

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE
Washington 25, D. C.

August 23, 1963

Honorable Roy A. Taylor
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Taylor:

This is in reply to your communication of August 19 in which you requested information relating to General John C. Fremont.

In his book, Memoirs of My Life, John C. Fremont referred to his employment as a civilian in the Topographical Bureau of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, United States Army, during the period from late 1837 to early 1838. He wrote that he worked under the direction of Captain William G. Williams, Topographical Engineers. Captain Williams' party surveyed the former Cherokee Territory in parts of North Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee for a proposed railway from Cincinnati to Charleston.

We have searched the records of the War Department and found evidence that tends to verify Fremont's recollection. In a letter received in the Topographical Bureau on December 15, 1837, Captain Williams recommended Fremont for the Corps of Topographical Engineers. In a letter to the Secretary of War, dated December 22, 1837, from "Huntington Cherokee County, North Carolina," Fremont applied for an appointment in the Corps of Topographical Engineers. The actual letters are missing from the correspondence file but their contents are abstracted in the registers of letters received. Negative photostatic copies of two register entries can be furnished for eighty cents. Remittance should be made to the National Archives and Records Service by check or money order payable to the General Services Administration (NMRA).

The following publications include reference to Fremont's participation in the Cherokee survey:

Bigelow, John. Memoir of the Life and Public Services of John Charles Fremont. New York: Derby and Jackson, 1856

Nevins, Allan. Fremont: The West's Greatest Adventurer,
New York and London: Harper and Brothers, Publishers, 1928

Encyclopedia Americana

Sincerely yours,

Robert H. Bahmer
Acting Archivist
of the United States

Enclosure