

John Coffee to Andrew Jackson, December 20, 1813, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

JOHN COFFEE TO JACKSON.

Huntsville, December 20, 1813

Genl. Jackson, Mr. Parish express from Nashville to you has just (eight o'clock in the evening) arrived, who informs me that Col Carrol will bring with him 1000. mounted men, this really is pleasant news if its realised, it seems the Tennesseans have not forgotten you. Genl. Roberts is now encamped in the Suberbs of this town with 200 Infantry. I have not seen the Genl. but this is his force as spoken to the contractors for rations, as I am informed.

I am really ashamed to say any thing about the men of my Brigade doing any thing, ever again, they have been so distracted for some time past, I dont believe they'll ever do any thing right again, and they are now lying encamped with that holy body of Infantry that deserted you, and their country in the hour and moment of danger. with their minds, and in such company I have no hopes of ever reclaiming them. I am told they are addressing you, asking discharges, and God knows what else they may be doing. Genl what can be done with them, I suppose they have laid their several cases before you, any thing that you may suggest, I will endeavour to do, and should you have expectation of an immediate battle, say in 10 or 15 days, I am told by a number of them, they will stay that long, I hope they may, but I cannot vouch for any thing they say.

This day Col Perkins and Col Burrows was to have mustered into service four companies of Madison County troops say 250 men and officers all to be mounted, but the day has

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proved so bad as [to] prevent the men coming out, they will meet tomorrow if the day is better, these troops are of a mongrel kind. One half volunteers the others drafts, this I fear will destroy the whole scheme, but they say not. Mr. Howsin has raised a company of spies, together with the aid of One of Col Allens sons. Captain Hammonds company have refused to march by your Order, except Leut. Donelson and about 15 of his men who are now under my orders. I had ordered the whole by a formal order, and they have paid no attention to it, we have no military force here. I would be glad of advice how to treat those men, and will be exceedingly obliged by receiving orders from you relative to them—will those men under Col Carrol halt before they reach you, he has never asked for forage or any thing but rations of the contractor. I fear without provisions is made beforehand that he cannot get forage, corn is extremely scarce near the river, and so it is any where in this county, and his never saying any thing on the subject I could not proceed to provide for him if you are not ready to move the instant he reaches you he had better stop on this side the river, and some distance from it untill he receives your orders, otherwise he cannot be fed. I am recovering my health, and hope in very few days to be on horseback when I will soon be with you.

I am Dr. Genl. as usual your very Huml. Servt.

Aggregate of men in this quarter—

Of my Brigade not at Fort deposit 700 men

broken companies of the same, and some new on this side the river Tennessee say 150. “

Genl. Roberts recruits now at this place 200 ”

Col Carrolls recruits 1000 “

2050 men