**Samuel May Williams Collection, Manuscripts 23-0432 and 23-0433**

**Transcription (Spanish) and Translation (English)**

**by Chris Kneupper, 23-Mar-2020**

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* *italics added by transcribers*

**Letter from George Fisher to Asa Mitchell, 22-Sep-1830, from San Felipe**

*Letterhead:* Comand. Gral. e Insp.de los

Estados Internas de Oriente (*only in Manuscript 23-0433*)

Letra B. = N. 6. Aduana Maritima de Galvezton = Sor. = Se me ha informado, que la Goleta Am.a (*Americana*) True Blue ha arribado á la Barra de los Brazos y que fué perdida en la Playa. Al mismo tiempo por que tiene abordo 400 sacos de tabasco (tabaco) consignados por Santiago W. Breedlove de Nueva Orleans á Juan Austin en el Brazoria, suplico á V. el que me informe circunstanciadamente sobre este asunto, con otros noticias que pueda V. disponer adquirir con respecto á su cargamento y otros circunstancias relativas para declaran los hechos que circular. Es absolutamente indispensable para veneficio (*beneficio*) a país el evitar el comercio ilícito tan grande, é inferior la Hacienda Publica, especialmente cuando los oficiales de este Gobierno están encargados de la ejecución de las leyes del país de que son responsables y que los criminale sean presentados á la justicia. V. averiguara el asunto citado y me dará noticia lo mas pronto, para yo pueda mandar lo mismo por el próximo correo al Supremo Gobierno. San Felipe de Austin 22. de Setiembre de 1830 = Firmado Jorge Fisher. = Una verdadera copia del original existe en el archivo de esta aduana = Jorge Fisher. = Asa Mitchell oficial Comisionado de esta Aduana y Practico de la Barra = Embiado (*Enviado*) por Mr. Eli Mitchell en 23. de Setiembre de 1830. Traducido literalmente de su original. = Alejandro Yhary. = Es copia Matamoros 1.0 de Noviembre de 1830 = Guerra

*In Manuscript 23-0432 only:*

Es copia Bejar 24 de Noviembre de 1830.

Seguin

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Letter B. = N. 6. Galveston Maritime Customs = Sir = I have been informed that the American schooner **True Blue** has arrived at the Brazos Bar and was lost on the beach. At the same time that you have on board 400 sacks of tobacco consigned by Santiago W. Breedlove from New Orleans to Juan Austin in Brazoria, I beg you to inform me circumstantially on this matter, with other news that you may arrange to acquire, with respect to their cargo and other relative circumstances to declare the facts to be circulated. It is absolutely essential for the benefit of the country to avoid such a large illegal trade, and the Public Treasury is inferior, especially when the officials of this Government are in charge of executing the laws of the country for which they are responsible and that the criminals are brought to justice. You will find out the aforementioned matter and will notify me as soon as possible, so that I can send the same by the next email to the Supreme Government. San Felipe de Austin September 22, 1830 = Signed Jorge Fisher. = A true copy of the original exists in this customs file = Jorge Fisher. = Asa Mitchell official Commissioner of this Customs and Pilot of the (*Brazos*) Bar = Sent by Mr. Eli Mitchell on September 23, 1830. Literally translated from its original. = Alejandro Yhary.

It is a copy, at Matamoros, on November 1, 1830

Guerra

*In Manuscript 23-0432 only:*

It is a copy, at Béxar, on November 24, 1830.

                                    Seguin

***Note:*** *Two versions of this letter are found in the Samuel May Williams Papers, as Manuscripts 23-0432 and 23-0433. Both versions were used to make this transcription. The former appears to be a copy (made by Seguin at Béxar on 24-Nov-1830) of the latter (itself a copy made by Guerra at Matamoros on 1-Nov-1830) of a translation of the (English) message sent by George Fisher to Asa Mitchell on 22-Sep-1830, and then somehow both copies made their way back into the hands of Samuel May Williams. But, it seems that Fisher was nosing around, investigating whether the Alcalde of Brazoria (John Austin) was illegally importing tobacco, while Fisher was serving as the secretary of the San Felipe ayuntamiento. It may be no coincidence that he was fired from that position at the ayuntamiento meeting on 5-Oct-1830, and a letter such as this (from Fisher to Asa Mitchell) was discussed at the ayuntamiento meeting on 2-Nov-1830.*

***Note:*** *Manuscript 23-1529 appears to be a “cover letter” for documents involving George Fisher and his seizure of the schooner* ***Cañon*** *on 1-Jun-1830 at the mouth of the Brazos River for importing contraband tobacco, that were copied by Erasmo Seguin on 24-Nov-1830 and then sent o Samuel May Williams. There was some kind of investigation and document-gathering that was occasioned by a Terán letter of 11-Nov-1830, followed by a flurry of document copying. Apparently, Erasmo Seguin felt the need to copy some in his possession, and forward them to Samuel May Williams at San Felipe de Austin. So far, four of Seguin’s copies have been identified, copied the day before this “cover letter” document. These include Manuscripts 23-0398 (George McKinstry to Fisher, 2-Aug-1830), 23-0407 (Fisher to Samuel May Williams, 7-Aug-1830),* ***23-0432 (Fisher to Asa Mitchell, 22-Sep-1830) ABOVE****, and 23-0443 (Asa Mitchell’s reply, 24-Sep-1830). And, this explains the presence of all of these documents in the Samuel May Williams Collection.*

***Note:*** *If readers have suggestions for improvement of the transcription or translation, please feel free to contact the first-listed transcriber above.*