

Andrew Jackson to William Rabun

Fort Gadsden, Florida, May 7, 1818.

Autograph letter signed, 2 pages.

the march toward Pensacolla, 7 miles outside of Fort Gadsden

May 7th 1818

Sir,

I have this moment, received by express the letter of Genl. Glascock, a copy of which is enclosed, detailing the base, cowardly and inhuman attack on the old women and men of the Chehaw Villages, whilst the warriors of that village was with [us] fighting the battles of our country against the common enemy, and at a time too when undoubted testimony had been obtained and was in my possession and also, in the possession of General Glascock, of their innocence of the charge of killing Leigh & the other Georgian at Cedar Creek.

That a Governor of a state should assume the rights to make war against an Indian tribe in perfect peace with and under the protection of the United States; is assuming a responsibility, that I trust you will be able to excuse to the government of the United States, to which you will have to answer, and through which I had so recently passed, promising the aged that remained at home my protection and taking the warriors with me as the campaign is as unaccountable as strange – But it is still more strange that their could exist within the U.States as cowardly monster in human shape, that could violate the sanctity of a flag when borne by any person, but more particularly when in the hands of a superannuated Indian chief worn down with age. Such base cowardice and murderous conduct as this mans action affords has not its paralel in history, and shall meet with its merited punishment.

You Sir as Governor of a State within my Military Division have no right to give a military order whilst I am in the field, and this being an open and violent infringement of the treaty with the creek Indians Capt. Wright must be prosecuted and punished for this outrageous murder, & I have ordered him to be arrested and confined in [2] irons until the pleasure of the President of the United States is known upon the subject. If he has left Hartford before my order reaches him, I call upon you as Governor of Georgia to aid in carrying into effect my orders for his arrest and confinement, which I trust will be afforded, and Capt. Wright brought to condign

punishment for this unprecedented murder – It is strange that this hero had not followed the trail of the murderers of your citizens, it would have lead to Mickasooky, where we found the bleeding scalps of your Citizens, but there might have been more danger in this; than, attacking a village containing a few superannuated women and men, and a few young women without arms or protectors – This act will to the last ages fix a stain upon the character of Georgia –

I have the honor to be with
due respect. [Comander]

Andrew Jackson

Major Genl Comdg

His Excellency.

William Rabun

Gov. State of Georgia

Notes: Published in State Papers. Military Affairs, 1:777. Printed in part in *Niles Register* Dec. 5, 1818 XV, 15: 254-55.