

Copied

Bay St. Louis, Mississippi
Dec. 26th 1858.

My dear Sir,

I perceive from the papers that
Col. Pitchlym is in Washington.

I am now completing my
life & times of Gen. Sam. Dale,
who passed so many years of
his life among the Indian
nations, and whose adventures
& experiences I took down from
his own lips. He had a high
appreciation of the Indian cha-
racter & traced their faults
& errors chiefly to the plots
& intrigues of the whites.

I grew up with a strong heredi-
tary feeling for the Indians.
My mother, who was born at
Natchez, spoke their language
well; and I learned, in my

boyhood, that Pushmataha
was the friend & Co. adjutor
of my father in the wars.

When entrusted with the
adjudication of the Choctaw
Claims you know I proved
myself their friend. During
that period, & in the exten-
sion of my duties, I collected
many interesting facts.

Col. Pitcher could under-
stand me much assistance.

I know his ability to do so,
and he may be assured his
people will never find a more
partial or friendly historian.

I knew nearly all his family
& am perfectly familiar with
the reputation of his father
& uncles. They were patriots
in every sense of the word
& their memories should be

Dear to the people of
Mississippi. In my father's
papers, & in the correspondence
of Gov. Blairborne
I find them spoken of in
terms of great respect &
confidence.

Let me therefore to see
Col. Pitcher, & appeal to
his national pride, & to
the ancient friendship of our
families, & beg him, for me,
to write down his recollections
under brief headings, to wit:
The traditions of the tribe as to its

Oregon

Ancient form of Government

Clans.

Religion

Laws of marriage & Inheritance

Widowes & Orphanes

Funeral Ceremonies

Language 9-9.

Notes of Bartholomew - who
the Publisher - & other prominent
men.

A man of his talents &
accomplishments, thoroughly versed
in the history of the nation,
can prepare this memoir
in a few days, & my book
shall contain an emphatic
acknowledgment of his
aid.

In haste
My dear Sir,
Yr friend

J. W. Claiborne

Nov 7. 1812. R. R.