Huntsville M. T. 17th Feby. 1816

Gent.

I wrote you some few days since, a short line in haste by the hand of a prospecter to Fort Jackson in which I had not time to say to you those things I wished. I will now write you more fully.

In mine to you from Fort Strother, I mentioned that untill I was joined by some one of you I would engage myself in running a line between the Tennessee and the Cherokees to be subject to the decision of the Comm.rs, on their arrival with me. This line I run agreably to the written Statement of 28 of the Chiefs and Warriers of the upper part of the creek Nation, four or five of whom I know personally and who are as respectable men as any in the nation. This line as run leaves to the Cherokees more land (as the creek chiefs state) than they are justly entitled to. but they acknowledge to have loaned the land to the Cherokees down to the line some years ago: this loan, and possession, has given them such claim, that I have thought at this day it should be the true line - which is thus, Beginning at the mouth of Wills creek on the Coosa, thence up said creek to Camp Wills, thence with the army road, crossing the mountain to the foot thereof, thence North 8° East four miles to the Tennessee River, at the mouth of Lecond creek

which ~~creek~~ is the point above Thompsons creek — thence down the River with its meanders & leaving all the land to the left of this line to the U.S. On my closing the line I had a meeting with the principal men of that part of the Cherokee Nation, who appeared somewhat restless on the occasion, and who wished their settlements on Thompsons creek included. I then proposed to them if they would enter into an agreement with the Commrs. for over setting the ~~thing~~ at rest, ~~that~~ we would so alter the line as to include the settlements on Thompsons creek, and to include Geo. Fields as follows. Beginning as before and run to Camp Wills, thence to the head of Thompsons creek, and thence to the Tennessee River, opposite the upper end of the Chickasaw Island so as to include Fields improvement. to which proposition they replied they were not authorised to enter into an agreement ~~so~~ untill they heard from a deputation they had sent to our Govt, requesting at the same time that a report of the line already run should be withheld untill they did hear from their deputation — then the thing rests. I am of Opinion they will enter into the agreement — about this time my express sent to you from Fort Strother returned with a line to me from Col Hawkins, but which did not inform me when I should be joined by the other Commissioners — Supposing it must be ill health that has prevailed some one of you —

from joining me or even corresponding, and believing it important to our Govt. to have the lines closed, and reported the soonest possible, I have determined to proceed with the lines agreably to the best evidence I can procure, and which I believe sufficiently Conclusive for us to act on, and which I have no hesitation in believing you will approve when fully seen and understood —

I have obtained the order of Major Gen. Andrew Jackson to raise 25 mounted Volunteers as a guard while running the residue of the lines. This guard is now organising at this place, and will report to the Commrs. at the lower end of the muscle Shoals on the 22d. Inst. — My Surveyors are now engaged taking the bearings and distance of the Ten. River down, I shall join them at Melton's Bluff on the 17th. Inst — and progress down the river to the point my information leads me to, as the line between the U.S. and the Chickasaws, which is as follows — Beginning on the Ten. River at the mouth of Caney creek which empties into that river about 15 or 18 miles below the Shoals — thence up the creek to its source, thence due South to the road leading from Melton's Bluff, to the Cotton Gin post, thence

with that road to the Tombigby River, and thence down the said River with its meanders to the United States lands, leaving all the land to the left of this line to the U. S. I have abundance of evidence that this will be a correct line, by others as well ~~as~~ several of the creek chiefs, and a large number of the Cherokees, all of which I will on your arrival submit ~~to you~~ for ~~your~~ your consideration.

I expect to finish the line last mentioned and return to this place in 20 days from this time —

If it should so happen that I am not joined by some of you before that period, or here at that time, I must here urge the necessity of your approval or disapproval of what I have and am about to do, I shall most certainty expect to hear from you — here let me again re=mark that I believe it all important to our Govt. to have this business brot. to a close, and which is my only apology for progressing alone

I have the honor to be Gentlm. —

Your Obt. Servt. —

Jno. Coffee

The U. S. Comrs. for marking the boundary lines of the Ter. ceded by the creek nation