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Ratified treaty no. 84, Documents relating to the negotiations of the treaty of September 20, 1816, with the Chickasaw Indians. September 20, 1816

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RATIFIED TREATY NO. 84
DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE NEGOTIATION OF THE
TREATY OF SEPTEMBER 20, 1816, WITH THE CHICKASAW INDIANS

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Chechasin Agency 22nd Sept 1816

The treaty with the Chechasin has terminated in a manner beneficial to the United States every way highly gratifying to all the good people of the adjacent country, and removed many causes of discontent, which unjust impressions had created among the Indians. I assure you I should have been extremely happy, to have had it in my power, to have concurred with Major Genl. Jackson in every thing, that appertained to my duty as Agent for the United States, and I willingly indulge the hope, that neither he nor you will attach blame to me for an honest difference in opinion, which only happened as to the time and manner, upon me to improve the minds of the Indians, the benefits and advantages that would result to them, from the terms offered them, by the commissioners of the United States upon the proposition was made by the commissioners, an admirable letter written by Col. Mergers to the chiefs, was publicly read. His advice well became that of a father and a friend. It declared to them in the strongest terms how much it was their duty and interest to grant to the United States all the country the President wanted. I then thought it a proper time to rise in public hour, and with my concurrence with every sentiment contained in Col. Mergers letter, and at the same time to tell the Chechasin that the doctrine was not new to them, and that their agent had on many occasions made known in their councils that the President and Secretary of War must be obeyed to and obeyed by them, for that they never would desire them to do any thing, but what would be for the benefit of all their people. The chiefs afterwards withdrew and left the Indians in council, when Major Genl. Jackson without appearing, one of his aides observed to me, that he thought, as much as I ought to have sent aid to the Indians the great advantages that would result from it to them. I answered him that advice which was given to them, in all respects, and generally in the same manner as you have given before.

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kept silent for. He replied with a strong verification
 that the Indians were then in council and that they
 would not ask my advice I answered him in terms
 equally positive affirming that I knew I had the
 entire confidence of the nation except Weshumingo
 and James Collins and that the council would call on
 me for my advice and opinion. While thus in conversation
 with the general the council sent Levy Collins and William
 Wigglesworth to solicit my attendance for the purpose of
 asking my advice. Which affords me a favourable oppor-
 tunity to deliver what would be my real opinion
 which was as follows; As the commissioners had previously
 examined all the evidence that had been offered for
 their consideration declared it to be their opinion that
 the best line was the best and strongest to the land
 south of the mountains and east of the line run by George
 Goffe, that it was therefore my opinion that wis-
 dom and prudence united should induce the Chick-
 saws to make the best terms they could respecting
 that land, and that the land north of the mountains
 had long been a place of contention, and that a liberal price
 was offered for it, that if they refused the offer made I
 did not think it probable they would ever get a better
 than accepting the offer would renew and perpetuate the
 good understanding which so happily existed; and that
 a refusal might by possibility be the means of discord
 and finally some event might happen which would
 produce a worse state of things, and therefore my opinion
 and advice was decidedly in favour of the policy of
 accepting the offer and thereby remove all causes of
 difference and discontent which might grow into
 disturbances of a more serious nature. That the new
 President was kind and liberal in his offers that
 none could be made in the future. Since
 I have been here I have seen the unanimous agreement
 the universal opinion.

left the nation which I remember he knew were
 in the matter that I have seen this being an
 old water in his neighborhood no person that has
 has traveled the road in the year 1815 from Natchez to
 Natchez has been a stranger to the complaints which
 travelers frequently make when they have stolen
 and hid out by Indians in the road in the neigh-
 borhood of the great spring and Beech Swamp.
 This unpleasant state of things in my opinion ought
 to have met my disapprobation at least the idea
 of a law to be made by the
 Agents of the United States for my so as well by
 the department as by that of Georgia
 which is a matter of public and
 private reputation and families do not
 want to have any in the United States for caused
 private property to be stolen and would be
 a great injury to the nation and the millions
 of people who are dependent on Congress
 from the state of Georgia who know them. The
 same kind of a law should have equal claim
 against the agents of the United States government
 and the agents of the other states.

James Collins and others their confederates
 being desirous of engrossing all the trade of this
 nation demand that I should drive all the traders
 trading under regular license out of the nation. This
 demand was also made by Tschumingo in Council
 early last spring when I informed him the
 nation exclusively belonged to Congress to regulate
 trade with foreign nations among the several
 States and with the Indian tribes. He then said
 this young man might steal the trader goods if
 he might steal them and that, that I would
 want him to be punished, according to the law
 dated in 1790 to him and the rest of the
 chiefs to keep and maintain the peace that had
 formerly been the peace and the property of

being of good quality was enough all the
 to do the same as they did, except that they were
 to engage the entire tribe themselves. All this called de-
 needs in the most positive terms, and said that no
 man of my name should travel in
 company with him, but that at the same time
 in presence of the King and the other chiefs, as well as
 in presence and hearing of all the people, as declared
 he had for and confirmed in the agent, calling me
 his father and his friend and said I had done more
 for the benefit of the Indians than all the Agents that
 ever had been sent to them after he had undertaken
 the power of the commissioners, in virtue of the
 Indian in council, who they depended on to trans-
 act their business, determining them in full council.
 I informed the commissioners that their Agent could
 not do better than to let them see and
 that they would begin him to do so. The
 commissioners did know that I arranged their
 evidence and managed their cause much to their
 satisfaction without neglecting the view and
 interest of our own States, in departing in
 argument from the principles of justice
 and liberality which is the pride and glory of
 the government of the United States to ad-
 minister bounties for convenience, with plea-
 sure, he is ready as some are, to change with the
 popular sound, to defend the best of men, and
 condemn the best of measures, because I did
 not know their objects or had neither patience nor
 prudence to wait for information. I might be the
 beloved friend of some, from the popular clamor
 and some be the enemy of the same, with
 designs to bring me from. My errors may
 be many, but my intentions will be strangers
 to them, for everything they charge me with,

all who knew me, and my friends, and
 to my very nature and strength, the fruit
 of all my life, and my heart, that was
 Genl. Jackson informed me he was merely to
 ask a question whether the nation had confidence
 in me, and that I should have the opportunity
 to justify my conduct, or to show that I had
 done my duty; and that the offender, or I
 may say the prince of offenders was to arraign
 my conduct, and act in the capacity of accu-
 sor witness and judge, who held the scales and
 had the will to speak his own unprejudiced
 and declare them as the voice of the nation.
 without being able to show a single necessity.
 I certainly had sometimes invited an inquiry
 into my public conduct with Agents, I repeat
the solicitation and challenge investigation.

The Hon. Jeps. Franklin Esq. before the question
 was put, inquired of me what I thought would be
 their answer of the council, I informed him I
 knew that if the question was put to each individ-
 ual of the council there would be no dissenting
 voices but James Collier and Shumings but
 that if Shumings was to speak, he would speak
 his own prejudices, and say the nation did
 not like me although he knew the fact to be
 otherwise. I should not conclude this letter
 without informing you that some reports
 have been lately circulated in this nation in
 a most barbarous cruel and unprovoked man-
 ner one belonging to No. 10. Lane Land was shot
 by an Indian while in his man's yard riding
 boards. The only cause for this murder is that the
 Indians say he did not like them, and that he
 would spoil his property. At the request of
 I applied to the Cheaps, who refused to do any

The young man... saying the man...
 that... the man... was...
 the young man... murdered a negro
 by whipping and burning another sufficient
 evidence is that the negro... such are
 of the... of the United States... proceed
 very soon... shall it may depend on the Chickasaw
 that... confirmed not to be diminished in
 his... friendly and good disposition
 which affords a firm... that I will be
 indulged with an opportunity of a full inquiry.
 The... to the... of the
 ... with which I have
 ... the... to be your...

Wm. ... Agent
 for Mrs to Chickasaw

Chickasaw Agency
 20th Sept 1816

William ...

relative to a ...
 ...
 ...

Oct 1816