RATIFIED TREATY NO. 187

DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE NEGOTIATION OF THE

TREATY OF JUNE 18, 1833, WITH THE APALACHICOLA INDIANS

Florida copy

Wascipa July 6. 1833

From Col

James Gadsden

Report – ~~Seminole~~ appalachicola

treaty –

Copy

Col. Gadsden

Report, accompanying treaty

with the Appalachicola

of June 18. 1833

Copy

Casassa
July 6th 1838

Sir,

Indisposition, contracted from my late visit to the Indian Towns on the Appalachicola, has prevented my enclosing you befor this a final arrangement made with the two remaining Indian bands on said river - My letters for twelve months past have reported to you the obstinacy and indisposition of the Chiefs of Towns towns to treat for a removal on any conditions. Having at a very early period communicated to them the wishes of the Executive of the U.S. on this subject, exposed the liberality of the Government to them, and explained to them their true interests; I had conceived it most advisable to leave the Chiefs to their own reflections, under a conviction that at the proper time and when convinced that the other Indians generally intended to move; they would readily accede to the propositions I was prepared to make them - A few weeks since I received through the hands of the Acting Governor a communication, signed by the principal Chiefs of both the bands, stating their willingness to treat with me, if I would revisit their towns - I lost no time in riding to the Sub agents, nearly equidistant from both Econchatemeco and Mulatto Kings reserves, and inviting the principal Chiefs to meet me there - I found, to my disappointment however, that the Chiefs either did not rightly comprehend the communications which had been made me with the sanction of their signatures; or were unwilling to yield to the obligation I considered that document had imposed on them

I found in the course of a consultation or talk, that a strong prejudice existed on the minds of Econchatemeco Mulatto King and other Sub Chiefs, against Blunt, and a very great distrust of the Interpreter Richards - It was on this account they stated, that

they had hitherto declined meeting me by invitations to places where the Chiefs and the Interpreter was to be present - I mentioned to them that it was a matter of indifference tome as Commissioner who interpreted if the Indians were satisfied and having ascertained that they would listen to propositions provided they were communicated through Interpreters in whom they reposed confidence, I permitted them to nominate the two whose names are affixed to the Treaties; the one Pein Walker a colored man who resides in Mulatto Kings Town and has been long used by them as his Interpreter, the other a half breed, grandson of Econchatimecos and who was for a short time employed by Gov. Duval an Interpreter at Tallahassee. In the course of a long talk I discovered that the above Chiefs were as much indisposed to treat for a removal as ever, that the difficulties of effecting a negotiation with them had increased by delay - They have been exposed, ever since the question was first agitated, to so many disagreeing talks from unauthorized individuals; have been secretly influenced by so many who hoped in the negotiation to profit by the terms concluded on, and have listened to so many contradictory tales of the Creeks and Seminoles consenting to and again refusing to remove that they have become distrustful of that event, and without that event they could on no conditions be persuaded to migrate. In addition they have Individually been told that the Creeks had made treaties on more favorable terms, and were now realizing fortunes by the sale of the land the Government had given them -

To reconcile these conflicting opinions by inducing them to yield to any distinct proposition for removal was impossible, so long as there was a doubt in their minds as to the Creeks and Seminoles removing - To leave them without effecting any thing, was only exposing the Chiefs Econchatimeco & Mulatto King to the influence of those Individuals and rumors which had already so distracted their minds - I deemed it therefore after some reflection and much

consultation with the Indians that the Agreement
signed and concluded on, was upon the whole the
most advisable arrangement to be made - It
would at once quiet the minds of the Indians, and
remove them from the injurious influences to which I
have alluded; and it could not but in time fulfil
the objects of Government either by removing the Indians
to where they can be protected, or by the voluntary re-
-linquishment on their part of the protection guaranteed
to them under the stipulations of previous treaties -
I feel assured however that they will ultimately negotiate
under the last stipulation of their compact, relenquishing
their Lands and coming in as parties to the Treaty of
Paynes Landing - There can be no difficulty on this subject
-ject - for they are a component part of the Seminole Nation;
were parties to the Treaty of Camp Moultrie, and in the
additional article in that Treaty by which reservations
were made them on the Appalachicola, the Government
reserved the right of ordering them, within the Seminole
Lands whenever it thought proper to do so - The difficulties
hitherto thrown in the way of negotiation by Econchatimico
& Mulatto King, were evidently with a view of ascertaining
with certainty, that the Seminoles and Creeks really intended
to migrate, and with the belief that delay would secure
to them the most favorable terms - They now have, should
they migrate, the right of selection between selling the
Sections to be laid off for them, and paying their own
expenses, or of receiving 3000 dollars and having their expen-
-ses paid - After they have tried the land market and
consulted freely with those who are their best friends,
they will find that the latter proposition is the most favo-
-able - I cannot believe they will ultimately (should the
Seminoles remove) conclude to remain in the Country
and come under the laws of Florida; for they have too
much understanding not to foresee the evident consequen-
-ces of such subjection - They want but time and when

convinced of the removal of the Seminoles we may rest assured they will follow - In the mean while I have suggested: and the suggestion has been well received, that each of the Bands send one or two young Chiefs, with the first migrating party of Seminoles to examine for themselves the Country on which they may be permanently located, if so disposed - I had deemed it best (the present reservations having been but imperfectly located, in consequence of the high waters on the Wspalachicola at the time they were marked and from their lines intersecting the regularity of our Governmental Survey that the Lands awarded them under the new Stipulations should conform to those surveys - The quantity (3) three sections going to the sinuosities of the river, will probably be very nearly as much in quantity as is contained in the whole of the reservations - were these lands brought into market at this time they would not, at the maximum command more than 5 dollars the acre, or 960 dollars for each band, an amount somewhat within what the Government would have been compelled to allow under stipulations similar to those concluded with Blunt.

I have now closed my agency with the Indians; and as the service has been one accompanied neither with profit or pleasure; my only gratification must depend upon the approbation with which those services shall meet by the Executive of the U.S. & yourself as Minister of the Department to which those services appertain

Respectfully Your Obt
James Gadsden

The Hon.ble
Lewis Cass.
Sec.t of War