Notes obtained from a conversation with Major Reuben Chamberlain of Mobile in relation to the capture of Mobile in 1813 - Taken by Williamson for the United States, from the King of Spain

~~in 18~~ In June 1804 Reuben Chamberlin Lieut U.S.A. came to Mobile as paymaster of the troops of Fort Stoddart, went up to Fort Stoddart, at that time Captain Peter P. Sculyer of New York was commandant of the Fort - had about 80 soldiers - Captain Thambers of 2nd Regiment from Germany originally built Fort Stoddart he had two companies It was a ~~timber~~ stockade with one bastion Thamberg staid there some two years - the next was Captain Swain of England 1 company - the next one of Capt Boyer was there also a commander a short time ~~Capt Gaines came there in 1806 - Capt Skyler having left~~

Lieuts Chamberlin 2nd, Gaines 1st & Smott ensign were attacked to Scylers company at the Fort - about 1806 Scyler left for New Orleans with about 100 men to arrest Burrs operations leaving at the Fort Lieut Gaines in command with a ~~small Compa~~ few soldiers -

In the fall of ~~1811~~ 1811, Col Thomas H. Cushing ~~R May~~ Lieut Chamberlin Adj with two or three companies - started from Natchez in in ten gun boat & one scooner ~~Cam~~ the flotilla was commanded by Lieut Dexter of the Navy - proceeded on to Orleans come out at the mouth of the river - and after a passage of 41 days from Natchez landed at the orange grove - As they passed the Spanish fort they threatened to fire upon the flotilla had their matches ready to lick fire, but did not do it - It is sup

posed they did not know our object — The object was to protect the Spaniards from our own citizens — The troops disem=embarked upon the orange grove without opposition & erected their tents & histed their flag — A very short time a correspondence took place between the the Commander of the Fort Kieton Parris & the american Com=mander & they soon understood each other & became friendly the offices dining with each other & visiting with each other after staying some three weeks here the Com=mand marched up by Land to Fort Stoddart level leaching built a cantonment where the ar=sinal is now & was the first settlement made there — The expedition marched from here in 1812, to N.O. by thrust the woods y way of Pass Christian, there took Boats to N.O. Here the Company met Genl Wilkerson & shortly afterwards Wilkerson started for Mobile with 200 men — came in scooners & merchants vessels — stoped at Pass Cris=tian & built boats something like scows made ~~about~~ cladders to scale the fort were about one month at Pass Christian the vessels towed the ~~scows~~ boats — the expedition ~~landed~~ stoped as near the shore as they could get with the vessels — then got into the boats & landed in order & formed on the bank in the afternoon, just below Mobile point near the light House just below The expedition marched up to a spring about one mile North E of the Fort. The expedition

Mounted (4) — Ala.

(3)

Camped here & ~~Commenced~~ & Wilkerson Commenced a Correspondence with the Commander & after it was kept up two or three days the Spanish troops marched out & the americans marched in — the Spanish Soldiers went to Pensalaola Wilkerson garrisoned the fort & proceeded to the Perdido River — Here they erected a Stockade in the road leading from Mobile to Pensa Cola, never finished it, broke up & marched in different directions — ~~Lieut~~ Capt Chamberlin ~~Capt Bowyer~~ marched to Mobile pt with one Company of Regulars & 2 of volunteers from Washington County under Command of Capt Henry & Lieut Rodgers — Here they erected a fort of timber — in the shape of a half moon the Circle fronting the bay and at each end of the circle there was a bastion — It was not a strong fort except in the water side. Capt Chamberlin was near two years in building this fort — having hung his timbers down from fish river to the point — the volunteer Companies left as soon ~~as~~ expedition arrived at the point & left for the creek nation, Capt Cham- was now left with about one hundred men. Soon after arriving at the pt Lieut Col Bowyer arrived & took Command of the troops — Capt Chamberlin acting as engineer In about 18 months the Fort was finished ~~& the guns mounted. Lieut Col Bowyer having gone to the north~~ — & a vessel with guns landed — ~~Before the guns were~~ the guns were landed & principally

~~taken off the vessel~~ mounted dismantled, Fiorny ordered ~~them~~ place ~~not to be put in the fort~~, as the thought incapable of dence, and ordered the guns up to Mobile - In the mean time Maj William Lawrence had arrived the Fort & taken command - It was called Fort Bazier - When the ~~ves~~ guns were sent up the Bay, the Command were ordered to leave the fort & March to Mobile & it was left without a soul in it When Jackson arrived in Mobile he ordered the guns & company back & as soon as the guns were mounted - the battle took place -

Adin Lewis was collector of the Port of Fort Stoddart ~~including Mobile~~ succeeded Gaines & then came to Mobile & was Collector -

Maj Chamberlin's
Notes—