

Fort Mitchell on the Chattahoochee
February 18th 1816

Dear General

I received on my way to this place, near two weeks ago your letter of the of the last month.

Colonel Barnett and myself had set out with a view to correct the unfinished part of the line west of this river and then to join you. But upon a careful examination of the law for carrying into effect the Treaty of Fort Jackson, I entertained doubts as to the propriety of our entering upon the execution of that part of the line bordering on the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations - and meeting with Col Hawkins, who has, since the recovery of his health, resumed his duties as Commissioner, we formed a board, and after mature deliberation come to the determination expressed in the enclosed paper, which, with the concurrence of the board I send to you, by express, for your information.

I avail myself of this occasion to say to you, that on accepting the appointment of Commissioner I determined to receive no pay, but to perform any duty that should seem proper and necessary to bring the line to a speedy completion, and thereby carry into effect the views of the Government; and I beg you to feel assured that no embarrassment or inconvenience

shall result to you, as far as may depend on me, from your acting as commissioner. I find the Indians are still giving some evidences of an unfriendly temper: two men were killed, some days ago, on the ^{road} ~~path~~ below near Fort Claiborne, and several horses and negroes taken. This act will doubtless be disavowed by the Nation, and was probably committed by a remnant of the red sticks below the line, but it clearly points out the propriety of precautionary measures on our part. The perpetrators of the murders will be demanded of the Nation.

I shall be happy to hear from you, and should we have any thing further to do upon the line it will afford me pleasure to serve with you. The steps which you have taken to ascertain the Cherokee Boundary will doubtless tend greatly to the final establishment of that part of our limits.

with great respect and esteem
Your obed^t. servant

Edmund P. Gaines

General Coffee

The undersigned would be happy to see
General Coffee ~~at this place~~ as soon
as it may be convenient to himself. They
will be at this place in the early part
of the next month, when they will commence
the correction of the line west of the Chittahou
=chiez, upon which they will expect the
pleasure of his company & co-operation.

Wm. G. Burnett

Edmund P. Gaines

From Genl. Gaines to the
18th Feby. 1866

General John Coffee
W. S. Commissioner to
Fort Strother

Express

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General Coffee

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WmBarnett
Edmund P. Gaines