THE PAPERS OF
WILLIE PERSON MANGUM

Edited by
Henry Thomas Shanks

Volume One
1807 - 1832

Raleigh
State Department of Archives and History
1950
description was sufficient & Mr. Rogers agreed it was. I suppose
the memorandum I have left will be sufficient. As it will be very
inconvenient for me to call again, I would thank you to draw the
deed & enclose it in a letter & send it by some safe hand to put
in the hands of Judge Cameron who can send it safely to me by
his man James who passes by Mr. Greens to see his wife. Any
other communications, either from Roberts, or any business with
my friends will be thankfully rec'd.—

My buildings are going on & I expect to move in the course of
a few weeks & am yours &C

JOHN CHAVIS

[Addressed:]
Hon. Willie P. Mangum Esqr
Orange

WPM-LC

John Chavis to Willie P. Mangum

Decr. 18th. 1827—

My dear Sir/

Your present & future prospects, to provide for your growing
family, is a part of my daily meditations. I am much concerned
therefore at the thought you have of moving to Hillsborough. I
do conceive it will be the most fatal step to your prosperity that
you have ever taken—

You know, that I have ever opposed every stage of your politi-
cal life, preferring your continuance at the bar untill you had
acquired a competent fortune. And you are now certainly con-
vinced beyond the shaddow of a doubt, that had you followed my
advice, you would been worth dollars, dollars, where you are not
worth a Mill. And in the face of all your destructive steps—you
are about to give the fatal blow, by moving to Hillsborough after
being at the great expense of preparing to live, How can you pos-
sibly conceive, that you can better provide for your family, from
a baron lot of ground, than you can from a well prepared &
ample farm? Pray stop and draw the contrast between the pros-
spects Examine and see which of the two is the most likely to
afford you sustenance, your farm with all necessaries provided,
stock of all kinds, farming utensils & wood in abundance or to
go to Hillsborough & leave a Farm & good houses and all other
necessaries, to go to dedestruction, & to add to it the purchase
of every thing to support your family fire wood & all the neces-
sities of life and many other inconveniences that might be men-
tioned. Good heavens, you are called a wise man, and so you
are, but wicked that be wisdom, answer me?—

I understand that your friends in Hillsborough are advising
you to this step, but will they when you get into difficulties help
you out? say no, well behave yourself & stay where you are. I
don't blame your friends for wishing your company & your
society, but will that fill the belly in plain English? say no, well
think for yourself then?

I understand that my son Priestly says that either you or
himself must go to Hillsborough, that his house & lot must be
taken care of. A pretty story indeed! Pray if he wants his house
& lot taken care of why don't he do it himself? The plain reason is
this, that although he was once opposed to living in Wake yet he has
found in his wisdom that a Farm in Wake is far preferable to
a Lot in Hillsborough with the addition of the business of States
Attorney. I hope you will while you are napping, become as wise as
him, & stay on your Farm too, as being the most advantageous
way of supporting your family & let him dispose his Lot, as I
have before advised him, & put the money either to the purchase
of Syms's Mill or to the use of his farm—To conclude my opin-
ion is, that Town property is as trifling property as a man can
have. For it keeps whoever has it & lives on it, stretched like
a bow string, so behave yourself & stay where you are, is the
advice of one of the sincerest friends you have on the Nation &
you have your choice either to believe it or let it alone but his
name is John Chavis.

P. S. I would thank you to attend my next examination in Wake
it will be at Revises cross roads where you were once on the last
Thursday in July. I shall tell the people that you will be there.
I know it will be pleasing & give dignity to my prospects.

[Addressed:]

Hon. Willie P. Mangum Esqr
Orange