

British National Archives – Sept 29, 2011
CO 137/104/183-184b

1799 May 28th – G.P. Ricketts, Governor of Barbadoes recommends General Bowles the Indian Chief to The Earl of Balcarres, Governor of Jamaica.

Transcription follows:

Very Private

Barbadoes 28th May 1799

My Lord

Having received Private Letters from Government to receive General Bowles, the Chief of the Creek and other United Nations of Indians in North America, to get him conveyed by a safe opportunity to his Country; He has been in the House with me about seven weeks, and hoped some good Vessel might be going to Providence from whence there would be no difficulty in his passing over to Florida, but as nothing but Schooners unarmed have gone, or are likely to go that way, the General has accepted a polite offer of a Passage in the Arab, Captain Capel, who is proceeding to your Government with a Fleet of Merchantmen that he has convoyed from Cork.

On the General's arrival at Jamaica, allow me to request for him your protection, and Endeavor to obtain for him an early and proper conveyance to a Home form which he has been most shamefully kept near six years by the Spaniards, and is on every Public and private account, most anxious to return to.

Exclusive of a private friendship that I feel to General Bowles, founded on a conviction of his worth and abilities, I am desirous, on Public grounds, to see a Chief restored to his Country, who in our present contest with the Spaniards, and in case of a rupture with the United States of America, may at the head of many thousand men well disciplined, which be can bring into the Field, be of infinite use to Great Britain and supply these Islands with Lumber and Provisions.

I have let the General have some money, and do not doubt but the Lords of the Treasury will honor your bills for any reasonable additional supply that he may want at Jamaica.

With incessant wishes for your health and happiness, I remain

My Lord
Your Lordship's
Truly faithful &
Obliged
(signed)
G.P. Ricketts