallachicola, he further says that a great many Headmen are to meet next Moon to deliberate upon some great Affair, you are best Judge Sir if this Intelligence is any way Material or not, but I thought my duty to give you the Earliest Intelligence as well as His Excellency Governor Grant. I shall write tomorrow to Mr. McIntosh and to the Traders in my district & shall desire the Latter to be very attentive to what passes and to make as much Enquiry as they can with prudence.

If I can get 3 or 4 Men I propose going in a Boat to the Westward, & should I see a Spanish vessel shall push for Pensacola, as it may be of service that some of the Kings ships know of it.

I am with the greatest Respect Sir Your Most Obedient & most Hble Servant

Pierce A. Sinnott

(W. L. Clements Library)

(Haldimand to Gage. Transl. from the French)

Pensacola, April 20, 1768

Sir :

* * * This is the third time that the post of the Apalachees has been reduced to an almost entire

lack of provisions. If it is kept it will be proper to give it provisions from here, and I think it will be easy to make different contractors consent to it; I have meantime, sent provisions of wheat, they had for some time been reduced to famine. * * *

I sent a few days ago a sergeant and nine men of the 21st Regiment to replace the garrison of St. Mark, which I have ordered to go by land to St. Augustine. The schooner will bring here their baggage and those who are not in a state to make this journey will be made into an independent company. * * *

(*W. L. Clements Library*)

Return of His Majesties ordnance and stores present on the Garrison of Appalachia the 7, 1768

	<i>Serviceable</i>	<i>Unserviceable</i>
Iron Ordnance mounted on Garrison carrags, 6 prs	2	
Iron Ordnance Mounted on Garrison carrags, 4 prs	2	
Swivel Gunns 1/2 pounders	2	
Shot fixed to wooden bottom) Round 6 prs	84	15
and flannel cartridges, round case 6 prs	84	16
Shot piled for the 6 prs	397	
Shot piled for the 4 prs	96	
Empty flannell cartridges 6 prs		14
Empty paper cartridges 6 prs	370	
Tin tubes primed	300	200
port fires	71	10
port sticks 4		1
slow match pound	50	10
Lint stocks with locks	2	
Do without locks 6		
Steel spikes	6	
punches	5	
Hammers		1
Tand Hydes	3	1
Powder horns	2	1
Priming Irons	8	
Spunges with staves & Rammer heads 6 prs	2	
Spunges with staves & Rammer heads 4 prs	2	
Ladles with Staves 6 prs	1	
Ladles with Staves 4 prs		1
Aprons of Lead	6	
Spunge caps painted	4	

Sheep skins	3	6
Sponge tacks	84	
Mens Harness Setts		2
Cartouches of leather		1
Budge Barrels with coper Hoops	1	1
Corn'd powder Barrels with Hoops	8	4
Corn'd powder wooden Hoop'd 84 expd.		1
Musquet cartridges made up	5,538	
Musquet Balls	9,822	
	<i>Serviceable</i>	<i>Unserviceable</i>
Musquet Flints	1,823	
Twine Pounds	1	1
Paper for Musquet cartridges Qrs	5	
Scisers pairs		5
Tar'd marlin skains	1	
Lanthorns Muscova		2
Lanthorns Dark	1	1
Formers for musquet cartridges	10	
Seven empty powder Barrells with 24 coper Hoops on them		
Chest Laboratory	2	
Candles pounds	55	
Powder measure of tin to hold 2 lbs	1	
Entrenching tools		
Felling axes		1
pick axes	6	1
Hand bills	3	
Hand Barrows	3	
Whell Barrows		3
Hand Hatchets	4	
Spades	6	
Shovels	2	
Earth Rammers	2	
Wedges of Iron	3	
Iron Hoops for Beatills	2	
Buckets of Wood with Iron Hoops	2	
Phrows for Spliting shingles	1	
Cross cut saw	1	
Pitt saw	1	
Files for saw two each nature	4	
twenty penny nails	1,000	
ten penny nails	2,000	
Screw plate for the Smith	1	
Hand vice for Smith	1	
fork for wadd'ls	100	

N. B. New Stocks for the swivels wanting, and the port Holes doors and chains and locks quite unserviceable oil is greatly wanted for the tools and garrison locks the Flag Staff and Haylards quite unserviceable.
N. B. Recd. a new flagg from the commanding officer of Artillery at St. Augustine.

John Weir Serjt. R.N.B. Fuziliers

Endorsed: Return of his Majesties
stores &c. in the Garison of Apalache, 7th June 1768
(Public Archives of Canada)

(Gage to Grant)

New York June 25th, 1768

Sir :

I have the honor to acquaint you that you will have a large Reinforcement of His Majesty's Troops at St. Augustine, as soon as it will be possible to Transport them thither from their present Stations. The Company's of the 9th Regiment now in Bermuda, and New Providence, it is probable, will be first with you, and I hope from the Barracks building at the Church of St. Francis, and by the help of the Old Quarters, those Company's may soon be provided with Lodgements.

Besides the above two Companys of the Ninth Regiment, Brigadier General Haldimand will embark from Pensacola for St. Augustine about Fifteen Companys of the 21st and 31st Regiments, who must encamp till Barracks are provided for them. And as it will be Necessary to Build Barracks for that Number as soon as it can be conveniently be done, I Am to beg of you to Assist us by Allotting a proper spot of Ground for the purpose.

Amongst other important objects, I have lately received His Majesty's Commands to withdraw the Garrisons from all the Forts, as well in the Interior as the Settled parts of the Colonies, not immediately necessary to facilitate Commerce, or for Public Safety. On this Account I Am to direct Brigadier General Haldimand to abandon the Fort of St. Marks, And to desire you would inform the Brigadier concerning the Disposal of said Fort when the Troops shall be, withdrawn. Whether you would have it entirely dismantled? or whether you would give it to any Settlers who may be going to Settle in those parts? or what other use you would convert it to?

The only News I have to tell you is, that Our Neighbours to the Eastward are again in tumult

and Disorder. They have very lately beat and abused the Comptroller and Collector of the Customs, broke several Windows, and drove the Commissioners of the Customs, the whole Board to Castle William, where they took Shelter, and are further protected there, by One of His Majesty's Ships.

I have the honor to be with great Regard Sir, &ca
(*W. L. Clements Library*)

(*Gage to Haldimand*)

New York, 27th June, 1768

Sir :

His Majesty being of Opinion for many weighty reasons, that all the Posts in the Interior, as well as the Settled Parts of North America may be abandoned, unless necessary for the facilitating of Commerce, or for publick Safety; And that His Troops may be Collected and put in a situation, so as to be kept in more perfect Order & Discipline and ready for immediate Service upon any Emergency, I am to acquaint You with the King's Sentiment on these Important Objects, and to desire that You will as soon as Possible withdraw the Troops from the Natchez and from the Post on the Ibberville. But that before the Troops are withdrawn, You will Consult with the Governor of West Florida concerning the disposal of said Forts, whether it will be best to Dismantle & Rase them Entirely? Convert them to Fortified Truckhouses, or any other Publick Use? If there are any Settlers, whether they would Choose to have the Forts for their Residence, or Protection? And You will consult with the Superintendent, or his Deputy, on the measures which it will be proper & necessary to take with the Indians, Of the reason to be given them for abandoning those Posts. Which should

be put to their account, to prevent the Jealousy they have, or may Entertain of Our having Fortified Places in their Country: That the King has given these Orders with a desire to do what is agreeable to them, or other good reasons You shall best devise or think of.

I am next to Inform You, that You will leave three Companys to Garrison Pensacola & Mobile, & Embark all the rest of the Two Regts in West Florida for St. Augustine. I have wrote to Governor Grant concerning the disposal of St Mark's at Appalachie, & desire he would acquaint You of his desires about that Fort; For it must be abandoned, if Useless, as well as the rest. I don't hear of any number of Traders going there; And at this distance, Judge that it should be Entirely destroyed: You will know best if it can be Converted to any Publick Use, when the Troops are withdrawn. * * *

Nothing more occurs to me at present on these Subjects; I have only to add, that I am to beg You will put these Orders in Execution as the nature of them will Admit; For it is possible there may be use for the Troops, before they are long at St. Augustine.

I have the Honor to be, with great Regard, Sir,
&ca.

(W. L. Clements Library)

(Grant to Gage)

St. Augustine 25th August 1768

Sir :

* * * We have no sort of communication with west Florida at present Lord Hillsborough has some thoughts of establishing a post by Land from Charles Town to Pensacola, by way of St. Marks, but in the meantime I am at a loss how to convey a letter to Brigadier Haldimand, but I flatter my-

self he will not dismantle the Fort of St. Marks till I have the pleasure of seeing him. I have spoke to Mr. Gordon about establishing a Trading house there in order to keep that Fort in some sort of Repair, it cost the Spaniards a great deal of money, and would be of great utility if we should ever have any dispute with our numerous Creek neighbors, and when that part of the Country comes to be inhabited the Fort would be a protection to settlers against privateers and the Spanish Banditti from Cuba, in case Great Britain should have a difference with the Court of Spain, I do not mean that Government should be at any expense to keep the Fort in order, but I think it rather advisable not to Demolish it and in case the Province gets on if it should be thought expedient to send a small garrison there it must be a provincial expense. * * *
(Public Archives of Canada)

(Wright to Gage)

St. Augustine, Sept. 30th 1768

Sir,

Being ordered upon a detachment by Colonel Taylor, with Lieut. Swettenham to relieve Lt. Pampellone & Ensign Hawkins at the detach'd Post of Apalache I arrived there the 13th of Dec. 1765- On the 14th the Provision Stores &c were delivered over to me by Ensign Hawkins who informed me that Coln. Robertson had agreed to allow him one Shilling a day as acting Commissary for the Post. The time of my acting as such was from the 13th Dec. 1765 To the 21st April 1768. To the amount of forty-two Pounds eighteen shillings.

I hope your Excellency will not be displeas'd with me at my representing the case to You Sir having before spoke of it to Colonel Taylor who promised to represent it to your Excellency on his

Arrival at New York. I hope your Excellency will be pleased to take this into Your consideration & also the representation of Col. Taylor to your Excellency.

I am with the greatest Respect your Excellencys most Obedient & humble Servt.

Jas Wright Ens. 9th Regt.

(W. L. Clements Library)

(Grant to Haldimand)

St. Augustine 3rd October 1768

Sir,

I had the Honor to receive your letter of the 27th of August by Mr. Currie, who had a tedious passage from Pensacola, Captain Roberts put into the Matanzas upon the Island of Cuba for Refreshments, and Mr. Currie and his Detachment arrived in good health.

It would be a pity to dismantle the Fort of St. Marks Appalachi, a Post there would be of use in the event of a Spanish or Creek War, Mr. Gordon undertakes to establish a creditable Indian Store House there without loss of time the Trader for his own sake, must keep the place in some repair, it will put government to no expence and as I shall not give a grant of the Fort, or of the Land contiguous to it, it will be in His Majesty's Power to order the Fort to be taken possession of again, if that should ever be found expedient, I must therefore beg of you to order two or three men to remain at the Fort, till the Trader arrives, the soldiers who are left, may either come from St. Marks on Board the vessel which is to carry the Trader round, or by Land as you are pleased to direct, I send you an Extract of my letter to General Gage upon this subject which was wrote, when I had no opportunity of forwarding a letter to you, and I thought one might offer from New York.

I was vastly happy to hear of the destination of the troops from West Florida, they will come in at a proper season of the year, our sickness which has been more considerable than ever was before in this province, will be over. The Disorders have been chiefly intermitting Fevers, without mortality. Our Phisical People impute the sickness to a remarkable rainy season. I look for the pleasure of your company in December, from all the accounts I have had of West Florida, I flatter myself that you will not dislike the change of Quarters, you will find everybody Friends and living sociably together, and as things now stand in America, a Town and a province without the shadow of Factious Party or disputes is such a Recommendation, as will get the better of a few inconveniences.

I wish you health and happiness and a good voyage to St. Augustine and I have the Honor to be with great regard Sir, your most obedient and most humble servant

James Grant

To Brigadier General Haldimand
(*Public Archives of Canada*)

(*Gage to Wright*)

New York January 29th 1769

Sir,

I have received your Letter of the 30th Sept, and have given Mr. Leake the Commissary General of North America, orders to pay you one shilling a day for the time You took care of, and issued the Provisions at Fort St. Marks, as soon as you send him an exact account of the Provisions You received from Mr. Hawkins, what You received from time to time Afterwards, what was Expended while under your charge and what was brought away with You ; Upon the Receipt of this Account

regularly stated, Mr. Leake will Accept your Bill, but cannot do it till then, at the same time You send Mr. Leake the account of the issues and receipts, it will be necessary that all the vouchers and Certificates You may have taken should accompany them, which will prevent any delay in Settling your account.

I am, Sir, &ca
Ens Wright 9th Regt. St. Augustine
(*W. L. Clements Library*)

(*Haldimand to Gage. Transl. from the French*)

St. Augustine, October 13, 1769

Sir :

* * * The detachment which I had left at Fort St. Marks has arrived here after having delivered that post to a person whom Governor Grant has named to take possession; within a few days I shall abandon likewise the post of Matanzas, and also the post of Picolata, so that there will remain no more than the detachment which is at the Moskitoes, and which is necessary there to maintain order in that new establishment. * * *

(*W. L. Clements Library*) (Finis)