

Andrew Jackson to Waightsell Avery, August 12, 1788, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO WAIGHTSTILL AVERY.¹

¹ When Jackson went to West Tennessee in 1788 he halted for some months at Jonesborough, Washington County, in East Tennessee (see next note). In a case in that town he was opposed by Col. Waightsell Avery, who ridiculed his ideas of the law in the case. Jackson, angered, protested in a note, to which no answer seems to have been returned. The next day he sent the challenge here published. The two men met and fought, and neither was injured. The original of the challenge is in the possession of the Avery family of Morganton, N. C., of which Mr. A. C. Avery is a leading representative. A facsimile is given in Heiskell, *Andrew Jackson* (2d ed.), I. 432. A tracing exists in the Jackson MSS., which does not conform to the facsimile. The copy given here follows the facsimile.

August 12th 1788

Sir: When a man's feelings and character are injured he ought to seek a speedy redress; you recd. a few lines from me yesterday and undoubtedly you understand me. My character you have injured; and further you have insulted me in the presence of a court and a large audience. I therefore call upon you as a gentleman to give me satisfaction for the same; and I further call upon you to give me an answer immediately without equivocation and I hope you can do without dinner until the business is done; for it is consistent with the character of a gentleman when he injures a man to make a speedy reparation; therefore I hope you will not fail in meeting me this day. from yr obt st

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P S this Evening after court adjourned