

DOCUMENTS

1. Letters of General John Coffee to His Wife, 1813-1815

INTRODUCTION.

General John Coffee was born in Prince Edward County, Virginia, June 2, 1772, and died on his plantation, "Hickory Hill," on Cox's Creek, near Florence, Alabama, July 7, 1833. His father, Joshua Coffee (1745-1797), removed in 1775 from Virginia to Granville County, North Carolina, and became in 1780 a captain in the Granville regiment of militia. For nine months he saw service toward the South in the Revolutionary militia. After the close of the Revolution he removed to Rockingham County, North Carolina, where he died in 1797. He left a widow, Elizabeth Graves Coffee (1751-1804), and three children, Thomas Graves Coffee, John Coffee and Mary Coffee, who married Simpson Harris. The elder son became a resident of Alabama and the two younger children removed to Tennessee. It was in April, 1798, that John Coffee came with his mother to the village of Haysborough, on the Cumberland River, near the present village of Madison, a few miles above Nashville. There he was a merchant and a surveyor. He was well educated for those days, and his skill as a surveyor was a material factor in his unusually successful career.

Though it was once considered as a possible rival of Nashville, the old town of Haysborough has long been but a memory. There lived a number of strong and sturdy children of the pioneers. The founder of the town was Colonel Robert Hays, who married a sister of Mrs. Andrew Jackson. A brother of these notable women was Captain John Donelson, whose daughter, Mary, was married in 1809 to John Coffee. John Donelson, Senior, was the celebrated co-founder with James Robertson of the Cumberland settlement, the leader of the flotilla headed by the boat, Adventure, which brought the colony to the Cumberland in 1780. His granddaughter, Mary Donelson Coffee, was sixteen years of age at her marriage. She lived until December 1871, and was the mother of ten children.—Mary Donelson Coffee (1812-1839), who married Andrew Jackson Hutchings; John Donelson Coffee (1815-1837), who married Mary N. Brahan; Elizabeth Graves Coffee (1817-1838); Andrew Jackson Coffee (1819-1891), who married Elizabeth Hutchings and was an officer in the war with Mexico; Alexander Donelson Coffee (1821-1901), who was first married to Ann E. Sloss, then to Mrs. Camilla Mad-

ding Jones; Rachel Jackson Coffee (1823-1892), who married A. J. Dyas; Katherine Coffee (1826-1881); Emily Coffee (1828-1829); William Coffee (1830-1903), who married Virginia Malone; Joshua Coffee (1832-1879). Alexander Donelson Coffee and William Coffee were officers in the Confederate army.

Some time in his earlier years John Coffee became the devoted friend of Andrew Jackson and continued so until his death. With him, John Hutchings and some of the Donelsons, Jackson was for a time a silent partner in mercantile business. Coffee was engaged as a merchant from 1802 to 1807, but, as he himself said, "From some accidents or losses, and from bad calculations or mismanagement, this proved a losing business." He further said:

"In the early part of the year 1807 I engaged in the surveying business in the then newly acquired country on the rivers Duck and Elk, which business, by my great exertions and unremitting attention, proved profitable. In the course of two years I was thereby enabled to pay the arrearages of my mercantile debt, amounting to six thousand dollars, besides reserving to myself several valuable tracts of land."

When Mary Donelson was married to John Coffee in October, 1809, her father gave her a farm on Stone's River, about two miles from the present village of Jefferson, in Rutherford County, and there they resided until their removal to Alabama in 1819. This farm is situated about ten miles from the Hermitage, near which Mrs. Coffee's father resided. It was not very long after his removal to the Stone's River farm that John Coffee was chosen as clerk of the County Court of Rutherford County. He held this office and operated the farm until the thrilling movements of 1812 brought him into the field for military service. In fact, even by this time he was a prominent and popular citizen. He was regarded as great of body and of heart. He was tall, broad-shouldered, gentle in manner, but brave and intelligent. In the year 1806 he had fought an almost hairless duel with Nathaniel McNairy out of his partisanship for Jackson in the troubles leading to his duel with Dickinson. When Aaron Burr was making Jackson believe that a war with Spain was imminent, Jackson suggested Coffee as his first choice as colonel of one of the regiments to be raised in Tennessee. It is not remarkable then that John Coffee was colonel of a regiment in the very first expedition that went out from Tennessee in the second war with Great Britain.

The story of his military career—so full of courage, faithfulness and heroism—is well told in American history and especially in the biographies of Andrew Jackson. Fortunately, he left many letters and other papers. His letters to his father—

in-law, Captain John Donelson, written during his military campaigns, are the property of the Tennessee Historical Society. They were published in the *American Historical Magazine* for April, 1901. His letters to his wife have been sacredly preserved by his descendants and these and other papers are now furnished for publication by Mrs. A. D. Coffee, of Florence, Ala., and Mr. Robert Dyas, of Nashville, a son of General Coffee's daughter, Mrs. Rachel Coffee Dyas. Many letters written by General Coffee to General Jackson are a part of the Jackson papers originally committed to Amos Kendall, then to Frank P. Blair, and now in the Division of Manuscripts, Library of Congress. Mr. Robert Dyas has submitted to the editor of the *MAGAZINE* for examination the original letters of Jackson to Coffee, covering a period of many years and dealing familiarly and often confidentially with a multitude of subjects. It is to be hoped that this most interesting collection can be published at no distant date. General Coffee's letters to his wife are always affectionate and practical. In nearly all of them she is addressed as, "My Love," or "My dear Wife," and they close with fond expressions of tender devotion. They exhibit the finest spirit of duty and kindness in the heart of the heroic Indian fighter and the brigade commander at New Orleans, of whom General Jackson said: "John Coffee is a consummate commander. He was born so. But he is so modest that he doesn't know it."

These letters, telling with simple art their momentous story, are yet full of details of home life, farm management and relations with kindred and friends. They show a thrifty mind, a determination to see that all at home are well provided for. The story opens with the Natchez expedition, fruitless save for its military discipline. The great drama of the Creek War, the expedition in Pensacola, and the New Orleans campaign—a succession of victories—is told in plain contemporary narrative.

In presenting these letters many of the references to do-mestic details are omitted, with due indications of such omissions. Minor errors in punctuation have been corrected. The letters are set forth in groups, and further explanation will be given with each group. In nearly all cases the letters to Mary Coffee are directed to Rutherford County, Tennessee.

JOHN H. DEWITT.

THE NATCHEZ EXPEDITION, 1813.

The Natchez expedition is well known in history. President Madison planned an invasion and occupation of West Florida. In November, 1812, the governor of Tennessee received a call for fifteen hundred volunteers for the defense of New Orleans—thus the real purpose was withheld, as New Orleans was not threatened by the British. Andrew Jackson, major-general of Tennessee militia, was impatient for some real military service. In that year John Coffee had raised a troop of cavalry and when Jackson's army was finally organized Coffee was elected colonel of the regiment of cavalry, or mounted gunmen, numbering 670. Jackson went by river in flat-bottomed boats to Natchez with the two regiments of infantry, commanded by Colonel Thomas Hart Benton and William Hall (afterward governor). They left Nashville on January 7, 1813. Colonel Coffee's regiment assembled at Franklin, and on January 19 began the march overland. On February 16 the three regiments were united near Natchez. Coffee's regiment stopped at Washington, in the territory of Mississippi, a short way from Natchez.

Great was the disappointment of officers and men, when after a month of idleness an order came from the War Department to disband. General Jackson, instead, led the force back to Nashville at his own expense, for which he was afterward reimbursed.

The following letters relate to this expedition:

John Coffee to Mary Coffee.

NASHVILLE, Friday night 12 o'clock, January 2nd, 1813. When duty requires it, all who wish to act justly, will and must obey, although our private interest, as well as our most tender wishes, would dictate otherwise,—when I parted with you last, I flattered myself if detained here thus long, I would have had the gratification of seeing you again before I left the State, but in this I am and must be disappointed, when I am absent from my command all appears to be wrong, it's hard to get along with my business when present, but worse, much worse, when away—therefore have resolved to do my duty at the sacrifice of my dearest interest and wishes, and I know you will, like a true patriot, applaud my resolution, notwithstanding your fond desire that I could be with you,—but the time will soon roll away when, I hope, the situation of our country will not require the service of her citizens—and then my love we can sit down in peace and enjoy the comforts that are laid in store for us and which we shall so fondly enjoy, to which time I shall look forward with anxious solicitude, when we can sit down with our dear little infant daughter and spend our days in each other's tender embrace—

*Mary Coffee, who in 1833 married Andrew Jackson Hutchings, a grand-nephew of Mrs. Andrew Jackson, son of John Hutchings, who by will made General Jackson guardian of Andrew. This is the first will recorded at Huntsville, Alabama. It was written by the hand of Andrew Jackson, and Mrs. Jackson was one of the witnesses.

The letters of General Jackson to Andrew Jackson Hutchings are now in the cus-

I have seen Mr. Eastin¹ he tells me you and little Mary are well,—I expect by the time this reaches you a part of S. Harris' family will be with you. I saw Mr. Harris, who said Lucinda² would go with the first wagon—himself and wife would wait until the last of their property went, the wagon left here this morning to go to his house for the last load, so you may not expect them for near a week.—I hope all is going on well—are the boys doing anything about getting in the corn—I expect the weather is so bad they cant do much—do my dear encourage them to progress as well as they can until Mr. Harris comes, when I am in hopes he will superintend the business of the farm—I dont recollect anything to advise you of more than when I left home—I wish you would write me a line by Ben,³ about matters and things as I shall feel very anxious to hear from you as well as to know the situation of my farm etc.—I have sent Ben expressly for that purpose, as I cannot come myself. I dont expect to write you again until some opportunity offers on the road, when or where I cannot say—I flatter myself I shall have a pleasant trip although the weather is as yet bad, we shall soon reach a more temperate climate—And I have an agreeable set of officers as companions, and have no doubt all be pleasant.

P. S. I expect we shall leave this place on wednesday next—on the line of march—

2. CAMP NEAR FRANKLIN, January 16, 1813.

I received yours requesting me once more to visit you before my final departure from the State. I need not remark to you, as I am sure you are apprised of my great anxiety to do so, did not prudence and a sense of my duty dictate otherwise, I am not disposed to complain or shrink from the task I have undertaken, but will only observe, that its a laborious one, it requires all the Philosophy, all the energy and firmness I am master of, to keep things going on in a proper train. One hour's absence will take days to regain the former order of things. I am now left to the entire command of my Regiment, and the eyes of my men and those of the world are upon me. and one small piece of neglect would never be regained by me during life, under those circumstances I think, my love, you will applaud my resolution, and approve the privation of enjoying one more evening with an affectionate wife and tender infant—until I have discharged the trust reposed in me by my country.

I expect to leave this on Monday next on our final march, I shall pass through Columbia, Colbert's ferry and direct to Natchez, where I expect to meet General Jackson again. I fear he will be froze up in the river with the ice for some time yet to come—Mr. Wilson will hand you this, as he goes home. by the time he returns do write me by him. I shall expect you to write by all safe opportunities as it will be the greatest pleasure I can here enjoy to receive a line from you, how is our sweet little Mary and yourself. Am in perfect health.

body of the Tennessee Historical Society through the kindness of Mr. Robert Dyas. They have never been published. They reveal a tender love and solicitude for the young man and show the deep religious convictions and kindly emotions of General Jackson.

¹William Eastin, a merchant of Nashville and Franklin, who in 1809 married Rachel Jackson Donelson, a sister of Mrs. Coffey.

²Simpson Harris, of Rutherford County, who was the husband of General Coffey's sister, Mary Coffey Harris. He was the great-grandfather of Rev. John Royal Harris, D.D., a well-known Presbyterian minister, now of Pittsburgh, Pa.

³Lucinda Harris, daughter of Simpson Harris. She married Dr. Horatio De Priest, of Columbia, Tennessee.

⁴Ben was General Coffey's negro servant.

3. CAMP NEAR FRANKLIN, TENN., January 18, 1813.

I drop you this line by Mr. McCulloch who is just about to leave me, and has promised to hand you a bundle of papers, that you will take care of, I had prepared them to send by your brother Sandy, who is in the neighborhood, but seeing Mr. McC have got him to deliver them to you. If your father wishes to see any of my papers do shew them to him as he may want to transact some business for me in my absence, I have requested him to do so.—I saw Mr. Harris yesterday as he passed by here, and he has promised me that he will move up immediately and attend to any business of the farm, I hope he will do so. . . . I shall, to a certainty, leave this place tomorrow, and move on without halting again—I will write perhaps from Columbia but if I do not, will write by every opportunity—hope to hear from you by Ben Wilson, by whom I wrote you, am crowded with business but am [well] and enjoy perfect health—hope you and our little daughter are in good health,—how does she grow, write me.

4. CAMP AT COLBERT'S FERRY, January 28, 1813.

We reached the Tennessee river on the evening of the 25th Instant and took us two days to cross the river, which we completed last night. I find all the Indians on the road, and particularly the Colbert family, are very accommodating to us, we shall be tolerably well supplied in passing through the nation, Colonel Henderson is in advance of us about an hundred miles laying in supplies, who informs me he succeeds very well. We march slow, not more than from 20 to 23 miles per day. It will take us upward of 20 days yet to reach Natchez, shall move on this morning—I am advised that the Indians below here on the road are alarmed at our approach, many of them leaving their homes uninhabited—I am informed the inhabitants in the lower Country are much gratified at hearing of our marching to their relief, but they know of no enemy to combat with, their country as yet is uninvaded,—since my being in camp I hear no news, being generally engaged in the execution of my duties, the men under my command appear perfectly careless and easy, quite cheerful, and no expectation of meeting an enemy any where—yet wishing to do so—all now goes on easy since we commenced our march, being now convinced all is not a bubble—

I wrote you by Alex McCulloch, since which nothing occurs to advise you of, only that I called at Doctor Deprist's, saw Sister Harris and all the girls, all are well, Betsey was very cheerful, and friendly as usual, she promised me to visit you early in the spring, enquired of you in the most affectionate manner—I expect Mr. Harris' family will have reached you before this line does, he promised me he would attend strictly to the business, very probably they will have to sell their boy Dave, he was still run away. I wrote to your father, when at Franklin, that I wanted him to consult with you about the business of the farm, and if you thought it best to hire a man to make a crop, this I want you to think of and do as you and him think best,—I fear very much you will be at a loss to keep things together, it is a task I never thought to have put on you, but the nature of things as they have turned up require it, and I know you have resolution enough to do anything. A soldier's wife will shrink at nothing.—It was hard that I was confined so near home so long and not able to see you, but I congratulate myself that all will be right one day, nothing but my absence from you and our sweet little Mary interferes with my enjoyment, I enjoy perfect health, strength, and spirits,—I hope you are cheerful and will spend your time in social

⁵Alexander Donelson, who was killed at the battle of Emuckfau, January, 1814.

intercourse with your friends all around you—write me to Natchez immediately on the receipt of this, get Mr. Herndon to enclose your letter in one from him,—he will know how to direct it,—I shall not fail to write when an opportunity offers.

5. CHICKASAW AGENCY, February 4, 1813.
I arrived here yesterday, in good health as is also my whole Regiment. We have had excessive bad weather, constant rains and snows, ever since we left Franklin, the roads have been very bad, although we have got on very well. The weather is now very fine, and I hope it will remain so. We are now one hundred miles south of Colbert's ferry, Tennessee river, in the heart of the Indian country. The Indians are remarkably kind, and furnish us with every thing they have. We do very well, get plenty of corn and fodder, meat, etc. I find we shall not want for anything while passing through this country.—Have had no account from the lower country, all accounts say there is no appearance of an enemy there. I know not what we are to do—perhaps nothing—if so, the easier done, I have not heard from any of my friends or acquaintances since I started, Tell Mr. Eastin to write me, I shall expect to receive a letter from you, directed to Natchez, write me fully on any business that may have occurred since your last,—but more particularly how you and little Mary are, can she talk or walk, tell me all about her. I hope by next spring, when I shall again return to my dear wife and child, to find her much grown in person and in sprightliness. You must improve her all you can and try to learn her to talk. I hope you are enjoying yourself with your friends, you certainly will do so,—were I to hear that you had secluded yourself it would give me great uneasiness, I hope my dear you will be particularly happy until I return.

6. CANTONMENT WASHINGTON, SIX MILES FROM NATCHEZ,
February 21, 1813.

I arrived at this place on the 16th Instant, after a journey of four weeks from the day I left Franklin, during which time I have experienced various kinds of weather,—for the first half very cold and wet, the latter part very fine and the roads good,—General Jackson, with his Infantry, landed at Natchez the same day I got to this place and the next day he marched them all here. On tomorrow we shall remove from this about one mile from the town, where we shall encamp in the woods, and wait for further orders—It is very probable we shall not go further down the river than this, as there are no appearances of an enemy in any part of this country. General Wilkinson has advised General Jackson to halt here supposing this to be the most central point to act from, whether to the South, East or West, which appears so plausible that the General has determined to act accordingly—I expect in a few weeks we shall know our destination. Have just heard of the defeat of General Winchester, hope it is not as bad as we have heard—the Inhabitants here are very hospitable, they treat the volunteers with the greatest attention and kindness, the most respectable giving dinners et. etc. I have not had it in my power to see any of our friends in this country as yet. I passed Mrs. Caffery's (who lives 5 miles from the road) before I

¹Major-General James Wilkinson, first the confederate and then the enemy of Aaron Burr. At this time he was at New Orleans in command of the Southern military district.

²Mrs. Caffery was a sister of Mrs. Andrew Jackson. She married Captain John Caffery originally from Virginia. It is probable that they accompanied her father, Col. John Donelson, in the "Adventure", in 1780, but went on down the Mississippi and settled at Natchez. However, it is known that Capt. Caffery lived at a later date in Davidson County near to the home of Capt. John Donelson. The Cafferys finally went to Louisiana. One of their descendants, Donelson Caffery, was a United States Senator from Louisiana twenty years ago.

knew where she lived, I also passed Mr. Green's without going near enough to call, I hear all are well—

My dear, I have not had the pleasure of hearing from you since I left Franklin. I had expected at this place to have rec'd a letter, but as yet am disappointed, hope by next mail I shall,—time goes on slow, notwithstanding we live easy, if I had you and sweet little Mary with me, I should be perfectly happy. How does she come on, say something about her in your next line—I feel exceedingly anxious to hear from you, lest some fatality may have happened to you, I know not the anxiety I should feel until I have experienced relief could I hear often from you it would afford me the greatest relief I could possibly obtain at this distance—therefore hope you'll not omit writing me at least once in two weeks, Until I advise you of my removal, direct your letters to Washington, Mississippi Territory—

What has become of Mr. Harris's family—have they moved up? I saw sister Polly³ and the girls at Columbia who told me they would move up immediately, expect they are with you, they were then all very well, do write me how they are situated and doing—I wrote you a scrawl from the Chickasaw agency, among other letters I don't know what I wrote, or thought hardly, as my mind was very much engaged on the business of my Regt. As yet I have been fortunate, the Indians through which I have passed, have been remarkably kind, I suffered for nothing when among them, they fed my men and horses bountifully and showed every mark of respect, to us they could—I have enjoyed excellent health myself, and the men also under my command—If any business of mine should have occurred since my departure from home, advise thereof—I shall continue to write you every opportunity.

P. S. 22nd. Last night we had snow and sleet—its now very cold, more so than usual, and now packed up to march to our intended encampment—all is well—as I pass through town shall drop this letter in the post office.

7. CAMP JACKSON, ONE MILE FROM WASHINGTON, February 28, 1813.
I again take up my pen to write you, I did expect to have heard from you by last mail, but have been disappointed. We are encamped in a wood, have been at cantonment near Washington and at this place since the 16th Instant, Removed here supposing the situation more healthy and clean, and plenty of fuel, Our men are very healthy, some few complaints, but all are mending. My Regiment enjoys more health now than at any period heretofore since embodied. Since here, have had some very cold weather, but now it is quite warm and pleasant, though am astonished to find gardening so late, very few have done anything in that way—

As to our future movements I am uninformed, the General has not received orders to march any where from this place, and we can not here see any probable prospects of an enemy in any part of this country. Some conjectures that we may be ordered to Mobile to take possession of west Florida. Perhaps it may so turn out, as we return home. I cannot think we shall be long continued here without government adopts some more energetic measures,—seeing no prospects of any thing to do increases the anxiety to return home, Under a

³Probably Abner Green, a son-in-law of Anthony Hutchings and probably a relative of Mrs. Coffee. Mrs. Jackson stayed at his home just prior to her marriage to General Jackson.

⁴Mrs. Simpson Harris, General Coffee's sister.

hope that we could render our country important services, we consented to the sacrifice of leaving our homes, our families and all our individual interest, but in that hope I now suppose all will be disappointed, and instead of a benefit only be an expense to our Country—but should this be the case we shall console ourselves under the reflection that we have attended the call of our country and would fondly have rendered any services in our power.—

1st March. I commenced writing last evening, since when the General has recd letters from General Wilkinson at New Orleans, who says he has no instructions from government, which keeps us still in the dark.—I have been here 13 days and within five miles of Natchez, have not yet been there, shall see it today on a special invitation of my old friend Mr. W. Jackson, who is with us every day. The citizens around us are hospitable and clever, our time is rendered as agreeable as under such circumstances it can be.—and the men very well contented—I have myself enjoyed good health, this morning weighed 216 lbs which is as heavy as I ever was.—General Jackson two days past has been somewhat unwell with a cold though getting better since being bled—I flatter myself I shall receive a line from you by the mail which arrives early tomorrow morning—my anxiety is great to hear from you and Mary, By a letter from your Aunt Jackson, to the General, recd by last mail, she says you were well which is all I have heard since I left Franklin—how is the prospect for a crop, our little farm now should be progressing. Do my love stimulate the boys to do the best they can. I cannot, at the distance I am from you, pretend to dictate what to be done, but industry is a requisite that cannot be dispensed with by them—I hope my dear you will not neglect writing me as you promised when I parted with you, as it is all important to my enjoyments here, to know how you are doing, I presume you may write me to this place, after the rest of this provided you do it immediately.

8.

CAMP JACKSON, March 8, 1813.
Yours of the 18th February I recd. by last mail, which was the first information I had received of you since I left Franklin and which afforded my mind much relief to hear that you were well, and that our sweet little daughter was much grown and doing well also,—we are at the same place as when I wrote you last, no prospects of going further, vague reports say we will be ordered by the way of Mobile as we return, to take possession of that country,—this is uncertain, perhaps we may have to pass through the Creek nation, even that is uncertain, although they have committed recent murders, even I presume you have the particulars of more correct than we have—

Last night, for the first time, Mr. A. Green visited us. He stayed with me all night, says his family enjoys bad health, has lost his two only daughters, has three sons left, he is determined to move to Tennessee this spring, your Aunt Caffery will go with him, she is very anxious to return to her friends. I have not seen her. Mr. Knox¹ and Polly is well, and will I suppose also move if the others do. Have quite an easy time, live in camp, have only been once to Natchez and then stayed only two hours. I find my tent the most comfortable place I can get. I enjoy health and good spirits, as do the men generally. General Jackson was, when I wrote you last, indisposed, he has got quite well!—have no news here in camp or in the country since the defeat and imprisonment of General Winchester,

¹John Knox, who married Mary (Polly) Caffery, daughter of Capt. John Caffery and Mary Donelson Caffery. He was a son of Benjamin Knox and a cousin of President James Knox Polk.

I would to God we had been with him, we would have changed the scene with those rascals—I expect we shall have to go there yet before they can be flogged—what say you, had we not better pass on through Tennessee and Kentucky to their aid—as we have began the campaign had we not better go there to end it,—say something on this subject in your next, but I know you are such a soldier you'll sanction the thing. How are all our friends—have not recd a line from one of them—would be glad to hear anything—I dont recollect whether I said anything in my last about Colonel Purdy and Lady starting on to Tennessee they left here 8 days past, and will reach there in about 30 days. Mrs. Purdy was quite well and perfectly recovered.

I was very sorry to learn from you that you had not visited your friends in Davidson, on the 18th of Feby. Why my dear are you so careless about your parents, or all others of your relations? It would give me much satisfaction to learn you enjoyed yourself with your friends when I was absent—and from the same rule of reasoning I suppose you have not seen any of the neighbors. O, my love, this won't do,—go the rounds and ask them to see you, and that will keep you alive,—but without company I fear you'll forget how to be social—I hope when I hear from you again to hear all about the neighbors and friends and this will be an evidence that you have been neighborly—write me again to this place.

CAMP JACKSON, March 15, 1813.

9. By Stockley Hays¹ last evening I recd. your letter of the 20th Ult. which contained the pleasing intelligence that you and our little daughter were well, and that the latter had grown finely, all of which was pleasing information.—

By last mail, which came to hand yesterday, we received orders from the War department to return home, and which will be put in execution as fast as possible, we are now all in a bustle making ready for our march, expect to start in 4 or 5 days, all together, Infantry and Cavalry, which will retard our movements, Calculate on being one month on the road, when I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you at home.—we have had a fatiguing trip and as things have turned out will be for nothing, but that was to us unknown, Our men would have gone home better satisfied could they have had one stump of a fight, but perhaps better so than worse, yet I flatter myself had we been put to the test, a good account would have been rendered from the Volunteers, we had just begun to learn how to do duty when we shall be discharged.—

I am very glad to hear Mr. Harris has hired Billey Boak² as I think his steadiness will do something, although I know it will be slow—I am in hopes I shall be at home myself in time to have a crop made,—do direct the whole of the land prepared for a crop, and if there should be more than can be attended, when I get home can have it brought up, and thereby we can make a crop,—nothing here has transpired since I wrote you last,—I enjoy good health, as does the men generally, I wish you would send word to Bery Wilson's and Henry W. Peak's family that they are all well and so is the others of their friends, and all in good spirits, You may say to Miss Charlotte that the Captain has just applied for a permit to leave us and return home in great haste, but it cannot be granted, therefore she may

¹Stockley Donelson Hays, a son of Col. Robert Hays and a first cousin of Mrs. Coffee.

²Billey Boak was an overseer, often mentioned by General Coffee in earlier correspondence when he lived at Haysborough.

expect him when we all arrive. As I mentioned we would probably get home in one month, it may be a few days longer as its uncertain as to the precise time of starting, but we will certainly be off in a week from this time. . . . I don't expect to write to you again until I get to the Chickasaw agency which is about half way home. There I will inform you of our movements—

THE CREEK WAR, 1813-14.

The campaign to avenge the massacre at Fort Mims and drive the Creeks out of the present State of Alabama was waged largely by Tennesseans. The call from the South was quickly heeded by General Jackson and his militia. The place of rendezvous was Fayetteville, Tennessee. Colonel Coffee with his regiment of cavalry and mounted gunmen went ahead and reached Huntsville on October 4, 1813. On the tenth they were joined by Jackson and his forces. The following letters describe the movements of Coffee's command from this time. It should be remembered that they were scant of supplies, with vaguely enlisted men, advancing into the enemy's country in large part a wilderness.

10. CAMP BATEY NEAR HUNTSVILLE, [Date not given].

I have omitted writing you until my final course was shaped. I have been here five days getting things ready to enter the Indian country. Tomorrow morning I shall take up my line of march, shall go from this to Fort Hampton near the mouth of Elk river, from there by the way of Colbert's ferry and then on towards Fort St. Stephens—our first place of destiny. There is no more appearance of Indians doing mischief here than there is on Stone's river, and the best informed here have always thought so. The alarm has arisen from the poor cowardly creatures that have run off, and left their all, in every direction and without knowing for what. We have sent spies over the river that have been seventy miles direct into the Indian Country, who have this day returned and say that there is no appearance of the Indians coming this way at all. Seeing the people here are perfectly secure, I shall now proceed to the relief of the poor suffering people on the Mobile. George Smith and Sandy with twenty men has gone on before me with Col. McKee, an Indian agent, to make provisions for me as I go on. I have under my command upwards of thirteen hundred men and have been compelled to turn off several hundred others that I could not provide for. I am sufficiently strong to go anywhere, without any kind of danger, and when General Jackson comes on with his 2500 men, now at Fayetteville, we shall be able to over run the Creek nation, and I fear we shall never see an Indian for, as they hear of our strength, they will fly before us and never risque an action. If men flock in to the General in proportion to what they have done to me, he will have an army that can drive the Creek nation like a flock of bullocks, and from all I can learn they will and more too.

11. CAMP COFFEE, SOUTH SIDE TENNESSEE, October 13, 1813.

I wrote you a few days since but have not had an opportunity of sending it, but I herewith sent it you, that you may more fully understand our different movements. Here, since the writing of that letter, we have had plausible intelligence of the enemy intending to

come against Madison County, which halted me here until the facts could be more fully ascertained. Seeing I had to detain, I moved about seven hundred of my men over the Tennessee River, to build a small fort, and encamped at this place which is two miles above Dittoe's landing on the south of the river. Soon after I encamped, there came other news that the whole Creek Nation was moving on this way in one body and would, in all probability, reach us the same night. After we received the information, we prepared, and expected an attack, and continued in expectation two days and nights, when Genl. Jackson, with his army, arrived and joined me which was yesterday. We are now out of any apprehension of being attacked, being strong enough to meet the enemy anywhere we can find them. They will no doubt try to evade a meeting, which they can easily accomplish, as they know the situation of the country much better than we do. The Gen'l. and the principal part of his army will necessarily detain here a few days preparing for their further march. Tomorrow I shall make a small excursion into the adjoining country with about 600 of my Regt. and return and we will go with the Genl. The East Tennesseans are in motion and we will all unite before we enter the Creek nation, when we can be able to drive them out of their country or cut them off if they attempt to support it. Things are fixed in such a train that there can be no doubt of the success of the campaign. I hope and flatter myself that it will be a short one, and that we can again return home to our families and friends. The last I heard from you was by Stockley Hays, who said he understood that you were well. I do not know precisely when I can again write you, neither can I ask you to write me until I can direct you where to send your letters. Captain Hammond's company is going with us. I saw Mr. Harris today. He is well and quite pleased with the jaunt. He asked me to write him to his family as he was engaged and did not expect to write himself. Your brother Jack is also to accompany us. Your uncle Jackson has performed the journey out exceedingly well and enjoys good health, you never saw him in finer health and spirits than he now shews. I enjoy good health myself. How are all friends at home, and how comes our little Mary in running about the yard. I hope all is well.

12. HEADQUARTERS 24 MILES SOUTH FROM DITTOE'S LANDING, October 24th, 1813.

I have this moment arrived here from a rout into the Indian Country of ten days, have been to the Black Warrior Towns, where Mrs. Crawley was carried, and find them all deserted by the Indians, leaving their corn and some other plunder behind. I burnt three towns but never saw an Indian. I am now convinced that the Indians will never meet us in action, all our fighting will be scouting parties. We move on from here this day and will not halt again until in the heart of the enemy's country—our spies have been to the place where the Indians were said to be imbodied and find no signs of their ever

¹³An evidence of Jackson's indomitable spirit, as he had not recovered from the wound in his shoulder, received in the affray with Thomas H. Benton September 4, 1813.

¹⁴The chief object of this excursion was to obtain food. Coffee marched two hundred miles in ten days, burnt two towns and obtained three hundred bushels of corn. His men suffered great privations on their return.

¹⁵Jackson's plan of campaign provided for a base of supplies on the Tennessee at its southernmost part, a military road thence for fifty miles to the Ten Islands on the Coosa, where another fortified post would be established for supplies, and thence down the Alabama River system to Fort St. Stephens, always destroying such armed bands as opposed him and devastating villages as he went. *W. Bassett's Life of Andrew Jackson*, p. 94.

being there—they will certainly desert their country before us—Capt. Hammonds¹⁶ and Company are with us. Mr. Harris is very well, he is not present or he would write, and Colonel Hays¹⁷ now waits for me. Your brother Jack is well—Sandy and Captain Geo. Smith's have not returned from their tour with Colonel McKee—I have just recd. by Colonel Hays, a letter from your father, saying that you and Mary were well,—how are the rest of our friends. I hope all is well—I suppose you will have no opportunity to write me—which I regret very much—let me beg of you to be of good cheer as I assure you we are not in any particular danger here. I know you are a philosopher, and now is the time to exercise it, and I know you will do it—

13. CAMP BROWN, 30 MILES FROM DITTO'S LANDING,¹⁸

October 25, 1813.

I wrote you yesterday by Colonel Hays from General Jackson's camp 10 miles below this where I mentioned to you that I had just returned from a tour in the interior of the enemies country. The General has gone on with his army and I will follow him tomorrow, and join in the evening, when we will keep all together until we reach the heart of the Creek country, to the end, if any engagement should take place, our forces should all be present to act together, in which event there will be certainty of success—I expect the East Tennessee troops will join us before we get to the Creek country which will strengthen us—after writing you yesterday, Colonel Hays detained, until I wrote your father. By the Colonel I recd a letter from him wherein he mentioned news having reached you of Major Gibsons being killed,—the report is false—there has not been a gun fired, by either an Indian or white man, at each other of our army, and I am doubtful but few will be fired. The Indians gives up their country before us as we approach, so far as we have yet been, and I think that will continue to be the case,—yesterday I recd letters from Captain Geo. Smith and Colonel McKee in the Choctaw country, who had gone on expecting me to follow—they state that the Indians had fled from that part and had all gone to the centre of their country, from where they will move down, no doubt, to Pensacola, to their friends and allies, the Spaniards and British—I expect that I shall have frequent opportunities of writing to you after this, by a chain of deposits, that will be established by the army, as we go on and by expresses kept up from there to the army.

14 TEN ISLANDS, COOSEY RIVER, November 4th, 1813.

I have again an opportunity to write you a line,—we are progressing into the Indian country as fast as we can get provisions, and a very few days more will bring up the East Tennessee troops when the whole will move on together—I have a small skirmish¹⁹ with the

¹⁶Captain Eli Hammond, the Indian fighter, who was in the Nicksjack expedition of 1794.

¹⁷Col. Robert Hays, who married Jane Donelson, sister of Mrs. Rachel Jackson, daughter of Capt. John Donelson.

¹⁸Ditto's Landing was on the Tennessee River a few miles southwest of Huntsville, Alabama. It was named for John Ditto, who traded with the Indians and had an early post there.

¹⁹This was the battle of Tallushatchee, thirteen miles east of Fort Strother on the Coosa. This was an Indian village, and Coffee (now a brigade-governor) was sent to destroy it. The Indian force was annihilated. It was greatly outnumbered by the Tennesseans and neither side asked for quarter. Coffee lost five killed and forty-one wounded. The battle inspired the army with confidence. General William Carroll said: "After Tallushatchee we had the measure of the Creeks. All apprehension was

Indians and a part of my Brigade, where we killed two hundred and took eighty prisoners, the particulars of which I have this day written to Captain Parks, and who will send it to you, for your information—

The die is now cast and I don't expect after this the enemy will ever meet us—they have no kind of chance—our men will drive them where ever they find them—we shall build a fort at this place, for a deposit of provisions and to leave the wounded men in.—The only man killed of my party that you have any knowledge is Young Thomas Hudson, son of Mr. Hudson at Haysborough, he was killed with an arrow—our loss is so small, when compared with that of the enemy, that it is not felt here. Our men are in excellent spirits—we shall very soon finish the work of destruction of those wretches and return home, which time will afford me the greatest pleasure on earth, but notwithstanding my inclination to be at home I cheerfully yield it to duty, until the work is completed—supported with the impressions that you will, in like manner, submit cheerfully to the momentary privations of our social happiness until I again return to you—

15. HEADQUARTERS CAMP STROTHER, TEN ISLANDS, COOSEY RIVER, November 12, 1813.

Last night we returned to this place after having advanced thirty miles south of this towards the enemy where we had a battle at Talladega Creek.²⁰ Our party consisted of 2000 men, commanded by Genl. Jackson in person, the enemy were a little upwards of 1000 chosen warriors, sent on to meet us and intercept our march. By the friendly party we were advised of their approach and position, which enabled us by forced marching, night and day, with our detachment, to meet them thirty miles in advance of our main army. We met them in the morning early, when we surrounded them and in a few minutes put the whole to flight, having killed 300 of their best warriors on the ground and the most of the balance were wounded. Thus the two first chosen sets of our enemy have been completely cut off and destroyed. We have in the two battles, one on the 8th, and the other on the 9th instant, killed 500 of the warriors, and wounded at least as many others besides upwards of 100 prisoners of their families now in our possession. In the first battle I lost five men killed and forty some odd wounded; in the latter battle we lost 15 men killed and eighty five or six wounded, the most slightly. Upon the whole calculation we shall not lose more than 30 men killed in both battles,—whereas the enemy on as fair calculation will have lost 600 killed, counting on such as must die of their wounds. Although we regret the loss of our brave fellows yet the great dis-
dispelled. Every man in Jackson's army was serenely confident that contact with them meant victory for us, under any conditions. The brightest spot in the history of that campaign is the setting of its pace by John Coffee and his mounted riflemen of Tennessee at Tallushatchee. Buell's *Life of Jackson*, p. 305. On October 30, Coffee was placed by General Jackson in command of a new brigade composed of his own regiment of cavalry, now commanded by Col. John Alcorn, and a regiment of mounted gunnsm commanded by Col. (retired governor) Newton Cannon.

²⁰Talladega was a friendly Indian village, but it was completely surrounded by more than 1,000 hostiles. On November 7, 1813, a friendly chief who had escaped disguised in the skin of a hog, reached Fort Strother and requested speedy relief. On November 9, Jackson drew up his army before Talladega in a crescent with the points thrown forward. Coffee's mounted riflemen held the flanks, divided into two battes. Nearly 700 Indians escaped through a gap between the cavalry and infantry and fled to fight at Tohopeka. Talladega ended all chance for the Indians to invade Tennessee settlements. For the next two months Jackson had to remain at Fort Strother to deal with mutinies based on claims of termination of enlistment, lack of supplies and the need of an almost new army. All but one hundred of Coffee's men returned home. After a new recruiting campaign the army was made over so as to take the field.

being there—they will certainly desert their country before us—Capt. Hammonds¹⁴ and Company are with us. Mr. Harris is very well, he is not present or he would write, and Colonel Hays¹⁵ now waits for me. Your brother Jack is well—Sandy and Captain Geo. Smith¹⁶ have not returned from their tour with Colonel McKee. I have just recd. by Colonel Hays, a letter from your father saying that you and Mary were well,—how are the rest of our friends. I hope all is well—I suppose you will have no opportunity to write me,—which I regret very much—let me beg of you to be of good cheer as I assure you we are not in any particular danger here. I know you are a philosopher, and now is the time to exercise it, and I know you will do it—

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¹⁵Col. Robert Hays, who married Jane Donelson, sister of Mrs. Rachel Jackson.

¹⁶A son of General Daniel Smith. George Smith married Tabitha Donelson, daughter of Capt. John Donelson.

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proportion is beyond the most sanguine calculations on our part. We only want supplies to enable us to finish the campaign in three weeks. We will wait here until we get them which it is supposed will be in a week from this time when we will advance forward and not stop until we reach the Georgia army in the Creek nation, which will be easily done. And when done, our work will be completed and we can then return home where I hope we can remain in quiet with our families and friends and not be called on again during the present war.

Thus, my dear, I think the time is not very distant when I shall be with you at home and there permitted to remain. A communication is now opened from Huntsville to this place, by whom you can write which I hope you will do. Direct your letter to me in Gen'l Jackson's army, Huntsville, M. T.—from where it will be forwarded to me.

I hope nothing is materially suffering for my presence at home, notwithstanding I feel uneasy lest there should be,—let me know anything of the kind by letter. My love, be not uneasy as to my safety, there is not the danger here that may be supposed by you. I assure you we feel no kind of danger, as our force is beyond all doubt superior to that of the enemy—both in number and in quality.

Sandy² and Jackey³ and Mr. Harris are with me. All are well and ask to be recommended to you. Mr. Harris wishes his family to be informed that he is well and doing very well. He will write by the next express. How is our dear little Mary, and yourself. I have not heard from you now God knows when.

16.

HUNTSVILLE, December 19, 1813.

I have been confined at this place by the complaints I laboured under when I left home, having increased to a very aggravated state since the 11th inst. I am now much amended, so as I think I can leave this tomorrow or next day and proceed on my march.

Great discontent hath prevailed in all our camps, men in all directions deserting, some going off in companies, etc., etc., etc. I apprehend before I reach Genl. Jackson he will have been compelled to yield to the multitude and all be compelled to return, but this will be his last resort, and I hope may not be the case, yet I fear it. Genl. Hall's Brigade has already left him, *thus we are clear of the Scotch Irish in that quarter*. My Brigade are ordered to halt (since I marched them) at Fort Deposit and there wait for further orders. When I shall be called on to march I cannot say, perhaps in a few days. I have now no expectation of any fighting being done this campaign. There must be an additional force here before anything can be done effectual. . . .

17.

HUNTSVILLE, December 27, 1813.

I wrote you some days since from this place by Mr. Harris, which I presume you have rec'd before this. In that I mentioned I had been indisposed, but was recovering. I now have the pleasure to inform you that I am perfectly restored to health. Yesterday I rode to the River, distant ten miles, and today I rode back again without any inconvenience, in a few days I shall be as strong as usual.

Our camps have been in great confusion here for some time past—ever since my return last from home. The whole of Genl. Hall's Brigade of Infantry volunteers have returned home and nearly the whole of my Brigade has and will return. Tomorrow morning will

²Alexander Donelson, brother of Mrs. Coffee. He was killed at Emuckfau.

³John Donelson, son of Captain John Donelson and brother of Alexander Donelson.

divide the sheep from the goats, and all who are not willing to go on will return home. After that I promise myself some satisfaction, being clear of the uneasy and discontented in camp the remainder will go on in quiet. My Brigade will be kept up by the new troops that came on with me, those with Col. Carrol, and one Battalion of Madison County troops, added to Captain Hammond's Company of Rangers. I am ordered by Genl. Jackson to remain here until supplies of provisions are carried on before me, when I am to follow. I expect to leave this place with the mounted men in 4 or 5 days and when we reach Genl. Jackson the army will all move on together without delay until we unite with the Georgia army at the forks of the River below us, which is 80 or 90 miles distant. The Georgia army has had a battle with the Indians⁴ and have defeated them, having killed 200 Indians with very little loss on our part. All of which discourages the Indians, seeing they cannot stand us a fight at any place, it's possible they may give us one more battle but that is quite uncertain. We have but little to dread from them. When we reach the Georgia army all will be completed. As to a general battle we shall have nothing but skirmishing, and hunting them up in the forests, etc., etc.

I flatter myself that all the attempts of the refractory part of our army to destroy the credit of the army and the objects of the campaign, will be baffled by the patriotism of our citizens at home. I cannot bring myself to believe the friends of those who return in disgrace will receive them unfriendly, but will rather condemn their conduct. If my conjectures are right, so soon as it reaches camp the spirit will die here and all will be content. Capt. Geo. Smith has promised me he will call and see you, he can tell you all the news here. I hear from Genl. Jackson every day; he is in good health and spirits. . . .

18.

HUNTSVILLE, January 3, 1814.

I am yet confined at this loathsome place, awaiting orders to march. As fast as one difficulty is removed another presents itself. I am not yet certain if we shall be able to move on until we get an additional army. I this day Recd. a letter from Genl. Jackson dated the 31st, Dec., he is endeavoring to make one quick movement, but is even doubtful if he can or not raise men enough. Col. Carrol is now gone to see him and will return tomorrow, when I expect a final decision. If we move it will be in four days from this time. Whether the army makes a move or not I must go on to the Ten Islands to headquarters. I never can think of bearing any part of the disgrace that will attach to our disorderly army. Notwithstanding the great exertions of our enemies to the contrary, I have no doubts but you hear a great deal of stuff about Tyranny, etc., etc., but you need not be uneasy, all will very soon be put in a proper point of view, the disgrace will fall on the proper objects and those calumniators will discover to their great mortification that they will have to bear the burthen of their own sins. Your brother Jack, who bears this, can give you all the news here. I shall expect you to write me, by him, fully your mind on every and all subjects, and business, etc.

I am now in good health, after lying up a considerable time. I hope, my dear, you and our sweet little Mary are well, and enjoying yourself. Make my respects to my friends. Jackey waits while I write.

⁴Probably the battle of Antosee, on the lower Tallapoosa River, November 29, 1813. General Floyd defeated the Indians with a force of Georgia militia.

19. HUNTSVILLE, January 8, 1814.
I shall leave here tomorrow for Fort Strother, Sandy has this moment gone on before me. I am more at ease than I have been since in the army, my Brigade having left the service except a few individuals of the officers and men, who remain in service. Several companies are expected out shortly, to join again, of my old brigade. Until then I shall have very little to do, yet I will not leave my post. Let others do what they may it shall never induce me to do an act that will reflect on me when enquired into. All those who have left the service will one day see their error notwithstanding their clamour now. Violent exertions are making to injure Genl. J. and all the officers that support him, but all will be in vain,—on enquiry he will be found correct and his enemies will be seen in their proper colours. I am not certain whether we shall make a movement until we get an additional reinforcement. Genl. Pinkney, who commands the whole southern army, has ordered Gov. Blount to send out men and keep the ranks filled, and he has also ordered Col. Williams's Regt. of regulars to march out immediately and join Genl. Jackson. The Gov. will now begin to see he must act, and arouse from his lethargy. I don't believe anything will be done until this reinforcement is received. We shall have no force here, until they come on, but the new volunteers, mounted men from Tennessee and Madison, not more than 900 in number or thereabouts. They are very clamorous and I fear will not do much good, they are now crossing the river, under Col. Carroll's direction. It snows and rains today and the prospects gloomy and I fear they will not withstand the weather, orders, etc., etc. I have lost all my horses, have sent men to hunt them. If they should go home and the men come after them, send my saddle horse and the little sorrel, but keep your horse at home, I will have enough without him. If no person comes after them and they get home get Mr. Harris, if he comes out, to bring them with him, if he has to hire some person to assist him,—he will find a number of persons coming out. Say to Mr. Harris that as soon as he is able he must by all means come out and join his company. There will be an inquiry into the conduct of that company and he must not be wanting in his duty, he must come the very moment he is able. I wrote you by Capt. Smith, and also by Jack D., both of which I expect you have read. Nothing of consequence has since occurred. I am now perfectly recovered from my late illness and quite able to stand fatigue. I hope, when we get our forces all together, very soon, to give the final blow, when we shall be able to quit the field and resume the life of citizen, which time I look for with anxious solicitude, when I will be clear of the bustle and clamour of men hunting popularity, and sit down in pleasure at home in private life. I am worn out with company.

20. FORT STROTHER, January 30, 1814.

Before this reaches you, no doubt you will have heard of one other excursion we have had in the enemies' country,—we returned to this place on the 27th, after a tour of ten days,—we advanced 70 miles below this, and on the 22nd and 24th of this month we had four different engagements with the enemy, in all of which we killed upwards of 200 of the Indians,—we lost 18 men killed dead and about seventy wounded—I recd. a wound myself in my right side but not dangerous—and your Brother Sandy²¹ is no more, a few minutes

²¹Alexander Donelson, who was killed in the battle of Emuckfau, January 21, 1814. The battles of Emuckfau and Enotachopco were at this time fought in rapid succession. The Indians had concentrated between Emuckfau Creek and Tallapoosa River

after I was wounded, he was shot through the head, and fell. He lived about three hours, but never spoke, nor do I believe he was sensible of his pain—a braver man never was, and he has left an untarnished reputation, and I hope is happy, clear of the bustle of this world—

Jackey had just reached us the night before the first battle,—he has escaped unhurt—Mr. Harris not being very well was halted at Huntsville and I have not, as yet, seen him, I hear he has got well—I expect to start home some time today, and will travel slowly, it will be 8 or ten days before I get home as my wound is somewhat sore, but not painful or by any means dangerous—I shall omit giving you any particulars until I see you, when I hope to find you and our little daughter in health—my respects to all friends—

21. FAYETTEVILLE, March 5, 1814.

I reached this place this evening, the roads excessively bad and weather cold, snow, etc., but all well.²² This day I met Christopher Hutchings' express from Genl. Jackson bearing letters to Nashville, and elsewhere. The Genl. sent me enclosed the copy of a letter that he has received from Genl. Pinckney, which speaks in very flattering terms of our conduct, as well also does the Secretary of war. This will kill our enemies dead when they see that all their lying and abuse will not turn our government against us, but, on the contrary, they speak in the highest terms of approbation. I would send you a copy of Genl. Pinckney's letter, but it is lengthy and it is now late and I must send the original on so as to reach Nashville, where I presume that and the letter of the secretary of war will be published, when you will see them both. If you should see Mr. Casedy²³ or Doctor Bedford ask them to call on Wm. B. Lewis and see those documents, I know they will be pleased with them. Genl. Jackson urges me to come on and join him and we will very soon finish the campaign, which I hope to see realized in less than two months, when I shall be able, with propriety, to return and sit down in ease, which will be the greatest pleasure to me on this earth. I will again write you from Huntsville.

22. HUNTSVILLE, March 9, 1814.

I have been at this place ever since the evening of the 6th Instant, detained by the very great fall of rain for two days last past, the waters are very high and the army in its movements will be much retarded. Genl. Johnston with his Brigade is now at Fort Deposit crossing the Tennessee River, and will progress as fast as the waters will permit them. I have not heard from Col Dyer and his detachment since here officially,—report says that they are waiting at the Tennessee (Deposit) for further orders from Genl. Jackson before they start on to the Cahaba, the place that he was ordered to scour before he left home. His delay I am fearful will occasion a tradiness in the movement of the whole army. However we cannot go on until

in order to attack Fort Armstrong. In these engagements the Indians were beaten, but not demoralized, and Jackson's army, for lack of supplies, returned to Fort Strother on January 27. At Emuckfau General Coffee led the main charge with fifty-four of his own men and two hundred friendly Indians. General Coffee himself was wounded.

²³General Coffee had evidently made a visit home in order to recover from his wound.
²⁴Christopher Hutchings was a brother of John Hutchings, the mercantile partner of Jackson. He was a son of Col. Thomas Hutchings, who married Catherine Donelson, a sister of Mrs. Jackson.

²⁵Charles Casedy was for many years the confidential friend and secretary of General James Winchester. He was a writer for the newspapers of the day in Middle Tennessee.

all the troops and a sufficiency of provisions are up and at headquarters, and a number of waggons are now in this county on their way to aid in transporting provisions, which will render it impossible to leave Ten Islands under eight or ten days from this time. I shall leave here tomorrow and will proceed to headquarters, from which place I will again write you. I wrote you from Fayetteville which I presume you will have received ere you receive this. I there mentioned to you the high approbation our conduct in the late excursion had met Genl. Pinckney, and referred you to the papers of Nashville for its contents, that together with the secretary of War's letters of approbation will completely set aside our false calumniators and lay them at rest.

23. FORT DEPOSIT,²⁵ March 12, 1814.

I progress very slow indeed, everything here moves very tardily owing to the very high waters of late. I reached this place last evening and will leave it this evening or early tomorrow, shall get to head quarters in good time to march with the army that is collecting very slowly. Genl. Johnston is still in my advance, he left here yesterday morning. We learn that considerable difficulties are thrown in the way of the East Tennessee troops by Genl. Cocke, I hope not as bad as reports say. We have nothing here new, I refer you to Col. Hays and Lemuel²⁶ for the passing times.

One thing I can say to you I believe to certainty, that there will not be a campaign sent to the Floridas (Pensacola) so that we may be certain of returning home when we end the Creek campaign, which we think will end in two months, at which time I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you and Mary.

24. FORT WILLIAMS, April 1, 1814.

I have to announce to you one other victory obtained over our enemy, at the same bend of the Tallapoosey,²⁷ near where we fought our last battles. We attacked the enemy, on the 27th of last month, the enemy were about one thousand in number, enforted in a bend of the river, with very strong works. I crossed the river with 700 mounted men and 600 Indians and took possession of the other bank to prevent them swimming over the river and escaping—all was executed well, the enemy fought with their usual desperation but we overpowered them, and after cannonading them about two hours, we charged their works by storm, and put the whole to death but a few that hid under the banks of the river,—the slaughter was great. We counted 557 dead bodies on the ground besides about 300 that

²⁵Fort Deposit stood at the head of the Tennessee, the last point on the river before the march into the enemy's country. By this time the Creeks were in desperate straits. Over 1,000 of their warriors had been slain, all their towns in the Coosa Valley destroyed, and the tribe was dispersed. The remnant, however, rallied and made their last stand at Horseshoe Bend. On March 16, 1814, General Jackson started with his force from Fort Strother in boats down the Coosa. After building Fort Williams at the mouth of Cedar Creek and leaving there a garrison of about 400, he had left 2,400 men of whom General Coffee's mounted rifles numbered 900. At Fort Williams General Jackson learned that about 1,000 Indians, under Weatherford, were concentrating at Horseshoe Bend, about fifty miles away. General Coffee went ahead to observe the enemy. The battle was opened by him on the morning of March 27.

²⁶Lemuel Donelson, son of Capt. John Donelson and brother of Mrs. Coffey. The Indians had built a strong log breastwork across the narrow isthmus formed by the bend in the river. Surrounded by this breastwork and the river, they made their last stand. General Jackson led in person the charge upon the breastwork and was slightly wounded, but his men went over the works and made a bayonet charge. Coffee's dismounted men fired upon the enemy from across the river and cooperated with the friendly Indians in shooting down those who tried to escape. Coffee's men held the right bank of the river and the rear of the enemy.

was shot and sunk in the river, making in the whole that we killed from 850 to 900,—and took about 500 prisoners, squaws and children— we lost on our part of white men 26 killed and 106 wounded besides 23 friendly Indians and 47 wounded—this place was an assemblage of all the upper towns on the Tallapoosey, which we have now destroyed, it only remains that we take possession of the forts of the river and fight one battle there, to finish the Creek war—this I hope we will do in ten days from this time.—I cannot say precisely when I shall be discharged but think it will be in less than one month from this time—I have never heard from you since I left home, only by a letter recd. from Colonel Hays, he says you are well,—cannot you write me. Having now nearly completed our business here, I shall soon turn me towards home when I hope to enjoy the remainder of my life with you in quiet—my love to our little daughter—and all friends—

Lemul Montgomery²⁸ was killed in battle at the charge against the breast works by a ball through his head—

FORT WILLIAMS, April 2, 1814.

I wrote you yesterday by Mr. Lewis, who was the bearer of an express from General Jackson, he promised to leave the letter at Murfreesborough, from where I know you will get it, but Mr. Wm. White is going to start this moment and is going so near you, I drop this line by him,—in my other I give you account of another battle we have had, in which we killed from eight to nine hundred of the enemy, and took about 500 prisoners—this is the greatest defeat we have ever given them, we killed three of their prophets in this battle, one of whom was a very principal one, this will damp them very much—I herewith send you a plot of the river and bend where we fought for your satisfaction to see our movements, I expect the day after tomorrow we will start to the Hickory ground and will reach that point in 3 or 4 days, perhaps we may have one battle more, in that quarter before they give up this country, but they cannot hold out, they are already nearly starved to death, having eat up all their provisions—as I mentioned in my last I do not know when I will be at home but suppose one month will finish all my duties—

FORT WILLIAMS, April 6, 1814.

When I last wrote you from this place I did not expect to write again until we reached the Hickory ground, but Mr. Harris is going directly by you, he has promised to call and see you, and I drop you this by him tomorrow morning early we take up the line of march, with about 3000 men and officers, we shall proceed directly to the Tallapoosey river opposite to where the Georgia Army lies, out from the river about 12 miles, this point on the river will be where the enemy is said to be embodied, when we get there, the Georgia Army will be called to the river and the two armies will descend on both sides to the junction where we will establish fort Jackson, when this done I think the war will be over, there will be regular troops enough to support the post and if so the Tennessee troops will be discharged, this I calculate will be our future operations and movement, and if I judge right, we shall turn homeward in about twenty days from this day—and in 15 days more we can reach home.—but

²⁸Lemuel Purnell Montgomery, major in command of the Thirty-ninth Regulars of the city of Alabama is named in honor of him. He was a native of Virginia, but resided in Hawkins County, Tennessee. His mother, Elizabeth Montgomery, who was related to the Donelsons, lived until 1834. His father was Hon. Hugh Montgomery.

in all this I am not certain, we may be double that time out, and do not calculate on seeing me certain until you see me,—your friends here in the army are all well, Captain Geo. Smith had started home some days ago, but returned and will finish the campaign and return home with me when I go—I mentioned in my last that I had not seen Mr. Harris, nor have I as yet, he is at Huntsville I expect in the quarter masters department I presume he has written his family—please make my respects to all friends—how do you and little Mary do—I hope you are enjoying health—am in good health myself—

27. JUNCTION OF THE COOSEY AND TALLAPOOSEY, April 18, 1814.

We reached this place so long sought for on yesterday. The Georgia Army has joined us, the Indians have all fled, they are running in all directions, numbers are coming in and begging forgiveness, some are running towards Pensacola while others are hiding in the swamps, our fighting is over, the nation is conquered, and all we have to do is to establish a sufficient number of posts, to retain possession of the country—when this is done we will return home.—I think we will set out on our return march in ten days from this time, we shall progress slowly, our horses are worn down, have had no corn for a month past, and the grass very bare,—we have got a number of the negroes and some prisoners that was taken at Fort Mims, expect we shall get all before we start,—Colonel Russel has not yet come up the Alabama to meet us here, as we expected, but we have sent for him and expect he will come when he hears we are here, we have had all the fighting and labor to do, and now surely those other armies can keep what we put them in possession of. It still remains hard to feed our armies, the difficulty of transporting provisions is great, for want of horse feed, and the river navigation exceedingly difficult.—

We have this day cleaned a spot of ground, (the very same on which the old French fort Tuloose¹⁵ stood,) in the forks of the rivers, where will be built fort Jackson, the foundation we will lay as the last work of our army I expect,—General Pinckney is at fort Decatur, 25 miles in our rear, and will probably be here in a few days—Now I think I can see the way clear, when I shall be able to return home and remain in quiet with you, and enjoy the blessings of private and social life, the remainder of my life—

My love to you and little Mary—

THE NEW ORLEANS CAMPAIGN, 1814-1815.

Just when General Coffee returned home after the battle of Horseshoe Ben is not clear, but it is probable that he came back early in the summer of 1814. On May 28, 1814, General Jackson was appointed major-general of the seventh military district, U. S. A., with orders to go to Fort Jackson and make a treaty of peace with the Creeks. This treaty was made on August 9, and then General Jackson went to Mobile to look after its defenses. His celebrated quarrel with the Spanish governor at Pensacola, Manriquez, soon broke out and he determined to invade Florida and drive the British out. This was in the absence of any authority from Washington, but

¹⁵Fort Toulouse was built in 1714 by Bienville between the Coosa and Tallapoosa rivers in order to check the English of Carolina and to influence the natives. Being in the river basin with Mobile, it was ceded to the British by the French in 1763.

with the approval of the Southern people. Before leaving Fort Jackson for Mobile General Jackson requested of Governor Willie Blount that he send him a brigade of volunteers under Coffee. About 2,000 men assembled at Fayetteville. On October 5 General Coffee marched southward at the head of this force. He was joined by 800 more on the journey. On October 23 they reached St. Stephen's, thirty miles above Mobile, having traveled 450 miles. The following letters describe the movements of Coffee and his men until after the Battle of New Orleans.

28. FAYETTEVILLE, October 3, 1814.

I have been detained here several days longer than I expected when I left you, have mustered into service about two thousand men here besides several companies that is to follow after and four companies from East Tennessee, when all is together I shall have about twenty six hundred men in my Brigade. We have had a second Regiment organized, in which was elected Thomas Williamson Col., Capt. George Elliott, Lieut. Col., Capt. George Smith 2nd Lieut. Col., William Mitchell and William Phillips Majors. The first Regiment will be commanded by Col. Dyer and his old field officers. All now appears satisfied and is going on well. We shall certainly set out from here tomorrow, and will go the route I mentioned before I left home, think in 12 days to reach Genl. Jackson or his orders.

I have been very uneasy since I left home about the situation in which I left you, so small force and all the crop yet to get in, in consequence of which I got Mr. Hogg at Shelbyville to employ the man you heard me speak of, his name is Blessing. Mr. Hogg writes me he has employed him, and has agreed to give him \$150 in cash to oversee for me one year, he will come down to you in about three weeks, or sooner, and remain until Spring, when he will move his family. When he moves, if it is before I return, I have directed that he live in the Cabin, Boak's house, until I do return, I think it will be best for you, as they will be company when at home, and when you leave home they will be a guide. He is the most industrious man from character to be found anywhere, and am told his wife is an amiable, well disposed woman, as such I hope you will have no trouble, but a benefit by being so near. If when I come home it don't suit we will build a home for them somewhere else.

29. CAMP GAINES, 15 MILES BELOW ST. STEPHEN, October 22, 1814.

I left Fayetteville on the 5th Instant and arrived here this evening after a march of 18 days, distance from home about 470 miles. We are here about 30 miles from Fort Montgomery, or Fort Mims, in the neighborhood of which place I expect to halt a few days. I have this day received orders from General Jackson, who is at Mobile, about 70 miles below this place. He will meet us in a few days, when I expect we shall march to Pensacola, when I expect little or no resistance as the enemy is in very small force, no British reinforcements have yet arrived and the Indians daily leaving them. Prospects are not half as gloomy here, as I expected, it's more than probable we shall not have any battle during the campaign. The

¹⁶George Elliott, who was thus chosen lieutenant-colonel, was a citizen of Sumner County, Tennessee. He was a farmer, a breeder of thoroughbred horses, and a close friend of General Jackson.

Tennesseans are in high spirits. We have generally enjoyed good health, some little sickness, but out of 2000 men I have not yet lost one dead, an unusual circumstance.

I hope you shall not be continued here all the winter. When our infantry from Tennessee arrives the forces here will be all sufficient to maintain the country and when that is the case we shall not be wanted.

I look forward with solicitude to the time of discharge when I can return home, and join you in the sweet enjoyments of domestic life. The more I experience of public life, the less I appraise it, and the more I appreciate the enjoyment of a quiet fireside in society of an affectionate wife and darling child, and I think I can with propriety say, this will be the last campaign I shall ever make, having satisfied my anxiety when I have relieved this country.

I hope you and our dear little Mary are doing well, I have enjoyed good health. Do, my dear, write frequently. Your brother Jacky came on here ten days before I did, and heard his company is ordered to the Alabama heights, about 30 miles above where I shall halt, when we move all will go together. Billy has been to General Jackson's head quarters, and has this evening returned and is now with me. Mr. Harris is also here with me, all are well. General Jackson has been sick, but has perfectly recovered.

30. CAMP IN THE CUT OFF, MOUTH OF ALABAMA, October 29, 1814.

We are situated on the bank of the Alabama at its mouth, and on a large Island of the Mobile, where we have been several days. Every preparation is making and will be ready in two days, to take up the line of march to Pensacola, distant from here about 75 miles. We hear from that place every day or two, and from certain accounts the enemy have no forces there but the shattered remains of those that survived at Fort Bowyer, in the whole not more than 250 British and about the same number of Indians, and without they are reinforced before we reach that point, we shall not meet with any resistance.—It is presumable we shall take possession of the Forts, and public stores, and leave a force of regular troops to protect it, but will not interfere with the Inhabitants, or abridge any of their privileges—the Governor of Pensacola has written several pompous letters to General Jackson which will justify the attack on about to be taken, those letters were written before the attack on Fort Bowyer, no doubt he would now be glad he had been silent.—I expect to return to this place in about two weeks, and after recruiting our horses, probably we shall move west towards the river Amete, which is a central ground between New Orleans and Mobile, and from where we can move with ease to either point—

I hope when I return to this place to meet letters from you, which will be a source of infinite satisfaction to me, to hear from you frequently, in my leisure moments what pleasure could equal that of perusing a line from you, announcing the welfare of yourself and our dear little daughter, whom I hope are doing well—I will frequently write you, and hope you will, in like manner.—Your brother Jack and his company joined us last evening which is the first time I have seen him since here, he is well, Billey is with me and has been well, Colonel Geo. Smith and little Jack Donelson have been somewhat unwell but both recruiting and able to do duty.—General Jackson has had a considerable attack of sickness before we arrived but is quite recovered and looks well,—say to Mrs. McCulloch that the Major enjoys excellent health and spirits—

Make my respects to Mr. Eastin, and Captain Parks, and their

ladies, I will, when I have as much time, write them, perhaps when I return from Pensacola shall have something to write that's interesting—

31. CAMP AT FORT MIMS, November 15, 1814.

Inclosed is a detailed account for your satisfaction, of our expedition to Pensacola, send it to you separate from any other matter, that you may show it to any of our friends and neighbors that may feel anxious to hear from us—

I think there is no probability of our having anything more to do here, but still, policy will dictate to the commanding General to keep the volunteers until other troops arrive sufficient to support the country, after which I have but little doubt we shall be at home in two months from this time—I had the gratification last evening of receiving yours of the 4th Instant announcing the welfare of yourself and our dear little daughter which is a satisfaction to me, that cannot be equalled by any other, after encountering the fatigues and dangers of the field, and returning to a post of safety and the pleasure of perusing a line from you, has restored my feelings beyond expression—do my dear write me frequently, after the Recd. of this direct your letters to Natchez from which place I can get them—

I am much pleased to learn that the overseer has taken charge of the farm and relieved you of the charge of attending to it—I hope all will go on well until I return.

Our friends are all well here, but your cousin Jack Donelson, he is very low with a nervous fever, but I hope will recover, all attention is paid to him by General Jackson and his other friends—say to Mary when I come home I will bring her some prettys. May the great ruler of events protect and preserve you both until I return to you—

32. CAMP AT FORT MIMS, November 15, 1814.

On the 13th Instant we returned to this place from Pensacola, we marched from here to that place on the 2nd and arrived on the evening of the 6th, in front of the town and fort, sent in a flag of truce, which was fired on, and compelled to return, (a circumstance heretofore unknown in civilized warfare) we encamped about 1 1/2 miles from the town where, in the course of the night, communications between the Governor of Pensacola and General Jackson passed,—but an obstinate refusal to give up the forts and town on the part of the Governor, and a declaration on their part that they would hold out and maintain their ground to the last extremity—this was the result of the negotiations—of course we had nothing to expect, but to take it by storm, at the point of the bayonet.—In the Bay before the town, lay three large British men of War, placed in a position to rake our columns, before and after we entered the town. In the rear of the town, on an eminence was the Spanish fort, mounting a number of large pieces of artillery, besides 8 or ten block houses in different parts of the town, and its environs, all mounting several pieces of cannon, and several other British ships of war, laying off in the harbour,—this was the species of force we had to contend with,—with the exception of a few pieces of cannon placed in the streets to rake them as our troops advanced—on the morning of the 7th we moved against the town, in four columns, three of white men, and one of Choctaw Indians, we took a direction around the town and out of sight, so as to enter it at a different point from where we lay, and where the enemy would naturally expect us.—as our columns passed down the Bay (that is nine miles wide) they were exposed to

the fire of the British ships and the Spanish fort, but our manoeuvres, around the town, and entering at a different point expected, so frustrated them, that they fired but few shots at us before we entered the streets,—in one of the streets was planted two pieces of cannon, that opened a brisk fire on one of our columns as they entered the street, but which gave no check to the charge. The cannon was instantly charged and taken, and the town surrendered, immediately after,—and after some negotiations the Governor agreed to surrender the whole of his public forts, those at and about the town was surrendered, but the two forts, that was about 16 miles below, on each side of the mouth of the Bay, was basely surrendered by the Spanish officers to the British vessels, and both were blown up before our troops could possibly reach them,—after we had full possession of the town and fort, the British vessels fired a few shots at us and hoisted sail and left the bay.—Our intention probably would have been to keep possession of the country, had not the two forts that commanded the harbour been blown up, but this put it out of our power to maintain it—our troops treated the Citizens of Pensacola with the same respect that they had usually shewn to our own citizens through whom we passed, which has had an astonishing effect on their feelings towards us,—in this affair we lost five men killed and about ten wounded, some dangerously—what injury we did to the enemy we are not advised of, but suppose it must be small as they surrendered before we could do them much hurt.

Of our future movements I am not fully advised but expect in a few days to be ordered towards the Mississippi; between Natchez and Orleans, where we can act to either or any point, untill the arrival of General Carroll's troops, when I think it most probable that my Brigade will be discharged—

33. CAMP AT CARSON'S FERRY TOMBIGY, November 18, 1814.

I wrote you a few days since by mail, and since I returned from Pensacola, in which I gave you a detailed account of our procedure while gone to that place which I hope you will have recd. ere this reaches you.—Major McCulloch since hearing the accident of his little son breaking his thigh, has determined to return home immediately, by whom I send you this line,—no change of things since I wrote you, only our movements are more definite, I am ordered to go directly to Baton Rouge on the Mississippi, which place is about 60 miles below Natchez, and from here is about 250 miles. I am now crossing the Bigby and will in two days take up the line of march for that place, with about eighteen hundred men, the balance of my command say about 1000 men will fall back and scour the Escambia and Cahaba rivers—it is believed that we shall only be wanted to maintain and protect the country until the arrival of the Tennessee Militia, who will be all sufficient for that purpose when they arrive—I think by Christmas and in a few days after I shall be at home but lest I should not, and you may be in want of funds for some purpose, before I do return, I herein enclose you forty dollars in Nashville notes, I asked Mr. Eastin, if called on by Jack Hogg, to advance for me twenty-five or thirty dollars which Hogg was to pay the overseer for me,—if Hogg has called or does hereafter call, pay the money to him or to Mr. Eastin as the case may be, I dont recollect any other money transactions that I have to attend to—Major McCulloch will have pork to sell and if Mr. Eastin has not enough to supply you, apply to Major McCulloch and he will let you have as much as you may want. I think you had better salt up in the whole about 5000 weight. I hope to be at home before all this takes place but, lest I should not, I mention it to you now.

My love, I feel great solicitude to be with you, and nothing but a duty I owe to my country could possibly induce me to sacrifice so much on my own part and more so on your part, but I hope when the present campaign is over that I shall not again be called upon during the present war, as every day convinces me of the sacrifice I make in leaving the enjoyments of tranquil life with my family.

34. MOUTH OF SANDY CREEK, December 15, 1814.

I arrived at this place, which is twenty miles above Baton Rouge on the ninth instant, after sixteen days marching from the Cut-off, worse than any I ever experienced. The line of march was on a parallel with the sea coast, and distant from it generally forty or fifty miles, crossing all the little Rivers that are very numerous in this Country, having the whole, to swim, bridge or ferry. It rained on us twenty days successively and heavier rains than you ever saw distant above Orleans a little upwards of an hundred miles, as a suitable spot to forage the horses and feed the men untill further orders. This day by express I recd. dispatches from General Jackson at Orleans, saying the enemy in numbers had arrived, and was seen laying off Cat and Ship Islands, which is opposite the Cut-off from Lake Ponchartrain, and a little East of the mouth of the Mississippi River—the General says, the River is so well fortified they cannot approach that way, then the only way they can possibly come in will be through the lake, if so perhaps they may attempt landing on this side, and marching by land, in that event I shall be ready to meet them, in the swamps, when one Tennessee can run down ten sailors, and worn out Europeans through mud, water, and brush.—I do not believe they will ever land, but should they attempt it, I have no doubt as to the result, being favourable to our army.—what has become of General Carroll. I cannot hear one word of him, surely he is coming on although he must come slow.

I am still of opinion our services will not be wanted here long, if the enemy land at all they will do it very shortly which will bring the thing to a quick issue, and if they disappear and the Tennesseans and Kentuckians get down and properly arranged. I expect we will be ordered to Tennessee, in a month from this time,—but at present I expect you need not look for me untill about the first of February when I have but very little doubt, but I shall have the pleasure to see you at home.

As usual I have not time to write letters, say to Captain Parks when the British land, and we have run them through the brush and something of importance happens, I will write him all about it,—

P. S. Say to Major McCulloch nothing has occurred or I would write him, when anything does he shall hear from me. I hope he found his little son, recovering from his wound, and the balance of his family well.

I learn from Colonel Dyer that Colonel Stockley Hays found his Lady well, and that Mrs. Doctor Butler^s has recovered her health.

CE. BATTLEGROUND, FIVE MILES BELOW NEW ORLEANS

January 20, 1815.

The moment is pleasant (after many days fatigue and dangers, exposed in the face of an enemy) that the mind is at ease and turned to that domestic enjoyment that awaits me at home.—

^sMrs. Dr. W. E. Butler. She was the daughter of Col. Robert Hays and Jane Donelson Hays.

I had not closed my letter to you more than one hour on the 23rd Dec. when I recd. orders to march my command to meet the enemy then already landed, and within six miles of New Orleans.²⁷ I had at that moment only 800 effective men, together with about 600 regulars and Orleans Militia, was the only disposable force in readiness to meet them that night, we marched without loss of time, and about one hour after dark (a fine moon light night) we met the enemy who had encamped, on the bank of the Mississippi in an open level field,—the right on the river, the open ground on the left,—the order of battle, the regulars and Orleans Militia attacked in front on the bank of the river, and my Brigade moved round on the left and attacked their main columns on the centre, the Battle soon became general,—but just before we had formed, an armed schooner of ours had dropped down the river and opened a fire on the enemy which drove them out from the river near a quarter of a mile, where we met them formed in line, my men behaved most gallantly on that occasion, they fired and advanced on the enemy under a heavy fire from more than double their numbers, and drove them back about one quarter of a mile until they took shelter under the levee, or bank of the river.—we dropped back in the open field about half a mile, reconnoitred the ground of Battle, carried off our wounded, and lay until early next morning. General Jackson was at the head of the regulars, and which fought and lay separate from my command,—in this affair we had engaged about fourteen hundred men, and the enemy about three thousand, we lost about twenty five men killed, seventy wounded and about seventy five made prisoners—the loss of the enemy was upwards of 400 in killed and wounded, and one hundred prisoners—in the course of the night General Carroll with a part of his command came up with us, and in the same night the enemy recd. reinforcements of upwards of two thousand men, seeing their superiority of numbers, we fell back about one mile, and took a strong position, and entrenched—since which time we have had almost one continuous battle for twenty eight days. Not one day passed without attacks of Pickets on the line, a continued cannonade and bombardment, on the 28th Dec. the 1st. and 8th January, they charged us in line, and as often were repulsed—the latter day, they lost in killed wounded and prisoners, upwards of three thousand men, their Commander in chief and second in command, both killed and a Major General, Kean, badly wounded, besides all their most valuable officers—after the enemy having lost upwards of four thousand men, they decamped and embarked on the night of the 18th Instant, under cover of a very thick fog that is common here—what their further intentions are we cannot say but believe they are tired of their company here, and is finally gone—thus the famous campaign against Orleans is at rest at present, and has thus far been marked with better fortune to the American arms than anything heretofore known—Our whole loss in all this affair has been about

²⁷The important part played by General Coffee and his brigade in the battles of December 23 and January 8 is too well known to require description here. He commanded his own Tennessee riflemen, dismounted, the Mississippi dragoons, and the Orleans Rifle Company. On the night of December 23 they performed valuable services on the left, by closing in behind the portion of the enemy who were engaged with General Jackson. On January 8 they held the extreme left of the American line, between Carroll's brigade and the swamp. For two weeks they lived in the mud without complaint, but it was necessary for the place to be well guarded in order to prevent the enemy from going over the breastworks or advancing to the intrenchments. "The gallant officer who commanded them, ever calm, ever active, without precipitation, tranquilly giving orders, which he well knew how to cause to be promptly obeyed; vigilant and provident to avoid unnecessarily exposing his men, for whose safety he was as anxious as a father for his son's," acquired by his conduct the strongest claim to the esteem and gratitude of his country." Latour's *Memoirs* p. 107.

fifty killed, one hundred and twenty wounded, and about one hundred and ten prisoners, all of which we have since got by exchange—the prisoners we have taken are sent up the country—surely Providence has had a hand in the thing—you will very shortly see the official reports—

What may be our movements in future I cannot say, I hope we shall not be wanted very long here, as soon as things are tranquil I expect to be ordered home—

I never enjoyed better health notwithstanding the fatigue both day and night—

This is the first moment I have had to spare to write to you, and am now called on duty—I hope and trust that the same providence that has protected us here, have supported you, and our little daughter, in health and spirits—you will hear from me now more frequently.

Say to Sister Harris that Mr. Harris reached me yesterday from Mobile, the first time I have seen him since at Pensacola, he is very well, his duties detained him in our rear—your friends are all well—remember me to all friends.

36. CAMP COFFEE, 4 MILES ABOVE ORLEANS, January 30, 1815.

I received yours of the 12th inst. by last mail, and at the same time received one from your Father, Both of which inform me that you and Mary are well, and from your Father's remarks, am gratified to learn that Mary is fast improving, and already able to assert her rights, for every days experience shows us that what we never claim, rarely ever obtain. I hope you are both doing well and will continue so until I reach you. Now that we have nothing else to do the mind is naturally turned to the objects most dear, and the anxiety ten fold to any time heretofore. I hope you have gone to your Father's to stay until I return, as it's uncertain to me when we shall be dismissed from here, at any rate don't expect to leave here until the 20th of February, if then, which will bring the last of March before we can possibly reach home.

Believing the Great Ruler of our destinies is smiling on our cause, I hope his fostering hand will hover over and protect you until we meet again.

We are, and have been at perfect ease for eight days past, The enemy have entirely left our shores and no doubt will leave this coast as soon as they possibly can. Its generally believed they will go directly to Bermuda, where they can deposit their sick and wounded and get supplies, etc. If so they will not return here this spring. They can not come until they get another army at all events. All doubts are removed here, every thing is cheerfulness. The name of Tennessee is revered, and General Jackson idolized. I wish you could have been here to have seen him received into Orleans, after the memorable battle. A triumphal arch, adorned with wreaths, supported by eighteen pillars (one for each state) and eighteen damsels, the fairest in the City, bearing a motto emblematic of the state she represented; all so arranged as to leave an open avenue through which the General and suite passed, and was crowned with laurels and his path strewn with flowers by the damsels. He was then conducted to the church that was spacious and richly adorned where they sung Te Deum, several hours, and the scene closed.

There never was such victories obtained by an army before, history affords no such records. We have good information that the enemy has lost between four and five thousand men in killed, wounded and prisoners. One General and two Major Generals killed, the fourth deranged, and all Lord Wellington's valuable field officers destroyed.

While on our part our loss in killed is between forty and sixty, and almost double the number wounded. And what is still more strange the enemy always had more men on the field than we had, until we reduced them in battle. On the 23rd. of Dec. we fought them in open field, they had three men to our one, and we killed and wounded four men to their one. In all our skirmishes where no advantage of walls or entrenchments on either side we had decided the better of them. But on the 8th of January the grand charge, we had every advantage we could ask, we had a strong bank of earth twelve feet thick and high as a man's shoulders, on our side and a ditch on the other side with water. The slaughter was shocking. After that day the enemy lost all hopes of success, and made preparations to depart as fast as possible. I think when this information reaches England, we shall have peace and not before.

How is the overseer doing? I hope he will be preparing for a crop. I can not at present give any particular advice, don't trouble yourself with the farm, have no doubt he will do very well. Let him be preparing the ground for crop, and before time to plant I will give further advice.

Captain Rapiere's boat leaves here in 8 or ten days, by her I will send you a barrel of oranges and cocoa nuts. I think they will keep very well. Say to your mother I shall send up a supply of sugar for her family. Mr. Eastin's and our own. Coffee is dearer here than in Nashville, as is everything else except sugar.

I am in good health and generally have been so during the campaign, no fatigue or exposure has ever borne me down. Have every day been on duty since I left home.

How are all friends? I often think of Captain Parks, I know the lively interest he feels in the events here. Give him and Mrs. Parks my most friendly respects. I wrote your father by last mail I will write Mr. Eastin by this.

All your friends here are well. Say to sister Harris that Simpson is here with me, and is well. My love to her and the children and to such other of our friends as you may see.

May God bless you and our dear little daughter my dear.

37. CAMP COFFEE, NEAR NEW ORLEANS, February 15, 1815.

Since last writing you nothing of importance has taken place, the enemies fleet still hovers on our coast, but no attempts to land.—Our flag of truce sent to them on the final adjustment of the exchange of prisoners left here twelve days since and has not returned, suppose it is detained until the enemy move off, or make some other movement against us.—our prisoners lost here have all been returned, an hundred of those taken in our gunboats has not been obtained, we hold upon all theirs until ours are all delivered—without strong reinforcements the enemy certainly never will again attack us—until their final departure I don't expect to leave this, before the expiration of our time of service, but this is little expected, every day is expected to bring news of their leaving us—when we leave this suppose it will take one month to reach home, flatter myself of being with you by the last of march.

I expect the overseer will be preparing for a crop, I want him to commence early. I want a fence run between the young orchard and the wheat field, direct him to run it so as to include all the young Peach trees, and continue it straight to the lane fence, the orchard and that enclosed to be planted in cotton the same as last year.—I had intended to sow the field below the garden in oats, and so it may remain yet—the whole balance of the two plantations had better be planted in corn, all ought to be broke up as early as possible, and

before it is planted if possible—you can send him orders to this effect—

Mrs. Jackson has not yet arrived here but is daily expected.

The army here is somewhat sickly though not more than might be expected.—Colonel Smith is very sick but not dangerous and is nearly well, your Brother Jackey is quite well, as are all other friends, General Jackson does not enjoy good health, he has been very low but is better. I hope he will accompany Mrs. Jackson home this spring. I yet enjoy good health myself—

Please remember me affectionately to your father and mother and all friends—

38. CAMP COFFEE, NEAR NEW ORLEANS, February 24th, 1815.

I have written your Father by this days mail to whom I refer you for the news respecting the movements of the enemy.

If the accounts of a peace being concluded is true and the same should be confirmed by our government we shall certainly receive it officially in a few days, when ever that takes place I expect to be ordered home immediately and not before until the expiration of our service as engaged for.—you will be better able to judge of this early than I can, as you will have the news earlier—

At present it is not believed the enemy will return to this place again, but of this we have no certainty, never until yesterday did we give up their prisoners, as until then they had retained some of ours, four schooners left New Orleans early yesterday morning loaded with British prisoners to be delivered to them at the mouth of the Mississippi, when they receive them, its probable they will leave the coast—

Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Butler, and Mrs. Overton⁷ all arrived here on the 19th Inst in good health and are now with their husbands highly pleased, of course—they just arrived in time to prepare for the Ball given at the anniversary of General Washington, the 22nd Inst. which was quite splendid and the ladies much pleased with it.—Notwithstanding their present enjoyments, their troubles are yet to come, its highly probable General Jackson will return to Tennessee this spring, and if he does not, the Ladies will, and then it will be they'll regret their undertaking, the task will most certainly be an arduous one, descending the river was only a frolic, but returning will be laborious. I fear your aunt will almost shrink under the fatigue.— I wish she had your philosophy, to remain where she could be most happy and most certainly provided for, I never saw the inconvenience so plain as since her arrival and reflected on it.

39. NEW ORLEANS, March 3rd, 1815.

Some days since I saw a letter from Mrs. Gibson to the Colonel dated the 20th Janry. and in it she mentioned that our dear little Mary had been dangerously ill, but was much amended,—with much anxiety I attended the Post office this day in hopes of having the pleasure of a line from you, but am disappointed, I am fearful the reason is that either you or Mary are sick, and you don't want to advise me of it, or certainly you would write me, I shall be uneasy until I hear from you, this day I recd. a letter from Captain B. Coleman dated 24th Janry.—he says he saw you a day or two before and all were well, which gives me some hope that Mary has recovered—

Great expectation was had, that this day's mail would bring in—

*Mrs. Andrew Jackson, Mrs. Dr. W. E. Butler, and Mrs. Judge John Overton.

telligence of a peace being signed by our commissioners and perhaps ratified by our government, but the mail that was this day due has not come on, any further than from Nashville and of course no news. We are much at a loss what will be the course of conduct to be pursued if peace is not made immediately, it will be difficult to defend this part of our country, in and through the approaching season.

We have by this day's mail seen the account of the capture of the President frigate, by four of the enemies vessels, we regret the loss of the vessel and her brave crew, but the nation has not suffered in her character, as they sold themselves like true born Americans, and the enemy have nothing to boast of—would to God Major Lawrence had have acted the same part before he gave up Fort Bowyer, and thereby saved the credit of our arms.

The enemy the last accounts were laying off Mobile, and it was uncertain if they would attack the town of Mobile or not, I believe it is certain that Admiral Cochrane, the principal naval commander, has left the fleet, and has gone to the Chesapeake, for either reinforcements or to be ready to meet any dispatch vessels that may be sent on the subject of a treaty—perhaps next mail will bring us intelligence of something that may alter our destination, but without it, I don't expect to leave here until the complete fulfillment of our term of service which will be on the 28th of this month, so that we have no certainty of leaving this until that time, and it will take us from thirty to forty days to reach home.

I have the pleasure to say our troops are in better health than at any time for one month past, fewer deaths and dangerous cases, and a smaller sick report we have suffered much from sickness owing to colds and the measles which is pretty generally removed.

Colonel Smith has entirely recovered of his sickness, but is not yet very strong, he rides about—your Brother Jackey and other friends are all well—I still enjoy good health myself if you would write me on the rect. of this, and direct your letter to the Choctaw agency it will certainly meet me there on the way home, and would be very pleasing to me—I shall be unhappy until I receive a line from you.

40.

CAMP NEAR NEW ORLEANS, March 16, 1815.

By the last mail I recd. a letter from you which was the only one recd. for more than a month, and by which I was informed of the recovery of our dear little daughter from a severe illness, I hope you and she are now in health, I have experienced more uneasiness about your situation and health of late than I ever felt before, but I hope my dear all is well with you—I shall continue to feel unhappy until I hear from you.

Not until three days since, did the news of peace reach here officially, you cannot imagine the joy expressed by the Citizens of this country and city at the welcome news, illuminations and rejoicing in various and numerous ways by every class of citizens and you may suppose not unwelcome news to the army—tomorrow morning I take up the line of march for home (the sick sent on to Natchez in advance in the steam boat) I think I will be home by the 18th or 20th of April—say to the overseer to push on the preparation for a crop, on as large a scale as the farm will admit of, and when I reach home I will aid him in cultivating it.

By yours before the last, I had expected you were at your fathers, and as such directed several letters to you at Nashville, but I hope your father has sent them to you, to him I am more indebted for information than all my friends besides, having received from him several intelligent letters with much satisfaction—

Our prospects are pleasing, all our friends here well, your Brother Jackey has had some late indisposition but now well, as is Colonel Smith also Mr. Harris and others—Mrs Jackson and Mrs Butler well and in fine spirits. I expect they will start home in 8 or 10 days perhaps sooner, the General will accompany them—

I am still blessed with as good health as I ever had—my respects to all friends—

I will again write you from Natchez or Washington—shall expect to meet a letter from you at the Chickasaw agency—

41. WASHINGTON, NEAR NATCHEZ, March 26, 1815.
Early tomorrow morning I leave this on my march home, think in twenty days to be with you, accidents excepted, Nothing has occurred since I wrote this yesterday—have everything now ready to proceed and shall lose no time until I see you—have nothing to inform you, hope you are in health but feel great anxiety for you—hope Mary has perfectly recovered her health, tell her Pap will soon be with her—I still retain good health, say to Sister Harris that Simpson is here and is well—as all friends—

2. Roll of Tennessee Cavalrymen in the Natchez Expedition.

Among the papers of General Coffee is a roll of the regiment of cavalry commanded by him on the expedition to Natchez. This is in the form of a record of names of men with the number of blankets, sabres and pistols furnished by each. It is probable that this is the same regiment that was afterward commanded by General Coffee in the first part of the Creek War. There are no muster rolls of the troops of the Creek War in the archives of Tennessee, but these are preserved in the War Records Office of the War Department at Washington. This roll of cavalrymen contains the names of ancestors of many Tennesseans.

It will be interesting to ascertain from what counties respectively these cavalry troops come. It is certain that troop No. 3, commanded by Capt. Baskerville, came from Sumner County. A number of the names are memorable in its annals. It will be well if anyone who reads this roll will point out the home counties of other troops. The title is as follows:

"A return of Blankets, Sabres and Pistols, furnished by individuals at their own private expense, in the Regiment of Tennessee Volunteer Cavalry, commanded by Colonel John Coffee—a part of the detachment under the command of Major General Andrew Jackson, in the service of the United States of America, destined for the defence of the lower country."

Some of the names are obscured by discoloration. The following is the list by companies:

TROOP NO. 1.—Capt. Coleman; John Nash, — Reid, — Barksdale, Thomas G. Watkins, Saml Matery, Gray K. Hubbard,

Peter Winn, John Knight, — P. Gatlin, Rob't Bedford, Henry McPeak, Vincent Willie, George R. Nash, Jacob Johns, Thomas Bedford, Thomas Nash, John McPeak, Josiah W. Zachery, Benjamin Wilson, Robert Smith, Thomas Nelson, William Jones, — Whitsett, John Smith, James Clemens, Thomas Hubbard, Vincent Hubbard, Francis B. Cox, Henry Miller, John Bailey, James Stone, John Stone, John Smith, William Locker, Elisha Saunders, John Bowles, Willie Jones, Nathan Stockard, George Williams, Samuel Smith, Robert Dyer, Joseph Kendrick, Theodorick Mabery, Bazel West, Walter Myrick, Joseph Patterson, Paul McMillan, Cyrus Sharp, Matthew Dickey, Alexander Cathey, John Gazaway, John Hall, John Wilson, Benjamin Maberry, Jonathan Sherwood, William H. Dyer, William Higgins, William H. Whitson, Isaac Edwards, Joab H. Barton, William Gibbon, Lewis C. Anthony, John McQuaig, William Arnold, Benjamin Ward, William Steen, Adam Cox, Thompson Enoch, John F. Couser, John R. Enoch, Joseph Adkins, Thomas Adkins—72.

TROOP NO. 2.—Capt. Molton; David Rushings, Absolum Maddin, Andrew Hamilton, John Lewis, John McHenry, Charles Baker, John Boothe, Isenias Haley, Howard W. Turner, Elisha Simmons, Robert Norris, John Baker, Thomas Arnold, Israel Arnold, Ephraim Arnold, James L. Bell, James Black, Jesse Bays, John Cooper, Hewell Parrish, Alexander Dickson, William Evans, Shadrick Prinn, Stephen Harris, Isaac Hill, Randolph Harris, John Hooper, John Hays, Patrick Kelly, James Lewis, Aaron Lewis, Joseph Larkin, M. C. Molton, Samuel Lewis, Peter Phillips, Benjamin Persel, William Powers, Jesse Norris, Samuel Richardson, Andrew Smith, James Simmons, West Wood, Hugh Dickson, Richard Juster, William Wingate, Samuel Morris, Richard Rushing, Jacob Vaughn, Wm. Wright, Richard Justice, Clarke Spencer—51.

TROOP NO. 3.—Capt. Baskerville; John Baskerville, Moses Henry, Reubin Blackmore, Thadeus W. Barber, Robert Hodge, James Wilson, Thomas Knight, Thomas Brookshire, James Johnson, Ephraim Hunt, Henry Bledsoe, John Bachelor, Peter Bryson, Matthew Duty, William Malory, Thomas Young, James Trousdale, John White, George Cooper, Solomon Duty, Ralph Dickinson, Archd Mitchell, Francis Johnson, Jacob C. Cook, Isaac Bledsoe, Joseph Braton, Benjamin, John Fuller, Thomas T. Blackmon, Benj. Dowell, Jacob West, Ebin Phillips, John Gwin, John Mardrell, Wm. Murphy, David Williams, Benj. Ashlock, George Duty, Rob't Moore, Wm. A. Roberts, Wm. Carothers, Umphrey Bate, Arch'd Johnson, Silas Prewett, Benj. Duty, Ed. Kean, R'd C. Johnson, Macklin Key, Jacob Gillespie, John Parker, Falton Boran, Lemuel Stubbiefeld, Isaac Ball, David Higgins, Wm. Counsel, Asa Harden, Ashly Stanfield, William Grubbs, John Byrn, Robert Fall, John Rutherford, James D. Edson, Phillip Ashlock, William Robertson, Hugh Latimore, William Bowling, Alex Bowling, George Mecklenberry—68.

TROOP NO. 4.—Capt. Stump; R. C. Fielding, Joseph Gray, William Ritchie, N. Y. Hail, W. B. Amnon, D. E. Irvan, William Hudson, William Cleaves, J. Messy, Joseph Chumley, E. Singleton, C. Manly, William Letts, Stephen White, Isaac Lewis, Jesse Belam, Hugh Walker, Isaac R. Gray, James McQuirtier, David Willis, Alex Rily, William Anderson, Willis C. Clarke, Thos Stephens, Joel Leek, Stephen Cavender, L. Green, Matthew Williams, Aisey Pace, A. Duglas, John Blaize, M. Garrett, Wm. S. Burnett, Peter Binkley, Rob't Holt—35.

TROOP NO. 5.—Capt. Tyrel; — Cornelius, C. Davidson, Abner Warren, D. Tredwell, R. Bruden, J. K. McKear, J. Bassey, Thos. Ray, Reuben C. Biggs, S. Cogghill, Ben Caps, Rob't Cartwright,

Jas. Frazer, Moses Frazer, Thos. B. Hudson, Rich'd Harmon, J. McDurnett, John Robertson, John Robert, Jr., Wm. Turner, Geo. Gallagher, James Brayden, Thos. H. Harris, Cary Kelly, Wm. Richards, John Rainey, John Smith, Sen., John Smith, Jr., James Vaught, Jedson White, Ezekiel Brown, Rich'd McMahan, Isalah Hogan, Aaron Edwards, Rob't Hight, Henry Lemon, Thos. Stuart, James Laseter—38.

TROOP NO. 6.—Capt. Byrn; Josiah Walton, James Hamilton, Isaac Luny, John Cotton, Isaac Ellett, John Montgomery, Alex Cotton, William Cantrel, James Strother, Sam'l Rogers, Allen Cotton, Jacob Savia, Stuart Brigance, Adam Cowger, Hubbard Avent, James Byrn, Norfitt Perry, Sam'l Edson, Olley Blackamon, Henry Winn, Chas. Brigance, Nicholas Latimore, Rob't Parks, Hardy Robason, Thos. Coffman, John C. Latimore, Isaac Morris, Jesse Daniel, Berry Edwards, Rob't Moon, Thos. Dugger, John Curby, Everet Ellis, Westley Dugger, Alex McElroy, John H. Payton, Thos. M. Scurlock, Jos. Ellis, Ezekiel Brown, John Hunter, Dred Dugger, Nicholas Bain, Rob't Strother, John Bell, Solomon Anderson, Rob't W. Celtis, Igreat Dugger, Jurdon Uzell, Willie Dorset, Henry Pearson, Rich'd Boyce, Winslow P. Johnstone, John Kalkoun, John Turner, Elisha Stalons, Wm. Daniel, Sam'l Lawrence, Simeon Perry, Henry Barnes, Benj. Kinsol, Thos. Daniel, Thos. Finley, Archibald Kempson, John Rice, John McKinsay, Elijah Rtee, Thos. Marlin, Peter Winn, Thos. Wingo, Charles Brigance—71.

TROOP NO. 7.—Capt. Smith; Robt. Q. Johnston, Henry Hart, Wm. T. Williams, Wm. Lofland, Jno. S. Sanders, Sam'l Greenfield, Eth'd Williams, Elias F. Deloach, Benj. Darual, Wm. Haygood, Wm. Briant, Wm. Hutchinson, Benj. F. Smith, Josiah Fort, Henry Fort, Wm. Fort, Rob't Haygood, Wm. Adams, Joel Campbell, David Duval, Rob't Briant, Thos. Darnal, Nicholas Darnal, Daniel Collier, Wm. Smith, Moses Grant, Abijah Hightowre, Stephen Terry, John Robertson, Sam'l Lunsford, Larkin Usery, John Moore, Jas. B. Campbell, Jacob D. Clines, Joshua Luntsford, Henry Johnston, Jas. Cook, Thos. Cook, David Waldin, Morgan Moore, Wm. Jimonson, Bryton Buiges, Jos. French, Morris Morris, Martin Duncan, Wm. McFaden, Tate Odeneal, Francis Hambleton, Jno. Garner, Joseph Colwell, John Grant, Thos. Roberts, Jas. Loyd, Sam'l H. D. Ryburn, Jas. Walker, Arthur Williams, Jno. Baker—57.

TROOP NO. 8.—Capt. Jetton; John Wilson, Wm. Newgent, Jos. Wilson, David Hall, Jno. Lawrence, Ezekiel Dickson, George Douglas, Wm. Hill, Wm. Gavel, Moses Swan, Barnes Clark, Vyneard Croford, John Casey, Luke Dean, Daniel Eastwood, Kinchen Freeman, Jno. Hill, Lemuel Hall, Wm. Johnstone, Rob't Kelton, John Kislough, Jas. Marlin, Wm. Mabury, Jno. Marlin, David Moore, Amis McCoy, Jno. McCarrell, Enoch Harris, Oliver Harris, Wm. Noton, David McCay, George Phillips, Wm. Parker, Wm. Norman, Wm. Morris, Hugh Kirk, Thos. Pinkerton, Jno. McCary, Henry Thompson, Alex Russell, Rob't Russell, Thos B. Smith, Levy Taylor, Martin Taylor, Charles Taylor, Sam'l Nale, Rob't Whittle, Sam'l Warren, Jas. McClash, Edmond Tennison—52.

TROOP NO. 9.—Capt. Kavenaugh; Isaac Coon, T. W. Linster, Jno. Bridges, Jos. Holcombe, J. W. Linster, Daniel Duns, Thos. Cowan, Wm. Parks, R. Ragsdale, R. L. Deen, Wm. Gurley, Levy Ragsdale, Andrew Beagar, Isaac Bigell, Wm. Bigell, John Benson, John Capps, Wm. Cowan, Peter Edwards, John Epps, Wm. Fibrel, Andrew Goodman, Benj. Garley, Benj. Goodman, Jesse Gully, Geo. Glasscock, Nathaniel House, H. B. Jackson, Lee Kavenaugh, Jos. Long, Wm. Marten, R. W. Coutecker, Andrew McKinny, Glen Owen, Mat Patton, J. B. Scrugs, Wm. Scott, J. R. Tankely, Joseph Teas, Thos. Wallace,

John Wise, Ephriam Beazly, J. Carothers, H. P. Holt, Jas. Boyet, Benj. Jones, Laban Benson, Wm. Edmondson, Green House, Collinck Kinny—50.

TROOP NO. 10.—Capt. Bradley; William Hallum, Isham Wynne, John Hallum, John P. Moss, Joseph Reiff, John A. Givins, David Parrish, John Warren, Jacob Reiff, Stephen Barton, John Bradley, Joseph Bouton, Drury Bettes, Wyatt Bettes, John Bartlett, John Bryant, James Bales, William Bryant, Thomas Burket, John Cavet, Carter Crutcher, Wm. Crawford, Green Cook, Jesse Cook, Elisha Cole, David Cole, James Calhoun, James Dooly, Peter Earhart, Thos. Grissom, James Eason, John Guthrey, Thompson Hays, Reid Horn, George Harpole, Sam'l Hunter, Isaac Hunter, Eli Harris, Pleasant Irby, Joseph Irby, James Roane, Luke Kent, James Jones, Joseph King, Isaac Kelly, Thos. Morton, Rob't Marshall, Andrew McDaniel, Wm. McDaniel, John Irby, Sam'l Miller, Sam'l Neel, G. Neel, B. Organ, S. Organ, John Reiff, R. Sutton, Rich'd Rowland, James T. Wynne, J. C. Williams, Wm. Talbut, Jno. Young, A. Brown, Daniel Warren, John Cocke—66.

TROOP NO. 11.—Capt. McKean; Will Harris, Eben Purcel, David McKnight, Rob't Moore, H. Hammons, S. Bedford, Geo. Patton, A. Lackey, Alfred Moore, Allen Corbet, Burwell Featherstone, E. H. Chaffin, H. Sheppard, H. Hartgrove, Jno. Dickson, James Hill, Jno. Hill, James Moore, Josiah Vanhouse, Jno. Irwin, Jno. May, Jno. Wood, Jas. Monahan, Jos. Thompson, Jno. Cabler, Moses Ashbrook, Brent Wallace, Thos. Smith, Thos. Furgason, Thos. Rodas, Thos. Hamilton, Nath. Henderson, Lem'l Nichols, Thos. Darnall, A. Chisolm, J. D. Graves, Abraham Rodas, H. Scott, H. Horn, H. Crenshaw, John Hopper, Jos. Thompson, Sr., Rob't Beard, Wm. Weert—44.

HISTORICAL NOTES AND NEWS

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY.

At the October meeting Mr. John Bell Keeble delivered an address on "Some Phases of Reconstruction," and at the November meeting the address of the evening was by Rev. G. B. Winton on the subject "Panama." Both of these papers were of marked historical interest to those who were so fortunate as to hear them.

The Society has received, among other gifts, a collection of forty-nine volumes from the New York Historical Society and a copy of the *Nashville Union and American* for May 26, 1861, the latter a gift of Mr. Rammage.

The Society went on record as desiring the passage of a bill to create a Department of Archives for the State of Tennessee and appointed the following committee to work for the same: John H. DeWitt, Chairman; Dr. A. H. Purdue, John P. Hickman, Dr. A. A. Lyon, A. P. Foster, Hallum Goodloe, H. K. Bryson, Judge T. F. Wilson, Dr. St. George L. Sloussat, Miss Carrie Sims, and Mrs. B. D. Bell, together with all members living outside of the county of Davidson.

The new members added to the list since the last announcement are as follows: Mrs. Mark Harrison, Nashville; Miss Emily Martin, Brentwood; Rev. G. B. Harris, Nashville; Hon. Hallum Goodloe, Nashville; Mr. J. F. Rippey, Nashville; Mr. L. Lewis, Nashville; Mr. Robert Dyas, Nashville; Judge Henry R. Gibson, Knoxville; Mr. Evander Shepard, Shelbyville; Mr. Charles S. Shirley, Columbia; Mr. J. W. Moore, Brownsville; Mr. Clem I. Jones, Athens; Mr. Charles T. Cates, Jr., Knoxville; Thad A. Cox, Johnson City; Giles L. Evans, Fayetteville, and C. C. Dabney, Nashville.

THE TENNESSEE SOCIETY OF COLONIAL DAMES.

The Tennessee Society of Colonial Dames held its semi-annual meeting on Thursday, Nov. 16, 1916, at Woodstock, the country home of Mrs. J. C. Bradford. Mrs. James H. Kirkland, the president, presided.

Mrs. W. A. Bryan and Mrs. S. A. Sheib were received as new members. Visiting Dames were Mrs. Polk, of Little Rock, Ark., and Mrs. James Allison, of St. Louis.

After the minutes of the last meeting had been read by the secretary, Mrs. Samuel H. Orr, Mrs. Frank W. Ring discussed the work of the Society in the mountain schools in Van Buren County, and Mrs. C. B. Wallace spoke of the work at Rock Island.

Miss Susie Gentry, chairman of the Historical Research Committee, gave a sketch of Gen. Andrew Lewis and of old Fort Loudon, the site of which is to be marked by the Tennessee Society. Miss Gentry also spoke of the memorial building in honor of George Washington which the various patriotic societies propose to erect at Valley Forge. Mrs. Maggie H. Hicks reported for the Library Committee.

Mr. John Howe Peyton, the president of the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railway, made an interesting address relative to the work of the railroad in relation to scientific agriculture and the improvement of the land in the mountain districts, and especially with regard to the co-operation between the railway and the Colonial Dames.