

CHEROKEE CAVALIERS

that is [acq]uainted with all the locations of [the] Contery [hoo] would be asutibell asistent. I [am] Candet in my remarks and I think you will doo well to in forme your salves on this vary important matter. your application to the Cerketterey of war in time may secure thare asistens and thay will Caroue oute the treaty to the satisfaction of the treetey partey. as to the matter of John Shooboot thare has as yeat nothing been don. Nathaneal Smith says he must bring him back and he has wrote to him to thate afacte.³⁸ this is all business in the dark to me. the spoilation bill of six hundred dollars for Aggey is not on the spoilation Book as Canedy told the Clerks all tho Canedy says he has the bill that past the Committee. as I have no Comission on thate matter I cannot urge it tharefore the matter as to the freedman of John and the spoilation bill for Aggey³⁹ is in afare way both to bee lost. if Lissey and polley will otherise me as thare lawfull agent to act in the matter as to the rolles of John and the expanses to bee paid oute of this spoilation [money] I will lay down all other business and aten[d] [to] this matter. whate is don must be done soon. I will awaite your answer before I can proseed. you now whate kind of an instruments it must bee. delays may be dangerous in a matter of so grait importens.

my famely is in good halth. we have another daughter aboute 6 weeks old. I m[ight get others down] against on this matters. [wright me when con]venent. I wish to heere from all my frands in that Nation. I got a letter from Jack hockens and Nansey a goint latter the kindnes of whitch is grate fully acnoledged. gave my respects to all your fathers famely and Majer Ridges [and] John Ridg. thare names Crowds on my mind whan I think of all. take my bast respects

W. M. THOMPSON

lat us larn your prospects of Crops [prom]ise of provesion P. C.

³⁸ This was probably General Nathaniel Smith who became emigrating agent in 1836.

³⁹ This refers to slaves lost during the removal.

REMOVAL AND THE ROSS-RIDGE FEUD

Andrew Jackson to John A. Bell⁴⁰
and Stand Watie

Hermitage
Octbr 5th 1839

GENTLEMEN:

My health will not allow me to visit Nashville today as I expected when you left me. You will find enclosed the papers left with me & a letter to the president of the United States in as strong language in your behalf & that of your friends as the facts and the outrageous & tyrannical conduct of John Ross & his self created council would authorize, & I trust the president will not hesitate to employ all his rightfull power to protect you and your party from the tyranny & murderous scemes of John Ross.

I hope peace and friendship among your whole people may be restored by peacefull & just means. Should this not be the happy result then, when oppression comes and murder ensues, resistance becomes a duty and let the arm of freemen lay the tyrants low & give justice & freedom to your people — but before this stand against oppression is taken, you must appeal & resort to all peacefull means to obtain justice & if the murderers of the two Ridges & Boudenot are not surrender[ed] & punished and security for the future gurranteed, then & not until then will the great and good Spirit smile upon your exertions by force to obtain justice by freeing yourselves & people from oppression.⁴¹

I remain respectfully yours

Messrs Bell & Waity
Cherokee delegation

ANDREW JACKSON

⁴⁰ John Adair Bell, who was later to become a brother-in-law of Stand Watie upon the marriage of the latter to Sarah Caroline Bell, was one of the signers of the Treaty of New Echota.

⁴¹ This letter is included through the courtesy of the owner of the original Professor T. L. Ballenger of Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

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