

The following two documents relate to the family of Mansel Hall (Mansel Whitson Hall, Sr.) while he was living for a short time in the Alabama Territory. They were discovered by Mrs. John A. (Mary Roberts) Davis while she was engaged in research for a seminar paper on "The Transition of Alabama from Territory to State," in 1954. The first document is a letter from an army officer to the Secretary of War and the second is a petition by a group of citizens to the Governor of the Alabama Territory. Both documents are concerned with clashes between white settlers and Creek Indians on their way to their new Trans-Mississippi homes.

The first document mentions "fore persons of the family of one Mr. Hall" and the second "three of our children and one negro woman." One of the "fore persons" mentioned in the first is the "one negro woman" mentioned in the second.

The two documents above are copied exactly as they appear in the text. The Territorial papers of the United States. Compiled and edited by Clarence Edwin Carter. Vol. 18. Territory of Alabama. Washington, U. S. Government Printing Office, 1934- .pp. 419-420, 429-430.

Document 1.

JOHN M. NEEL TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR

River Black Warier Tuskaloosa County Alabama Territory  
Sept the 22<sup>d</sup> 1818

Secretary of War

Hond Sir I hasten to lay before your Department some statements relative to the late Battle fought. With a band of Indians. Consisting of 70 Warriars. and there Women and Children. From the best information. that I have recived. they aire a remnant of the Hostile Creeks. that on findsing they could no longer be protected in Flooraday. the have laterly applyed to they Checkasaw tribe for land to settle on. and on being denyed. they formed a resalution to fight there way through our settlements over the Masasipia. Where they waire told by the Checkasaws that they could git land-and in order to execute there designs they crossed the rivers Allabama & Cahabia. and on there way to the Warier they killed two white men & three Chuektaws. they then on comsing to this river at the place called Cornwels Settlement. comitted several outrages on our Citizons and murdered fore persons of the familey of one Mr Hall they then steared there course for this place: On Our giting entelagence of there approach. we took up arms in our own defence: and on the 16<sup>th</sup> instant