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Notes taken from the life
of the Honorable George A. Stewart
of Mobile
by A. J. Pickett

in relation to the French Emigrant
which settled in Ala in 1818.

(1)

In 1816 & 17 in the United
a number of French officers
in Philadelphia, Refugees
from France proscribed by
an ordenance Chas 10th -
The idea was suggested
of asking Congress for a
grant of Land upon which
they settle - Nicholas S.
Parmantier, who had some
time in Philadelphia having
emigrated when Napoleon
became emperor being attach
ed to the Republican party
He was delegated by the party
to go Washington. Arriving
at Washington, the Congress
suggested that the grant
should be for the culture
of vine & olive - On the
4th March 1817 the act
was passed. In the
mean time a correspondence
was had with several among
others with a Mr Brown of
Kentucky - The Company
first thought of going West
of Miss, but Brown sug
gested as the best County
the mouth of the Warrior
after the act was passed
the Company organised in
Philadelphia - Consisted
of 340 allotees. the act
authorised the sale of ~~4000~~
4 townships of Land on
a credit of 14 years at

at $2 per acre and required such conditions of settlement & cultivation as the act prescribed & it authorised the Sey Treasury to make a contract with the association for the Land - Company formed, the quantity of Land was divided between the associates, some had a full share say 480 a, some half share 320 - some ~~4~~ share 120 - some 120 & some 40 a besides this each one was to have a town lot & out lot near the town - The company appointed Commissioners to go & select the Land & make first settlements. This expedition sailed from Philadelphia in april 1817 - arrived in Mobile in May 1817 - a Scooner was chartered in Phl^d called the ~~Donnell~~ Donnough. The commissioners were, N.S. Parmentier, & N Poculo. They were accompanied by Prosper Baltard, A Mocquart, J Le Francois as assistants & Geo N. Stewart as secretary of the Commissioners. They were also accompanied

by several families who
came for the purpose of
settling on the land -
The vessel in a storm
went ashore at Mobile
Pt - where Fort Bowyen
stood - The Commander
Lieut Beal, the night
being very dark caused
fires to built all along
the coast by the soldiers -
The vessel late in the
evening approached the fort intending
the Capt persued
to cross
the old channel &
a gun was fired from
the fort ahead of the vessel
to warn her of the danger
of her course, the vessel
struck - the wind rising
at the time threw her
among the hokeys - the
very dark night coming
on signals of distress were
made from the scooner
then the lights were built
along the shore and a light
hoisted at Fort. the vessel
was very crowded with
passengers & in the
night fearing the loss
of the vessel, Lieut Beal
paraded his force &
called for 5 resolute
volunteers to man a
boat & go to their relief
a boat was manned
which was leaky & bad
order. Lieut Beal with
these 5 men accompanied
by Capt Bourke a reformed

Officers of the army who happened at the fort on a visit succeeded in reaching the vessel at 10 o'clock in the morning the wind having somewhat abated - as many of the passengers as this frail bark could hold with Ladies & children were safely conveyed ashore which at the imminent peril of swamping the boat - the crew of the vessel remained on Board with some of the passengers & then the vessel was ultimately towed having lightened very much & having washed in the meantime in deeper water in a place called the Swash. the passengers were treated with great kindness by Lieut Beal - & they represented his gallant conduct to the Govr in risking his life for which he was promoted to the rank of Capt.

The passengers gave a complimentary dinner to Lieut Beal & Capt Burke as a testimony of their gratitude & reputed his conduct to Govr & he was promoted to Capt.

Mobile at that time was a small town with one

with an whalf & the water
extended between water &
Royall St. Fort Charlotte
was standing a handsome
fort built of Brick which
was garrisoned by a Detach
ment Commanded by
Capt Beale Brother Lieut
The Commissioners with their escort remained
a short time in Mobile
& were furnished with the
Custom House Boat by
Addrl Lewis Collector
with a crew of soldiers
& proceeded up the
River & stoped first
at the Residence of
Judge Toulmin living
there at Fort Stoddart
they also visited Genl Gaines
Who was encamped with
2000 men at Fort Montgomery
near Fort Mims - afterwards
they proceeded on the
Boat to St Stephens - It
was a Considerable place
and very busy place
from there in June they
debarked in another
Barge up the river
Tombigbee to explore
the Country - Having in
View more particularly
the location pointed
out by Dr Brown & the
information of the people
generally - arrived at
the White Bluff in July
& explored the river as they
ascended

and encamped at the White Bluff. a portion afterwards ascended the river higher & went Fort Confederation, then in the Chactaw nation on a visit & exploration to the Chactaw Factory U.S. G.S. Gaines being the Chactaw factor, who received the Commissions with great kindness & rendered the Company every assistance, who was at all times desirous to render to all settlers every attention - for which they felt under great gratitude - from all the information derived the situation of the White Bluff just below the Mouth of Warrior & the adjacent Lands were supposed to be the best location which could be made for the new Colony. & was so reported to the main party at Philadelphia

In the mean time 2 other Commissioners; John A. Penieres & Basil Meslier started from Phil to visit the County West of the Missi & the banks of the Missi for the same purpose - They decended the Ohio & the

Missi & Mr Penieres
ascended the Arkansas
far up as little Rock
& some of the other rivers
on the West of the Missi
~~and~~ made some exam
ination of the Red River
& Washita - the ~~results~~
~~of the~~ Reports ~~was~~ were made
to the Company at Phil-
adelph. the result
was the selection of
White Bluff. & then 2
Commissioners afterwards
join the others at White
Bluff. At that time
the Lands were not
surveyed, the West
side of Tombekabe was
occupied by the Choctaws
Upon the place being
selected, the settlers be-
gan to arrive around
by water to Mobile &
up the river the river
in Barges & no buildings
being made they erected
Cabbins scatterde about -
At that time no location
of the respective lots which
each was to occupy
was known - the lands
East of the Tombigbee had
been recently acquired
from the Creek indians
& was entirely unsettled it then
formed a part of the
Miss Territy - There were
settlements on the river
below & settlers were coming
in from Tennessee & settling

Russel settlement about Greenboro - Provisions extremely scarce - Corn $5 per Bushel - Pork $25 - Barrel - Beef 28 c lbs - Applications were made to Maj Freeman Surveyor Genl, to lay off the lands so that it might be ascertained how the land should be located - He directed a Meridian line to be run from St Stephens up to White Bluff which was performed by C. C. Stone Surveyor. & soon as could be, the land was run off into T. & S. S. by order of the Gov in the neighbourhood of the White Bluff, which had now been named Demopolis - & was considered as the sight for the town - The settlers continued to arrive & when the survey was made the location selected was transmitted to Washington - To secure the river fort 2 fractional townships were selected by the Commissions in lieu of one entire Township - This state of things continued till 10th Decr 1819 a contract was signed at Washington by Charles Villar agent of Company of Whittlesey H. Crawford Secy Treasury, by which

... ...ered

the lands were sold & the lots of each person designated In the mean time however many settlers had arrived at the place & the land having been selected they proceeded to the apportionment of lots among the members of the company not knowing that the same thing was doing in Philadelphia - Under this allotment made at Demopolis, the settlers moved upon their respective portions - This created great confusion & controversy - the allotments made in Philadelphia having prevailed by reason of the contract with Leraufre the settlers were a 2nd time compelled to leave their settlements so as to occupy the land according to the Phil allotment. which finally prevailed - Genl Lefebvre Desnoettes was among the settlers at Demopolis & had already opened a farm on his alotment made at Demopolis - He was sent as a Commissioner to Philadelphia to adjust the differences between the parties which resulted however in establishing the Philadelphia lots. except that he was allowed

to retain the one at Demopolis - After that the settlement progressed on the lands which were finally assigned back from the vines - Township 18 Range 3 east & Township 18.19 & 20 Range 4 east.

The distinguished settlers were Lefevre Desnoettes who was Commander of the Cavalry of the Imperial Guard under Napoleon, was Lieut Genl Called Count Le Fevre Desnoettes - He accompanied Napoleon in his compaign to Russia & returned with him in his Carriage over Snows - he served in Spain also and was at the battle of Saragossa. He was a handsome man and elegant rider, lively & active. He was the officer whom Napoleon embraced when at Fontainebleau when he bid adieu to his army embracing him in the name of the army - His wife was a cousin of the emperor, & the match was made by him & sister to the celebrated Banker La Fitte - Le febvre was a favorite of Napoleon & often made him large presents ~~among other things~~ His wife made an attempt to join him at Demopolis, but was shipwrecked on the

Cast of England & returned to Paris - He had a Daughter boon after he was compelled to leave France which he never saw. After ~~the~~ the Madame returned to France, she abandoned the attempt to go to America & through the influence of her Brother Mr La Fitte negotiated to obtain the repeal of the decree of ex patriation vs her husband - the Gov finally allowed him to come to Belgium with the promise of allowing his return to France. Consequently he left Demoles about 1822 or 3 went to Phil & from thence sailed for England in the unfortunate packet ship Albion, which was wrecked on her passage ~~off old~~ at old Kinsale Pt. on the Cast of Ireland. His arm was broken by a blow during the storm & was then washed over board & drown. it was a dredful shipreck the vessel & a large number of ~~inhabitants~~ passengers were lost in full view of a large population on the Cliffs ~~[illegible]~~ Mr Peniers was a Representative at the time of the trial of Lewis 18th & voted his Condemnation - He

remained for some time - occupied in agriculture & afterwards received an appointment of sub agent of the Gov to the Semanole indians & died in the Semanole County 1823 - He was an old man of considerable leaving - & great colloquial powers & had been distinguished in France in the civil departments & was also exiled as a friend of Napoleon. — Nicholas Raoul was a french officer with rank of Lieut Col. accompanied Napoleon to Elba & on his return from Elba, and on his March from Calvi to Paris he commanded the advanced guard of Granadiers consisting of 200 men. & was at the head of said Genadiers when they met near Grenoble, the division of Marshall Ney sent to oppose their advance - at the time when the celebrated scene occured when this small band were preparing to fire, Napoleon advanced in their Front, gave the command to order arms & presented himself to her ~~dont~~ but he retired

to Marshall; neigh, devy
ion, baring his heart
& saying to them if they
thought he had ever my
used them or any one of
them to fire upon him.
which was responded to
by the shouts of Vive Le Com
peron & he advanced
at the head of that division
upon Paris - Col Raoul
remained for some time
occupied in agricul
ture & keeping a small
ferry over french creek
two or three miles from
Peimopolis on the road
towards Greenburo.
When he was in the habit
of ferry over people him
self. He was a large stout
fine looking man,
dark complection, broad
shoulders, then about
45 years old - His
wife was the marchioness
of Sinibaldi from Naples
& had with her two children
by a former husband. She
was a very handsome woman
of the Italian style - She
had been maid of honor
to Caroline wife of Murat
at Naples - After towards
in 1824
" Raoul & his wife went
to Mexico, He entered
the Mexican army as
Col - how long he remained
here ~~dont~~ but he retured

afterwards to France & entered the service there —
Mr I. I. Cluis was one of the settles - cultivated a farm near Greensboro He had been aid de Camp to the Marshall Le Febre the duke of ~~Dantzic~~ Rovi=go who was afterwards at the head of the Police de=partment in Paris - in which Cluis was employed as Secy to the Duke - he at one time had the Cus=tody of Ferdinand the 7th King of Spain, while imprisoned by order of Napoleon in France. near the Spanish frontier.
He became very much reduced in his cir=cumstances & kept a Hotel in Greensboro where he died. His wife & daughter & son now reside in Mobile -

Among the settlers at Demolis was Mr Simon Chaudron an gentleman who formally was a resident of Phil & distinguished for his literary taste - He was formally the editor of the Abeille Americaine, a french Periodical Pamphlet - He was a Poet of considerable distinction, writing with much elegance & great ease - Among his productions was an Eulogy delivered to the grand lodge in Phil. of which he was grand orator on the occasion of the death of Washington which acquired much celebrity in the literary world being translated into several languages - He died in Mobe in 1846 at a very advanced age. His works were published in France - When in Phil he was rich & his house was the circle of wit & elegance - and of the literary men of the day -

Among ~~other~~ those who came to the Miss Ter were also Genl Count Bertrand Clausel - ~~He thinks~~ He was an officer of ~~great~~ distinction throughout Bonapartes campaigns. He commanded the City of Bordeaux after the relation of Napoleon from Elba - he took the Dutchess of Angouleme, Misoner see her History ~~daughter of~~ at Bordeaux but released her - ~~He settled~~ this during the Hundred days Bonaparte ~~was the~~ said she was the only man of the family He settled at Mobile about 1821. & did not occupy his land - He lived on the Bay & supplied the

city not vegetables driving the cart himself. He ~~was~~ afterwards sold his place & went to France sometime 1825 - & was afterwards under the Gov of Louis Philippe made a ~~field~~ marshall & appointed Gov of Algeria,

Among ~~others~~ the ever grants ~~were also~~ who formed the association but who did not come were many genl officers of distinction - Henry ~~Lalla~~ L'Allemand was Lieut Genl Commander of the artillery of the imperial guard - an officer of great merit, of high character as an officer & a gentleman. He married in Phil a niece of Stephen Girard - Genl Charles L'Allemand brother to the former ~~was~~ was also an officer of distinction - He was a man of great ambition & writing to his Brother about the colleague in the Bigbee he said "I have more ambition than your colleague will admit of" & this was was true for he formed and & more military prodigy He gathered a part of the ~~Colloquet~~ association at Phil & apart from the Bigbee & planned an expedition vis Texas, went there with them under a military organization & took possession of Galveston - Stewart thinks they were placed there as pioneers to make a foothold in Texas by our Government.

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~~thinks~~ ask Gaines about Graham, gent,

That expedition after encountering great hardship was abandoned. The Island of Galveston overflowed. the suffered very very much for provisions. the Pirate Lafitte favored them several were eaten by the Carranquaz Indians Two of the party were killed rasted & eaten in sight of their Companions who could render them no aid - abandoned the settlement in great missery at the solicitation U.S.

Marshall Grouchy was also one of the associates He was a man of middle Stature rather than not having much the appearance of a millitary man - He was not popular with the Refugees & got into Controversy with them at Phil on the subject of Battle of Waterloo. He published an article vindicating himself but was answered by the other Officers Present very warmly & with great contradiction - to his Conduct & his alone was the defeat at Waterloo attributed - ~~They wanted to kill him in a duel~~ - ~~He~~ Grouchy had two sons one a Col & the other a Capt. The Capt Comm to demoplis - Marshall G went back to Tarrant

and enjoyed honors under the new Gov.

Among them was also Genl Vandamme who went to the Western Country - also

also Mr Lakanal, he was a savant. He was a member of the academy & at the head of the department of public education under the emperor. He also was one of those who voted the death of Louis XVI. He had settled in Kenny on a farm, but came to Mobile about 1819 or 20 & settled on the Bay below the Pavillion where he continued to reside until he returned to France about 1836. ~~He~~ When he died about 1843 — also Count Real a warm friend of Napoleon. He went to the upper part of New York & purchased land on the Borders of the Lakes where Joseph Bonaparte ~~was~~ Regnault De St Jean D'Angely and others had become holders & were forming a settlement = Mr Garnier De Saintes also a distinguished Civilian was one of the association —

We mentioned that there was a good deal difficulty as to the location of the land & the first settlers lost their settlement 3 several times - They first settled at the White Bluff on the Fractional townships - the fractional T. not being allowed to them, they were compelled to remove on the entire townships - they laid off the town of Eaglevillo as the town sight & settled on the small allotments around Eagle=ville & on the allotments according to drawing made here - when the drawing was made at Phil, they had to leave their settlements & adopt those made at Phil & remove to them. again the County being unsettled, no roads, no means of transportation & no provisions instead of settling on their lands at a distance at first for want of water &c. they settled on their small allotments near the town sight - afterwards when the ~~Company~~ County became open, & provisions more abundant & water found, they were enabled to move on their larger allotments - all these difficulties & disturbances exausted their small means & many were discouraged and abandoned the enterprise from necessity. They were persons generally accustomed to city or Military life having no knowledge of farming & still less of clearing land & settling the wilderness - The County

was a wilderness - There were no horses, cattle wagons workmen nor provisions The land was new & they did not know how to manage it, having no slaves they employed principally German Redemtioners who to them were very little service, altho they afterwards made very substantial citizens & many of them are now men of property - Desnoltes and many others bought them from Phil to Demolis - they proved of great expense The settlement therefore was not successful, many sold the claim to their lands & went away & engaged in other pursuits - some continued & made fine farms. & finally the country became very thickly settled ~~by~~ with fine plantations the lands having passed into the hands of americans who could cultivate their rich lands to advantage For many years the best portion of the land was of no value for want of water until boring was introduced The best tracts were sold for very little as they could not settle them -

While many of the French settlers were then in the midst of their misfortunes they did not loose their natural character of gaiety - ~~[illegible]~~ They were in the habit of much social intercourse - dancing feasting

& amusing themselves as often & opportunity offered & on all occasions availing themselves of the benefit of their superior education in amusing & instructing each other — they all exerted themselves to have fine gardens & used all means in their power to live as well as possible the County was full of game & they were fine guns men & would occasionally receive supplies of fine wins & dainty articles from the east, on which occasion they never failed to write in social merriment. & had ample room for entertainments about their battles from love scrapes &c &c —

Many were the incidents of European wars which were discussed & strange appeared the results of change of fortunes which had taken place with them — Among the emigrants settled there at Hevolis was Genl Juan Rico was war emigrant from Spain proscribed on the return of Ferdinand the 7th to Spain, because he was a republican, a warm supporter of the Constitution & one of the framers of 1812 of Spain He was a distinguished member of the Spanish Cortes & a nation of Vallencia — He was also in the Military service of Spain — resisting the invasion of Napoleon on one occasion, Genl Lefebvre Desnoettes being invited to dine at ~~Sebe~~ Ceres

on the warm wine, At table the conversation turned on the celebrated & obstinate seige of Saragossa. Gen L Lles commanding french troops at that seige & Genl Rico commanding Spanish troops who had made such a desperate resistance They were met at a frugal table in the wilds of America They had met before amid the din of arms & surrounded by the most powerful armies of Europe & had figured in one of the most eventful terms of French & Spanish History. all this was alluded to in good humour How strange the change of circumstances - Both Proscribed & thus met This gave rise to many reflections & with the aid of a glass of wine each consoled himself & made the best of the situation in which a freak of fortune had placed with great good humour

~~He was a man of [illegible]~~

Mr Rico returned to Spain in 1825 - having been recalled He was again elected a member of the Cortes under the Constitution of 1812 after the Restoration of Ferdinand the 7th. When the french Armies under the Bourbons again invaded Spain, the Cortes resisted the invasion & duly watched the King who secretly favoured it - The Cortes was removed to Seville & when

the french army were about taking seville it became necessary for the Gov & Cortes to re-treat to Cadiz. The King refused to accompany the Cortes — & preferred falling in the hands of the French. The person of the King by the Con of 1812 was sacred & inviolable so they could not force him to go, but they were determined to defeat his tactics. The Const gave the Cortes the power to depose & elect another. Mr Rico moved that Ferdinand be deposed which was done & he was carried as a private individual to Cadiz & after his arrival & their made King again, there the Cortes were sufficiently strong to resist all attacks of the french & Cadiz was not taken in this war nor had it been by Napoleon. Genl Rico was afterwards again exiled to England but afterwards returned to Spain.

Securing the imprisonment of Richard Meade a citizen of the U.S. who was so long a prisoner in Spain, Genl Rico was made acquainted with his case & procured his release & remuneration by the Spanish Govt for the great injury inflicted on him. Mr Meade was Consul in Cadiz (see archives) Mr Meade's friends in Philadelphia in consideration of their severe

furnished pecuniary aid to Genl Rico while in Mexico & ~~the~~ means for his return to Spain - He was a man of extraordinary energy & great decision of Charter - & perseverance He was about 50 - dark Complection. He was a successful farmer having paid much attention to it as a science & written a work upon it in Spain.

- As to the vine & olive ~~the~~ At first these objects were pretty much lost sight of for the more necessary subject of sustenance & provisions. afterwards some lands were opened, numerous importations were made of European vines & olive seed & trees. these articles did not succeed for many reasons, 1st the Colonist were not generally agriculturist, 2nd the lands being so new & ~~wet~~ sour there did not grow well. 3rd, the vines were all from Europe, which experience has since proved do not succeed well in this country - The ~~vines~~ native vines grow well for fruit but to make wine the grape must ripen when the weather is cool in Ala the grape ripens in the heat of summer the consequence is, ~~that~~ the fermentation is too rapid & before the vinous fermentation is completed the acetic fermentation has commenced - the result of which is that

The Notes from
Geo. A. Stewart of
Mobile
about the "Tensaw Vine
Company"

the wine is produced which is partly wine & partly vinegar — It may keep its true, but its good for nothing as wine. Winter graves by Cultivation improve & ripen in October & Nov & make good Claret. This grape may very possibly made valuable by improving The Olive large Nos were imported & trees of considerable sizes. ~~Genl Rice~~ ~~recovery 250 from~~ They generally arrived out of season in account of the difficulty of obtaining them. the land was new. & they had not the advantage of good tillage. they all perished and as the Cultivation of Cotton was more immediately production & necessity commanded the settlers turned their attention to what was most needful & profitable — the Olive however appears to succeed well on the Coast in the vicinity of Mobile & Pensacola. Oranges grow very well there & the olive can resist a greater degree of Cold even than the Orange. and appears to grow better on the sea Bord than the interior — The vine will no dout succeed well in a more nother latitude on the ohio when it is be going to produce ~~on~~ in large quantities on account of its ripening in cooling weather. As the time of the first settlement the Chactas occupied the west Bank of the Tombigbee the Chactaws were always very friendly to the french settlers, they furnished them with game in great abundance at Cheap rates. they american settlers complained much of the Chactaws Charging them often with stealing &c

& often treated them badly, but in the front settlement there was no complaint. Sometimes the Chactaws would get drunk, but they never gave any trouble to the French. They were in the habit every fall of coming over on hunting expeditions they had their camps, feasted sometimes danced & sometimes got drunk quarrel & fight. On one occasion an incident occurred shewing their customs which are peculiar. two young young warriors being drunk fought, and one gave to the other many desperate wounds with a knife. He fell upon the grass in his face blood gushing at every wound, dead! the victorious indian unhurt. Came back to his camp & related the occurrence a family council of the relatives of the deceased immediately assembled & demanded the life of the victor in compensation of that of their companion such is the Chactaw law. which admits of no accidents or self defence as excuse for king another His life was forfeited & he was shot. Soon afterwards it turned out that the dead indian was not dead, but he came up to the camp sober & badly wounded Here was a case. He had been avenged & it was decreed that this being the case he must die & he two was shot besides he was spoiled by the wounds & according to their custom he would have had the privilege of being killed & being revenged by the death of the one who spoilt him. Another incident of a singular

Natchez occured there was among the Chactaws
a young indian of extraordinary intelligence
who had been raised in Louisiana from
childhood among the whites - He spoke
English & French perfectly and had been
educated - When he grew up he never
he returned to the woods & lived with his
tribe - hunting & pursuing a savage life
He was given to drinking occasionally
& was often at Demopolis - He got into
a difficulty with an indian & in self
defence Killed him - He came to Dem
opolis & related what had occured which
in the opinion of the whites justified him
& they told him so. He told them by the Chactaw
law he must die for it - the young men
who were very fond of him, urged him to
go back to Louisiana & they offered to give
him a horse & furnish him money to
leave - this he refused - said he was
a warrior & knew how to die & invited
them to come & see him die at the appointed
time & no persuasion could induce him
to go away to his former friends altho he
had every opportunity being free. He all
day in the day appointed painted
himself sang his war songs, called upon his
white friends went with them to where the
grave was dug was shot & buried in it.

In 1818. the settlers had an indian alarm from
about 150 indians men women & children who
were going to the West, they came within 2 miles
of Demopolis & went on by the bounds the colour
their number was greatly magnified
& they were supposed to be a war party
the French settlers well armed & stood

days & built a block House -

The name of Demopolis was given when the settlement was first spoken to the town which was projected for the French settlement various names were proposed having reference - the name of Proscripolis was proposed, but Demopolis - Demos & Polis was proposed by Count Real & finally adopted This name of demolis was given to the White Bluff - that place having been left out of the grant by the locator of the entire townships, was sold by the Govt in 1819 & bought by an American Company called the Demopolis town Company. at 52 per acre. laid off the town the former name of Demopolis - The town laid of by the french Company was called Agleville after the french imperial eagle - but that was a failure - The name of Mengo was given to the county by Judge Lipscomb in complement to the french settlement being one of their most clarious battles, selecting one fought interior of the Republic & not of the empire -

About 1827 he thinks, the supplemental act of Congress was passed by which ~~the price~~ right of each party was severed & they were no longer responsible for each other either for the payment of the cultivation afterwards the ~~payment~~ price was reduced to $1.25 - & finally when the lands were

paid & patented the lotts had principally
popped into the hands of American purchasers
& who had opened, the French selling out
their claims - At first there was a great
deal of difficulty in consequence of a large
portion of the lands being settled by squatters
who refused to quit the homespin, into 1824
when by a decision of the supreme Court
of Ala in the case of White vs St. Guivons
reported in Minors reports it was decided
that the title acquired under the Con-
tract was sufficient to recover the
homespin - ~~after~~ During these Con-
troversies about the homespin many tracts
were sold by way of compromise the squatters
agreeing to pay a certain price by way
of compromise & keeping the land.
& the lands were so very cheap afterwards
they were sold at better prices, but few
of the settlers known obtained good prices
for their lands for the situation of the
settlement & the cultivation of the vine
& Olive see Adam's Report State papers