

Andrew Jackson to William B. Lewis, October 24, 1813, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO WILLIAM B. LEWIS.

Fort Deposit¹ near John Browns, October 24, 1813

¹ Fort Deposit was at the mouth of Thompson's Creek and was the southernmost point of the Tennessee River in Alabama. It was twenty miles from Ditto's Landing and fifty miles from the Coosa at Ten Islands, or Fort Strother. Between it and the latter stream lay the Raccoon and Lookout Mountains. John Brown was a friendly Cherokee and not to be confounded with Dick Brown, another friendly Cherokee. Major Lewis was assistant deputy quartermaster and was in Nashville.

Dr Sir: I have thus far advanced, after cutting over the american alps, and experiencing every inconvenience that could possibly arise from the want of supplies, and the irregularity of the spies. I have here raised a deposit, which will be finished to day, and guarded by one hundred men, it is well situated to receive supplies from Holston, and from Madison county, and I am determind to push forward if I live upon acorns. I should have left this, to day at 6 oclock A. M, had my Fort been so far compleated as the guard left at it would have been in safety. I have got six days rations of Beef, two days of meal for part and one for the ballance with which I shall endeavour to reach the 10 Islands before I make another Halt except for the night. Inclosed you will find certificates for Rations due from Reed and Co contractors, you will also note that there are returns forwarded for the supply of the men from their place of rendezvous to Camp Blount, and some to Camp Coffee, these returns are forwarded, as a special agreement has taken place between Thos. Reed contractor, that he will pay twelve cents pr ration. for this due bills, must be

Library of Congress

taken from the contractors, and the whole returns of this kind to hand before the abstracts are closed, and due bills taken for all arrears of rations before the abstracts are signed. They men and officers from the sudden relinquishment of their undertaking, and the want of provisions from that cause experienced by the army, are determined to have their arrearages, and in mass have waited upon me for that purpose. Colo. Coffee has Just returned, after burning the black warior Towns, and eating up their corn, and some of their beef. Yours in haste