

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

Stokes August 22 1838

Mr Henry King
Superintendent of the
Department of
Naval Affairs

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TX

Sir I have made my tour through
 the Indian Villages 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 Village 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 Village 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 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
 route and ask your cooperation and aid. I
 learned from Matthew Sims who lives high up on
 the Trinity River and has come direct from Indian
~~country~~ ^{country} he states that the troops from Austin will
 say ten hundred and fifty has all marched and
 last Tuesday united at the head of the Navasoto
 which it is impossible for us to overtake them
 that is what Mr Sims also informs me the

Pg. 2

The Kickapoo came from Halls Trading house
 with him to Robinsons ferry, told him on the way
 that all the warriors ^{of} Shawanoes and Towachies and
 some of the Comanches had assembled near
 Coffees trading house above the cross timbers
 in 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 Shawanoes 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 furs
 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 Bowlers day before
 yesterday on a mission from the Chickasaws
 Towachies and Comanches, proposing a treaty
 between them and the Chickasaws 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 Chickasaws
 to Coffees

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

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P. 4

Mr. Henry Rueg—) Natches August 3th 1835
Jefe Politico of the)
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PG. 5

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HOLLAND
COFFEE (Y)

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P. 6. 6

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Yours with Respect
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