

Done a little

CHEROKEE CAVALIERS

give you the Particulars before I could. I shall write to our friends Charles Vann & George Chambers.

I am yr. friend
JOHN RIDGE

☞ W. M. Thompson to Elias Boudinot

Cassville georgia
November 5th 1838

Mr. E. Budinote

DEAR FRAND

Onst more at home and tolerebell well rested. I left the agensey²⁸ on the 24th of last month at 12 o clock and had been thare a month at thate time. I will try and give you an oute line of matters at thate plase — John Ross has maid a moving Contract with general Scott at \$66 per had²⁹ — the indians is divided into twelve detachments haided as follows: Elijah Hicks³⁰ first detachmente started aboute the fifteenth of sep-tember to catch detachment. thare is an asistent Conductor, three manigeres, wagons masters, an asistent, a Comesarey and an asistent a fairer an asistent and 20 persons to each wagon.

Hair of Candey's Creek³¹ Conducted the 2 detachment. by some mens he was removed and Thomis Foreman became its Conductor. the 3 was Conducted by Busheyhead.³² the 4th by Jones the Baptest pretcher from valley towne.³³ the fifth by Steephen Foreman. the treaty party by John Bell under the

²⁸ Thompson was probably referring to the old Cherokee Agency on the Hiwassee River near Calhoun, Tennessee.

²⁹ Finding that the Cherokee must go, Chief Ross made a contract with General Winfield Scott by which Ross was to have charge of the removal.

³⁰ Elijah Hick's detachment consisted of about 850 people. When they reached the Indian Territory early in January, 1839, this number had decreased by about a hundred.

³¹ Hair Conrad started with about 850 people. The number had been reduced to about 650 when they reached the Indian Territory early in January.

³² The Reverend Jesse Bushyhead, conductor of the third detachment, started with 950 Cherokee and reached Indian Territory early in February. There were six births and thirty-eight deaths during the journey.

³³ The Reverend Evan Jones' detachment departed October 15 and reached its destination February 2. During the journey the number was reduced from 1250 to 1033.

REMOVAL AND THE ROSS-RIDGE FEUD

athorety of govern[men]t and the rights of the treaty. th[e] move all started [whe]n I left the agensey. Tayler³⁴ Conducted a party, Brown aparty, Bud Watt of dear a party, Gorge Hicks³⁵ a party, Gorge Stell a party, petter Halter brand³⁶ a party, Wafferd from north Carolina aparty. this I have given you the Conducters names. the eyday is there are the reprasantations of the 12 tribes of Iserel on thare way from the land of bondadg and thare has dyd something over a thousand sants. thay was in Camped ner the agensey. the Hightower indians is in Steven Foremens and Balls divashion — we hope that matters of diveshen as to the afars of the governments of the nation will bee managed with sutch prudens as will not involve the intrest of the people. this is in relation to the Chiefs them selvs. try and obtain a filling of ofises by the voise of the people as sone as practibell and that will give the Common people to feel thare rights is restored.

asto the man hoo may sattle the maters of your improve ments and spoilation money matters is like wise of great imp-ortens.³⁷ the Commisheners hoo have acted at the agensay on[e] is by the name of Jams Little from gorgea aworthey and business dooing man and has the Confidents of every person as an honest and worthey man.

Thommis Wilson from north Carolinah is a man of buisnes and is thorou[g]ly aquanted with these matters. these man will be better prepared to finness this matter at the most than aney strangers Can bee on a Counte of thare long trades and aquantens with all the matters. as far John C. Cannedey hee is 0000 from 0000 and 0000 [from] 0000 remains a nusens to so-siety and opposit to all good. thare is a Coln Joseph McMillen from the Tennessee sid hoo is one of the vullueng age[nts]

³⁴ Richard Taylor's party of 1029 reached the new home with 944.

³⁵ George Hicks conducted one of the last parties to leave Georgia. He arrived with 1039 out of the original number of 1118.

³⁶ The writer was referring to Peter Hildebrand, whose detachment of 1776 had been reduced by more than three hundred when it reached the Indian Territory.

³⁷ The Cherokee had many individual claims against the United States for improvements and property lost or destroyed during the period of removal.

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329