

## William Rabin to Andrew Jackson, June 1, 1818, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### GOVERNOR RABUN TO JACKSON.

Milledgeville, June 1, 1818.

*Sir*, I have lately had the honor to receive yours of the 7th ultimo, founded on a communication from Genl. Glascock, relative to an attack recently made on the Chehaw Village. Had you *Sir*, or Genl. Glascock been in possession of the facts which produced the affair, it is to be presumed at least, that you would not have indulged in a strain so indecorous and unbecoming. I had on the 21st of March last, stated the situation of our bleeding frontier to you, and requested you in respectful terms, to detach a part of your overwhelming force for our protection, or that you would furnish supplies, and I, would order more troops, to which you have never yet deigned even to reply. You state in a very haughty tone that "I as Governor of a State within your military division, have no right to give a military order whilst you are in the field." Wretched and contemptible indeed, must be our situation if this be the fact. When the liberties of the people of Georgia shall have been prostrated at the feet of a military despotism, then, and not till then, will this imperious doctrine be tamely submitted to. You may rest assured, that if the savages continue their depredations on our unprotected frontier, I shall think and act for myself in that respect. You demand that Cap. Wright be delivered in irons to your Agent Major Davis. If you *Sir*, are unacquainted with the fact, I beg leave to inform you, that Cap. Wright was not under your command, for he had been appointed an officer in the Chatham County militia which had been drafted for the special purpose of assisting Genl. Gaines in reducing Amelia Island, that object having been accomplished before our militia had taken the field, Genl. Gaines as soon as their organization was completed, assumed the right

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to order them to the frontier, without even consulting the State authority on the subject. Capt. Wright at that time being in a state of debility, failed to march, and of course was not mustered into the service of the United States. He however followed on to Hartford, where finding himself not likely to be received into the service of the united states, tendered his services to command the contemplated expedition, which were accordingly accepted. Having Violated his orders by destroying the Chehaw Village instead of Hopannee's and Phelemmee's towns, against which the expedition was directed, I had previous to receiving your demand, ordered him to be arrested, but before he was apprehended agreeable to my orders, he was taken by your Agent, and afterwards liberated by the Civil authority. I have since had him arrested and confined, and shall communicate the whole transaction to the President of the United States, together with a copy of your letter.

I have the honor to be etc.