



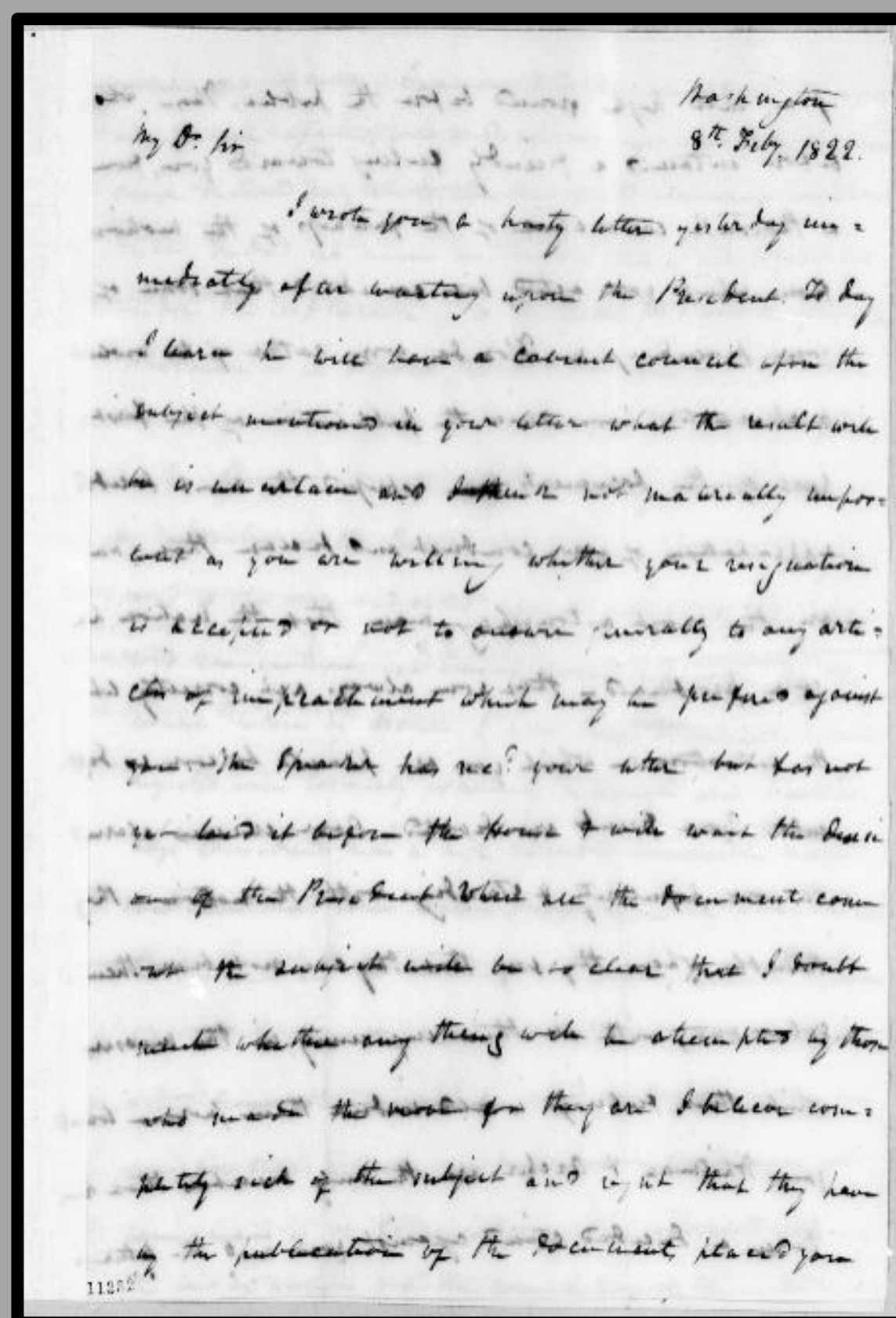
Dr. James Craine Bronaugh: The Controversial Aide to Andrew Jackson



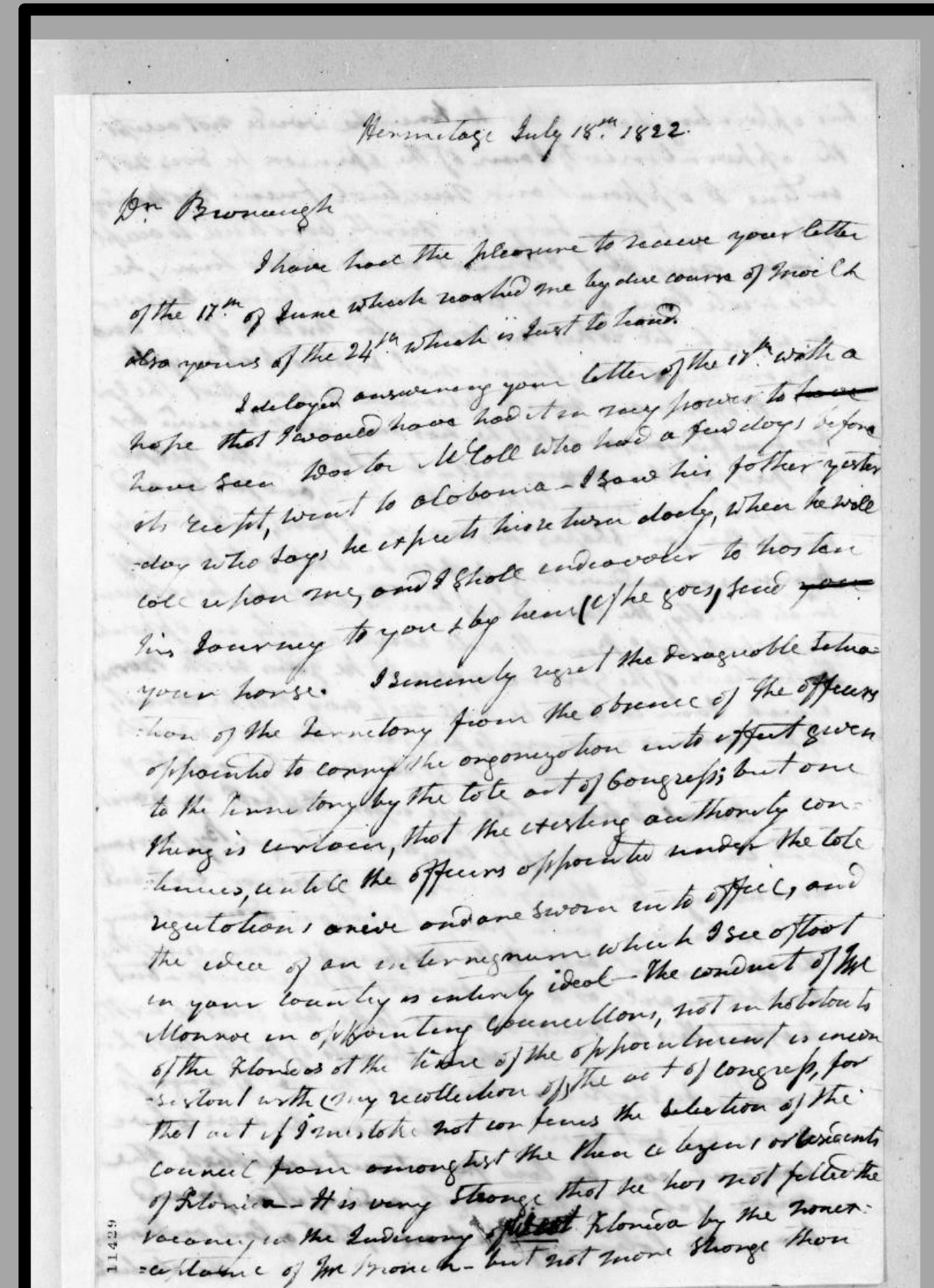
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Abstract

In this poster, the life of Andrew Craine Bronaugh and his influence on Jackson will be analyzed. Quotations from the letters such as the use of words such as “we” to describe decisions of Jackson, exhibit the close-knit relationship between the two. Throughout Bronaugh’s career Andrew Jackson made some key steps to gaining political power across the country allowing him to gain increased influence. Bronaugh, acting as Jackson’s aid had great influence on this growth through many controversial and aggressive tactics most notably the controversial arrest of the old Spanish governor José María Callava.



Jackson, Andrew, and James Craine Bronaugh. James Craine Bronaugh to Andrew Jackson. Circa 1821.



James Craine Bronaugh to Andrew Jackson. Circa 1822.

Sources

- Jackson, Andrew, and James Craine Bronaugh. James Craine Bronaugh to Andrew Jackson, February 8. February 8, 1822. Manuscript/Mixed Material. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/maj010138/>.
- Jackson, Andrew, and James Craine Bronaugh. James Craine Bronaugh to Andrew Jackson. 1821. Manuscript/Mixed Material. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/maj009969/>.
- *Portrait of the first Territorial legislative council President Dr. James Craine Bronaugh.* 1822 (circa). State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory. Accessed 21 Mar. 2024. <<https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/26780>>

Context

- Dr. James Craine Bronaugh (1788-1822) was a physician who served as the personal physician to Andrew Jackson throughout the 1810s till his death in Pensacola while presiding over the first meeting of Florida Territory’s Legislative Council.
- Bronaugh grew a close connection to the Jackson and had a great deal of influence on the president's decisions and policies throughout his term.
- Notably, Dr. Bronaugh had a notable role in the arrest of José María Callava the last governor of Spanish West Florida from 1819-1821.



Portrait of the first Territorial legislative council President Dr. James Craine Bronaugh. Circa 1822

Methods

- Using JSTOR and the Library of Congress were used to locate documents and letters originating from Bronaugh.
- Many of the sources such as the letter above required transcription carried out by myself and the research team.

Results

Bronaugh’s letters, pictured on the left, demonstrate the doctor’s advice towards Jackson’s political decisions.

- The first letter, written in Pensacola and dated 23 August 1821, reads like a clinical report Bronaugh’s participation in the most controversial event during Jackson’s term as Governor of Florida Territory – the arrest and imprisonment of the outgoing Spanish Governor of West Florida, José María Callava. A quotation from the letter states, “He then returned to his House and a few minutes afterwards we were joined by Judge Brackenridge... we then entered the gate and as we proceeded towards the House...”
- This quotation directly shows how Bronaugh was directly used as an enforcer of Jackson’s decree to arrest Bronaugh. He acted as one of the men who marched into the house of Callava and arrested the old Spanish governor. Such an act, suggest Bronaugh acted more as a doctor but even more so as an enforcer of Jackson’s wishes.
- The second letter, written in Washington DC and dated 8 February 1822, demonstrates Bronaugh’s prescription for using the crisis that Jackson’s arrest of Callava created to promote Jackson’s political rise. A quotation from this letter that exhibits this would be, “Those who before entertained a friendly feeling towards you... but considered that some of your proceedings in Florida were rather of too violent a character, have since.. expressed the most decided approbation of your conduct and declare that you are the most astonishing man that the nation has ever produced.”
- This quotation shows how Bronaugh is suggesting the crisis of the arrest, has allowed Jackson to gain political favor across the nation. Bronaugh’s recommendation to arrest the governor in turn led to increased political favor towards Jackson. Therefore, we can conclude that the acts and aid of Bronaugh towards Jackson helped forward his political career.