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VISIT TO THE INDIAN NATIONS: THE DIARY OF JOHN HAMBLY

edited by DANIEL J. J. ROSS AND BRUCE S. CHAPPELL*

THE EARLY YEARS of the second Spanish period in East Florida constituted a time for transition from British to Spanish administration, and for the establishment of relations between the new Spanish regime and its Indian and Georgian neighbors. These adjustments were carried out under the administration of Governor Vicente Manuel de Zéspedes. His successor, Juan Nepomuceno de Quesada, sought to create an intelligence system so as to learn about events and conditions in the South and among the Indians.

Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Howard was able to send information to St. Augustine about Georgia. The problem with the Indians was not so easily solved. Many of those conversant with Indian languages and trade practices had left Florida when the province was retroceded to Spain. The few who remained or moved into Florida did not have the confidence of the governor. Quesada turned to the employees of the Indian trading firm of Panton, Leslie and Company, and specifically to the interpreter and shopkeeper John Hambly.

Born around 1751, he was the son of William and Wilmoth Hambly of London. His wife, Maria Mitchell, was the daughter of James Mitchell and Maria Purvesse, and she was baptized as a Catholic in 1773. The couple had six children between 1781 and 1798, and there is speculation that Maria had two illegitimate children by prominent Florida resident Manuel Solana prior to her marriage to Hambly.

In 1788 Hambly was employed by Panton, Leslie as the storekeeper of the Concepción trading post on the St. Johns River (now Stokes Landing south of Palatka). It was there that the deserters from the first abortive expedition of William Augustus Bowles fled. In later years Bowles swore to kill Hambly, and when he raided the Panton store at Apalache in January 1792,

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he had his chance, as Hambly was present there. For some reason, Bowles released Hambly, and the latter returned to St. Augustine. In the early 1790s Hambly was frequently employed by the Spanish governor to carry "talks" to the Indian nations and to bring information back to St. Augustine, particularly about the status of United States-Indian peace and boundary negotiations.

In 1794, Hambly made at least three official trips to the Indian nations. The second of these visits produced the diary presented here. In 1795, Hambly undertook further commissions, and fell severely ill. On November 15, 1796, in Apalache, he seriously wounded a Panton, Leslie employee, Thomas Hutton, who had been Hambly's companion on previous cattle drives. Orders for Hambly's arrest were issued in East and West Florida, but he disappeared from sight. A letter from Apalache in 1798, concerning the death of Robert Leslie, indicates that Hambly died there shortly before March 9, 1798, and had made an oral testament for the disposition of his estate. Hambly's children were to be his heirs but his wife was to receive not one "real."¹ The diary is published without changes in spelling, punctuation, or grammar.

1794

June 29.th Left S^t Augustine with letters from S.^r Don Juan Nepumucena de Quesada,² for Col John Kinnaird³ the Hallooing

1. Hambly's Journal is reproduced from a photostat of the original document in the Buckingham Smith Collection of the New-York Historical Society. The photostat is part of the Joseph B. Lockey Collection in the P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History, University of Florida. Hereinafter cited as Lockey Collection. Spanish translations of the diary, with copies of the platicas (talks) that Quesada sent to the Indians and the replies, are found in Papeles de Cuba, legajo 1438, microfilm rolls 24 and 25, and East Florida Papers, bundle 115K9, microfilm roll 43, in the P. K. Yonge Library. Previous journals of Hambly's missions for the St. Augustine governor were edited by Richard K. Murdoch and published in the *Florida Historical Quarterly* under the titles of "A Voyage to the Miami Region in 1793," XXXI (July 1952), 16-32, and "Mission to the Creek Indians in 1794," XXXIV (January 1956), 266-84. Murdoch seemingly erred in the latter article in stating (p. 269) that Hambly wrote the 1794 journal in Spanish. He evidently worked from a translation made in St. Augustine by the government secretary and English-language interpreter Manuel Rengil.
2. Juan Nepomuceno de Quesada was governor of East Florida from July 1790 to March 1796.
3. Also known as Jack Kinnard, Kenard, Conard, etc. A mestizo lower Creek chieftain, Kinnaird was for a time considered by the Spaniards as a possible successor to Creek leader Alexander McGillivray, following the latter's death in February 1793.

King,⁴ Cusita King,⁵ Young Prince of the broken arrow⁶ & ca of the Lower Creek Nation Traveld 20 miles & came to S^t Johns River in the afternoon heavy rain—

30.th Crossed the river in the afternoon it having rained most part of the day— 2 miles across the river came to San Fernandos—⁷

July 1.st The weather being very bad, did not get my horses over the river untill late in the evening

2.^d Still rainy weather, at San Fernandos—

3.^d Fair morning, left San Fernandos about 3 oClock Traveld about 20 miles & came to camp about 4 in the afternoon, heavy rain most part of the night

4.th It havng been a very wet night waited to dry my Blanket & ca— Set out about 9 oClock but from the heat of the weather, the prodigious number of flies and the bad roads, found my horses incapable of performing the Journey. turned off for Lachua⁸ to procure fresh ones— Traveld about 30 miles & came to camp at Sundown

July 5.th Set out early Traveld about 20 miles & came to Lachua about 2 in the afternoon in the evening heavy rain—

6.th Bought 2 Horses of Payne's⁹ negroe Pompy for which

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4. The Hallooing King of the Coweta (also known as Yeauholau Mico, Yaholla Mico, etc.), an influential Creek often chosen as Speaker or Orator of his tribe because of his eloquence.
 5. Probably refers to the White Birdtail King, or Tuskegee Tustennuggy, chief of Cusita (or Cassitas, Kashita, Cussetta, etc.).
 6. Or Little Prince of the Broken Arrow (Hopoie Mico or Tustenaque Hopoy), also considered by the Spaniards as a successor to McGillivray. He later became one of the most influential Creek chieftains.
 7. Old Fort Fernando, on the west bank of the St. Johns River, opposite Picolata. San Fernando became the site of a Panton, Leslie Indian trading post in September 1793.
 8. On Payne's Prairie in southern Alachua County.
 9. King Payne was a chief of the Seminoles from 1784 to 1813, with large holdings in Negro slaves and livestock. His base was near Micanopy. In 1793 Payne was reported to possess twenty slaves, 1,500 head of cattle, 400 horses, and innumerable sheep and goats. James F. Doster, *Creek Indians: The Creek Indians and their Florida Lands*, 2 vols. (New York, 1974), I, 190-91.

gave him an ord[e]r on M.^{rs} H.¹⁰ for 56 Dollars also gave Payne's Joe an order on M.^{rs} H for 12 1/2 Dollars for the hire of his horse last trip¹¹

7.th Bought another horse, one of these bought being sick, for which gave an order on M.^{rs} H for 20 Dollars

8.th Left Lachua traveld 15 miles & Stopt to rest at San Francisco¹²— a rainey afternoon traveld 25 miles & came to camp at Sundown at Etto Puckhey¹³

9.th Set out early crossed Santa Fee¹⁴ traveld 21 miles & Stopt at Wechatookamey¹⁵— looked at the Fig trees found them full of fruit but not ripe Set out again traveld 1.5 miles & came to camp at the first part of Sawanney River¹⁶ at Sundown.

July 10.th Set out early traveld about 10 miles & stopt to rest at the old fields¹⁷ very hard rain. as soon as the rain was over set out again traveld 10 miles further & came to camp at the crossing place of Sawanney,¹⁸ found the canoe on the west Side. my cow hyde beeing wet could not well get over— Cut down a dry pine tree cut it in proper lengths to make a raft & carryed them to the landing— rain all night

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10. Mrs. Hambly, the former Maria Mitchell of London, who managed Hambly's Indian trading post during his frequent absences.
 11. See Hambly's journal entry for January 25, 1794, photostatic copy, Lockey Collection, P. K. Yonge Library.
 12. San Francisco de Potano, east of the Santa Fe River in northwest Alachua County, a former Indian mission abandoned after the raids of Governor James Moore of South Carolina in 1702-1704.
 13. Or Hekopockee, cited by Joseph Purcell on his 1778 map as a "noted Indian camping-place"; probably near the town of High Springs. See Joseph Purcell's "A Map of the Road from Pensacola in West Florida to St. Augustine in East Florida," PKY 523, P. K. Yonge Library.
 14. The Santa Fe River.
 15. Or Wachitokha, near Hildreth in Suwannee County. Weechatokame was also applied to the Itchetucknee River, and some "Old Fields" near the Itchetucknee Springs, but Hambly is probably referring to the Indian town of that name near the confluence of the Itchetucknee and the Santa Fe.
 16. Probably near Branford.
 17. Possibly the site marked by Purcell as "Cold Spring Old Fields," apparently between Branford and Luraville, an area of several springs that feed into the Suwannee. Purcell's 1778 map (PKY 523).
 18. Exactly where Hambly crossed is hard to determine with accuracy. It very likely was between Luraville and Dowling Park, possibly at the place later known as Charles Ferry.

11th Early in the morning made a paddle & a raft. Went over on the raft & got the Canoe still raining. crossed the river. Set out traveld 25 miles & came to camp at San Pedros old Fields-¹⁹

12.th Set out early stopt to rest and dry my things being wet from the rain crossed the assilleys²⁰ after travelling 21 miles came to camp with an Indian & his family

July 13. Set out early traveld about 25 miles & came to Michasookie²¹ about 3 in the a[f]ternoon but from the extreme heat of the weather, and the quantity of flies, found my horses very much Jaded- heavy rain

14th Waiting for fresh horses

15th Waiting for horses- heavy rain

16th Still at Mickasookie rain

17th Still as above

18th Procured 2 fresh horses Set out about 10 OClock traveld about 28 miles & came to camp

19th Set out Early traveld about 12 miles crossd Great Okeelockaney²² & Stopt to rest- Set out again traveld about 18 miles further and came to camp at Sundown on the side of a reedy branch-

20th Set out at Sunrise, traveld about 22 miles & came to the

19. Purcell says of the San Pedro Old Fields " [they] bear the marks of once having been large and flourishing Spanish settlements, strongly proved by the ruins of Forts, Churches, and other buildings; the cannon and Church Bells that are found lying about; the Broad Roads; and by the remains of Causeways and Bridges that are to be seen to this day." Purcell's 1778 map (PKY 523).

20. Aucilla River; Hambly probably crossed it near the town of Aucilla.

21. Mikasuki, etc., near the lake of the same name in Jefferson County, and an important Seminole town; it may have had as many as 1,000 residents.

22. The Ochlockonee River. Hambly is now on the Harmonia, or upper path, derived from the Lower Creek town of Hiamonee on the Ochlockonee.

crossing place of Flint River²³ about 2 in the afternoon an exceeding hot day. the horses Jaded staid all night

July 21.st In the morning crossed Flint River and after Traveling about 27 miles came to Kinnairds²⁴ – found he was gone to the Chehaws²⁵ to see their Busk²⁶ – sent him a message that I was at his house & wished to see him– at night recev.^d an answer by his Negroe that he wished me to come to him

22.^d Went to the Chehaws, and by Kinnairds desire Explained the Governors letter or Talk to him & the whole Chehaw people, they being assembled to celebrate their Busk or Green Corn Feast, in the evening returned with Kinnaird to his house– in the evening heavy rain

23^d Waited at Kinnairds for a fresh horse and having inquired of him concerning any Talks that had been given in the Gov^{rs} name– the annexed is his answer–

24th Set out from Kinnairds about 8 oClock heavy rain all day after traveling about 40 miles came to camp on the west side [of] Pattalley Creek–²⁷

July 25th Set out by day light traveld about 30 Miles & came to the Cusitas²⁸ – it raining very hard. Staid at old Waney²⁹ untill the rain was over as soon as the rain was over Crossed the rivers³⁰ – Traveld about Six miles & got to the Broaken Arrow³¹ where James Lovats Lives– when I was Informed that the Halloeing

23. Probably near Albany, Georgia.

24. Kinnairds town was on the north bank of Kinchafunee Creek, between the Flint and Chattahoochee rivers.

25. The Chehaw villages were between the Auttosee and Opulthusee creeks on the west bank of the Flint in Sumter County, Georgia. There were three main towns– Amakalli, Hotatihuyana, and Chiahudshi.

26. Or púskita festival; for a description of the annual ceremony, see Albert S. Gatschet, *A Migration Legend of the Creek Indians, With a Linguistic, Historic and Ethnographic Introduction* (Philadelphia, 1884), 177-83.

27. Pataula Creek, a tributary of the Chattahoochee.

28. Kussetau, Kashita, etc., in Muscogee County, Georgia. Gatschet describes this town in *Migration Legend*, 133-34.

29. It is possible that "old Waney" is Juan Antonio Sandoval, a Guachinanga who had lived among the Creeks at Casistas for more than thirty years. A Waney Tony, who may have been his mestizo son, twice sought employment with the St. Augustine governor as an interpreter in the 1790s.

30. The Chattahoochee.

31. The Creek town of Cowetau Tallauhassee, Kawita Talahassi, etc.

32. Trader James Lovet, whom Hawkins described as "of some activity;

King was gone to the Oseutchies³³ to dispatch M.^r John Galpin³⁴ who had been sent up to the Nation by Governor White³⁵ concerning some mischief that some of the Uthchies³⁶ had had been guilty of about Pensacola— & whom they promised to punish as soon as they could find out who they were

26.th The Coweta Warrior sent a Messenger to the Hallooming King to let him know that I was arriv.^d who sent back word that he wished me to come to him at the Oseutchies while here I was Informed by an Indian who had been down on the Ockoney³⁷ that Gn.^l Clarke³⁸ had moved over the Indian Line³⁹ with a Number of men & was on their side of a Creek named Chulla Puchka — that him & another who was with him endeavoured to see what thier numbers might be & to try to get some of their horses which they found impracticable— as their w[a]ggons were all drawn up in a circle and at night their horses were all tied within this circle of waggons, & that outside the waggons they kept large fires all night— and in the day time they kept Centrys all round them besides a number of men on horse back who scoured the Country for some distance round which made these two Indians afraid to go about much in in the day time but that one day they crept thru the Swamp along the bank of the creek & saw Several white women in the creek washing cloaths— this makes the Indians very uneasy & as I hear they have sent down

illiterate, without much regard for truth." List of "Traders in the Upper Creeks," in "Letters of Benjamin Hawkins, 1796-1806," *Collections of the Georgia Historical Society*, 10 vols. (Savannah, 1840- ?), IX, 171.

33. Oswitchée town in Russell County, Alabama; also known as Ooseuchee, etc.
34. Galphin was later a United States Creek agent and interpreter for Hawkins and had worked with James Seagrove also.
35. Enrique White, commandant at Pensacola, 1793-1796. He succeeded Quesada at St. Augustine in 1796, and served as governor of East Florida until his death in 1811.
36. Uchees or Yuchis, a tribe allied and associated with the Creeks, although differing in language and customs. Their principal town was Yuchi, between Cowetau Tallahassee and Osachees. They were a constant source of trouble to the Spaniards at Pensacola and Mobile, whose cattle ranches they frequently raided.
37. Oconee River, a tributary of the Altamaha.
38. Georgia militia Major-General Elijah Clarke, whose frequent filibustering expeditions against the Spaniards in East Florida and into the Creek territory, in part prompted Hambly's mission.
39. In 1790 the Oconee River became the boundary between the Creeks and the state of Georgia.

to the Governor of Georgia⁴⁰ to know what he means by incroaching on their lands & thier taking Supplys Coming [to] them at the same time that they tell them that they wish for peace & want to know from him whether they realy mean peace or war— here I was also Informed that some time in Feb^y last— a few days after I saw Seagrove⁴¹ in the Tuckabatchies⁴² that a party of the Tallasie Indians⁴³ went over the River to where Seagrove lived while in the Nation run him out of his bed from a young Indian Lady he had had with him in his shirt and drove him & his Servant into a pond of water up to thier necks & plunderd his house of what ever they wanted— that after the fray was over his lady with a Torch of light-wood in one hand and his breeches in the other went to look for him, & at last found him almost perished to death with cold—⁴⁴ which I Imagine was the reason of his calling the Indians together so precipitately— as he did in order to get out out of the Nation as quick as he could for at the Gen.^l Meeting that was held at the Tuckabatchis it was there agreed by Cap.^t Oliver⁴⁵ the Spanish Commissioner [,] Seagrove & the Head men then present— that in the Spring of the Year— when he Seagrove had got an answer from Gen.^l Washinton that there should be a Gen.^l Meeting of the four Nations Viz— Chactaws Chickasaws Creeks & Cherokees— aid by which time Capt Oliver who was gone to New Orleans⁴⁶ would be returned, who was also to be present in the room of which he only assembled a

40. George Matthews, who, under pressure from the federal government, eventually broke up Clarke's trans-Oconee settlements in September. In 1812 Matthews himself led an expedition into Spanish Florida.
41. James Seagrove, United States Agent of Indian Affairs of the Southern Department.
42. An Upper Creek town on the west bank of the Tallapoosa River, also known as Tookaubatchee, etc.
43. Probably Creeks from Tallasie Tallahassee, across the Tallapoosa from Tuckabatchies.
44. The story may have been partially true. Albert Pickett relates the same story minus the "young Indian Lady." Albert James Pickett, *History of Alabama, and Incidentally of Georgia and Mississippi, From the Earliest Period*, 3rd ed., 2 vols. (Charleston, 1851), II, 148.
45. Captain Pedro D'Erneville Olivier, Spanish commissioner to Creeks since 1792, and later commandant at Mobile (1795-1798), and commander of the troops sent from New Orleans to retake San Marcos de Apalache from William Bowles in 1800.
46. However, Seagrove reported Olivier left Tuckabatchies on November 29, 1793, for his residence in Little Tallasee. Seagrove to Secretary of War, November 30, 1793, *American State Papers: Indian Affairs*, 2 vols. (Washington, 1832-1834), I, 471-72. Olivier seems to have been in Wetonka throughout December. See his letters to White in Papeles de Cuba, legajo 207-B, microfilmed photostats in P. K. Yonge Library.

few of the chiefs of the Creeks only in Capt Olivers absence and left the Nation (Here I was also Informed, that George Welbank, Bowles's Second, and who said, as usual, that he was come from Fort DeTroit; but I suppose no further than the Chirokee Nation, had gone up to the Upper Euphalies, in the upper Creeks in pursuit of some horses that had been stolen from him, as he said— where he found the Indians drunk, and he got drunk among them, when, on his return to his camp, a half breed, named Lesslie⁴⁷— (Son of a white Man that goes by the name of great footed Lesslie) followed him, & said, he was a Virginia man (a name they give to al Americans) and that he would knock him in the head, & accordingly came up with him, & knocked out his brains, with a lightwod Not, and left him to be devoured by Vermin)— in the evening went to the Oseutchies— but beeing late the hearing of the Governors Talk was put off untill next day—

27th Sent for the Cusita King who promised to be down the next day

28th Explained the Governors Talk to the Halloeing King [and] the Chiefs but did not receive an answer, as they said they had not seen the Gov.^{rs} former Talk by me & wished the Cusita King to be present who had seen & heard it, & sent an answer to it, but he however did not come according to promise—

July 29th The Cusita King not coming he having been stopt from coming as I heard afterwards by the Cusita Warrior I receiv^d an Answer from the Halloeing King which is annexed

30th Staid at M.^r John Galpins to rest my horse

31.st Left M.^r Galphins— crossed above the Pwocachocoles⁴⁸ & came to a little village on Hannay Hatchey⁴⁹ or Creek it being very rainy weather staid all night—

47. There were several white men among the Creeks named Leslie, including a trader at Euffaula Hatchee on the Coosa River named James Lessle, who had a half-breed son named Daniel Lessly. Hawkins to John Sevier, April 6, 1797; "Letters of Benjamin Hawkins," 115.

48. A principal Lower Creek town, whose name Hawkins renders as "Palachoocele," located on the west bank of the Chattahoochee. List of "Traders in the Upper Creeks," "Letters of Benjamin Hawkins," 171.

49. Hannahachee Creek, which enters the Chattahoochee just below Spring Grove, Georgia.

Aug.^t 1.st Left the above Village crossed Pattaley Creek & came to camp at Mossey Creek⁵⁰

2.^d Came to Kinnairds about 10 oClock, found him drunk, he shewed me an exact Copy of the Gov.^{rs} Last Talk by me, written by a young man of the name of John Wier, and directed on the back to M.^r Barnet⁵¹ (Commissary from the Americans in the Creek Nation) and which he said he did because the Americans said that the Spaniards were always Setting the Indians on them & that this would convince them that it was not true— al[s]o a letter from M.^r Panton⁵² to him of which the anexed is a true Copy

Aug.t 3^d Kinnaird beeing drunk yesterday could not get an answer from him to the Gov.^{rs} Letter as he was sick to day

4th receiv^d Kinnairds answer to the Gov.^{rs} Letter set out & crossed Flint River. staid there all night. fair weather but exceeding warm—

5th Left Flint River about 10 OClock having waited for an Indian to come with me but finding that some Chehaw Indians were gone on before me. I was dubious that they meant to take a horse from me that I had hired at Mickasooki & which seemed to be in dispute⁵³ turned off & took the path for James Burgess's⁵⁴ at sundown came to camp on the bank of the river

50. Perhaps a tributary of the Ichawaynochaway.

51. Timothy Barnard, assistant to Seagrove and later to Hawkins. He and his sons had several trading posts along the Flint River, north of the Chehaw villages.

52. William Panton was the head of the firm for which Hambly often worked as a storekeeper and cattle-drover. Panton's headquarters was in Pensacola. He worked assiduously to maintain the Creek alliance with the Spaniards and to counter American influence among the Indians. His trade among the Indians ranged from the Chickasaws along the Mississippi to the Seminoles on the St. Johns in East Florida.

53. The Indian chiefs Mad Dog and Peck Cornel, perhaps prompted by American agents, later attempted to make an international incident of Hambly's horses. On June 1, 1795, they wrote the governor of St. Augustine that Hambly's horses had been stolen from Americans on the St. Marys River (implying the theft was by Indians encouraged by Spain), and demanded their return. Papeles de Cuba, legajo 1438, photostats on microfilm, P. K. Yonge Library, roll 26.

54. James Burges was an Indian trader, interpreter, and agent for both the Spaniards and Americans among the Indians on the lower Flint. His family had trading posts on that river and the Apalachicola for generations. R. S. Cotterill, *The Southern Indians: The Story of the Civil-*

Aug.^t 6.th Set out at sun rise about 11 OClock Stopt to rest the horses, in the evening got to M.^r James Burgess's

7.th Staid all day— when he told me that having been at the Cusitas in the Spring he made some enquirys about the murder of M.^r Hueston,⁵⁵ and that he heard in a private way that a long while back three Indians coming from the Havana were thrown overboard and drowned, that afterward they heard that the Cap.^t of the Vessel was put to death for this but that no Satisfaction had ever been given for the other two & that the murder of this man should and ought to go in ball.^{ce} of this old debt—

Aug.^t 8th Left M.^r Burgess's about 8 OClock, Stopt about 11 oClock to rest, a heavy rain, as soon as the rain was over set out again at sun down came to camp, rain most part of the night—

9.th Set out early. Crossed Okeelockaney (or Yellow Water) Stopt near the Great Gun⁵⁶ to rest. Set out again & after having swimmied in two different places which are passab[l]e at most times without, but from the late heavy rains were now Swimming arrived at M.^r Leslie's⁵⁷ near S.^t Marks appalachy⁵⁸ ab[o]ut 9 oClock at night

10.th at Mr. Leslie's, drying our Saddles &ca a hot fever at night—

11.th as the preceeding day— ague & fever at night—

12.th Waited on the Com.^{te}⁵⁹ at Fort S^t Mark at Appalachie

ized Tribes Before Removal (Norman, 1954) 127, describes him as a "half-blood," but James Aiken, who probably knew him, referred to him in 1793 as "a white man" "James Aiken's Deposition," May 3, 1793, *American State Papers: Indian Affairs*, I, 390-91.

55. John Houston, a prominent Florida settler on the St. Marys, had been murdered by the Indian Micko Ketocksey in 1793.

56. An unexplained and fascinating reference. Although Hambly clearly writes "Gun," there is a possibility he was referring to a large sweetgum tree. There are two Gum Creeks in West Florida, but neither on Hambly's present route.

57. Robert Leslie, brother of John, a partner in the Panton, Leslie firm. Hambly often worked with Robert on company business and was staying with him when they both died early in 1798.

58. San Marcos de Apalache, a Spanish military outpost reestablished in 1787 to prevent illicit trade between the Creeks and the English from Providence in the Bahamas.

59. Captain Diego de Vegas.

– who said he wished to write by me, in the evening reced the Com.^{te} Letters– fever at night

Aug.^t 13.th Left Appalachie, about 11 oClock. Stopt to rest the horses– Set out again– but finding myself very ill came to camp in the afternoon a Violent fever all night–

14.th Set out early, Stopt on a reedy branch to rest– in the evening got to Mickasookie fever at night as usual

15.th waiting for my horses that I left here as I went along– in the afternoon got two of them the other being sick as they said– violent fever at night–

16.th Left Mickasookie about 10 OClock traveld about 6 miles when came on a very heavy rain 12 miles further & came to camp to dry our Cow hyde it beeing impossible to cross the Assilleys unless the hyde is perfectly dry– fever all night as usual

Aug.^t 17.th Set out early crossed the Assilleys which were very high– and after entering San Pedro's Swamp, came on a most Tremendous storm of wind & rain, attended with Thunder & Lightning– The Thunder & Lighning were so very quick & Sharp that it was with the greatest difficulty the horses could be made to keep the path got thro the swamp & came to camp at Sundown in San Pedro's old fields– fever at night

18.th Set out early crossed Ohtupa Oclecofka or Broaken Bridge Creek⁶⁰ stopt to rest dry our Blankets &ca– Set out again crossed Sawanney River at Sundown & came to camp on the East Side. fever at night as usual–

19.th Set out early passed the old Field⁶¹– about 10 oClock

60. Purcell's 1778 map shows two places between San Pedro Old Fields and the Suwannee where there were remains of bridges. H. S. Tanner's 1823 map shows a Bridge River, but west of the San Pedro area. Purcell's Bridge River is midway between the Aucilla and the Suwannee. Both the Fenholloway and Econfina rivers are derived from Creek words meaning bridge (Feno, Fena) and Hambly may be referring to the Econfina or one of its tributaries near Sampala Pond, in San Pedro Swamp. Purcell's 1778 map (PKY 523); H. S. Tanner, "Map of Florida," PKY 251, P. K. Yonge Library.

61. Purcell's Cold Spring Old Fields in Suwannee County.

Stopt to rest– not being able to ride further from weakness & the heat of the weather– Set out again & came to camp at Sun Down about three miles from where you leave Sawanney River⁶² fever at night as usual

Aug.^t 20th Set out early– Stopt at Weechatookamey to rest. a heavy rain. The Indian picked a few blk figs– Set out after the rain crossed Santa Fee & came to camp at Etto Puckey– a small fever at night

21^t Set out at Sunrise & Stopt at San Francisco to rest– not being able to ride further from the Extreme heat of the weather – Set out again & came to Lachua after night, where I was Informed that James Lewis left this, this afternoon accompanied by an Indian from hence for the bay of Tampa–⁶³ a small fever at night

22^d waiting for my horses that I left here as I went along–

23^d not likely to get my horses set out about 9 oClock– the horses beeing nearly tired came to camp in the afternoon about 4 miles from Fish Creek–

Aug.^t 24th Set out early. Stopt to rest the horses Set out again. but the horses beeing all tired came to camp about 4 in the evening rain all night–

25.th Set out, about 10 oClock the horses gave out Stopt to rest them Set out again & came to San Fernandos in the afternoon

26.th Crossed S^t Johns River at Picolata about 2 in the afternoon & came to camp between M.^t Leslie's old Cowpen and Turnbuls Swamp⁶⁴ showery afternoon

62. Probably northwest of Branford, where State Road 240 turns toward O'Brien.

63. James Lewis carried mail from St. Augustine to Tampa Bay, where boats were stationed to communicate with Cuba. A direct sea voyage from St. Augustine to Havana was extremely dangerous because of numerous French privateers.

64. Leslie's cowpen was near the source of Six Mile Creek, and Turnbull's Swamp is part of Twelve Mile Swamp, between Picolata and St. Augustine, on the Old Spanish Road.

27.th Set out and arrived in S.^t Augustine about 10 oClock in
the Fornoon—

JOHN HAMBLY