

Charles Edward Dudley to Andrew Jackson, December 15, 1830, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO COLONEL CHARLES E. DUDLEY.

December 18, 1830.

The President with kind salutations to Colo. Dudley, of New York, acknowledges the receipt of his note of the 15th instant accompanied with the highly esteemed present from Mrs. Duddley of Hickory nutts, “from a tree in Ulster, the only one of the kind known in Newyork”, which he accepts with peculiar pleasure. To perpetuate this memento of the kind regard of Mrs. and Mr Dudley, he has sent one Dozzen of those nuts, to be planted in his garden at the Hermitage, to encircle the Tomb of his departed wife, and to have the following inscription ingraved on the marble—“ *The Dudley Hickory of Ulster Newyork* , presented by Mrs. and Mr. Duddley to the President.”¹

¹ This is probably the origin of some fine hickory trees that grew in the garden at the Hermitage until within recent years, when they were removed to satisfy a mistaken desire to “improve” the place. Some time after the hickory-nuts were received, probably in the spring of 1831, Jackson, in giving direction to his adopted son, about to visit Tennessee, wrote as follows:

“I sent by mr Danl S. Donelson some *hickory nutts*, with a request that he would hand them to the overseer with a letter directing Steel to plant them around your mothers tomb. Danl has never wrote me the scrape of a pen since he left here—enquire about it and write to me, so soon as you get home, write me whether poor Poll is living and give a charge to Hannah that she take care of her“give me a description of the colts by name, and of

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their probable value, of the negroes, and their health, the state of my farm, and stock generally, the number of Cattle, Sheep, hogs and horses—present me kindly to all my neighbours and friends, and as soon as you can return to me, bring on the Trunk of papers that I charged your cousin Andrew to bring on to me. This trunk of papers is to be carefully attended to, that it be, not lost on the way, it would be an irreparable loss to me, attend to it with care.” These instructions are undated. See Jackson MSS., vol. 115, p. 55.

The President requests his sincere thanks to be presented to Mrs. Dudley for this kind token of her respect, in whose welfare he will always take the most lively interest.