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**THE PAPERS OF  
WILLIE PERSON MANGUM**

**Edited by  
Henry Thomas Shanks**

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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<sup>d</sup>.—

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

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WPM-LC

*John Chavis to Willie P. Mangum*

Dec<sup>r</sup>. 18<sup>th</sup>. 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 political life, preferring your continuance at the bar untill you had acquired a competent fortune. And you are now certainly convinced beyond the shadow 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 possibly 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 prospects 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 necessities of life and many other inconveniences that might be mentioned. Good heavens, you are called a wise man, and so you are, but wd. 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 dont 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 dont he do it himself? The plain reason is this, that altho 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 a naping, 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 opinion 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