11

Notes taken from a file of old Papers in
the State Department of Alabama
relating to the Indian difficulties in 1818.

On the 15 ~~marched~~ March 1818, Governor Bibb issued an order to Col Saml Dale, directing him to detach from his Regiment, 50 malitia men to be raised by volunteering or otherwise, to serve one month - when raised to proceed under his Command to Poplar Spring or its neighbourhood for the purpose of avenging the outrages commited in that section by the hostile indians and of affording protection to our inhabitants - Dale was ordered to respect the friendly indians in the the neighbourhood of Poplar Spring & to urge them to return to their homes for the peace & quiet of the settlers - to explain the difficulty of distinguishing them from the hostiles &c & consequently the danger of their being caught among the hostiles

attack of the indians in Tuscaloosa County - related in a letter to Gov Bibb dated Tuscaloosa Falls 24th Sep 1818 by ~~Col Hunter~~ Thos Hunter

"an alarming attack was made by a party of indians in this County - the party is supposed to be headed by Savannah Jack a creek, who as I understand has never yet given himself up or made peace with the United States.

On the 14th instant three children & a negro women, belonging to one Hall at or near the genl encamp=ment or McGowans settlement were discovered to be murdered - The parents of the children had been absent at the time the horrid act was commited & when they returned found them wetting in their blood & scalped It immediately occasioned great alarm - Suspicion rested upon a party of indians discovered the day before Persuit took place & they were trailed to where they crossed

the Black Warrior near Maj Taylor's at a place called Gun Island. After receiving an express from the inhabitants of McGowan's settlement I retained on the day after the murder to the neighbourhood & got on the trail and pursued it to Gun Island when night coming on I ceased pursuit, the next day a party under Maj Taylor in conjunction with a party under Capt Bacon crossed the river & pursued the trail through an almost impenetrable swamp - about 3 miles in the swamp a party came up with the indians at their camp, when an action commenced which lasted for about one hour - We lost two men killed and one since dead with his wounds - the enemy had 7 or 8 killed the officers on this occasion acted with a small body of their men, with great bravery & prudence. The rest consisting of about 15 or 20 shamefully retreated leaving but 10 or 15 with their Commanders to fight an enemy three times their number - therefore they ordered a retreat - the day after I with 50 or 60 men trailed the indians from ~~their Camp~~ the ground they encamped on the night after the Battle and after following them about 15 mile, overtook a small party one of which we killed - it being night the rest made their escape - the next day we pursued their trail about 30 miles further and about 4 miles into the Sipsey swamp, when it being difficult for the Shies to follow the trail I ceased the pursuit since then we have had several expeditions which

(3) down the Black Warrior Cane brake but have not been able to come up with any more of the Indians He organised a Company of Rangers consisting of 15 or 20 to range in the neighbourhood where the murder was committed for the inhabitants being greatly alarmed had forted themselves He experienced much want of offices - recommend to Gov Bibb the appointment of Capt Bacon as Major & Christopher Adams as quarter master - recommended James O Crump as Major

Fort Claiborne

August 13th. 1818. Col Dale writes Gov Bibb and encloses him a letter from Capt Curtis which informs him of the situation of the County where Curtis is - Dale ~~proposes~~ advises to Bibb of his intendition to leave fort Claiborne in a few days with a volunteer Company to scour the woods ~~about~~ on the waters of Pine Barren for he hears of a body of indians there -

Fort Claiborne 7th Feby 1819. Col Dale advises Gov Bibb by letter of the fact that 20 indians are at Thomas Baileys & seven at McGirths near Dale's ferry, upon whom ~~have made threats & intend~~ mischief the citizens have made threats & intend to put them to death - Dale proposes to form a guard & take them to the Big Warrior

Claiborne June 28th 1818. Col Dale orders Dr A Allen to ~~put up~~ furnish medicines for the troops now stationed at the sepulgas

Notes made from
a bundle of papers
in the State Department
ment, called
"papers upon the Semanolean War"

~~4th~~ St Stephens 24th June 1818. Henry Hitchcock writes to Capt F Figures that he is making every exertion to raise funds to pay off his F's troops which are to be mustered out of service at Jacksonby order of the adjutant Genl. informs him that two Companies are raised to relieve him & will rendevous on the 28th inst at Claiborne under Col Dale - they will then proceed immediately to your section.

~~Nov 14th~~

Hugh Kennedy receives payment for Surgeon at Fort Dale from 10th April 1818. to 1st June

Coorawda. 31st May.

About the 25th May 1818, Gov Bible reached Coorawda from St. Stephens having passed by the ~~force~~ malitia forces station at Sepulga and also Forts Dale & Pine Barren - He endeavoured to place these troops ~~under~~ in the service of the United States, but left Fort Crawford with the probability that it would be done. He wrote to the secretary of State Henry Hitchcock, should these ~~troop~~ troops not be received into U S service, that he must place in the hands Mr Flinn the Quarter Master as much as the Treasury of the Territory would authorise. Also informed the secretary that he had in part organised a Regiment since he left St Stephens which is numbered the 7th.

~~A few days of~~ After reaching Coorawda, the Gov proceeded up to Tuckabatchy and had a long friendly talk with that celebrated Chief - the Big Warrior the next day he returned & in a few days set out for Georgia. Gov Bill in this letter assures Mr Hitchcock that if the Commanding Officer

of the U.S. afforded to the Alabama frontier such protection as he had asked all would be right & the people be at peace

Fort Dale June 11th 1818

Capt Thomas Figures informs Henry Hitchcock, being instructed by Gov Bibb to report to him, that six days ago two of the Semanoles came in at Capt Manacks & informed him that they could show him 100 of the hostile Indians go that bear arms. Capt Figures on the 10th returned from Manacks and had engaged him with 20 of his warriors to assist in hunting them. Capt Figures says that Gov Bibb while at this fort informed him that he calculated Genl. Jackson would have the frontier protected so soon as he could arrange it. — that his figures term would expired on the 1st July & that there was under him 25 men from Monroe County whose term of service would expire not untill 1st August which force could keep up the Post, but not sufficient to hunt the indians

— Capt Figures on the 28th June informs Henry Hitchcock that he had been out six days with a scouring party & had been so unfortunate as not to have taken any indians — He went out again 4 days longer & took none, but found recent sign in various places, many camps that could not have been 24 hours left.

on the 28th in the evening Lieut Riddle being ordered to muster Figures Company out of service arrived at Fort Dale & on the 30th performed that duty and his Command marched promiscuously through the woods to Fort Claiborne — He requests Hitchcock

to make arrangements for paying off his men at Claiborne
Capt Figures expects Dale to take his place at Fort Dale.

From a letter of Reuben Hill to Henry Hitchcock dated 11th June 1818. it appears that the two indians mentioned by Figures were collected upon Cedar Creek some twenty miles from Forts Bibb & Dale

Montpelier July 7th. 1818.

Col William King U.S. Officer, commanding 4th infantry informs H Hitchcock that, on the 18th June he had dispatched an officer to muster out of service the troops stationed in the Forts erected by Gov Bibb on the Federal Road. & that he presumes the business was attended to by that Officer on the 30th June.

Not believing that the indians would commit any more depredations between the Challahoochy & Ala, Col King could not agree to receive the two Companies of Malitia caused to be raised by Hitchcock - If they are put on duty it must be at the expense of the Territory — informs him that two Companies of Rangers had been ordered to be raised in ~~that~~ his reagion by Genl Jackson - when completed they will be detached to break up a band of Hostiles on the Challahoochy after which they will be sent to any part of the Territory of Ala when required - further, as Hitchcock had already procured funds for the payment of the malitia, he King ~~would~~ deemed it unnecessary to take any further measures about it.

Fort Crawford 18th March 1818

(7) Fort Crawford 18th March 1818.

Brevet Major White youngs of the 8th infantry informs Gov Bibb that he had detached for the service one subaltern 17 regulars & 25 indians friendly Chactaws, from his Command for the purpose of proceeding in detachment on both sides of the Conacher to unite with Gov Bibbs forces at the poplar Spring. the Command Started at 12 oclock & from being supplied with pack Horses proceeded with rapidity - The indians were designated by white Bands on the arms and head or hat.

On the 15th June 1818, Gov Bibb issued an order to to John Hanes Adj Genl of the Alabama Territory, requiring him to raise one Company from the Balation of malitia of Mobile County to Underboxes at Fort Montgomery by the 25th inst when a quarter master would be ordered to supply them with provisions - to be marched to Fort Dale. Same time Gov B issued a singular order for two Companies ~~for~~ from Washington & Clarke to rendevous at Jackson. to go Fort Dale.

June 13th 1818. Adj Genl Hanes informs Hitch cock that it is ~~difficult~~ impossible to give him returns of the malitia now in service, but there are now in the vicinity of poplar Spring under Command of Capt Figures four Sargants, four corporals & forty eight privates - at & near Fort Montgomery under Command of Capt Jacob Thompson forty total -

No return from Capt Smoot Commanding drafted Washington Regt.

+ perhaps Tindle

4th Feby 1818 executive Office St Stephens
Gov Bibb informs Col Trimble+ that he is willing to raise territorial troops & cooperate with him in defence of the frontier under his Trimbles Command - Gov Bibb expresses himself much embarrassed in not having funds arms ammunition &c &c - suggests that the County on the Conacho & all east is much exposed & defenceless. &c.

26th Feby 1818. Gov Bibb issues an order to Col's Dale Saffold, & Smoot & Judson commanding them to proceed without delay to raise either by Draft or acceptance one Company armed & equipped without delays & held in readiness to march.

Robert Butler adj: Genl U.S.A. dated Fort Montgomery 2nd June 1818 ordered Col William King to muster out of service the troops (Territorial) raised by Gov Bibb & to be paid -

On the 2nd June 1818. Col King informs Hitchcock that he ~~has received~~ encloses him a copy of an order received from Maj Genl Jackson to muster the Territorial troops out of service when their time expires - request H to inform him of their number & stations &c.

Fort Claiborne

1st May 1818. Gov Bibb assures Maj Youngs that he is very desirous to promote an expedition calculated to give protection to an extension frontier - He had already made great personal exertions to march at least 100 volunteers to Fort Montgomery - Gov Bibb laments the scattered condition of the ~~country~~ inhabitants & the want of Military organization - ~~It~~ The peremtory order to obtain in due season, the number of troops required, put it out of his power to organize the military of the Territory properly which he hoped to effect in a few months. Having a volunteer Company at Fort Claiborne it was immediately ordered into service & appealed to the people to supply the remainder required - doubts not they will be in readiness to meet Coul Youngs on the 3rd or 4th. Should some mounted men who are desirous to join the expedition & cannot walk, go, please receive them they will be serviceable. The troops are raised for one Months' service -

I appoint to command the troops Lt Col Deale who was so anxious to join the expedition, that he was willing to go as a private - He is a man of great experience & popular with the settles as a Partizan officer - "I am sensable that the rank of Lt Col is not suited to the force, but such are really my embarrasments in the present desperate state of affairs in the Territory that to be enabled to afford any thing like protection to the inhabitants, I am compelled to depart from Military rules.

Gov Bibb proceeded to St. Stephens & remained the a week & returned to Fort Claiborne.

(10)

Fort ~~Jackson~~ Crawford 25th May 1818,

Col Youngs ~~proposes to~~ informs Gov Bibb that he dispatched Lieut Riddle to Montgomery Hill to hasten on provisions & to order Capt Thompson's Company (if he succeeded in obtaining provisions) to Monroe or Scurlocks ferry with a view to make a Campaign against the Indians in and about the upper settlements - I propose to send a tolerably strong force up the E & S side of the Conaco between it & the yellow ~~river~~ water - from thence at some point cross the Conaco to the sepulgas when another party ordered from Fort Dale & its vicinity should be directed to meet & organise - Being unacquainted with the County I rely upon you for Guides & advice as to the best route &c &c.

Fort Dale 8th August 1818.

Capt Curtis informs Col Dale by letter that Lieut Borworth arrived at one o'clock in the morning from Fort Bibb & states that yesterday he sent out 10 men together with some citizens to search for signs that was seen by Land Hunters — returned — reported the signs of 70 women men & children near their encampment — the citizens of Fort Bibb anxious to rout them — around us every day. I shall endeavour to disperse these indians — seen at the spring — one of the soldiers being under Guard yesterday, morning at his request the officer of the guard sent one of his men out with him, and he went to impose on the centinal who shot him — he expired about 8 o'clock

Executive Office 13th Augt 1818

Secretary of State informs Maj D. McCary that in consequence of an arrangement with Maj Genl Gains to protect the Territorial frontier, the services of the men ordered to be drafted from his Battalion are not wanted.

Fort Claiborne ~~17th June 1818~~ 26th March 1818

J.M. Flinn apprises Gov Bibb of the danger of the indians He says on his arrival here he found the people much alarmed The friendly indians about McGirths had left there Mrs McGirth becoming much alarmed had crossed the river with her children — the ~~friendly~~ indians who had left McGirths were well acquainted with our feeble situation saying that 20 men could talk the town.

Big Warrior -

Copy the whole of Gov Bibb's letter. No 1.
Copy the whole of Big Warriors answer No 2.

Big Warrior - Fort Claiborne 17th June 1818

Henry Hitchcock writes Col La Prade stationed at Fort Jackson that he must go & see the Big Warrior & lay his letter before him - tell him that one of the murderers of Stokes is in custody at this place & will suffer death for his ~~crime~~ ~~committed against~~ him & he has confessed his crime - If the other two can be taken unless them sent to Fort Claiborne where Judge Toulmin will hold a special Court for their trial - If testimony can be got by the Big Warrior send the witnesses down

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Fort Jackson 1st July 1818.

Col LaPrade went to see the big Warrior according to H's ~~letter~~ request - informed H that the indians had not ~~been taken~~ come in, but that they were expected in the nation in a short time

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Big Warriors' letter Copy 3

17th June 1818 Executive Office

Big Warrior is written to by Hitchcock & informed that some time since a man by the name of ~~Stokes~~ living about 12 miles from Fort Claiborne with his wife & children were cruelly murdered by the indians - the indians ran off. Since then one of them Echiha belonging to Otheccalla has been taken, confessed his crime - the two others who committed the murder belonged to Autossee - one named Oakfuskawhola

Big Warrior, continued —

The other whoes name is Ethalawthla — all three went to the House of the white man & shot him, knocked down wife & children beat them untill they thought them dead stole his property & fled to Pensacola — arriving at Pensacola the left the next day for yellow water — Hopes the Big Warrior will have them taken should the return to their native towns.

Tuckabatchey 14th May 1818
Copy Big Warriors letter 4

Captain S. J. Watley & Lewis Rodgers, 1st Lt & C Collect 2nd ~~stationed at~~ Fort Dale
in service from the 17th March 1818. to 17 April 1818 — Mounted Rifle men
33 men —

Capt Joseph Thompson. in service from 1st April 1818 to the 14th June 1818 — three months Territorial Malitia
Gabriel Allen 1st Lt. — 42 privates — ~~mustered out of service~~

Capt Josiah Jones
William H Huff Lieut, Commencement of service 31st Decr 1817
discharged 30th June 1818, a detachment from the Regiment
belonging to Clarke & Monroe Counties: 67 men.

Capt Thomas Figures
Jesse Landrum Lieut — went into service 1st April 1818
discharged 30th 1818. 52 men.

Capt Samuel S. Steele
Henry G. Williams 1st Lieut. 3rd May 1818. 3rd June 1818
41 men

Wm Lee writes from Fort Dale Nov 14th 1818 — at this period
Fort Dale is evacuated & that that part of the County
was at peace & quiet & people moving in — re=
quests that the Gov will organize the County