7-16-1842

Transcript, July 16, 1842, of letter from Thomas Green Clemson to John C Calhoun

Thomas Green Clemson

Follow this and additional works at: https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/tgc

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyright law (Title 17, U.S. code). Use of these materials beyond the exceptions provided for in the Fair Use and Educational Use clauses of the U.S. Copyright Law may violate federal law.

For additional rights information, please contact Kirstin O'Keefe (kokeefe [at] clemson [dot] edu)

For additional information about the collections, please contact the Special Collections and Archives by phone at 864.656.3031 or via email at cuscl [at] clemson [dot] edu

Recommended Citation
https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/tgc/138

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Manuscript Collections at TigerPrints. It has been accepted for inclusion in Thomas Green Clemson Papers, Mss 2 by an authorized administrator of TigerPrints. For more information, please contact kokeefe@clemson.edu.
My dear Sir -

As I informed you by my last Anna, the child & Daphne arrived safe & the carriage started back on Monday morning last, but much to our surprise the carriage & Mr. Fredericks made its appearance again in the afternoon. Mrs. Calhoun was taken ill on the Thursday previous & tho much better on Sunday & according to Mr. Fred's report of the Drs. opinion entirely out of danger tho debilitated & nervous, she directed Mr. F. to come over & request Anna's return as she knew she would die. We were of course very distressed to hear of Mrs. C's illness & would not otherwise than conclude from Mr. F's account but that her indisposition, when he left, was more from agitation than any other cause. Anna considered it her duty to go I accompanied them as far as the Bason lot since when I have not heard from them. I regret Mrs. C's illness & regret the necessity of Anna's leaving on her own account as well as that of the child, for the roads are not good at any time & since you left have been rendered much worse by the heavy & tempestuous rains which have almost daily inundated the country. Saturday last we had a severe storm & every wheel on the river (?) has been carried off & the works generally very much injured, the same on Cane Creek. Lawrence was here today & told me that they had done nothing having been prevented from working to effect
on your lot by the rains. The creek has not yet subsided.

Mills returned on Tuesday to work. He continued driving on in the direction of the open cut (commenced when you were here) & proceeded to about 20 feet beyond the upper tunnel made by Lawrence, for the last 8 or ten feet there was little or no gold. The vein itself, for some distance almost entirely disappeared, caved in again looking well with the absence of gold. I discontinued operations in that direction & commenced taking out the rises parallel with the old Lawrence Tunnel, we run up on the inclination of the vein to within five or six feet of the surface got some ore but not a great deal; it was comparatively poor to that which gotten out previous. I have ordered him to take out another rise where the ore is rich how far it will continue is uncertain. Had the ore proven good in the direction of the gallery - we should have been able to have done as much with our two hands as was done previously with eight or ten - but the difference is the ore was, except for the first day inferior. The lines of richness appear to cross our gallery & run parallel with that of Lawrence as far as I can judge - from present appearances. When I shall have further taking out the rises above our gallery - I shall open the Lawrence upper tunnel & run in from the right parallel & in that way shall sweep pretty clean rich & poor which will give us at all events the best information as to the extent of gold - & I hope a rich result.
I made a deposit yesterday of four hundred and forty-five pennyweight which is the amount collected up to this time including 61 dwts - paid for toll on this lot by Mr. Jones as I wrote you. I received yesterday from the mint $281.21. cts. being the balance of the toll gold coming from Lawrence & Sissolm. This sum will more than pay all expenses incurred up to this time. I paid the amount due Mr. Harrel for money borrowed & for his share of the iron chest - amounting in all to $121 - as also nine dollars for the Balance to Mr. Rossignol. There remains now a Balance to be paid to Capt. Jarrat for Bacon & the amount due Mr. Daniel & Mills. During Mills' absence we did nothing in the Mine, but Mr. Daniel was busy in fixing the addition to the Cabin. We were light handed & had a good deal of heavy work the house now is pretty good & only lacks doors windows shutters & chimney. I have not thought of making any alteration in the undertaking with Mr. Daniel. He is honest & useful & if we build a mill will be necessary. I shall therefore defer any change until I see or hear from you. I purchased a prime hand of Genl Wyly's son, who was in difficulties for cash. He is near if not as large as Daniel and thus far appears to be a very capital hand. I gave $500 four hundred to be paid August 1st & the remainder any time between then & Christmas with the opportunity of returning him to Genl. W. only paying the interest on the sum advanced. His age is 22 - so that I have now as many as I can employ - & indeed if it were not for testing & washing at the branch more than
necessary - five negroes & two white hands I did not engage the other tunnel hand I spoke of - I put two hands to experimenting on the side of the hill due north, where (Horig) made the discovery. We have found some specimens & those rocks which do not contain visible gold yield amazingly well when beaten up - & what is surprising gave coarse heavy gold. It is not continuous to the bottom of the hill nor have I been able to find it on this side - I cannot say if the present ore will continue. But if it does it will be the next richest vein, to that already discovered, that has been found in the country. The ore is very hard & white. When the gold is visible it occurs in solid roundish pieces often continuing from one end of the specimen to the other. Mills and Mr. Daniel think the ore if it continues to yield us that which we have beaten & tried will give an average of $15. to the bushel. Mills tells me he can trace it to the other side of the branch in a North direction its course from what I know is North & South & lies nearly if not entire perpendicular. My present impression is that it is entirely a distinct vein from the one we are working & which is so rich. Now that I have gotten regularly to work it will not take a very long time for me to possess myself of pretty good idea of the extent of the gold bearing rock. As soon as I take out the rises upon which I am at work I shall open the old tunnel & descent a story lower. the extraction then will become more laborious, but as gold is precarious I should feel some
hesitation in advising preliminary operations which might in the end be useless, we must acquire more knowledge. However circumstances & future developments must decide.

I gave a loan to Mr. Norton on the deposit some time back. His brother came up with his hands but removed them a day or two after. When Mr. Jones has applied for leave to work out the ? & will send up his hands shortly (the three that were employed when you were here belonged to him) they are to be superintended by his partner formerly Engineer on the Monroe railroad.

There is little more doing in the country than when you left. Holts lot on Battle branch is giving no gold nor do I hear of any of the reputed discoveries giving gold at this time.

I wrote you word that I had purchased one fourth of the iron works in connection with Mr. Matthews, Willy & OL Dobson for something upward of $3000. The two lots upon which the works were located cost $3035. The other lots were merely timber &c. we own several of them which were purchased at a trifle they are 250 acres each.

Do send me all the papers you can lay your hands on this is so out of the way a country that without the attention of friends we have nothing.

Central bank money is so depreciated that we can do nothing with it. Ten cent pieces are so scarce that they are not to be had & I am compelled to pay out gold. I hope you will bring on with you a supply of the latter as they will be
a saving & a great convenience. I pay also high for quick silver. I got two pounds yesterday from Dr. Singleton who charges me 1.75 per lb. if it be cheaper in the North and our operations continue it perhaps would be well to bring on some with you.

Mr. Fredericks gives promising accounts of your crop - which I am pleased to hear - I hope your crop here may yield an abundant harvest - which can only be decided by time & my mode is to extract as far as I go poor & rich as they come & by thus taking all your operations are more regular & in consonance with correct practice.

I forgot to state to you that the little washing we have done in the rocker has yielded three or four penny weight to the hand -

Mr. Rossignol states to me that the rumour in Washington was that the mine had given out (by letter from Mr. Harbersham) The mine all below my level has been closed & consequently remains precisely as it did when you left.

It gives me pleasure to hear that your health is good & I hope you may be speedily released from Washington & shortly be with us.

Your affectionate son

Thos G Clemson

Hon. John C. Calhoun

July 16th 1842
Since penning the above we have been taking out some very rich ore I think the richest I have seen come from the mine & if it should hold out any distance will make a very handsome yield. It has been taken from the right of Lawrence tunnel above the gallery. One panful gave 15 pennyweight of loose gold without counting any of that contained in rock which is put aside for heating at leisure. I observe when the vein is flat loose gold is more abundant than when perpendicular & whenever the vein is surrounded by red clay the quantity increases.

My health is pretty good but for the last day or two the weather has been very hot & sultry & I feel considerably exhausted.

Yours affectionately

Thos. G. Clemson

I forgot to mention of the 445 penhyweight deposited 12 was of a parcel which I bought from other parties.

Hon. John C. Calhoun
Senate
Washington City, D. C.