

## Egbert Harris to Andrew Jackson, July 27, 1822, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### EGBERT HARRIS TO JACKSON.1

1 Harris was overseer of Jackson's Alabama plantation, situated near Florence. General Coffee and James Jackson lived on plantations in the same neighborhood.

Franklin, Alabama, July 27, 1822.

*Dr Genrall.* On my return from Huntsvill I received yours dated 15th. In answer I can say to you, that I left your farm on the 16th and returned to my Business on the 26th which I had entrusted to the care of our mutial friend Mr John Caffery, and feel highly gratified in saying that during my absence he conducted the Business much to my satisfaction all thing's going on smothly, as it respects the farm. I am sorry that the Old man Mr Upchurch, as I am informed, is unable to worke. I immediately gave Mr Crafford, fore hands for the purpose of finishing the logs for the Gin House, as we requiered 8 more to have engouh. he is employed in getting them at this time, and will I hope compleate them in a shorte time. I have seaded your turnip patch, begging new seed, from my Acquaintances, as there was not half enough provided by your friend. I should be glald to seed eight or ten Acres more if seeed can be procured. I have my strong hands employed in getting logs for the crib, and gin House the Weomen grubing arou[n]d the Houses as you requested for turnips and tatos [potatoes]. I can say I beleave this is tanteomount of my Business and I beleave it is disposing of the hands as you requiered.

I shall detain the Horses which I had preaviously determined to send for purpose of getting the timbers together, so soon as I can spare them I shall starte squire up with them.

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Speaking of Capt. Kemper I can say nothing as I have not seen him in person. I called at Col. Jones's for that purpose but was informed, that he was on the Opposite side of the River. Mr Crafford I beleave has seen him but unfortunat for me, in conversation on such subjects as appears to have been entrusted to his direction I can learn but little, and as it appears to have been made a seperate apartement, I feell some delicacy. I have haed no positive Instructions about engaging the reasidue of the plank, and I know not whether it is engaged or not, Mr Crafford if I understood him, said he would engage it, if so I presume it is safe. Mr Hover, has not delivered the stuf for the wheat, at the river but I presume he will when requiered. I have been informed that Kemper, finds considerable fault of the logs stating that they should not have been Boiled. this was the positive instruction of Genrall Coffee, when he delivered your note's which Instructions I have Obsearved delligently and beleaved it the most expeditious mode of curing them, as I had but little time to season the logs and I feare they will not be perfectly seasoned. his Objections are maney and I fear from reporte, he is not desposed to do your worke. Should you discover from your friends that this is his determination I am resolved that you shall not be disappointed, provided you say to me, in proper authority that you wish your Gin up and runing say when you can be able to pay for the runing geer, provided it is done in Workemanlike manner. I hope you are aware that I will if it is left to me, make myself responsible, for it's performance, but I hope you will not throw aney responsibillity on me for that parte managed by Others. I feell no hesitation in saying when I am Authoerised to build your Gin, that I can have it compleate by the first day of October, or before. Use your pleasure I will follow your Instructions if I am able, but trust you will not involve my situation as it respects my Crop. I know if it is left to my own management I can compleate the work with ease, say that an insermountable obsticle should be removed. By my conduct to you as my first friend I expect to stand or fall. I hope you will answer this as I conceive it all important. I would not say that these things could be effected without I am positive. I presume my crop will pay for gin provided we have men that will worke. I will deliver the Oxen to your Order, and pursue the Instructions.

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My Friend as it respects my Family, I have sen my darling Babes and will with your consent Bring them down, so soon as I can. mrs Harris says she is not disposed to live with [me] as man and wife, and I am determined to use no coersive measures.

Present my Respects to Mrs Jackson, in the most feeling language.

I Remain yours, with Gratitude,

PS since the sealing of my letter the wagon has returned without corne, or so little it is no[t] worth mentioning. the Boy states there is no more there for me save too loads for meal. Please to say what is to be done. I must have some or my Oxen and Horses will perish  
yours etc.