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**THE PAPERS OF  
WILLIE PERSON MANGUM**

**Edited by  
Henry Thomas Shanks**

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WPM-LC

*Stephen K. Sneed to Willie P. Mangum*OXFORD 31st Aug<sup>t</sup> 1831

Dr Sir—

Robert Potter has committed a most outrageous and disgraceful act upon Lewis Willie & Lewis Taylor of this county the particulars of which David Laws will give you; and Mr Tho<sup>s</sup> H Willie father of Lewis W[illie] has requested me to write you, for the purpose of employing you to assist the Solicitor in prosecuting Potter, which you will please to do, In haste

Your friend Sincerely

STEP K SNEED

[Addressed:]

Honl.

Willie P. Mangum

Flat River

Orange

No. C.

David Laws )

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*John Chavis to Willie P. Mangum*RALEIGH Sep<sup>r</sup>. 3<sup>d</sup>. 1831—

My dear Sir/

Is it my colour, or my insignificance or the gross ignorance, which my many letters contain, is the reason why you have never condescended to answer one of them? Or is it your distrust of my professed firm, unshaken, unabating friendship for you & your family? Or do you consider my friendship to be not worth your notice? Be it as it may, I must plainly & honestly tell you that I have ever been grieved, that you were the professed political friend of G. Jackson, because I ever believed him to be expressly

what he has proved himself to be—The letter of Gov. Branch,<sup>23</sup> has put the capstone upon the whole business of the Cabinet. It is a fair unvarnished statement of facts, clinching beyond the shadow of a doubt, the statement of Mr. Ingham & Judge Ber-eon [Berrien] & you as an honest statsman (as I believe you to be) cannot keep sides with him any longer, therefore put on again, your full coat of Federalism, & not only support the elec-tion of Clay, but go forth to Congress with a full determination to support the renewal of the United States bank, to trample un-der foot the doctrine of Nullification, to support the Tariff in its main bulwarks, & to support Internal improvements, in a word to prove that you are an American in the full sense of the word—

I have told you to put on your coat Federalism again. You know that you have been for some time past, hoping & shifting about, showing your coat, to be sometimes Federalism, some-times Democracy, sometimes Republicanism Now you know this wont do, because you know that no political stratagem whatever can shake the foundation of Federalism Then why will you be afraid & cast & shift about? If you will now repent of your sins & promise to do better I shall hope that those of the Washington school, will forgive you—But Oh this Potter<sup>24</sup> business was ever the like done before—guilty or not guilty? Please to drop us a line by Mr. Devereaux<sup>25</sup> & let us know the beginning & the effect, for the reports are as various here, as that abominable insurrec-tion in Southampton,<sup>26</sup> was in its out set. For my part I cannot believe that either of the parties are guilty—

Please to give my best respects to Mrs Mangum & tell her that I am the same old two & sixpence towards her & her children, & that she need not think it strange, that I should say, that her children will never be taught the Theory of the English Lan-guage unless I teach them, I say so still, I learnt my Theory from Lindley Murreys<sup>27</sup> spelling book which no other Teacher in this part of Country Teaches but myself & I think it preferable to the English Grammar—

<sup>23</sup>On August 22, 1831, Secretary Branch wrote Edward B. Freeman of Halifax the rea-sons for his resignation from Jackson's Cabinet. His letter was printed in the *Halifax Advo-cate* and reprinted in other papers. In this letter he reviewed the controversy over Peggy Eaton. His chief complaint was against the President's dictation on social matters. *N. C. Free Press*, September 13, 1831.

<sup>24</sup>Robert Potter's attack on Lewis Taylor and Lewis Willie.

<sup>25</sup>Thomas P. Devereux, an attorney and large planter of Raleigh, served for many years as reporter of the state Supreme Court and as the Federal district attorney. *Hamilton, Pa-pers of Ruffin*, I, 447n; II, 6n.

<sup>26</sup>The Nat Turner Insurrection.

<sup>27</sup>Lindley Murray, 1745-1826, after studying law amassed a comfortable fortune as a mer-chant. Retiring in 1783 and settling in England, he began writing spelling books and Eng-lish grammars which were so widely used that it is estimated that about 2,000,000 copies were sold. *D. A. B.*, XIII, 365-366.

I see, my son Priestly as I expected is not elected. Yes & you may tell him from me, that unless he lay aside that stubborn unyielding disposition of his & become condescending & familiar he will never set the River on fire, neither for himself or his children.

I am your Obt Lble set—

JOHN CHAVIS

[Addressed:]

Hon. Willie P. Mangum Esqr  
Orange

Mr. J. Holloway,

WPM-LC

*Nathaniel J. Palmer<sup>28</sup> to Willie P. Mangum*

MILTON N. C. Oct. 21st 1831.

Dear Sir,

You have doubtless ere this, received the two first numbers of my paper. I have commenced business here under circumstances peculiarly flattering. I have nearly 400 subscribers and my subscription list is rapidly increasing, I have much cause for gratitude towards you for your kind suggestions and advice. Rest assured they shall be remembered, and your kindness duly reciprocated, should opportunity ever occur. Enclosed in this you will receive a subscription list. Your good offices in advancing my interests in your section of country is respectfully solicited. Please write to me and inform me how you like my editorial remarks and selections. I am much in need of the advice of friends of experience and observation your opinions, whatever they may be, shall be received in the spirit of candour and friendship. No one is better acquainted with the feelings and interests of the people of this section of the State than yourself your suggestions, or your kind aid, either in the shape of Editorial articles, or communications is earnestly solicited. I should like to get the Printing of the laws of Congress, it is very desirable that some press in this section of the State should publish them. The Raleigh Star

<sup>28</sup>Nathaniel J. Palmer, a native of Orange County and a brother to John C. Palmer of Salisbury, established the *Milton Spectator* in 1831. Later he moved to Raleigh. W. W. Holden *Address on the History of Journalism in North Carolina* (Raleigh, 1881), 16; Hamilton, *Papers of Ruffin*, II, 190.