

Fort Butler Feb. 8, 1838

To Col. M. Lindsay

U. S. Army

Commanding in the Cherokee Nation

Sir,

I have
herewith the honor to enclose to you a memoir to the War
Department, which appeared to have been looking in that
quarter with some solitude. Although I do not think
the data we are as yet enable to afford an of that
particular nature which might be desirable to yourself,
who have already a great insight into the topics dis-
cussed by me and from whom indeed many of the suggestions
arose.

Yet it
will furnish a basis for further instructions from you
as to my further operations. The object in my survey
to which you particularly directed my attention, how-
ever has been some time since fulfilled.

and a communication was then made to you to that effect.

This relates to the Cheowah Valley where you appeared to think it desirable a post should be established and in which with great deference I fully concur. The road as I have stated has been carefully staked out into the heart of the valley and is ready for operations. It appears to me that the best locality as having a comprehensive influence for the erection of a fort would be at the mouth of Teloolee or its vicinity, as both branches of the valley are thickly settled by Indians. Of this however, your experience will be the best judge. A point also below the mouth of Teloolee, at an Indians whose name I was informed is Coffee might be a favorable site for the work.

Ft. Montgomery
built on present
Fort Hill in
1838.

Fort Montgomer
(not shown
on map)

You directed also the examination of the trail between the Cheowah Valley and Fort Delamy on Valley River. This trail I examined and regretted to find it extremely mountainous. The Long Ridge where it passes over being extremely elevated and would be very difficult of access by packhorses, altho practicable.

present Tatham
Gap road from
Andrews to
Robbinsville

It is true this is the shortest route, and I do not think would offer more than ordinary inconveniences in regard to safety as a line of communication.

The distance from Big George's near the mouth of Telvolee to Fort Delamy would be about $9 \frac{3}{4}$ miles. A gap of very easy access in the Long Ridge lies at the head of Telooee on both sides and an excellent road.

might be made, but it would increase the distance by nearly 3 miles, between Cheowah and Fort Delany. It could scarcely therefore be regarded as a point in the line of communication between those two places.

Between Fort Butler, and Fort _____ on Cheowah it might be rendered available for a line of communication and would fall naturally on the line between Fort Hembree and said Fort on Cheowah.

Fort _____
refers to
Ft. Mont-
gomery

I shall explore a route in reference to the latter arrangement and upon general principles, a good line ought to be anticipated. This line would ascend Tuscuittah to its head, and then keep the Long ridge if practicable and stand in relation to a Post of which I have taken the liberty

to suggest the advantage in the neighborhood of the Nautayula or Long Ridge, where the Franklin road traverses those mountains. This would give a good road from Franklin to the Cheowah Valley by a very direct route and would open an additional resource in regard to the Post supposed to be established there.

In referring to the number of Indians in the accompanying memoir within the boundary of North Carolina and its vicinity, I included many perhaps who by their age might not be termed in the language of the Nation Warriors, but who would be capable of rendering useful services in case of emergency. There are besides, a body of Creek Indians, I am informed, who escaped from the last Emigration, and have concealed themselves in the bed of the mountains about the heads of Beaver Dam, Hanging Dog, Tellico, Cheowah _____ and it is said are preparing for resistance--also that many of the Georgia Indians have come within the North Carolina boundary--of the latter, several families have been _____ to us.

The present Memoir as well as the accompanying address to the Engineer Department, I have the honor respectfully to submit.

I am Sir,
Your Most Obed. Servt.

William W. Taylor

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