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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Washington, D. C.

August 19, 1963

Dr. Wayne C. Grover  
Archivist of the United States  
National Archives  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Grover:

A friend of mine is preparing an article for publication in the "North Carolina Historical Review," concerning removal of the Cherokee Indians to the Indian territory pursuant to the Treaty of New Echota, December 29, 1835.

In this connection, it appears that John Charles Fremont, native of Savannah, Ga., 2nd Lt. of Topographical engineers; Governor of California; U.S. Senator from California; Major General of Union Army Volunteers, 1861, Republican candidate for President of the United States in 1856, Governor of Arizona, was a member of a party of surveyors and engineers who surveyed the Cherokee territory in the mountains of Western North Carolina (my Congressional District), Northeast Georgia and East Tennessee, in 1837-1838, under the direction of Captain W. G. Williams, U.S. Topographical Engineers.

Evidence linking Fremont with this particular survey, however, is somewhat vague. His name appears on the survey map as "C. Fremont," to which it is evident that someone has added the initial, "J", in pencil. Apparently, Fremont at that time was a civilian employee of the Army Engineers and had not been commissioned in the regular Army (which occurred sometime after the survey was completed in 1838).

No biography of the celebrated "Pathfinder" seems to mention "Fremont's connection with the survey of the Cherokee Indian Territory in 1837-1838, but begins with his employment as a civil engineer and assistant of Nicollet on the Missouri River in 1838. Fremont was commissioned a 2nd Lt., Army Engineers, July 7, 1838.

Please advise me if there are records in the National Archives, aside from the map referred to (in the files of the General Land Office) which establish Fremont's connection with the survey in my Congressional District.

Sincerely yours,

Roy A. Taylor, M.C.