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WAR BOOK

Manuprint copies of correspondence with Henderson and others, 1896-1898, concerning Jackson, or battles in which he participated.

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L.B.

Jan.9th,1896.

Hon. Andrew Roy,

Glen Roy, Ohio:- I have this morning a letter from Mr. F. J. Kistler of Columbus, Ohio asking about a lease of coal lands on the Guyandot on the Virginias Railway. He says in his letter:-" I would like for Mr. Roy to go over route of said railway and I would accompany him.- " I have replied that our railway Co. has 30,000 acres of the first coal land reached on the west side of the Guyandot that we wish to lease and that if he will go over to Dunlow, which, as you know, he can do without change of cars, that Mr. Miller will have these lands shown to him, furnish him a map of the same and that he can then decide whether he would like to follow this matter further.

I take it that the inspiration of this letter comes from you and that you can tell me something about the standing of Mr. Kistler. All our troubles on the N. & W. have resulted for having made leases to parties who had no capital go on. I am satisfied that our mine at Fleming would have been a success if the lessee had had any capital. I know of a certainty that the mining conditions there are as good as they are on the Elkins and Davis road where, as the weekly reports show, a good paying business is done all the time.- If I had the means for doing so I would at once offer to pay, at least your expenses, for accompanying Mr. Kistler, but I can do nothing until I consult our Board of Directors, which will meet in New York on the 21st, when I will bring up this matter; in the mean time I hope you will continue to stir up parties to come into our field. We expect to commence grading on a 30 mile section of our railway by the first of next month and to have the road opened up to the 30,000 acres we have secured from the Guyandot C. L. A. in time for the shipment of coal by the lessees the last of this year if they take hold now and get their mines ready. Two parties are en route for there now.

Yours truly Lucius Holcombe

Jan. 9th,1896.

Mr. F. J. Kistler,

Columbus, Ohio:- I have yours of yesterday asking about coal lands for lease in the Guyandot River Basin on the line of the Virginias Railway, the construction of which will be begun this month and which will reach the block and splint gas and domestic coals such as are known in the markets as Kanawha coals, we confidently expect by midsummer.

We have control of 30,000 acres on the west side of Guyandot River of the first coal that will be reached which we desire to lease on a royalty of ten cents a ton and with a liberal amount of territory and a reasonable minimum output to good parties who have the means to conduct mining operations on aliberal scale and in a business-like way.

If you will go across to Dunlow on the Norfolk & Western by trains that run direct from your city, you will there find Mr. J. C. Miller who will have these lands shown to you and give you maps and such information as you may desire to enable you to decide whether you would like to make a lease there and if you are favorably inclined to so do we can doubtless negotiate with you.- Two parties from Roanoke, Va. are going over at this time for the same purpose. We would like to have Mr. Roy accompany you as he is familiar with that coal field.

I may add that provision has already been made for connecting our railway by direct line with the railway systems of Ohio.

Awaiting your further pl easure I am yours very truly

Jed. Hotchkiss

Jan.9th,1896.

Hon. Andrew Roy,

Glen Roy, Ohio:- I have this morning a letter from Mr. F. J. Kistler of Columbus, Ohio asking about a lease of coal lands on the Guyandot on the Virginias Railway. He says in his letter:- " I would like for Mr. Roy to go over route of said railway and I would accompany him.- " I have replied that our railway Co. has 30,000 acres of the first coal land reached on the west side of the Guyandot that we wish to lease and that if he will go over to Dunlow, which, as you know, he can do without change of cars that Mr. Miller will have these lands shown to him, furnish him a map of the same and that he can then decide whether he would like to follow this matter further.

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Yours truly
Jed. Hotchkiss

S.C.C.
Copy for Gen. Ducey 1/14/96

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 13th, 1896.

Mr. Jed. Hotchkiss,

Staunton, Va.:- On my return to my office this morning I found your letter of Jan. 9th, giving an idea of what you have and what you contemplate doing in regard to a railway on the Guyandot. I see it will be necessary for me to go over the territory before there can anything be definitely done. I will be very glad to do this if arrangements could be made so that Mr. Roy could accompany me on the same trip, as you say in your letter you would be very glad to have him do so as he is familiar with that coal field. I have the utmost confidence in that honorable gentleman and would be very glad if such an arrangement could be made.

Of course there will be considerable details to go into in regard to the lease even if everything else should show up satisfactorily, which I hope it will, for I do not desire to go into anything unless I know it can be pushed to a good success and that a good pushing operator cannot help but meet with success providing he finds the coal.

At the present writing I have the utmost confidence in the territory we have been writing of.- Please let me know, at your earliest convenience whether such arrangements can be made with Mr. Roy to accompany us, and if so I will make arrangements to go as soon as all parties concerned can get ready.

Yours very respectfully

(Signed) F. J. Kistler.

Jan.15th,1896.

Hon. Andrew Roy,

Glen Roy, Ohio:- I have yours of 11th and have another from Mr. Kistler of 13th. I am obliged for what you have to say and for giving my name to parties seeking leases.- Complying with your request for a map I enclose you for your own use the last one issued by the Guyandot C. L. A. The 30,000 acres are the northeastern portion of the Association's lands in the Guyandot Basin. You can tell by the squares about where the southwestern line of the 30,000 acres is. A little later we will have a separate map of this property for our own use and which we can give to the public or to those seeking leases. The map that I send you now is simply for your own use and will have to be considered at leats for the present as confidential.

Please write me in the enclosed addressed envelope the best terms on which you would make an examination of the Guyandot Basin to familiarize yourself with it and then establish an office in our railway office at Huntingtom and take charge of the leasing of our lands to parties who wish to engage in coal mining, hunt up lesses etc. In other words become our mining engineer. We have large offices in Huntington which are the head-quarters of the railway company and will also be the head-quarters of the coal company which we propose to organize.

Please state at what salary per month you would be willing to take hold of this preliminary work by the month subject to discontinuance or a further contract at the close of any month.- You will have to start out at a small compensation with the understanding that you willbe properly treated when we get further along and have made sale of some of our bonds.

If you meet me fairly in this matter I think I can arrange for a beginning with you that will in the near future lead to avery desirable position one that will have a future for your boys as well as for yourself.

Columbus,Ohio,Jan.13th,1896.

Mr. Jed. Hotchkiss,

Staunton,Va.:- On my return to my office this morning I found your letter of Jan. 9th, giving an idea of what you have and what you contemplate doing in regard to a railway on the Guyandot. I see it will be necessary for me to go over the territory before there can anything be definitely done. I will be very glad to do this if arrangements could be made so that Mr. Roy could accompany me on the same trip, as you say in your letter you would be very glad to have him do so as he is familiar with that coal field. I have the utmost confidence in that honorable gentleman and would be very glad if such an arrangement could be made.

Of course there will be considerable details to go into in regard to the lease even if everything else should show up satisfactorily, which I hope it will, for I do not desire to go into anything unless I know it can be pushed to a good success and that a good pushing operator cannot help but meet with success providing he finds the coal.

At the present writing I have the utmost confidence in the territory we have been writing of.- Please let me know, at your earliest convenience whether such arrangements can be made with Mr. Roy to accompany us, and if so I will make arrangements to go as soon as all parties concerned can get ready.

Yours very respectfully

(Signed) F. J. Kistler.

Mr. F. J. Kistler,

Staunton, Va., Jan. 15th, 1896.

Columbus, Ohio:- Your favor of 13th received. I am pleased to learn that you have such a good opinion of our Guyandot Basin coal field. Mr. J. C. Miller Supt. of the Guyandot Coal Land Association writes me that he has already had some correspondence with you about a lease in that region.

I have also a recent letter from Hon. Andrew Roy and hope soon to be able to make an arrangement with him so that he can accompany you and others to see our coal field after he has first been over it as a whole.- Our railway company has a board meeting in New York on the 21st at which time we will consider the question of making an arrangement with Mr. Roy for the purpose above named. Soon as we have done that I will write you again and if Mr. Roy consents to accompany you we will let him arrange with you the time for your visit to the Guyandot Basin.

Yours very truly,

Jed. Hotchkiss

G. B.

Hon. Andrew Roy,

Staunton, Va., Jan. 28th, 1896.

Glen Roy, Ohio:- I have your letters of 16th and 25th the latter enclosing letter from Wm. G. Miller, of Sippo, Ohio, which I return enclosed. I also have aletter from Mr. Sippo which I have not yet answered.

We held our meetings in New York last week, as I wrote you I would and while we made good progress with our railway matters we found it necessary to get a new charetr for our Coal Co. so could not organize that just then but will b e able to do so in a very short time.- I introduced the subject of employing you to the parties in intereat and they thought favorably of it, but I cannot reply to you definitely until our Co. is organized, which I hope will be in a very short time when I may have the pleasure of putting you in charge of our coal mining matters. Please inform your friends that it will not be long before you will be able to assist them, in all probability, in securing leases.

Yours very truly

Jed. Hotchkiss

Jan.28th,1896.

Mr. Thomas P. Grasty,

Galt House, Louisville, Ky.:- I note in your letter of 25th what you say about the Virginias Railway and its allied coal companies. You will recall that in a conversation when we last met I told you that I had never mentioned the arrangement that you made with Gen. Dacey in which I was a party and I think I also told you that I did not intend to mention that or say anything about it unless it was brought up by others leaving the whole matter in your hands and I still occupy the same position. I have the utmost confidence on Gen. Dacey's integrity and am satisfied that he will always do whatever he agrees to do.- When I got Mr. Smith to take hold of the Guyandot Railway matter we found everything so mixed up and chaotic that Mr. Smith was unwilling to have anything to do with it unless it was completely re-organized. That we proceeded to do getting an amended charetr from W. Va. and securing the amending of a charter in Virginia which we purchased and which would carry us through to tide water. The consolidation of these railways will be completed by the 8th of Feb. and then we will be able to let the world what we are proposing to do. In the mean time work will be begun on the western end of the line. We found Benson a drunken incubus. He has forced us twice to delays of thirty days but I think we disposed of him for good last week. He had fixed it so that he really controled everything. As it now stands the coal lease concessions are all in the hands of Gen. Dacey and he has applied for a charter under which he will organize a new coal company. When that is done I think the time will have arrived for you to see him. before that though I think you and I should have an interview.- I have not yet organized a coal land association for the upper Guyandot concerning which I told you but I propose to do that in the near future in order that I may make sale of our Northern Pts.

Yours very

Ted Stotesbury

G-A.

Jan.28th,1896.

Mr. Thomas P. Gresty,

Galt House, Louisville, Ky.:- I note in your letter of 25th what you say about the Virginia Railway and its allied coal companies. You will recall that in a conversation when we last met I told you that I had never mentioned the arrangement that you made with Gen. Dacey in which I was a party and I think I also told you that I did not intend to mention that or say anything about it unless it was brought up by others leaving the whole matter in your hands and I still occupy the same position. I have the utmost confidence on Gen. Dacey's integrity and am satisfied that he will always do whatever he agrees to do.- When I got Mr. Smith to take hold of the Guyandot Railway matter we found everything so mixed up and chaotic that Mr. Smith was unwilling to have anything to do with it unless it was completely re-organized.That we proceeded to do getting an amended charter from W. Va. and securing the amending of a charter in Virginia which we purchased and which would carry us through to tide water. The consolidation of these railways will be completed by the 8th of Feb. and then we will be able to let the world what we are proposing to do. In the mean time work will be begun on the western end of the line. We found Benson a drunken incubus. He has forced us twice to delays of thirty days but I think we disposed for good last week. He had fixed it so that he really controlled everything. As it now stands the coal lease concessions are all in the hands of Gen. Dacey and he has applied for a charter under which he will organize a new coal company. When that is done I think the time will have arrived for you to see him. Before that though I think you and I should have an interview.- I have not yet organized a coal land & association for the upper Guyandot concerning which I told you but I propose to do that in the near future in order that I may make sale of our northern

G-B.

Jan.30th,1896.

Mr. Wm. G. Miller,

Sippo, Ohio:- Yours of 20th came to hand during an absence of ten days in New York or it would have been answered sooner. We have control of a 100,000 acres of coal land in the Guyandot Basin for leasing but have not quite completed the organization of our Co. We hope to get this done in a short time and to secure the services of Mr. Roy as our mining engineer; That done we will have somebody to go with you and show you our properties and advise you about selecting a good place for making a lease. Soon as we are ready I will let you know and hope we may secure you as one of our lessees.- Mr. Roy can tell you better about our region than anyone else.

Yours truly,

Jed. Hotchkiss

G-B.

Feb. 1st. 1896

Chas. Hy. Gannett,

Washn. D.C. — Pardon me for troubling you again in re "Guyandot" vs "Guyandotte". I wis to know if you have yet had a Board meeting to settle this question. We are organizing several Companies that take this word into their names & I would like to have the name of the P.O. changed officially.

Yours very truly,

Jed. Hotchkiss

Staunto n, Va., March 4th, 1896.

Rev. R. L. Dabney, D. D.,

Austin, Texas.

My dear Doctor:- I am pleased to have an opportunity to write you and ask after your welfare. I know of your blindness and in common with your host of friends sympathize with you in your misfortune but am pleased to know as I do from your utterances in the papers from time to time that your mental bow abides in its accustomed strength and vigor. My special object in writing you at this time is to prefer a request from my friend Col. G. F. R. Henderson of the Military Staff College of Great Britain who is now engaged in writing a military life of our beloved old Commander Stonewall Jackson the type-written chapters of which he has sent me for criticism. He has done his work so far most admirably. The last chapter sent is on the Seven Days around Richmond. In sending that Feb. 6th he writes:- "Do you think you could get information as to the following point from Dr. Dabney, who I believe is still living? At the battle of Gaines' Mill, Jackson, when arrived on the field, hid his troops in the woods for the first two hours, expecting that the enemy would be driven towards him by Hill and Longstreet. This was a rational thing to do, for he was then unaware that McClellan had already changed his line of supply from York River to the James. It would be interesting to know whether he made this disposition of his troops under orders from Lee. Cooke, who appears to have been present at the battle, says that the two had an interview before Jackson's troops were put in. Dr. Dabney mentions nothing of this interview, but he may have thought it unimportant. I should, however, be very glad to know what the truth was." If you can throw any light upon this subject, the one thing in Jackson's military career which has been most criticized and let me have it for my friend I will be very much obliged.- He frequently quotes from your Standard Authority on Jackson.

Hoping that your declining years are cheerful ones and wishing very much that I might see you again, I remain, Yours faithfully,

Jed. Hotchkiss

Staunton, Va., March 4th, 1896.

Rev. R. L. Dabney, D. D.,

Austin, Texas.

My dear Doctor:- I am pleased to have an opportunity to write you and ask after your welfare. I know of your kind deeds and in common with your host of friends sympathize with you in your misfortune but am pleased to know as I do from your utterances in the paper a from time to time that your mental bow abides in its accustomed strength and vigor. My special object in writing you at this time is to prefer a request from my friend Col. G. W. R. Henderson of the Military Staff College of Great Britain who is now engaged in writing a military life of our beloved old Commander Stonewall Jackson the type-written chapters of which he has sent me for criticism. He has done his work so far most admirably. The last chapter sent is on the Seven Days around Richmond. In sending that feb. 6th he writes:- "Do you think you could get information as to the following point from Dr. Dabney, who I believe is still living? At the battle of Gaines' Mill, Jackson, when arrived on the field, hid his troops in the woods for the first two hours, expecting that the enemy would be driven towards him by Hill and Longstreet. This was a rational thing to do, for he was then unaware that McClellan had already changed his line of supply from York River to the James. It would be interesting to know whether he made this disposition of his troops under orders from Lee. Cooke, who appears to have been present at the battle, says that the two had an interview before Jackson's troops were put in. Dr. Dabney mentions nothing of this interview, but he may have thought it unimportant. I should, however, be very glad to know what the truth was." If you can throw any light upon this subject, the one thing in Jackson's military career which has been most criticized and let me have it for my friend I will be very much obliged.- He frequently quotes from your Standard Authority on Jackson.

Hoping that your declining years are cheerful ones and wishing very much that I might see you again, I remain, Yours faithfully,

Victoria, Texas, March 3rd, 1896.

Maj. Jed. Hotchkiss,

My dear Sir:- In compliance with your request, I write down the facts which are needed to complete my narrative of the battle of Gaines Mill in the 14th chapter of my life of Jackson. I will endeavor not to repeat what is there printed.

These notes should be read with my printed narrative in hand. You will do best to send this letter to Col. Henderson, and I write it with a view to such destination. Since the death of Gen. R. E. Lee I am the only man living who knows how the battle of Gaines Mill was fought and won.

The vital facts I am about to narrate have no place in the official reports of Lee or Jackson. The latter died in ignorance of them. I narrated them to Gen. Lee in Lexington, after his retirement. He said they were entirely new to him.

The morning of June 27th I rejoined Gen. Jackson, having slept in a different farm house, in the road near Walnut Grove Church. (See printed narrative). Seated on a cedar stump was an officer in grey general's uniform a very personable looking man; and my Gen. Jackson was standing before him dismounted with his cap off and his horse's bridle hanging on his arm. The two were conversing in low tones, the man on the stump doing the most of the talking.

Of course I attempted no eavesdropping. Just then a mounted officer came up to me, who proved to be Prof. Chas. S. Venable, formerly of Hampden Sydney College and an old friend. He told me he had recently received a place on Gen. Lee's Staff as personal aid. He said the man on the stump was the Commander in chief. He narrated to me the wretched fiasco of the evening before at Beaver Dam Creek. He said the infantry now filing past were A. P. Hill's division, their repulse.

An officer rode past us quite distinguished by the nattiness of all his