

Jerry and Cynthia Coffee
1621 Sylvan Drive
Plano, Texas 75074

Dear Bonnie,

Enclosed is the letter dated August 3, 1835 from James Bowie to Mr. Henry Reug, Political Chief of the Department of Nacogdoches. Henry Reug, was born in Rolle, Switzerland in 1798 and immigrated to Texas 1821. On October 18, 1834, Reug was appointed Political Chief of the Department of Nacogdoches, State of Coahuila (Texas), Republic of Mexico. He continued in that capacity until January 10, 1836. James Bowie was killed in the Alamo on March 6, 1836, eight months after he wrote the letter.

In September, 1836, northern Coahuila (Texas) seceded from the Republic of Mexico and organized a independent nation known as The Republic of Texas. (A legible transcript, word for word, of the handwritten letter from Jim Bowie is attached. The statements about Holland Coffee's activities with the Indians is on page 5.)

In 1835, at the time of Bowie's proposal to take a company of 50 men to Holland Coffee's trading house to "put a check to this abuse", Coffee's trading post was at the old Pawnee village near present day Petersburg, Oklahoma. Coffee moved west to Cache Creek in the spring of 1836, which was near present day Taylor Oklahoma. Finally, in September 1837, Coffee moved his trading company to the Red River at the future location of the frontier town of Preston, twenty miles north of present day Sherman Texas. Coffee joined Silas C. Colville and moved to the Red River to be closer to army garrisons for protection from the hostile Kiowa and Comanche plains Indians. The present site of Preston was established by Coffee in 1840 and was surveyed by William H. Hunt in 1845. By 1850, Preston was a profane, boisterous frontier town and frequent destination of Indians seeking liquor. Holland Coffee was killed in a fight with a Red River trader on October 1, 1846. No charges were brought against the trader.



Pg. 1

sketches August 22 1838
 Mr Henry King
 Secy of the
 Department of
 Navasotos
 3 }

Sir I have made my tour through
 the Indian billings and make this my report. The
 Shawnees were all in a drinking frolic which
 I learned before reaching them and did not call on
 them, I then went to Big Mashes Billing where I
 found him and all his people drinking and dancing,
 I waited on them one day to get sober but they did not
 and I then proceeded to Bowls Billing which I found
 in good disposition he called his war chiefs and
 counselors together and after a counsel with them
 he agreed to go himself and all his men on the
 proposed trip campaign, and immediately dispatched
 his courier to all the Cherokees and Shawnees to
 meet at his house in four days from today in
 order to march with me it is necessary to state to
 you the information I received today which has
 caused me to change my former intended
 route and ask your cooperation and aid. I
 learned from Matthew Shaw who lives high up on
 the Trinity River and has come direct from Indian
~~country~~ ^{country} he states that the troops from Austin will
 be ten hundred and fifty, has all marched and
 last Tuesday united at the head of the Navasoto
 which it is impossible for us to associate them
 that is all that I know Mr Shaw also informs me that

Pg. 2

The Indians came from Halls Trading house
 with him to Robinsons ferry, told him on the way
 that all the waco, Iowa, Shawnee and Sawsackes and
 some of the Comanches had assembled near
 Coffees trading house above the cross timbers
 on Red River, and Coffee had advised them to
 go to the interior and kill the Mexicans and
 bring their horses and mules to him and he
 would give them a fair price for them and
 further stated that a short time since a party
 of Shawacks came to Coffees Trading house
 from a trip to the Colorado and informed
 him they had killed and robbed some amer-
 icans. Coffees answer was its all well and to
 proceed in the business, he would protect
 them and give them market for their plunder
 and also stated that Coffee had for his protection
 at his house two hundred of that class of
 Indians and twenty five white men, this
 report is corroborated by a Chickasaw who
 was in the Battle when John Williams was
 killed, he came to Bowles day before
 yesterday, on a mission from the Chickasaw
 Shawcones and Comanches, proposing a treaty
 between them and the Cherokees which was
 not accepted by them, I wish you to take
 every step in your power to put a check to
 this abuse and recommend you to raise fifty
 or more men to go in with the Shawcones and
 to coffee.

The enemy and probably fall in with the party
of Americans that has gone out from the other Colonies
The Cherokees are anxious that you should send
with them as many of the Mexicans that live
at Nacoochee as you can - for more of the
particulars I refer you to Doctor Mitchem
who will bear this.

Yours with Respect James Bowie

PG. 3

Pg. 4

Mr. Henry Rueg—) Natches August 3th 1835
Jefe Politico of the)
department of)
Nacadoches)

Sir I have made my tour through the Indian villiages and make this my Report. the Shawnees were all in a drinking frolick which I Learned before reaching them and did not call on them, I then went to Big Mushes Villiag where I found him and all his People drinking and dancing, waited on them one day to get sober but they did not and I then Proceeded to Bowls villiage which I found in good disposition he called his war chiefs and councelors togeathor and after a counsel with them he agreed to go himself and all his men on the Proposed ~~trip~~ campaign, and amediataely dispatched his couriers to all the Cherokees and Shawnees to meet at his house in four days from today in order to march with me, it is necessary to state to you the information I received today which has caused me to change my former intended rout and ask your cooperation and aid. I learned from Matthew Sims who Lives high up on the trinity River and has come direct from Robins' ~~teritory~~ ferry he states that the troops from Austins collony say two hundred and fifty has all marched and last Tusday united at the head of the Navasoto which it is impossible for us to overtake them By going that rout. Mr Sims also informs me that one of the Chickesaw Indians who Live with

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PG. 5

the Kichies came from Hollis Trading house with him to Robins.s ferry told him on the way that all the wacoes Tewackanoes and Towackes and some of the comanches had assembled near coffees trading house above the cross timbers on red River, and Coffee had advised them to go to the interior and Kill the mexicans and bring their horses and mules to him and he would give them a fair price for them and further States that a short time Since a party of Tewacknoes came to Coffees Trading house from a trip to the Colorado and informed him they had Killed and Robbed some amer icans Mr. Coffees answer was its all well and to proceed in the business, he would Protect them and give them market for their plunder and also Stated that Coffee had for his protection at his house Two hundred of that class of Indians and twenty five white men, this report is corroborated by a chickasaw w was in the Battle when John Williams was Killed. he came to Bowises day before yesterday on a mission from the Keechies Wacoe Towocones and comanches, Proposing a treaty between them and the Cherokees which was not axcepted by them, I wish you to take every step in your power to put a check to this abuse and recommend you to raise fifty or more men to join with the Cherokees and shawnees and proceed lamediatly to Coffees Neighbourhood On Red River where we Shall find

HOLLAND
COFFEE (Y)

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PG. 6

The enemy and probably fall in with the party
of Americans that has gone out from the other Colonies
The Cherokees are anxious that you Should Send
with them as many of the Mexicans that live
at Nacogdoches as you can—for more of the
particulars I refer you to Doctor Mitcherson
who will bear this

Yours with Respect
James Bowie

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