

Memoir

Relating to Cherokee Nation within the circuits of N. Carolina  
and its immediate vicinity by

W. G. Williams

Capt. T. Engr.

Received 27th February

to the

Nation

and of N. C.

Williams

1838

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Fort Butler

Fort Butler 8th. Feb. 1838

To Col. I. I. Albert U. S. Top. Engrs.

Top Bureau - Washington

Sir,

Preparatory to a Report based upon the data procured by Instrumental Survey, it occurs to me that you may be pleased to be made acquainted with a few particulars in regard to the country in which we are operating; and which have come to me in the form of memoranda, through the notes of the assistants under me, and my own observation. In conformity with your instructions I shall simultaneously transmit a copy of this memoir to Col. W. Lindsay commanding in the Cherokee Nation under whose directions I am now acting.

In a country like this and at a season the most unpropitious for surveying operations, it is natural to suppose many difficulties would be encountered. We have nevertheless effected a great many surveys, which are now about to be plotted when more exact

information will be submitted in regard to the Topographical features of the country, and its adaptation to the object proposed.

The surveys which are now in operation will present a mass of valuable information in relation to the topography of the country; and enable such dispositions to be made in reference to troops and munitions of War as will in case of emergency we hope contribute greatly to a prompt suppression of the

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A complicated mountain region which may be regarded as the stronghold of the Cherokee Nation in the event of their being disposed to resist or evade the Stipulation of the Treaty for their removal lies in the extreme western corner of North Carolina. It is bounded on the East and North by the County of Macon. On the West by Tennessee - and on the South by Georgia. The Eastern Boundary line runs along the Nantayeelee Ridge to the mouth of the Nantayeelee Creek on the Little Tennessee River. The Little Tennessee itself then becomes the boundary to where it cuts its way through the Great Iron or Smoky mountain on the one hand

and the Unaka or White Mountains on the other. The latter Ridge divides Tennessee from North Carolina and forms the Western Boundary of the district referred to. On the South our Reconnoissance extends to the mountain region of the Indian Territory in Georgia. This limit intersects many streams of some note which fall into the Hiwassee River and one (the Nantayeelee) which falls into the Little Tennessee.

We have already mentioned the Unaka Mountains through which both the Little Tennessee and the Hiwassee Rivers appear to force their way and eventually join the main Tennessee river. But there is yet another and very remarkable leading Ridge which on account of its great length has acquired among us the denomination of the Long Ridge. It has its origin in the bed of mountains which rises on the Eastern side of the Unaika Ridge. Thence it continues almost straight to the Nantayalee River which it strikes at about 12 and one fifth miles from its mouth. It then appears to bend almost in a semicircle around the heads of

Valley river and stretches away finally to join the Blue Ridge in Georgia. This Ridge divides the waters of the Little Tennessee from those of the Hiwassee.

There are a number of smaller Ridges, but most, if not all, are spurs of the leading ones above mentioned and will be referred to as occasion may require.

The principal streams which empty themselves into the Little Tennessee, on the Cherokee side are the Nantayeelee, the Teloneka or Yellow Creek the Stekoah, the Tuskegee, and the Cheowah.

The Hiwassee River heads in Georgia near the Nantayeelee and then runs through North Carolina in a westerly direction through the Unaka Mountains into Tennessee. Its tributaries are Brasstown Creek, Shooting Creek, Tuscuittah, Peachtree, Fire's Creek, Valley River or Konshete, Hanging Dog, Beaver Dam, Cane Creek, Nottely, Persimmon Creek and two or three other small creeks.

The Nantayeelee heads in Georgia and runs nearly north to where it adds its waters to those of the

Little Tennessee, gathering several small streams in its course among which are Chogees Creek and Mad Woman's Creek.

The Tellico River rises in the Iron bed of mountains, lying between the Little Tennessee and the Hwassee rivers and empties into the Little Tennessee a few miles below where that river issues from the mountains.

Previous to enumerating the leading or principal Indian trails or Bridle roads, it will be necessary to indicate a few of the most remarkable points they connect. Fort Lindsay is at the Eastern side of the mouth of the Nantayeelee. Fort Delaney is on Konehete or Valley river about 16 miles from its mouth. Fort Butler is opposite the mouth of Konehete on the South bank of the Hwassee and Fort Hembrie is near the South bank of Hwassee 16 miles from Fort Butler.

The great State Road from Franklin, (Macon County, North Carolina) to Athens, Tennessee winds up the steep eastern side of the Nantayeelee Ridge to a great height. It descends thence towards the Nantayeelee, crossing Mad Woman's Creek, a branch of Nantayeelee. Traversing the Nantayeelee, it

crosses Chogees Creek and gradually ascending to a pass in the Long Ridge--it then descends again along a very rugged and precipitous hill side to the beautiful Valley of Konehete, following for several miles and often crossing the Southern most fork of that river. The wide and open Valley of Konehete offers a fine level, in many places more than a mile wide undulated by low hills towards the mouth of the river, and over this fine tract the road passes for about 18 or 19 miles. It then follows the North bank of the Hiwassee for about 3 miles along a good level, but leaving it to the left more and more, becomes hilly and at length ascends the Unaka mountains to the Tennessee line, crossing successively Hangirgi Dog, Beaver Dam and Cut Cane Creeks; the total distance from the Nantayseelee ridge to the Tennessee line being about 58 miles--hence it proceeds to Athens in Tennessee.

The Road from Valley river or Konehete, to Nacouchy and Clarksville, Georgia leaves the above mentioned river near its mouth, crosses the Hiwassee and then keeps near its Southern side for 15 miles to Fort Hembria where

it diverges to the right into Georgia.

The Road from Franklin to Madisonville, Tennessee does not enter the limits of the Cherokees in North Carolina as it keeps along the northern bank of the Little Tennessee. It is about 31 miles from the mouth of the Nantayeelee to the Tennessee Boundary line to the summit of the Smoky Mountains.

There is a good wagon road from Fort Butler over an undulating country not far from the East bank of the Nottley Creek. This road is joined at about 10 miles from Fort Butler (near Rapers) by another road which leaves the Hiwassee road between Fort Butler and Fort Hembrie, about 7 miles from Fort Butler designated the Brasstown Road. The distance by the latter road from Hiwassee river to Rapers is about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles. Here the two roads join cross the Nottley and continue for 12 miles more to Blairsville, Georgia.

A trail ascends the northern fork of the Koneheta and passes over a low Gap (the lowest known) in the Long Ridge to the Nantayeelee creek which it follows down and crosses several times within



a distance of 12 miles to Fort Lindsay--the total distance from Fort Delaney being about 23 miles.

Leaving the Little Tennessee about 3 miles below Fort Lindsay--a trail passes over into the Valley of the Tiloneke creek and following for sometime its valley crosses a low gap--follows the Stekoah and enters the Cheowah Valley over a high Ridge, descends a branch of the Cheowah, and ascends very steeply another to the summit of the Long Ridge, hence it descends finally to Fort Delany on Konehete being a total distance of about 31 miles from Fort Lindsay. The ground is altogether favorable to our abject and the line has been surveyed and staked out in reference to a wagon road.

About 8 miles below Fort Lindsay, a trail leaves the Little Tennessee at the mouth of the Teloneka and ascends it for about 2 miles till it joins the last mentioned trail at a distance of about 3 miles from where it leaves the Little Tennessee. Twelve miles below Fort Lindsay, a trail ascends the Stekoah from its mouth and croping in one place over a mountain

pass to avoid the bend of the creek (which is also choked with thickets and it precipitous) follows the Stekoah again (to where it joins the first mentioned trail from Fort Lindsay) about 11 miles from this Fort.

A trail leaves the Little Tennessee about 26 miles below Fort Lindsay and taking advantage of the mountain passes crosses over to Buffalo Tow on the Cheowah whence it follows that creek to about the 21st mile on the first mentioned Fort Lindsay and Fort Butler route. The length of this trail is about 12 miles.

The connecting trail between Fort Hembrie and Fort Lindsay ascends the Tusculittah and crosses the mountains to the Franklin and Athens road, whence it finds its way to the Nantayeelee by following down some of the branches of that stream and attaining its valley about 3 miles above Fort Lindsay, being a distance of 35 miles.

A trail crosses from Fort Hembrie to Fort Delaney in a direct course across the mountains but is almost unavailable on account of its

steepness. Another trail from Fort Hembrie follows the North bank of the Hiwassee for several miles (of its descent) and then strikes over to Valley River without any serious impediment--the distance being about 26 miles to Fort Delaney.

There is also a trail which leaving the main road near Fort Hembrie crosses Hiwassee, strikes up Shooting Creek and ascending very steeply the Long Ridge--passes over that and the Nantayeelee Ridge towards Franklin.

Most of the creeks whose banks are not too steep to forbid it have trails along them and many trails cross the country in several directions which as yet have not been explored.

The trail between Fort Lindsay and Fort Delaney which follows the Nantayeelee is exceedingly rough. In many places it climbs along dangerous rocky precipices of tremendous height and overhung by steep rocks and mountains. In others it winds along the narrow strips of land which the high precipitous

mountains that confine the Nantayeelee nearly throughout its course leave occasionally on its banks. At about 12 miles from Fort Lindsay the trail leaves the Nantayeelee and ascends along a small branch of that river to a Gap in the Long Ridge. The ascent is easy and favorable for a Road and the Gap is the lowest known in that high barrier of mountains. Once over the Gap we reach almost immediately the source of the northern fork of Konehete and the valley through which it runs offers every facility for an excellent road to Fort Delaney.

At about 21 miles from Fort Lindsay on the trail which passes from Little Tennessee through the Cheowah country to Fort Delaney-- a trail strikes away Easterly along the valley of the Telloolee 5 or 6 miles to where that creek forks. The trail now divides and one branch follows a prong which heads in the mountains bordering the Nantayeelee and finally intersects the Nantayeelee trail already referred to. The other branch follows the prong which heads in the same ridge near the source of Valley River or Konehete and intersects also the Nantayeelee trail. An easy and

not very long descent can be obtained from the first trail to the Nantayeelee, but from the second trail, the mountains being very much elevated above Valley River--no descent could be obtained that would not be very long and very expensive.

To complete the road from the Turnpike on Little Tennessee near Fort Lindsay to the upper extremity of the Cheowah Valley would require the labor of 64 men for three months should the character of ground not exact more rock excavation, than we have a right to suppose from reconnoissances, and under ordinary circumstances of weather. A similar number for two months would suffice to reach the mouth of Te lovl ee, in the vicinity of which it is possible. Col--Lindsay may think it expedient to establish a Post.

The trail from Fort Lindsay to Fort Delaney through the Cheowah Valley leaves the Little Tennessee River 3 miles below Fort Lindsay. At this point there are three fording places, the lowest of which is the best about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile below Shearer's house at the lower end of a corn field on the South bank. After passing over a short low hill the trail meets with no material obstruction for 10 miles.

A spur of the Long Ridge which extends away to the mouth of the Cheowah has then to be surmounted in order to enter the Cheowah Valley. The trail which ascends it is steep after the fashion of the Indians who have little notion of grading and always take the shortest course up and down hill. But the graded line which has been marked out along the mountain side for the proposed road will not exceed a grade of 7 or 8 feet in a hundred for a distance of about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles on either side of the mountain. Along the Cheowah Valley the road will be almost a level and the trail which follows a branch of the Cheowah is good to where the Long Ridge intercepts our further progress to Valley River. The ascent by the trail is then very steep and protracted in length owing to the great elevation of the mountain in this vicinity. Crossing the ridge--the trail descends steeply to Konchete for a distance of three miles along a sharp fish-vacked ridge or spur of the Long Ridge and then crossed over the level valley to Fort Delaney.

The trail most advantageous for the direction of a road from Fort Hembrie

to Fort Delaney encounters little or no difficulties except in one place where it descends steeply and abruptly to Vengeance Creek one of the branches of Konchete. This descent can however be graded with the utmost facility, and is very short.

The trail which follows the Stekoah Creek can hardly be recommended for transportation in time of war. It is often hemmed in closely by the high banks of the creek and might be easily annoyed at such points by ambuscades. The country is however so generally open that little is to be apprehended on the score of Ambush or surprise on any of the trails hitherto mentioned, if ordinary precautions are taken. Laurel thickets and Coppice Wood occasionally skirt or cross the trails we have indicated but generally of such small extent and so sparse as to be easily scoured by an advanced guard.

The mountains are generally clothed with woods to their summits with but a few exceptions called Bald Mountails; but the vallies having been subjected to cultivation by the Indians from time immemorial are almost entirely devoid of timber, and where not actually tilled are partially overgrown with Oak, Coppice,

etc. The banks of streams especially where they take their sources the mountains, frequently have a skirting of laurel which in some instances spread out into extensive thickets. The forests are generally very open; that is, the trees are wide apart, and the fires which the Indians continually make to burn the undergrowth or brush in order to facilitate hunting, remove the obstructions which it would otherwise present to a free passage in all directions. The varieties of trees are those common to the Alleghanies among which the many kinds of Oak predominate. Hickory, walnut, chestnut, and gums are common. The pine and hemlock take possession of the more barren rocky and precipitous acclivities.

Like the northern part of Georgia the country is said to abound in Gold. A great deal had been washed by the Indians (after their careless, desultory fashion) from the streams. Veins have been little worked if at all and are scarcely known. Silver is by some supposed to exist but this conclusion is rather doubtful. Lead has been found. Statuary marble is seen at the surface in Valley River and Hiwassee. No one has presumed on the existence of copper or tin though



to these is a Missionary Establishment on Peachtree, now vacated by the Missionaries, but held by some whites. Many whites who have intermarried with Indians have thus become to all intents and purposes a part of the Nation and are considered as such by them.

The Indians live in scattered communities along the banks of the various rivers and creeks which wind through their territory. the names of these are Briarstown, Econe or Nantayeelee--Wacheestown on Hiwassee bordering on Tennessee. Ducktown on the Tekoah which flows into Georgia. Tuskegee on Tuskegee Creek. Stekoah town on Stekoah. Buffalo town on Cheowah. Three towns on Cheowah. Teloclee on Teloclee or upper Cheowah. Konehete on Konehete or Valley River. Hanging Dog Town or Hanging Dog Creek. Brasstown on Brasstown Creek. Tuscittah town on Tuscittah Creek. Tuskegeetown--head of Tuscittah. Shooting Creek Town on Shooting Creek. Noocoochy on Shooting Creek. Hanging Town on Hyattsville, Nantayeelee. Peachtree (Missionary) Nottely. Turtle-town on Camp Creek. Persimmon Creeks Spikebuck town--near Fort Hembrie.

it is highly probable that these metals not usually apparent to common observation are lurking in the Soil. Iron Ore is abundant and many places is found almost pure at the surface. Talc Soap Stone is found on Konehete and other localities. As in most or all mountainous countries, the water is exceedingly plentiful and of the Purest quality. Several chalybeate and sulphur Springs, are well known and others may be supposed to exist in the unexplored districts.

The soil may be denominated a light sandy loam which though much worn by long cultivation in the vallies is still susceptible of bearing excellent crops. The uplands appear to have been little injured by cultivation and even the steeper mountains afford a good range for cattle.

With the exception of the Military Posts above enumerated, a few white families only have been able to gain a footing in this country on Konehete Valley, the Hiwassee Vally, Nottly Vally, and the State Road between Konehete and Tennessee. These settlers have purchased the tenure of their lands from Indians who have emigrated to other parts. In the remainder of this Region, the Indians have resisted all inroad. In addition

It is not the province of a mere report to enlarge upon the many characteristics of the Indian. Throughout the continent of North America, these are generally found to be similar. Grave in his intercourse with the whites, and good tempered or sullen, according to the treatment he receives from them. Cunning and reserved on subjects connected with his own or his people's affairs. Poor, ignorant of economy, of time or money, cultivating the soil for a base subsistence, they prefer the chase of the deer or sheer idleness to more useful employment. Their own language is the only one they willingly employ and even when acquainted with English they appear to speak it with reluctance. In person the Indians differ somewhat according to the distinct, in stature, hue and features. The men are generally however well formed athletic, supple and have a firm upright carriage and elastic step. The difference in hue and features arises probably from their admixture with, whites, negroes, Creek Indians etc. The women, on whom devolves nearly all the laborer are thereby insured to hardship and would yield great assistance in time of war. Little more need

be said of these people. In peace they are mild, unassuming and seldom or ever disposed to resent even an effort offered by a white unless when roused to fury by spirituous liquors.

In the course of our surveys much important matter has been collected both Topographical and Statistical. It has been the endeavor of the reconnoitring parties to ascertain the probable number of Indians in the country; but owing to the shyness of the Indians and their evident wish for concealment it has been impossible to make any census other than may be made approximatively by counting the number of houses which have come under observation. As the settlements are almost entirely in vallies or adjoining them and in the neighborhood of usable land, few of them can possibly have escaped observation. By averaging the number to each family some idea may be obtained of the population.

The different surveys which have hitherto been made are as follows:

1. From the Indian Boundary Line, Nantayeelee Ridge along the Franklin and Athens Road to the Tennessee Boundary Line--Unaka Mountains.
2. From Fort Delaney to Fort Lindsay along the Nantayeelee Streams.

3. From Fort Butler to Fort Hembrie along the Hiwassee road.
4. From Fort Lindsay to Fort Delany along the Teloneke, Stekoah and Cheowah Streams.
5. From a Burch mark on the Nantayeelee survey along the north prong of Teloolee down that creek and the Cheowah to the Little Tennessee River.
6. From Fort Hembrie to Fort Delaney.
7. From Fort Hembrie to Fort Lindsay along the Tuscuittah across Franklin Road, down branch of Nantayeelee and finally along the stream itself.
8. From Fort Butler near Nottely old town 10 miles along Blairsville Road.
9. From a B. M. seven miles above Fort Butler on Hiwassee Road along Brasstown road to join Survey of Blairsville road near Nottely old town.

All the streams of any consequence have been carefully reconnoitred and as before mentioned, trails, mountains, and every other topographical feature carefully noted. Surveys about the Southwestern angle of the state of North Carolina and portion of Georgia contiguous are now in operation. As also in that portion of the mountains at the head of Hanging Dog and about the head of Tellico River.

When these surveys shall be plotted and the details of topography upon the several lines represented new suggestions will undoubtedly

present themselves and will be the subject of a supplementary report. In the mean time in pursuance of my instructions, I will advert to such circumstances as may pertain to an estimate of the Indians of this district in the hypothesis of an attempt on their part to evade the stipulations of the treaty in reference to a removal. Previously to entering upon this as a question of numbers, physical strength, inherent in the country they inhabit, their means of subsistence etc. I will remark briefly what has occurred to me as to the moral disposition of the Indians in relation to this subject. It is but natural to suppose that the love of home is a paramount sentiment with the Indian whose range of ideas is too limited to stimulate him to enterprise beyond his immediate vicinity and who is moreover attached to the grave of his ancestors by feelings of superstitious veneration. This, however, by the state of extreme poverty and privation to which they are reduced is, it may be inferred greatly weakened and they might be easily tempted to repress the sentiment entirely in the contemplated to greated advantages in a distant country. But this natural sympathy is kept alive by the appeals of those interested

in their opposition to a removal and by the representation made to them of any thing but advantage in such an arrangement. Influential Chiefs and many white residents among them stimulated by sordid views and either feeling or pretending to feel for their situation encourage every proposition adverse to their own true interest and the wishes of the U. S. Government.

Under such circumstances the result of our observations is that the great mass of the Indians in this section of the country are decidedly hostile to emigration. And what is to be lamented, the hope of remaining is kept alive by false representations to a degree that is truly surprising; for the Indians generally do not contemplate the idea of their departure, and in the full expectation that some adjustment will take place at Washington, many are now building new houses and establishing themselves in the full confidence of remaining. This tendency is strengthened moreover at this time by the debates of Congress upon the subject of the treaty which is of course communicated to them through the medium of this delegation now at the seat of Government. It is therefore to be re-

gretted that these delusions of false hopes will only be dashed to the ground at the very period when it will be necessary to carry out the conditions of the treaty. And it is to be much feared that, referring to general principles of human nature, an irritation of feeling may grow out of their sudden disappointment and incite them to acts of desperation. A short time, the conviction on their mind that they must go and they would gradually accomodate themselves to the idea and be prepared to meet their destiny.

Our sojourn amongst the Indians has convinced us, that at present they have no idea of resistance and so far as we have been enabled to gather they have made no provision for such an event. Their conduct towards the whites is marked by the most inoffensive deportment, although an obvious distrust is exhibited in every word they reply to our interrogations. Indeed the simplest question is met by the same cunning evasion and appears to be a systematised plan inculcated doubtless with their chiefs whom they regard as Oracles and Obey with the most implicit confidence. This makes it exceedingly difficult to obtain such information as we desire but by observation and conversations with the best informed white residents we have acquired much valuable data in the event to be apprehended.



In regard to the locale of the Indians in the mountain district, much may be said in its adaptation to their mode of warfare and for the purposes of concealment. It would appear obvious that if they could provision themselves in these fastnesses of nature and possessed arms and ammunition, they would be enabled to oppose a very formidable resistance to any attempt to dislodge them, for it must be considered that they have the range of not merely the mountain region within the territory now occupied by them but that of a very extensive bed of mountains stretching to the French Broad River in North Carolina, so sparsely inhabited by whites as to offer them a secure and inaccessible shelter from invasion and yet a fertile field for their predatory incursions. A reservation of Cherokee Indians consisting of about one hundred warriors on the Oconee Lufti, a stream putting in on the East side of the Tuckaseeche in that portion of country already vacated by the Indians under a previous Treaty and who have obtained the right of citizenship, if allowed to remain under that claim might be to them a useful auxiliary in supplying them with provisions etc. To prevent a disposition of this kind on the part of the Indians, the passage of the Little Tennessee should

be well guarded, so as to confine the field of operations of our forces to as small a space as possible and thence increase their efficiency.

Supposing then that operations should be composed within the limits to which my instructions particularly refer, namely the Cherokee Boundary in North Carolina it would appear obvious from the nature of the ground that the most effectual mode of reducing the Indians would be by compelling them to come in by the pressure of want and privation. To effect this object it would be necessary to secure the vallies in which their farms are situated and seise at once upon the grain, cattle, etc. they may have on hand, on the slightest exhibition on their part of a hostile intention. And the immediate occupation of these vallies would place us in the attitude to carry this plan into effective operation. They would thus be driven to the mountain fastnesses, where it is true, they would be almost inaccessible to attack; but at the same time they would be destitute of provisions and the necessary appliances of war. They would be obliged to have recourse to hunting for food and could not therefore

embody to any extent and might be met by small detachments whenever they emerged for purpose of procuring the provision by hunting necessary to their existence. By the knowledge of topography we shall have acquired the country will be intersected in every direction by knownpaths where the necessary force may be posted to cut them off in detail. It would appear that the leading points to be attended to for the establishment of posts are those which being contiguous to the largest settlements may have a commanding influence upon them and which may be rendered accessible by wagon roads. I would enumerate the following as most important. Firstly, Fort Butler should be reoccupied, having by its contiguity to the popular settlements on Nottely, Valley River, and Brasstown a most commanding position. Fort Hembree and Fort Delany are already garrisoned and would serve to overawe the vallies of Hiwassee, Tuscuittah, and Valley River respectually. In addition, it would be advisable that the wild and unfrequent bed of mountains at the head of Hanging Dog Creek should be occupied. It is to be remarked, however, that the spring and summer seasons would be the last propitions to carry on offensive operations against the Indians by reason of the foliage which would serve to conceal them from pursuit,

added to which, the means of subsistence by the products of vegetation such as they are, would be more easily obtained. A post should be established on the Cheowah Valley in the vicinity of the mouth of the Telloolee, a section of two sites for that object might be recommended which will be more particularly referred to where the map shall be completed and the course of Col. Lindsay shall be obtained.

A point on the Nantahulee where the Franklin road traverses it or in that vicinity would serve to sustain incursions and to drive the Indians from the contiguous fastnesses of the Long and Nautayulee ridges and a very extensive Laurel Thicket in that vicinity to which my attention has been directed by memoranda transmitted to me from the Topographical Bureau. Fort Lyndsay with some dependent stations or Blockhouses would guarantee (by the facility offered by the great Turnpike along its margin) the Little Tennessee from being passed by them, should they attempt the project of retreating to the mountains at the head of pigeon and French Broad already referred to Blockhouse, capable of being sustained from the forts for the protection of the inhabitants now settled in the vallies might be erected at such points as circumstances might seem to

require. These are the points generally described most strikingly worthy of notice within the limits of North Carolina to which my attention has hitherto alone been directed.

It has been thought that the Indians might subsist for a long while in the mountains upon game and the nutritious vegetation supposed to be disseminated throughout the country. There appears to be a diversity of opinion upon this subject, but so far as my investigations have tended, I am inclined to believe that this could not be the case. This region differs entirely in that respect from Florida, whence the idea probably originated. The genial climate and soil are wanting to sustain in this mountain region the nutritious vegetation so exuberant in the more Southern and fertile territory. The inner bark of the white oak to which they resorted in extremity, as I understand shortly attended with disease to those who have no other resource and the game and stock ranging the mountains have made great inroads upon the few roots or plants that might otherwise have contributed to their sustenance. Hence

it would be out of the question for them to embody unless supplied with provisions extraneously. And in scattered parties, the utmost they could effect would be to barely exist even for a short time for on the score of game, the business of hunting would be attended with danger and require their constant vigilance to avoid the dangers from the several depots and Forts established through the country. They could not under these circumstances, attend to both War and the Chase. And their situation would become so precarious as I think under the system referred to would shortly bring them to terms.

I have already observes that there is no evidence of an attempt on the part of the Indians to lay up provisions in the mountains and this would appear a sufficient index that at present they have no hostile intentions for there is not want of intelligence among their principal chiefs, and this course would, it may be supposed have been indicated to then had such intention existed. In fine the universal expression amongst them is "that they will make no resistance, but they must be forced away", by which it may be inferred that they wish to reserve to themselves the rights of future

appeal. Under all circumstances, however, this point should be looked to and it would be but good policy to employ agents for the purchase of corn and provisions from them at any price and to any extent. Although the prices given for the produce they might be tempted to dispose of, should be threefold its value, it would perhaps result in economy to the government as it would effectually cripple their resources, and paralyze their councils when the apprehended crisis shall arrive. In regard to the numerical force of the Indians, the whole of our data is not yet at hand, and it must be observed that it is difficult to arrive at a very exact result because the Indians refuse an answer to our interrogations, and make a point of either concealing themselves or flying to the woods on the approach of the whites. From the number of cabins, the best reasoning we can institute derived therefrom, and the little we have been enabled to gather, with the best information of old residents of the country who may be relied on; I should judge that there are not less than 1200 warriors within the limits of North Carolina. They are very illy provided with arms and ammunition. It is thought that there are at most not more than 400 rifles among them, and those for the most part useless,

or in bad repair. They have bows and arrows and an implement called blowgun, which they use for the purpose of killing small game, at which they are very expert. This might be regarded as contributing somewhat to their resources in that respect.

It is with great deference that I have advanced these suggestions although called upon by my instructions to involve such consideration in my report. I regard this, however, as a cursory view submitted merely that it may lead to superior suggestions from the department and the experience of the Commanding Officer of this division, to whom these views will be simultaneously submitted. Another object of this memoir is to inform the Department and Col. Lindsay as to the State of the work and to enable them to make such suggestions as in their wisdom they may deem expedient.

I herewith send a sketch of the country above referred to, in which the principal points are laid down with accuracy and very different in their position from that exhibited on the maps we have been enabled to procure.

The red lines represent the principal roads and trails surveyed; although



many smaller trails which have been explored by us are not indicated. I am assisted in these surveys by Messrs. P. Harry, Fremont, Campbell, Adams, and Stimpson, gentlemen of intelligence to whose industry and zeal I feel greatly indebted.

I am Sir with Respect

Your Obt. Servt.

W. G. Williams

Capt. W. Taylor