

Copy

January 18 / 56

Dear Bro.

I am still confined to my room, and can not use my hand any at all. I have had the doctor from the foot to see me and he pronounced it the Rheumatism. I think I am on the mend, now, and in hope that I shall be able to be about a little this winter. Mr Love, the man that John shot, left here, and was pronounced to be out of all danger from the wound, and lived one week after he went home, as soon as he was dead or before he was dead, I am told. The County Judge, David McLish, issued a writ to have John taken and carried to his house, and I am told if the Light horse men, had got him and taken him there, he would have been shot down like a dog by some of Love's relations. A high handed game

It was with much difficulty, for me to get John to get out of the way of the 4 Light horse men, all well armed. John had a good double barreled gun and a five shuter, they came to my house

and saw him when he went out
of the guard on the back way, he
raised a hoop, they made chase after
him on their horses, and not
succeed in overtaking him, he is
now on Mountain fork or Red River
the entire is not to give him any trials
they say themselves that he will be cleared
being a Choptaw, is the whole cause
of their prejudice; If he is killed or
injured in any way by any of the
party, I will wage eternal war
I can raise a strong force, and will
do so, if they will not come to peace
terms, I told the Light horse men
that it was best to let John a come
and as soon as every thing was ready
for a fair trial, he would give him
self up, and if they fastened him now
that some of them would get shot,
Sam Folsom, will tell you all when
you see him!

now, in regard to the amnesty
in the treaty, I am told that Judge
Ringold at Bonaville, has decided
that it applied only to the Choptaws
and Chickasaws, and not to the
United States, and Indians, and
it is the opinion of several Lawyers

I want this point to be more
plain except it can be done
if not, I shall leave this nation
and go where, I can spend the
few days, I may live, in peace and
tranquility, for I shall never have
any peace as long as I am worth
one dollar, and change the treaty
to read thus, ^{to take effect} from the Ratification
and not from the present date of it
for there are several cases it would
cover, and save much trouble
and expense,
All are well,

Your Servant

Jas. W. Pickens

Your letter of the first inst. has come
to hand, since I wrote this, Parker was
up here at the payment, and I am
told he behaved himself like a man
I saw Judge S. James, he was at
Vanhook, when ~~he~~ was here, and
they could not find out any thing
from ~~he~~ he did as he wrote me, the
Grand Jury did not find any bills
against me, we have had the
coldest weather, and the longest
spell, I have ever seen, in this
country, every thing is frozen over
and still cold

J.P. Rutledge