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Note furnished A J Pickett
by Col I Austill
in relation to a smuggling party
in 1814.

incidents of a Smuggling Party —
Nov. 1814

Owing to the War of 1812 13 & 14. Coffee & Sugar become very Scarce and the little there was. Sold for 50 & 25 cents per lb. — a Party of Citizens in Clark County Numbering 18 persons: — to Wit. John Dean Sur. & Insn. Evan Austell — Thos. Armstrong. John Morgan H. C. Burge. & others headed by John Earl of Tensaw — determined to visit Pensaco with a view of procuring those necessary articles which were very low in Pensacola — each one being armed — and furnished with a Pack horse — in addition to the Saddle horse; — The party reached Pensacola without ~~meeting with and~~ meeting with any of the Indians sup=posed to be on the Way. — when however they found several vessels of the British fleet at ancor. and whilst they were engaged in making their purchases and preparing for return = One of the Spanyards in=formed Earl. That the British had determined to dispatch some Indians & Marines. to take them on their return. as presioners of War — a Counsel was immediately held. and it was determined to remain. Qui=it in Town until a late hour at Night. when Earl promised to take them a path Way. for some fifteen Miles before they would reach the Main Road

On reaching the Road, and soon after Sun rise — Earl being in advance of the balance some paces — ~~thought and~~ heard a noise ahead upon a Stilely elevated plain — upon which he halted — and rose up in his Stirrups = when to his astonishment — he saw an Army — Composed of Whites and Indians — advancing upon him He wheeled his horse. exclaiming here they are by G.d every man for himself. and Started off

at full speed - leaving his packed horse behind - the balance of his company turning to the right and left - the supposed British seeing them scampering - raised the war hoop and fired off a number of small arms and gave chase - Earl finding himself pursued cut his saddle bags loose - and soon dis=tanced his pursuers - not so with the Sean^r Dean who finding himself hotly pursued, broke his gun round a tree and boyed for Quarter - the sun" horse fell and threw his rider - who ~~lost his ha~~ rose to his feet halted and ran off leaving his horse upon the ground - and was three days afterwards found by Jere Austell - Near Eighty miles from the scene described - without shoes and in a most deplorable condition not able to tell where he left his shoes or which way he had come - a few minutes - afterwards his Father - E Austell & H. C Bunge came up with them and his horse much to his joy as he supposed himself the only sur=vivor = at the time of the flight - E. Austell having gained a respectfull distance halted to see what would be the fate of the Senr Dean - who had sur rendered - a single rider - advanced towards E. Austell and when within speaking distance in formed him they were friends - and upon a near=er approach - proved to be Doctor Holmes now of Baldwin County - who was attached to Major Bleas Battallion - of Americans & Choctaws & chick a saws who had been in Florida in pursuit of the Indians and were on their return to the Alabama - Each party mistaking the other for an enemy - The remainder of Earles party came in two days afterwards - he himself hav=ing returned early the first night - to the Gar=rison at Montgomery hill and called on the

Commanding officer for a force to rescue his Comrades who he supposed might be either hung or transported ere that time —

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