

Andrew Jackson to the Choctaw Indians (Draft)

Franklin August 26th. 1830—

Friends—Brothers

The talk of the chiefs, captains, and warriors of the Northeastern, and Southern Districts of the choctaw nation of Indians, in full council assembled, has been presented to me by your trusty friend Major John Pytchlynn. I have listened to your complaints—feel for your distress, and will immediately appoint trusty & faithful friends, to you & me, to see and confer with you. If possible the Secretary of War will go to explain fully for me, as if I was myself present—your old & tried friends Genl John Coffee & Governor William Carroll ~~and~~, in whom I have every confidence, I expect will go to you as commissioners in whom you may ~~have confidence~~ confide They will be charged to act justly with you, and see that no wrong will be practiced upon you. These commissioners will be instructed to meet in the nation in council and make a treaty with you, that the choctaws of your two Districts, who appear to have a wish, & have made a choice to cross the Mississippi, and settle down upon land which, by grant, shall be yours and your childrens forever.

I have directed my commissioners to receive and acknowledge as middle chiefs, those who have been elected, and acknowledged as such, by the warriors within their respective Districts.

Friends & brother. Hear well, and Listen. The time appointed for my commissioners to meet you is the fifteenth of September next at Dancing Rabbit Creek, near where the trace crosses said creek leading from the agency to the Consha Towns, where your father, from your talk sent him, expects you all, both medal & the other chiefs, to meet them, and that a Treaty will be made, that will make you happy, & settle you on land west of the Mississippi, which you will enjoy by positive grant forever

Brothers Listen—you must now make a voluntary choice to remove, or remain where you are under the laws of the state of Mississippi

Andrew Jackson

Historical Society of Pennsylvania.