

Copied

[1845]

To the Hon Senate & Representatives of
the General Council.

Friends & Brothers.

I beg leave to inform you that when
returning home from Washington City in
1842, under instructions from the Secretary
War to take home the Choctaw boys in
Kentucky at Colo Johnsons School I stopped
at Cincinnati, and there saw several Steam
Boats belonging to the Arkansas Trade. I inquired
of the Captains who had command of them when
they would be at Louisville and at what
time they would leave that place for Ft Smith.

After merely making this inquiry I proceeded
to Johnsons School, got the boys, and came
to Louisville and there got on a Boat
belonging to Jo Van of the Cherokees and came
to Little Rock and to my great surprise was
there sued for a breach of Contract with a
Captain of a Steam Boat who I had seen at
Cincinnati, and with whom I had made no Contract
whatever for a passage of the boys on his
Boat. The Court at Little Rock gave judgment
against me for five hundred dollars,
notwithstanding a man (Merchant at
Van Buren) by the name of Turner Moore
in Court that there was no contract
whatever made between me &
the Captain of the Boat. I ask your
honorable bodies to agree to pay this unjust
claim against me in the way which
the Com. Missioner of Indian Affairs at
Washington has recommended in his
letter to Majr Wm Armstrong, which
accompanies this humble petition. It will
at once appear to your minds that I ought
not to pay it, therefore I will leave the

matter to your wife & liberal friends.

I am very Respectfully

Yr Obedt Servt.

P. W. Ritchie