

**Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries B, Box 1, Folder 1**  
**Freeman, Thomas Correspondence to Washington, Meigs - copies, 1785 - 1807 - Land**  
Image 1 r04b01-01-000-0001 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



**Names:**

Roberts, Frances  
Cabaniss

**Places:**

Madison County, AL

**Types:**

collection guide

**Series 4: Roberts Collection – Southern History**

**Sub series B: Madison County History**

**Box 1: Land**

- f. 1: Freeman. corr. w. Washington, Meigs copy
- f. 2: Impact of WWII, DOL, 1943
- f. 3: TVA Bulletins – 10

**Families**

- f. 4: Williams, Nelse (black) humorous story
- f. 5: Black life – notes by FCR
- f. 6: Balch
- f. 7: Butler, Samuel R.
- f. 8: Chambless
- f. 9: Cobb, W.R.W. notes by FCR and letter
- f. 10: Criner
- f. 11: Esslinger
- f. 12: Jones, Lewellen (UAH)
- f. 13: Jones, Seaborn
- f. 14: McCartney, John
- f. 15: Sanders, Constantine
- f. 16: Scott, Dred art. in *Valley Leaves*
- f. 17: Stewart, Stewart
- f. 18: Thomas, Alice McCrary paper-settlement
- f. 19: Walker, J. W. acc.t book, 1812 - copy
- f. 20: Walker, J. W. corr. with Tom Percy-copies
- f. 21: Walker, J. W. corr. “ 1812-1820

**Names:**

Madison County  
History

**Types:**

collection guide

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries B, Box 1, Folder 1  
Freeman, Thomas Correspondence to Washington, Meigs - copies, 1785 - 1807 - Land  
Image 3 r04b01-01-000-0003 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)

1799 Feb Freeman CommSecState LoC [photocopy: Roberts papers, UAH Aug08 dmr]  
1807 Oct12 Freeman ObsTempBndyTenn  
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1799 February 2 Thomas Freeman "Communication to the Secretary of State\_U.S."  
Manuscript notebook with transcribed and original documents, containing: Thomas  
Freeman 'Communication' (42 pages), dated Feb 2 1799; twelve 'support' letters  
concerning Freeman (pages 43-64), dated Oct-Dec 1798; two letters to Thomas  
Freeman: by Thomas Jefferson (six pages) dated Apr 14 1804 [or 1806], and William  
Dunbar (four pages) dated Natchez Apr 28 1806; and Thomas Freeman document  
(one page), dated Oct 12 1807: "Observations on the Temporary Boundary Line of the  
State of Tennessee ..."  
[Thomas Freeman Papers, Library of Congress]

1807 October 12 Thomas Freeman "Observations on the Temporary Boundary Line of the  
State of Tennessee between Elk River and The Cherokee Mountains to ascertain the  
35<sup>th</sup> Degree of Latitude or true position of the Southern boundary of the State."  
[Thomas Freeman Papers, Library of Congress]

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1799 "Communication to the Secretary of State\_U.S. *from Thomas Freeman*. from Natchez,  
Mississippi Territory, Febry 2<sup>nd</sup> 1799." Manuscript notebook, 10 x 8 inches, 65  
numbered pages, containing 13 transcribed documents: including: 1.) Thomas  
Freeman to Thomas Pickering letter (pages 1-42), dated 2 Feb 1799; followed by: 2.)  
twelve 'support' letters concerning Freeman, (pages 43-64), dated Oct-Dec 1798, by:  
Andrew Ellicott, Thomas Freeman, Robert Knox, Geo. Matthews, Captain J. Guion,  
Lieutenant Percy Smith Pope, J. Pannill, and John Hinson; followed by: 3.) three  
inserted original documents: Thomas Jefferson to Thomas Freeman letter (six pages),  
dated Apr 14 1804 [or 1806]; William Dunbar to Thomas Freeman letter (four pages),  
dated Natchez Apr 28 1806; and Thomas Freeman document (one page), dated Oct  
12 1807: "Observations on the Temporary Boundary Line of the State of Tennessee  
between Elk River and The Cherokee Mountains to ascertain the 35<sup>th</sup> Degree of  
Latitude or true position of the Southern boundary of the State."

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Photocopy in Frances Roberts Papers, UAH, examined August 18, 2008:  
Forty-three (43) photocopy sheets, 11 x 20 inches, of:  
Manuscript notebook, 10 x 8 in. pages, (65 numbered pages)  
Library of Congress circular seals are imprinted on numerous pages.

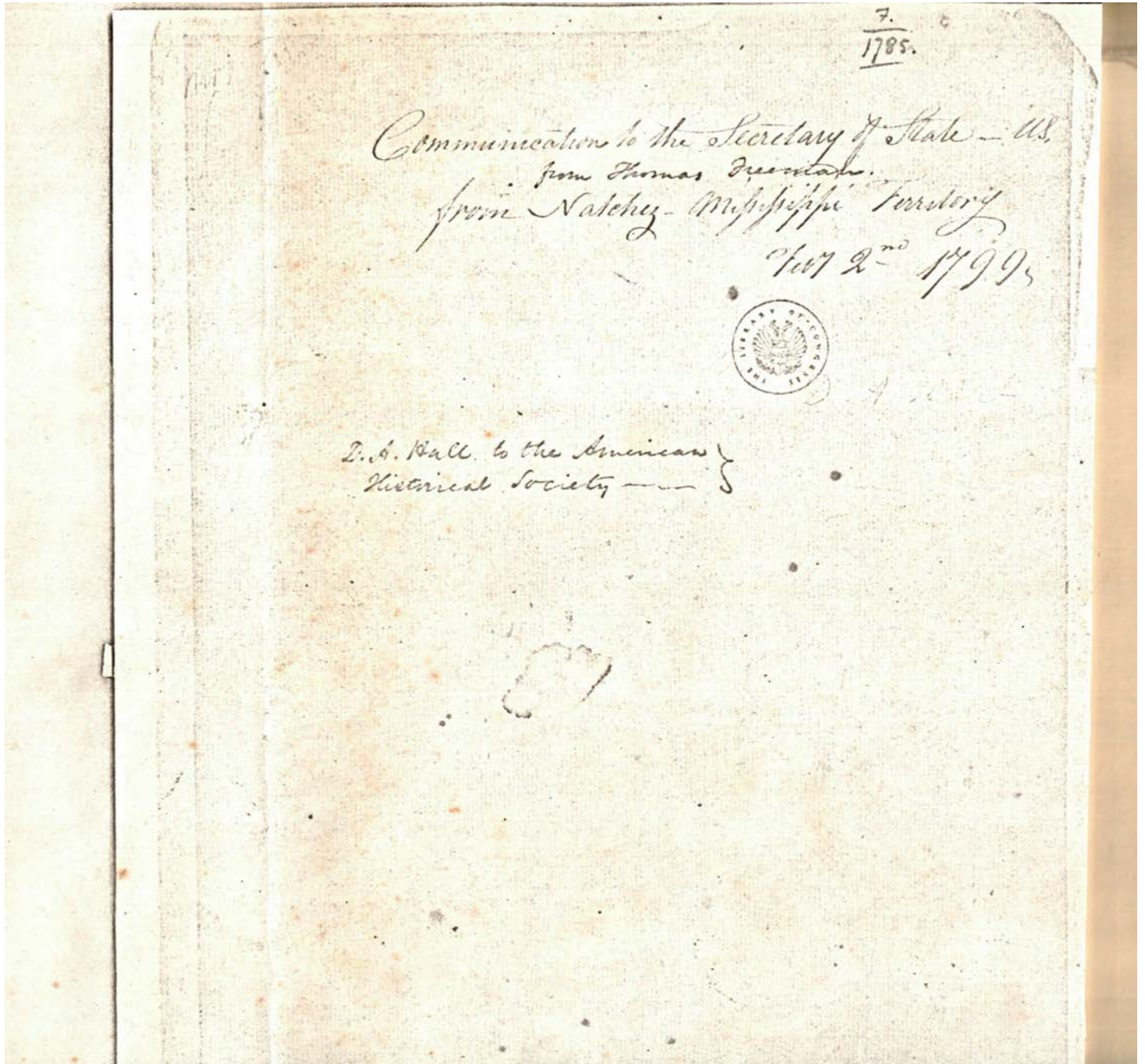
**Names:**

Freeman, Thomas

**Types:**

collection guide





actions of Ellicot

**Names:**

Freeman, Thomas

Hall, D. A.

Secretary of State

**Places:**

Natchez, Miss Terr

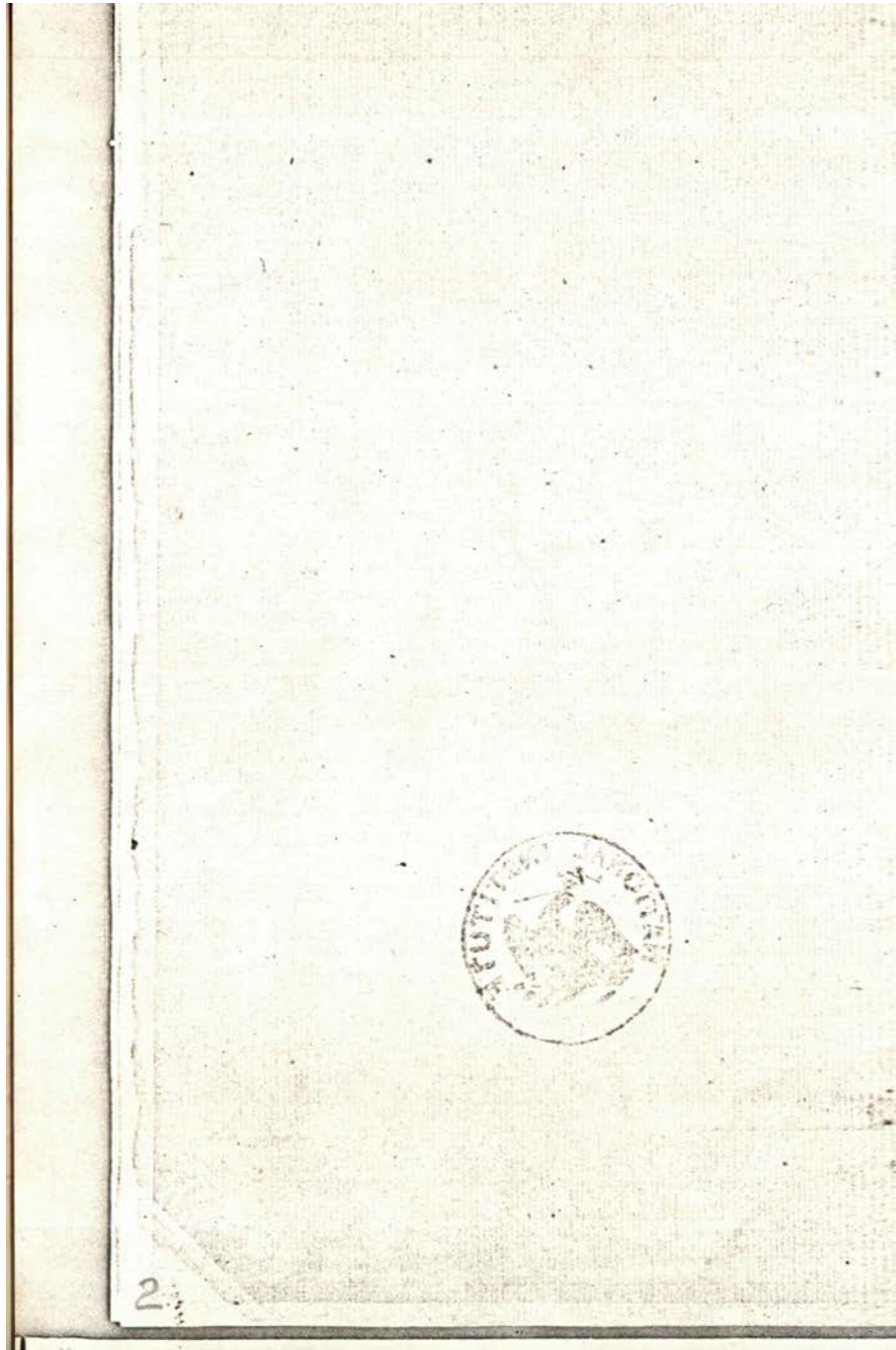
**Types:**

report

**Dates:**

Feb 02, 1799

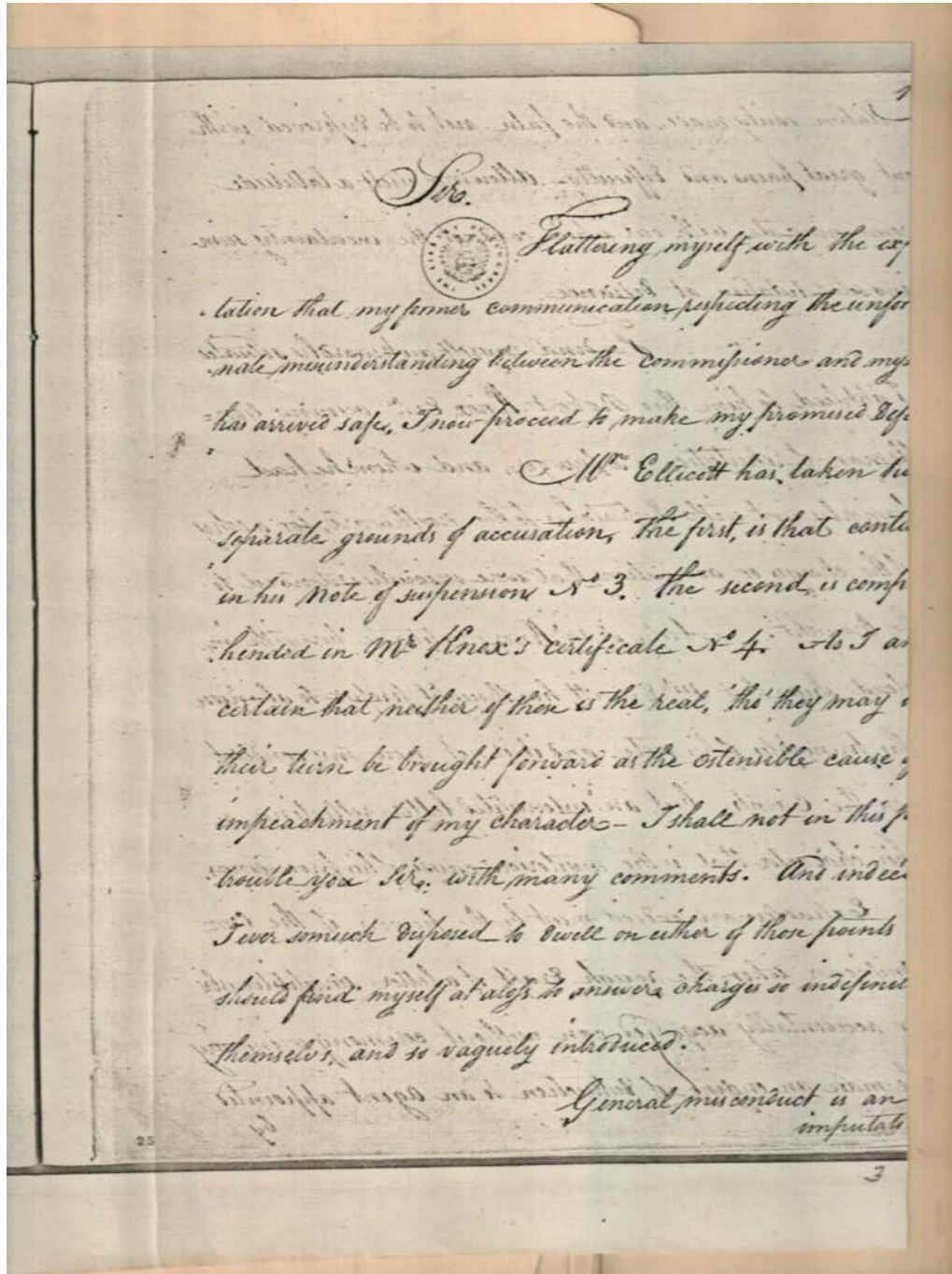




actions of Ellicot

**Types:**

report



The page contains a handwritten letter in cursive script on aged, slightly yellowed paper. A circular seal is visible in the upper left quadrant. The text discusses a communication regarding a misunderstanding between the Commissioner and the writer, and mentions Mr. Ellicott's separate grounds of accusation. The letter is numbered '3' in the bottom right corner.

...  
Sir,  
Flattering myself with the ex-  
pectation that my former communication respecting the unfor-  
tunate misunderstanding between the Commissioner and myself  
has arrived safe, I now proceed to make my promised Sep-  
arate grounds of accusation, the first is that contain-  
ed in his Note of suspension N<sup>o</sup> 3. The second is com-  
prehended in Mr. Knox's certificate N<sup>o</sup> 4. As I am  
certain that neither of them is the real, tho' they may  
in their turn be brought forward as the ostensible cause of  
impeachment of my character - I shall not in this  
trouble you Sir, with many comments. And indeed  
I ever so much desired to dwell on either of these points  
should find myself at night to answer charges so indefinite  
themselves, and so vaguely introduced.  
General misconduct is an  
imputable

25

3

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,

Knox,

**Types:**

report

reputation easily made, and the false not to be disproved with-  
out great pains and difficulty—allowing itself a latitude  
commensurate with our white conduct the uncertainty sum-  
ming up reputation at defiance

I find myself awkwardly situated.  
I applied to him thro Robert Knox Esq: a young gen-  
tleman of reputation & a lawyer, and whom he had  
formerly sent with dispatches to the northward, for a copy  
of the charges or accusations that were seriously intended to  
be brought. A copy of Mr Knox's certificate herewith en-  
closed shows that Mr Ellicott has thought proper to abandon  
the principles of his note, and it is not now my conduct  
in the Camp, but an intercepted letter reflecting on  
his character that is the mysterious cause of his proceedings.

Extraordinary indeed must be the powers of the Com-  
missioner when the rough draft of a letter surreptitiously  
or accidentally acquired can without ceremony or inquiry  
be made an engine of destruction to an agent appointed  
by.

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,

Knox, Robert

**Types:**

report



by the President and only subordinate to himself in commission  
But if I understand him rightly, he expected some  
resistance would have justified his conduct, and produced the  
situation that had no previous existence but in his  
imagination, and then he might have profited by his  
wrong. - But, he was disappointed in that par-  
-ticular I deemed it advisable to withdraw and rely on  
integrity of my own conduct and the justice of my con-  
-duct against all his ingenious and malicious attacks.  
Never harboring for amoment the  
distant idea of exposing or injuring Mr Ellicott (who  
much mortified by his inconsistencies and absurdities) his  
and his character should for me have rested in eternal  
oblivion had I not thus been compelled in defence of  
honor and everything I hold dear to bring them forth  
into public view.  
I pledge myself however thro'  
whole of this business to adhere strictly to truth.

250. 5

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,

**Types:**

report

In a candid review of circumstances I find the Commission  
thru all the various inconsistencies of his principles and con-  
duct has been uniform in his intentions which were to  
injure and disgrace me. How and why I have merited  
his persecution let an honest recital of facts declare.  
And I am well persuaded that such a recital will inves-  
tigate the real source of his animosity and rancor -  
be the most solid justification of myself, and be the truest  
explanation of our whole system of conduct in this country

On the 6<sup>th</sup> day of September  
1796. I received a letter at my office in the City of Washington  
from Mr Ellicott mentioning the arrangements that  
had been made for our departure on the 15 for the States  
by the way of Pitts-burgh at the same time requesting  
me if convenient to join him at Philadelphia. In  
conformity to his desire I repaired to that City on the 13<sup>th</sup>  
and the following morning had my first interview with the  
Commissioner. On the 15<sup>th</sup> taking ~~Pitts-burgh~~ Baltimore

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,

**Types:**

report



3  
On the 18<sup>th</sup> taking Baltimore in our way, we proceeded in com-  
pany to Pittsburg, at which place we were detained until  
the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October. That day we descended the Ohio with  
our whole party, and nothing material happening we  
arrived at Fort Washington on the day of — where  
we spent a few days in repairing the damages sustained by  
our boats from the sand-bars. ~~and some other business~~  
Thus far every<sup>thing</sup> proceeded in harmony  
and the utmost good humour (and it is with equal grief  
and indignation that I now find myself under the  
necessity of mentioning the disgraceful circumstance that  
first clouded, and finally destroyed every pleasing prospect.  
After all hands had been ordered on board, and the morning  
we were about to depart, a woman of the lowest order of garrison  
prostitute, and of a filthy appearance, came on board one of  
our boats which was man'd with 13 labourers, and proposed  
as she expressed herself, to run her chance with them. A  
dispute however arising amongst the crew about the  
propriety

25. 2

actions of Ellicot  
Types:  
report



Propriety of letting her go. The important matter was brought  
before the Commissioners for his Decision - He not only consented  
to give her a passage - but, by an extraordinary impulse thought  
proper to make our barge the sanctuary of this disgusting  
fugitive - who, after having passed thro' every grade of mili-  
tary infamy, and having been reduced to the necessity of fre-  
quenting waste houses, poor kitchens, and the society of  
negroes - wonderful change! was now selected, as the  
favourite companion of the representative of the most  
respectable Republic on earth. For Mr Ellicott not  
only retained her ever after on board, but gave her a berth  
along side of his own - devoted his conversation and attention  
to her, and even seemed offended at every person who did not  
somehow or other express his approbation of this truly whim-  
sical and ridiculous piece of gallantry. For some time  
observed his conduct with astonishment and regret, but still  
persuading myself that the delusion would be momentary, in  
order to support appearances I endeavoured to turn it into ridicule  
and jest. - All

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,

**Types:**

report

All sociability, friendship, and gentlemanly conduct, in our  
little party, now gave way to absurdity and indecency, and  
in this manner we proceeded to the mouth of the Ohio.  
The severity of the weather detained  
us at the confluence of the two rivers in a very disagreeable  
situation, and we were on principles of prudence compelled to  
remove our baggage on shore as there was much danger to  
be apprehended from the ice.  
Mr. Ellicott has made several attempts  
to introduce his favourite at table, but I constantly made a  
friendly opposition, at this place however he was resolved to  
overcome what he called in me, a ridiculous distinction of persons,  
and in fact succeeded on the footing of authority.  
Mr. Ellicott and his favourite slept in a tent on shore, our office  
Mr. McLarey and myself remained on board the barge - on his  
complaining of the severity of the cold, I proposed to change situation  
with him, but he insisted on Mr. McLarey and myself remaining  
where we were, declaring at the same time that he would join

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,

McLarey,

**Types:**

report



is in the boat, and accordingly that very evening he ordered  
his bedding on board, and himself conducted the wanderer to our  
quarters. When bed time arrived, I was astonished to hear the  
Commissioner propose, that I should join my bedding to his &  
as he phrased it, interlock our blankets for the purpose of lying  
warm and more comfortably. The indelicacy of the proposition  
appeared to me in so striking a manner, that I rejected it  
with some marks of contempt. — The mind capable of  
suggesting such a strange idea, that might have given  
rise to so many bitter sarcasms, must be peculiar to Mr.  
Ellicott — and such a proposition, could only be acceded to  
by his son! Yet, so highly was Mr. Ellicott displeased  
at my non acquiescence, that next morning he ordered  
his bedding to be returned to the tent, and himself and his  
female colleague departed the barge and resumed their former  
station on shore. Indisposition confined me for some  
days to the barge during which time such was the conduct  
of

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,

**Types:**

report



of Mr Ellicot to Mr Meigs that, that officer in defence of his  
feelings thought proper to separate from the miss and live on his  
relations, a conduct he never after found any inducement to change.  
Things were in this situation when  
Mr Ellicott no doubt struck with compunction for the im-  
propriety of his conduct, sent me the letter N<sup>o</sup> 1, which I  
answered by N<sup>o</sup> 2, and as I know his disease did not require  
flattery I endeavoured to probe his wounds with a hard hand.  
My blunt truths I expected would have produced an  
interview and explanation - but, I am sorry to observe, they  
produced quite a contrary effect. He ever after treated me with  
<sup>marked</sup> disgust and distant reserve, and on all occasions endeavoured  
to render my time unpleasant, and my situation modifying  
A sense of duty and distant hope that I should still be  
with of an alteration of conduct, induced me to pass over in silence  
the variety of disgusting scenes that were daily exhibited before  
my face. I knew at the same time that our arrival  
at the Watches would one way or other put an end to my  
mortification - In

actions of Ellicot

**Names:**

Ellicott,

**Types:**

report

12  
In the mean time our Steerage gained  
such an ascendancy on Father and Son, that it could hardly  
be extinguished when difficulties were the most importunate.  
This singular competition that has been so much the subject  
of conversation at this place, remains in point of success  
at this day undecided. But the principles that  
could admit, encourage or suffer such a contest, is so far out  
of the common tract, as to afford matter of curious speculation.  
It is nevertheless a true in fact - and is strange in theory.  
Both rivers being clear of Ice  
and impediments being removed, and there being no visible  
cause of further Delay, we descended the Mississippi on  
the day of Jan 1797. - The morning we pass'd the  
Walnut-Hills (New Fort M'Henry) we were met by an express  
bearing Governor Gayoro's first letter to Mr Ellicott request-  
ing that the Military escort should be left at the Bayou-Quince  
Mr Ellicott entrusted me with the clause containing the  
request & the reason given for such request, but as he appeared  
anxious

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,

Gayoro, do Lemos,  
Governor

**Types:**

report



12  
In the mean time our Storm gained  
such an ascendancy on Father (and Son) that it could hardly  
be extinguished when squalls were the most importunate.  
This singular competition that has been so much the subject  
of conversation at this place, remains in point of success  
at this day undecided. - But the principles that  
could admit, encourage or suffer such a contest, is so far out  
of the common tract, as to afford matter of curious speculation.  
It is nevertheless a true in fact - as it is strange in theory.  
Both rivers being clear of Ice  
and impediments being removed, and there being no visible  
cause of further delay, we descended the Mississippi on  
the day of Jan<sup>y</sup> 1797. - The morning we pass'd the  
Walnut-Hills (New Fort M<sup>o</sup> Henry) we were met by an express  
bearing Governor Gayoro's first letter to Mr Ellicott request-  
ing that the Military escort should be left at the Bayou-Pierce  
Mr Ellicott entrusted me with the clause containing the  
request & the reason given for such request, but as he appeared  
anxious

Image 15 repeat

**Names:**

Ellicott,

Gayoro, do Lemos,  
Governor

**Types:**

report



11  
anxious to keep the rat a secret. I did not urge him for a full perusal  
my opinion was decided against the requisition, for it ap-  
peared to me ungenerous to ask, (and both improper and dan-  
gerous to submit to a separation of our small party. The  
commissioner thought otherwise, (and amazed me with the  
assertion that he foreknew the Military would be stop'd  
adding that he had his information at New Madrid, and  
it was right they should be left. That I myself would in a  
future day approve his conduct, as he never was wrong in his  
life. The Detachment of course remained at Bayou Pierre  
and we pursued our journey to our Destination. He assured me  
however, that it was his intention to make it the first business  
with Gayoso to obtain a permit for the military to join us.  
I had then the first instance of Mr Ellicott's Decision and  
firmness in his official character. That single act, by giving  
Gayoso, a knowledge of him has cost the United States some  
thousand Dollars.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> Day of Feb<sup>r</sup> 1797

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actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,

Gayoro, Governor

**Types:**

report

12  
we arrived at the Statches, and then I seriously looked for a  
fulfilment of Mr Ellicott's promise made to me at the mouth of  
the Ohio, as well as a correction of his conduct. Had he taken  
any pains to spare my feelings, I should have joined his family  
and would readily have united my labours with his in the promo-  
tion of our common business. But I never heard anything more  
of the promised explanation. (And so far was he from sending the  
excuse from his family, that, when the following day after  
our arrival we were invited on board our barge by His Excellency  
Governor Gayoso, and the other officers of government—he with  
me breath introduced myself and her to that gentleman).  
That one transaction was sufficient to  
convince me, that the Commissioner's Malady was not only out-  
rageous but incurable. For if he could so far forget himself &  
his own situation and his country's honor, as on the first inter-  
view to introduce so infamous a prostitute to a foreign personage  
of high respectability—what reasonable foundation had I  
to hope the return of good sense and propriety. — J

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,

Gayoso, Governor

**Types:**

report



13

I left him astonished, confounded, and tormented by every feeling that  
could be excited by disappointment and disdain. - Private  
lodgings I instantly procured, and Mr Ellicott tho' he was  
sensible of my motives for so doing, made no animadversions on  
my conduct - & outlisp it pleased him, as my presence certainly  
gave him some disagreeable sensations. -

A few days after our arrival the  
Commissioners encamped on high ground the north end of  
the town. Tho' a man of propriety - notwithstanding he re-  
tained in the most public manner, the adventures in his  
tent, and at his table. I frequently visited him, and he  
sometimes called on me at my lodgings. -

By this time the rival relations  
by a repetition of carriages has lost all idea of the decency of  
of appearances - their conduct - amazed and disgusted the  
gentle inhabitants, who from attachment to the U. States  
paid complimentary visits to the Commissioners - and was  
the scoff & ridicule of the Spanish party. - Shortly

25-2

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,

**Types:**

report



<sup>14</sup> Shortly after our arrival Major Minor a Spanish officer high in the confidence of his own government, and remarkable for his address in some species of low intrigue, ingrossed Mr<sup>s</sup> Ellicott's favour and friendship - And so far did the latter carry his observations in a private conversation with me as to assert that Major Minor was a warm friend to our cause that he despised the Spaniards - wished as earnestly as we did for a change of government, and no doubt in a future day would fill some of the most important offices in the country. I then observed that he was a Spanish officer, who owed his whole fortune to the munificence of the Spanish Government - that had he made use of those declarations to me, I should have esteemed him a Deceiver or a traitor, and of course unworthy my confidence or company - I am sorry to remark that I have reason to believe Mr<sup>s</sup> Ellicott communicated our conversation to Minor and led him to believe I was his enemy. Colonel McKee who was here at that time is in full possession of these particulars - Yet tho' Mr<sup>s</sup> Ellicott knew

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,

McKee, Colonel

Minor, Major

**Types:**

report

259  
knew the anxiety of the citizens on account of his intimacy with  
that gentleman <sup>(Miner)</sup> he continued to act in a manner under  
his direction, and I venture to assert, that Commission's conduct  
in this instance was among the combined causes that retarded  
the evacuation. ~~But still the~~ ~~Commissioner's~~  
Governor Gayoso named the 19<sup>th</sup> day  
of March for the commencement of our operations, but, as we saw  
preparations going on in the interim (except such as were calculated  
to strengthen the posts and retain the country) when the day  
arrived we were not much disappointed in hearing of a further  
procrastination. It was obvious to the least intelligent that delay  
was the Governor's object.  
I saw the absurdity of spinning out  
an epistolary correspondence with the Spanish Agents, as  
it was in fact answering all their wishes. I therefore advised  
Mr. Ellicott to send an express to Philadelphia with an account  
of the actual state of things, then to proceed down the river to  
fix the point of latitude, and to run a line thro' the settled  
part of the country. To determine a conduct I conceived  
might

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,

Gayoso, Governor

**Types:**

report



16.  
might draw the opposite party into action - would greatly  
oblige the inhabitants - perhaps forward the object of our mission  
and the interest of the U. States more than we could at first  
perceive, and at all events would not be disapproved of by our  
own government. Mr Ellicott answers, that Matchez  
was the place appointed by the Treaty - a removal might be  
attended with dangerous consequences - and he was resolved not  
to risk his scalp out of Matchez. Finding him disposed  
to keep up a tedious correspondence with Gayer, who was not vested  
at that time with any power to inter <sup>in</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>business</sup> I thought  
proper to make a short tour in order to become acquainted with  
the face of the country and the numbers and sentiments of the  
people. I was highly gratified in every respect for <sup>found</sup>  
the country agreeable, the inhabitants numerous, hospitable  
and respectable, and what equally pleased me, warmly  
attached to the government and interest of the U. States.  
They also express much anxiety on account of the delay  
the want of which they dread. Mr Ellicott handed over

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,

**Types:**

report



over his tent - a small flag which had accidentally remained in our  
barge. The novelty of the thing drew some straggling savages  
to his camp - he supplied them with provisions. Others came,  
he supplied them also. Some of the Citizens seeing the Indians  
receive provisions of Mr Ellicott and knowing the consequence of  
encouraging them, requested him not to give to them, observing  
that they would not only be very troublesome to him, but to the  
Nation also. He however continued to supply them enjoying the  
ridiculous parade of making them believe him to be a great  
Man. A quarrel his son and some of the laborers had with  
one of them was the cause of their being riotous in his camp which  
so far intimidated him that he sent for the military escort  
notwithstanding his personal hatred for the Officer who commanded  
it. but previous to their arrival he agreed with Gayser that  
they should be stationed at Bacon's Landing. This is a level  
spot on the banks of the river about a mile below town, it  
is just above high water mark, covered with briars and surrounded  
with almost inaccessible hills of at least 200 feet high (and covered  
with thick woods. Hec

25-h 191

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,

**Types:**

report

Here Mr McLary and his little Detachment were the prey of  
Marshalls gnats, flies, and such noxious insects, until the  
indisposition of his men compelled him to apply to Mr Ellicott  
for Directions to move from thence, but finding him disposed  
to detain him there and his men suffering materially, The  
officer at once determined to move up and take a more con-  
venient position. Mr Ellicott finding him determined to change  
his place, seemed alarmed, and proposed for him to move in the night.  
Mr McLary (much to his credit) asserted that he was an American  
officer, and that he would march his Detachment next morning  
at ten o'clock thro' the town. He did so, with Drum and fife - much  
to the pleasure of the inhabitants, and took a pleasant and healthy  
position about a mile back of the town. I immediately joined  
and remained in the same tent with him until the arrival  
of Cap<sup>tn</sup> Pope. In the meantime I urged Mr Ellicott  
with warrants to inform the Executive Depart<sup>mt</sup> what was going  
forward in this country. His conversation I will remember,  
and was to the following effect. — That he had writ off three  
copies

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,

McLary,

Pope, Captain

**Types:**

report



Express that one of them had actually arrived safe, and that the  
U States had at that time incurred an expense of 1000, Dollars  
in that account - That the President of the U States had no  
expectations that the line would be commenced on our arrival -  
that sending us down was a mere matter of form - and that our  
situation was supposed to be much more unpleasant than it  
actually was. The above conversation appeared to me so  
extraordinary that I could not at first conceive the Commissioner  
in his intentions to deceive and mislead me, I therefore  
repeatedly repeated that the subject was of too important a nature  
to be trifled with, and that I was sorry to find him so indifferent in  
an affair that might concern us as agents of the U States.  
He then solemnly declared that all he said was true - that  
he knew I did not believe him - that he had documents in  
his power to convince me, but he was not at liberty to go so far  
a month or two - This conversation took place at his own tent,  
some time previous to Mr. Meigs's departure as a pres, and in pres  
sence of Mr. McClary.

actions of Ellicot

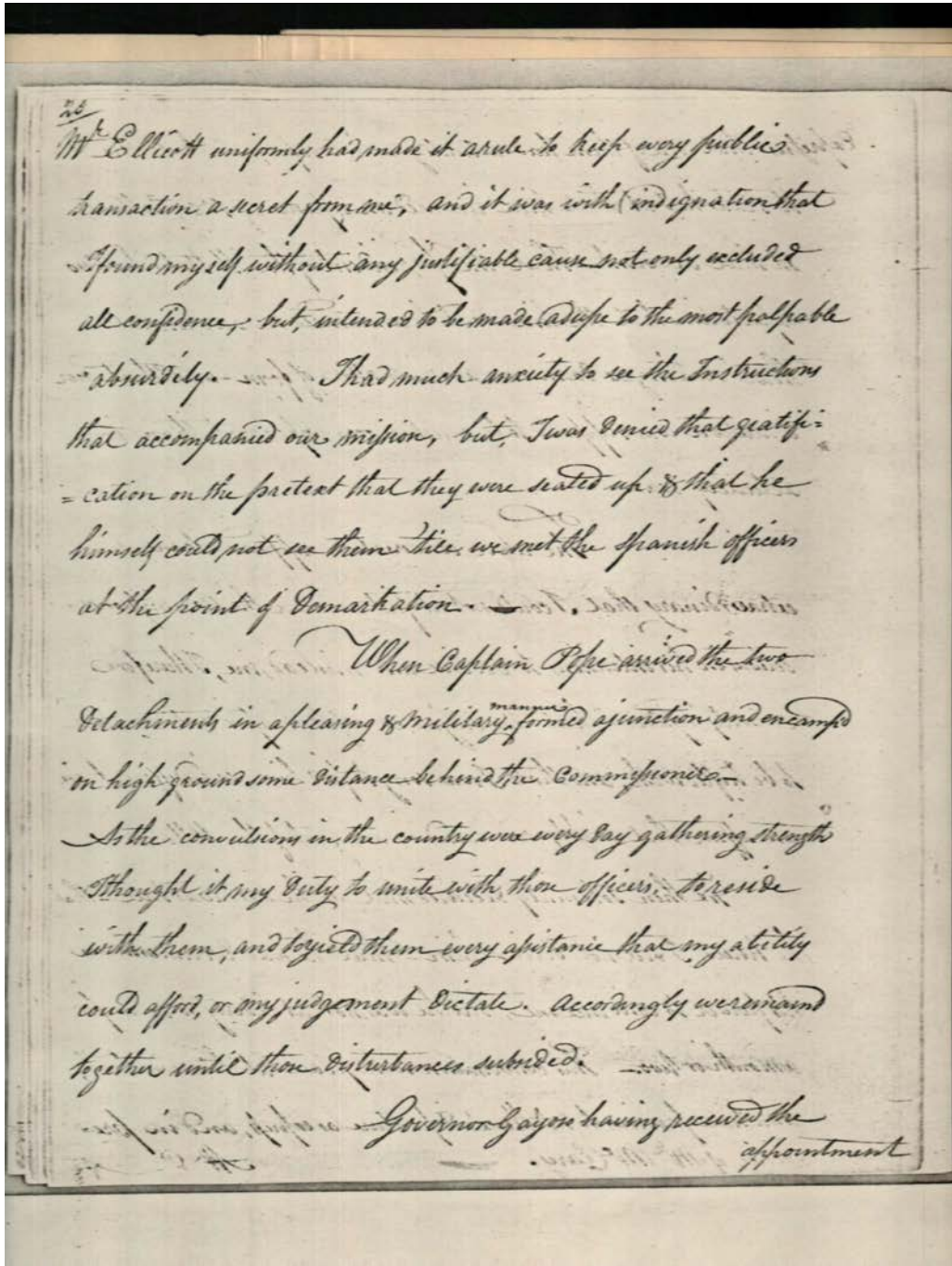
**Names:**

Knox,  
McClary,

President, United  
States

**Types:**

report



Mr Ellicott uniformly had made it a rule to keep every public  
transaction a secret from me, and it was with indignation that  
I found myself without any justifiable cause not only excluded  
all confidence, but intended to be made a duppe to the most palpable  
aburdity. I had much anxiety to see the Instructions  
that accompanied our mission, but I was denied that gratifi-  
cation on the pretext that they were sealed up & that he  
himself could not see them. We met the Spanish officers  
at the point of Demarkation. When Captain Pope arrived the two  
Detachments in a pleasing & military <sup>manner</sup> formed a junction and encamped  
on high ground some distance behind the Compendio.  
As the convulsions in the country were every day gathering strength  
I thought it my duty to unite with those officers, to reside  
with them, and to yield them every assistance that my ability  
could afford, or any judgement dictated. Accordingly we remained  
together until those disturbances subsided. Governor Gayor having received the  
appointment

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,

Gayoro, Governor

Pope, Captain

**Types:**

report



21  
Appointment of governor general, repaired to New Orleans, and left  
Major Minor governor of the interior of the States. —  
When Capt. Guion reached this country, and  
found that some further delay would unavoidably take place, he  
proceeded to throw up some works as a security for his Detachment.  
The intended Fortification raised some alarm in the new  
governor, who remonstrated against the measure, but Captain  
Guion answered in a military and decisive manner, and com-  
pletely finished his Redoubt. — The business produced a correspondence  
with the governor general, in which the American Commandant  
displayed such abilities as would have driven them from all their  
artifices, had he been spiritedly seconded by Mr. Ellicott. —  
But, to the astonishment and indignation of every American  
officer, Mr. Ellicott & the new governor spent the principal  
part of their time together in an intimacy that would have  
been remarkable in Agents of the same Nation anxious to  
promote their countries welfare. — Gayon finding that Capt-  
Guion would not be trifled with, and in all probability not  
wishing 23.

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,  
Gayoro,

Guion, Captain

Minor, Major,  
Governor

**Types:**

report

22  
Wishing to surrender the country in a formal manner sent orders  
for Minor to repair to Orleans  
The tottering government now devolved  
on Mr Vidal, who had formerly acted as Secretary of State, and  
who discovered a strong disposition to continue the mockery and  
farce of negotiation still longer. It was on this occasion that  
Capt Guion requested me to go with him & Mr Vidal to Mr Ellicott  
for the purpose of making the last and final arrangement for  
the evacuation - Being joined by Mr Ellicott we four retired  
to a private room, where Capt Guion in a summary manner  
brought into view the absurdity and inconsistency of the Governor  
General's conduct, and demanded in positive terms to know  
from Mr Vidal when the Spanish troops would evacuate the  
Garrison. That gentleman still wishing to use the language  
of evasion, declined fixing any particular time, alledging among  
a number of other frivolous excuses - that he had not boats suffi-  
cient to transport the baggage & Military stores &c. Capt  
Guion removed this objection by offering to furnish him the next  
morning

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,

Guion, Captain

Vidal,

**Types:**

report



29

Morning with anticipation of boats he might think necessary,  
but as that did not answer the purpose, he found himself under  
the necessity of declaring himself in explicit terms, and in the  
following manner. — Since you Sir, do not think proper  
to fix the day for the evacuation of the Garrison I will do it  
for you. If after the last day of this month, your troops  
continue in that fort. I will absolutely drive them out,  
noe will I in that can lend you the least assistance in  
transporting them or their baggage. —

This peremptory threat had  
the desired effect. The Fort was deserted, not belov'd up, and  
the American Troops on the Day of March took possession ac-  
cordingly.

That great event with regard to this coun-  
try that afforded so many pleasing emotions to the inhabitants  
gave no apparent satisfaction to the Commissioner. — It seems  
as if country family & friends in his view were all concentra-  
ted in the person of one vile & disgusting Prostitute. — content

35A for 35

actions of Ellicot  
Types:  
report

24  
Content for her sake to live absent from his friends family &  
the but of ridicule the delay of public business was a pro-  
longation of his Deprived felicity. -  
About a week after the evacuation  
of the Garrison, as there was no apparent apology for further delay  
Mr Ellicott moved down to Clarke-Villa, with his labours  
and baggage, he remained there sometime, and thence proceeded  
to Bayou-Tonica which is about 8, or 9, miles by land tho' 50, or  
60, by water. From this place there is a good road up the country  
on which the latitude could readily be ascertained sufficiently  
accurate to select a convenient position for our encampment  
where we might deposit our baggage and commence our operations.  
This might have been accomplished in 10, or 12, days from the  
time of leaving Natchez - Mr Ellicott was fully acquainted  
with these circumstances, yet, by a different arrangement  
he spent one month in procuring a position far less convenient.)  
Mr Clarke of Clarke-Villa a gentleman  
of honor and independent fortune, and warmly attached to the  
interest

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Clark,

Ellicott,

**Types:**

report



25

interest of the U.S. being well acquainted with the climate and  
nature of the country we had to prop<sup>ose</sup> afford us that Oregon  
would be much preferable to white laborers on the line—  
He offered himself to furnish 50, active blacks, victual cloths  
and superintend them at one dollar & 50 cts each— these men  
were accustomed to the climate and hard labours, they could  
sustain the inclemency of the weather from morning until  
night with only the intermission of eating without injury  
to their health, or interruption to their exertions, which was  
double the time our white laborers worked— The expense  
of pack-horses, drivers, oxen &c. would be saved by such a  
contract, which enhanced the expense of each labourer that  
actually worked on the line within at the lowest calculation  
to two dollars & 50 cts— Hence it evidently appears that by  
acceding to Mr. Clark's proposition the progress of the line  
would be accelerated with double the rapidity and at half  
the expense. Yet Mr. Ellicott rejected it on the score of  
its being unconstitutional to execute public work with slaves,  
notwithstanding

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Clark,

Ellicott,

**Types:**

report

21  
notwithstanding this, it was found necessary to employ upwards of  
20. negro slaves for a couple of months to cut thru the cane, who  
were afterwards discharged. I desire to be on good terms with the  
Commissioners, & at all events to support appearances, having some  
faint hopes that he would act with more propriety & decency in  
his family when joined by the Spanish officers, induced me to  
join his family at Bayou-Tunica. The Governor General with his  
suite & a Marine Astronomer on a visit to see the commencement  
of our operations, pass'd a day and night in our camp -  
where they were doom'd to the necessity of sitting down to the  
same table with our Negroes, (and had the curious spec-  
tacle of seeing the son bestow the most fulsome attention and  
eat from the same plate with her. - The Governor & his party  
return'd next day to Orleans, having nominat'd Mess<sup>rs</sup> Dunbar  
& Minor, to transact every thing on the Spanish part.  
It may not be improper here to observe that

actions of Ellicot

**Names:**

Dunbar,

Governor, General

Minor,

**Types:**

report



27  
that, altho' the governor-general himself attended, and undertook  
to nominate two officers to act on the part of the Spanish govern-  
-ment - yet, the meeting was irregular, and informal, the  
Spanish agents not having produced any authority at that  
time, nor afterwards (that I could see) from their government.  
Mr Ellicott himself assured me, in his own Tent: "That the  
governor was not commissioned by the court of Spain for that  
purpose, that he did not produce any other authority than  
one sentence in a Ministerial letter to the former governor-  
-general, by which he was directed to treat the business of the  
line as he might seem proper, - namely, to attend to it  
himself, nominate others, or neglect it altogether."  
To meet men so vaguely appointed, and so reluctantly dragged  
to business, appeared to me neither more nor less than trifling  
with the Commission - perhaps I might add, Dignity of  
the U. States. But, Mr Ellicott assured me that it was  
his orders from the Secretary of State, to meet the Spanish  
party with any colour of excuse - He might have been  
correct  
25m

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,

Governor, General

**Types:**

report

28  
correct in his communication for aught I know, but having  
been misled by him so often before, I could not help doubting  
on that occasion. —  
Being joined by M<sup>rs</sup> Dunbar &  
Minor, they for the sake of society and friendly intercourse joined  
our M<sup>rs</sup>, as also did the commandant of their escort. These  
gentlemen as naturally might be expected, soon became engaged  
with part of our family, and to avoid the contempt of our  
mode of living, a scheme was proposed to form a separate M<sup>rs</sup>  
which should consist of M<sup>r</sup> Ellicott myself and the officer who  
commanded our escort, together with M<sup>rs</sup> Minor, Dunbar,  
(and their military officer). I was much pleased with the  
plan and earnestly urged it to be carried into effect. M<sup>r</sup> Ellicott  
himself seemed to approve of and agree to the arrangement.  
But, in vain was the experiment tried for finding that  
his favourite would not be admitted, he withdrew and lived in  
his own tent and in his own way. I again separated from  
him, joined his M<sup>rs</sup> and joined our officer for a short time until I  
made arrangements for my self. —

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Dunbar,

Ellicott,

Minor, Major

**Types:**

report



28  
correct in his communication for aught I know, but having  
been misled by him so often before, I could not help doubting  
on that occasion. -  
Being joined by Mess<sup>rs</sup> Dunbar &  
Minor, they for the sake of society and friendly intercourse joined  
our Mess, as also did the Commandant of their escort. These  
gentlemen as naturally might be expected, soon became disgusted  
with part of our family, and to avoid the contempt of our  
more of living, a scheme was proposed to form a separate mess  
which should consist of Mr<sup>r</sup> Ellicott, myself and the officer who  
commanded our escort, together with Mess<sup>rs</sup> Minor, Dunbar  
(and their military officer. I was much pleased with the  
plan and earnestly urged it to be carried into effect. Mr<sup>r</sup> Ellicott  
himself seemed to approve of and agree to the arrangement. -  
But, in vain was the experiment tried for finding that  
his favourite would not be admitted, he withdrew and lived in  
his own tent and in his own way. I again separated from  
him, joined his mess and joined our officer for a short time until I  
made arrangements for my self. -

**Names:**

Dunbar,

Ellicott,

Minor,

**Types:**

report

The extremity of the climate and exposure to its effects so far injured  
my health as to confine me for some days to my Tent - As soon  
as I was able to ride I accepted the invitation of Col<sup>l</sup> Pannill  
(a respectable gentleman who lives a few miles above the line) - rode  
to his house, where by the friendly attention of himself & his Lady  
I was enabled to return to the duties of my office in the course  
of a week. Our Camp at this time was on the road  
leading from Natchez to Orleans - ~~A Cabin~~ A Cabin had been  
previously raised here by a person for the purpose of selling L<sup>o</sup>  
to our labourers &c. I was astonished on my return to camp  
to find that our business had been very much interrupted  
by this Cabin. Mr<sup>r</sup> Ellicott himself assured me that there was  
not one tree cut in the line for some days after the labourers  
first arrived there - Great irregularities still continued among  
our labourers in consequence of this house, yet no decisive measures  
were taken to prevent it - Our officer found it necessary to punish  
severely some of his soldiers in consequence of their frequenting this  
house (and finally at my particular request, sent a file of men  
for

25-71

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,

Pannill, Colonel

**Types:**

report



30  
the person who kept it and confined him in camp. The public's  
loss sustained by this person could not be estimated at less than  
one thousand Dollars - he was cautioned early against selling  
liquor to our men, but to no effect. - Yet Mr Ellicott not only  
calmly looked on, but when the man was confined, he sent him  
provisions with a peremptory order to Mr McClary that he should  
not interrupt the servant that carried the victuals to the  
Prisoners - (and when released Mr Ellicott apologized to him  
apprising him that he had no hand in his confinement. -

Our next encampment was on the Bayou Sarah  
where the whole of our labourers were employed one week in clearing  
ground to encamp on, which was treble the time necessary.

We lay here at the close of August when Mr  
Dunbar retired from the line, the charge of which then devolved  
on Mr Minor, & Powers. -

Our progress on the line depending solely  
on the labourers, as their industry or inactivity hastened or retarded  
our motions (and they having acted hitherto without much  
control.

25. 9

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Dunbar,  
Ellicott,

McClary,  
Minor,

Powers,

**Types:**

report

control, and with great irregularity. I conceived it my duty to  
join their Camp, and continue with them, thence forward thro'  
the whole of the business, in order to keep them strictly to their  
Duty. I therefore gave orders for my tent and baggage to be  
packed out to their Camp which was at that time about  
5 miles ahead on the line. I at the same time waited on  
Mr Ellicott, made known to him my arrangement and the  
necessity thereof he agreed that I was right, and seemed to  
approve of my Determination. I had long wished to see the instructions  
accompanying our mission in order to know the connection  
between us in our official capacities. I made my wishes known  
to him Mr Ellicott, assuring him at the same time, that it  
was my intention to continue thence forward with the labour-  
ers, and exert all the assistance in my power to forward our  
common business. He assured me in the most solemn manner  
that the instructions and his Commission were sealed & so  
that he had not yet opened them himself. but he should  
do so.

25-7

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,

**Types:**

report



38  
in a few days and have copied for my information such parts  
thereof as might respect me. - This conversation took place  
under an arbour at his tent, on the first of September after  
being 3 months at business with the Spanish officers -  
Yet the Commissioners declared to me that he had not  
at that time opened his Commission, nor instructions!  
I saw no impropriety in my application, for being joined  
with Mr Ellicott in the Commission, it appeared reasonable  
that I should be treated by him, at least <sup>condem, if not with</sup> confidence -  
Had he thought otherwise he should have expressed his reason  
to me in a gentlemanly and honorable manner - But  
his conduct requires no comment. I took my leave of  
him without further conversation, proceeded to the labour-  
ers Camp, pitched my tent there, and commenced arrange-  
ments for their future conduct. I prepared a monthly time  
or pay roll for the men, and attended to the marking of it my-  
self every fore & afternoon. Our labourers in a short time with  
little trouble became very regular, and our business went on  
with

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,

**Types:**

report

93

with much more ease and expedition than formerly: Mr Ellicott  
saw and knew this, but, being always disposed to render me of  
as little consequence as possible in our business, he, in concert  
with minor, sent Powers (the person who was called Surveyor  
on the opposite party) with directions that I should divide  
the business in such a manner, that the operations of the  
line should be alternately conducted, Day, week, or month,  
as we might deem proper. My answer was that the duties  
of my office required a daily attendance from myself, and he  
might perceive my arrangements had been made accordingly.  
He urged the Commissioners directions to him. Finding that  
they were determined to interrupt me, and that I stood alone  
anxious to forward our business in opposition to both parties,  
I deemed it most prudent to fall into their measures. -  
I divided the business with Mr Powers, so that each was  
to conduct it a week at a time, and further that either  
should continue it a fortnight or month &c if necessary for the  
accommodation of the others. Mr Powers observed that  
what

25-R

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,

Minor,

Powers,

**Types:**

report



39  
24  
Whilst I should superintend the work, he would not interrupt  
me, and when he had it in charge, he would not permit any  
person to interrupt him. By this arrangement half  
my time and exertions were at least interrupted, if not cut off  
from the duties of my office. but, it was the direction of  
the Commissioner (and for the sake of peace I agreed to it.)  
We were at this time beyond the settlement and having  
business in the town of Natchez, which required my personal  
attendance. I continued the superintendance of the line  
two weeks, and then delivered it into the charge of the opposite  
party. By the late arrangement directed by Mr Ellicott  
I was excluded from taking an active part in the public  
work for two weeks to come. I could not therefore conceive  
how my visiting Natchez would in any respect affect or  
impede the public business - had I entertained a different opi-  
nion, no private motives however urgent or interesting should  
have drawn me from the line. My intentions to visit  
Natchez were well known by every person in camp & our  
company

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,

**Types:**

report

35

Company procured me a horse for that purpose. The opposite party  
assured me, that should I not find it convenient to return within  
the time proposed, that they with pleasure would conduct &  
superintend it, <sup>(the same)</sup> until my return. It is to be remarked, that  
our overseer, Chain-bearer, and several of our labourers had leave  
of absence at the same time from Mr Ellicott and visited  
matches also. I proceeded to town & being detained  
there a day or two longer than I expected, my anxiety to be  
in camp induced me to ride one whole day thro' very heavy  
rain, I arrived late in the evening and the next morning  
received the note N<sup>o</sup> 3, from Mr Ellicott wherein he as-  
sumed the authority of suspending me from office.

This last effort to persecute me, appeared as ex-  
traordinary and unexpected, as the charges contained in the  
note were malicious and unfounded. Supposing that this  
rash act proceeded from the frenzy of the moment, occasioned  
by some news seen in his family - or that it was the result  
of some premeditated <sup>plan</sup> for my destruction, I wished to have  
an

25-5 an 37

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,

**Types:**

report



30  
An interview with him, and do it away on the spot.  
I therefore directed Mr<sup>o</sup> Gillespie, who handed me the notes  
to inform Mr<sup>o</sup> Ellicott, that as I could not account for <sup>the cause of</sup> this  
rash act, (and as he well knew the absurdity and falsity of  
the accusation, I proposed rejecting all frivolous and trifling  
considerations to bury in oblivion all past animosity and to  
proceed mutually & cheerfully to forward the object of our  
mission - But should be peristent in his determination to  
persecute me - I should retire to Malheur and draw up a  
statement of facts.  
Mr<sup>o</sup> Gillespie obeyed, and returning  
assured me that Mr<sup>o</sup> Ellicott's determination was fixed, to  
injure me if possible, promising me at the same time that  
in the most solemn manner, that he would himself do every  
thing in his power to see me until my return, which he  
had no doubt would be in the spring with honor.  
To avoid an open rupture with  
Mr<sup>o</sup> Ellicott and further disgrace of our party, I deemed it most

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,

Gillespie,

**Types:**

report

37  
most prudent to retire to this place, where I am writing with  
anxious suspense for the signification of the Executive pleasure.  
— In the mean time, should my information from the Camp  
be such, as will loudly call for, or even convince me of the  
necessity of my presence there to forward the public business.  
I shall with pleasure return to my duty at the risk  
of every thing. —  
Mr Ellicott having previously planned  
my destruction, only waited an favourable opportunity to carry  
his design into effect, and for that purpose, he with great in-  
dus-try imposed on the credulity of the Governor, & General  
Wilkinson, on his first interview with them, and before they could  
have any knowledge of me or my conduct here, respecting this  
thing to carry his point with the Executive. — But, on hear-  
ing that these gentlemen had received (and treated me with  
attention, he shifted his ground, and asserted that his intention  
was only to defend his own character! as appears by Mr Knox's  
Certificate. — After my departure from Camp I discovered

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,

Knox,

**Types:**

report



38  
that Mr<sup>s</sup> Ellicott's insinuation had highly prejudiced the Governor  
and General against me - As I conceived it indispensably necessary  
to do away wrong and unfavourable impressions made by false  
and malicious representations in the minds of those gentlemen,  
I made use of the necessary means for that purpose. -  
On my visit I paid General Wilkenson in his camp  
notwithstanding he had expressed himself in harsh terms towards  
me, convinced him (if I may judge from appearances) that  
I had been grossly misused, for before we parted he treated me  
like a gentleman and a friend. I have since had the  
honor of his acquaintance in this town and accepting of  
his friendly invitation to reside in his family until my com-  
-pleased business would be decided. -  
The Governor & General were both Mr<sup>s</sup> Ellicott's  
friends, they came down here with favourable impressions of  
him, and their first impression of me was highly unfavourable  
having the stamp of Ellicott maliciously laid on - Notwith-  
-standing I would willingly submit this unpleasant business  
to

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,

Governor, General

Wilkenson, General

**Types:**

report

39

to their investigation, and cheerfully abide by their determination  
conceiving them to be men of judgment and honor. They are  
on the spot, and could procure the most accurate information  
on the subject both in our own camp, (and from the Officers  
of the U. States who are fully acquainted with Mr. Ellicott's  
conduct in this country as well as my own. But he  
depends on misrepresentation, and the favor of the Secretary  
of State of which he frequently boasts. I trust Mr. Pickering  
is the friend of truth. I only look for a candid investigation  
and thereby hope for justice at the hands of the Executive.

I have thus Sir, by way of narrative  
endeavoured to detail every fact and circumstance that in my  
judgment <sup>could</sup> analyse the principle or explain the progress of  
Mr. Ellicott's dislike and persecution of me.

Penible as I am of the trivial nature  
of most of the occurrences herein enumerated, and the trouble  
I give in making to your office communications of the  
nature and tediousness of the present, I sincerely deplore the  
known

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,

Pickering,

Secretary of State

**Types:**

report



40  
Seriousness of my situation that compels me to the measure -  
But, as I have been formidably &  
as I conceive ungenerously attacked, I hope your humanity  
and politeness will excuse not only what has already been  
said, but the few remarks I shall add. -  
A recurrence to Mr. Ellicott's  
note at the mouth of the Ohio, will furnish the true cause  
of our original cooling. It was my most anxious desire  
to obtain the friendship of the Commandant - but no  
reasonable person will affirm that I ought to degrade myself  
to please him. Yet, there were no other terms on which  
an intimacy could be supported.  
Mr. Ellicott's charges against me  
which are contained in his note of suspension are, "the impropriety  
of my conduct and conversation in camp, which could  
have no other tendency than to produce parties and interrupt  
our business &c." - If there is ample proof directly to the contrary  
of this, I ought to be acquitted from his malicious attack.  
That

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,

**Types:**

report

41  
That there is, I do not only give my own positive opinion - but  
Mr Gillespie who lives in his family, Mr Anderson, who is our  
Commissary, & Doctor Scott, who is our Physician; these are  
the most reputable and proper persons to give evidence on the  
present occasion - but being immediately under Mr Ellicott's  
control, they with reluctance would come forward to bear  
testimony in my favour and against him - notwithstanding  
Let them be officially called on, and I shall cheerfully  
risk my reputation on their evidence.  
I had reason to flatter myself that  
I possessed the friendship and good will of every person on the  
line - Mr Ellicott & son, excepted - perhaps I might add  
Major Minor, whose friendship and sincerity I always doubt.  
Yet I parted with him and all the other Spanish officers  
on friendly terms, and apparent atonement on their part  
at what had taken place. I also possessed the esteem and  
confidence of all the American officers who visited this coun-  
try since my arrival here - and no person in this country  
Views 43

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Anderson,  
Ellicott,

Gillespie,  
Minor, Major

Scott, Doctor

**Types:**

report



<sup>42</sup>  
views me thro' the jaundiced Atmosphere of Mr Ellicott for  
there is scarce a person of respectability who does not appear  
anxious to bear honorable testimony in my favor.  
Strange that one person should  
differ so widely from a whole District - still more strange that  
the same system of action that instigated his persecution  
should secure me the applause and approbation of a whole  
community.  
I am fearful I have tired your patience  
with this long defence, but some indulgence will be given to my  
wounded feelings and anxiety for my personal reputation.  
Trusting to your penetration in inves-  
tigation, and your justice in decision.  
Natchez Feb 2<sup>d</sup> 1799 } I subscribe myself  
with the highest respect & esteem  
Your humble Servant  
The Hon<sup>ble</sup> Timothy Pickering }  
Secretary of State for the U. States }  
Thos Freeman

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott,

Freeman, Thomas

Pickering, Timothy

**Places:**

Natchez, Miss Terr

**Types:**

report

**Dates:**

Feb 02, 1799

43

I am much disappointed in not having Mr  
McClary's certificate it in my power to forward herewith Mr  
McClary's certificate in this business. Conceiving him to be the  
principal witness it was my intention to have his deposition officially  
taken and annexed to this letter, but his sudden, and to me un-  
expected, march, to take possession of Fort Stevens on the Tombigby  
has unfortunately disappointed me.

Copies of such certificates as have been  
put into my hands, by gentlemen whose personal respectability &  
knowledge of facts, render their evidence necessary on the present  
occasion, are annexed. Were it necessary, many more might be  
procured, for every officer of the U. States, in this quarter with whom  
I have the honor of an acquaintance, seem anxious in like  
manner to come forward in my behalf.

Thos Freeman,

45

actions of Ellicot

**Names:**

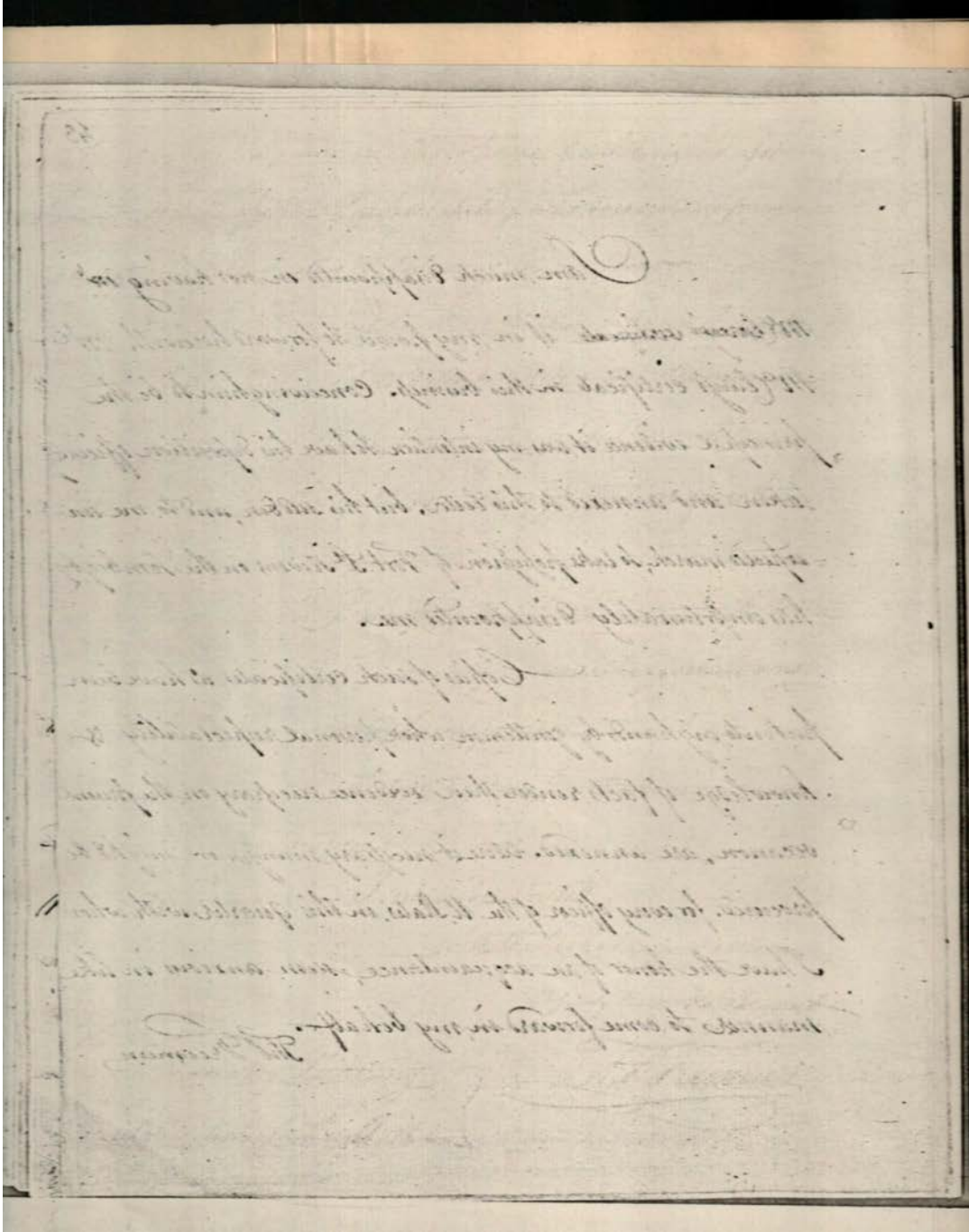
Freeman, Thomas

McClary,

**Types:**

report





actions of Ellicot

Types:

scrap

44

(No 1)

Jan 15 1797

Dear Sir

My conduct towards Betsy has been regulated by the strictest rules of virtue and morality. She is under my protection, and while that is the case, I shall treat her with the respect and delicacy due to a sister. With respect to me, she is as innocent as a Virgin. Mistresses cannot be admitted into my camp. My views respecting her (which may at present appear mysterious) will be explained to you before we arrive at the Watahoy, when I am convinced, your good sense and disposition will lead you to approve, where you may now suppose there is room for censure.

I am Sir with respect your Obedt<sup>serv</sup> And<sup>o</sup> Ellicott

At Mr Freeman

47

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

, Betsy

Ellicott, Andrew

Freeman, Thomas

**Types:**

correspondence

**Dates:**

Jan 15, 1797



45  
N<sup>o</sup> 2  
On board the Orange Confluence of the  
Mississippi & Ohio Rivers Jan<sup>y</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>  
1797

Dear Sir,

Your friendly letter of yesterday  
has not only removed from my mind, a doubt which subsisted respect-  
ing your friendship and good will toward me, but has also given  
me an opportunity of doing at this time, what I had determined to  
do previous to our arrival at the Natchez. - That is, to fully,  
candidly and unequivocally as a friend and a gentleman, com-  
municate to you my mind on the subject which you yourself  
have already introduced.

Your surmises respecting my ideas of  
you and Betsy, are justly founded. I think that I have not only  
reason to censure, but am sorry to add, that others have cen-  
sured, and carried their censures to where you cannot conveniently  
vindicate yourself.

I have nothing to do with your private  
conduct

actions of Ellicot

**Names:**

, Betsy

**Places:**

Tenn and Ohio Rivers

**Types:**

correspondence

**Dates:**

Jan 10, 1797

conduct, nor with the propriety or impropriety of your keeping  
a Mistress. These are domestic matters that rest wholly with  
yourself, and which I hope will never give you one moment  
uneasiness. — But, Sir, I have the feelings — the spirit,  
and the resentment of a gentleman — and, no man's prostitute  
shall with impunity be made my companion.  
In your goodness of heart I attribute the  
favourable idea suggested of Betsy's "innocence & virtue", but  
I fear that you are grossly deceived. The manner, in which  
she came on board our barge, and her conduct hitherto, you are I  
presume fully acquainted with — Indeed I never heard her  
plead virtue! — quite the contrary. —  
Lieut<sup>nt</sup> Taylor a chosen officer of the  
U States, and I have no doubt a gentleman; on his way from the  
Spanish Post to head Quarters, you recollect stop'd with us  
one night. On seeing her at your tent he expressed surprise.  
I shall quote his words correct — they left a strong impression on  
my mind. — "Where in the Devil did you pick up that  
damned  
49

actions of Ellicot

**Names:**

, Betsy

Taylor, Lieutenant

**Types:**

correspondence



52  
Damned Bitch: little did I think to have found her in your  
company— of all the dirty Bitches in the Garrison, she was the  
virtuest, most Drunken and foul mouthed— and the only one who  
would not be admitted into the camp at Head quarters— with  
a variety of other trash and epithets applicable to her character  
which I deem here unnecessary & improper— He further declared  
that if you let her be seen with you at the Match, that no  
reputable person there would keep you company—  
Painful to me were these remarks, but more painfully  
aggravated, next morning by Capt<sup>r</sup> Pike's Son, who came  
down from your tent, and declared as apology for remaining  
there 'That he did not sleep next to that wench, that the  
the Father slept on one side of her, and the Son on the other &  
'that were he your son he would not have done so for 50  
Guineas.' — I have studiously avoided bringing  
many things into view the recollection of which must hurt  
your feelings— But, from what has been said permit me to  
ask— Is this a proper person Character to be treated as a companion  
by you and I? — I answer No! —

actions of Ellicot

**Names:**

Pike, Captain

**Types:**

correspondence

48

If I have taken up, or entertain an unfavourable opinion  
of her, and if I do not think proper to treat her as your sister  
these are my motives. I conceal nothing from you, and as a  
rational man to you I appeal, for the propriety or impropriety  
of my determination. - I never was half a friend, nor a  
secret enemy to any man, it is my wish to be on good terms  
with all, but with none more than with you. -

I thus communicate to you my mind  
without disguise or reserve. - I act the part of a friend and hope  
you will treat me in like manner. - You say that you  
can remove any doubts, I hope you may, but permit me  
to request of you, not to have it said that - One poor, silly,  
ignorant girl, picked up at a Garrison should be the cause  
of any misunderstanding between us. -

I am Sir your friend

Thos Freeman

- I desire further communication  
in writing on this subject un-  
necessary - I am alone, and should  
you think proper, we can as ra-  
tional men understand each  
other. -

W<sup>m</sup> A Ellicott

51

actions of Ellicott

**Names:**

Ellicott, Andrew A.

Freeman, Thomas

**Types:**

correspondence



49  
No 3  
Camp Octob: 18<sup>th</sup> 1798.  
Sir  
The extreme impropriety of your conduct in  
discharging the duties of your appointment as lawyer on behalf of  
the U.S. aded to a spirit of insubordination and inflammatory correspon-  
-dence in our camp; which could not possibly have any other ten-  
-dency than to embarrass our business by creating parties, and exciting  
-suspicions, has rendered it absolutely necessary for the preservation of  
-harmony between those of the two nations appointed to carry the  
-late treaty between the U.S. and his Catholic Majesty into effect,  
-that you be suspended from your present appointment. -  
-You are therefore from the date of this to consider yourself sus-  
-pended accordingly. This resolution I have taken upon ma-  
-ture deliberation, and from which I shall not recede.  
-You will therefore perceive that any altercation or further  
-correspondence between us upon that subject will be unnecessary.  
-Mr Anderson will send you baggage to any place  
you

Freeman dismissed

**Names:**



Anderson,

**Types:**

correspondence

**Dates:**

Oct 17, 1798

50  
You will please to direct, provided it be not more distant than  
the town of Natchez.  
I am Sir your obed<sup>t</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>  
And<sup>to</sup> Ellicott  
Mr Freeman Esq<sup>r</sup>  
  
On receiving the above letter I returned the following  
note, which Mr Ellicott opened & read, but did not answer.  
Sir,  
Permit me as an officer of the U.S.  
appointed in Likemanna, and to the same business with yourself  
to demand your authority for your letter of this date,  
wherein you assume the power of suspending me from the  
duties of my office. To the injury of public business.  
Camp Oct 1877  
1798  
I am Sir your obed<sup>t</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>  
Thos Freeman  
Mr Ellicott - Command<sup>er</sup>  


Freeman dismissed

**Names:**

Ellicott, Andrew

Freeman, Thomas

**Types:**

correspondence



51  
N<sup>o</sup> 4

I do hereby certify that I attempted reconciliation between Mr Ellicott & Mr Freeman of some unfortunat Difference which terminated in the suspension from office of Mr Freeman by Mr Ellicott. When I mentioned to Mr Ellicott, my anxiety that Mr Freeman should retain, and that they should again join amicably in the business, he replied, "It was impossible until a communication to him from the Secretary of State". I again urged him to withdraw his charges against Mr Freeman (tho' not authorized by Mr Freeman so to do) he replied "he had lodged no charges, that he was not the accuser, But on the contrary, that from a letter that had fallen into his hands written by Mr Freeman to some of his friends, it plainly appeared that he (Mr Freeman) was the accuser, and did as he virily believed intend to injure him". He observed to me that his communication to the Secretary of State touching the business, was wholly on the defensive & in vindication of his own conduct & character  
I was requested by Mr Freeman to call on Mr Ellicott for

support of Freeman

**Names:**

Ellicott,

Freeman,

Secretary of State

**Types:**

correspondence

for a copy of his charge if he had any, that he (Mr Freeman)  
might reply, which request I conceived to be fully answered  
in the negative by the above Declaration of Mr Ellicott.  
Natchez, Decemr 20<sup>th</sup> 1798. Robt Knox.

In order to do justice to injured innocents I  
certify that I have been acquainted with Thomas Freeman Esq  
Surveyor for running the line of Demarkation between  
the United States of America and his Catholic Majesty  
from the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 1797, until the present Day -  
that for five or six months we boarded in the same House  
that his uniform conduct and behaviour during that  
period, was that of a gentleman of the strictest honour &  
veracity; always supporting the dignity of his appointment  
and zealous in the interest of his country, and I have often  
heard him lament the Delay and obstructions thrown in  
the way of executing the business to which he was appointed.  
- And nothing to me can be more surprizing than to be  
informed 35

support of Freeman

**Names:**

Ellicott,

Freeman, Thomas

Knox, Robert

**Places:**

Natchez, Miss Terr

**Types:**

correspondence

**Dates:**

Dec 20, 1798



57  
informed that Mr<sup>s</sup> Ellicott has undertaken to suspend him  
from office; and among other charges, has called him a  
Franked- a character I think him as free from as any  
gentleman I have been acquainted with. -  
Given under my hand in the Mississippi Territory  
the 29<sup>th</sup> Day of October 1798  
Geo. Matthews

Natchez Decemb<sup>r</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 1798

Sir

Hearing that your reputation  
in your official capacity, has been attacked by Mr<sup>s</sup> Ellicott,  
and that much industry is used to injure you; in justice  
to you, and to my own feelings on this occasion, I enclose  
you my certificate generally, of my sense of your conduct  
since I had the pleasure of making your acquaintance;  
And I shall be glad if in this or any other way, my feeble  
voice can be employed in support of honest truth, and.

support of Freeman

**Names:**

Ellicott,

Matthews, George

**Places:**

Mississippi Territory

Natchez, Miss Terr

**Types:**

correspondence

**Dates:**

Dec 02, 1798

Oct 29, 1798

in trampling under foot the vile aspersions of an  
unprincipled calumniator.

With much respect & friendship  
I am Sir  
your Ob<sup>d</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

J Guion Capt<sup>n</sup>

Mr<sup>s</sup> Thomas Freeman,

To do justice to the meritorious, to suppress the  
baneful effects of calumny too often successfully employed  
to destroy the innocent, and to support Truth, I Certify:  
That sometime after my arrival here in command  
of the troops of the United States in Jan<sup>y</sup> 1798. I became  
acquainted with Mr<sup>s</sup> Thomas Freeman Surveyor to the  
Commission for establishing the line of limits between  
the territory of the United States and that of Spain -  
That Mr<sup>s</sup> Freeman demeaned himself as became this  
Commission he held from the United States both as it  
regards

support of Freeman

**Names:**

Freeman, Thomas

Guion, J., Captain

**Types:**

correspondence



55  
regarded his public and private conduct. He frequently to  
lamented the great delay of the business which himself &  
the commissioner came here to perform, and the too apparent  
apathy and reluctance shown by the latter, to enter  
spiritually on the duties of his commission, contenting himself  
in his quarters, indulging in shameful profligacy of moral  
rectitude, and degrading the high trust reposed in him  
by the government of the United States.

About the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March I called  
on Mr Freeman as an officer of the U. States to go with me  
to Mr Ellicott's, there to meet and make some propositions  
to captain Joseph Vidal who only then remained here  
to represent the Spanish Governor, & of whom I wanted to  
know when he could be ready to fulfil the promise of his  
Governor General Gayoso, in withdrawing the troops  
of Spain from the Walnut Hills, and this post. In this  
business Mr Freeman gave that decent and manly coun-  
tenance and support, as evinced to me his genuine feelings,

support of Freeman

**Names:**

Ellicott,  
Freeman,

Gayoso, Governor  
General

Nedal, Joseph,  
Captain

**Types:**

correspondence

for the honor of the government in whose employ he was; and in  
such manner as would have reflected honor on Mr Ellicott to  
have united. In a word, He did, from the time of my first  
acquaintance with him here, and until his suspension by  
Mr Ellicott (when ever he came under my observation) conduct  
himself like a man of integrity, industry, and Zeal in  
promoting the duties of his office - the interest of the United States  
and the Dignity and honor of their Government - and hap-  
py should I be, with equal truth and justice to bear  
testimony of like conduct in the Commissioners I'd be  
merit such testimonials. 51

Natchez Decem<sup>r</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> - 98. J. Guion Captain  
in the Army of the  
U.S. States

Whereas it has been represented to me that an  
attacks has been made on the character of Mr Thomas Freeman  
Surveyor on the part of the U.S. States for running the Southern  
boundary lines, in consequence of which, it may become  
necessary 52

support of Freeman

**Names:**

Ellicott,

Freeman, Thomas

Guion, J., Captain

**Places:**

Natchez, Miss Terr

**Types:**

correspondence

**Dates:**

Dec 02, 1798



57  
necessary for Officers and Gentlemen of the United States acquainted with  
him during his residence in this Country, to declare in unequivocal  
terms their sentiments and opinions respecting his character  
and conduct in <sup>the several</sup> ~~the several~~ <sup>and various</sup> ~~the several~~ <sup>and various</sup> <sup>and various</sup> <sup>and various</sup>  
I now therefore do certify, that ~~that~~ during  
the whole time I had the honor of acting as commandant of  
the United States troops at the Natchez, I was intimate with Mr.  
Freeman, who for several months resided at my camp - and  
in the same tent with me, and I have ever esteemed him  
a gentleman of sentiment and ability well disposed to  
promote the interest, and to defend the honor of the United  
States, (and at the same time extremely anxious to enter  
on the execution of his official duties. That whilst  
the troubles excited at the Natchez in consequence of the de-  
tention of the posts by the Spanish Government, we con-  
sulted freely & confidentially together on the measures necessary  
to be pursued in situations that then appeared very critical  
<sup>and hazardous</sup>  
both to ourselves and the Inhabitants - And I've found him  
judicious

support of Freeman

**Names:**

Freeman,

**Types:**

correspondence

judicious in his councils, and ready at all times and wents to  
sacrifice every consideration of ease and convenience to what  
he conceived his Duty as a state officer. I have frequently  
been in his company since, and it evidently appears to me  
that he very justly acquired the confidence and respect the  
esteem of all the respectable citizens of this District.

It is true that I knew a coolness existed between him &  
the Commissioners, but so far from being censurable on that account,  
his motives for such coolness, and the manner in which it was con-  
ducted, fully displayed his Delicacy as a gentleman anxious to  
preserve his personal respectability.

From my personal acquaintance  
with Mr Freeman & Mr Ellicott and my knowledge of facts,  
it evidently appears to me, that the effort to remove Mr Freeman  
from office is an unjust attack on his reputation to gratify  
private pique and resentment, and not to answer a public  
good. — I therefore sincerely wish that he may be honora-  
bly acquitted of the charge or complaints that may be brought  
against

support of Freeman

**Names:**

Ellicott,

Freeman,

**Types:**

correspondence



52  
against him by Mr. Edlicott. which I have no doubt will  
be the case on a fair and candid investigation. — But, be the  
determination what it may, I shall ever be happy in mentioning  
Mr. Freeman amongst my friends, knowing him to be a  
man of Honour, Virtue & Integrity. —  
Dec<sup>r</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 1798. Percy Smith Esq<sup>r</sup> Lieutenant  
of the Corps of Artillery & Engineers

I do Certify, that, I have been acquainted with  
Mr. Freeman Surveyor of the U. S. in running the line between  
the Dominions of his Catholic Majesty, and the Territory of  
the U. S. for 18 months, and have always found him and  
heard him spoken of <sup>as a gentleman of</sup> the strictest honor, probity & integrity, &  
that he has always been remarked for his sobriety, moral conduct,  
and assiduous attention to his public business, and the latter  
particularly by many of those in the party entrusted for extending  
the line. And further, that a warm attachment to the true  
interest of his Country, I well knew to be a particular trait <sup>in</sup>

support of Freeman

**Names:**

Freeman,

Pope, Percy Smith,  
Lieutenant

**Types:**

correspondence

**Dates:**

Dec 20, 1798

in his Character as given by the most respectable & patriotic gen-  
tlemen in this country. - From a considerable intimacy  
with Mr Ellicott & Mr Freeman, I have often visited their  
lodgings, and never found any disposition in Mr Freeman to  
delay their public business, or throw any embarrassments what-  
ever in the way, either by stirring up confusion or party ani-  
mosities in their camp - but, on the contrary, preventing  
it by his orderly behaviour, and steady attention to business,  
or in any shape whatever wishing to diminish their harmony  
or impede their march. Given under my hand at Natchez  
the 1st day of Nov 1798.  
Pvt. Knox

Being informed that Mr Ellicott Commissions  
has made an attack on the Character and honor of Mr Thomas  
Freeman Surveyor on the part of the United States for running the  
Southern bound line - and deeming it the duty of every honest  
man, to step forward in support of injured innocence -  
I do hereby certify, that I have been

support of Freeman

**Names:**

Ellicott,

Freeman,

Freeman, Thomas

Knox, Pvt.

**Places:**

Natchez, Miss Terr

**Types:**

correspondence

**Dates:**

Nov 01, 1798



51  
acquainted with the character and conduct of Mr Thomas Freeman  
since his arrival in this country - that I have always found him  
to be a gentleman of honor, candour & integrity, anxious to forward  
the public business to which he was appointed, & Zealous in the  
interest of his Country - that his private and moral conduct  
were exemplary, and calculated to conciliate the affection of  
those around him - that I conceived him to be much respected &  
respected by all in the Camp, or connected with him in business,  
Ellicott excepted, & I well knew him to be <sup>highly</sup> spoken of  
by all the respectable Citizens of this District - And further,  
that in the month of July last, on being informed that Mr  
Freeman was very unwell in his tent, I immediately rode to see  
him, and if possible convey him to my house, which is about six  
miles above the line - that as soon as he was able to ride  
he came to my house, where he remained about a week, during  
which time I have repeatedly heard him lament the sluggish  
progress of the lines and condemn the inactivity of the Commissioners  
- that I conceived his anxiety to forward the business led him  
to

support of Freeman

**Names:**

Ellicott,

Freeman, Thomas

**Types:**

correspondence

to return to camp before he was able to <sup>attend</sup> ~~return~~ to the duties of his  
office. That his sickness was attributed to his extraordinary dili-  
gence and perseverance in his duty, in the early stage of the business  
when all hands about him were awkward and the weather  
very warm. That it is my decided opinion, and I have  
universally heard it remarked by others, as well out of the camp  
as in it, that he was the most anxious, (and the most industrious,  
person of either party, in forwarding the public business. —  
And I verily believe the attack on Mr Freeman's  
character by Mr Ellicott, to be without foundation, and pro-  
ceeding from implacable resentment, and the basest motives  
in the matter, whose principal object is to sacrifice the  
character and reputation of Mr Freeman, even at the risk  
of his own, and the injury of the public. —  
Given under my hand at Woodstock, in the  
Mississippi Territory this 1<sup>st</sup> day of Dec<sup>r</sup> 1798.  
J Pannill

support of Freeman

**Names:**

Ellicott,

Freeman,

Pannill, J.

**Places:**

Woodstock, Miss Terr

**Types:**

correspondence

**Dates:**

Dec 01, 1798



13  
What I have been informed by Mr Thomas Freeman,  
that Mr Ellicott, has made an attack on his character as a gentleman  
and Surveyor on the part of the U.S. to carry the Treaty with  
Spain into effect. - I do hereby certify, that I waited on  
Mr Freeman on his arrival in this Country, and on his in-  
forming me of the necessity of taking private lodging, I invited him  
to take part of them I had already procured for myself, he  
accepted my invitation and we continued to reside together  
for the period of seven months, in the utmost harmony and friend-  
ship, till my departure to the northward. - That previous to  
subsequent to my return I had found him exercise the manners  
and principles of a gentleman warmly attached to the interests  
of the U.S. and extremely anxious to expedite & perform  
his official duties - That I never heard him spoken of in any  
other than a respectable light, by all the gentle characters  
with whom I had the honor of an acquaintance - In short,  
I have frequently heard it observed, and I conceived it was the  
general received opinion that he possessed more candour &  
probity

support of Freeman

**Names:**

Ellicott,

Freeman, Thomas

**Types:**

correspondence

patric spirit, than any other person concerned in the  
business in which he himself was engaged. -  
Given under my hand at Natchez, in the Mississippi  
Territory this 8<sup>th</sup> Day of Nov<sup>r</sup> 1798.  
John Hinson;

support of Freeman

**Names:**

Hinson, John

**Places:**

Natchez, Miss Terr

**Types:**

correspondence

**Dates:**

Nov 08, 1798



To *Thomas Freeman Esquire*

The government of the U.S. being desirous of informing itself of the extent of the country lately ceded to them under the name of Louisiana, to have the same, with it's principal rivers, geographically delineated, to learn the character of it's soil, climate, productions, & inhabitants, you are appointed to explore, for these purposes, the interesting portion of it which lies on the Arkansas and Red rivers, from their confluence with the Mississippi to the remotest source of the main stream of each, and the high lands connecting the same & forming a part of <sup>the</sup> boundary of the province.

You will receive from the Secretary at war information & instructions as to the provision to be made of men, arms, ammunition, medicines, subsistence, clothing, covering, camp equipage, instruments of observation & of measuring, boats, light articles for barter & presents among the Indians, & other necessaries, all of which are to be collected at Natchez, which is to be considered as the point of departure.

From Natchez you are to proceed to ascend the Red river, taking observations of longitude & latitude at it's mouth, at all remarkable points in it's course, & especially at the mouths of rivers, at rapids, islands, & other places & objects distinguished by such natural marks & characters, of a durable kind, as that they may with certainty be recognised hereafter. The courses of the rivers between these points of observation may be supplied by the compass, the log line, & by time, corrected by the observations themselves, the variations of the compass too, in different places, are to be noted.

In this way you will proceed to the remotest source of the main stream of the Red river, and thence to that of the Arkansas, along the high lands which divide their waters from those running into the Rio Norte, or the Pacific ocean, ascertaining by the chain & compass (with due correction for variation) the courses & extent of the said high lands.

24

Freeman appointed, LA tour

**Names:**

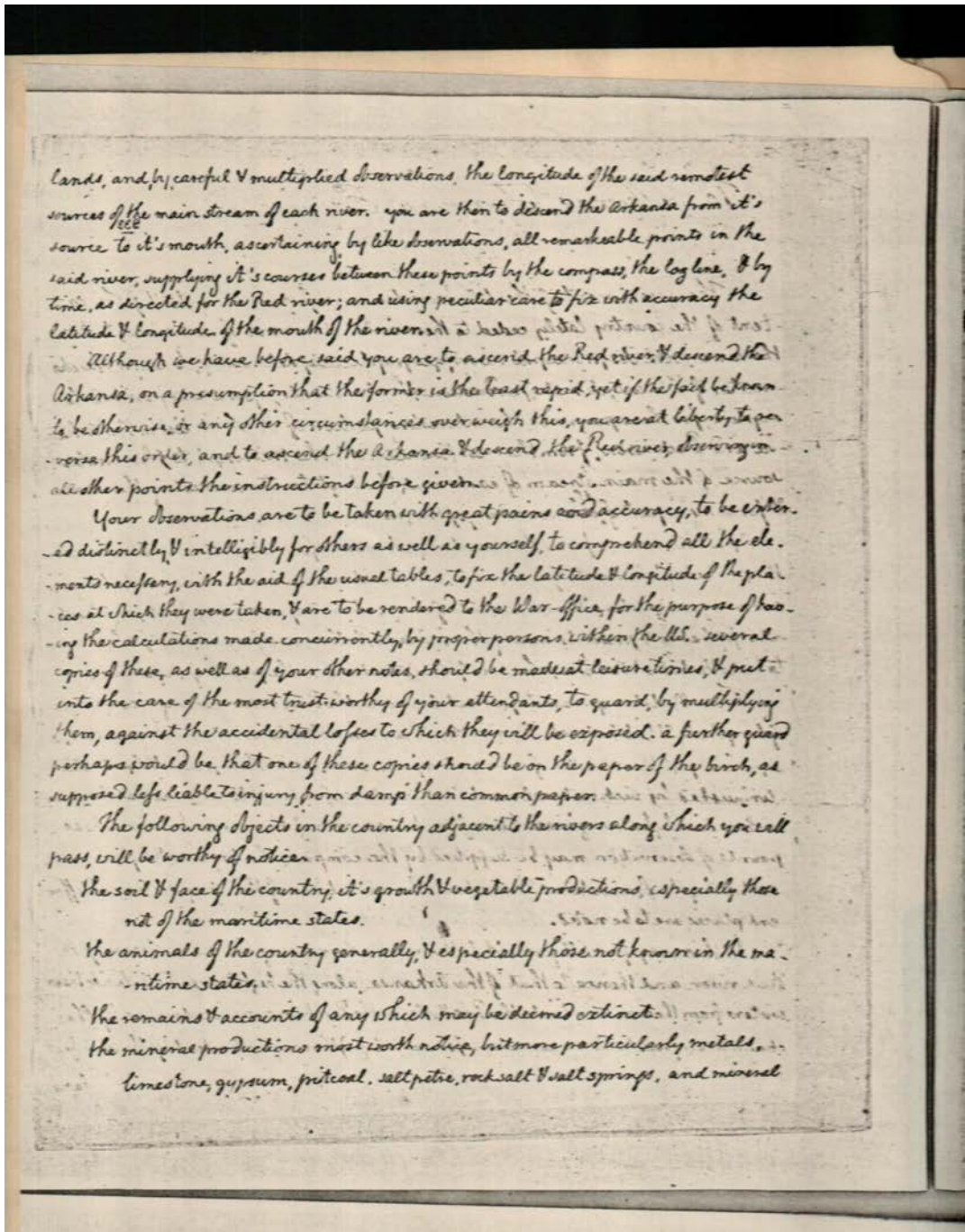
Jefferson, Thomas

Louisiana Purchase

Secretary of War

**Types:**

appointment



instructions for tour  
Types:  
instructions



waters, noting the temperature of the last, & such circumstances as may indicate  
their character.

Volcanic appearances.

Climate, as characterised by the thermometer, by the proportion of rainy, cloudy  
& clear days, by lightening, hail, snow, ice, by the access & recess of frost, by the wind  
prevailing at different seasons, the dates at which particular plants put forth  
or lose their flower, or leaf; times of appearance of particular birds, reptiles  
or insects. Most of these articles may be entered in a Calendar or Table  
so as to take little room, or time in entering.

Count an intercourse with the natives as extensively as you can. Treat them on  
all occasions in the most friendly & conciliatory manner, which their conduct will  
admit; allay all jealousies as to the object of your journey; make them acquainted  
with the position, extent, character, peaceable & commercial dispositions of the U.S.  
inform them that their late fathers, the Spaniards, have agreed to withdraw all their  
troops from the Missisipi & Missouri, & from all the countries watered by any rivers  
running into them; that they have delivered to us all their subjects, Spanish &  
French, settled in those countries, together with their posts & territories in the same  
that henceforward we become their fathers & friends; that our first wish will be to be  
neighborly, friendly, & useful to them, and especially to carry on commerce with them  
on terms more reasonable and advantageous for them than any other nation ever  
did; conform with them on the points most convenient, as mutual emporiums for  
them and us. say that we have sent you to enquire into the nature of the country,  
& the nations inhabiting it, to know their wants, & the supplies they will wish to  
dispose of; and that after you shall have returned with the necessary information  
we shall take measures, with their consent, for settling trading houses among them,  
at suitable places: that in the mean time, the same traders who reside among, or visit  
them; and who are now become our citizens, will continue to supply them as usual,  
& that they will find us in all things just & faithful friends & patrons.

you will endeavor, as far as a diligent pursuit of your journey will admit

24-2 73

instructions for tour

Types:

instructions

to learn the names & numbers of the nations through which your route lies; the  
the extent & limits of their possessions;  
their relations with other tribes and nations;  
their language, traditions, monuments;  
their ordinary occupations in agriculture, fishing, hunting, war, arts & the im-  
-plements for these;  
their food, clothing, & domestic accommodations;  
the diseases prevalent among them, & the remedies they use;  
moral & physical circumstances which distinguish them from the tribes we know;  
peculiarities in their laws, customs, & dispositions;  
and articles of commerce they may need or furnish, & to what extent.  
And considering the interest which every nation has in extending and  
strengthening the authority of reason and justice among the people around them,  
it will be useful to acquire what knowledge you can of the state of morality, religion,  
& information among them; as it may better enable those who may endeavor to ci-  
-vilize & instruct them, to adapt their measures to the existing notions & prac-  
-tices of those on whom they are to operate.  
As it is impossible for us to foresee in what manner you will be receiv-  
-ed by those people, whether with hospitality or hostility, so is it impossible  
to prescribe the exact degree of perseverance with which you are to pursue  
your journey. we value too much the lives of citizens to offer them to probable  
destruction: your numbers will be sufficient to secure you against the  
unauthorised opposition of individuals or of small parties. but if at any time,  
a superior force, authorised or not authorised by a nation, should be arrayed  
against your further progress, & inflexibly determined to arrest it, you must  
decline its farther pursuit, and return. in the loss of yourselves, we should  
lose also the information you will have acquired. by returning safely with  
that, you may enable us to renew the essay with better calculated means. to  
your own discretion therefore must be left the degree of danger you may risk,  
and

instructions for tour

Types:

instructions



and the point at which you should decline; only saying we wish you to err  
on the side of <sup>your</sup> safety, and to bring back your party safe, even if it be with less  
information.

As far up the river as the white settlements extend, an intercourse pro-  
bably exists with Natchez or New Orleans: and as far as traders go, they may  
furnish a conveyance for your letters to either of those places; beyond that you  
may perhaps be able to engage Indians to bring letters for the government, on  
promising that they shall receive, at either of those places, such special compen-  
sation as you shall have stipulated with them; and measures will be taken  
here to ensure a fulfilment of your stipulations. avail yourself of all these  
means to communicate to us, at reasonable intervals, copies of your journal,  
notes & observations of every kind.

Dr. George Hunter of Philadelphia will accompany you as a fellow-  
laborer, & counsellor in the same service, while the ultimate direction of the  
expedition is left to yourself: he is to make observations, to note courses, &  
to enquire into the same subjects recommended to you, but separately, as  
it is supposed that the two different accounts may serve to corroborate or cor-  
rect each other. he is to participate with you in the conveniences & comforts  
provided, and to receive from you whatever aid and facility you can yield  
for his pursuits consistently with due diligence in the prosecution of your  
journey. should the accident of death happen to you, he is to succeed to the  
direction of the expedition, and to all the powers which you possess. should  
he also die, the officer attending you, & subject to your orders, will immedi-  
ately return with his party in the way he shall deem best, bringing the pa-  
pers & other effects belonging to the mission.

As the great distance between this & the point of your departure leaves it  
impracticable for these instructions, or those of the Secretary at war to go  
into all the details which may be necessary to prepare & expedite your departure,  
I have requested William Dunbar esquire of the Natchez, to take on himself the  
direction

75

instructions for tour

**Names:**

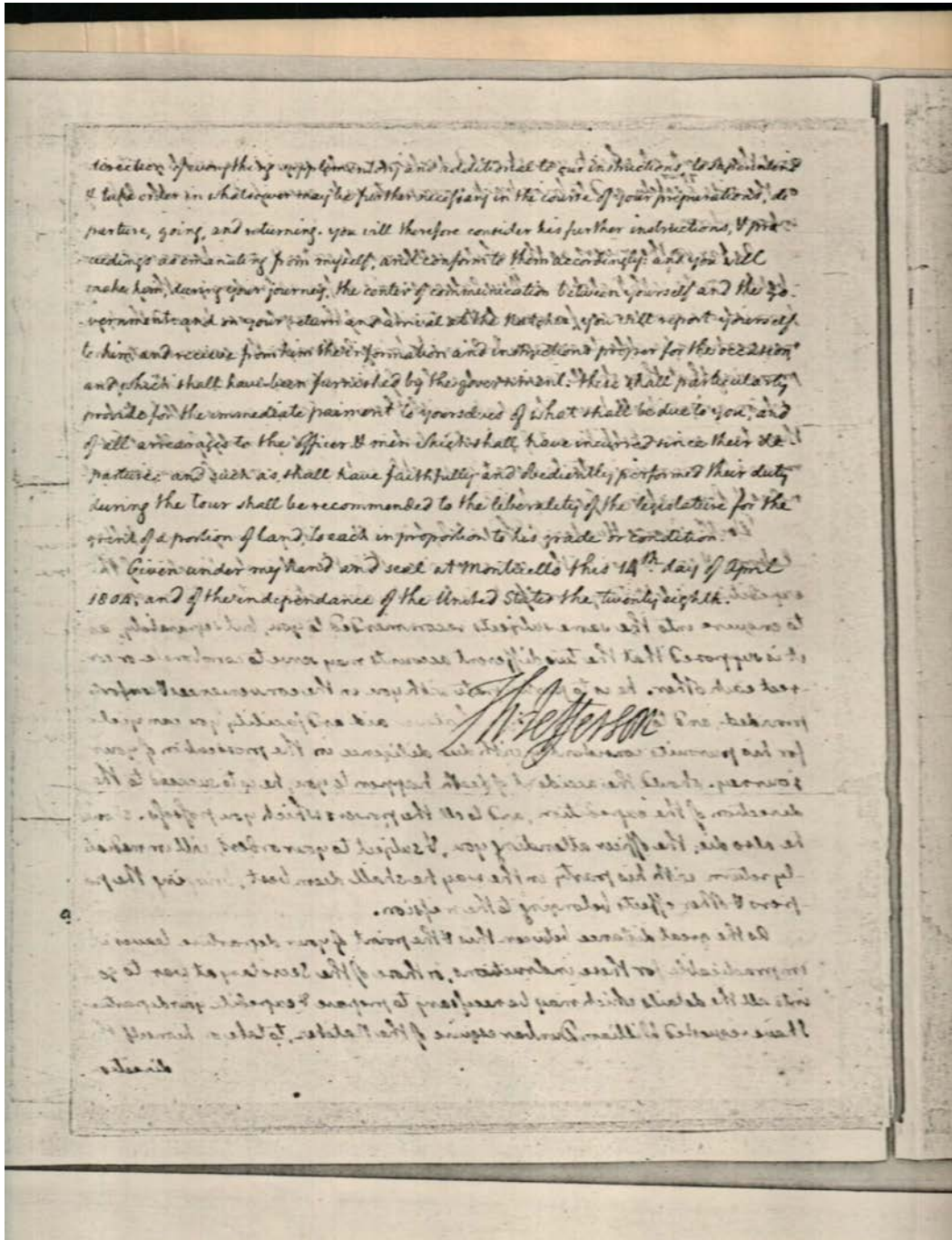
Dunbar, William

Hunter, George, Dr.

Secretary of War

**Types:**

instructions



to receive of you anything supplementary and additional to our instructions, to be pointed out  
& take order in whatever may be further necessary in the course of your preparations, de-  
parture, going, and returning. you will therefore consider his further instructions, & pro-  
ceedings as emanating from myself, and conform to them accordingly: and you will  
make him, during your journey, the center of communication between yourself and the go-  
vernment, and on your return and arrival at the Ketchikan, you will report yourself  
to him, and receive from him their information and instructions proper for the occasion,  
and which shall have been furnished by the government: there shall particularly  
provide for the immediate payment to yourselves of what shall be due to you, and  
of all arrears due to the officers & men who shall have incurred since their de-  
parture: and such as shall have faithfully and obediently performed their duty  
during the tour shall be recommended to the liberality of the legislature for the  
grant of a portion of land, to each in proportion to his grade or condition.

Given under my hand and seal at Monticello this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April  
1804, and of the independence of the United States the twenty eighth.

T. Jefferson

instructions for tour

**Names:**

Jefferson, Thomas

**Places:**

Monticello,

**Types:**

instructions

**Dates:**

Apr 14, 1804



Natchez 28<sup>th</sup> April 1806  
To Thomas Freeman Esq. and his associates on the Explor-  
ing Expedition of the Red River  
Being permitted by the President of the United States  
you the result of my own experience on an Expedition similar  
to that on which you are about to engage, I have now the  
pleasure of presenting, with a few remarks  
You will have two Commodious Cabins on board your  
two Barges; M<sup>r</sup>. Freeman proposes to occupy one with Lieut<sup>nt</sup>  
Humphrey, who will take upon himself principally the  
geographical part of the Voyage; Doctor Curtis will there-  
fore accompany Capt. Sparks the Commander of the Escort  
in the other Barge, by which the Gentlemen will not be  
crowded and will have ample room & convenience to make  
and record their observations  
On arriving at the mouth of the Red River, if time and  
Circumstances are propitious, it would be desirable to  
make observations for the Latitude & Longitude from some point  
existing on those points but if not, they may be omitted at this  
time rather than lose too much time; the moon will probably  
be not too far from the Equator to admit of her meridian altitude  
being taken for the ascertainment of the Longitude. When the  
moon's declination north or south was not exceed 13<sup>o</sup> the time is  
24-2

instructions for tour

**Names:**

Curtis, Dr.  
Freeman, Thomas

Humphrey,  
Lieutenant

President, United  
States

Sparks, Captain

**Places:**

Natchez, Miss Terr

**Types:**

instructions

**Dates:**

Apr 28, 1806

not unfavorable, but the nearer to the Equator, the more correct  
will be the results; the Latitude of the place of observation be-  
ing accurately known with the moon's greatest altitude is all that  
is necessary for the solution of this useful problem. I would  
recommend that the log-line be divided into half fathoms  
with distinct marks, and as a half minute will be sufficient  
time for the running of the line, the half fathoms will therefore  
correspond to whole fathoms  $\frac{1}{2}$  minute: When any current  
is found to impede the way of the boat, it will of course  
be ascertained & subtracted from the rate  $\frac{1}{2}$  Log: the depth  
of the water may be sounded every evening & the temperature  
of the water taken every morning by the thermometer.  
Doctor Custer will no doubt keep a register of meteorological  
observations; the degrees of the thermometer may be recorded  
3 times a day, before sunrise at 3<sup>h</sup> p.m. (or the hottest time of the  
day) & at 8 or 9<sup>h</sup> p.m.; it will not always be convenient on  
board a boat to measure the quantity of rain fallen, this  
it may be done by a Cylindric Cup with the Scale &  
Compass; the direction & strength of the wind with clear &  
cloudy days may be added & all natural phenomena which  
present themselves worthy of observation. Exclusive of the  
usual lunar observation of distance from a star or the sun & the moon's  
meridian altitude & equal altitudes of the moon in proper  
situations will all serve for determining the Longitude & day

instructions for tour

**Names:**

Curtis, Dr.

**Types:**

instructions



signorally preserved for Calculation after the return of the  
Party. Every Gentleman will naturally record in his jour-  
nal all new objects <sup>which</sup> present themselves, such as, the quality  
& general appearance of the Soil & face of the Country; how  
much the land is occasionally inundated or how much above the  
inundation - the total rise of the waters, their quality from taste  
or effects on the body from drinking, or by analysis, the Doctor  
will probably pay attention to the last inquiry in proper situations  
as well as to an examination of Soil & matters precipitated from  
the waters - the kinds of timber trees, their height &c and  
the humble vegetables which cover the face of the Earth, dis-  
tinguishing those which grow entirely on high land from those  
which are partially or totally placed in a watery bed. Other  
practicable attain knowledge of their economical or medicin-  
al uses, by conversing with the hunters and Indians. New  
objects of the animal & mineral kingdoms will not escape  
the notice of the Gentlemen, and specimens of the three  
kingdoms either new or Curious should be collected and  
marked with a number bearing reference to a Catalogue  
describing the specimen, the position where found & other ne-  
cessary information which may be required. It is unnecef-  
sary to point out how specimens of the animal & vegetable  
kingdoms may be best preserved as this is well known to  
Doctor Curtis - altho' no considerable deviation is contemplated  
from the Red-River until the Party arrives towards the head.

81

instructions for tour

**Names:**

Curtis, Dr.

**Types:**

instructions

of navigation, yet any remarkable object, such as a salt-rock  
or mine; both flowing salt-springs, mines of the metals or of  
fossil Coal or other very Curious natural productions may  
be expected to draw a side the attention of the Gentleman to  
a certain distance according to the reputed importance of  
the object. Collections may be made in season of the  
Season of legible new or Curious either as fruits, eggs,  
minerals, grasses &c &c -

Accept Gentlemen my fervent wishes for your individ-  
ual healths & mutual satisfactions; Being fully persuaded  
that the most perfect harmony will reign among you;  
upon which will depend the valuable information & discov-  
eries expected by the Genl. Govt & by your Country from  
your successful labors.

William Dunbar

instructions for tour

**Names:**

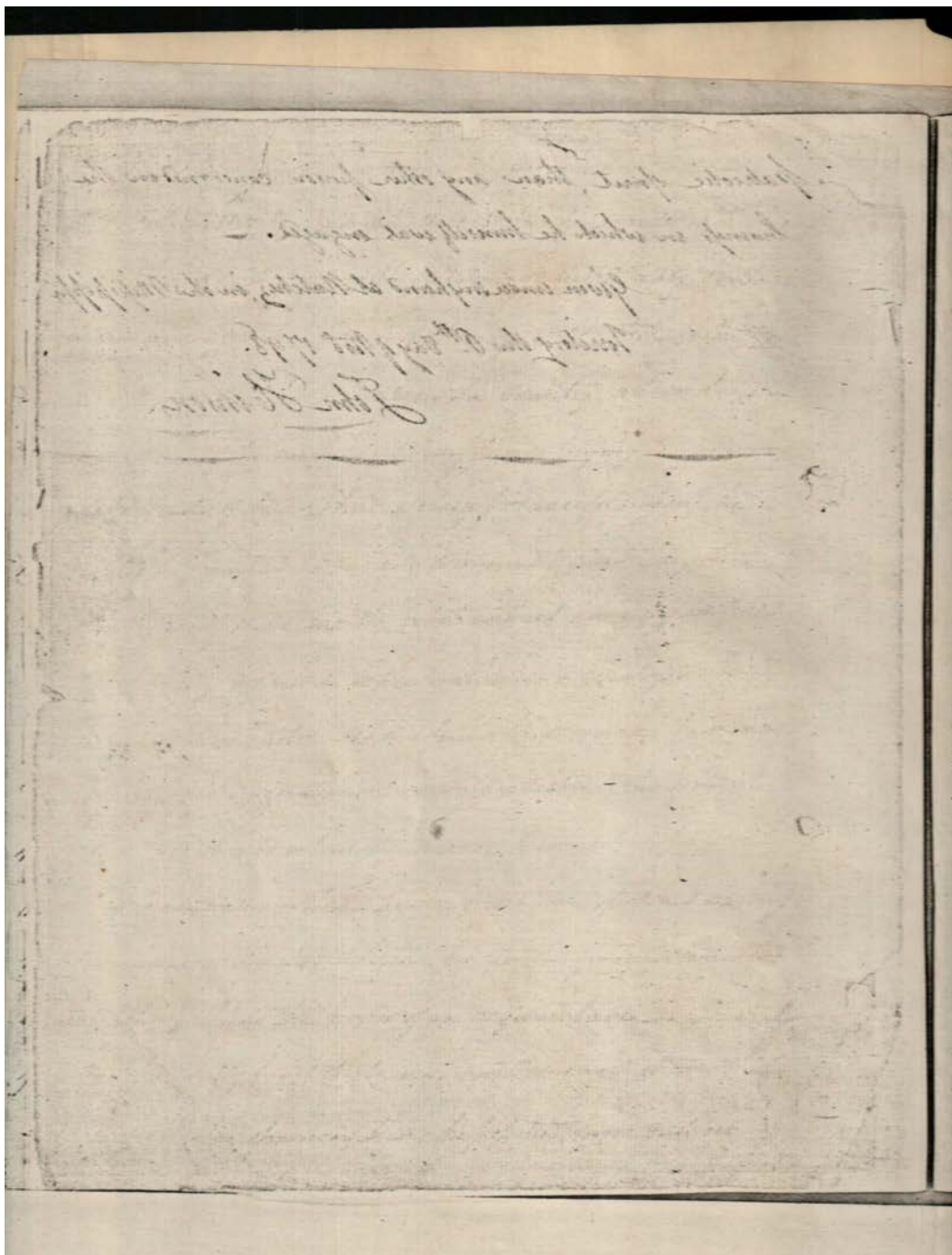
Dunbar, William

Gayoro, Governor  
General

**Types:**

instructions

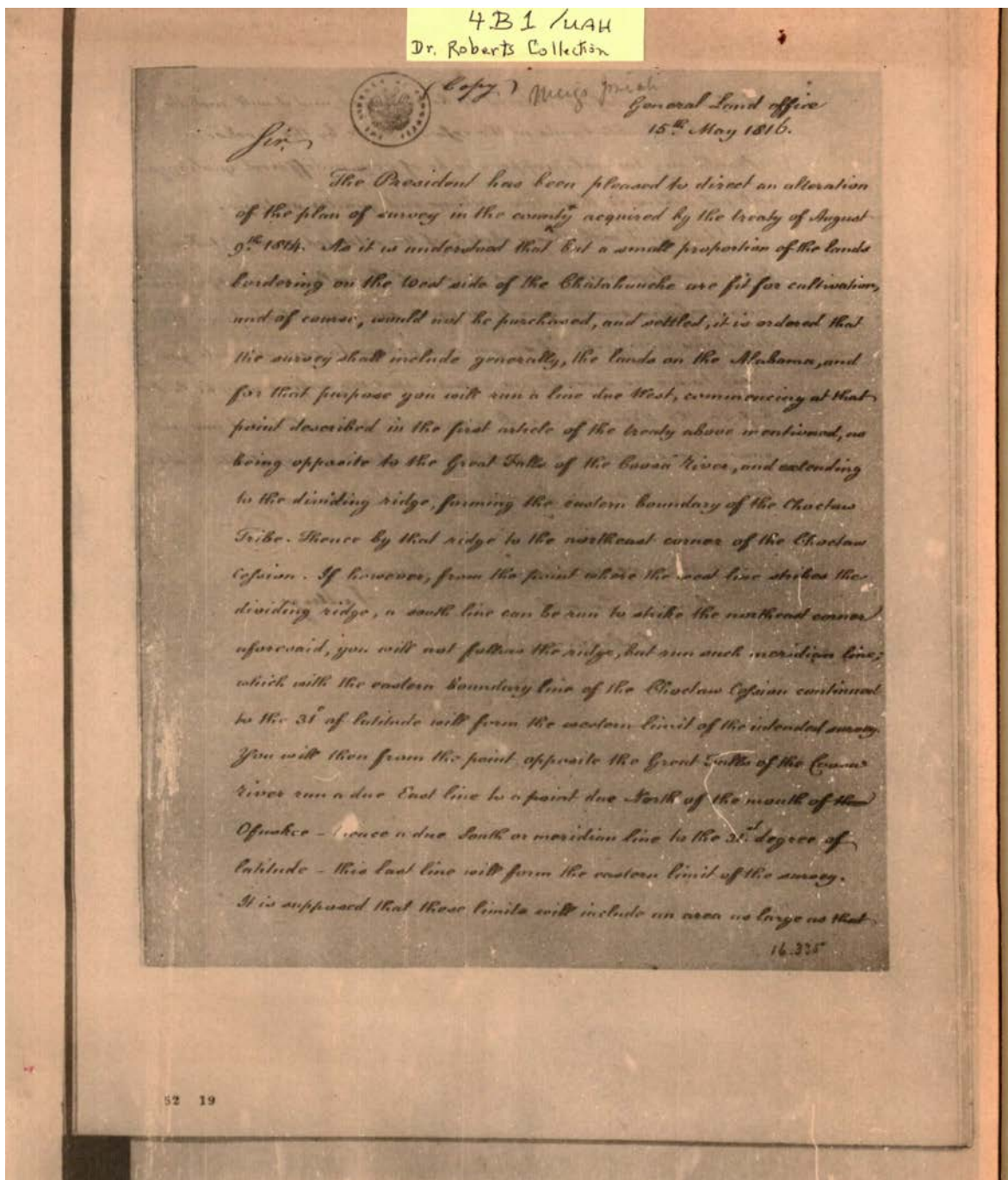




Types:  
scrap







Alabama survey

**Names:**

President, United States

**Places:**

General Land Office

**Types:**

instructions

**Dates:**

May 15, 1816

4B1 / UAH  
Dr. Roberts Collection

which was heretofore ordered to be surveyed, and it will include  
the most valuable lands in the region made by the Creeks.  
Should any townships appear to be of very indifferent quality, you  
will not subdivide them into sections and quarter sections.  
I transmit with this a sketch of the intended survey, taken  
from Brantley's map. Your personal knowledge and experience  
may perhaps enable you to suggest some variation from the  
directions now given, if so, you will please to communicate your  
ideas to me as speedily as possible that the subject may be laid  
before the President. It is earnestly requested that you will  
cause the survey to be completed as speedily as possible that the  
lands may be ready for sale at an early day.

Thomas Freeman Esq. }  
Surveyor General }  
St. Stephens. }  
I am &c.  
J. Meigs

50 19

**Names:**

Freeman, Thomas  
Meigs, J.

President, United  
States

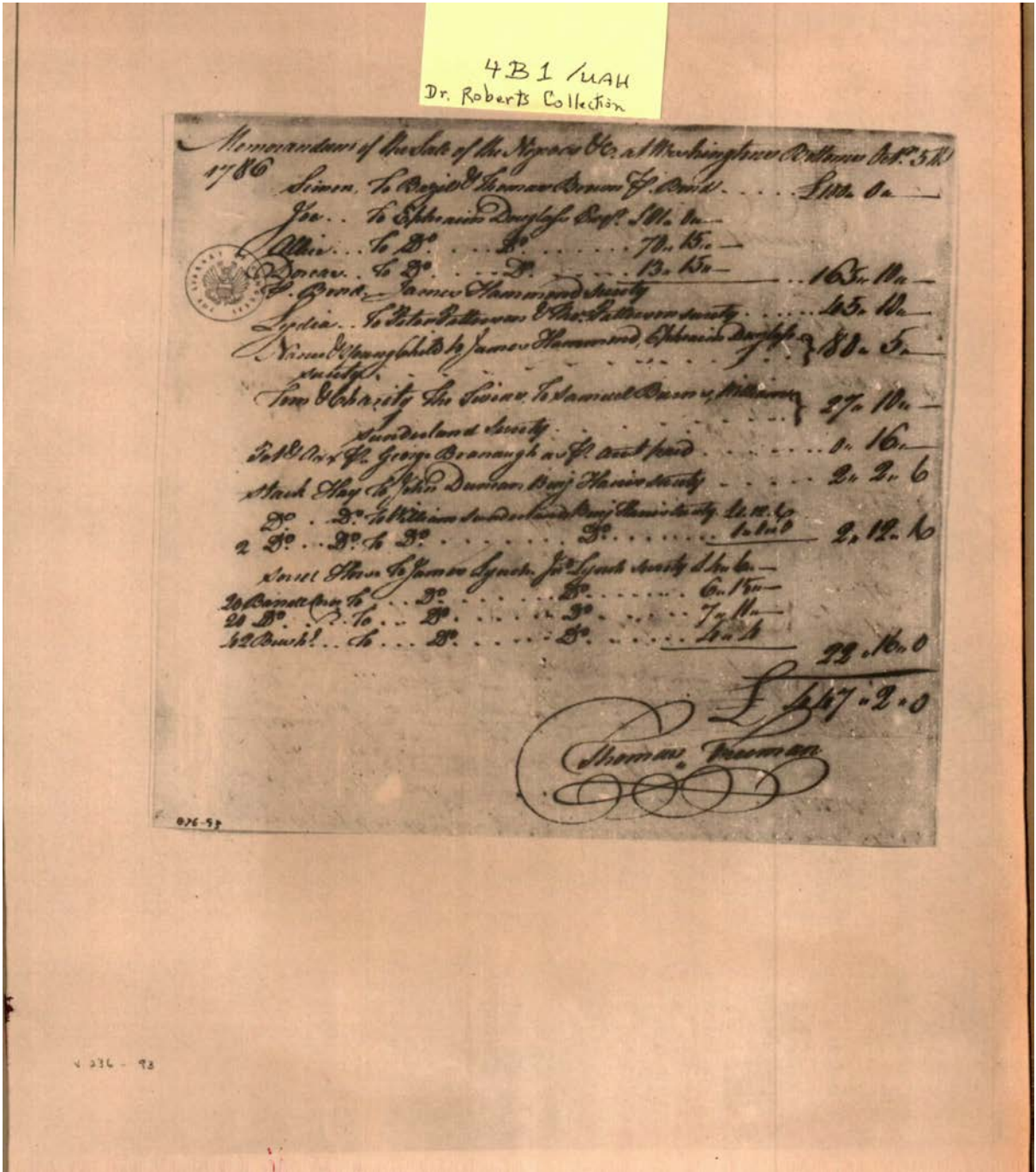
**Places:**

St. Stephens

**Types:**

instructions





slave sale report

**Names:**

- |                     |                  |                    |                     |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| , David             | , Ollie (slave)  | Christy, Tom       | Lewis, Benjamin     |
| , Dorcan (slave)    | , Simon (slave)  | Dougals, Ephaniss  | Lynch, James        |
| , Joe (slave)       | Bond, P.         | Douglas, Stephanis | Patterson, Peter    |
| , Little Da (slave) | Bronuagh, George | Dunnan, John       | Sunderland, William |
| , Lydia (slave)     | Brown, Thomas    | Freeman, Thomas    | Thomas, Benjamin    |
| , Nanee (slave)     | Burnes, Samuel   | Hammond, James     |                     |

**Places:**

Washington's Bottom

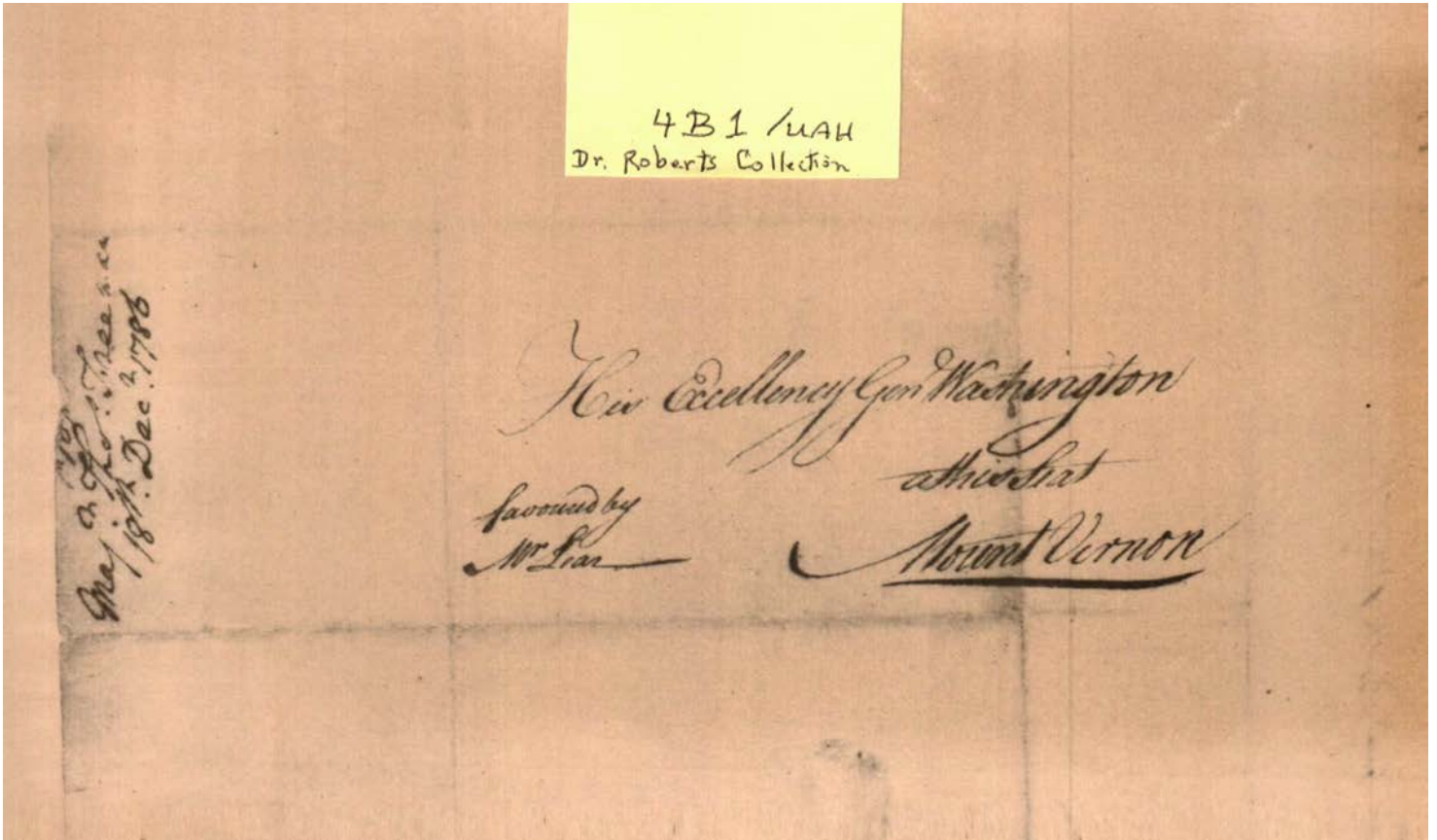
**Types:**

list

**Dates:**

Oct 05, 1786





**Names:**

Freeman, Thomas,  
Major

Lear,  
Washington, General

**Places:**

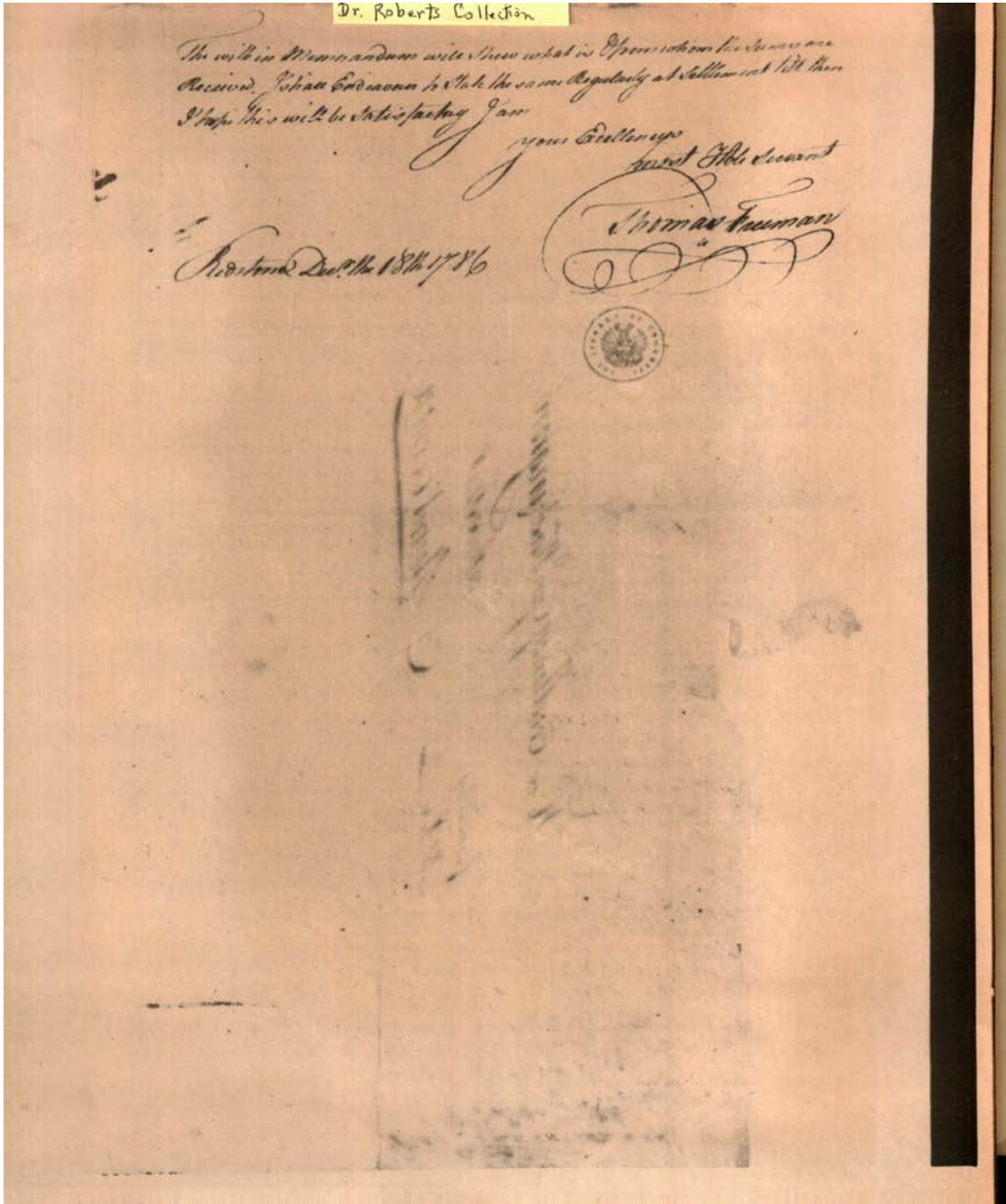
Mount Vernon

**Types:**

envelope

**Dates:**

Dec 18, 1786



**Names:**  
Endinomen, Isham

**Places:**  
Redstone,

**Types:**  
correspondence

**Dates:**  
Dec 18, 1786



4B1 / UAH  
 Dr. Roberts Collection

May it please your Excellency

I had the pleasure of yours by Mr. Lee and believe  
 I imagine you did not receive mine of the 10th inst. in which  
 I gave you notice of the sale of the Negroes &c. for the purpose of having  
 a copy of the same drawn with some final letters read the same  
 in my hands & when Mr. Lee's receipt for the same was sent to me  
 & returned to him I shall be obliged to you to send me a copy of  
 him as one of the Deeds still unpaid and the other not yet in  
 the State you will see that the sale of said Negroes was every day  
 that I determined to keep the whole in the State taking the Million  
 & the other would there may be a Market at present there is none  
 & I am not only but I should be obliged to you to have read that  
 I am in great haste to write but what I am going to say is that  
 I did by the Deeds to you for part of the State just at 4 per  
 cent of the purchase and I shall be obliged to you to send me  
 with the deed I have obtained and take his receipt I shall send you  
 it is possible to come down before part of the Kentucky Bonds a special  
 order went with you that is if any money of consequence comes into  
 my hands find I present there is a law to every almost ~~the~~ a  
 year collect it there is a Demand now for some within about fifty  
 millions for a New Tax should it prove so that I could come down  
 I shall order a true state of all affairs under my care to Mr. Smith  
 who will I make no doubt take care of them and Deliver them up to you  
 For the sale of the Negroes there is one named Dornas that you heard  
 of Mr. Simpson as a rather piece to be put at the age of Seventy Eight years  
 he is now from Wiltshire and we had & put the Supreme Judge of the  
 Province on the matter & he declared his age so that you need have concern  
 in Mr. Simpson as yet settled with him at the rate of thirty pounds and  
 now after his age has expired we have sold at Christian's house fifty  
 millions of the said

I should not have told the Negroes but they would not be concerned with  
 to come down from a Department I wish you

explains sale

**Names:**

, Dornas (slave)  
 , Jearnot  
 Honnonland,

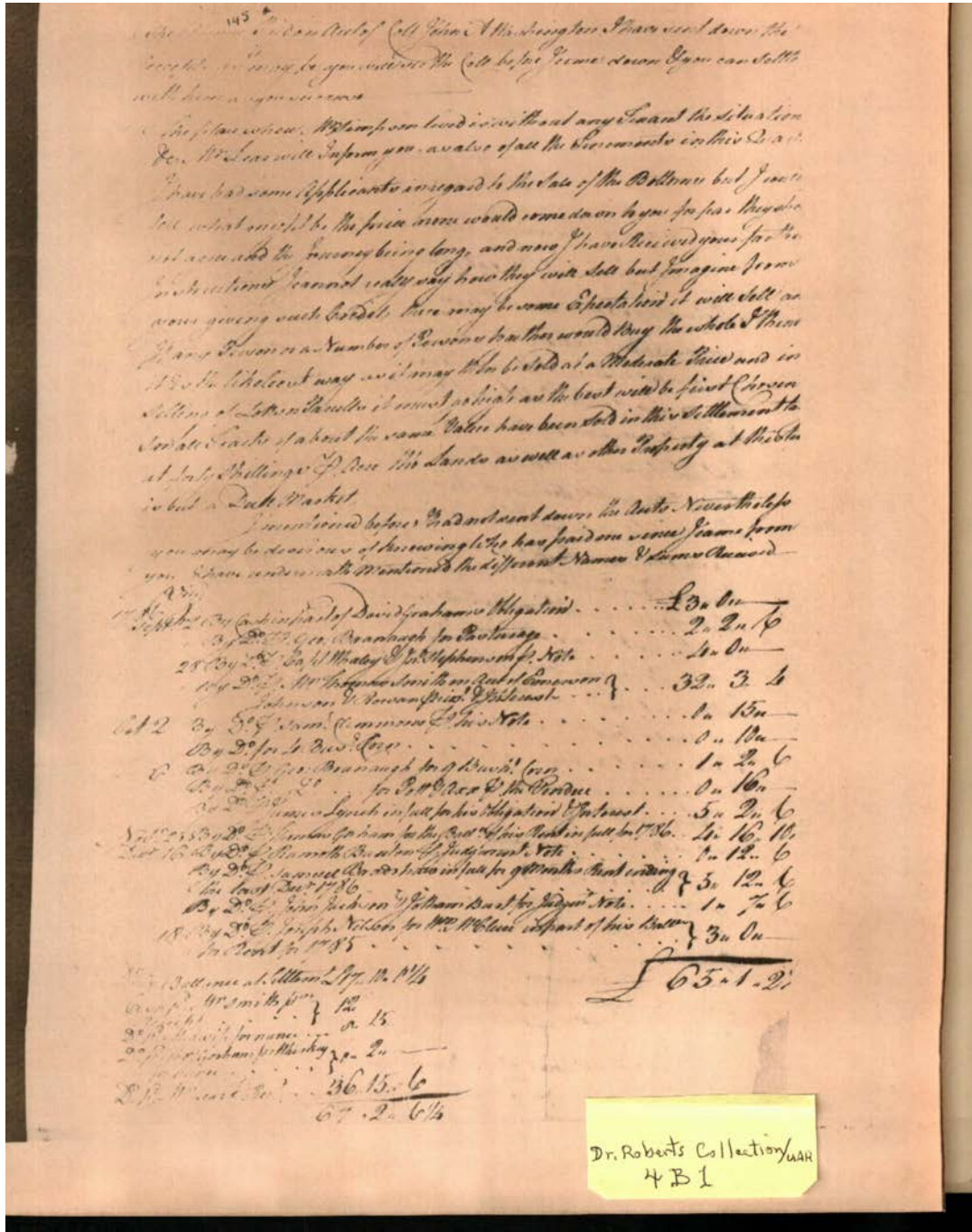
Lean,  
 McMeans, Judge  
 Simpson,

Smith,  
 Springer, Miah,  
 Captain

Townds, Houston E.  
 Whitter,

**Types:**

correspondence



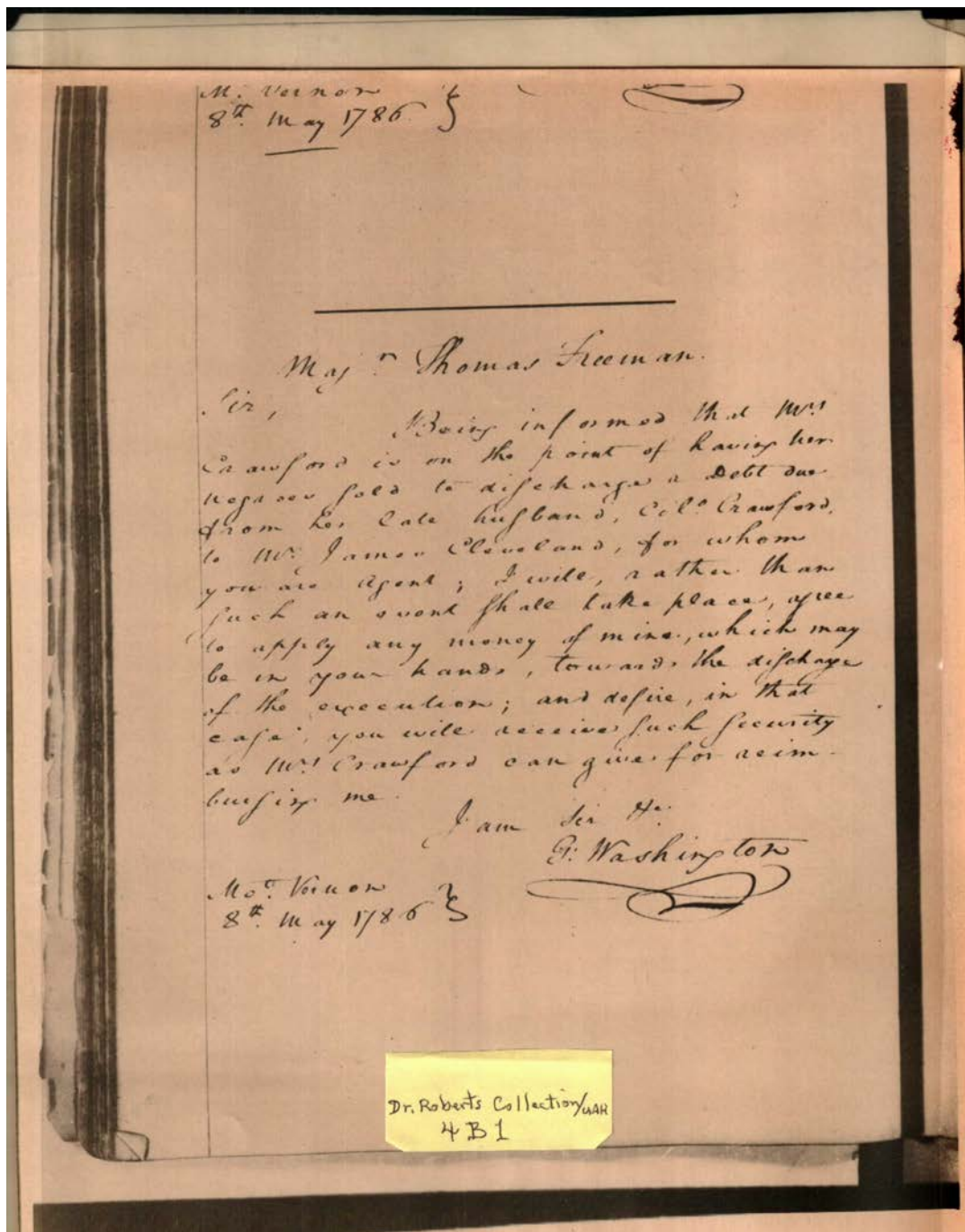
**Names:**

- |                  |                  |                  |                     |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Bottomance, Mrs. | Jackson, John    | McClure, William | Simpson,            |
| Branugh, George  | Johnson, Emaneus | Nelson, Joseph   | Stephens, James     |
| Colt,            | Lean,            | Price, Maherah   | Thomas,             |
| Graham, David    | Maley, Captain   | Price, V. Rondan | Washington, John A. |

**Types:**

correspondence





slave sale discussion

**Names:**

Clausland, James  
Crawford, Colonel

Crawford, Mrs.

Freeman, Thomas,  
Major

Washington, G.

**Places:**

Mount Vernon

**Types:**

correspondence

**Dates:**

May 08, 1786

221.

September - 1785. —  
Therefore of apologizing for giving it, I will  
assure you that I have a grateful sense  
of the kindness of you both I am his by your  
most obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>  
Mount Vernon G  
20<sup>th</sup> Sept: 1785. J

---

Major Tho<sup>s</sup> Freeman —

Sir,

If Mr. Jonathan Johnson will  
give one hundred Dollars per ann: for my  
tract at the Great Meadows, he may have a lease  
therefor, for the term of ten years without any  
other conditions annexed than those of reclaim-  
ing the meadow & putting the whole under  
a good fence — leaving it to himself to place  
such buildings on the premises as his own in-  
clination may prompt him to. —  
Or, if he will build a dwelling House 30 feet  
by 24; with three rooms below & four above —  
with two stone chimneys & fire places in each  
room — the House to be of hewed logs or framed  
work with glass windows. — a kitchen 16 by  
20 feet, of the same kind of work with one stone  
chimney; and a stable sufficient to contain  
twelve horses conveniently — I will allow  
him two years of the term, exempt from rent.  
I am &c

G. Washington

22<sup>d</sup> Sept: 1785. —

Dr. Roberts Collection/UAH  
4B1

**Names:**

Freeman, Thomas,  
Major

Johnson, Jonathan  
Washington, G.

**Places:**

Mount Vernon

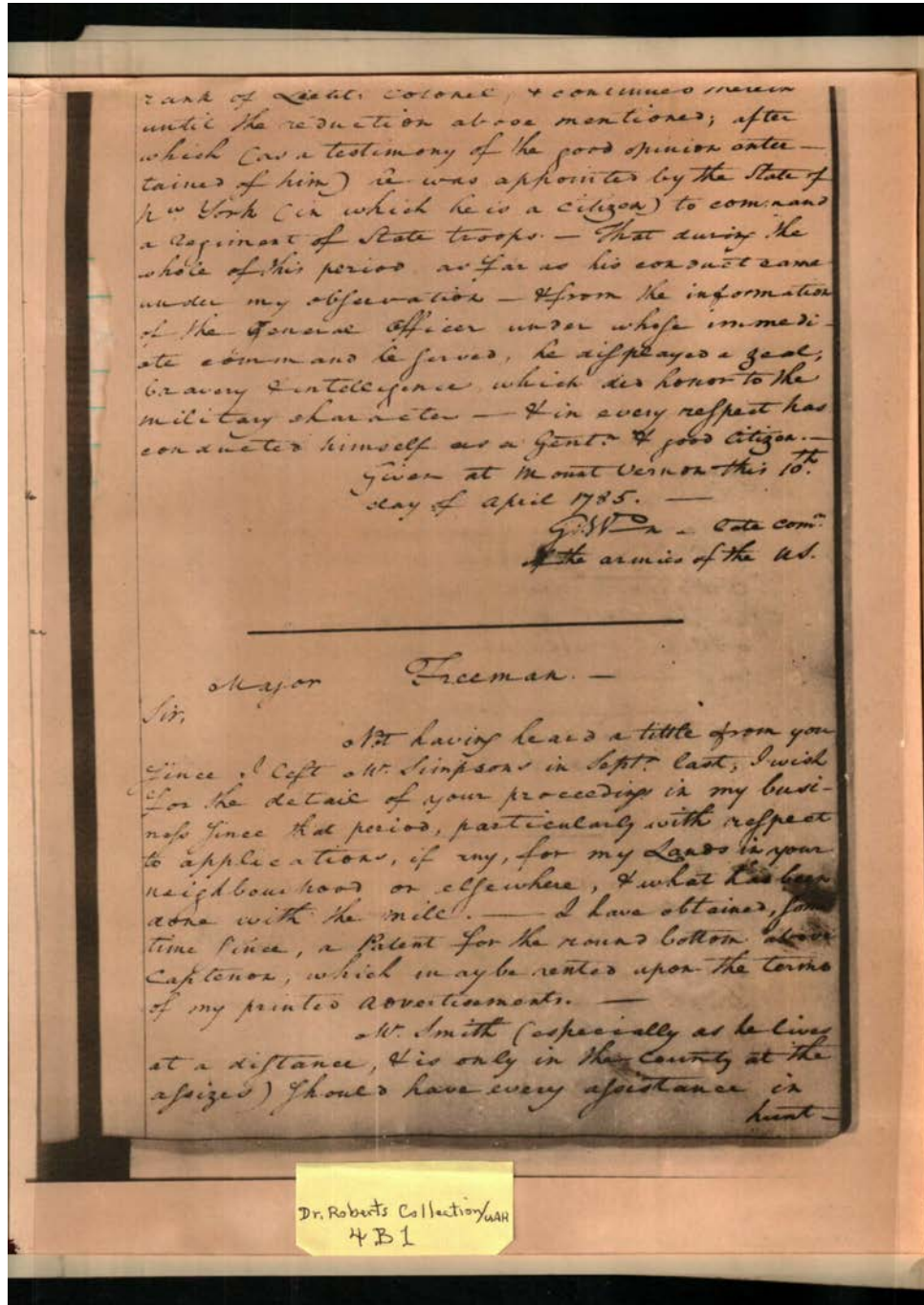
**Types:**

correspondence

**Dates:**

Sep 20, 1785





**Names:**

Freeman, Thomas,  
Major

Simpson,  
Smith,

Washington, G.

**Places:**

Mount Vernon

**Types:**

correspondence

Dr. Roberts Collection/UAH  
4 B 1

68. April - 1785. —  
hunting up the evidence necessary for  
the prosecution of my ejectments in  
the Court of Washington, particularly  
as they respect the improvements in my  
Cohob, antecedent to the possession of  
the Land by the present occupant, &  
the notices given them of its being mine,  
at, or immediately after the settlements  
made by them. — Col. John Stephe-  
son, Mr. Marc Stephenson & Mr. Danl.  
Morgan are, I should suppose, most like-  
ly to be acquainted with Col. Crawford's  
proceedings in his business. — It is of  
consequence to ascertain all the im-  
provements which were made for my use  
& benefit previous to the settlement of the  
present possessors — Col. Crawford in a  
Letter to me says, he built four houses on  
different parts of the Land, or made  
four improvements of some kind — if  
this can be proved it would defeat my  
opponents upon their own ground. —  
I should be glad to hear  
frequently from you — Letters lodged  
in the Post Office at Baltimore or  
Alex<sup>a</sup>, will not fail of getting fast to  
my hands.

I am yr. Obedt.  
G. Washington

St. Vrain's }  
april 11<sup>th</sup> 1785. }

The Marq. de la Fayette. —

**Names:**

Crawford, Colonel  
Morgan, Daniel

Stephenson, John,  
Captain

Stephenson, W. Marc  
Washington, G.

**Places:**

Mount Vernon

**Types:**

correspondence

**Dates:**

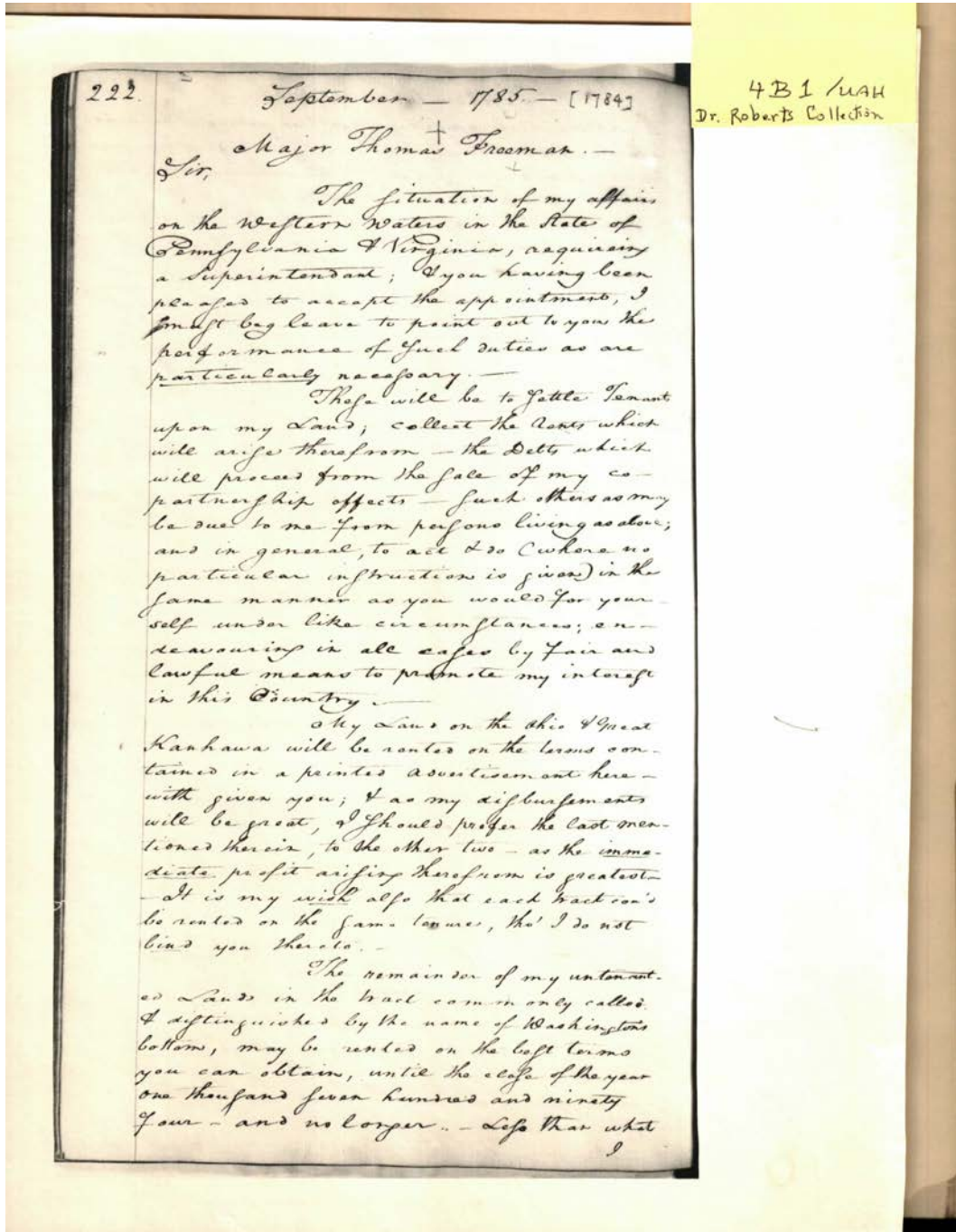
Apr 11, 1785



Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries B, Box 1, Folder 1  
Freeman, Thomas Correspondence to Washington, Meigs - copies, 1785 - 1807 - Land  
Image 96 r04b01-01-000-0097 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



**Types:**  
scrap



**Names:**

Freeman, Thomas,  
Major

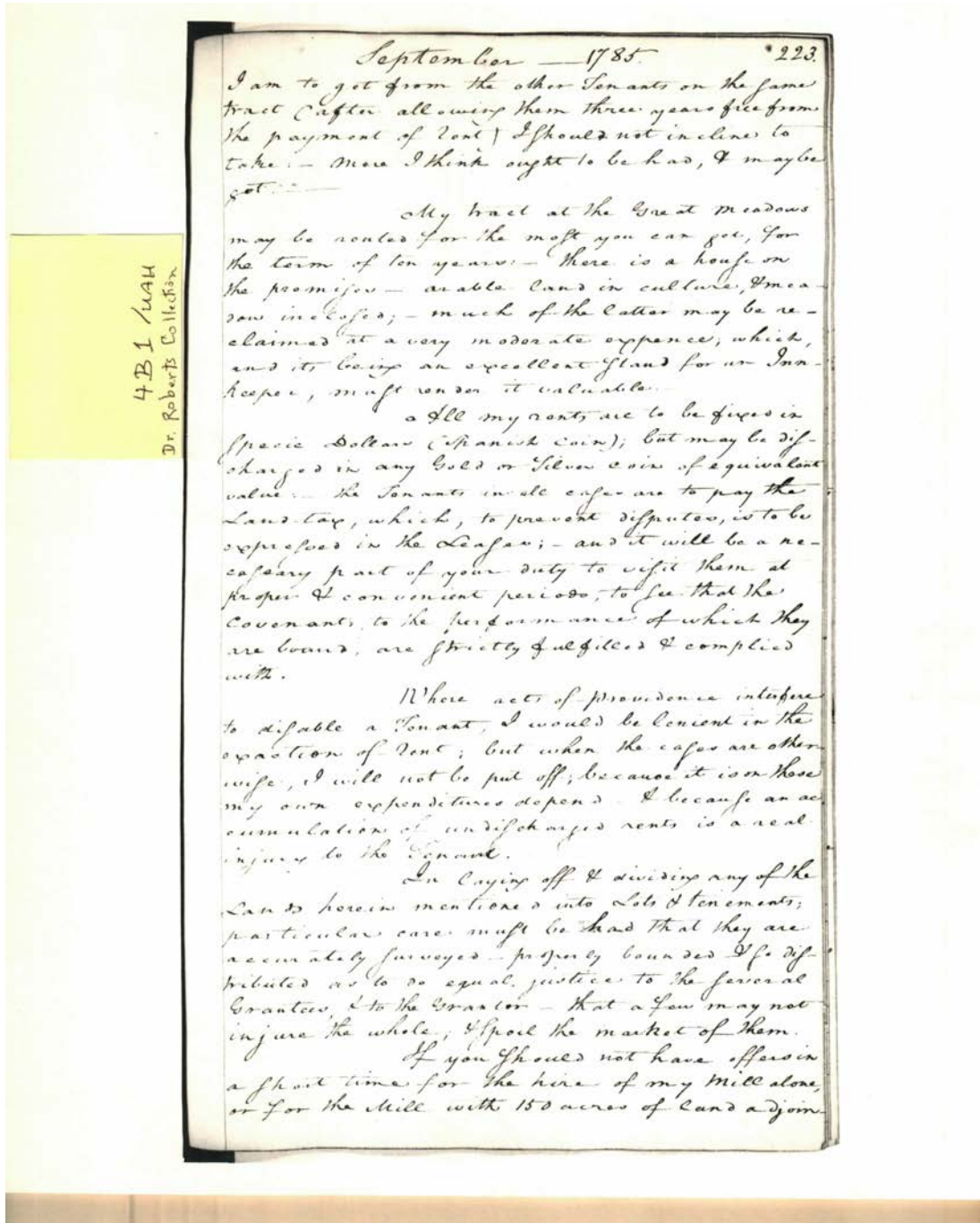
**Types:**

correspondence

**Dates:**

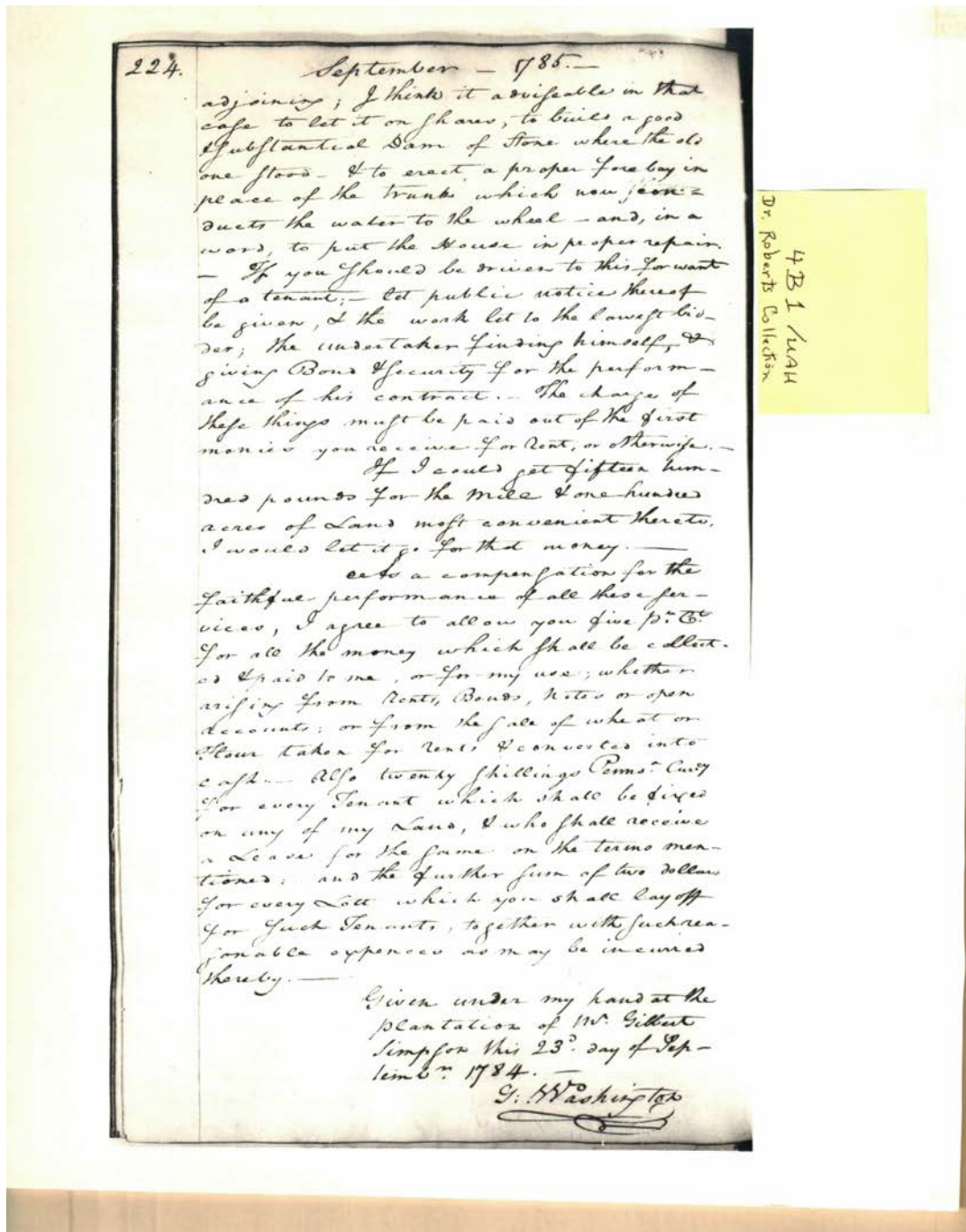
Sep 1785





Types:  
correspondence

Dates:  
Sep 1785



**Names:**

Simpson, Gilbert

Washington, G.

**Places:**

Simpson Plantation

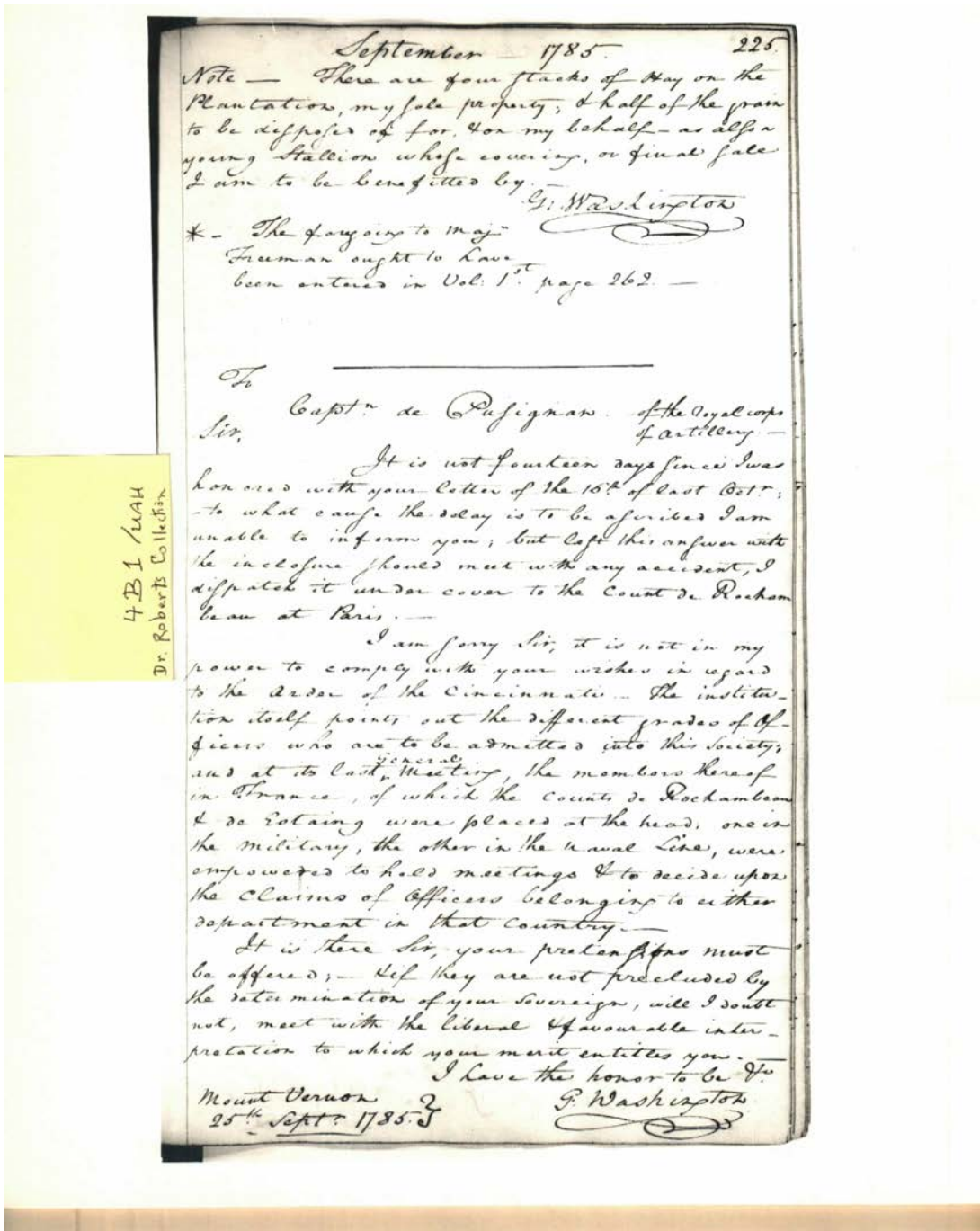
**Types:**

correspondence

**Dates:**

Sep 23, 1784





**Names:**

Cincinnati, Order of  
 Freeman, Major

Washington, G.  
 de Estaing,

de Pusignan, Captain

de Rochambeau,  
 Count

**Places:**

Mount Vernon

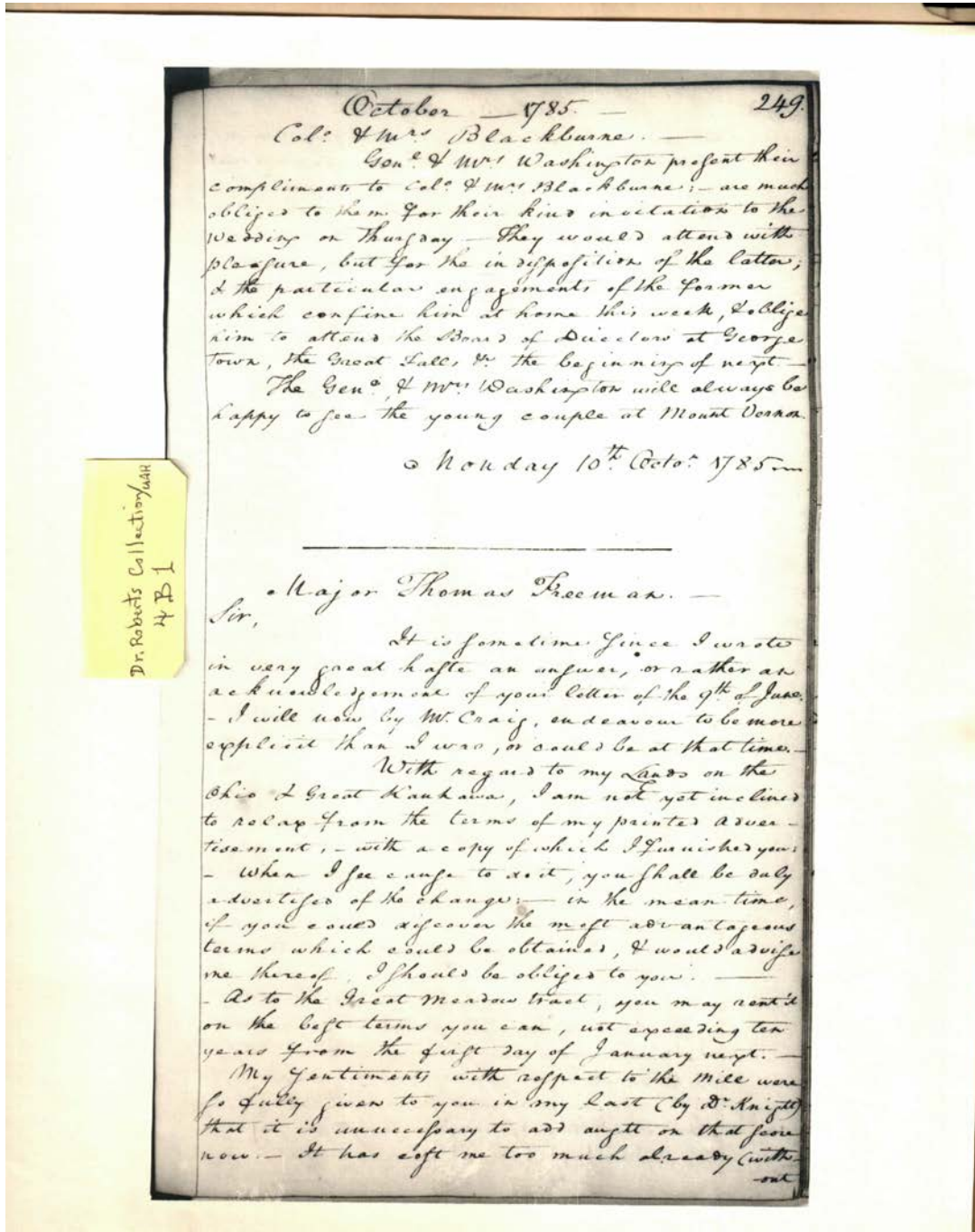
**Types:**

correspondence

**Dates:**

Sep 1785

Sep 25, 1785



**Names:**

Blackburne, Colonel  
Blackburne, Mrs.  
Craig,

Freeman, Thomas,  
Major  
Knight, Dr.

Washington, General  
Washington, Mrs.

**Types:**

correspondence

**Dates:**

Oct 10, 1785



250. October - 1785 -  
out any return) to undergo a population  
of the like expence - If you cannot rest  
or sell her as there directed, let her re-  
turn to debt - The first Cops may be left -  
I informed you in my last,  
if I presume you were well convinced  
of it before, that I made us agreement  
with the tenants on the tract near you,  
which could operate them from paying  
the Rents which were then due; conse-  
quently they must be made to pay them; -  
otherwise the most deserving of Favor (by  
having paid) are on a worse footing, than  
the least deserving who ought to have paid  
before I went into the Country & explain-  
ed the terms on which I had directed  
them to be let.  
With respect to Mr. Simpsons  
quitting the Tenement - I observed to you  
in my last; that when I make a bar-  
gain I consider it, to all intents & purposes,  
as binding on me; consequently that it is  
to go on the person with whom it is made -  
He may well remember, that upon his  
expressing an idea that he would try the  
place one year on the next it now goes  
at, I told him explicitly he must take  
it for the period on which it was offered,  
or not at all; as I did not intend to go  
thro' the same trouble every year by mak-  
ing an annual bargain for it - & that  
he acquiesces thereto - I behoved him  
therefore, & the Tenant likewise, to con-  
sider what they are about - as one or the  
other will be liable to me for the Rent,  
agreeably to the tenure of the Lease.  
I informed you in my last what had  
been done with the accounts which were  
put into my hands by him & Mr. John  
Jones, & requested him to assign the cer-  
tificate which I then enclosed, & to re-

Dr. Roberts Collection/DAH  
4 B 1

**Names:**

Jones, John

Simpson,

**Types:**

correspondence

October - 1785. 257  
return it to me; but have heard nothing from  
him since on the subject - which is a little  
surprising. -  
I hope the Way, born & other articles  
have been sold since this, & that you have received  
the Cash for them, or good security for the  
payment of the amount of them -  
If Mr. Simpson, contrary to his agreement  
and good faith, should have moved off my Land,  
I am at a loss to decide what had best be done  
with my negroes. - It was in consideration  
of his taking the Plantations, that I agreed  
to let him have the negroes so cheap. - If he  
is gone, or goes from it, he shall hold them  
no longer on the same terms he has them this  
year. - but my wish would be that you could  
find them to me at this place, if the measure  
can be reconciled to them. - Simon's country-  
men, & Mancy's Relations are all here, I would  
be glad to see them; I would make a Carpenter  
of Simon, to work along with his Whipmate  
Jambo. - at any rate I will not suffer them to  
go down the River, or to any distance where  
you cannot have an eye over them. -  
What Capt. Crawford did upon  
my Land on Shutee in order to have it, must  
undoubtedly be well known to those who were  
most intimately connected with him this move-  
ment at that period. - Mr. Chas. Morgan is as  
likely to possess this knowledge as any other; but  
certainly there must be more, & it may be essen-  
tial to find them out & to call upon them as  
evidences in the cause. -  
In a former Letter I informed  
you that I had obtained a Patent for the round  
Bottom; & that it might be rented on the same  
terms with my other Lands on the Ohio & Great  
Kankawa; - I repeat it in this, lest a misun-  
derstanding should have happened. -  
When I was out last fall I left  
all my Baggage at Mr. Simpson's - viz - Tent -  
Bed -

Dr. Roberts Collection/DAH  
4 B 1

**Names:**

, Jambo (slave)  
, Mancy (slave)

, Simon (slave)  
Crawford, Captain

Morgan, Charles  
Simpson,

**Types:**

correspondence



252. October - 1785 -  
Bedding & many other things, of which I  
hope proper care has & will be taken, if  
he has, or is about to leave the place.  
Among other articles there were two eight  
gallon Hogs of West India Rum - one  
of them of the fine quality - as this is a  
commodity which is subject to a vari-  
ety of accidents & misfortunes, I request  
it may be sold - I will take my chance  
to procure more when I may come into  
that Country, which, at present, is uncertain.  
If the Tents & bedding I have got out, &c.  
are not seized, they will be ruined; I there-  
fore pray that particular attention may  
be paid to them, my Carriages, travelling  
Trunks &c.  
If you have received & paid  
anything on my account since I was out,  
it may be well to consider a flatment of  
it by ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~bank~~, who will offer a safe  
& good opportunity to remit what credit  
may be in your hands consequent of  
the sales of East India or by other means,  
after you have deducted your com-  
missions. - If the Bonds which were taken  
at that time are not paid agreeably to the  
terms of them - delay no time to recover the  
money as soon as you can, as I am not  
inclined to be put off with unmeaning pro-  
mises, & obliged to sue at last. -  
If my Negroes are to come down,  
the sooner it could happen the better for the  
young one - & a careful person should  
be hired to take care of them. - In this case  
I would wish to have my Baggage (except  
the Liqueur) sent to me at the same time - one  
trouble & expence would serve both purposes.  
I am &c.  
Mt Vernon  
10<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1785 } G. Washington

Dr. Roberts Collection/AMH  
4 B I

concern for slaves

**Names:**

Craig,

Washington, G.

**Places:**

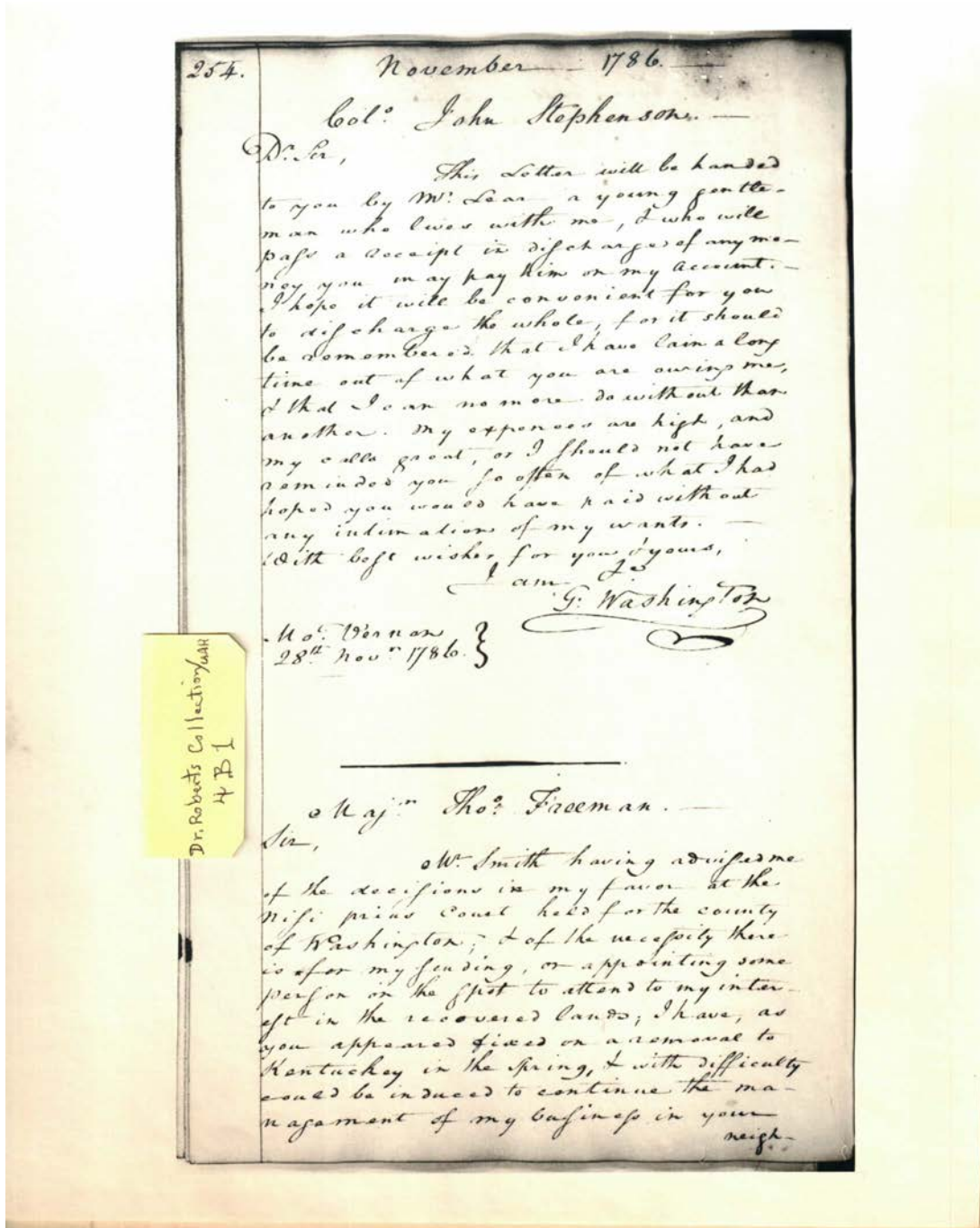
Mount Vernon

**Types:**

correspondence

**Dates:**

Oct 15, 1785



Freeman leaves Washington

**Names:**

Freeman, Thomas,  
Major

Lear,  
Smith,

Stephenson, John,  
Colonel

Washington, G.

**Places:**

Mount Vernon

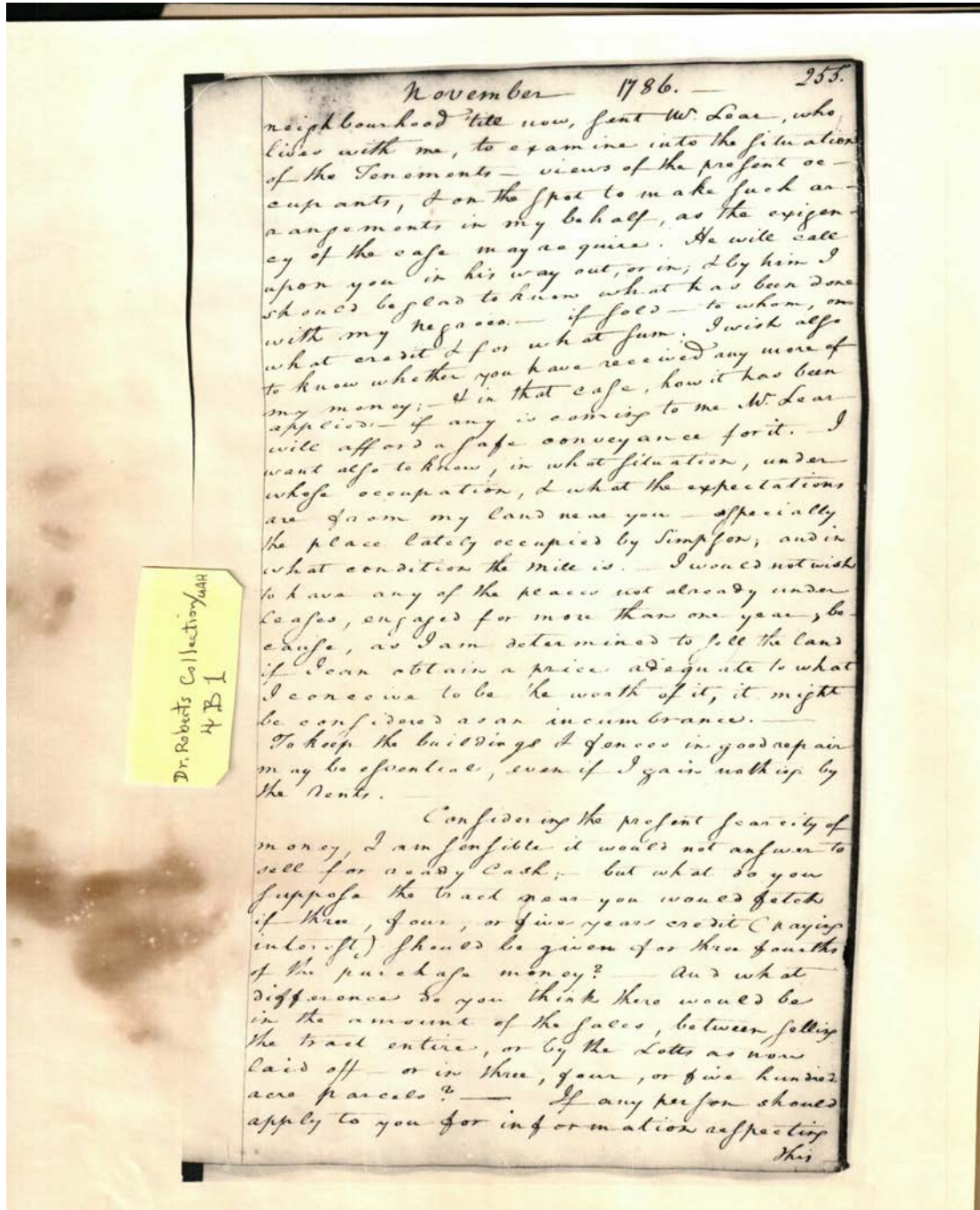
**Types:**

correspondence

**Dates:**

Nov 28, 1786





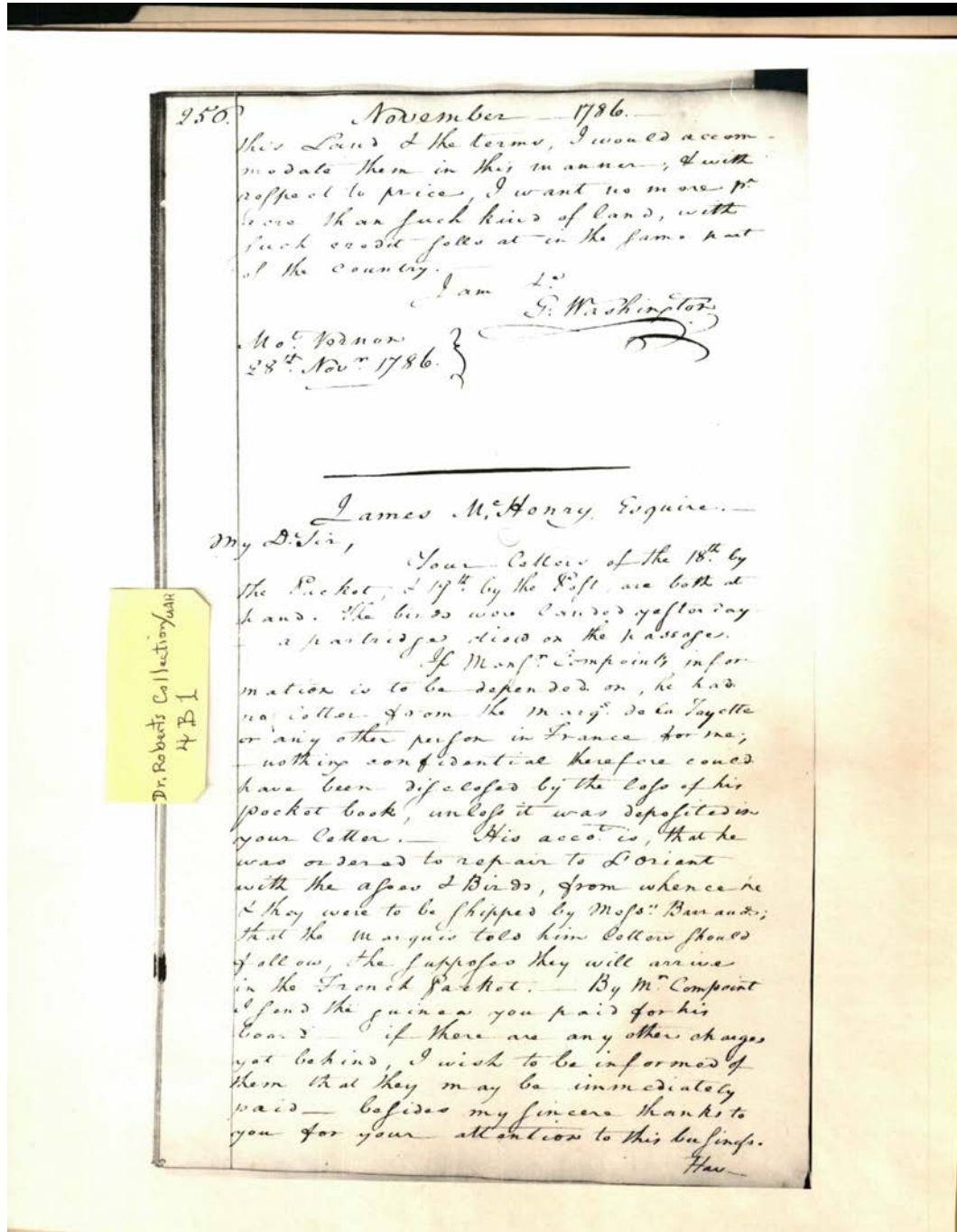
**Names:**

Lear,

Simpson,

**Types:**

correspondence



**Names:**

Barrand,

LaFayette,

McHony, James

Washington, G.

**Places:**

Mount Vernon

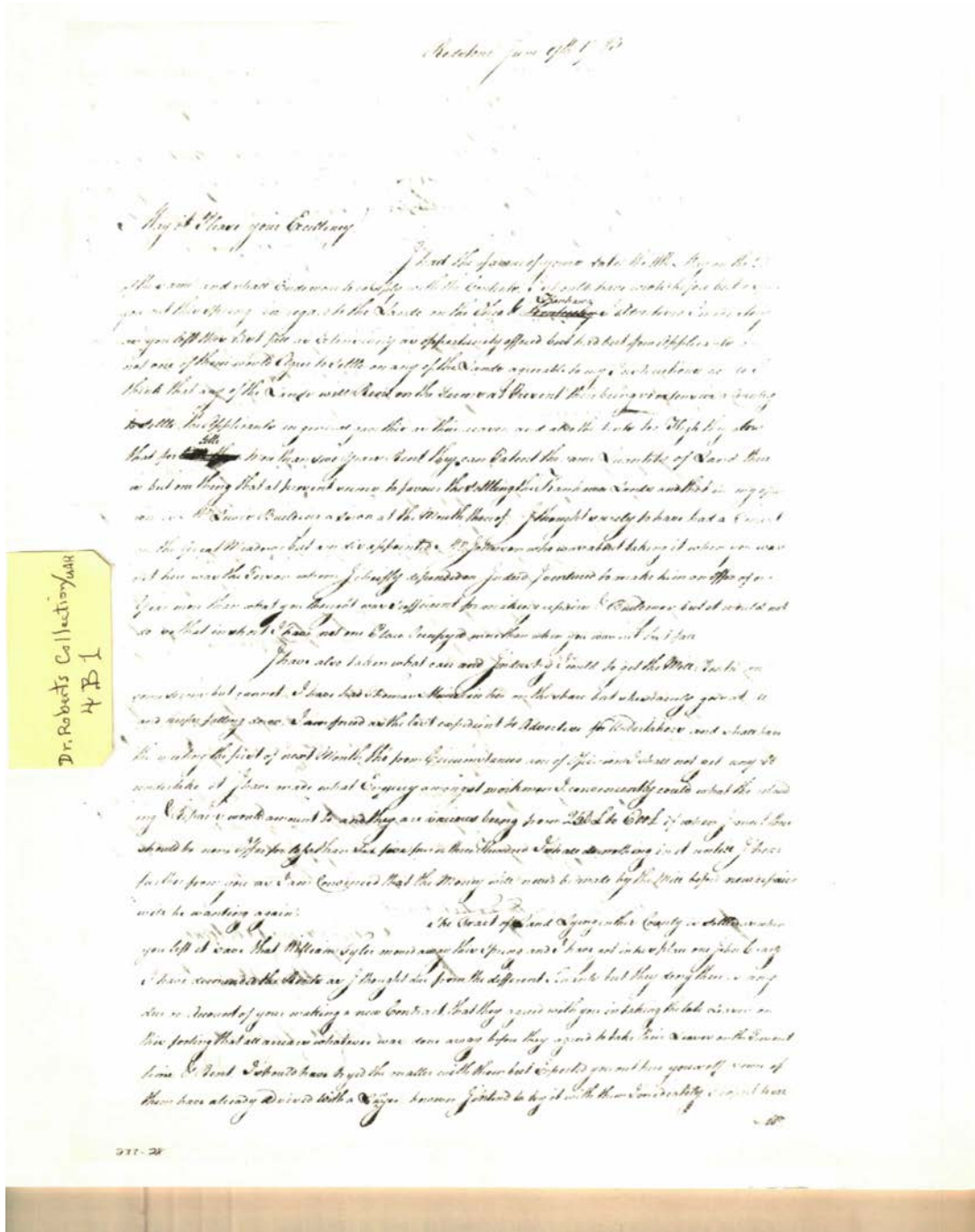
**Types:**

correspondence

**Dates:**

Nov 28, 1786





**Names:**

Bryan, William  
Burling, Susie

Craig, John  
Johnson,

Misner, Thomas  
Tyler, William

**Places:**

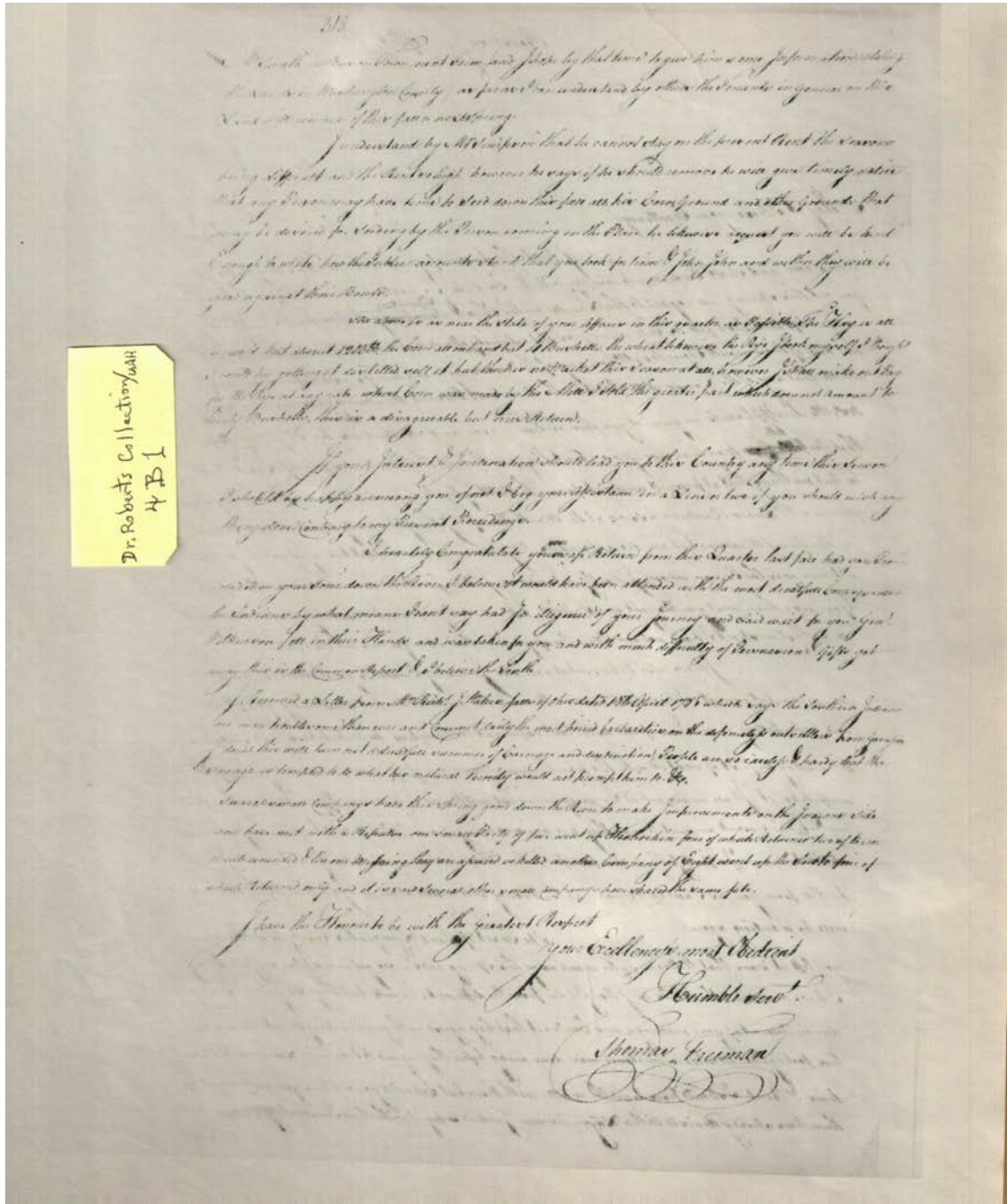
Redstone,

**Types:**

correspondence

**Dates:**

Jun 1783



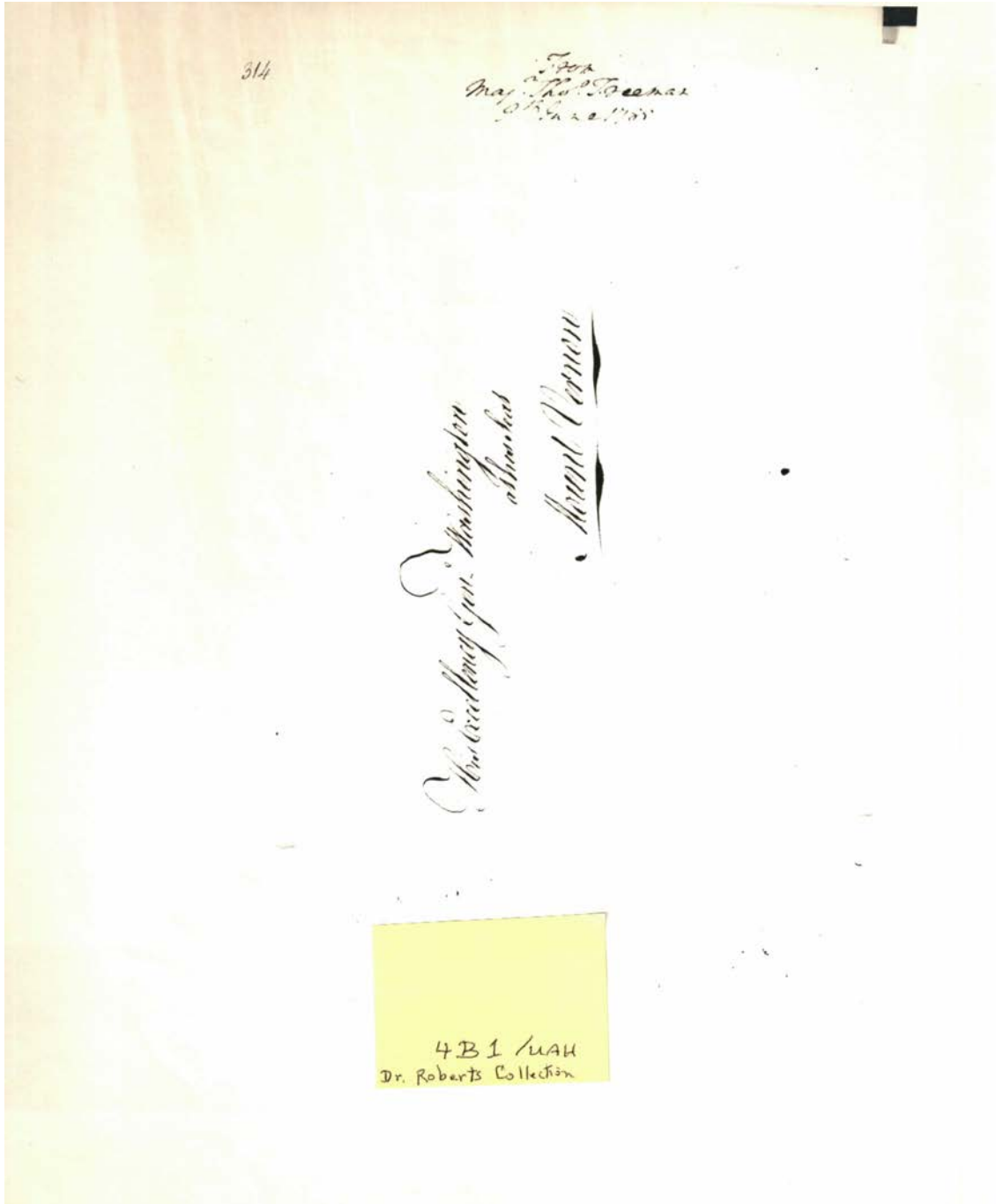
**Names:**  
Freeman, Thomas

**Types:**  
correspondence

Jones, John

Kent, Walker





**Names:**

Freeman, Thomas,  
Major

Washington, General

**Places:**

Mount Vernon

**Types:**

correspondence

4B1 / UAH  
Dr. Roberts Collection

Redstone July 27th 1785

Sir,

I beg to inform you of my Displeasur  
of receiving for the Return of the Mill the execution of the Undertaking to  
be the first Mill. I had the Undertaking to find myself disappointed by more at least  
the Undertaking was not, so that the Mill is not doing any good at all. I have some Justice  
to be by a second Undertaking in the same kind, but shall wait for your Application  
in this will come forwardly into your Hands by the Order of the Court.

I am Sir, your Obedient Servant

I have the Pleasur to inform you that I have had some Displeasur in regard to the  
Return of the Undertaking in the Return, and am prosecuting his directions therein. I  
have also been told that Stephenson & Co. are in possession of what he knows relative to your  
Claim in Washington County, but he nor his Brother know nothing of certainly in  
regard to it. Mr. Charles Morgan seems to be the same person that is to be met  
with in this County of which I informed Mr. Smith, who had already got Satisfaction  
of him.

Mr. Morgan has informed me fully of his determination to leave the  
Place he occupies this Fall, I have not yet got any Power to take any Pleasur, nor do I  
know whether I shall be justifiable in so doing until further Order from you, I believe  
I can get some part of it even down his Pleasur I have made some Return thereto.  
Mr. Morgan offers putting in the background and finding out at official Halling  
For this I have offered for and I will give no more, because if you would wish to have  
any thing done concerning that Pleasur I hope you will communicate it to me by some  
 speedy Opportunity.

No Application to the Court in the Case of the Pleasur I have had  
some Pleasur to write to you, nor shall have any Pleasur, the Pleasur is much  
undone and undone.

I have the Pleasur to inform you  
I am Sir, your Obedient Servant  
Thomas Freeman

**Names:**

Freeman, Thomas  
Jackson,

Morgan, Charles  
Simpson,

Smith,  
Stephenson, Colonel

**Places:**

Redstone,

**Types:**

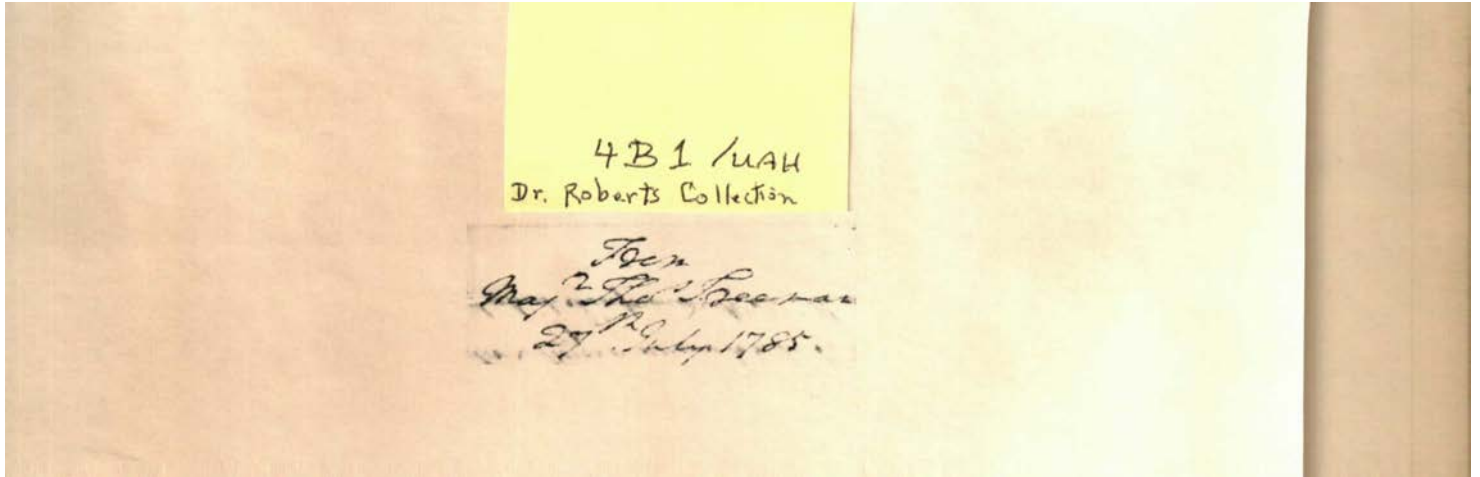
correspondence

**Dates:**

Jul 27, 1785



Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries B, Box 1, Folder 1  
Freeman, Thomas Correspondence to Washington, Meigs - copies, 1785 - 1807 - Land  
Image 112 r04b01-01-000-0113 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



**Names:**

Freeman, Thomas

**Types:**

envelope

**Dates:**

Jul 27, 1785

4B1 / UAH  
Dr. Roberts Collection

To Thomas Freeman Esquire

The government of the U.S. being desirous of informing itself of the extent of the country lately ceded to them under the name of Louisiana to have the same with its principal rivers geographically delineated, to learn the Character of its soil Climate productions &c. &c. and you are appointed to explore for those purposes the interesting portion of it which lies on the Arkansas and Red Rivers from their Confluence with the Mississippi to the remotest source of the main stream of each and the high lands connecting the same in a manner of parts of the boundary of the Province.

You will receive from the Secretary all the information and instructions as to the provision to be made of men arms ammunition medicine &c. &c. clothing covering Camp tents &c. instruments of observation and measuring tools light articles for barter and presents among the Indians and other necessaries all of which are to be collected at Natchez which is to be considered the point of departure.

From Natchez you are to proceed to ascend the Red River taking observations of longitude and latitude at its mouth, at all remarkable points in its course & especially at the mouths of Rivers, at rapids, islands and deep lanes &c. &c. & to be distinguished by descriptive marks and characters of a durable kind as that they may with certainty be recognized hereafter, the courses of the rivers between these points of observation may be supplied by the compass the length and by time corrected by the observations themselves, the variation of the compass in different places are to be noted.

In this way you will proceed to the remotest source of the main stream of the Red River and thence to that of the Arkansas along the high lands

24156

instructions for tour

**Names:**

Freeman, Thomas

**Types:**

instructions



4.B.1 / UAH  
Dr. Roberts Collection

which divide their waters from those running into the Rio Norte or the Pacific  
Ocean ascertaining by the chain and compass (with due corrections for  
variation) the course and extent of said highlands, and by careful  
and multiplied observations the longitude of the said remotest sources of the  
main stream of each River. You are then to descend the Arkansas from its  
source to its mouth ascertaining by the observations at remarkable points in the said  
river supplying its courses between these points by the compass the latitude and  
longitude ascertained for the Red River and using peculiar care to fix with accuracy  
the latitude and longitude of the mouth of the River.

Although we have before said you are to ascend the Red River and descend the  
Arkansas on the presumption that the former is the least rapid yet if they are to  
be known to be otherwise or any other circumstances overweigh this you are at liberty to  
reverse this advice to ascend the Arkansas and descend the Red River observing in all  
other points the instructions before given.

Your observations are to be taken with great pains and accuracy to be entered  
distinctly and intelligibly for others as well as your self to comprehend all the  
details necessary with the use of the usual tables to fix the latitude and longitude  
of the places at which they were taken and are to be rendered to the War Office for the  
purpose of having the calculations made concurrently by proper persons within the  
U.S. Several copies of these as well as of your other notes should be made at  
basest times and put into the care of the most trustworthy of your attendants  
to guard, by multiplying them against the accidental losses to which they  
will be exposed, a further guard perhaps would be that one of these copies  
should be on the paper of the best as supposed least liable to injury from  
damp than common paper.

instructions for tour

Types:

instructions

4B1 / UAH  
Dr. Roberts Collection

The following objects in the Country adjacent to the rivers along which you will pass will be worthy of notice. — The Soil and Face of the Country, its growth and vegetable productions. Specially those not of the maritime States. — The animals of the Country generally and especially those not known in the maritime States. — The Minerals and accounts of any which may be found extract the mineral productions most worth notice but more particularly metals limestone, gypsum, pit coal, salt petre, rock salt and salt springs and mineral waters, noting the temperature of the last and such circumstances as may indicate their Character. — Volcanic appearances. — Climate, as characterized by the thermometer by the proportion of rainy cloudy and clear days, by lightning hail snow ice, by the access and recess of frost by the winds prevailing at different seasons the dates at which particular plants put forth or lose their flower or leaf times of appearance of particular birds, reptiles or insects. Most of these articles may be entered in a calendar or table so as to take little room or time in entering. — Court an intercourse with the natives as extensively as you can, treat them on all occasions in the most friendly and conciliatory manner which their conduct will admit, alloy all jealousies as to the object of your journey make them acquainted with the position extent, Character peaceful and Commercial dispositions of the U.S. inform them that

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instructions for tour

Types:

instructions



4B1 / UAH  
Dr. Roberts Collection

their late fathers the Spaniards have agreed to withdraw all their troops from  
the Mississippi and Missouri and from all the countries watered by any  
river running into them; that they have delivered to us all their subjects,  
Spanish and French, settled in those countries together with their posts and  
territories in the same that henceforth we become their fathers and friends  
that our first wish will be to be neighborly, friendly and useful to them  
and especially to carry on commerce with them on terms more reason-  
able and advantageous for them than any other nation ever did;  
Order with them on the points most convenient as mutual conveniences for  
them and us, say that we have sent you to enquire into the nature of the  
country and the nations inhabiting it to know their wants and the supplies  
they will wish to dispose of and that after you shall have returned with  
the necessary information we shall take measures with their consent for  
setting trading houses among them at suitable places that in the mean  
time the same traders who reside among or visit them and who are  
now become our citizens will continue to supply them as usual & that  
they will find us in all things just and faithful friends and  
partners. We will endeavor as far as a  
diligent pursuit of your journey will admit to learn the names  
and numbers of the nations through which your route lies,  
the extent and limits of their possessions  
their relations with other tribes and nations  
their language, traditions, monuments  
that are any way useful in agriculture, fishing, hunting, war  
arts and the implements of these

instructions for tour

Types:

instructions

4B1 / UAH  
Dr. Roberts Collection

their food & clothing and domestic accommodations;  
the diseases prevalent among them and the remedies they use;  
Moral and physical circumstances which distinguish them  
from the tribes we know;  
peculiarities in their laws customs and dispositions;  
And articles of Commerce they may need or furnish & to what extent.

And considering the interest which every nation has in  
extending and strengthening the authority of Reason and justice  
among the people around them it will be useful to acquire what  
knowledge you can of the State of morality Religion and information  
among them; as it may better enable those who may endeavour  
to civilize and instruct them to adapt their measures to the ex-  
isting notions and practices of those on whom they are to operate.

As it is impossible for us to force in what manner you  
will be received by these people, whether with hospitality or hostility  
so it is impossible to prescribe the exact degree of perseverance  
with which you are to pursue your journey, we value too much  
the lives of citizens to offer them to probable destruction. Your  
numbers will be sufficient to secure you against the unauthorized  
opposition of individuals or of small parties. but if at any  
time a superior force authorized or not authorized by a nation  
should be arrayed against your further passage and inflex-  
ibly determined to arrest it, you must decline its further pur-  
-suit and return. in the loss of yourselves we should lose also  
the information you will have acquired. by returning safely  
with that you may enable us to renew the essay with

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instructions for tour

Types:

instructions



4B1 / UAH  
Dr. Roberts Collection

better calculated means, to your own discretion therefore, must be left the degree of danger you may risk and the point at which you should decline: only saying we wish you to err on the side of your safety and to bring back your party safe even with less information.

As far up the river as the white settlements extend an intercourse probably exists with Natchez or New Orleans: and as far as traders go, they will furnish a conveyance for your letters to either of those places; beyond that you may perhaps be able to engage Indians to bring letters for the government, on promising that they shall receive at either of those places such special compensations as you shall have stipulated with them, and measures will be taken there to ensure a fulfilment of your stipulations. avail yourself of all these means & communicate to us at reasonable intervals copies of your journal notes and observations of every kind.

Doct<sup>r</sup> George Hunter of Philadelphia will accompany you as a fellow labourer and counsellor in the same service, while the ultimate direction of the expedition is left to yourself, he is to make observations to note courses and to enquire into the same subjects recommended to you but separately as it is supposed that the two different accounts may cease to corroborate or to correct each other. he is to participate with you in the conveniences and inforts provided and to receive from you whatever aid and facility you can yield for his pursuits consistently with due diligence in the prosecution of your journey. Should the accident of death happen to you he is to succeed to the direction

instructions for tour

Types:

instructions

4B1 / UAH  
Dr. Roberts Collection

of the expedition and to all the powers which you possess.  
Should he also die the officer attending you and subject  
to your orders will immediately return with his party in  
the way he shall deem best bringing the papers and other  
effects belonging to the mission.

As the great distance between this and the point of your departure leaves  
it impracticable for these instructions or those of the Secretary at War to go  
into all the details which may be necessary to prepare and expedite your  
departure I have requested William Dunbar esquire of the Navy to take  
on himself the direction of everything supplementary and additional to  
our instructions to superintend and take order in or whatsoever may be  
further necessary in the course of your preparations, departure, journey  
returning, you will therefore consider his further instructions and proceedings as emi-  
nating from myself and conform to them accordingly and you will make him during  
your journey the centre of communication between yourself and the government  
and on your return and arrival at the Navy you will report yourself to him and  
receive from him the information and instructions proper for the occasion and which  
shall have been furnished by the government; these shall particularly provide for the  
immediate payment of yourselves of what shall be due to you and of all arrears  
owed to the Officers and men which shall have incurred since their departure  
and such as shall have faithfully and obediently performed their duty during the  
war shall be recommended to the liberality of the Legislature for the grant of a por-  
tion of land to each in proportion to his grade or condition.

Given under my hand and seal at Monticello this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April 1804 &  
of the independence of the United States the twenty eighth

24159

W. Jefferson

instructions for tour

**Names:**

Jefferson, Thomas

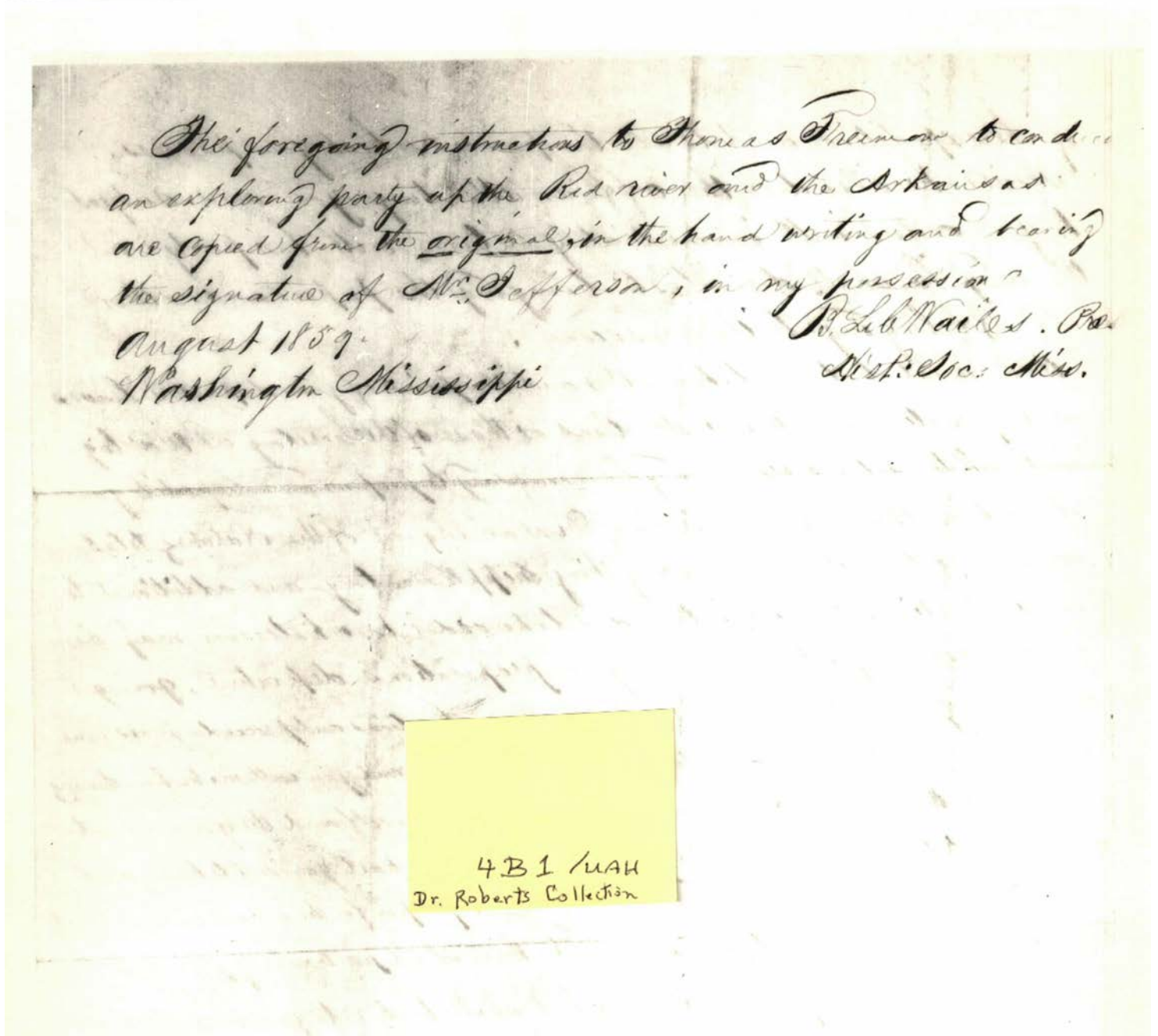
**Types:**

instructions

**Dates:**

Apr 14, 1804





explains copying of instructions

**Names:**

Freeman, Thomas

Jefferson,

Wailes, B. Lib

**Places:**

Washington, MS

**Types:**

explanation

**Dates:**

Aug 1859

4B1 / UAH  
Dr. Roberts Collection 47

Sir

I take the liberty of enclosing you a plate and explanation of an improved and highly finished Sextant which I have procured here, and on trial find to be a very accurate one. There is to be had here also, a small acromatic <sup>Refracting</sup> Telescope of three feet length, and of sufficient magnifying power to determine the Longitude of places within two or three seconds of the best Instrument of the kind.

The method of determining Longitude by the Right Ascension of the Moon, without the aid of Time, which you were on the favor to ask my opinion of, I have examined with all the ability I was capable, and am of opinion it will not answer in its present shape. — Knowing your wish to have it fully investigated and feeling Diffidence in my own knowledge on that subject, I have taken the liberty of communicating it to my friend Mr. Patterson, Professor of Mathematics in the University

26364

longitude question

**Names:**

Patterson, Professor

**Types:**

correspondence



4.B.1 / UAH  
Dr. Roberts Collection

Freeman Tho. Phila. July 13. 05. rec'd July 22.

University here. he has not yet made known to me his opinion  
of its merits, and thro' delicacy I cannot ask him for his remarks  
on it, believing it to be his wish to communicate those remarks  
to you himself if required. —

Amongst the various methods  
of ascertaining the Longitude of places, The most expeditious,  
and perhaps the most accurate, is by an Observation of  
the Moon's Transit over the Meridian. The requisites are  
The Apparent time of the Transit of the Moon's Limb  
<sup>over the meridian</sup>  
to find the Longitude of the place of Observation —  
To solve this problem is only to determine the apparent time  
of the Moon's passage over the Meridian of Greenwich.  
Which is to be had from the Sun's, and Moon's Right Ascension.  
This method nearly agrees with the second method you propose.

In Lunar Observations, if the Sun  
or Star, should be near the prime verticle at the time  
of Observation, the apparent time deduced from the  
observation, will be preferable to the time given by a watch,  
and equal to that of a good time piece.

Philadelphia July 13. 1805 }  
N. W. Corner of Chestnut & 9<sup>th</sup> Streets }

I have the honor to be  
Sir Your Obedt Servant  
Tho Freeman

longitude question

**Names:**

Freeman, Thomas

**Places:**

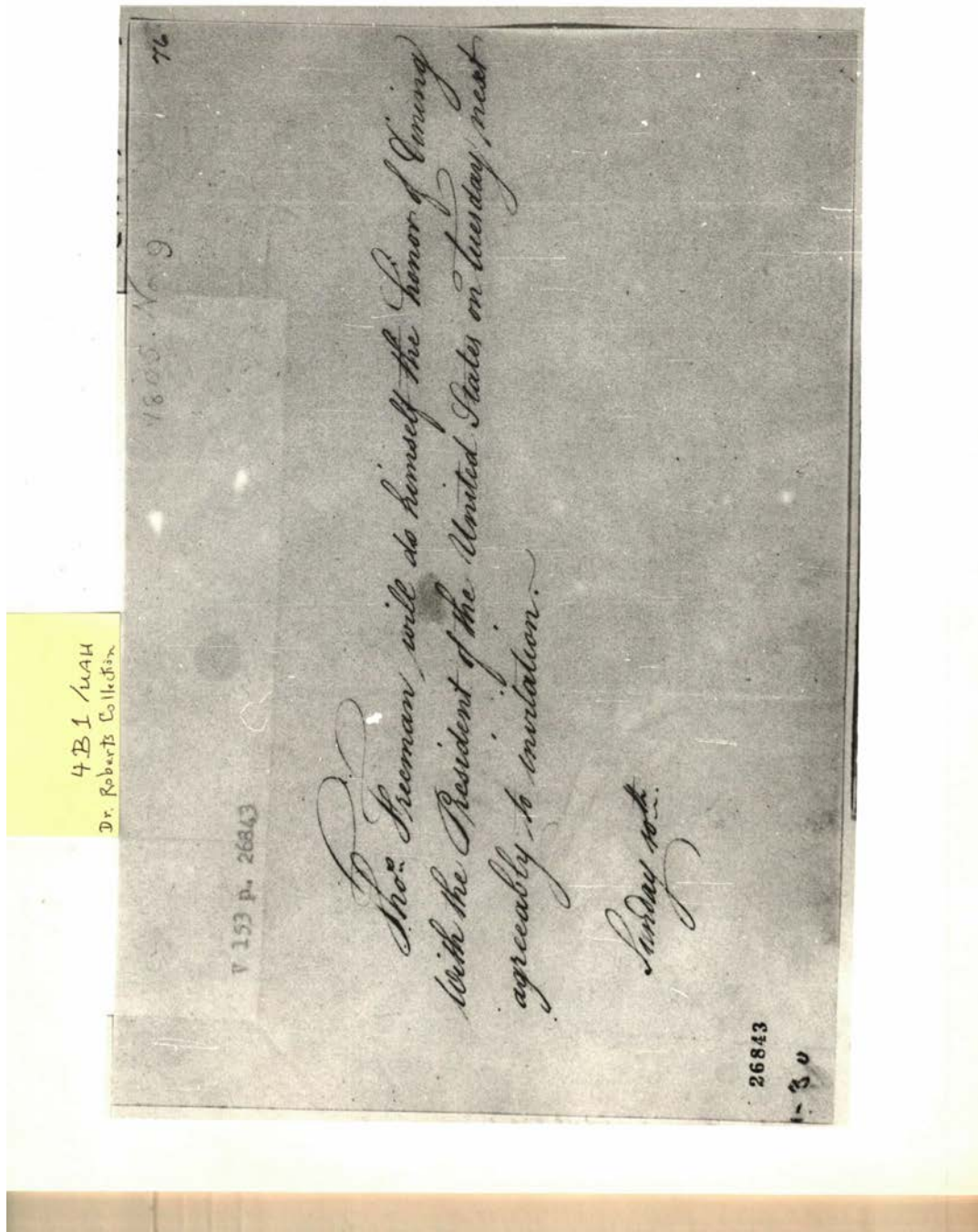
Philadelphia

**Types:**

correspondence

**Dates:**

Jul 27, 1785



**Names:**

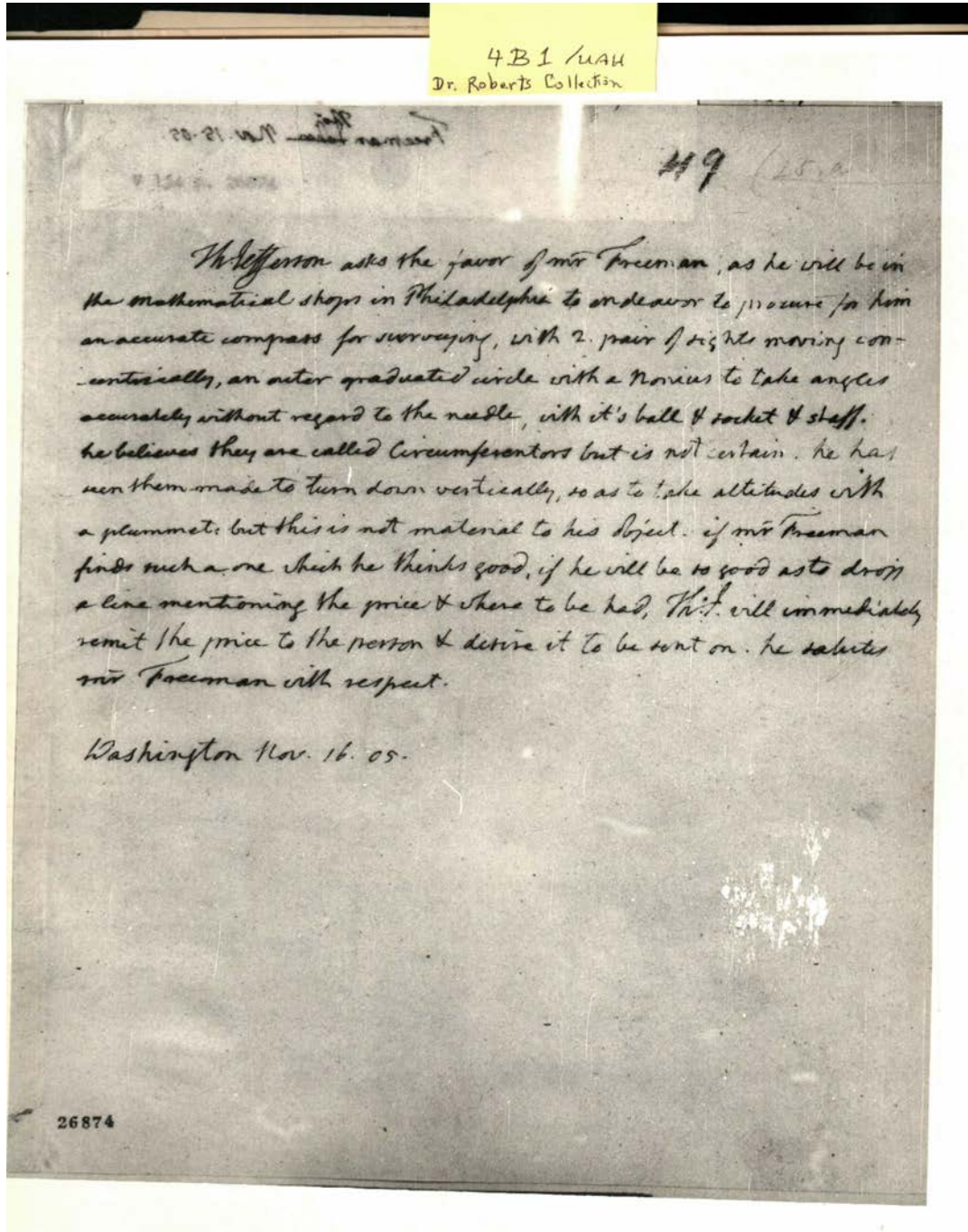
Freeman, Thomas

President, United  
States

**Types:**

invitation





**Names:**

Freeman,

Jefferson, Thomas

**Places:**

Washington,

**Types:**

correspondence

**Dates:**

Nov 06, 1805

4B1 UAH  
Dr. Roberts Collection

I have the honor to acknowledge  
the receipt of your note of the 10<sup>th</sup> inst. by Mr. Patterson,  
The Instrument you described. I have met with  
of three different qualities & prices, at 25, 50, and 80,  
Dollars. The two former are in Baltimore, and the latter  
is here. I shall take care to select the best of them and  
take it with me to Washington or have it sent  
by water.

There are several Fine pieces here  
valued at 200, to 280. Dollars. I have selected one which  
is now in the hands of the watch maker at 205/6  
and as soon as it is accurately adjusted I shall be ready  
to return to Washington from whence I can proceed  
without Delay to Natchez. I have procured a few other  
articles which I think necessary to have with me in  
addition to those already procured at Natchez for the  
Expedition.

Doctor Barton who is generally  
resorted to for information respecting Botanists &c  
says

26911

**Names:**

Barton, Dr.

Patterson,

**Types:**

correspondence



4B1 / UAH  
Dr. Roberts Collection

Freeman Thos. Phila. Nov. 25. 1805. rec'd Nov. 27.

Says he knows of no person here qualified as a Botanist  
who would go on the expedition - There are two gentlemen  
at or near Hatchers (Doctor Garrett Pendergast and  
Dr. Fred. Seiss) either of whom he recommends for  
that service. The arrival of Dr. Lattimer at Washing-  
ton from Hatchers which may be looked for in a few days will  
afford an opportunity of acquiring the necessary information  
respecting these gentlemen. I shall continue my en-  
quiry whilst here for a suitable person in that line.  
I have the honor to be,  
Sir, your Obedt Servant,  
Thos. Freeman

Phila. P. M. corner  
of Market & 5th Streets  
Nov 25<sup>th</sup> 1805

11088

**Names:**

Freeman, Thomas  
Lattimer, Dr.

Pendergast, Garrett,  
Dr.

Seiss, Fred, Dr.

**Places:**

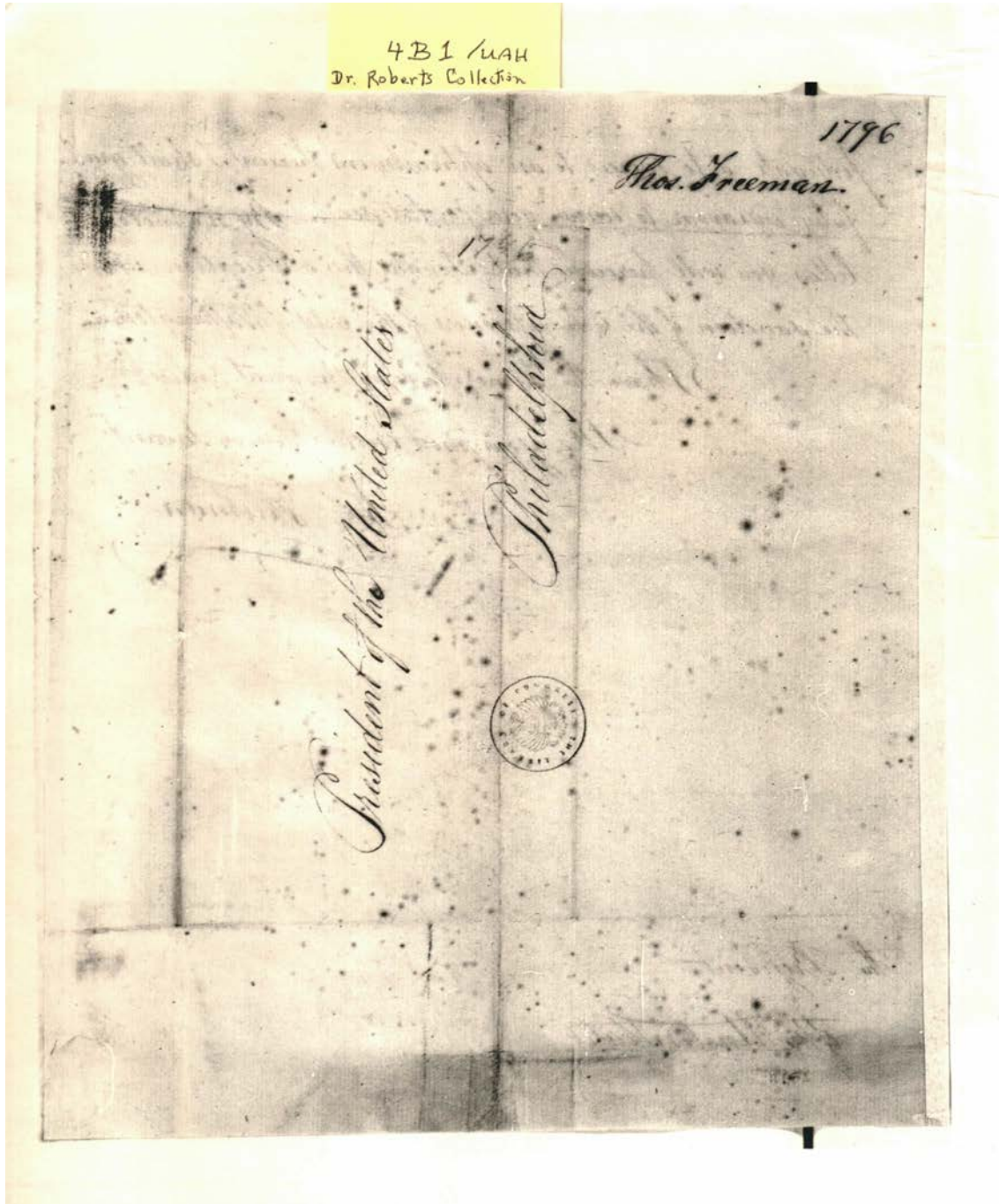
Philadelphia

**Types:**

correspondence

**Dates:**

Nov 25, 1805



**Names:**

Freeman, Thomas

President, United  
States

**Places:**

Philadelphia

**Types:**

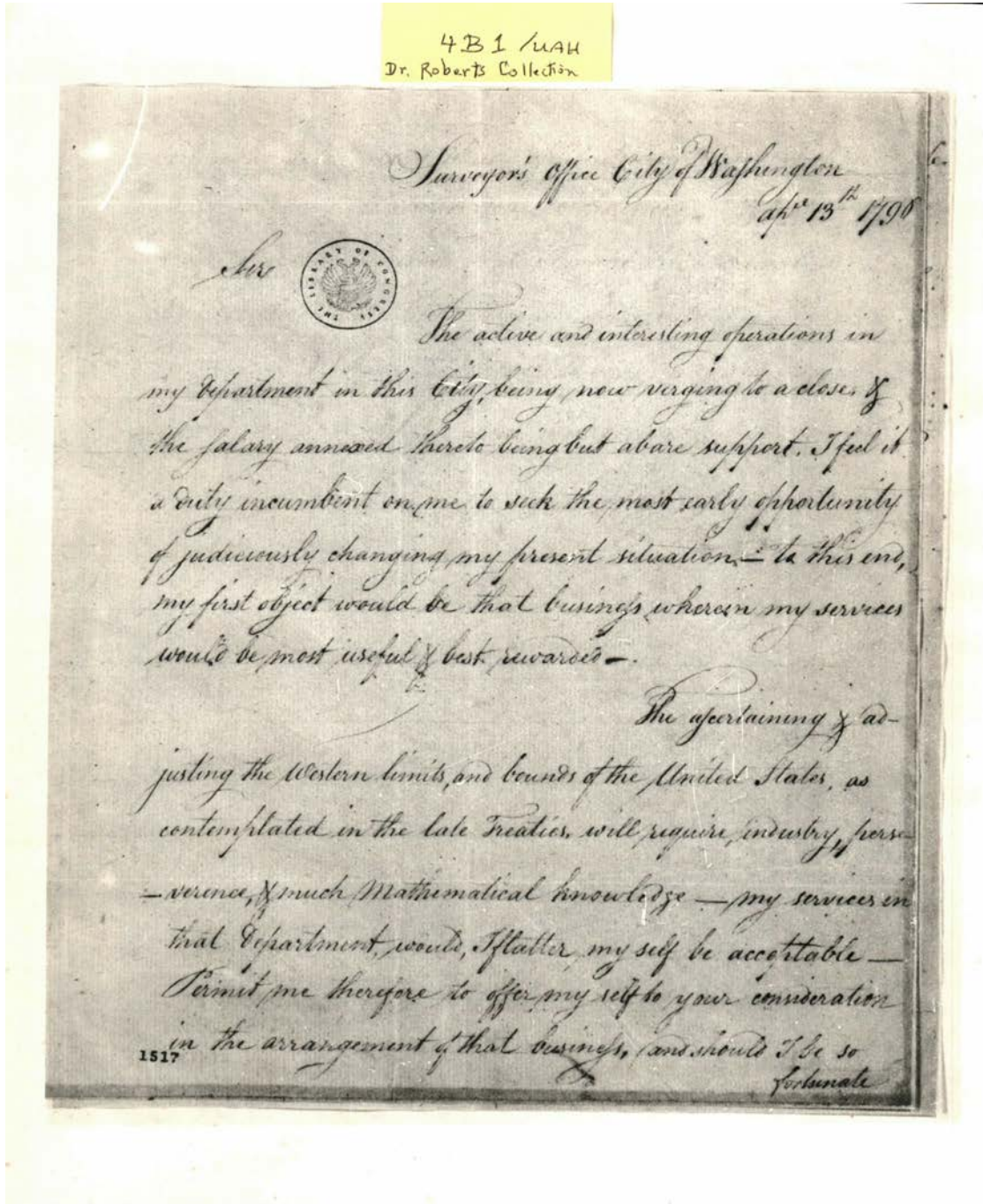
envelope

**Dates:**

1796



4B1 / UAH  
Dr. Roberts Collection



**Names:**

Surveyor's Office

**Places:**

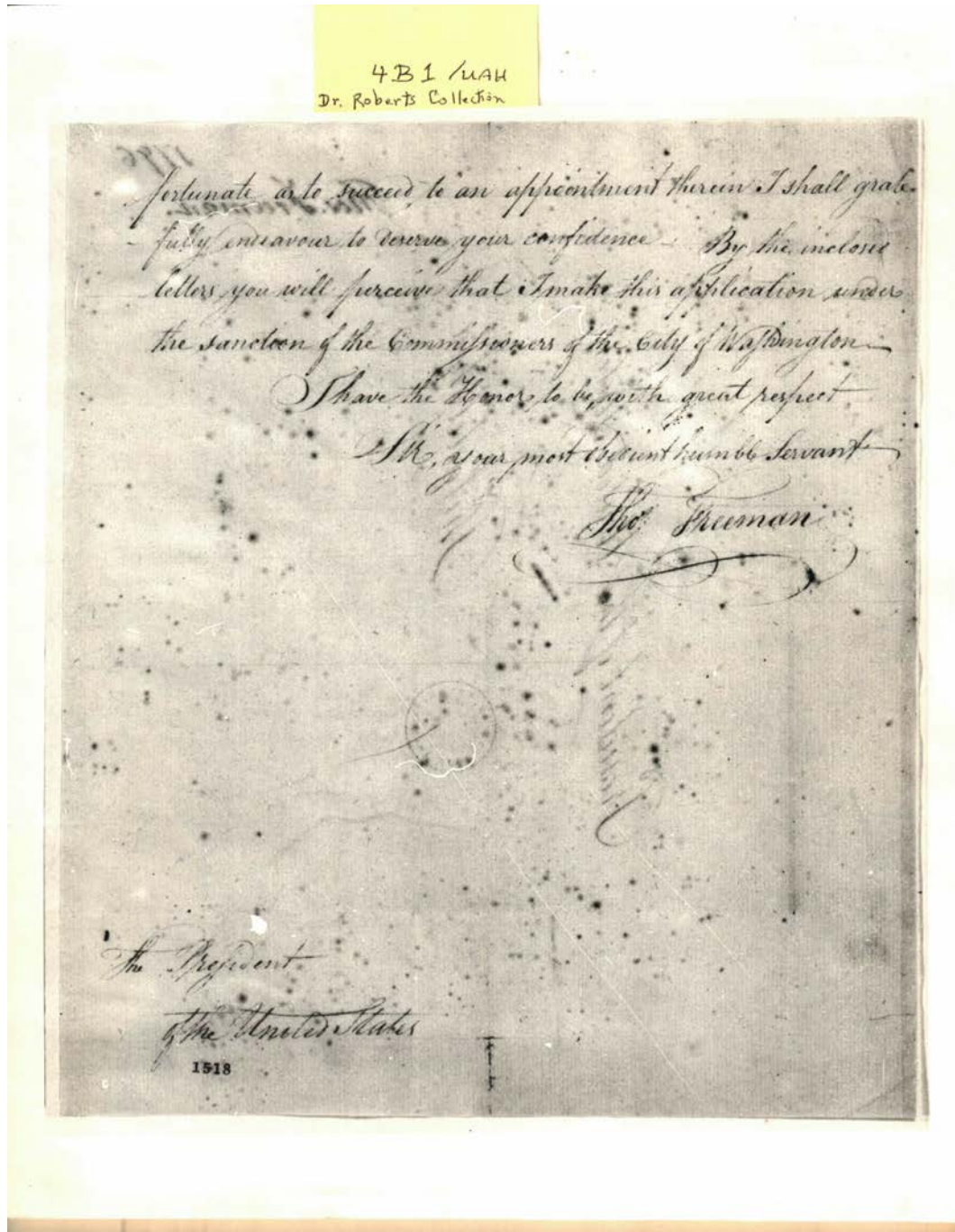
Washington

**Types:**

correspondence

**Dates:**

Sep 13, 1790



**Names:**

Freeman, Thomas

President, United  
States

**Types:**

correspondence



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# Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection

**Preferred Citation:** Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection, Archives and Special Collections, M. Louis Salmon Library, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL.

**Collection Scope and Content:** The Collection of 114 Linear ft. includes a total of 156 Archival Boxes. The Frances Cabaniss Roberts collection covers the historical records of the Cabaniss Roberts family. This collection contains extensive correspondence records of the Cabaniss Roberts family circa 1830 to 1930.

**Archives/Special Collections Access Restrictions:** None

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