Magnolia Drs. St Mo. Rs

Jesse H Wills

Letters of L & Sup

1832

1824 to 1837 inc

Jesse H Wills
Collector

Free

To/

S. Pleasonton Esquire

Fifth Auditor and acting

Commissioner of the Revenue

Washington City

TALLAHASSEE
APR
29
FLA

Tallahassee April 28th 1829.

Sir

I enclose a bill of the Steamboat Thomas with the manifest of her cargo at Cotton Point.

(Most fees in the statistical room.)

Thomas Jones 13.

Cotton Point 12/942

Duty Bond & Comm: Bill & Clearance

Office - Fee - Postage

Collectors office Magnolia
District of St Marks
April 28. 1829

Sir

Inclosed I hand you a map showing St Marks river and harbour. Ocilla point is marked with red ink and the site selected for the light house is no doubt within the fraction marked A. The map is made from the Field notes of the Surveyor, returned to the Surveyor Generals office this together with my letter of the 20th inst will give you a correct idea on the subject.

Very Respy

Yr. Ob. Servt

Lyle Blackburn
Collector &c

To. S. Pleasonton Esquire
Fifth Auditor & acting
Commissioner of the Revenue
Washington City

TALLAHASSEE
APR
29
FLA

Free

76

S. Plumer Esquire

Fifth Auditor & Acting

Commissioner of the Revenue

Washington City

Tallahassee. 29th April 1829.

Sir

I have the honor to inform you that I have received from the Treasurer of this Territory, two Quarterly Drafts for the amount of Florida Claims for the 1st: now the Legislature of Florida is in session, and I am instructed from many Quarters to request that the Claims may be forwarded to me as soon as practicable

I am Sir very respectfully your obt. Servt.

Charles Downing

Collectors office Magnolia
District of St Marks
April 20. 1829

Sir

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the
receipt of your letter of the 4th Inst.

The precise point or piece
of land selected for the light house contemplated to be built near
St Marks harbour is not known to me or any one of whom I have
enquired. I therefore call? in person at the Surveyr. Genl. office
and on examination of the Survey of that particular part of the Country
found that on Oaklla point (commonly call? Mimmys point) there are
two fractional Townships Vacant one of 20 & 30 acres subject to entry
the other about 44 acres unsurveyd and consequently not subject to entry
. The one subject to entry the Surveyr. Genl. has at my request directed
to be withheld from entry until a more positive instruction or elucid-
-ation may be had. The instructions received by him from the
Genl. Land office are not explicit as to the precise spot selected
and unless you have a particular designation of the site in your
office I would advise a new location and survey of the proper
quantity of acres and the boundaries established. Should
this be done I would also advise a few more acres being
added to the quantity you mention say 5 or 6 more. The
loss would be comparatively small to the government viewing
the advantage it would be to the domestic comfort of the keeper
of the light house. Oaklla point is a perfect Sand bank and
unless the lines were so run as to include a little of the
swamp

Swamp or marsh in the rear there would be no place to make a garden &c. I mention this for your consideration

I have the honour to be
Very Respy
Yr Ob Servt

Epm R. Willis
Collector &c

Hl
S. Pleasonton Esquire
Fifth Auditor and acting
Commissioner of the Revenue

TALLAHASSEE
APR
29
FLA

Free 25

4/

S. Pleasonton Esquire
Fifth Auditor & Acting
Commissioner of the Revenue
Washington City

Tallahassee Apl. 26. 1829.

Sir

I request leave to enclose herewith a draft on the Bank of the State: it is intended to defray the charges of the establishment of the Land Office at this place.

I am Sir very respectfully your obt. Servt.

Thos. Jefferson 13th

Collectors office Magnolia
District of St Marks
April 26. 1829

Sir

Since my communication to you
of the 20th Inst many and various enquiries have been
made of me respecting the light house intended to be built
near this harbour, They are made by persons wishing
to offer for the work some of whom are competant.
They desire me to ask for one of your advertisements
for proposals by which they can make offers.
I will add that all the materials
necessary for the work can be had at from one to fifteen
miles from the spot and that too by water transportation
and I am sure I need not add that if the money
could be distributed amongst our enterprising citizens
it would be a great[illegible]

Very Respectfully
Yr. Ob. Svt

John R. Mowry

Collector &

To/ S. Pleasonton Esquire
Fifth Auditor and Acting
Commissioner of the Revenue

Magnolia. July 15th 1829.

Jesse H Willis

Mr Beck Contr for Lt Ho: at St Marks
has engaged in examining Site. He suggests
alter.s in dwelling Ho: to wch a Piazza
is wanted and that Lt Ho: have a
Coat of Roman Cement. Requires the
ground to be cleared.

Answd. Augt 6th

Custom House Magnolia
District of St Marks
July 15. 1829

Sir

At Beal one of the contractors for building the Light House arrived here a few days since and has been engaged in an examination of the site depth of water Etc. He suggests some alterations which struck me as being important. The walls of the dwelling are required to be 20 Inches thick He proposes to make them only 12 to 14 Inches thick and add the materials saved in this to the height of the house. The constant dampness and humidity of the atmosphere about the harbour of St Marks makes it desireable for health that dwelings built of Brick or Stone to have as thicker walls than will support the fabrick in order that the heat of the sun may dissipate the moisture which collects though the night. It would also be very desireable for the Comfort of the Keeper and family to have a Piazza in front of the dwelling as there are no trees on the point sufficient for shade. This alteration will not exceed 100 $ and in this Country it would be equal to a wood. He also suggests that the Light House instead of being white Washed should have one coat of Roman Cement with two coats of white paint but does not speak of the precise additional cost of this

alteration. He also requires of me to have the ground on which the light house and dwelling are to be built, cleared, and a sufficient distance from each as to allow them a deposit for their materials and fixtures. Please direct me on these different points. He proposes to commence the work about 15th Sept.

I am very respectfully
Your Obt. Sent

Jesse Wells
Collector

To S. Pleasonton Esquire
Fifth Auditor &c.
Washington City

To

S. Pleasonton Esqrs

Fifth Auditor &c. &c.

Washington City

Custom House Magnolia
Distrit of St Marks
Sept 23. 1829

Sir.

I have rec.d information from the contractors for building the light house that they would commence the work on the 15th next mo. I think it will be my duty to attend constantly to the building as it progresses. to enable me to do this it will be necessary for me to have a boat and hands sufficient to descend the river and pass at all times and tides down the Bay to Ocilla point. I have written twice to the Treas.y department on the subject of boats for this office and as yet have rec.d no reply. should they continue silent I shall have no means of geting to this place and therefore wish to know whether I must hire for this service

I am very Resp.y
Your. Obt. Sv.t

Jesse A. Mowry
Collector

To
S. Pleasonton Esquire
Fifth auditor &c.
Washington City

Magnolia. Oct. 6th 1829.

Jesse H Willis

enclos. Fr Weedons Aut. for
locating site for Lt. Ho. at
St. Marks Harbor.

Answ Nov. 2

Custom House Magnolia
District of St Marks
Oct. 6. 1827

Sir

Enclosed I hand you J. Weedons contract and account for clearing the ground on Cedar point for the Light house and dwelling for the keeper. It has cost more than I expected which was owing in part to the difficulty in removing the Palmeto roots and impenatrable growth of cabbage trees, green briar Etc. The difficulty and expense in geting to the spot, and also the very great difficulty in procuring labourers at this busy season of the year. You will please remit the amt by check, certificate, or otherwise to, Frederick Hedon Esquire. Tallahassee Florida

I am very respy
Your obt. Sevt.

Jeptha Willis
Collector

To.
S. Pleasonton Esquire
Fifth Auditor &c.
Washington City

Magnolia March 15.th 1830.

Jesse H Willis

St. Marks Pt. Flo: just finished lights
put in. work not done exactly to contract

Custom House Magnolia
District of St Marks
March 15. 1830

Sir

The Light House at St Marks has just been finish^d and the Lights put in. The Work has not been done exactly according to the contract consiquently I have refusd to so certify or receive it. I have endorsd my objections on the back of the contract which they will present for payt to the Collector at Boston. The Work stands and looks well, whether it will be as durable or not is a matter of some doubt with me. The contractor say it will, I consider it my duty to give you this information that should you choose to take any steps in the matter, it may be done in time

I am Very Respy
Your ob Sert

Isa Hendricks
Collector

To.
S. Pleasonton Esquire
Fifth Auditor &c
Washington City

MAGNOLIA FLA
MAY 25

FREE

To.

Lt. Pleasonton Egan
Fifth Auditor Etc.
Washington City

Sir

Custom House Magnolia
District of St Marks
April 1. 1830

I have this day transmitted to H Harrison Esquire First Auditor of the Treasury. The account of Disbursements for the support of the Light House near St Marks. In that account I have charged my commission for superintending the erection of those buildings which I hope may not be considerd unreasonable. it being my regular Commission as Collector. I am not satisfied that yours was not the proper office for this Account to be sent. but in the absence of persative information on that subject I have placed it amongst my Accounts for the First quarter of the present year and transmitted them to the First Auditor for settlement.

I am Very Respy.
Your obt Svt
Lyn Woodbs
Collector.

To.
S Pleasonton Esqr
Fifth Auditor &c
Washington City

MAGNOLIA PO
MAY 16

FREE

To.

S. Pleasonton Esquire
Fifth auditor of the Treas.
Washington City

Clarksville Mar. 13. 1830.

Sir

Please to inform me whether the Treasury of the United States will allow interest on bonds given for duties. If so at what rate per cent per annum.

Yours &c.

Chas. Johnson 12.

Custom House Magnolia
District of St Marks
May 13th. 1830

Sir

Mr. Cosby the Keeper of St Marks Light House I think requires as he warmly solicits some additional aid, or compensation to procure it, if in your power to extend it to him. His residence is entirely isolated, surrounded by Marsh and water, the former impenetrable. He is obliged to Boat by himself the water for all his family purposes a distance of 10 miles owing to the bad construction of the cistern and in a short time will have to bring his wood in the same way near that distance. His family is large and in the way of labour, are no assistance to him. He attends faithfully to his duty which is rather a matter of pride with him

He asks to be allow? the hire of one hand, and means to procure a boat of sufficient size for his necessary purposes not exceeding in cost 150$. He also solicits an early reply.

I am. Very. Respy.
Yr. Ob. Servt.

Stephen Gillis
Collector

To. S. Pleasonton Esquire
Fifth Auditor &c.

Magnolia May 16th 1830.

Jesse H Wilkes

enclosed Recpt of Jas B.G. Fronton one of the Arbitrators in determining deduction on Contract price for St Marks &c No: 4 asks remittance.

Answd June 12.

Custom House Magnolia
Dist of St Marks
May 16. 1830.

Sir

Enclosed I hand You the account of B. G. Thornton Esq. one of the Arbitrators (chosen on the part of the U.S.) in the matter of dispute between the contractors for building St Marks Lt House and the Government. Mr Thornton is a Mechanick of the first order, universally esteem^d for his unbending integrity. The ground he took for his final decision in this matter does great credit to his ability as an arbitrator and his purity of principle. Without any intention to reflect on the other arbitrators (for both of whom I have a high opinion) I must say it was mainly owing to Mr Thornton that the true state of this matter was ascertained and therefore unhesitatingly recommend the allowance of his account. I also paid One half of the enclosed account of A. Hamlen Esqr the Umpire as agreed on between Mr Knowlton & myself. I did not pay Mr. Thornton the whole amt of his account but did advance him a part out of my private funds as he was in want and his attention to this business required some advance: For <u>him</u> I ask a remittance immediately

Cash for Mr Thornton^s a/c. $100:
Cash for half of Mr Hamlen^s a/c " 10:
$110-

I am very Respy
Yr Ob Svt
Jefferson Phillips
Collector

To S Pleasonton Esquire
Fifth Auditor Dt
Washington City

Magnolia May 17th 1830.

Jesse H Willis

Statement of Frauds by Beal & Hazen Contractors for building St Marks Dr Ho:

Copy Sent Mr Lewis.

Custom House Magnolia
District of St Marks
May 17. 1830.

Sir

The base fraud which has been attempted to be palm^d on the Goverment by Messrs Beal and Thayer two of the Contractors for building the Light House at St Marks and the manner in which they succeeded in eluding all scrutiny in the accomplishment of their object renders it proper that some explanation should be given on that subject. I therefore take the liberty of giving you some of the particulars of that transaction. From the commencement of the undertaking a disposition was manifested to lessen the expense of the work by alterations in the plan by which materials and labour might be saved to the contractors, such as building the walls thinner and adopting different plans in regard to other particulars with that view. In consiquence of this development of their views I instructed them to proceed strictly agreeably to their contract and that no deviation would be admitted or pass^d over. The first ten feet of the tower was made solid of Brick and Stone and the work faithfully done. The distance of the site from this post (17 miles) and other duties prevented my inspecting the work oftener than two or three times a week and as it went on rapidly it was not until they had raised the tower to about forty five feet that I detected something like an attempt at fraud. On my visit to inspect it at about this elevation some confusion was manifested among the workmen and on examination I found the inside of the inner and outter walls hastily pleister^d over with mortar. I used a trowel and digging down some distance found the space fill^d with sand, oyster shells and such other loose matter as could be most easily procured in haste. The approach of my Boat could be seen for a number of miles, giving them

nearly an hours time to be prepaird for my visit. The recent inves
tigation has shown that on discovering my approach they were prepaird
with flooring boards fitted to the length of the space betwen the two
walls which they were leaveing entirely hollow but which on discovering
me they immediately placed in and cover? over in the manner
above described. From the appearance at the time I had no
suspicion that any vacant space was left, but expess? my
astonishment to the two contractors present and told them the
work would not be received and advised them to tear down
so much as had been thus slighted and rebuild it according
to contract or they would no doubt be refused payment. They
asserted posatively that this kind of work extended down
but a short distance, that it was sufficiently strong. but as it
was objected to they would make the remainder solid. It
has since appeared that even after this caution they continued
the same system of fraud and deception taketing advantage
of my absence to effect their purposes. The dwelling house
was run up in two. three, or four days with two walls of 8x8
4 inches thick. fill? in with loose dirt or rotten oyester shells
. This was done at a time when it was known to them I would
from necesity be absent from the work. As an evidence of
their premeditated knavery and of the baseness of the means
by which they attempted to palliate their imposition they
asserted to Mr Winslow Lewis in presence of Mr Knowlton the
contractors arbitrator, that their motive for leaveing the work
thus imperfectly done was an apprehension that the foun-
- dation was not good and that it would be insecure to place
so much weight on it. The falsehood of this miserable subterfuge
is shown by the fact that when the site was shown them and
their opinion of its security and perfect safety required

they pronounced it in the presence of a number of respectable Gentlemen then with me to be as good a foundation as ever they had built on. By the arbitrators it is unhesitatingly declared to be perfectly good.

I have deem'd it my duty as a public officer to be thus particular in my details to you of this shameful imposition. These men have been extensively engaged in contracts of the kind in question and how far they may have practised similar frauds is perhaps not yet known. It may be proper as due to Mr Lewis to say that from the opinion I have of his character as a man of honour and integrity I cannot think him participating in knowledge or design in this base transaction

I am Very Respectfully
Your ob Sevt
Stephen Mills
Collector.

To. S Pleasonton Esquire
Fifth auditor Etc
Washington City

Magnolia May 16th 1830.

Jesse H Willis

encloses Report persons appointed
to examine Lt Ho: at St Marks

Custom House Magnolia
District of St Marks
May 16. 1830.

Sir

Your letter of the 26 apl came to hand by the last mail. On the same day Calvin Knowlton Esqr. presented a letter of introduction to me from Winslow Lewis Esqr of Boston as also a letter of authority as ~~~~ of the Arbitrator chosen on the part of the contractors for building the Light House and Dwelling at St Marks. According to your instructions I appointed Mr. Benj Thornton of Tallahassee an intelligent and highly competant mechanic as the arbitrator on the part of the United States. As the Light House was some distance and in order to a full and immediate decision Messrs Thornton & Knowlton mutually agreed that the umpire to be chosen in case of a disagreement should at once be call? in and witness their examination of the buildings. accordingly Mr Nathaniel Hamlen a Gentleman of high standing was named as that person. They proceeded with one to the Lt House and open? the walls in several places. From about 10 feet of the Base to about 15 feet of the top or Deck it was found entirely hollow. In about every 7 feet of this space there is a floor of inch plank ouer from the outter to the inner wall leaveing only a brick of Brick work to each wall. It is supposed by the arbitrators that an slight timber the Brick ties or ouy thes are built not exceeding 8 inches in thickness in the circle of the tower. They also examined the dwelling (which never had been suspected) and found it to be built of two 4 brick walls only connected at the doors and windows and the hollow fill? up with shells, sand, Etc.

I now enclose you the result of their deliberations. one copy of which is in the possession of Mr Knowlton and one copy retained in this office. It is also the opinion of the arbitrators that the Lt. House in its present condition is unsafe and insecure.

I am very Res Yr Ob Sert

To S. Pleasonton Esqr.

Jesse Wills Collr

We Ben G. Thornton arbitrator apointed on the part of the United States Calvin Knowlton arbitrator appointed on the part of Winslow Lewis, Benjamin Beal and Darius Thayer contractors for bridding the Light House at St Marks Florida and Nathaniel Hamlen chosen as Umpire by the two above named arbitrators agreable to instructions from the Fifth Auditor of the Treasy. J Pleasonton Esquire to ascertain whether the said Light House and dwelling thereto attached have been built according to contract and if not to determine the amount of deduction to be made from the contract for said buildings do Report, That having carefully examined the work and compared it to the requisitions of said contract are of opinion that there should be deducted from the Contract price Five thousand dollars

Magnolia 14 May 1830

B G Thornton

Calvin Knowlton

Nath Hamlen

Territory of Florida
Leon County ss Personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the Peace in and for the County & Territory aforesaid Benjamin G Thornton, Calvin Knowlton & Nathaniel Hamlen the above named arbitrators who stated on oath that the foregoing award was made to the best of their judgment without fear, favor, affection or partiality

Given under my hand & seal
this 14th May 1830

E A Scixas J P (Seal)

MAGNOLIA, FL[A]
SEP 11

FREE

5

S. Pleasonton Esqr
5th. Auditor &c
Washington City

Clearwater Sept 12. 1830.

Sir

I have not been able to procure a Cert
for Thos Allen of the Militia &c &c:
The Orders are strict against granting them
Otherwise & Otherwise.

Yours Respt 28.

Custom House Magnolia
District of St Marks
Sept 13. 1830

Sir

The Boat which you allow^d to the Keeper of the St Marks St. House I have not been able to procure He is much in want of it and as it may be received sooner from New York or Baltimore I beg that it may be order^d and sent by some of the vessels sailing from either of those places this fall to me at St. Marks or Magnolia. It should be of the following description to answer his purpose

" 24 ft long 5 1/3 ft beam. strong built but to draw as little water as possible to have a centre board. Copper fasten^d made to row 4 oars. Sloop Rig^d with one or two Jib^s two setts of oars well leather^d. the row locks should be composition Copper or brass with a suitable Cable and anchor "

Sam Vinson Jr
Lt. 2d Inft
Ispahoolitis
Cole

To S Pleasonton Esqr
5th Auditor
Washington

MAGNOLIA [illegible]
OCT 6

FREE

S Pleasanton Esq

5th Auditor

Washington City.

Magnolia. Oct. 4. 1830.

Sir,

I forward to your office, two letters, one for the Hon. Secretary of the Treasury, the other for the Hon. Secretary of War. The contents of these letters are unknown to me, but I have been informed that they relate to the claim of Mrs. Gaines, and I have thought it my duty to forward them without delay. I am, Sir, very respectfully your obt. servt.

Chas. Gayarré.

Custom House

Magnolia, District of St Marks, 4th Oct 1830

Sir

The Glass Tubes or chimneys for the lamps of the St Marks Light House have given out in consequence of their being too small which causes them to break when the light is raised to the required height. Being so remotely situated from the contractors whose duty it is to Keep up those supplies and believing that the reflectors would sustain serious injury by the lamp being lit without tubes, I have purchased at a very extravagant price (50 cents ea) 20 of a Superior Kind and sent them to the Keeper. This was all and the best that could be done, and as such accts are not admitted in my quarterly Return I have instructed the Contractors to forward me the amount.

I now ask wether, when occurences of this Kind take place and the public property may sustain an injury for the want of prompt attention as in this case; is it my duty to procure those supplies, and if so who are accountable to me for the expenditure

I am

Respectfully

Yr most obt Sv

Jph Marcellus

Collector

To S Pleasanton Esq

5th Auditor

MAGNOLIA Ms.
NOV 6

FREE

Yr.

S Pleasonton Esqr
5th. Auditor &c
Washington City

Treasury Office 7th. 1830.
Sir
I have the honor to be yours
Very Respectfully
Your Obdt. Servt.
Asa Kelly

Sir

Custom House Magnolia
Dist of St Marks
Nov 15. 1830.

I have directed Capt Cotteral to procure in Baltimore a Boat for the keeper of the St Marks Lt House. There would be no certainty in geting one from Pensacola in a twelve month. although so near at hand there is no intercourse by sea.

I am very Respy
Yr. Obt. Servt
Ths Simmons
Coll & Supt.

To S Pleasonton Esqr.
5th Auditor &c

MAGNOLIA FLA
DEC 7

FREE

To

S. Pleasonton Esqr
5th. Auditor &c
Washington City

Magnolia Dec. 2. 1833

Sir

I have the honor to enclose for settlement a Draft of Lieut. Hitchcock 2d Dragoons.

Custom House Magnolia
District of St Marks
2nd Debr. 1830.

Sir

The Keeper of the St. Marks Lt. House informs me that there is only remaining on hand about fifty gallons of oil, and that of a quality totally unfit for use

I am very Respy.
Yr. Obt. Servt.
Jesse Mowlis
coll & Sup. St M. Dts

To.
S. Pleasonton Esquire
U. St. Auditor &c

MAGNOLIA FLA
MAY 12

FREE

To

Hon. Pleasanton Eggnio
Fifth Auditor of
Washington City

Magnolia Fla May 10th 1854

Sir

Will you please inform me what is the amount due me for services rendered as Postmaster at this place from the 1st day of July 1853 to the 30th day of June 1854 inclusive

Respectfully
Your obt. Servt.
[illegible]

Custom House Magnolia
District of St Marks
May 10. 1831

Sir

I am appehensive that the St Marks L. House with which there has been so much difficulty will not be entirely the building which the Government desired. Some time after the rebuilding had been completed the Keeper informed me that the outside wall of the tower had crack[d] which I found on examination to extend about an eighth of an inch in width and twenty feet up the tower. I felt it my duty as the building had been received to take immediate steps to secure it from further injury and accordingly advised with Competant Mechanicks as to the best mode, which resulted in having six Iron hoops placed round the tower at a distance of five feet apart. from within seven feet of the base each hoop screw[d] up as firm as its strength would permit. They have answerd a good purpose since on (now about a month) as there has been no appearance of further injury. The immense weight of the tower causes the foundation to settle and until it has completely settled and the whole becomes dry there will be a necessity for the hoops to remain on. after which they can be removed and the Iron disposed of.

I took this step without advising with you as under other circumstances connected with any duty as superintendent I certainly should have done. This was my reason. From the dates of letters sent from this office to any of the Departments at Washington five to six weeks is required to receive answers if immediately given. The injury in St House just appearing it was thought by those with whom I advised concuring myself in the opinion that steps should be instantly

taken to check its further progres. whereas if I waited to advise and receive instructions (which in all probability would amount to what was done) the injury might increase and the remedy be less effectual

I hope it may receive your approval

I am very respy.
Yr. obt. Servt.
Jesse Benedict
Collector

N. V. Pleasonton Esqr.
5th Auditor &c

MAGNOLIA FLA
OCT 26

FREE

Jo.

S. Pleasonton Esqr
5th auditor &c
Washington City

Office Claims, Oct 26th 1841.

Sir,

The Claim of Stephen Fitzhugh:
mentioned below, for extra Services
of the Comp

Chas. A. Davis

Sir

Custom House Magnolia
Dist of St Marks
Oct 24. 1831

Mr Cosby the Keeper of St Marks Light House makes a demand for the allowance of his Salary from the date of his commission say 19th Jany 1830

In his a/c for the 1st quarter of 1830 I allow'd him his salary from the time he enter'd upon his duties say about the middle of February which I thought correct.

Please inform me whether the allowance which he claims shall be made

I am very Res
Yr. Obt. Servt
Jesse Reeves
Surpt.

To J. Pleasonton Esqr
5th Auditor W

MAGNOLIA Fla
Oct. 81

FREE

Hon.

Sr. Pleasanton Esqr.

5th Auditor &c

Washington City

Alexandria. Oct 29th 1833

Sir

Please to advise

Dept of Treasury of the Allowance of Pay

Lost on 2 yoke Assistant Quarter Masters

Mules, out of my mileage allowed by

Custom House Magnolia
Dist of St Marks
Oct 27. 1832

Sir

In a late violent gale of wind by which all the country bordering on the Bay and harbour of St. Marks was flooded, the boat used by the Keeper of the St. Marks Light House for procuring wood and water was lost.

As the Keeper is in constant and daily use of a boat and particularly at this season in procuring his winter supply of wood. I have contracted for the immediate construction of a boat suited to his purposes. the cost of which is not to exceed the sum of 200$ which I hope will meet your approbation

I am very Res
Yr. obt Svt
Jno Mills
Supt.

Lt.
S. Pleasonton Esq.
5. Arsenal

MAGNOLIA FLA
SEP. 9.

FREE

To

Sr Pleasonton Esqre
5th Auditor
Washington City

Sir

Custom House Magnolia
District of St Marks
Sept 4. 1834

Mr Cosby the Keeper of St Marks Light House having some unsettled business in the state of S. Carolina connected with the recent death of a near relative, asks for leave of absence for 3 or 4 months. during which time he promises that the light shall be as well attended as if he were present.

Respectfully
Your Ob Servt
Wm

To
S. Swartwout Esqr.

MAGNOLIA FLA
MAR 4

FREE

25

To

S. Pleasonton Esq.
5th Auditor &c
Washington City

Custom House Maryland
Dist of St Marks
4 March 1835.

Sir

I have just received a communication from the Keeper of St Marks Lt. House informing me, that in a late gale of Wind, his Boat parted from her moorings in the night and went to sea, and has been lost.

As a Boat is absolutely necessary for his purposes, and as the one he had was well adapted in every particular, I would recomend that the same builder who made the one lost, be directed to make another in every particular similar, with the addition of a suitable anchor and chain cable; which the one lost had not, but which is necessary for the safety of a boat at the Lt House.

The builder is Capt Alexander Cummings. Baltimore he has the exact dimensions of the one lost, and will execute his work faithfully.

Respectfully
Your Ob Servt
Wm A Wills Dep

To
S. Pleasonton Esq

TALLAHASSEE
NOV
10

25

Pleasonton Esqr
5. Auditor
Washington City

Custom House Magnolia
Dist of St Marks
Jan 16. 1835.

Sir

Since my return to this District I have understood that representations have or will be made to your office for Judicial to Mr Cosby Keeper of St Marks St House and that his removal from office will be ask? It is the purpose of this communication to ask that no appointment of a successor ~~will~~ be made (in the event of a removal being deemed necessary) until I have presented a name on whom I had this whole community would unite, and to whom the Government once more than office. I had no idea until to day that such an appointment would be agreeable to mine, but learn it from his own lips, that in the event of the contingency to which I refer he would accept the office, and I again repeat that his appointment would receive the hearty approbation of this whole community

Respectfully
Your Ob Servt
Sam A. Wells

S. Plumer Esqr

Sept 1 St M. Dist

BALTIMORE
MAY 20
MD.

J. Pleasonton Esqr
5th Auditor &c
Washington City

Office Illustr. Mail P.O. 1833 6.
Sir
Please the postage of a quarter of
the weight of 1/2 oz. required the enclosure
on a mail letter to Washington City &
forward per the fastest conveyance. 1833
Edwin P. Lloyd 37½

Custom House. Dist of St. Marks
20 May. 1836.

Sir

Objections having been made by a number of Ship Masters Merchants and Others, to the intended suspension of St. Marks Light, if any arrangement for the protection and safety of the Keeper and his family could be made., I have instructed him (the Keeper) to employ two men to act as guards through the night, and to continue the light if possible. The exposed situation of the light makes it necessary that some such protection should be given to the Keeper, else the light cannot be kept up. His family is large, and in the event of a sudden attack from the Indians, they could not be protected or saved. Another proposition in behalf of the Keeper has been made which I am inclined to think would be more economical in the end, but before I adopt it. I have thought it better to continue the guards at the light, with the view of first obtaining your approbation of the measure. There is a small Schooner now in the port for sale. It is proposed to purchase her for the Keeper and his family and that they remove on board and anchor in the harbour at the distance of half or a mile from the Light. To give the Keeper one small pivot gun and some small arms. He says with this last arrangement he can continue the light, but he is unwilling to expose himself and family to midnight butchery by remaining unguarded at night at the Lt House, or having a secure place of retreat for the night. If the Schooner is purchased no guard will be necessary. Her cost will be from about 650$ to 700$. and can be resold when no longer wanted for not less

than half the amt. The guards cannot be got for less than 30$ pr. mo. if that low. The continuance of this arrangement will depend entirely upon the action of the Gov't Goverment in putting a stop to the Indian outrages now commiting in Middle florida. Will you please give me an immediate reply.

Respectfully
Your Obedt Servt
W Wilkins

Washington May 31, 1836

To/
J. Plumerton Esqr
Pensacola

To
John A. Willis Esq.
Augusta



North.

Town of Apalachicola

Apalachicola River

Apalachicola Bay

Cat point

St Georges Sound

Deg 4

St Vincent Island

Cape St Blas

Flag Island. Pilots house

Outer Entrance Bar

Shoals

Extreme West Point

St Georges Island

Cape St George

West

East

Latitude of the point of Cape St George shoales . . . 29° 30'

do do do do do St Blass do . . 29 38

Length of the Island of St George is 30 miles

distance from Cape St George to the extreme west end of the Island 3 miles 357 yds

distance from the entrance over the Bar to the Cape (St George) . . 4½ miles

distance from the pitch of the Cape St George to the end of the shoal 6 miles

distance from the end of the shoal of St George Cape to the entrance over the bar 9 m

distance from the pitch of Cape St George to pitch Cape St Blass 24 miles.

about a similar



Latitude of the point of Cape St George shoales . . 29° 30'

do do do do do St Blass do . . 29 38

Length of the Island of St George is 30 miles

distance from Cape St George to the extreme west end of the Island 3 miles 35 chains

distance from the entrance over the Bar to the Cape (St George) . . 4½ miles

distance from the pitch of the Cape St George to the end of the shoal 6 miles

distance from the end of the shoal of St George Cape to the entrance over the bar 9 m

distance from the pitch of Cape St George to pitch Cape St Blass 24 miles.

about a similar distance from the points of the two shoals

distance from the pitch of Cape St Blass shoals to the entrance over the bar is about 10 miles.

Cape St. George therefore projects 8 miles further into the sea than any other promontory from the fresh Water Keys to the Balize in Louisiana

South.

BALTIMORE
SEP
10
MD.

FREE

To

S. Pleasonton Esqr.

5th. Auditor

Washington City

Sir

Baltimore 5 Sept. 1836.

Will you please furnish me at Baltimore as soon as you conveniently can, Copies of the correspondence which took place between your office and W Mitchell Collector at Pensacola on the subject of the location of the site, and the reservation of the grounds for St Marks Lt House, I think about the year 1828–29. Also copies of the order which emanated from the Treasy. or Land depart. to have the present site reserved, also the date of the reservation

These papers are important to me in preparing a course for the adjustment of my claim to preemption to that portion of the grounds in question not required for Lt House purposes.

Respectfully
Jared A. Willis

This correspondence may be furnished, but not the order from the Land office — He must apply there for it

To
S. Plaisted Esqr

Magnolia. Dec 16th 1836.

Lefse H Willis

opinion
enclosed of ship masters & merchants
of St Marks & of Keeper of Lt Ho:
respg quantity of land necessary to be
reserved for the Lt House.

Magnolia Fla. 16 Decr 1830

Sir

When I had the honour to have a personal communication with you last summer on the subject of my claim by pumption to the lands about St. Marks Lt. House, You then said that if I would procure the opinion (with regard to the quantity of land necessary for Lt House purposes) of gentlemen of respectability and competency to judge. but especially the opinion of the Keeper You would then signify your willingness to relinquish or remove the reservation from the balance. Inclosed is the opinion of several ship Masters & Merchants of St. Marks. with the Keepers name (Samuel Colby Esq) at the head of the list.

I must be pardoned for again urging your favourable consideration of this matter. My claim is one of the strongest moral claims ever presented to the government, as I am well satisfied, and I hope you will so regard it. It is based upon these simple facts. James Minnis (of whom I am regularly the assignee) settled upon the land in the spring of 1826. and continued to occupy until the first part of the year 1830 when it was taken from him and his buildings destroyed, for Lt House purposes. Had he occupied but a few days longer, and the land not reserved it would have been his by law. It was reserved for Lt House purposes and without doing injustice to me cannot ever be used for any other purpose Does the Lt House require such quantity as has been reserved. Is it their custom to buy more than a very few acres when they build on private lands. I think with all the facts before them, it will be great injustice to me, to continue the reservation on more land than is contemplated in the opinion of the respectable gentlemen who signed the enclosed, and the paper sent you about the first instant.

Respectfully Jesse H. Willis

The Collector of Customs St Marks Florida

TALLAHASSEE
APR 21
1838
FLO.

Tal

J

S. Plummer Esq
5th Auditor &c
Washington City

Tallahassee. April 23 1838.

Sir

I am under the disagreeable necessity of informing you that since the 31st. March last, the Treasurer of the State of Florida has been unable to meet the drafts of the Secretary of War for the payment of the Florida Militia; two drafts of which were presented on the 7th. instant.

Tallahassee Florida 23 April 1838

Sir

In reply to your letter of the 13th Inst I have to observe, that I have made no disbursements on account of St Marks Lt. House since the 31st March 1837. on which day I turned over the office L. to my successor.

Now that I have occasion to address you. I take the liberty to call your attention again to the amount against the St. House for the employment of two men, Mr Oglevie and ——— as guards to the Keeper and public property for a few days in the year 1836, during a threaten attack from the Indians. I said on a former occasion that this amount was one that ought to be paid by the Government, and I now repeat it. It is as just as any other account, would be for the protection and repairs of public property, which was immediately indespensable for its preservation, and necessary before a correspondence with you upon the subject could be had, which requires about one month, The Amount was made at a moment, when not a sane man in Middle Florida would have pronounced the lives of the Keeper and his family or the Lt House and dwelling safe, I acted for the best for the preservation of life and public property, and as the men who rendered this service are poor, and cannot afford the loss, the same must be paid by the Government as engaged

Respectfully
Your Ob Servt
Wm A Wills

Mr Haw will let you have Claim Stand

S. Pleasonton Esqr
Treasurer U.S.