

COLONIAL OFFICE RECORDS (#5, Vol.80) in Public Records Office,
London, U.K. (Transcribed from Microfilm Copy in the Library of
Congress, Washington, D.C. by Jerry L. Clark, 9/10/1990)

Letter dated April 9, 1779
Ustenalla Town
Robert Dews to Alexander Cameron:

This will be handed you by the Bearer of Mr. Scott's letters which was to have been dispatched the day after they were dated. Anthony Foreman, who was to have carried them, was prevented by sickness. I then applied to an Indian who promised to sett out in four days after Mr Scott left this [place]. He came at the time appointed [&] said that he missed his Horse. It was with some difficulty that the Cowee Warrior engaged the Bearer.

Mr. Scott sett off on his expedition the 30th ult. accompanied by the Good Warrior & ten men from Quallakee [?] where the Esemakia [?] Indians live. The Raven and Categiskee with Fifteen men from Salugoe, white men Greaves, Proctor, Row, Springston, Riley, Cery [?], & Vernon of your company, John Ramsay, John Christie, & Samuel Benjamin from the Rebel towns & Charles Hughes and Joseph Vann. Since passes this [force?] to join him, Six of the Cohutta Indians & followed by John Brown, the Bear & Charles Beamer & the day following the Young Turkey & Terrapin (the Great Warrior's son) with twenty five men. James Hughes & this day twenty four of the Toquoa people & twenty one of the Cossacohatchee [?] people accompanied by Hicks, Morross & Luke sett off from Cusachetehee [?]. The Little Bird & a large party with him likewise sett off this day from the town to join the former parties & a Considerable number from the disaffected towns in expected to join the last parties.

Mr. McDonald passed this river at Cusawahtehee [?] yesterday with a number of his division, the Bloody Fellow or Nenetuya. [Parted?] from them three days since with an order for Ammunition. He took about twenty Indians and four white men is with Mr. McDonald: John Vann, Campbell, Levett, & Bench. This party was to have joined Mr. Scott at this place but a report [was?] transmitted that a number of Rebels were on their way from the Long Island in Boats to Rout the towns on [the] Tennessee [River]. However the party setting out at the Island is intended as a reinforcement of the Illinois so that Mr. McDonald have left Jud's Friend with about Seventy five men to prevent their passing & takes as many prisoners as Possible, if the Rebels should not be superior in force.

I am proud to inform you that the whole Nation seems Unanimous against the Rebels. Every Town & village in the Woods have sent & are daily sending men against them. The disaffected in the Valleys, Middle [Towns?] & Lower Towns are daily falling off from them & surely Believe that with a little encouragement at this time from you would in the course of this summer bring them entirely out of the old Towns.

The Raven & Old Tassel have been with Mr. McDonald. I have not heard the particulars of their Business but the Great Warrior has left his medal with his son the terrapin, who intends seeing you after his return from the War.

By two fellows from the Esenota [?] settlement now in the house I am informed of a large party consisting of Highawassee & Chestee people on their way to join Messrs McDonald & Scott at the Rendevous at the Standing Peach Tree so that a moderate computation [shows] those gentlemen will have 300 men exclusive of what may join them from the disaffected towns. This much Sir, I have taken the liberty of Acquainting you with, as I thought it a part of my duty being subsequent to Mr Scott's departure.

I must begg your patience a little to acquaint you that the number of Traders on this River is too great for the number of hunters, they not being sufficient to support five of us: viz. John Morris at Cusawahtehee, John Yarwook [?] at Saligoe, John Seeke [?] & James Ramsay & myself at this place. As I am the latest I hope you will grant me a permit for some other town. Of them on [the] Tennessee, I would prefer Tuskegee as many of my old customers reside in & about that town. My reason for applying to you at this time is that I may not be too late as the Fall of the year with time enough for me to move to that place should it be to you pleasure.

Your Obedient Servant,
Robert Dews

COMMENTS CONCERNING THIS DOCUMENT:

The letter writer, the trader Robert Dews, 2 years previously had fled for safety to the American settlements, and was probably = Robert Due who was the grandfather of Diana Rogers (the Cherokee wife of Samuel Houston). Alexander Cameron was called "Scotchie" by the Cherokees and had resided with the tribe since 1768; he had at least 3 mixed-blood children.

Many of the other persons mentioned in this letter can be identified with the Indian Countrymen progenitors of mixed-blood Cherokee families. Four men were probably my ancestors: Anthony Foreman, [John] Mc Donald, [Walter] Scott, and [Nathan] Hicks. Two separate individuals, John Vann and Joseph Vann were named, with the former specifically listed as a whiteman, with each man joining separate war parties. Joseph Vann may have been the brother-in-law of Charles Hughes; both are mentioned together. There was also a James Hughes mentioned.

Other white men included Greaves [Graves?], Row [Rowe?], *Springston, **Riley, Proctor, John Christie, Charles Beamer, John Brown, Campbell, Levett [Lovett?], and Bench [Benge?] whose surnames can be traced in Dr. Emmet Starr's "Old Cherokee Families." Other individuals have yet to be identified: Vernon, Cery, John Ramsay, James Ramsay, Morross, Luke, Samuel Benjamin, John Morris, John Yarwook, and John Seeke. There are a number of Cherokee chiefs and warriors listed in Dew's letter, including the Great Warrior of Chota or Occonostota, his son The Terrapin, his nephew The Raven [of Chota], and his brother Kittagusta (called Categiskee in the letter). Other warriors and chiefs were the Bloody Fellow, the Bear, the Cowee Warrior, the Young Turkey Little Bird, and Jud's [Judd's] Friend (A.K.A. Oostenaca).

* William

** RICHARD