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Notes furnished

A. J. Rickett

by his friend

Gen Patrick May of Greene County Ala  
in relation

to

the "Burnt Corn fight"

& many other things which happened

in the years 1813. 1814.

Greenboro's July 16<sup>th</sup> 1847

Dear Sir

Your favour of the 5<sup>th</sup> Inst. was handed to me on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Just as I was about to leave home, on imperative business (which detained me <sup>for</sup> several days) in consequence of which I was prevented complying with your request so soon as I could have wished I now proceed, with great pleasure, to give you all the information in relation to the matter that I am in possession of - but as I have no memorandums with which I can refer I shall consequently have to rely on my memory alone. However, as my recollections are quite vivid in reference to the incidents which occurred in this country during the War - and particularly with regard to the <sup>expedition to</sup> Mount Corn, and the battle which ensued there with the hostile Creek Indians - that I entertain ~~but~~ little or no doubt of the history which I <sup>shall</sup> give you of the occurrences of that period, being correct.

After the Declaration of War by the U. States against G. Britain in 1812. it was a point discussed in almost every circle which I entered in the town of St Stephens (where I then resided having arrived there prior to the declaration of War) and there were various opinions & surmises in relation to the part which the Creek Indians would act in the war, which was about to commence.

But the prevailing opinion (I discovered) was, that they, the Creeks, would become an ally of G. Britain, & would take up arms in her behalf and against the U. States, as their prejudices had always been decidedly in her favour and against the U. S.

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The conclusion which was drawn under those circumstances proved to be well founded; for it was ascertained in a short time that quite a hostile disposition towards our Citizens, began to manifest itself amongst the Indians, and that they had actually murdered some persons, in their Nation, who were emigrating to the Miss. Territory.

I am under the impression that between the 10<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> of August 1813, information was received in St. Stephens, which was relied on (and which proved to be the fact), that about 600 hostile Indians under the command of the celebrated <sup>or</sup> Weatherford, and some other distinguished Creek Officers, were then in Pensacola receiving arms & Ammunition (which was furnished by the British Agents) for the purpose of commencing hostilities, & engaging an exterminating war against the infant settlements which had been formed on the Tombecbe River, and in the whole Eastern part of the Miss. Territory.

This information, you will readily suppose, produced in those young settlements great confusion & Consternation. Meetings were immediately called for the purpose of adopting the most effective measures to ward off the impending blow. It was resolved unanimously, that the Citizens should immediately concentrate at St. Stephens and fortify themselves, and that an expedition should be fitted out as soon as practicable to march against the enemy, to intercept and cut them off, if possible, & thereby prevent the introduction of the Arms & Ammunition which they had received, into the Nation and in that way preserve our safety.

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Settlements from the impending danger, and  
at the same time, nipping the evil in the bud.  
Accordingly, Col. James Callier, who was the Senior  
Officer of the whole of the <sup>South</sup> Eastern part of the  
Territory, issued his orders to his inferior Officers,  
to assemble forthwith completely armed and  
equipped to take up the line of march immediately  
against those hostile Indians.

The order was promptly obeyed, and in less  
than three days, three Companies, raised in  
Washington Co. two of which belonged to St. Stephens  
one Volunteer Company, commanded by Capt.  
Benjamin Smoot & myself - and a Militia  
Company, commanded by Capt. Bailly Herd and  
Lieut. <sup>name not recollectd</sup> — and one from the Country Commanded  
by (according to my impression) Capt. David Cartwright  
& Lieut. — all mounted, were en route for  
the Creek Nation (I would here remark that  
all of the men that composed the division,  
were mounted, some with rifles & some with  
muskets, & of course, were termed Mounted Infantry)  
Those three Companies consisted of about  
40 or 45 men each, and which I think was about  
the size of Captains Dale's & Bailey's Companies.

They left St. Stephens on a day, I think, between  
the 10<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> of August, under the command of  
Col. James Callier, Cross'd the Tombecbe River  
that evening and bivouac'd that night at the  
Town of Jackson, on the east side of the T. River.  
The line of march was resumed early next mor-  
ning, and in the afternoon of that day we were  
joined at, or near, Siremosis ferry, on the  
Alabama River, by a Company commanded by  
Capt. Sam. Dale & Lieut. Creager. We swam our  
horses across the river - proceeded to Tat's Cowpen  
where we arrived about dark, and remained

Until we were joined by Capt. Drexler's Baerly's company, about 9 or 10 o'clock at night. Soon after his arrival, we again resumed the line of march in the direction of the Burnt Corn Spring, and after proceeding several miles, halted for the night. Early next morning, according to my impression, we arrived at the Spring at which point we turned off at right angles, & entered on a trail, termed the Wolf Trail. We marched on that trail due south, until we came within a mile or two of the B. Corn Creek at which place (I think about 11 A.M.) we were met by our spies, who informed us that they had seen a large body of Indians, & from every appearance, they had no question of their being the Pensacola party. A halt was ordered & a council held, and the officers were unanimously in favour of giving the Indians battle. The question then arose "Where shall we fight them?" Some were of opinion that we had better remain where we were, and off our horses, select our position and await their approach. (I was decidedly of that opinion myself) but a majority were of the opinion that it was best to march on them, anticipating an easy victory, from the fact of the enemy being off their guard, not suspecting our approach and were all occupied in attending to their horses & packs and in eating and preparing to eat. So the order of battle was agreed on, and the division formed into three columns & was ordered to march by the heads of columns. Capt. Smoot's Company was to occupy the front of the right column - Capt. Dale's, the front of the Centre column, and Capt. Baerly's, I think, was to occupy the front of the left column. This order of battle being thus formed, we again marched, and in a very short time we came in sight of the Indians, and a

# Charge <sup>5</sup> was ordered - (Most of the men were still in the saddle, and discharged their pieces before they dismounted, which was extremely injudicious, killing however, some 15 or 20 Indians and dispersing the balance, after an engagement of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of <sup>an hour</sup> duration. We had one man killed, by the name of Glass, and 10 or 15 badly wounded, amongst whom was the Gallant Saml. Dale in the commencement of the action.

There were a number of the Indians horses and packs captured by our men - and I will here answer a question which you ask me "What became of horses & packs captured by our men?" They were all kept & carried off by the Captors. I, on that occasion, captured a horse with a large pack myself. I regarded my pack as almost invaluable, as I, and all others who saw it, was under the impression that it was powder, as great care had evidently been taken in covering it over - I was not undecieved until the morning after the battle took place, when, on arriving at the Alabama, on our return home, I examined my prize; when lo! behold! to my great mortification, my powder turned out to be Liverpool Salt. At that time I gave the horse I had captured to Capt. Smoot, who had lost his in the battle - so that was the end of my plunder.

The Indians, as I have stated, had been dispersed and driven into the Swamp of the D. Coon Creek after maintaining their ground for about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of <sup>an hour</sup> and left <sup>travels</sup> in possession of the ground they had occupied when we charged on them. Shortly after however, they rallied and opened a galling fire on our men, who were then in quite an exposed situation, being on a narrow pine bridge, which was destitute of timber except a few pines - and

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on either side of which was a red brake of the  
reed, <sup>being</sup> 8 or ten feet high. A portion of them opened  
did those red brakes (the residue remaining in the  
Swamp) and opened a brisk fire on each of our  
flanks, and were annoying us greatly, while from their  
concealed situation, we could do them little or  
no injury. Our situation, you will perceive, was  
not a pleasant one - yet, notwithstanding, some  
of us had resolved to maintain our position at all  
hazards - and, as improbable as it may appear, some  
four or five of us did keep the Indians at bay  
on our side of the ridge, for some time after  
the retreat, ordered by Col. Callin, had actually  
taken place. During the time that intervened  
between the retreat, and the time when we four  
left the ground, my own life, and that of Lieut.  
Creecher, was preserved by the especial interposition  
of Divine Providence. I discovered an Indian  
some 50 yds from me in the reeds, with his gun  
presented at me. I raised & cocked mine, and  
we fired simultaneously. His ball struck my gun  
about an inch in front of the lock, leaving its mark  
but without injuring me. I do not know whether  
my adversary sustained any injury or not - he fell  
back at the firing of the guns & I saw him no more.  
I will give you the names of the four persons who  
remained after the retreat was ordered - and you  
can use them as you think proper - Cap<sup>t</sup>. Benjamin  
Lonsot. Lieut. Creecher, a private, the name of  
John Miles, & myself - a private, named Ballou,  
was killed & scalped a short distance from us  
rather on the decline of the opposite side of the  
ridge, but in full view. About this time, we  
came to the conclusion that it would be ~~imprudent~~  
~~best~~, to continue longer against such fearful  
odds, and resolved to join, if possible, the  
retreating party. We had proceeded but a

short distance when Lieut. Creshe (who was by my side) was shot down - On falling he exclaimed "Save me, Lieutenant, or I am gone" - I raised him up, but he could not stand - I thought then the only chance to save him was to bear him off on my shoulder - but on casting my eyes around I perceived a horse going at large & I flew with the speed of lightning - got the horse returned & placed the Lieutenant on it, and bore him off in triumph, the Indians firing away all the time - There was at one time a cloud of witnesses who would have borne testimony to this fact, for many of the retreating party occupied an eminence which commanded a view of the whole scene - When we reached this eminence we found a Lawyer - Broadburg (from Jackson I think) who had been wounded in the action, endeavouring to rally the men & prevail on them to return to the charge - I endeavoured to aid him - but our united efforts were unavailing - This was the only attempt that I can recollect being made to renew the fight

It was <sup>immediately</sup> after this time that I captured the horse & pack before alluded to -

On joining the retreating party, I discovered that all our field officers were missing with the exception of Col. Wm McGrew - As I have heretofore said little or nothing respecting our field officers and their conduct during the engagement, it may not be amiss here to give you their names and some account of the manner in which they acquitted themselves on that occasion.

James Callin, was the Col. Commandant. As I had heard his courage questioned previous to our March, I thought I would notice him particularly and ascertain whether

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The remarks were the result of malevolent feelings, or founded on fact - I must say that during the fight he did not manifest so much cowardice as I was led to anticipate and had it not been for his subsequent conduct I should have believed that his enemies were disposed to slander him in some degree.  
William McGrew was the Lt. Col. This I did not see during the engagement, but it was said by all I heard speak of him, that he acted cowardly, & disgraced himself.

Phillips was the Major, and appeared to be a perfectly kind of man, and I had more confidence in him than either of the others but I was woefully deceived; for he fled, it was said by those who saw him, with great precipitancy at the commencement of the engagement and was so panic stricken that when he came to his splendid and favorite Mare, which he had rode, and <sup>led</sup> ~~led~~; having taken the saddle off for the purpose of taking her back cool (while he was killing & plundering the Indians) and was about to mount <sup>her</sup> without saddle, a Negro observing which, said to him; "Master you have not put on your saddle." The redoubtable Major replied "Oh Negro! there is no time to that now, ~~now~~ <sup>so</sup> put on saddle" so he mounted his Mare bare back; and instead of going directly home, took a circuitous route, which was 30 or 40 miles farther deeming it to be the safe route. \*

We commenced our return march about two o'clock in the afternoon, and traveled until about eleven at night when our wounded were so completely exhausted that we were obliged to halt <sup>halt</sup> until next morning. Some time during the night "While we slept" Col. Callin, in company with Major Wood, Mr. Abner S. Lipscomb, passed us, and

proceeded about a mile farther on, towards the  
 river - Callin, as they pass'd, objecting both to their  
 stopping with us, or to our being awakened (according  
 to the statement of one of the gentlemen who was  
 with him) alledging that he was well acquainted  
 with the nature of our Indians; and that he had  
 no doubt but we would be pursued all night  
 by them, and attack'd about day light, and  
 that he would prefer not being with us when  
 we were attacked - Accordingly, they went on  
 leaving us between them & all danger - After  
 traveling about one mile, they left the road  
 and went into the woods, lay down & went  
 to sleep, and slept untill morning, and untill  
 we had pass'd them and arriv'd at the  
 River; and some of our men commenc'd fi-  
 ring off their guns, which roused them - and  
 Callin said, "There, I told you so, I knew  
 the Indians would give them battle again  
 about day" Lipscomb insist'd upon it, that  
 it was not the Indians, but their own men;  
 and propos'd to go on and join them - but  
 Callin & Wood positively refused, and persis-  
 ted in saying that it was the Indians - Lipscomb  
 then request'd them to remain where they  
 were (untill he went on to ascertain whether  
 or not they were correct - pledging himself if  
 he should be correct, to return immediately  
 to inform them) which they promis'd to do  
 On his finding that his conjectures had been correct  
 and returning to the spot where he had left  
 his two brave friends - Callin & Wood - <sup>But</sup> all  
 his efforts to find them having proved abortive  
 he was oblig'd to return without them - We  
 all arriv'd safely at home, (after marching the

day and the next, without any thing occurring  
 worthy of note) with the exception of Callin & Wood  
 who were lost in the Alabama Swamp, for nine  
 days, and when they were found (on the 9<sup>th</sup> day)  
 by a party who had gone out to search for  
 them - They were both, partially deranged, and  
 almost starved to death.

You ask <sup>us</sup> to what was the cause of the battle  
 at the Bourne Corn attributable? And what  
 became of the Officers?

I say without the slightest hesitation that  
 it was solely to be ascribed to the injudicious arrange-  
 ments, and the want of conduct in the Field Officers.  
 In my opinion there never were Officers more  
 deficient in Point of Generalship than they were.  
 Two of them, Callin & Phillips, retired into  
 private life and took no further part in  
 the war during its continuance - Col. W<sup>m</sup>. McGraw  
 sometime during the ensuing fall or winter  
 engaged in an expedition against some hostile  
 Choctaw Indians, and was killed in an engage-  
 ment with them, about 30 miles above St. Stephens  
 on a Creek called Bashe.

As to the Captains Daily, Bell, at the mas-  
 sacre at Ft. Mims - Somers, Hurd, and Dale  
 took arms again in defence of the Country  
 and were actively engaged during almost the  
 whole of the War - To your request of a de-  
 scription of the person & character of Capt.  
 D. Daily, I would remark he was, you are  
 aware, a half-breed Indian. In stature he  
 was about 5 feet 8, or 10 inches high, Square built  
 inclined to corpulency, & would have weighed  
 I suppose 175 or 180 - ~~was~~ had a dark complexion  
 was a man of intelligence and noble bearing  
 and of unswerving Chivalry and during the

Burnt Corn battle acted a prominent part, & displayed undaunted bravery -

We lost two men, as I before stated, and I refer to that circumstance again, as you request me to inform you how many were killed during the battle, & how many on the retreat. Young Glass was killed at the commencement of the action, & Ballard on the retreat but very near the battle ground.

In the above communication I have answered all or nearly all your interrogatories; tho' not exactly as they were put, not deeming it important that I should do so, neither did I remember them, as that is ~~in~~ <sup>of</sup> no consequence.

I shall now conclude all of my remarks in relation to the expedition to the B. Corn, the battle which took place there, and the incidents which occurred ~~from~~ <sup>across</sup> the time that we took up the line of march, until we struck our arms again in St. Stephens -

In December 1813 Genl. Claiborne (who was on the eve of taking up the line of march from St. Stephens for the Creek Nation) promoted Capt Benjamin S. Smoot <sup>to the</sup> rank of Major of the Militia appointing me at the same time adjutant.

We assumed our respective commands & marched with him into the Nation. And on the 23<sup>d</sup> of Dec<sup>r</sup> 1813 the troops under the command of Claiborne (our Militia constituting a part) attacked & destroyed a town on the Alabama River, called Occanachosa (or Holy Ground). Our loss on that occasion, was one man killed, and some two or three wounded. The Indians, <sup>who</sup> were commanded by Wm Weatherford, sustained <sup>a loss</sup> of 25 or 30 killed, and a number wounded. They, after having fought bravely for some time,

fled in every direction - As soon as the action was over, and our men a little refreshed we commenced burning the town & destroying every thing which we found, (of property) about it - and upon the next night we had nearly completed our work of destruction - Early on the succeeding morning we commenced our return march, and after having occupied several days in marching we arrived at St. Stephens - No incident occurring of any importance - except that my horse died - Thus indeed, I felt like "a stranger in a strange land", destitute of every thing - Shortly after our arrival the Genl. Claiborne conferred on me the command of a spying party, consisting of 7 or 8 men, which was dispatched up the Bigby river, for the purpose of ascertaining where the main body of hostile Indians were - After being about 8 or 10 days to the object of our mission being accomplished we returned in safety to St. Stephens, where I remained for a short time, when I again joined the Army as 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. of Militia, <sup>see note</sup> and was stationed below Mobile for several months - During this time the several battles were fought at Mobile Pt. and N. Orleans.

On the night on which the last cannonading commenced at Mobile Pt. which was about 2 o'clock at night, I commanded the lower guard near the M. Bay - and two days afterwards about one thousand men of us were ordered to the point, to aid in defence of it; and on the night on which we arrived at the point a Capt. Grafton & myself, with about 40 men were sent out to reconnoitre, and to ascertain, if possible, if the fort had surrendered; for the firing had ceased for 12 or 15 hours -

We came in contact with a British Picket Guard, which fired on us, without doing any execution. We charged on them, but <sup>they</sup> dispersed and fled, so we failed in capturing any of them. Consequently we were left in suspense until next morning, when a small British Vessel was captured by a party of our men under the command of a Major Winn - and we were informed that the fort had surrendered, when the firing ceased - We returned to our encampment below Mobile, where we remained until the news of peace was announced and we were discharged in Mobile on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 1844. We left that place in a most deplorable condition, being destitute of every thing, and many of us in bad health. Being without provisions or money, consequently we had to buy our way home, on Starve and I have no doubt, that many of the poor fellows perished on the way.

I however, arrived again at St. Stephens 4 or 5 days after leaving Mobile, in company with a Major Winston & a Lt. Patterson, having traveled part of the way in a Canoe, which we procured in Mobile - but having become tired of that tedious mode of traveling, we abandoned our boats and took it afoot until we arrived at the house of Roger Samuel Irwin, who had belonged to my company of Officers. He received us in the most cordial manner and after we had remained with him part of two days and enjoyed his kindness and hospitality, he furnished us with horses to ride to

St. Stephens, at which place we arrived  
in about half a day after leaving the house  
of my kind friend Esquire Irving—

\* Now Sir, I have given you the  
history of all the battles & Campaigns in  
which I was engaged during the Civil  
War - and have answered (in my way)  
most of your Interrogatories. There for  
nothing now remains for me to do but  
to wish you God speed in your literary  
labours - and to subscribe myself  
Your sincere friend  
Patrick Gray

\* The anecdote which I related respecting  
Whigs - Philips, the Negro, and the Saddle  
I cannot vouch for the truth of it, as the  
scene did not come under my own obser-  
vation - But I verily believe it to be the  
fact, having heard it very frequently, with-  
out ever having heard it contradicted

# Shortly after I entered on this, my last Campaign, the  
Command of the Company to which I was attached  
<sup>as 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant</sup>  
devolved on me (in consequence of the Captain (who  
had been commanding it, having been arrested, and  
finally cashier'd for an officer-like conduct) and  
which I continued to command during the War -

In conclusion it may not be inappropriate for me to state that during the time that the Army was encamped below Mobile, I witnessed that tragical scene which occurred there I have reference to the shooting of those seven Militia men, which occasioned such a hue & cry against Genl. Jackson and gave rise to those Copping hand bills which were so industriously and extensively circulated while he was canvassing for the Presidency. To my certain knowledge, at the time that those men were tried by a Court Martial, (which was sworn to do them Justice) convicted and executed, Genl. Jackson was in N. Orleans

Genl. Winchester being in command at Mobile I deem it not improper to refer to that circumstance, for I regard it connected with, and forming one of, the incidents of the war, to let you see how far mens prejudices will lead them astray

Those Militia men, and two Regular Soldiers, making nine in all, were shot in my presence, and shot of the whole Army, about four miles below the City of Mobile, not far distance from the Mobile Bay. Altho' the incident related above, may be foreign to your purpose, yet I have related it merely to let you know what was the fact in relation to that melancholy occurrence, for I have no doubt that it that it has been represented to you in a variety of false colours, as it has been to thousands of others -

Graunoboro August 7<sup>th</sup> 1847

Dear Sir

Your favour of the 24<sup>th</sup> ult. came duly to hand, & I now proceed to comply, partially with your request. I was born on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 1789, in Anson Co. N. C. three miles south of Wadesborough, in which place I was raised, & where, and in its vicinity I received my education (which was merely an academic one) with the exception of some two or three years which I spent in the Academies of Doct<sup>r</sup> - ors Caldwell and Robinson in Macklumburg and Cabarrus Counties.

From all the evidences which I have been enabled to derive, by tracing the genealogy of my Ancestors, it is very clear that I am of Irish & Welsh Origin.

My Great Grand father May, in Company with eight brothers, emigrated from ~~Ireland~~ to this Country from Ireland at an early period. As did also my Great Grand father Boggan, together with his family - his wife, according to all the information I have been able to obtain on the subject, being a Welsh Lady. Both these families of my Ancestors being of gentle blood.

My Grand father Boggan was a Captain in the Revolu<sup>t</sup>ionary War, and was, I have heard, a bold, daring, and efficient Officer, and one amongst the greatest of our the Tories ever had in N. Carolina.

My own father was raised in Anson County N. C. and was also an actor during that eventful period notwithstanding he was a youth whose years did not exceed 15 or 16, yet he shouldered his musket, and marched to <sup>the</sup> battle in defence of his Country; and was in the engagement which took place at Betty's Bridge between the Whigs & Tories. How partial I am to them

Revolutionary Whigs (the very Antipodes of the modern ones)  
 He continued to reside for a number of years in Anson Co  
 was at all times an uncompromising republican of the  
 Jeffersonian School, and represented Anson County  
 for ten or twelve consecutive years in the State Legis-  
 lature - He is yet living, about 12 or 13 miles from this  
 place, on the Black Warrior River, and is enjoying  
 pretty good health

In telling my story I shall have to refer to some things which  
 transpired, in relations to G. Britain & our Country, with the  
 history of which, you are, no doubt, familiar - & which  
 gave rise to some of the incidents of my life

G. Britain you are aware about that period, had been  
 in the habit of entering our vessels, and impressing our sea-  
 men - And her wanton & unprovoked attack on the Ches-  
 apeake in June 1807, the issuing her orders in Council  
 (which she declared however, was intended as a retaliation  
 on the French Government for having issued  
 her Berlin decree) and treating with contempt all our  
 remonstrances against such conduct, and refusing to  
 redress our grievances, induced our government to lay  
 an embargo on all the Ports of the U. States and to con-  
 sider the time not far distant when an open rupture  
 would occur - It was therefore deemed advisable  
 to commence the adoption of such measures as would  
 prepare us for any emergency - Hence the organization  
 of Volunteer Companies was ordered throughout the  
 Union; and one was organized in Wadesboro, N. C. J. J. Inge  
 D. Cash was elected Capt. Jacob Coulson Lieut. and  
 myself ensign, <sup>this was before I was liable to do militia duty,</sup> In a short time after, Coulson died &  
 I was promoted to the Lieutenancy

The 12 months having expired, for which we volunteered  
 the company was of course dissolved & I resumed

My Academic course, which I continued to prosecute until I finished it, in the Academies to which I have already referred in December 1811. In Jan<sup>y</sup> 1812 I left S<sup>c</sup>. Carolina for the Miss. Ter. I arrived at St. Stephens about the 10<sup>th</sup> of Feb<sup>r</sup>, where I commenced the Study of Law and pursued that Study until War was declared, when I conceived it to be my duty to attack my books and take up Arms in defence of my Country, and I immediately volunteered. You have already been informed of the part that I acted, subsequent to that period, up to the 26 of March 1814.

In the May following I returned to S<sup>c</sup>. Carolina, where I remained until Autumn, when I returned to St. Stephens but instead of resuming the Study of Law, I entered into the mercantile business (being somewhat straitened in Circumstances) & continued to merchandise some one or two years. But my anticipations not being realized, I concluded that I would wind up my mercantile concern & lie on my oars, until an opportunity offered for me to engage in something more lucrative. So a portion of my time was spent in doing little or nothing that was calculated to benefit me. I read Law occasionally not however with the intention of practicing it; for I had come to the Conclusion that it was a profession that I should not like to follow.

During the time that intervened between my return to St. Stephens and my removal from there, which was in 1814 three military & one civil, appointments were conferred on me by Gov. Bibb Viz, Capt. - Lieut. Col. and magistrate. The two latter offices I continued to exercise until a short time previous to my removal to the up Country.

To enable you to form some idea of the character and

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Morals of the people of St. Stephens, I will relate a <sup>circumstance</sup> ~~scene~~,  
that occurred there shortly after I received the appointment of  
of magistrate. There resided on a lot adjoining my own  
a maiden Lady the name of Whiting (all the way from Yankee  
Land) who was address'd by an old widower in the neighbour  
hood; and after being woo'd for some time (lots & cords of old  
admirers having been rejected & laid on the shelf, no doubt) she  
consented to his leading her to the hymeneal Altar - On one  
Sunday afternoon the marriage was solemnised in the  
presence of some two or three particular favorites only; the  
lady, from extreme youth (being bashful, one might infer)  
objecting to many persons being present - Those few favor-  
ites only being invited, was taken in high dudgeon by the  
slighted ones. A meeting was call'd, and it was resolved  
that they would revenge themselves in a signal manner  
on the offenders, and they unanimously agreed to give them  
one grand Serenade - The sounding of the tocom, at the com-  
mencement of night fall, was to be the signal for assembling at  
the Bank house, (which was agreed on as the place of rendezvous)  
with instruments of music of every description - The time being ar-  
rived, and the signal, they poured in from all quarters, bringing  
with them every thing that could be imagin'd, from which  
a sound could be extract'd Viz. Drums & Pipes, Clarionets, tam-  
boorins, triangles, Violins, French horns, bugles, old tin pans, etc.  
bells, and in fact, some came rolling up old barrels, and haul-  
ing up old carts, On counting noses, it was ascertained that  
there were some absentees. Drefs gangs were sent out, with  
instructions to seize every male person they could find, and  
bring them forthwith to head quarters - In one of those excu-  
sions, my old and valued friend, Major Snoot was caught  
whom they bore off with great self gratulation, to the scene of  
action, and from whom they extorted a promise that he  
would act as martial of the day (or night) The line of

procession was then formed, and marching orders issued, & in a short time all was in motion - It will be much easier to imagine, than to describe what ensued - Never was there such a scene exhibited, before, or since in St. Ste. It capt the the Climax of absurdity - Such a dust as was kicked up (literally) such music! such sounding of horns, bugles, trumpets, drums, fifes & Violins - such hideous yells, and rattling of old barrels & Carts - never were heard before, I am sure, in any community - It seem'd as if old Terach had unchain'd at least one thousand of his troops -

The avowed object of all this, was to honour the newly married couple, who were at that time snugly ensconced in each others arms, dreaming of no such honours - its being Sabbath evening, they took it for granted, of course, that the sanctity of that day would not be violated - Their impudens honours, were badly founded, for the inhabitants of St. Stephens, at that period, had the hardihood to trample under foot even the sanctity of the Sabbath - I believe, however, there were perhaps more trepitous even at that time, in the place, than were in Sodom - When the Angels descended from Heaven the end of righteous Lot, that he might escape the shower of fire & Brimstone, about to be poured out on that doomed City - The serenade having been completed, they march'd and halted immediately in front of my door, where they commenced a species of extravagance & folly which was at most without a parallel - It was the most perfect scene of boisterous revelry - and humbled me more than any thing else I had ever witness'd of those midnight Orgies, once celebrated in honour of Bacchus -

The actors in this scene having set at defiance all law, both human and Divine, merited, in my opinion, not only the most pointed reprehension, but the infliction of

all the punishment that the Statute of the Terr. would warrant. Accordingly, on the succeeding morning I commenced issuing warrants against all those who had been engaged in the affair - and the whole of that week was occupied in trying the delinquents most of whom were guilty, the evidences in some cases not being sufficiently clear to convict the persons arraigned.

The fines collected amounted to about \$45, exclusive of Courtable fees which amounted to 10 or 15 more; my own fees I would not suffer to be ~~expended~~ in any instance.

You may readily suppose that I dragg'd down on myself the indignation of many persons - Some of them in fact, were so incensed against me that they declared they would report me to Gov. Bibb on his arrival. ~~It has~~ ~~me~~ displaced from office, for having performed a work of supererogation as they termed it - They did report me, but the governor instead of removing me from office, told them very plainly that he approved of my conduct so highly that he would promote me before he left town, which he did, conferring on me the appointment of Lieut. Col.

Notwithstanding the rather lax state of morals that prevailed at St. Stephens, the people in general, were refined and intelligent, and in point of fashions, were behind no community - They were sociable & agreeable, full of ~~gaiety~~ & frolic, spent much of their time in visiting, and were extremely fond of dancing - They did not, however, spend quite two thirds of their time between the heavens & the earth, (as I have heard it said the French were in the habit of doing,) in the exercise of dancing.

I know very little about the Manners, Customs or dress of those who resided in the country, having mingled very little with them.

It afforded me much pleasure to hear that you were about to undertake the arduous task of writing a history of

Alabama, I have no doubt, that the labour and industry  
 required to collect materials sufficient to enable you to  
 write a full and correct history, will prove an arduous  
 undertaking. But let me enjoin it upon you my Dear Sir  
 to persevere; for from some specimens of your writing  
 which I have seen, I entertain not the shadow of a  
 doubt, that you will do justice to the state & honour  
 to yourself. In order to show you that industrious  
 perseverance will surmount all obstacles, suffer  
 me to relate to you a circumstance that has just  
 occurred to my mind and which I know to be the  
 fact. Whilst we were posted in St J. there was  
 a Dr. John A. from N. C. resided in the place, and  
 a Miss A. also from N. C. who had emigrated to  
 St J. with her brother in law, who was a brother of  
 the Doctor. Dr. A. had commenced wooing Miss A.  
 some five or six years before they left N. C. which they  
 all did in company, the Doctor, no doubt continuing  
 his assiduities during the time occupied in traveling, but  
 to little purpose. He resolved however, "Never to give  
 up the ship" and on his arrival in <sup>St.</sup> Stephens, his love hav-  
 ing suffered no abatement, he renewed his suit, with  
 redoubled energy, but seemingly to as little purpose as be-  
 fore, she turning the back of her hand to him on all  
 occasions until she opinion appeared to prevail the  
 whole community, which was, that the safety of our scalps  
 required us to march en masse, into the Fort, which  
 we did, accompanied by the Dr. & Miss A. And on  
Moon Shiny night, he made a dead set, urging no doubt  
 more eloquently than ever, his claims to her hand & heart  
 on account of his constancy and being aided at that jun-  
 cture, by a combination of circumstances, all calculated  
 to make a deep and unpleasant impression on her mind

J

Such as their unpleasant & perilous situation, all being pent up within the walls of a small fort, and hourly expecting an attack from the Indians - anticipating the time when the Tomahawk & scalping knife would be applied to their throats &c. - all of which was ~~perpetrated~~ <sup>perpetrated</sup> to her in the most vivid manner - by the Doctor - urging upon her the importance and necessity of all ladies providing themselves with protectors (in such perilous times) who would stand by them 'in the day & hour of danger' reminding her, no doubt, of the great length of time she had been devoted to him, & of the many evidences he had given her of his unwavering and undivided affection.

At length the strong holds which she had erected about her heart began to give way, which the D. perceiving he thundered away with his heavy artillery, until they were entirely demolished and *Mirabile dictu*, she surrendered, after a seven years siege, which was not quite so long as the siege of Troy.

Well, one night, after the Indian panic had somewhat subsided, they concluded to quit the Fort and go to the D.'s own house, and get married which they did, having invited some 10 or 12 persons to witness the ceremony, your humble servant being among the favoured few - About 11 o'clock we all returned to the Fort except the D. & his bride, who had concluded that they would remain at their own house - their happiness being complete as they no doubt thought.

But you know that invidious & ill disposed persons reside in all communities, who are inclined to impose upon every ones Cup a large portion of bitter ingredients and to <sup>as possible</sup> mar as much the happiness of all others.

So there were in the Fort some five or six Officers & Citizens who took a miff at not having been invited to the wedding,

They furnished themselves with spears, and whipt round to the Doctor's house, where they discharged their pieces which alarmed the newly married couple very much they supposing the shots to proceed from the Indians they jumped up (in their night cloaths) and out of the window, not taking time to dress themselves, (thinking as did Major Philips that it was no time to chat & put on cloaths) and pull'd for the fort screaming & hollowing - The Doctor's better half outstripping him but occasionally looking behind her for the Doctor and crying out "Run Job, run Job, run!" When she arrived at the fort she was met by some females, who threw a mantle over her and conducted her into the nearest cabin where they dress'd her, a while after which the Doctor arrived in safety, and so ended the scene - You may well think, notwithstanding my boasting of the refinement of manners of the St. Stephensites, that the occurrence related above, savours but little of it. In fact it occasioned a great mortification to those who were the victims (I may say) and excited great indignation against the perpetrators, some of whom were Officers -

In 1819 I left St. Stephens and settled in Greene Co. In the commencement of the following year (1820) I received the appointment of Judge of the County Court, and organized, and presided at, the first C. Court ever held in Greene County. During the same year I was elected Brigadier General. In 1821 I represented Chauga and Greene Counties in the State Senate. In 1835 I represented Greene Co in the State Legislature, and declined a reelection. I have represented Greene Co. at various times in our Democratic State Conventions, and I acted as chair man of the corresponding committee during Mr. V. Bowen's first canvass for the Presidency. In June 1846 I applied to Jones

W. Polk for an appointment in our Army in Mexico, but he not being as well acquainted with me as was Gen. Bibb, thought proper not to give it to me, so the old Leason was supposed to subside & I to remain at home, which was all for the best no doubt.

I will now give you all the information I possess relative to the French Vine & Olive Association. During the year 1817 I think they ~~located~~ their four townships of land in Grant & Harango Counties and commenced establishing themselves in the neighbourhood of Demopolis and continued to form settlements throughout the four townships during that, and two or three succeeding years, with the view of complying as soon as practicable (as they agreed) with one of the articles of the contract which they had made with our government, in relation to the cultivation of the Vine & Olive. After having made some experiments, they became convinced that the enterprise would prove fruitless; many became discouraged, and as far as the Vine & Olive were concerned, abandoned almost entirely the project, and turned their attention to Corn & Cotton. But they succeeded badly at that, not being calculated for farmers, from which I should have inferred that they had not given it a fair trial, had not some of our own Citizens taken the matter in hand & bestowed much time and attention in its cultivation with but little better success. The Vine flourished for a few years & then began to deteriorate, the grapes invariably rotting. From all the observations that I have been enabled to make I am of opinion that the French Grape will not succeed well here with any kind of culture. And that the climate is not well adapted to the culture of any Grape, except the native one, and the Carolina White muscadine which flourishes here very luxuriantly. About the time that the French became so discouraged in the farming enterprise, the King of France proclaimed a general amnesty to all the adherents of Buonaparte who had exiled themselves, and invited them to return to their Country. The most prominent members of the Association disposed of their little farms (they were all small) immediately & quit the Country, and in a short

time a general breaking up and dispersion of the members of the association ensued; and at this time there is not more than two or three French families in the four Townships; and if there is one Olive tree, standing on one Vineyard in successful operation I am ignorant of it — In compliance with your request

I will endeavour to describe those Gentlemen who distinguished themselves at the B. C. Battle <sup>all gone</sup> & what became of them

Breadbury was wounded just below the shoulder, in the arm, at the engagement, before referred to, which took place on Bashie Creek was taken to St. J. — in a horse litter, had his arm amputated and died, after suffering excruciating pain for 5 or 6 days.

He was stout built, at least six feet high, would have weighed 180 or 200 lbs, of florid complexion, and in his appearance somewhat like your father. He was, I think from S. Carolina

Major Smoot was gentlemanly in the highest degree, a sincere and devoted friend. In stature he was about 5 feet, 6 or 8 inches high rather duteh built with dark complexion & black hair and eyes. He had been an officer in the regular Army, a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut, perhaps. He settled below Mobile on the Bay, and engaged in raising vegetables for the Mobile market, and died there one or two years ago.

Lieutenant Walth Creaghe settled at Sugsville Clark Co. — I know not what business he engaged in. He was a man of more than ordinary smartness, having been well educated in S. Carolina, his native State.

He was of a generous noble nature, agreeable manners, & prepossessing appearance. He had black hair, dark piercing eyes, and ruddy complexion. He was quite popular in his County, & represented it a term or two in the Senate. I have been told he is dead, but I do not know whether it is a fact or not. — neither do I know whether he is any thing to the Senate. George Greath you mention in your letter.

John Miles was a plain farmer, who resided in the neighbourhood and with whom I was not familiarly acquainted; but he was represented to me as a worthy upright good Citizen, and was I think originally from Georgia. I do not know what became of him.

I must claim your indulgence while I relate to you

The most interesting Item (to me at least) in my whole life. On the 30<sup>th</sup> April 1826, I attached myself to the Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, I am still a member of that Church and humbly hope & trust to be considered worthy of my membership until I shall be ordered by the Great Captain to sheath my sword in the Church Militant & join the Church triumphant.

I hold an office in one of our Church Courts, which was conferred on me shortly after I joined the Church contrasted with which, in point of honour and importance, all the Offices and Honours which have been conferred on me dwindle into utter insignificance.

And now Dear Sir I will conclude with begging you to excuse all Egotism, which you must do when you consider if I have committed the crime you must answer for the Sin. And I can assure however that never before than I said so much of that particular person.

Mr. G. Myself I must now beg you also to excuse my delay which has been occasioned by some business arising since I commenced writing and now I will again wish you success and remain as heretofore.

Your sincere friend Patrick May

P.S. I have just received your "Eight days in St. Orleans," for which receive my thanks.  
P.M.

Gainesboro Aug. 24 1847

Dear Sir

Yours of the 17<sup>th</sup> Inst would have been answered earlier, but wishing, if possible, to obtain from some source, some information which would refresh my memory in relation to the time when the Burnt Corn battle was fought

My efforts, I take pleasure in saying, have been crowned with success, and I can now give you the precise time, or, within one day of it

It occurred to my recollection, the day after I received your letter, that a gentleman residing some eight or ten miles from Gainesboro had in his possession an old book, in which Dr. Geo. Buchanan, who resided in (and practiced medicine) in St. Stephens in 1813 - kept his medical accounts. And I also recollect that one W. M. Baldwin who had been wounded in that battle, had him (Dr. Buchanan) call'd in, on the night that we arrived at home, to examine his wound and extract the ball, which was, according to his book accounts, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July, 1813 - which I presume (in fact I have no doubt) was correct as to date

In my first letter to you, my memory seems to have been at fault - and instead of our taking up our line of march between the 10 & 20<sup>th</sup> of August we took it up on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July - encamp'd the first night at the town of Jackson - the second near the Burnt Corn Spring - the third the battle was fought, and that night we slept near Dale's ferry (a few miles above Sims more's ferry on the Alabama) on our return home - and on the fourth we arrived at home, and Baldwin had the ball extracted from his breast - so I now entertain no doubt as to the date of the B. C. battle being correctly fix'd -

I do not know of any person living who was engaged in the Skirmish on Bashi Creek  
Lawyer Bradbury was wounded twice, which I omitted to mention - The first was in the leg and being merely a flesh wound he soon recovered - The last time, as I have already stated he was wounded in the arm, which <sup>wound</sup> ~~was~~ occasioned his death

Now Sir, in conclusion I would request you to let me hear from you occasionally and advise me what progress you are making in your arduous undertaking - I do conceive it to be arduous I am with the highest respect  
Your friend Patrick Gray

P.S. When you see them, please give my respects to your father & Mother. P.M.

GREENSBORO  
Aug 25  
Ala.

5

Col. A. J. Pickell  
Montgomery  
Alabama

J. M.

Notes furnished  
A J Pickett  
by his friend  
Gen Patrick May of Greene County Ala  
in relation  
to  
the "Burnt Corn fight"  
& many other things which happened  
in the years 1813. 1814.

Greensboro July 16<sup>th</sup> 1847

Dear Sir

Your favor of the 5<sup>th</sup> Ins<sup>t</sup>, was handed to me on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Just as I was about to leave home, on imperative business (which detained me <sup>^</sup>for several days) in consequence of which I was prevented complying with your request so soon as I could have wishd [*sic*] I now proceed, with great pleasure, to give you all the information in relation to the matter, that I am in possession of\_ but as I have no memorandums with which I can refer I shall consequently have to rely on my memory alone\_ However, as my recollections are quite vivid in reference to the incidents which occurred in this country during the War \_ and particularly with regard to the <sup>^</sup>expedition to Burnt Corn, and the battle which ensued there with the hostile Creek Indians\_ that I entertain ~~but~~ little or no doubt of the hystory which I <sup>^</sup>shall give you of the occurences [*sic*] of that period, being correct

After the Declaration of War by the U. States against G. Britain in 1812 it was a point discussed in almost every circle which I entered in the town of St Stephens (where I then resided having arrived there prior to the declaration of War) and there were various opinions & surmises in relation to the part which the Creek Indians would act in the war, was about to commence\_\_

But the prevailing opinion (I discovered) was, that they, the Creeks, would become an ally of G. Britain, & would take up arms in her behalf and against the U. States, as their prejudices had always been decidedly in her favour and against the U.S. The conclusion which was drawn under these circumstances proved to be well founded; for it was ascertained in a short time that quite a hostile disposition towards our Citizens, began to manifest itself among the Indians, and that they had actually murdered some persons, in their Nation who were emigrating to the Miss. Territory. I am under the impression that between the 10 & 20<sup>th</sup> of August 1813, information was received in St. Stephens, which was relied on, (and which proved to be the fact), that about 300 hostile Indians under

the command of the celebrated W<sup>m</sup> Weatherford, and some other distinguished Creek officers, were then in Pensacola receiving arms & amunition [*sic*] (which was furnished by the British Agents) for the purpose of commencing hostilities & engaging an exterminating war against the infant settlement which had been formed on the Tombecbe River, and in the whole Eastern part of the Miss. Territory This information you will readily suppose, produced in those young settlements great confusion & consternation\_ Meetings were immediately called for the purpose of adopting the most effective measures to ward off the impending blow. It was resolved unanimously that the Citizens should immediately concentrate at St. Stephens and fortify themselves\_ and that an expedition should be fitted out as soon as possible & thereby prevent the introduction of the arms & amunition [*sic*] which they had received, into the Nation and in that way preserve our settlements from the impending danger, and, at the same time, nipping the evil in the bud\_ Accordingly, Col. James Collier, who was the Senior officer of the whole of the South Eastern part of the Territory, issued his orders to his inferior officers, to assemble forthwith completely armed and equipped [*sic*] to take up the line of march immediately against those hostile Indians.

The order was promptly obeyed, and in less than three days, three companies, raised in Washington Co. two of which belonged to St. Stephens one Volunteer company, commanded by Cap<sup>t</sup> Benjamin Smoot & myself\_ and a militia company, Commanded by Cap<sup>t</sup> Baily Herd and Lieut \_\_\_\_\_ ^ name not recollected and one from the Country Commanded by (according my impression) Cap<sup>t</sup>. David Cartwright & Lieut. \_\_\_\_\_ all mounted, were en route for the Creek Nation (I would here remark that all the men that composed the division, were mounted\_ some with rifles & some with muskets, & of course, were termed mounted Infantry) Those three companies consisted of about 40 or 45 men each, and which I think was about the size of Captains Dale's & Bailey's companies

They left St. Stephens on a day, I think, between the 10 & 20<sup>th</sup> of August, under the command of Col. James Collier, Cross'd the Tombecbe River that evening and Bivouac'd that night at the town of Jackson, on the east side of the T.

River The line of march was resumed early next morning, and in the afternoon of that day we were joined at, or near, Sizemore's ferry, on the Alabama River, by a company commanded by Cap<sup>t</sup>. Sam. Dale & Lieut. Creagher\_ We swam our horses across the river\_ proceeded to Tate's Cowpen where we arrived about dark, and remained until we were joined by Cap<sup>t</sup>. Dixson Baily's Company, about 9 or 10 O Clock at night. Soon after his arrival [*sic*], we again resumed the line of march in the direction of the Burnt Corn Spring, and after proceeding several miles, halted for the night\_ Early the next morning according to my impression, we arrived at the Spring at which point we turned off at right angles, & entered on a trail termed the Wolf Trail\_ We marched on that trail due south, until we came within a mile or two of the B. Corn Creek at which place (I think about 11. A M) we were met by our spies, who informed us that they had seen a large body of Indians, & from every appearance, they had no question of their being the Pensacola party\_ A halt was ordered & a council held, and the officers were unanimously in favor of giving the Indians battle\_ The question then arose "when shall we fight them?" Some were of the opinion that we had better remain where we were, send off our horses, select our position and await their approach [*sic*]\_ (I was decidedly of that opinion myself) but a majority were of the opinion that it was best to march on them anticipating an easy victory, from the fact of the enemy being off their guard, not suspecting our approach and were all occupied in attending to their horses & packs\_ and in eating and preparing to eat. So the order of battle was agreed on, and the Division formed into three columns & was ordered to march by the heads of Columns\_ Cap<sup>t</sup> Smoot's Company was to occupy the front of the Right Column\_ Cap<sup>t</sup> Dale's, the front of the Centre Column\_ and Cap<sup>t</sup> Baily's, I think was to occupy the front of the left Column\_, The order of battle being this formed, we again marched, and in a very short time we came in sight of the Indians, and a charge was ordered\_ Most of the men were still in the saddle, and discharged their pieces before they dismounted, (which was extremely injudicious), killing however, some 15 or 20 Indians and dispersing the ballance [*sic*], after an engagement of 3/4 of <sup>an hour or</sup> an hours duration\_ We

had one man kill'd, by the name of Glass, and 10 or 15 badly wounded, amongst whom was the gallant Sam<sup>l</sup>. Dale (in the commencement of the action

There were a number of the Indians horses and packs captured by our men\_ and I will here answer a question which you ask me ("What became of horses and packs captured by our men?") They were all kept and carried off by the Captors\_ I, on the occasion captured a horse with a large pack myself\_ I regarded my pack as almost invaluable, as I, (and all thus who saw it) was under the impression that it was powder, as great care had evidently been taken in covering it over\_ I was not undeceived untill [*sic*] the morning after the battle took place, when on ariving [*sic*] at the Alabama, on our return home, I examined my prize; when lo & behold; to my great mortification, my powder turned out to be Liverpool Salt \_ At that time I gave the horse I had captured, to Cap<sup>l</sup> Smoot, who had lost his in the battle\_ So that was the end of my plunder

The Indians, as I have stated, had been dispersed and driven into the Swamp of the B. Corn Creek after maintaining their ground for about 3/4 of <sup>an hour</sup> or an hour\_ and left our <sup>troops</sup> in possession of the ground they had occupied when we charged on them\_ Shortly after however, they rallied and opened a galling fire on our men, who were then in quite an exposed situation, being on a narrow pine ridge, which was destitute of timber except for a few pines\_ and on either side of which was a reed brake\_ The reeds <sup>being</sup> 8 or ten feet high\_ A portion of them [assembled?] in those reed - brakes (the residue remaining in the Swamp) and opened a brisk fire on each of our flanks, and were annoying us greatly, while from their conceal'd situation, we could do them little or no injury\_ Our situation you will perceive, was not a pleasant one\_ yet, notwithstanding some of us had resolved to maintain our positions at all hazards\_ and improbable as it may appear, some four or five of us did keep the Indians at bay on our side of the Ridge, for some time after the retreat, ordered by Col. Collier, had actually taken place \_ During the time that intervned between the retreat and the time when we four left the ground, my own life, and that of Lieut. Creagher, was preserved by the special interposition of Divine Providence\_ I discovered an Indian some 50

yds from me in the reeds, with his gun pointed at me\_ I raised, & cock'd mine, and we fired simultaneously\_ His ball struck my gun about an inch in front of the lock, (leaving its mark but without injuring me\_ I do not know whether my adversary sustained any injury or not\_ he fell back at the firing of the guns & I saw him no more. I will give you the names of four persons who remained after the retreat was ordered\_ and you can use them as you think proper\_ Cap<sup>t</sup> Benjamin Smoot, Lieut. Creagher, a private, the name John Miles, & myself\_ A private named Ballard was killed & scalp'd a short distance from us rather on the decline of the oposite [*sic*] side of the ridge, but in full view\_ About this time we came to the conclusion that it would be profitless to contend longer against such fearful odds, and resolved to Join if possible, the retreating party\_ We had proceeded but a short distance when Lieut. Creagher (who was by my side) was shot down\_ On falling he exclaimed "Save me, Lieutenant or I am gone"\_ I raised him up, but he could not stand\_ I thought then the only chance to save him was bear him off on my shoulder\_ but on casting my eyes around I perceived a horse going at large & I flew with the speed of lightning\_ got the horse returned & placed the Lieutenant on it, and bore him off in triumph, the Indians firing away all the time\_ There was at one time a cloud of witnesses who would have borne testimony to this fact; for many of the retreating party occupied an eminence which commanded a view of the whole scene\_ When we reached this eminence we found a Lawyer Bradbury (from Jackson I think) who had been wounded in the action, endeavoring to rally then men & prevail on them to return to the charge\_ I endeavored to aid him\_ but our united efforts were unavailing\_ This was the only attempt that I can recollect being made to renew the fight It was <sup>^</sup> immediately after this time that I captured the horse and pack before alluded to \_\_\_

On joining the retreating party, I discovered that all our field officers were missing with the exception of Col. W<sup>m</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Grew \_ As I have heretofore said little or nothing respecting our field officers, and their conduct during the engagement, it may not be amiss here to give you their names and some account of the manner in which they acquitted themselves on that occasion.

James Collier, was the Col. Commandent [*sic*]. As I had heard his courage questioned previous to our march, I thought I would notice him particularly and ascertain whether these remarks were the result of malevolent feelings, or founded on fact \_ I must say that during the fight he did not manifest so much cowardice as I was led to anticipate and had it not been for his subsequent conduct I should have believed that his enemies were disposed to slander him in some degree William M<sup>c</sup>Grew was the Lt. Col. \_ Him I did not see during the engagement, but it was said by all I heard speak of him, that he acted cowardly and disgraced himself

Phillips was the Major, and appeared to be a sprightly kind of man, and I had more confidence in him than either of the others \_ but was wofully [*sic*] deceived; for he fled, it was said by those who saw him, with great precipitancy at the commencement of the engagement \_ and was so panic stricken that when he came to his splendid and favorite Mare which he had rode, and ^ had tyed; having taken the saddle off for the purpose of [taking?] her back cool (while he was killing & plundering the Indians) and was about to mount ^ her without saddle, a negro observing which, said to him “Master you have not put on your saddle” \_ The redoubtable Major replied “Ah negro! There is no time to chat now, nor ^ to put on saddle” so he mounted his mare bare back’d; and instead of going directly home, took a circuitous route, which was 30 or 40 miles further deeming it to be the safer route \_ \*

We commenced our return march about two O Clock in the afternoon, and traveled untill [*sic*] about eleven at night, when our wounded were so completely exhausted that we were obliged to <sup>halt</sup> untill next morning \_ Some time during the night “while we slept” \_ Col. Collier, in company with Major Wood, & Abner S. Lipscomb, pass’d us, and preceeded about a mile farther on, towards the river \_ Collier as they pass’d, objecting both to their stopping with us, or to our being awakened (according to the statement of one of the gentlemen who was with him) alledging “that he was well acquainted with the nature of our Indians; and that he had no doubt but we would be pursued all night be them, and attacked about

daylight, and that he would prefer not being with us when we were attacked\_ Accordingly they went on leaving us between them & all danger\_ After traveling about one mile, they left the road and went into the woods, lay down & went to sleep, and slept untill morning, and untill we had pass'd them and arrived at the river; and some of our men commenced firing off their guns, which roused them. and Collier said “There, I told you so, I knew the Indians would give them battle again about day\_” Lipscomb insisted upon it, that it was not the Indians, but their own men; and proposed to go on an join them; but Collier & Wood positively refused, and persisted in saying that it was the Indians\_ Lipscomb then requested them to remain where they were, (untill he went on to ascertain whether or not they were correct pledging himself if he should be correct, to return immediately & inform them) which they promised to do On his finding that his conjectures had been correct and returning to the spot where he had left his two brave friends \_ Collier & Wood = ^ But all his efforts to find them having proved abortive he was obliged to return without them\_ We all arrived safely at home, (after marching that day and the next, without any thing occuring [*sic*] worthy of note) with the exception of Collier & Wood who were lost in the Alabama Swamp, for nine days and when they were found (on the 9<sup>th</sup> day) by a party who had gone out to search for them\_ They were both partially deranged and almost starved to death

You ask “To what was the cause of the battle at the Burnt Corn attributable? and what became of the officers?

I can say without the slightest hesitation that it was solely to be ascribed to the injudicious arrangements, and the want of conduct in the Field Officers. In my opinion There never were officers more deficient in point of Generalship than they were. Two of them, Collier & Phillips, retired into private life and took no further part in the war during its continuance\_ Col. W<sup>m</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Grew sometime during the ensuing fall or winter engaged in an expedition against some Chocktaw Indians, and was kill'd in an engagement with them, about 30 miles above St. Stephens on a Creek call'd Bashi

As to the Captains \_ Baily fell at the massacre at Ft. Mimms [*sic*] \_ Smoot, Herd, and Dale took arms again in defence [*sic*] of the country and were actively engaged during almost the whole of the War\_ To your request of a description of the person & character of Cap<sup>t</sup> D. Baily, I would remark he was, you are aware, a half-breed Indian\_ In Stature he was about 5 foot 8, or 10 inches high, Square built inclined to corpulency & would have weighed I suppose 175 or 180\_ ~~was~~ had a dark Complexion was a man of intelligence and noble bearing and of unsurpassed Chivalry and during Burnt Corn battle acted a prominent part, & displayed undaunted bravery\_\_

We lost two men as I before stated and I refer to that circumstance again, as you requested me to inform you how many were kill'd during the battle, & how many on the retreat. Young Glass was kill'd at the commencement of the action, & Ballard on the retreat but very near the battle ground

In the above communication I have answered all or nearly all your interrogatories, 'tho not exactly as they were put not deeming it important that I should do so, neither did I number them, as that is I presume of no consequence I shall now conclude my remarks in relation to the expedition to the B. Corn, the battle which took place there, and the incidents which occur'd from the time that we took up the line of march, until we stack'd our arms again in St. Stephens\_\_

In December 1813 Gen<sup>l</sup>. Claiborne (who as one the eve of taking up the line of march from St Stephens for the Creek Nation) promoted Cap<sup>t</sup> Benjamin S. Smoot ^ to the rank of Major of the Militia appointing me at the same time adjutant We assumed our respective commands & marched with him into the Nation\_ And on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of Decb<sup>r</sup> 1813 the troops under the command of Claiborne (our Militia constituting a part) attacked & destroyed a town on the Alabama River, call'd Eccanachaca (or Holy Ground) Our loss on that occaion, was one man kill'd, and some two or three wounded\_ The Indians ^ who were commanded by W<sup>m</sup> Weatherford, sustained ^ a loss of 25 or 30 kill'd, and a number wounded\_ They, after having fought bravely for some time, fled in every direction\_ As soon as this action was over, and our men a little refreshed we

commenced burning the town & destroying every thing which we found (of property) about it\_ and before we slept that night we had nearly completed our work of destruction\_ Early on the succeeding morning we commenced our return march, and after having occupied several days in marching we arrived at St. Stephens no incident occurring [*sic*] of any importance except that my horse died \_ Then indeed, I felt like “a stranger in a strange land,” destitute of every thing\_ Shortly after our Arrival there Gen<sup>l</sup> Claiborne conferred [*sic*] on me the command of a spying party, consisting of 7 or 8 men, which was dispatched up the Bigby River, for the purpose of ascertaining where the main body of hostile Indians were\_ After being absent 8 or 10 days & the object of our mission being accomplished we returned in safety to St Stephens, where we remained for a short time, when I again joined the Army as 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. of Militia and was stationed below Mobile for <sup># see note</sup> several months\_ During this time several battles came off at Mobile Pt. and N. Orleans

On the night on which the canonading commenced at Mobile Pt, which was about 2 O Clock at night, I commanded the lower guard, near the M. Bay\_ and two days afterwards about one thousand men of us were ordered to the point, to aid in defence of it, and on the night on which we arrived at the point a Cap<sup>l</sup> Grafton & myself, with about 90 men went out to reconnoiter, and to ascertain if possible, if the fort had surrendered; for the firing had ceased for 12 or 15 hours\_ We came in contact with a British Picket guard, which fired on us, without doing any execution. We charged on them but <sup>^ they</sup> dispersed and fled\_ so we fail'd in capturing any of them\_ consequently we were left in suspense untill next morning, when a small British Vessel was captured by a party of our men under <sup>^ the</sup> command of a Major Winn\_ and we were informed ~~that~~ that the fort had surrendered, when the firing ceased\_ We returned to our encampment below Mobile, where were remained untill [*sic*] the news of peace was announced and we were discharged in Mobile, on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. of March 1814\_ We left that place in a most deplorable condition, being destitute of every thing, and many of us in bad health Being without provisions or money, consequently, we had to beg our way

home, or starve And I have no doubt, that many of the poor fellows perish'd on the way

I however arrived again at St. Stephens 4 or 5 days after leaving Mobile, in company with a Major Winston & a Lt\_ Patterson, having traveled part of the way in a Canoe, which we procured in Mobile but having become tired of that tedious mode of traveling, we abandoned our boat and took it a foot untill we arrived at the house of Esquire Samuel Irwin, who had belonged to my company of spies\_ He received us in the most cordial manner, and after we had remained with him parts of two days and enjoyed his kindness and hospitality, he furnished us with horses to ride to St. Stephens, at which place we arrived in about half a day after leaving the house of my kind friend Esquire Irwin\_\_

^ \* See the note on page 15 Now Sir, I have given you the hystory of all the battles & campaigns in which I was engaged during the Creek War and have answered (in my way) the most of your Interogatories therefore nothing now remains for me to do but to wish you God speed in your litterary [*sic*] labors and to subscribe myself

Your sincere friend

Patrick May

\* The anecdote which I related respecting Major Phillips, the negro, and the saddle I cannot vouch for the truth of it, as the scene did not come under my observation\_ But I verily believe it to be the fact, have heard it very frequently, with out ever having heard it contradicted

# Shortly after I entered on this, my last Campaign, the command of the company to which I was attached ^ as 1st Lieutenant devolved on me, (in consequence of the Captain (who had been commanding it, having been arrested, and finally cashier'd for unofficer-like conduct) and which I continued to command during the War.

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In conclusion it may not be inappropriate for me to state that during the time that the Army was cantoned below Mobile, I witness'd that tragical scene which occurred there I have reference to the shooting of there seven Militia men, which occasioned such a hue & cry against Gen<sup>l</sup>. Jackson\_ and gave rise to those coffin handbills which were so industriously and extensively circulated while he was canvassing for the Presidency To my certain knowledge, at the time those men were tried by a Court Martial, (which was sworn to them Justice) convicted and executed, Gen<sup>l</sup>. Jackson was in N. Orleans

Gen<sup>l</sup>. Winchester being in command at Mobile I deem it not improper to refer to that circumstance, for I regard it connected with, and forming one of, the incidents of the War\_ to let you see how far mens prejudices will lead them astray

Those Militia men, and two regular Soldiers, making nine in all, were shot in my presence, and that of the whole Army, about four miles below the City of Mobile, not far distance [*sic*] from the Mobile Bay Altho' the incident related above, may be foreign to your purpose, yet I have related it merely to let you know what was the fact in relation to that melancholy occurrence\_ for I have no doubt that it has been represented to you in a variety of false colours, as it has been to thousands of others\_\_

[*Endorsement*]

from Genl. / Patrick May

Greensboro August 7<sup>th</sup> 1847

Dear Sir

Your favour of the 24 Ult. cam duly to hand, & I now proceed to comply, partially with your request

I was born on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 1789, in Anson Co N.C. three miles South of Wadesborough, in which place I was raised, & where, and its vicinity I received my education (which was merely an academic one) with the exception of some two or three years in the academies of Doctors Caldwell and Robinson in Macklenburg and Cabaras Counties

From all the evidences which I have been enabled to derive, by tracing the genealogy of my ancestors, it is very clear that I am of Irish & Welsh Origin

My great grandfather May, in Company with eight brothers, emigrated ~~from Ireland~~ to the this Country from Ireland at an early period\_ As did also my great grandfather Boggin, together with his family\_ his wife, according to all the information I have been able to obtain on the subject, being a Welsh lady\_ Both these families of my Ancestors being of gentle blood

My grandfather Bogan [*sic*] was a Captain in the revolutionary war, and was, I have heard, a bold, daring, and efficient officer, and one amongst the greatest eyesores the Tories ever had in N. Carolina

My own father was raised in Anson County N. C\_ and was also an acotr during that eventful period Notwithstanding he was a youth whose years did not exceed 15 or 16 , yet he shouldered his musket, and marched to <sup>do</sup> battle in defence [*sic*] of his country; and was in the engagement which took place at Betty's Bridge between the Whigs & Tories\_ | How partial I am to those Revolutionary Whigs (the very Antipodes of the moderns one) He continued to reside for a number of years in Anson Co [&] was at all times an uncompromising republican of the Jeffersonian School, and represented Anson County for ten or twelve consecutive years in the State Legislature\_ He is yet living, about 12 or 13 miles from this place, on the Black Warrior River, and is enjoying pretty good

health

In telling my story I shall have to refer to some things which transpired, in relation to G. Britain & our Country <sup>^</sup> in 1806 & 7 with the hystory of which, you are, no doubt familiar\_ & which gave rise to some of the incidents of my life

G. Britain, you are aware about that period, had been in the habit of entering our vessels, and impressing our seamen\_ and her wanton & unprovoked attack on the Chesapeake in June 1807, the issuing her odrders [*sic*] in council (which she declared however, was intended as a retaliation on the French Government for having issued her Berlin decree) and treating with contempt all our remonstrances against such conduct, and refusing to redress our grievances, induced our government to lay an embargo on all the Ports of the U. States\_ and to consider the time not far distant when our open rupture would occur\_ It was therefore deem'd advisable to commence the adoption of such measures as would prepare us for any emergency\_ Hence the organization of Volunteer Companies was ordered throughout the union; and one was organized in Wadesborough; Ingo D. Cook was elected Cap<sup>t</sup>, Jacob Coulson Lieut. and myself ensign\_ <sup>^</sup> This was before I was liable to do militia duty In a short time after, Coulson died & I was promoted to the Lieutenancy

The 12 months having expired, for which we volunteered the company was of course dissolved [*sic*], & I resumed my academic course, which I continued to prosecute untill [*sic*] I finished it, in the academies to which I have already referred in December 1811\_ In Jan<sup>y</sup> 1812 I left N. Carolina for the Miss. Ter. & arrived at St Stephens about the 1<sup>st</sup> of Feb<sup>y</sup>, where I commenced the study of Law and pursued that study untill War was declared, when I conceived it to be my duty to stack my books and take up arms in defence of my Country, and I immediately volunteer'd\_ You have already been informed of the part that I acted, subsequent to that period, up to the 26 of March 1814\_\_

In the May following I returned to N. Carolina, where I remained untill Autumn, when I returned to St. Stephens but instead of resuming the study of Law, I entered into the merchantile [*sic*] business (being somewhat straitened in

circumstances) & continued to merchandise some one or two years\_ But my anticipations not being realized, I concluded that I would wind up my merchant concern & lie on my oars untill [sic] an opportunity [sic] offered for me to engaged in something more lucrative\_ So a portion of my time was spent in doing little or nothing that was calculated to benefit me\_ I read Law occasionally not however with the intention of practicing it; for I had come to the conclusion that it was a profession I should not like to follow

During the time that intervned between my return to St\_ Stephens and my removal from there, which was in 1819 three military & one civil, appointments were conferred on me by Gov. Bibb Viz. Cap<sup>t</sup>\_ Lieut. Col. and magistrate. The two latter offices I continued to exercise untill a short time previous to my removal to the up country

To enable you to form some idea of the character and morals of the people of St- Stephens, I will relate a <sup>circumstance</sup> ~~scene~~ that occured [sic] there shortly after I received the appointment of magistrate. There resided on a lot adjoining my own a maiden Lady the name of whiting (all the way from Yankee Land) who was address'd by an old widower in the neighborhood; and after being woo'd for some time (Lots & cards of old admirers having been rejected & laid on the shelf, no doubt) She consented to his leading her to the hymeneal altar\_ On one Sunday afternoon the marriage was solemnized in the presence of some two or three particular favorites only; the lady from extreme Youth (being bashful, one might infer) objecting to many persons being present\_ Those few favorites only being invited, was taken into high dudgeon by the slighted ones\_ A meeting was call'd, and it was resolved that they would revenge themselves in a signal manner on the offenders, and they unanimously agreed to give them one grand Serenade\_ The sounding of the tocsin, at the commencement of night fall, was to be the signal for assembling at the Bank house, (which was agreed on as the place of rendezvous) with instruments of music of every description\_ The time having arrived, and the signal, they poured in from all quarter, bringing with them every thing that could be immagined [sic], from which a sound could be extracted Viz. Drums & fifes,

Clarionets [*sic*], tamborines [*sic*], triangles, Violins, French horns, bugles, old tin pans, old bells, and in fact, some came rolling up old barrels, and hauling old carts, On counting noses, it was ascertained that there were some absentees\_ Press gangs were sent out, with instructions to seize every male person they could find, and bring them forth with to head quarters\_ In one of those excursions, my old and valued friends, Major Smoot was caught whom they bore off with great self-gratulation, to the scene of action, and from who they extorted a promise that he would act as martial of the day (or night) The line of procession was then formed, and marching orders issued, & in a short time all was in motion\_ It will be much easier to imagine, than to describe what ensued\_ Never was there such a scene exhibited, before, or since in St. Stephens It capt the climax of absurdity\_ Such a dust as was kick'd up (litterally) [*sic*] Such music!! Such sounding of horns, bugles, trumpets, drums, fifes & violins\_ Such hedious [*sic*] yells, and rattling of old barrels & carts\_ never were heard before, I am sure, in any community\_ It seem'd as if Old Scratch had unchain'd at least one thousand of his Imps\_\_

The avow'd object of all this, was to honour the newly married couple, who were at that time snugly ensconced in each others arms, dreaming of no such honours\_ it being Sabath [*sic*] evening, they took it for granted, of course, that the Sanctity of that day would not be violated\_ These impressions however, were badly founded, for the inhabitants of St. Stephens, at the period, had the hardehood [*sic*] to trample under foot even the Sanctity of the Sabath [*sic*] I believe, however, there were perhaps more righteous even at that time, in the place, than were in Sodom when the angels descended from Heaven in search of righteous Lot, that he might escape the shower of fire & brimstone, about to be poured out on that doom'd city\_ The Serenade having been completed, they march'd and halted immediately in front of my door, where they commenced a species of extravagance & folly which was almost without a parallell [*sic*]\_ It was the most perfect scene of boisterous revelry\_ and reminded me more than any thing else I had ever witness'd of those midnight Orgies, once celebrated in honour of

Bachus\_\_

The actors in this scene having set at defiance all law, both human and Divine, merited, in my opinion, not only the most pointed reprehension, but the inflection of all the punishment that the Statute of the Ter. would warrent [*sic*]

Accordingly, on the succeeding morning, I commenced issuing warrents against all those who had been engaged in the affair\_ and the whole of that week was occupied in trying the delinquents most of whom were fined, the evidences in some cases not being sufficiently clear to convict the persons arraigned

The fines collected amounted to about \$45, exclusive of Constable fees which amounted to 10 or 15 more; my own fees I would not suffice to be extracted in any instance

You may readily suppose that I dragg'd down on myself the indignation of many persons\_ Some of them in fact, were so incenced [*sic*] against me that they declared they would report me to Gov. Bibb on his arival [*sic*] & have me displaced from office, for having performed a work of Jupirerogation as they termed it\_ They did report me, but the governor instead of removing me from office, told them very plainly that he approved of my conduct so highly that he would promote me before he left town, which he did, conferring on me the appointment of Lieut. Col.

Notwithstanding the rather lax state of morals that prevailed at St. Stephens the people in general, were refined and intelligent, and in point of fashion, were behind no community\_ They were sociable & agreeable, full of fun & frolic, spent much of their rime in visiting, and were extremely fond of dancing\_ They did not, however, spend quite two thirds of their time between the heavens & the earth, (as I have heard it said the french were in the habit of doing,) in the exercise of dancing

I know very little about the manners, customs or dress of those who resided in the country having mingled very little with them

It afforded me much pleasure to hear that you were about to undertake the arduous task of writing a hystory of Alabama\_ I have no doubt, that the labour

and industry required to collect materials sufficient to enable you to write a full and correct history, will prove an arduous undertaking\_ But let me enjoin it upon you my Dear Sir to persevere; for from some specimens of your writing which I have seen I entertain not the shadow of a doubt, that you will do Justice to the state & honour to yourself\_ In order to show you that industrious perseverance [*sic*] will surmount all obstacles, suffer me to relate to you a circumstance that has just occurred to my mind and which I know to be the fact\_\_ Whilst we were fort'd in St. S\_\_\_ there was a D<sup>r</sup>. Ishmael H\_ from N. C\_ who resided in the place, and a Miss A\_\_\_ also from N. C\_ who had emigrated to St. S\_\_\_ with her brother in law, who was a brother of the Doctor\_\_ D<sup>r</sup>. H\_\_\_ had commenced wooing Miss A some five or six years before they left N. C\_ which they all did in Company, the Doctor, no doubt continuing his assiduities during the time occupied in traveling, but to little purpose\_ He resolved however, "Never to give up the Ship"\_\_ And on his arrival in <sup>St.</sup> Stephens, his love having suffered no abatement, he renew'd his suit, with redoubled energy, but seemingly to as little purpose as before, she turning the back of her hand to him on all occasions\_ until one opinion appeared to pervade the whole community, which was, that the safety of our scalps required us to march en masse, into the Fort, which we did, accompanied by the D<sup>r</sup>. & Miss A\_\_\_ And one Moon Shiny night, he made a dead set, urging, no doubt more eloquently than ever, his claims to her hand & heart on account of his constancy\_ and being aided at that Juncture, by a combination of circumstances, all calculated to make a deep and unpleasant impression on her mind Such as their unpleasant & perilous situation, all being pent up within the walls of a small fort, and hourly expecting an attack from the Indians\_ anticipating the time when the Tomahawk & scalping knife would be applied to their pates &c\_ All of which was portrayed to her in the most vivid manner by the Doctor\_ urging upon her the importance and necessity of all ladies providing themselves with protectors (in such perilous times) who would stand by them 'in the day & hour of danger' reminding her, no doubt, of the great length of time he had been devoted to her & of the many evidences he had given her of his

unwavering and undivided affection

At length the strongholds which she had erected about her heart began to give way, which the D<sup>r</sup>. perceiving he thundered away with his heavy artillery, until they were entirely demolished, after a seven years siege, which was not quite as long as the siege of Troy

Well, one night, after the Indian panic had some what subsided, they concluded to quit the Fort and go to the D<sup>s</sup> own house, and get married which they did, having invited some 10 or 12 persons to witness the ceremony, your humble servant being among the favored few\_ About 11 O Clock we all returned to the Fort except for the D<sup>r</sup>. & his bride, who had concluded that they would remain at their own house\_ there happiness being complete as they no doubt thought But as you know that invidious & ill disposed persons reside in all communities, who are inclined to infuse into every ones cup a large portion of bitter ingredients and to mar, as much <sup>^ as possible</sup> the happiness of others

So there were in the Fort some five or six Officers & Citizens to took a miff at not having been invited to the wedding, They furnished themselves with guns, and whip'd round to the Doctors house, where they discharged their pieces which alarmed the newly married couple very much they supposing the shots to proceed from the Indians They Jump'd up (in their night cloaths) and out of the window, not taking time to dress themselves, (thinking as did Major Philips that it was no time to chat & put on cloaths) and pull'd for the fort screaming & hollowing\_

The Doctor's better half outcrieping [*sic*] him but occasionally looking behind her for the Doctor and crying out "Run Ish, run Ish, run! When she arrived at the fort she was met by some females, who threw a mantle over her and conducted her into the nearest cabin where they dress'd her, a while after which the Doctor arrived in safety [*sic*], and so ended the scene

You may well think, notwithstanding my boasting of the refinement of manners of the St. Stephenites, that the occurrence [*sic*] related above, savours but little of it\_ In fact it occasioned a great mortification to those who were the victims (I may say) and excited great indignation against the perpetrators, some of whom were

Officers\_\_

In 1819 I left St. Stephens and settled in Greene Co\_ In the commencement of the following year (1820) I received the Appointment of Judge of the County Court, and organized, and presided at, the first C. Court ever held in Greene County During the same year I was elected Brigadier General In 1821 I represented Marengo and Greene Counties in the State Senate\_ In 1835 I represented Greene Co in the State Legislature, and declined reelection\_ I have represented Greene Co\_ at various times in our Democratic State Conventions; and I acted as chairman of the corresponding committee during M\_ V\_ Buren's first canvass for the Presidency\_ In June 1846 I applied to James K. Polk for an appointment in our Army in Mexico, but he, not being as well acquainted with me as Gov. Bibb thought proper not to give it to me, so the Old Leaven was suffered to subside & I to remain at home\_ which was all for the best no doubt\_ I will now give you all the information I possess relative to the French Vine & Olive association During the year 1817 (I think) they Located their four townships of land in Greene & Marengo Counties and commenced establishing themselves in th neighborhood of Demopolis and continue to form settlements throughout the four townships during that, and two or three succeeding years, with the view of complying as soon as practicable (so they avow'd) with one of the articles of the contract which they had made with our government, in relation to the cultivation of the Vine & Olive\_ After having made some experiments, they became convinced that the enterprise would prove fruitless. Many became discouraged, and as far as the Vine & Olive were concern'd, abandoned almost entirely the project, and turned their attention to Corn & Cotton\_ But they succeeded badly at that, not being calculated as for farmers, from which I should have infered [*sic*] that the [*sic*] had not given it a fair trial, had not come of own Citizens taken the matter in hand & bestowed much time and attention on its cultivation, but with little better success The vine flourished for a few years & then began to deteriorate, the grapes invariably rotting From all the observations that I have been enabled to make I am of the opinion that the French Grapes will

not succeed well here with any kind of culture. And that the climate is not well adapted to the culture of any Grape, except the native one, and the N\_ Carolina White muscadine which flourishes here very luxuriantly

About the time that the French became so discouraged in the farming enterprise, the King of France proclaimed a general amnesty to all the adherents of Bonnaparte [*sic*] who had exiled themselves, and invited them to return to their Country\_ The most prominent members of the association disposed of their little farms (they were all small) immediately & quit the Country, and in a short time a general breaking up and dispersion of the members of the association ensued; and at this time there is not more than two or three French families in the four Townships; and if there is an Olive tree, standing, or one Vineyard in successful operation I am ignorant of it \_\_ In compliance with your request I will endeavor to describe those Jentleman who distinguished themselves at the B. C\_ Battle & ^ tell you what became of them

Bradbury was wounded Just below the shoulder in the arm, at the engagement, before referred to, which took place on Bashi Creek Was taken to St\_ S\_ in a horse litter, had his arm amputated and died, after suffering excruciating pain for 5 or 6 days

The [*sic*] was Stout built, at least six feet high, would have weigh'd 180 or 200 lbs, of florid complexion, and in his appearance somewhat like your father. He was, I think from N. Carolina

Major Smoot was Jentlemanly in the highest degree, a sincere and devoted friend\_ In Stature he was about 5 feet, 6 or 8 inches high rather dutch built\_ with dark complexion & black hair and eyes\_ He had been an officer in the Regular Army, a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. perhaps\_ He settled below Mobile on the Bay, and engaged in raising vegetables for the Mobile market, And died there one or two years ago\_\_

Lieutenant Walter Creagher settled at Sugsvill [*sic*] Clarke Co\_ I know not what business he engaged in\_ He was a man of more than ordinary smartness, having been well educated in S. Carolina, his native State He was of a generous noble

nature, agreeable [*sic*] manners, & prepossessing appearance\_ He had black hair, dark piercing eyes, and ruddy complexion\_ He was quite popular in his county, & represented it a term or two in the Senate George [Greagh?] you mention in your letter

John Miles was a plain farmer, who resided in the neighborhood and with whom I was not familiarly acquainted, but he was represented to me as a worthy upright good Citizen, and was I think Originally from Georgia I do not know what became of him

I must claim your indulgence while I relate to you the most interesting Item (to me at least) in my whole life On the 30<sup>th</sup> April 1826, I attached myself to the Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, & am still a member of that Church and humbly hope & trust to be considered worthy of my membership untill I shall be ordered by the Great Captain to Sheath my Sword in the Church militant & Join the Church triumphant

I hold an office in one of our Church Courts, which was conferred [*sic*] on me shortly after I join'd the Church contrasted with which, in point of honour and importance, all the Offices and honours which have been conferred on me dwindle into utter insignificance

And now Dear Sir I will conclude with begging you to excuse All Egotism, which you must do when you consider if I have committed the crime you must answer for the Sin One thing I can assure however that never before have I said so much of that particular person M. I \_ Myself I must now beg you alone to excuse mt delay which has been occasioned by some Visitors arriving since I commenced writing and now I will again wish you success and

Remain as heretofore

your Sincere friend Patrick May

P.S. I have Just received your "Eight days in N. Orleans," for which receive my thanks

Greensboro Aug. 24 1847

Dear Sir

Yours of the 17<sup>th</sup> Inst\_ would have been answered earlier, but wishing, if possible to obtain from some source, some information which would refresh my memory in relation to the time when the Burnt Corn battle was fought

My efforts, I take pleasure in saying, have been crowned with success, and I can now give you the precise time, or, within one day of it

If occurred [*sic*] to my recollection, the day after I received your letter, that a Gentleman residing some eight or ten miles, from Greensboro had in his possession an old book, in which D<sup>r</sup>. Geo. Buchanan, who resided in St. Stephens in 1813\_ kept his medical accounts And I also recollected that one W<sup>m</sup>. Baldwin who had been wounded in that battle, had him (D<sup>r</sup>. Buchanan) call'd on the night we arrived at home, to examine the wound, and extract the ball, which was, according to his book accounts, on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July, 1813\_ which I presume (in fact I have no doubt) was correct as to date

In my first letter to you, my memory seems to have been at fault\_ and instead of our taking up our line of march between the 10 & 20<sup>th</sup> of August we took it upon the 25<sup>th</sup> of July, encamp'd the first night at the town of Jackson\_ the second near the Burnt Corn Spring\_ the third the battle was fought. and that night we slept near Dale's ferry (a few miles above Sizemore's ferry on the Alabama) on our return home [...] on the fourth we arrived at home, and Baldwin had the ball extracted from his breast\_\_ So I now entertain no doubt as to the date of the B.C. battle being correctly fix'd\_\_

I do not know of any person now living who was engaged in the Skirmish on Bashi Creek

Lawyer Bradbury was wounded twice, which I omitted to mention\_ The first was in the leg and being merely a flesh wound, he soon recovered\_ The last time, as I have already stated he was wounded in the Arm, which <sup>wound</sup> ~~Arm~~ occasioned his death

Now Sir, in conclusion, I would request you to let me hear from you occasionally, and advise me what progress you are making in Arduous undertaking\_ I do conceive it to be Arduous I am with the highest respect

Your friend Patrick May

P.S. When you see them, please give my respects to your father & mother\_ P.M\_\_

[*Postmark, date handwritten*]            [*postage*]

GREENSBORO Ala. Aug 25            5

[*Address*]

Col. A. J. Pickett / Montgomery / Alabama