

The Book Binder will understand
that this is page 1st —

page 1 —

Notes furnished by
Col Jeremiah Austell
in relation to the
"Canoe Fight"
& other engagements
in which he was concerned
in the memorable year, 1813. 1814

The Indians were invited to Ft. Stephens to negotiate with the Commission & they met in great numbers some 10,000 souls fed by the Gov.

In witness standing of the talents of the talents of Col Lewis and high standing with Gen Robert in with the Indians they failed to effect a treaty. But they agreed to meet the Commission again in the latter part of the summer ^{you} at Mount Sycamore on the Ayobee river river - which they did & agreed to cede ~~the~~ ^{all their} lands ^{within the following lines} west of a line Com-

mencing at the cut half way between the two rivers & running northwesterly on the dividing ridge between the Tombigbee waters & those of the Ala up to a point now known as Challow Corner in the ^{40th Est corner} ~~west~~ ^{margin} of the present County of ~~Ala~~, ~~then~~ running then westwardly to the Fulluck, to, bun, na, old field in the Tombigbee River a few miles below Tuskahoona.

~~North of the line from Challow Corner to this point on the bigbee then~~

to the settlements of Mississippi, thence south down to ~~the~~ Ellicott's line, then along Ellicott's line to the place of beginning. That after was

then run down the line & and at the Challow Corner erected a mound and inserted in it a red cedar post made corners at ~~the~~ Fulluck, to, bun, na & other places - After

the survey was complete settled in 1808 from all parts north

west to the county of Clarke was organized, about the same

time Wayne County in ^{on the Chickasaw} ~~Miss~~ was settled & then Greene County &

subsequently several counties in Pearl River then settled

Flat Madison



W

Randall's farm

cribs

3 acre field

creek

Randall's houses
East

The site represents
Indians in the
near

Randall's creek

Dixon Bailey
farm

Heustein's landing

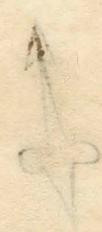
Dixon Bailey Residence

route

in compass

$$\begin{array}{r}
 1453.76 \\
 1329.44 \\
 \hline
 175.68
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 .180 \\
 6.60 \\
 90 \\
 100 \\
 \hline
 \checkmark 6.95 \quad 1030 \\
 \checkmark 3.00 \\
 2.50 \\
 \hline
 2275
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 96.85 \\
 55.05 \\
 \hline
 .80
 \end{array}$$


Montgomery

Bradford's Pond

Bassett's Creek

Clark

Mason

Cedar Creek

8 miles

Fort Madison

To shoot the Indians
camping over the creek.

St. Montgomery

Dale's command
Random plantation

12 miles

French Landing
or Berkien

~~French Landing~~
Camped here pt. night

Clark

Dale fired the gun
& not creek

Fort Madison, a timber fort with Block houses
 situated 5 miles below Snygsills in which about 700
 inhabitants took refuge and at the time of the fall
 of Fort Mims we had 200 Militia Commanded by
 Col. Jos. Carson. if I mistake not Fort Mims fell
 on the 29th August. after which we were visited
 by parties of Indians upon several occasions
 who were desirous to examine the strength of our
 Fort. but as we were well guarded they could
 not approach day or night - upon the receipt
 of the news of the fall of Fort Mims - Genl. Blair
 - being the Command in Chief then stationed
 at Mount Vernon. sent the Arsenal - dispatch
 orders to Col. Carson. to withdraw his forces
 from our fort. and to concentrate all at Ft.
 St. Stephens and advised the inhabitants to abandon
 their Country. and take work under Carson
 to Ft. Stephens - My Father Erwin Austin. being
 opposed to such a course proposed to remain if
 he could be sustained by 50 persons capable of
 bearing arms. and after exerting himself for
 about three hours. succeeded in interesting the
 number above. to remain the Balance moved
 out and hid as far as we could - a news moved news
 affecting them you could imagine - those leaving
 were confident that all who remained would
 be butchered, in a few days. - Friends and re-
 lations of my degree were parting as those lea-
 ving supposed for us - the shouts of distress and
 weeping - surpassed all description -

My Father had the Fort put in good Condition and
we were anxious for an Assault. being very con-
fident that we could repel at least 2000 Indians
but as we had suspected they at night making
us to see an Indian on our Hundred yards -
they thought prudent to let us alone.. but at
the same time many small parties were de-
-staying our farms and Stocks - but being to death
to send out any parties - we submitted to it for two
weeks, when Claiborne finding we would not
be on such as 250 Men; soon after Genl. Dale
having sufficiently recoiled - prepared to drive
the Indians out of the neighborhood - I will here
remark that part of the inhabitants had returned
with the Troops - 44 including Dale volunteered
we set out North visiting most of the ^{up} Plains - in
search of the Enemy - we saw plenty of Signs, none
later than a week - we were out some days but the
time not recollectd - but after early frost must
have been about the 1st October 1813. and after
recoiling a few days - we set out South intending
to reconnoiter the Plains upon the Alabama, begin-
ning at Sigersons Ferry and going up - Col. Carson
Permitted Capt Johnson of the Militia to join Dale
with a portion of his Company, about 30 Men
making the party 72, all told - The News men
earlier informed ^{us} he had two Canoes hid above the
Ferry. near what is now Husband Landing to which
place we proceeded and succeeded in crossing the
river by Dark - The date I cannot give but it was
in November, and we had a heavy frost that night
for we suffered much from Cold being without fire

area Thuddy clad - The next morning early we set out
on the East side. Dale had placed in charge of the
boats with five or six men. - The first Farm we reached
was Dick Ross Baityer half Breed Indian of Great Cou-
rage who was killed in Fort Mims - Dale entered my
Boat and crossed the river and we examined the Farm
and which we saw much sign my fish but found
no Indians - he then returned back to the head of
his Canoe man. Just at the time we discovered a can-
oe full of Indians descending, we were ordered
to give chase. The Indians turned about and pushed
up to escape us - and at a bend of the river near
the mouth of Raudon's Creek - they disappeared, we
concluded that they had taken the Creek and run
into the Canoe, when we did not think it prudent
to follow. As our starters were about equal a few
minutes after we heard a heavy firing up the Creek
Dale having met another party in the Canoe upon
a path way - one Indian was killed how many
wounded was not known. This Indian was killed
by Genl. Dale having shot him before the Indians dis-
covered our party - we could hear the Indians
running in the Canoe, but did not see any from
the boats - we proceeded on to Raudon's Plantation
where we waited the arrival of Dale some twenty
minutes after - as it was impracticable to keep down
the river up to the next Farm - ~~at the~~ "Cornell's Ferry"
afterwards Dale's Ferry - our party commenced crossing
over to Raudon's farm. preceded by Capt. Johnson's
Company - and as it required some time twelve
of our party including Dale led by Mr. Crayth of Clark
County. Sgt. Smith. John Elliot a half Breed. Brady a
Shawnee man and myself. & six others knelt a fire
to roast some beef & Potatoes taken from the Indi-

= and at the recent battle = our location was in a small
field of about four acres. between a bluff of some
sixty or seventy feet and the river - ^{upon} this bluff was where
John Randon had lived. he was a wealthy indian
country man. was killed in Fort Osage with most of
his family - after all our force had crossed but the
12. and undisturbedly after the return of the smallest
canoe by canoe - Capt Johnson gave us the alarm
on sprang up from our camp and discovered
the indians descending the bluff in great numbers
surrounding the little field where we were, we retrea-
-ced to the first bank of the river, being protected
by the second bank. from the fire of the Indians
on reaching the first bank we discovered a large
flat bottomed canoe with 11 Indians in it descending
the river and nearly within gun shot. They looked
imposing, all painted and naked except their flaps -
and a painted skin round the head of the chief. after
ding down his back, in a canoe robe they were sitting
down with their guns erect, before them - upon a nearer
approach we opened a fire upon them which they return
we kept up a fire for some time but as the indians
exposed nothing but the top of their heads and only
that when firing at us we did but little execution
for our party were armed with muskets, except Dale
Smith and myself, in the mean time two of them
jumped out and swam for the shore above the field
and above the mouth of a small stream, carry-
ing their guns, dry above their heads. Smith proposed
to me to cross this stream and kill them, when
they approached the shore - we sprang into it and
found the mud and water deep - but we got

own and ran up under or upon the rear side
and when I got opposite the Indians and when
near the shore. My leggins suspended by a band
round my waist fell about my feet from
the weight of water in them, and caused me to
slip down down 20 feet into the river near
the Indians - Smith shot one of them in the
head the other ascended and passed near Smith
the firing him off with a supposed loaded gun -
On reaching my gun which I left on the bank
where I fell - I pursued the Indians up the small
stream intending to shoot him in the first open
place in going up some forty yards a gun was
fired near me and the shot passing over my
head, I stopped, supposing I had got among
the Indians in the canoe. It proved to be Creeper
one of our party who had ^{run} up the stream and
crossed, and on rising the Barre fired at me for
the Indian - discovering however his mistake
in time to elevate his piece - My Indian escaped
in this way having reached his party - we returned
back to our mus, Dale having in the mean time
having ordered the large Canoes from the oppo-
site side to come over with a sufficient force to
capture the Indians - Eight New. York, Col.
Edward Mearns of Georgia, six others set out pad-
dled by Getow - on approaching near enough
to discover the number of Indians the mus in
sight ran up, and ordered Getow to Back Water
for there was to many Indians, they thus returned

to the West Shore, while this was occurring I directed
Brady to rise the second Bank and see if the Indi-
-ans were approaching or in the field - on rising
the Bank about seven guns were fired at him
at the same instant piercing his clothes and shoo-
-ting the britch or stock off his musket - yet did not
hurt him - he leaped some 25 feet down to us swim-
-ing at the time it was to hot up there for him
Dale on seeing the Boat retreating, then proposed
that we should take the small canoe - which
was a square bottom dug out - carrying about
five men - Smith and myself. Secured the prope-
-dal - we had to leap off - some ten feet down to the
water - being above the landing in doing so Dale
and myself wet the priming of our guns but did
not then know it - Dale acted first followed by
Smith & myself. and would have been by all our
party - could they get in - we started off paddled by
Cesaw a Black or Dark Muddled sized Free Negro
who lived with the Friendly Indians - on approaching
within twenty yards we got in a raking position
and all rose up to give them a broad side - Dale's
gun & my own refused fire. The boat being unsteady
Smith fired without effect - Cesaw was then ordered
to paddle up along side. One of the Indians fired
at us without effect - three guns being mostly
united - we rushed up, and when within some ten
feet the chip - recognized Dale, and dug out now
for it by some one, and at the same time presented his
gun at my breast - as I could not reach it at the
moment, Smith directed me to strike him with a
oar - I struck at him, but he dodged me and then

as we were nearer struck me on the head with his
gun, I caught the end and pulled on it to rest it
from him, which drew him within reach of Smith
and Dale, both their guns came down upon his
head; Dale's barrel breaking off at the hind sight Smith
caught the musket end, and Dale got his guns
I then engaged with the second - there and on to
the last - when I reached the 3rd one Dale leaped
into the Bow of this boat as he was in our Rear
we then formed a Double file and moved them
down. I was Carried on between the last two
the last one hit me with a War Club when I
engaged with the other. I caught the but end but
fell across this boats nose from the unstead-
iness of our boat than any thing else - whilst
down. The other Indian in my rear was knocked
down when in the act of knocking me on the
head. Smith & Dale both claimed the credit of
saving my life. I therefore gave thanks to both
supposing both did the act. - I rose holding on
to the Club, and we scuffled for some time, for it
I pushed it from him, and knocked him overboard
he rose up - insensible, I struck him again and
he appeared no more, Dale stated there were seven
of them as he counted them before we engaged. I did
not know. There appeared at least a plenty for us
not one word was spoken on either side that I
heard after the first Blow. I made out the
scuffle between the last one and myself - when
Cearo handed his musket to Dale to strike the
Boat out in the Indian, The man on the West

8
had kept up such interminable yell of encouragement - that little else could be heard -

I thus got into the Indian boat and sat
and myself - there were the dead Indians - there were
there eight in it as well as I recollect - the bottom
was about two inches in blood - Just as we got
through a ball struck the boat on looking up
we saw three Indians on the second boat in
the field opposite to us - the second fired his ball
hit the water and bounded over - the third fired and
it cut the clothes of Smith & myself each one hav-
ing taken a respite - the Canoes returned and we
rescued our (wired) friends and brought them
off safely - altho. we were informed after wards
that there were 280 Indians around the field
on the East side - We thus proceed up to the Ferry
two miles - without seeing any more - as we were
out of provision we returned that night to the
Choke. I was at the time and for some days after un-
able to use my left arm - having recd. many hard
blows upon my arm and head the latter being
cut. deep - In firing the expedition all together it
was somewhat remarkable that (not a man
was injured saving myself -

James Smith was to the best of my knowledge
a Georgian man of low stature. (nee) Seth Mughing
about 165⁰ - a bold daring front beer farmer at
25 years of age at the time - he died two years
since in the County West of Clark in Mississippi
Coke. (I) presume it is unnecessary to describe he
was about 6 feet Mughing 185⁰ or there abouts was
about 35 years of age -

I was then 19 years old. was six feet and Mughing

11
Four balls passed through Hadley Cook which was loose
about his body and his horse killed - he entered the fort
with the rear - in the. The Indians attacked several times
to storm it but were repulsed with a loss of 1/4 this number
they killed one man and boy - and a woman who was
at the spring - That night our men brought all off
in safety to our fort -

There are many unimportant incidents which
I omit - as my recollection as to names of persons
at this date is so imperfect. what I have stated
is true to the best of my recollection -

Date died 23^d May 1843

Yours Obedt Servt
J. Austin

I did not receive your favor until yesterday morning
which is my apology for not answering it sooner. and
I have written this in some haste -

Ala.

valuable papers

2



Col. A. J. Pickens

Montgomery



Return to the same post

in
Department of the Interior

from

about 175⁰⁰ - As well as I can now recollect. we were
all dress'd in Common Mixed Sunday Cloths, (^{Cuts} Dress
Coats) - I was born near the Ocean Station in
Piedmont District - August 10th 1794 - My Father
was from Surry North Carolina. My Mother. The
only Sister of Col. David Fells. who died in this State 1820.
My Father was sent out with Silas Dinsmore
to the Cherokee Agency in 1798. where he remained
until 1809. he came across Mountain - we stoped in
North Alabama - & returned the next year supposing
the Cherokees about to cease their Comunity finding he
was deceiv'd - we set out for South Alabama down
through the Creek Comunity - we were taken Prisoner
by the Indians. and after several days detentions were
released without injury through the influence of
the big Warrior - and settled in Clark County in 1812

Col. Russell will I presume give you the details
of the Holy Ground Battle, and the Cahucbes expedi-
-tion - in the Months of 14 & 15 I was in service under Col.
Carson. Rangers Guarding the Frontier - we had one small
brush with the Indians at the alleged holes. upon the
Pensacola Road. killing six or eight. and loosing one man
Geo. Bates - in December ¹⁸¹⁵ I went up to Metchum or Fork.
Jackson with Buf Fitzpatrick - his Brothers and several
others - without encountering any Indians - I returned
the same month with two Negroes - on one horse. a
man and woman. I was warned and took every
precaution to avoid any small parties of In-
dians - on reaching the only house occupied by
a white man a bow Chabon - which was upon the
West Bank of the Suppleyes - named Rodgers sent
them with his family. by Col. Geo Fells. the Contractor

10
for carrying the mail to Georgia - I came out of the Swamp
to within 15 paces of the house at sunrise. Six Indians
had Rodges down and was in the act of tomahocking
him, as I perceived - Seeing my own dunces and that of
Rodges - I looked back as if a force was at hand, and
ordered a charge, charging myself upon them. They
did not wait to see who was behind - but made for the
Swamp before the house some 200 yds into which
I pushed ^{them} taking care to give them a little distance
on their reaching the Swamp - Three of them on entering
fired back at me - I still called for help while Rodges
had time to get his family, and make their escape
for Claiborne - Some days after they killed a man who
had stopped at the same house; name not recollectd -

I will mention an instance of the Courage of Smith
Just before our recantment of expedition - he slept of
6 miles to see his fains alone, and on returning caught two
Choctaws in a house loading themselves with tools - he took them
and started to the fort - On the way in a thick Wood the Indians
ran to make their escape he fired and killed one, then ran the
other down and killed him - Supposing them to be Creeks
about this time two Spaniards were killed - James
and Kinchels - at a fork 15 miles in our trail and above us
an express reached us calling for help to bury the dead - Two
men went up John Wood - Jas. Smith - Our Warden & some others
they carried the dead 10 in stumps to the Fort and when
burying them 50 yards off - all the inmates children & women
were present - Our Hundred Indians came charging upon
them, and but for Warden, must have killed many of them
He mounted his horse standing by and charged the Indians
with some fifty dogs, and such was the fury of the
dogs that the Indians had to turn their fire upon them

Salt Wells Clark Co. Aug 22. 1847

A. J. Pickett Esqr.

Your favor of the 10th ult reached me two days
since at my farm where I spend most of my summer months, and
in tribute the major part of my time - I regret very much
that it is not in my power to give you the dates and the various
occurrences in detail. The events of that date are fresh in my
memory, yet the dates are blotted and unsatisfactory for my
purpose. you are correct as to the attack upon Smithfield's fort
The "Law Man" sent up to bury the slain. Kimbel & James' families
I was in number, were all sent in one pit in front of the fort. They
they ^{is} ~~is~~ ^{was} ~~was~~
having their horses hitched at hand when carrying the dead - soon one
saw as he supposed a great number of Turkey on the ridge above them
calling out, see the Turkey - upon ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ Indians rose up from a crawling
position and gave the men eye with a charge. Some of our party caught
up children and ran for the fort. This man Hadun (otherwise represented
a horse thief) ^{was} ~~was~~ ^{as} ~~as~~ ^{before} ~~before~~ ^{stated} ~~stated~~ ^{checked} ~~checked~~ ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{Indians} ~~Indians~~ -
maimed -
a daughter of James, having a son one year old and living with her parents
was killed down and four scalps taken off her head her son was
cut for the same purpose, but he now living full shot. was abandoned
and upon the fall of some rain a few hours after in the night. This woman
came to and after searching about found her son separately alive she
carried him part of the way to the fort, her strength failing her she
put him in a hollow log, and went to the fort, and the child was
sent for and took recovery. I dressed their wounds until the child
was well, and the mother nearly so - She has a brother now living

at James Bluffs (Pezby). Alvarado Sanchez who escaped from the
Indians with himself the Father of the other family at the time of
the Massacre he could perhaps give you some information, at
any rate the names & perhaps the date -

Carrison's command was gotten up by a call from Genl Jackson to
guard the frontier until he Jackson could reach this part of
the country - we were formed into four Companies - under the Hon^d
Pentecost Daffold, Charles Overton; the latter afterward murdered by P.
McLestrey of Mobile & Capt. ^{Archibald} Wells - our head Quarters were at
Stark Mining or in sight - We marched to and from the Mouth of the
Perdido up to near Clearwater - in one of our expeditions we passed
the head of the Perdido and in passing the allagated holes to our left
they being obscured by a small growth of Sweet gums, a Dog was
heard to bark; a halt was made and immediately some Indians
were seen running out on the opposite side - we gave chase having
Deascent at the head as part of our Division, had taken down
on the opposite side. Eight Indians of the Indians were our talker
we they reached a Summit below and killed Deascent killing our
in full speed with his sword, splitting his head down to his neck,
at the Mouth of the Perdido our Division was united and we there
threw up a breast work 10 miles from the bay with a view of water
the British fleet down the side being seen off the bar. We took several
Spanish spies or Stock hunters pursuing, but for the British -
I was detached one night to take two men and reconnoitered the
Bay - we caught our man and found a small boat & sloop
The latter was loaded with provisions, we scuttled her and the canoe
you will observe that we were not without our amusement - whilst
one of our men was cutting a hole in the small boat, I directed
an other to shove him off gently, so that he would not perceive
it - when the boat commenced sinking he turned to run
out - when low, he found himself near 20 paces from shore
he was much astonished, but leaped out & swam ashore -

Pursuing short of provisions a few days after we left
for head Quarters & released our prisoners - on our way we hunted
up some wild Cattle and in attempting to kill two of them a
large Bull was creased, whereupon Mr. Carmichael, the same
man who scuttled the canoe, ran and leaped upon his back
with a Jack knife - the bull rose up and put out with all
speed - he upon his back cutting at his neck - in passing

our lives which he did not respect. Mr. Mills fired at his head
the bull fell but rose again & on he went, but ere he got
out of sight. I. cut him down a neck, the throat
of the Troop. This had little to do with the War, but it is not without
some interest. Carson had under his command 196 Men
all told, when out upon our expedition, we fell in with Will Boyls
& a Spy from Pineblow, he informed us there were about 100 Indian
Men women & children about 15 miles above Pineblow, we called
a Council of War and 192 voted to march down upon them
and when we had passed on the bank of the river Carson
halted and addressed us some time, giving his reasons for
declining to go any further. He said he had very deep
confidence in our success, yet it was possible we might
be defeated, and in that event, he would be tried and punished
for entering a Neutral Country beyond the bounds of his
authority, we felt much disappointed, yet we marched
about, and returned to head Quarters.

Major Blue soon after left in command, having with
him our company of Chippasans & one of Choctaws, some infantry
and horse, our term of service 60 days having expired. Some
of Carson's men I believe went with Blue, I was then en-
gaged with ^{the} Suttles & Quarter Masters departments at
Montgomery Hill, where I remained until the close
of the War. Major Blue found many of the Indians
dispersed about on the Cement river, ~~most~~ in a starving
condition, a few of them were killed by the friendly Indians
and 60 to one Hundred Men Women & children were brought
in, and divided between the friendly Indians who carried
them home with them. I felt for the poor devils, some
could scarce stand, while the Chippasans & Choctaws held
a great War Dance around them for the space of one
night near the fort after returning.
A short time before the close of the expedition - Foster,
Jandy Walker & Grant a Colored Free Man were in

played as spies. They set out from our fort. and crossed the
Alabama, and proceeded on Eastwardly to burnt Camp
where they saw signs of many Indians. and Evans shot
one Indian within half a mile of a large encampment
of which he was ignorant at the time. The spies withdrew
and the Indians fled leaving many things behind them
which were afterwards found. On the return of the spies
to Sigsbee's Ferry they encamped in a cane field upon
the west bank. During the night Foster dreamed he was
in danger. he awoke the others and proposed to leave
the place. they laughed at him and would not go. he
left and hid himself upon the river bank. about the day
at the dawn of day a Negro approached the others and
asked them if they were Indians or whites. Evans replied
they were Indians. Walker uncovering his face at the
moment. The Negro announced them to be white. and
instantly after a number of guns were fired at them
Evans being killed & Walker had one arm broken. and
a ball struck his body but was saved by a knife. he
sprang up and ran into a cane brake keeping
the Indians off with his gun. Foster swam the river
and came in during the day. The day after Walker came
in. having crossed the river upon some cane. bringing
his gun. about the same date. Fisher and Indian country
men with his three sons hunted his farm about one
mile above this place for supplies. one of his sons gathered
some peas. and sat down in the yard to shell them. and
when in the act of sleeping he was shot in the back the ball
passing up under his shoulder blade and out by the collar bone
he rose up and made his escape. his father being in some
cane near at hand ran out to know the cause and
received a shot in the lower part of his back. The ball
lodging in a rib near the back bone. he also made

his escape and came into our fort the day after both of whom recovered. The other two sons being in a different part of the farm fled upon the report of the Genl. and came in first - These events happened ^{soon} after the fall of Fort Mifflin. The others of which I have written in the month of Oct. Nov. & December of 1814. - Some time perhaps in Nov. 1813. Genl. Claiborne marched all or most of his forces up above St. Stephens in the upper part of Clark County - in pursuit of a party of Indians who were committing many depredations - Called the Potatoes expedition the Army being mostly upon Potatoes. The result of which was the getting some of his men killed. I do not recollect the number but about 5 or six. Mr. McGraw a worthy citizen and a young lawyer ^{Bradley} of Great promise. Wounded at Burnt Camp. was wounded again and died of his wounds. The noted "Hudon of Sinkingfield" fort was shot through the mouth cutting his tany nearly in two and leaving several of his teeth on each side. This happened in camp going for water - Not an Indian was seen upon the expedition that I was apprised of -

Col. Russell had an expedition to exchange with the 3rd Ridge mtd. accompanied with a horse company commanded by My Father. as we could not be the less home at the time. I escaped the suffering and hardships of this expedition and will leave Col. Russell to give you an eye of it -

I regret exceedingly that I have no records by which I can give you the dates. Many of them can be procured at the War department. as the companies were generally enrolled upon each expedition except the Sinkingfield party. They all took their horses and I tried to get pay for them. but as the men belonged to our infantry

companies the department would not pay for them. John
Wood one of the New Snow Line 7 or 8 Miles West of the
Lower beach Fred call and see him for he was a Soldier

It would afford me great pleasure to be able to render
you the aid I should like to do. - but my recollection
of dates being very imperfect, and my ability to write
so deficient, for I must admit that I never was in a gram-
mar school. I learned to read ^{as the fashion was} & traveled through
an arithmetic in 27 months, and being thus near
14 years of age. Thought my fortune made

Yours Obedtly
J. Austin

13. It was supposed we had killed nearly all the Indians at the
alleged holes. but upon our return we found the Indians all
covered over and their talons up & scalped. we concluded that
the main portion had retreated through the gum bushes
at the holes - and Fisher one of the Spies, was killed about
blairborn at his or in his farm by the Indians at the
close of the war.

New-Workshire
25 Aug /47

10

A. J. Peckitt Esqr

Montgomery

Court was held at Mc Intosh Buff about 1800
a little after. Chief Justice John Callen
presided assisted by Justices Bufford &
Johnson. A man by the name of Hall was
prosecuted for having stolen ties & em-
bezzled. They had no jail but built a
pen of rails of pine poles & put him in it & placed
the guard on top - Keeping him this way several
days, they finding it very troublesome they bar-
ricaded him to Siskjau west of Pearl river
& this was a kind of Botany Bay for Criminals

The Book Binder will understand
that this is page 1st — ¹

Page 1 —

Notes furnished by

Col. Jeremiah Austill

in relation to the

“Canoe Fight”

& other engagements

in which he was concerned

in the memorable years 1813-1814

¹

This sentence written in pencil.

Canoe Battle –

Fort Madison a timber fort with Block houses situated 5 miles below Suggsville in which about 700 Inhabitants took refuge – and at the time of the fall of Fort Mims we had 200 Militia commanded by Col. Jos. Carson – if I mistake not fort Mims fell on the 29th August after which we were visited by parties of Indians upon several occasions who were desirous to examine the strength of our Fort, but as we were well guarded, They could not approach day or night = Upon the receipt of The news of The fall of Fort Mims – Gen. Claiborne – The commander in chief – then stationed at Mount Vernon, Now the Arsenal – dispatched orders to Col. Carson, to withdraw his forces from our fort and to concentrate all at St. Stephens, and advised the inhabitants to abandon Their Country, and take escort under Carson to St. Stephens = My Father Evan Austill, being opposed to such a course proposed to remain if he could be sustained by 50 persons capable of bearing arms – and after exerting himself for about Three hours, Succeeded in inlisting [*sic*] the number above to remain the Balance moved out and bid us farewell – a cene insued [*sic*] more affecting than you could imagine – Those leaving were confident That all who remained would be butchered, in a few days. – Friends and relations of every degree were parting – as those leaving supposed forever = The shouts of distress and weeping – surpassed all description – My Father had the Fort put in good Condition – and we were anctious [*sic*] for an assault, being very confident that we could repell [*sic*] at least 2000 Indians but as we had suspended lights at night enabling us to see an Indian over one Hundred yards – They thought prudent to let us alone, but at The same time many small parties were devastating our farms and Stock – but being to weak to send out any parties – we submitted to it for two weeks, when Claiborne finding we would not leave sent us 250 men; – Soon after, Genl. Dale having sufficiently recovered – proposed – to drive The Indians out of the neighborhood = I will here remark that part of the inhabitants had returned with the Troops – 44 including dale [*sic*] volunteered – We set out north visiting most the Farms = in search of the Enemy –

We saw plenty of sign, none later than a week – we were out some days, but the time not recollected – but after early frost must have been about the 1st October 1813. and after recruiting a few days – we set out South intending to reconnoiter the Farms upon the Alabama, beginning at Sizemores Ferry and going up. – Col. Carson permitted Capt Johnson of the Militia to Join Dale with a portion of his Company, about thirty men making the party 72 all told – The Negro man Ceaser informed ^{us} he had two Canoes, hid above the Ferry, near what is now Henshaws Landing to which place we proceeded, and succeeded in crossing the river by Dark. – The date I cannot give but it was in November and we had a heavy frost That night for we suffered much from cold being without fire and thinly Clad = The next morning early we set out on the East side – Dale had placed me in charge of the boats with five or six men. – The first Farm we reached was Dickson Baley half Breed Indian of great courage who was killed in Fort Mims – Dale entered my Boat and crossed the river and we examined the Farm in which we saw much sign very fresh but found no indians – he then returned back to the head of his command – Just at the time we discovered a canoe full of Indians decending [*sic*]; we were ordered to give chase. The indians turned about and pushed up to escape us – and at a turn of the river near the mouth of Randon Creek – They disappeared, we concluded that they had taken the creek and run into the cane where we did not think it prudent to follow as our numbers were about equal – a few minutes after we heard a heavy firing up the creek Dale having met another party in the cane upon a path way – one indian was killed how many wounded was not known. This indian was killed by Gen^l. Dale having shot him before the indians discovered our party – we could hear the Indians running in the cane, but did not see any from the boats = We proceeded on to Randon’s Plantation where we waited the arrival of Dale some twenty minutes after – As it was impracticable to keep near the river up to the next Farm, ~~Col Fe~~ Cornell” Ferry afterwards Dales Ferry – our party commenced crossing over in to Randon’s farm, proceed by Capt Johnsons Company – and as it required some time twelve of our party including Dale, Col. G. W. Creagh of Clark County Ja^s.Smith, John

Elliot a half Breed, Brady a shoe maker & myself & six others kindled a fire to roast some beef & Potatoes, taken from the Indians at the recent battle = Our location was in a small field of about four acres between a bluff of some sixty or seventy feet and the river – ^^{upon} This Bluff was where John Randon had lived, he was a wealthy indian country man, was killed in Fort Mims with much of his Family – After all our force had crossed but the 12, and immediately, and immediately after the return of the Smallest Canoe by Ceaser, – Capt Johnson Gave us the alarm we sprang up from our repast and discovered the indians decending [*sic*] the Bluff in great number surrounding the little Field where we were, we retreated to the First Bank of the river, being protected by the Second Bank from the fire of the Indians on reaching the first Bank we discovered a large flat Bottomed Canoe with 11 Indians decending the river and nearly within gun shot – They looked imposing, all painted and naked except their flaps and a Panther Skin round the head of the chief extending down his back in a [round?] robe they were sitting down with their guns erect before them – upon a nearer approach we opened fire upon them which they returned we kept up a fire for some time – but as the indians exposed nothing but the top of their heads and only that when firing at us we did but little execution for our party were armed with Muskets except Dale Smith & myself; – in the mean time two of them Jumped out and swam for the shore above the field and above the mouth of a Small Stream, carrying their guns dry above their heads – Smith proposed to me – to cross this Stream and kill them, when They approached the Shore – We sprang into it and found the mud and water deep, – but we got over, and ran up under or upon the river side and when Just opposite the Indians and when near the shore. My leggins suspended by a band round my waist – fell about my feet from the weight of water in them and caused me to slip down some down some 20 feet into the river near The Indians – Smith shot one of them in the head the other ascended and passed near Smith keeping him off with a supposed loaded gun – On reaching my gun which I left on the bank where I fell – I pursued the Indians up this Small Stream intending to shoot him in the first open place – in going up

some forty yards – a gun was fired near me and the shot passing over my head, I stopped, supposing I had got among the Indians in the canoe – It proved to be Creagh one of our party who had ^{run} up the stream and crossed, and on rising the Bank fired at me for the Indians – discovering his mistake in time to elevate his piece – My Indian escaped in this way having reached his party – we returned back to our men, Dale having in the mean time ~~having~~ ordered the large Canoe from the opposite side to come over with a sufficient force to Capture the Indians = Eight Men Geton, Col. Edward Man of Georgia & six others set out paddled by Geton = On approaching near enough to discover the Number of Indians, The [man?] in bough rose up, and ordered Geton to Back water for there were too many indians, They then returned to the West shore, while this was occurring I directed Brady to rise the second Bank and See if the Indians were approaching or in the field – On rising the Bank about seven guns were fired at him at the same instant – piercing his clothes and shooting the britch or stock off his musket – yet did not hurt him – he leaped some 25 feet down to us swearing at the time it was too hot up there for him Dale on seeing the Boat retreating, then proposed that we should take the Small canoe – which was a square bottom dug out – carrying about five men – Smith and myself seconded [*sic*] the proposal – we had to leap some ten feet down to the water – being above the landing – in doing so Dale and myself wet the priming of our guns but did not then know it – Dale entered first followed by Smith & myself and would have been by all one party – could they get in – we shoved off paddled by Ceaser a Black or Dark Middle Sized Free Negro who lived with the Friendly Indians – on approaching within twenty yards, we got in a raking position and all rose up to give them a broad side – Dales gun & my own refused fire. The boat being unsteady Smith fired without effect – Ceaser was then ordered to paddle along side. One of the Indians fired at us without effect – and when within some ten feet the chief – recognized Dale, and sung out now for it big Sam and at the same time presented his gun at my breast – as I could not reach it at the moment, Smith directed me to strike him with an oar – I struck at him, but he dodged me and then as we were nearer struck me on the hand with his

gun, I caught the end and pulled on it to rest it from him which drew him with reach of Smith and Dale, both their guns come down upon his head; Dales barrell braking [*sic*] off at the hind sight Smith caught the mussel end and Dale got his gun I then engaged with the second – third and on to the last – when I reached the 3rd one Dale leaped into the Bow of their boat as he was in our rear we then formed a Double file and mowed them down. I was carried on between the last two The last one hit me with a War Club when engaged with the other. I caught the but end but fell across their boat more from the unsteadyness [*sic*] of our boat than any thing else – whilst down the other indian in my rear – was knocked down when in the act of knocking me on the head – Smith & Dale both Claimed the credit of saving my life – I therefore gave thanks to both supposing both did the act – I rose holding on to the club and we scuffled some time for it I rested ^{it} from him, and knocked him over board he rose up – insensible, I struck him again and he appeared no more. Dale stated there were Seven of them as he counted them – before we waged – I do not know – There appeared at least a plenty for us not one word was spoken on either side that I heard after the first Blow I made – until the scuffle between the last one and myself – when Ceaser handed his musket to Dale to Stick the Bayonet in the Indian, The men on the West bank kept up such interminable yell of encouragement – that little else could be heard –

I then got into the indian boat and Dale and myself threw over the Dead indians – there were then eight in it as well as I recollect – The bottom was but two inches in blood. – Just as we got Through a ball struck the boat in looking up we saw Three Indians – On the second bank in the field opposite to us – The Second fired his ball hit the water and bounded over – The third fired and it cut the clothes of Smith & myself each one having taken a rest – The canoes returned and we received our Nine friends, and brought them off safely – although we were informed afterwards that there were 280 Indians around the field on the East Side – We then proceed up to the Ferry Two Miles – without seeing anymore – As we were out of Provisions we returned That night to the Fort. I was at the time and for some days after unable to use my left arm having rec^d. many hard Blows upon

my arm and head The latter being Cut Deep – Taking the expedition all together it was some what remarkable, That not a man was injured saving myself – James Smith was to the best of my knowledge a Georgian a man of Low Stature well set, weighing about 165^{lbs} – a bold daring [*sic*] frontier farmer at 25 years of age at the time – he died two years Since in the County West of Clark in Mississippi Dale I presume it is unnecessary to describe, he was about 6 feet weighing 185^{lbs} or there abouts and about 35 years of age. –

I was then 19 years old. Over six feet and weighing about 175^{lbs}. – As well as I can now recollect. we were all dress^d in Common Mixed Lindsey Cloths^{^cut} (Dress Coats) = I was born near the Ocony Station in Pendleton District = August 10th 1794 = My Father was from Surry North Carolina. My Mother The only Sister of Col. David Files who died in this State 1820. My Father was sent out with Silas Dinsmore to the Cherokee agency in 1798, where he remained until 1809 he commenced moving – we stopped in North Alabama – & returned the next year supposing The Cherokees about to cede [*sic*] their County finding he was deceived – we set out for South Alabama down Through The Creek Country – we were taken Prisoners [*sic*] by the Indians and after several days detention were released without injury through the influence of The big Warrior – and Settled in Clark County in 1812

Col. Russell will I presume give you the details of the Holy Ground Battle, and the Cahawba expedition – in the winter of 14 & 15 I was in service under Col. Carson. Rangers Guarding the Frontier – we had one small brush with the Indians at the allegator [*sic*] holes upon the Pensacola Road killing six or eight and loosing [*sic*] one man Geo. Bates = in December^{^1815} I went up to Wetumke or Fort Jackson with [B...] Fitzpatrick – his Brothers and several others – without encountering any indians – I returned The same month with Two Negroes – on one horse a Man and Woman. I was unarmed and took every precaution to avoid any small parties of Indians – On reaching the only house occupied by a White man above Claiborne = which was on the West Bank of the Suppulgee = Named Rogers send there with his family by Col. Geo Fisher, the contractor for carrying

the mail to Georgia – I came out of the Swamp to within 15 paces of the house at Sun Rise – Six Indians had Rodgers down and was in the act of tommechok him, as I appeared – Seeing my own Danger and that of Rodgers – I looked back as if a force was at hand and ordered a charge, charging myself upon them. They did not wait to see who was behind – but made for the Swamp above the house 200 yards into which I pushed ^ them taking care to give them a little distance on their reaching the swamp = Three of them fired back at me = I Still called of rhelp until Rodgers had time to gather his Family and make their escape for Claiborne – some days after they killed a man who had stoped [*sic*] at the same house; name not recollected –

I will mention an instance of the courage of Smith Just before our – reconnoitering expedition – he slipe of [*sic*] 6 miles to see his farm alone, and on returning caught two choctaws in a house loading themselves with tools – he took them and Started to the fort, – on the way in a thick wood the Indians ran to make their escape he fired and killed one then ran the other down and killed him – Supposing them to be Creeks.

About this time two Families were killed – James and Kimbels – at a fort 15 miles in our rear – and above us an express reached us calling for help to bury the Dead – Ten men went up John Woods Jas. Smith – one Haden & seven others They carried the dead 10 in Number to the Fort – and when burrying [*sic*] them 50 yards off – all the inmates children & women were present – One Hundred Indiads cam charging upon them, and but for Haden Must have killed many of them. He mounted his horse standing by and charged the Indians with some fifty Dogs. and such was the fury of the Dogs That the Indians had to turn their fire upon them Four balls passed through Hadens Coat which was loose about his body and his horse killed – he entered the fort with the rear – unhurt. The Indians attempted [*sic*] several times to Storm it but were repulsed with a loss of 1/4 their number They killed one man boy – and a woman who was the spring = That night one man brought all off in safety to our fort —

There are many important incidents which I omit – as my recollection as to names of persons at this date is so imperfect. What I have Stated is true to the best of my recollection —

Dale died 23^d May 1843

Your Obt Svt

J. Austill

I did not receive your favor until yesterday morning which is my apology for not answering it sooner and I have written this in some haste —

[*Written above the postage*] Valuable papers

[*Postmark*] [postage]

MONTGOMERY Ala. AUG 4 2

[*Address*]

Col. A. J. Pickett / Montgomery

[*Endorsement*]

From Jeremiah Austill / in / relation to the Canoe fight

Salt works Clark Co. August 22. 1847

A J. Pickett Esqr.

Your favor of the 10th Inst reached me two days since at my farm where I spend most of my Summer months, and in Mobile the major part of my time – I regret very much That it is not in my power to give you the dates and the various occurances [*sic*] in detail. The events of that date are fresh in my memory. yet the dates are blurred and unsatisfactory in my mind. you are correct as to the attack upon Sinkfield fort. The Ten men sent up to bury the slain. Kimbels and James Families Ten in Number, were all put in one pit in front of the fort. They ^{The 10 men} having their horses hitched at hand when covering the dead – some one saw as he supposed a great number of Turkey on the ridge above them calling out, see the Turkey – upon this ^{The} Indians rose up from a crawling position and gave the War yell with a charge. Nine of our party caught up children and ran for the fort – This man Haden (otherwise represented a horse Thief) mounting &c &c as before stated checked the Indians – ^{Married a} Daughter of James, having a sone one year old and living with her parents. Was knocked down and four scalps taken of her head her son was cut for the same purpose. but his hair being full short, was abandoned and upon the fall of some rain a few hours after in the night, This woman came to and after searching about found her son aparently [*sic*] alive she carried him part of the way to the fort, her Strength failing her she put him in a hollow log and went to the fort and the child was sent for and both recovered. I dressed their wounds until the child was well and the Mother nearly so – She has a brother now living at James Bluff (Bigby). Almand James who escaped from the Indians with Kimbel the Father of the other family at the time of the massacre = he could perhaps give you some information, at any rate the names & perhaps the date. –

Carsons command was gotten up by a call from Gen^l. Jackson to guard the frontier until he Jackson could reach this portion of the country – We were formed into four Companies under the Hon^l. Rubin Saffold, Charles Daveroux the latter

afterwards murdered by P. McLaskey of Mobile – & Capt. W^m ^ Archabald Wells – our head Quarters were at Fort Mims or in sight – We marched to and from the mouth of the Perdido up to near Claiborne = in one of our expeditions we passed the head of the Perdido and in passing the allegater [*sic*] holes to our left they hung obscured by a small growth of sweet gum. a Dog was heard to bark; a halt was made and immediately some indians were seen running out the opposite side – we gave chase having Daveroux at the head as part of our Division, had taken down on the opposite side. Eight I believe of the indians were over taken ere they reached a Swamp below and killed Daverous killing one in full speed with his sword, splitting his head down to his neck at the mouth of the Perdido. our division was united and we then threw up a breast work 10 miles from the bay with a [...] of water The British fleet. Some rebels being seen off the bar. We took some Spanish Spies or Stock hunters procuring beef for the British – I was detailed one night to take two men and reconnoiter the Bay – we caught one man and found a Small boat & Sloop The latter was loaded with provisions. we scuttled her and the canoe. You will observe that we were not without our amusement – Whilst one of our men was cutting a hole in the small boat, I directed another to shove him off jently [*sic*] so that he would not perceive it – When the boat commenced sinking he turned to run out, when lo he found himself near 20 paces from shore he was much astonished, but leaped out & swam ashore –

Becoming short of provisions a few days after we left for head Quarters & released our prisioners [*sic*] – On our way we [hurried?] up some wild cattle and in attempting to kill two of them a large Bull was [...] whereupon, W^m Carmichael, The same man who scuttled the canoe, ran and leaped upon his back with a Jack Knife – The bull rose up, and put out with all speed – C. upon his back cutting at his neck – in passing our lines which he did not respect – W. Wells fired at his head The bull fell but rose again & on he went, but ere he got out of Sight, C. Cut down amidst the Shouts of Troop. This had little to do with the war, but it is nor without some interest – Carson has under his command 196 men all

told – when out upon our expedition, we fell in with W^m Boyls a Spy from Pensacola. he informed us, there were about 1000 Indians men women and children – about 15 miles above Pensacola. We called a counsel of war, and 192 voted to march down upon them and when we had proceed^d on the most of the way, Carson halted and addressed us some time, giving his reasons for declining to go any further. – He said he had every degree of confidence in our Success. yet it was possible we might be defeated and in that event, he would be tried and punished for entering a neutral country, beyond the bounds of his authority. we felt much disappointed. yet we marched about and returned to head Quarters –

Majr. Blue soon after left in command – having with him, one company of chickasaws & one of choctaws, some infantry and horse. Our term of service 60 days having expired – Some of Carsons men I believe went with Blue. I was then engaged with [^]the [Sutter?] & Quatermasters department at Montgomery Hill, where I remained until the close of the War – Majr. Blue found many of the Indians dispersed about on the Conecuh River ~~most of~~ in a Starving condition – a few of them were killed by the friendly Indians and [be?] to one hundred men, women & children = were brought in and divided between the Friendly Indians who carried them home with them – I felt for the poor devils – Some could scarce stand = while the Chickasaws & Choctaws, held a great war Dance around them for the Space of one night near the fort after returning –

A short time before the canoe expedition – Foster, Tandy Walker & Evans a collered [*sic*] Free man were employed [*sic*] as spies. – They set out from our fort, and crossed the Alabama – and proceeded on Eastwardly to burnt corn where they Saw Signs of many indians and Evans shot one Indian within half a mile of a large encampment of which he was ignorant at the time. The Spies withdrew and the Indians fled leaving many things behind them which were afterwards found – On the return of the Spies to Sizemores Ferry they encamped in a corn field upon the east Bank – During the night Foster Dreamed he was in Danger. he awoke the others and proposed to leave the place. they laughed at him and would not go. he left and hid himself upon the river bank above the Ferry at the Dawn of Day a

negro approached the others, and asked them if they were indians or whites – Evans replied they were Indians – Walker uncovering his face at the moment. The negro announced them to be white. and instantly a Number of guns were fired at them Evans being killed & Walker had one arm broken. and a ball Struck his body but was saved by knife. he Sprang up and ran into a cane brake, keeping the Indians off with his gun – Foster Swam the river and came in during the day, The day after Walker cam in having crossed the river on some cane, bringing his gun – about the Same date – Fisher and Indian county man [*sic*] with his Three sons visited his farm about one mile above this place for supplies. One of his sons gathered some peas, and sat down in the yard to shell them. and when in the act of Stooping he was shot in the back the ball passing up under his shoulder blade and out by the collar [*sic*] bone he rose up and made his escape. his Father being in Some corn near at hand ran out to know the cause and received a shot in the lower part of his breast. The ball lodging in a rub near the back bone. he also made his escape and came into our fort the day after both of whom recovered – The other two Sons being in a Different part of the farm fled upon the report of the Guns, and came in first – Those events hapened [*sic*] soon after the fall of Fort Mims. The others of which I have written in the months of Octr. Nov. & December of 1814. – Some time perhaps in Nov. 1813, Gen^l. Claiborne marched all or most of his forces up above St. Stephens in the upper part of Clark county – in pursuit of a party of Indians, who were committed depredations – called the Potatoe expedition the army living mostly upon potatoes. The result of which was the getting Some of his men killed. I do not recollect the Number but about 5 or six. W^m. M^cGrew a worthy citizen, and a young lawyer [^]Bradbury of great promise, wounded at Burnt Corn was wounded again and died of his wounds. The noted Haden of Sinkfield fort was shot through the mouth cutting his tong nearly in two, and leaving several of his teeth on each side. This hapened [*sic*] in camp going for water – not an indian was seen upon the expedition That I was apprised [*sic*] of –

Col. Russell had en expedition to Cahawba with the 3rd Ridgement

accompanied with a horse company commanded by my Father, as we could not both leave home at the time: I escaped the suffering and hardship of this expedition, and will leave Co^l. Russell to give you an account of it –

I regret exceedingly That I have no records by which I can give you the dates. Many of them can be procured at the War Department, as the companies were generally enrolled upon each expedition, except the Sinkfield party. They all lost their horses and I tried to get pay for them, but as the men belonged to our infantry companies The Department would not pay for them. John Woods one the men now lives 7 or 8 miles west of the lower peach Tree, call and see him for he was a soldier.

It would afford me great pleasure to be able to render you the aid I should like to do – but my recollection of dates being very imperfect, and my ability to write so deficient, for, I must admit That I never was in a grammar [*sic*] school. I learned to read ^{as the fashion was} [wright?] & traveled through an arithmetic in 27 months, and being then near 14 years of age, thought my fortune made –

Your Obt Svt

J. Austill

N.B. It was supposed we had killed nearly all the Indians at the allegater [*sic*] holes, but upon our return we found the Indians all [covered over / carried on?] and [Bales?] taken up & scalped – we concluded that the main portion had secreted themselves in the gum bushes at the Holes – and Foster one of the spies, was killed at Claiborne at his or in his Farm by the Indians as the close of the War.

[*Handwritten postmark and postage*]

New Wakefield / 25 Aug / 47 10

[*Address*]

A. J. Pickett Esqr / Montgomery

Court was held at the McIntosh Buff about 1800 or a little after – Chief Justice John Caller presided [sic] assisted by Justice Bufford & Johnson. A man by the name of Hall was prosecuted for horse stealing tried & convicted. They had no jail but built a pen of rails of [p...] holes & put him in it & placed the gurd [sic] on top – keeping him this way several days, they finding it very troublesome they banished him to Ticksaw west of Pearl river & this was a kind of Bottany Bay for criminals

¹ This is written in the hand of AJP.