1

Notes of Doctor Thomas G. Holmes
of Baldwin County Ala.

in relation to the "Burnt Corn expedition"
"the Massacre of 553 Men Women & Children
at Fort Mims" and other things which
happened in the trying times of 1813. 1814.

The following is a rough sketch of a conversation had with Dr Thomas G. Holmes of Baldwin County Alabama written down while he was talking upon the subject of the disturbance of Fort Mimis - Dr Holmes was one of those who escaped at the Fort & was familiar with the affair - This conversation was had at his home 3rd June 1847 - He is a good looking intelligent very dark skinned old gentleman with a remarkable memory.

Gen Hampton caused a road to be cut from Fort Hoskins to Ferry on the Big Bear & through ~~from~~ ~~thence to~~ Nanneehubba Island to Samuel Mimms Ferry on the Alabama river - from thence to the Chattahoochee river by the Escambia thence by Burt-Corn. Road established in 1811 by Lieut Luckett was employed in cutting it out with a full company of Regulars. As soon as said road was cut there was a general dissatisfaction in all of the Creek Nation of indians, resulting in the prediction of a fall of their nation. The first commencement of hostilities was their stopping Brig Gen Flournoy in 1812 - on his way through the Creek to command the army at N.O. The chiefs of the nation had the stoppage of Gen F. made. He was detained two days - Flournoy proceeded to N.O. and relieved Gen Wilkinson, who ~~coming~~ came through the same route, stopped at Fort Mimms A volunteer company of some 70. commanded by ~~Lieut~~ ~~Tu~~ Captain Lester & Lieut Rodgers ~~and~~ conducted him to Georgia - Flournoy went to N.O. in 1812 & Wilkinson ~~returned~~ went in May 1813. to Georgia. This party was strongly threatened on their route with being cut to pieces - In June 1813, between Burt Corn & Escambia, the mail rider was arrested & nearly beat to death & the mail carried to Pensacola & plundered there under the full observance of the Spanish authorities. A set of half breeds among others Sam Manuel a respectable man of wealth settled on this new Road to accomodate travelers, and drove and plundered by the hostiles. Also a number of half breeds for being friendly with the whites were who were settled upon the Alabama David Tate Capt Dixon & Baily & others, were driven from their homes and took protection from the whites

13 – again Qu. yielding to the females (in fact, to shew that they all if not equally so with Mrs Bayley were complaintly so for there was not a murmur or scream during the ~~time~~ ~~[illegible]~~ the period of ten hours for the engagement lasted that long.

The blood was shoe deep in Bastion.

About 3 o'clock it was thought the indians were whipped. They took a great deal bosser but addendum not of the fort of the fort, and suddenly retreated and went to the house of Mr O'neal about 300 yards ~~[illegible]~~ distant ~~below~~ of the fort and for a short time appeared to be parleying at with a dispositi to be off – suddenly a conspicuous indian Warrior supposed to be William Weatherford dashed up, on a horse and appeared to be haranguing them for about 30 minutes when their baggage was laid down and they returned with a rush yelling and screaming like perfect demonds, when they charged the bastion such was their terrible appearance that it required all the nerve of the soldiers to meet them but they were met with such distruction that they had to leave the bastion with indian velocity – again they charged and again with about 4 each they quit all further assaults upon the Bastion –

Every indian was provided with a gun, a war club and a bow with several arrows. with a dart in each arrow – they were generally naked with a crows tail tied into a belt around them and pofsing down their arse – some were painted half red

Willegin

Soon after which Weatherford a half breed took command of a large party of hostiles and was invited by the Spanish authorities to Pensacola on the promise of giving him a large supply of arms, ammunition &c to carry on a war with the american settlers. When he arrived at Pensacola with his party, said arms & supplies were given him by Arbuster & Woodbine under the command of Col Nicoll. The arms and ammunition were publickly displayed upon the public square & in the presence of the governor were distributed to the respective indian towns in due proportion to fill the wants of the different hostile towns. In consequence of which the whites in the counties of Baldwin Washington & Clarke collected a body of 170 men for the purpose of intercepting said Weatherford & his hostile party on their return march. They were commanded by Col James Caller who lived in the St Stephens neighbourhood, commissioned by the Territorial government. Lieut Col Mc Greece was second in command, Major Wood, Major Mc Farlane, Major Sounder Maj Philips, Capt Saint Dale, Capt Smoot, Capt Dixon Bayley a half breed, in this force concentrated at the escambia, all mounted riflemen from there they proceeded to the wolf trail running three miles East of Burnt Corn. & there encamped for the night hourly expecting the arrival of the hostile party. In the morning they continued the route of the wolf trail towards Pensacola (~~in July 1813~~) after proceeding 10 miles they met the advanced party of the hostiles and a fight running fight commenced, the indians retreating - it is supposed some got killed, none of the whites - ten miles further

on, the main body of the hostiles were discovered ~~camp~~ encamped in the bend of Burnt Corn Creek - and immediately Col Callier ordered his troops to dismount & charge which was promptly discharged - indians driven from their position - packs & pack horses containing their arms & supplies were captured - they precipitately fled in the Creek swamp nearly. The Americans unfortunately after charging through the swamp, were ordered by Col Callier to fall back and form in the open ground adjacent, which gave the indians the opportunity of reoccupying said swamp, which gave them a covering & protection, while the Americans were exposed to a murderous fire without a tree to shield them. They however, maintained their position for two hours. after fighting some time Capt Dale was severly wounded in the shoulder. Private Robert Lewis was badly wounded James Jenkins and several others. The indians must have shot badly. ~~[illegible]~~ It led McGreen with 100 men had kept in the rear in disobedience of the order to charge & remained ½ mile in rear of the engagement all the time of the fight. Towards the close of the fight Col Callier dispatched Capt Baily to order the Col McGreen to come to their relief & he & his men refused to comply. Finding it useless to contend longer when the larger portion of his army refused to fight, he ordered a retreat. While the fight was going on, McGreen & his party had the captured baggage in their possession, and were squabbling about a division of the spoils which they had no hand in taking. When Callier ordered his men to dismount & fight, it was promptly obeyed & the horses not being tied fled some twenty fled to the creek for water & were captured by the hostiles - so when a retreat was ordered about twenty of Callier's brave men, were on without horses & retreated some on foot & others others riding double. The indians pursuing on killed killed two privates - Glaps and Ballard - The retreat was conducted with

great disorder and confusion every man for himself - Mc Grew & his cowardly party keeping for a head diving on the captured horses & plunder. The command of this expedition being scattered never got together & went on to their homes with dismay & terror - Col Collier has been so blamed for this battle, but he acted bravely and deserves great credit for he was long exposed to the fire from the swamp for a long time on a conspicuous white horse - and was a very last man. Mc Grew & his party were to blame - Col Collier committed one fatal error in not permitting Capt Dryan Baily to charge the swamp as he wished to do several times. The battle commenced on at 12 o'clock, in the latter part June 1813. and was most disasterous in its results for it inspirited the hostiles with great confidence - Many of the expeditionists suffered greatly in their retreat - Col Collier himself was lost in the swamp on the Alabama river for 15 days & suffered great privations and had almost lost his reason when found. also Major Woods.

Soon after these troops under Collier returned & the news of the Battle had produced much alarm, the citizens White settlers in So Ala determined to go into fort - and that ill fated fort Mimms was commenced ~~& completed~~ by the citizens & completed after the plan of Brig Genl Claiborne & under the supervision of Maj Beasley - B. was from North Carolina - about 30 years old - he joined the army in the neighborhood of Baton Rouge and came to So Ala under Claiborne about 5 feet ten inches high. dark eyes & hair with a very fine looking & determined countenance - ~~Indeed~~ The ground upon which the fort was erected belonged to Samuel Mimms - After the fort was completed Genl Claiborne ~~review~~ inspected it & pronounced it capable of repelling the six nations of indians - Beasley came over & took command of the fort with 160 men - With

in ten days thereafter, Captain Lowery with his Company of 40 men was dispatched to garrison Fort Easly about in Clarke County on the east side of the Bigbee. Lieut Bowen, with fifty men was sent a few days after to garrison fort Madison in Clarke County: Another detachment of 20 men under Lieut Montgomery was sent to fort Pierce within two miles of Fort Mims. Again St Davis was sent with 18 men to defend Joshua Kennedy's saw mills. In the mean time there was an addition put up to the Fort for the accomodation of the regular soldiers of 50 feet wide running the entire length of the fort enclosure. presenting in all about 500 port holes, which were about three feet from the ground and about 3 ft apart. To defend this large slaughter pen there was only 65 effective men. Deducting the troops dispatched to defend the above named neighboring forts, it was found that only 42 of Maj Beasly's troops remained and that the ballance of his command making only 85 in all was made up by neighboring citizens in the Fort. Being in the month of August & the Fort situated near the alabama swamp; the garrison & inmates had experienced great deal sickness. day after day sys that would be sent out would come in hastily and give information of approaching hordes of indians. Maj B with such alacrity would send off command after command in search of them. they would as often return with great disappointment & report to the Major no indians, no signs. These often disappointments, ~~produced~~ lull the Major & his command into a state of false se

County - all got to believe, that no indians would approach them - on the 29th August two negro Boys were out minding beeff cattle that did belonging to John Randon & the other to Josiah Fletcher - about 5 o'clock in the evening said Boys rapidly approached the fort and reported that they had deliberately counted 24 indian warriors two miles distant May B. Fatherwith send a command of some 20 men under Capt Middleton with the negro Boys as pilots in search of the indians - the Capt returned about sun down & reported no indians nor signs. May B. fatherwith demanded of Randon that his Boy should be punished for having given this false report - He consented and under the eye of the adulant the Boy was severely punished - a similar demand was made upon Fletcher for his Boy who replied that he would not suffer his Boy to be whipped for reason that he would believe him sooner than he would Capt Middleton. Mr F's refusal brought down the vengeance of May B. & the insulted Capt Middleton, after a consultation of the Officers, they ordered Fletcher with his family to depart from the fort by 10 o'clock next morning. Mr F having many friends among the citizens en masse went to May B and petitioned that his orders should be countermanded He consented ~~that~~ upon condition that F would consent for his Boy to be tied to the stake & there receive 100 lashes. Mr F by the persuasion of his friends did so

the unfortunate Boy thought he had told the truth & nothing but the truth was held up - but alas to the shame of B & Middleton the hour of 12 o'clock came and the yell of the indian was announced at the eastern gate and to the great astonishment of the officers soldiers & citizens - The unerring rifles of murderous indians almost distroyed the inmates of the unfortunate fort, at the first fire. The indians came within 400 yds of the fort where there was a thick ravine ~~that~~ in which they secreted themselves by laying flat on the ground until the 12 o'c drum beat - having received information by a very intelligent negro named Joe, belonging to Capt Zachariah McGirt that if they would await until that hour, that the officers soldiers & citizens would all be engaged at dinner, which was the fact, and at that awful moment, they made made a general rush and undiscovered until they surrounded the fort. and were in possession of three fourths of the port holes before the men assigned to defend them could get to them. The work of death now commenced with all its horrors. the hour Capt Levin Baily got with his command to the Bastion on the south side of the fort as will appear by reference to the plan of the fort. Scarcely arrived before the Bastion was charged by 150 of these inhuman monsters using all the contortions that their fanaticism could stimulate them to utter expecting to meet the fate they received from the unerring rifle of the whites - Capt Baily very judiciously had supplied himself with rifles or extra guns most of them double barrels, soon as the first discharge from Baily's troops

was made, the guns were withdrawn from the port holes and the explosive put in their place which inflicted such a deadly fire that they part around with out being able to occupy the port holes of which Lieut B had command - But a little time elapsed before with an increased number and with horrible contorsion & painted faces, those hell hounds came as thought certain of their prey but again they met the same disappointment - for the inmates of the Bastion instead of relaxing they seemed to be nerved with a spirit of defence never to yield. about this time, Mr James Baily Mr Daniel Baily and some several others got up into the roof of Mennis loge house placed in the center, knocked off some shingles which they used as port holes, whereby they from time to time kept up a deadly fire upon the indians on the outside of the fort shooting over the pickets - after several rounds from this position, the indians again made a violent attack upon the Bastion commanded by Capt Baily and were again repulsed with much loss - from time to time they kept up attack after attack upon this Bastion each time with equal loss until about 4 o'clock when they seemed to have abandoned the attempt to take the Bastion - in the early part one solitary man of Capt Jack's Company of Regulars that got up into the half finished block house with his rangers Charger and twenty cartridges in his Cartridge Box, this brave and worthy soldier some several days after the fall of the fort was found laying on his back with one hand grubed to the ram rod the other to the rangler, his head perforated with a Ball and the brains running therefrom - with the last load from his Box about half rammed

down ~~with~~ in his yarger. with 23 dead indians
laying on their backs killed by said yarger for
reason that they were in reach of the back
horn & no possibility for those indians to
have been killed by any other than by this
brave man, who had sold his life with so
much honor to himself now to his country and
so very dearly to the enemy - after his death, the
indians succeeded in cutting the pickets on
the south side of the Fort covered by two large
Horns represented in the drawing as a Kettle
and smoke Horn, & succeeded in ~~firing~~
communicating fire to both of these houses
where the conflagration raged in the houses
the wind sprang up and communicated the
fire to the large building of Samd Minnis
in the centre - there it was that horror and
dismay was to be seen in every face within
the fort - even that brave & worthy soldier Capt
Lieut Baily was head to give up - that his large
family were all to be butchered by the savages
there was no alternative left. there it was
that Doct Thomas G. Holmes a surgeon in the
garrison determined to cut ~~the~~ two of the pickets
as soon as the conflagration became general and
the brave fellows ~~We~~ and citizens who were protected
by this house in the centre had to flee therefrom
this Bastion commanded by Baily was the
only place that they could flee to with
any prospect of safety. there was little
to be found there, for such was the fact
when they all crowded together, there was no
chance of defence - escape was the only
alternative - those pickets previously cut
by Dr Holmes were thrown down, when the
brave Lieut Baily ordered his negro man
Tom to take up his favourite son Ralph, 14 years old
who had long been sick
Baily and carry him on his back - The negro

in obedience to the order of his master forthwith went out of the fort through the pickets followed by his master with his unerring rifle in hand, and followed by his intimate friend Dr Holmes & the most rapid flight took place - soon after passing the north west corner of the fort 150 indians attempted to cut off their retreat whereby they by as they ran Capt B gave them a fire from his rifle and Dr Holmes from both barrels of his gun. Baily had boiled his bullets in oil with the buck skin patches sewed over them to make they go down easy - so far the informant Dr Holmes knows not how the others escaped after he left - but presumes by the same breach in the walls X X ~ / There were 1200 warriors when they were discovered & the discovery was known to the commandant, he rushed sword in hand to the gate and attempted to shut it, but owing its being made of very heavy materials it had much sloaggers against the gate was planted on the declivity of the slope & from several heavy rains the earth had washed considerably against said gate and rendered it impossible for Major Beasy with all his phisical powers to shut it - five of the principle profits rushed with all their infuriated fanatism to the centre of the fort over the body of Beasy who had been dispatched with a war club - after reaching the centre of the fort, they got to dancing in defiance of the Citizen Soldiers, for they had assured their deluded followers, that they could dance in defiance of american powder or ball for reason if they attempted to shoot them, that their Balls would split, but to their great disappointment they met their fate and that

very suddenly for they were all fire shot-down which it was said dampened the feelings of the whole indian army - for much confidence had been placed in whatever they represented again, those deluded followers had evidence that they could not split the bally, for before five o'clock 500 had been pierced by american lead. The distruction of the Fort is horible to tele. There were 553 ~~soldiers~~ citizens and soldiers and among the number about 453 women & children and only 13 escaped. The way that many of the unfortunate women were mangled and cut to pieces is shocking to humanity. for very many of the woman who were pregnant had their unborn infants cut from the woomb and lay by their bleeding mothers - they were stripped of every article of apparel, not satisfied with this, they in humanly scalped every solitary one - not satisfied with scalping in the ordinary manner but took from from the skin of the whole head so as to make many skalps - for the spaniards with more barbarous feeling than the inhuman indian had promised them $5 for every scalp they would bring them, thus they took the whole skin to make many skalps. again Armbrister & Woodbine claiming as they did all the advantages of a religious education had the barbarity to offer a like reward to the indians. Col Arbuthnot an officer of high grade, from England, assured the indians that he was authorized by his government to pay the same price for scalps - The indians had the cunning to make many scalps from each killed white that they murdered. They carried them on poles each town had a pole heavy with scalps and danced and sang & shouted in horrid yells

on their way to Pensacola after the fall of fort Mimis - when they went to tell of their victories to sell their scalps and receive more supplies - after the Battle was over they encamped that night outside of the remains of the fort. where they tomaed and fryed their scalps - There were many acts of bravery on the part of the females - Mrs Daniel Baily loaded guns by throwing the whole engagement for the defenders of the Boston - There was a Sargent - Mathews taken with a violent chill, & shook like a man with a third day fever & ague and from his sweating the water ran from him as freely as though he had been delluged with water from a vessel - his teeth chattering together as though he was freezing this hour Mrs Baily urged him from time to time to get up & fight like a man and defend the women children that were in the fort - he refused to do so; she earnestly assured him if he did not fight that she would certainly bayonett him which by the By she done some some 15 or 20 times in his rump. all to no purpose for he lay like an ox - afterward he made his escape and fled & reached ~~the white settlements~~ Mount vernon when Claiborne was in command and then repeated to the genl that he had killed 20 odd indians - it so raised him in the estimation of the genl & the officers that they one and all recommended him to a commission in the army which it was probably he would have gotten if Dr Holmes had not have prevented this unworthy man from succeeding by his false statements to the general - when Dr H charged him with lying. he persisted in it - until the Dr proved by the marks on his posterior that Mrs Baily had bay onetted him -

Again, all the females acted with great heroism & bravery and if they were not remarkable in feats as Mrs Bayly, they nevertheless displayed the greatest coolness From 12 o'clock untill 5 not a scream was heard The Blood was shoe deep in the Bastion about 3 o'clock it was thought the indians were whipped the loss a great deal of the baggage out of the addi=tional part of the fort were encamped the officers and suddenly retreated and went to the House of Mrs O'neal about 300 yds distant and for a short time appeared to be packing up with a disposition to be off. Suddenly a con=spicuous ~~chief~~ indian warrior supposed to be William Weatherford darted up on a horse and appeared to be harrangueing them for about 30 minutes, when their baggage was suddenly laid down, and they returned with a rush yelling & screaming like perfect demons - When they again charged the Bastion such was their horrible appearance that it required all the nerve of the soldiers to meet them, but the inmates of the bastion poured upon them a deadly fire - again & again they charged untill about 4 o'clock they quit all further assaults upon the Bastion.

Every ~~warrior~~ Indian was provided with a gun, war club a bow and arrows pointed with iron spikes - With few exceptions they were naked - around the waist was drawn a girdle from the which was tied a cows tail reaching down the ~~rear~~ back and almost drag=ging the ground - It is impossible to imagine people so horribly painted. Some were painted half red & half black

and half black - some were adorned with feathers - their faces were painted so as to show their horrible contortions. Reinburg a soldier died from pure fear after the fall of the fort, the Indians burnt and distroyed every house in the neighboorhood -

Within 8 or 10 days after the fall of Fort Mims Genl Claiborne sent over a Command of 300 soldiers, to bury the dead that had been massacred at Fort Mims, which they done by deging ~~too~~ two large vaults about 20 feet square, one in front of the Bastion on the North Side where most of bodies lay they were rooled in & covered up - The Major Joseph P. Hawdy who commanded the expedition saw many ravens devouring the Bodies - they were never seen before & have not been seen since - over four Hundred persons were deposited in the vaults - shockingly mangled - There were many women in the family way & all such the infants were cut out of their bellies, and fence rails run up their privates - some families had 12 or 14 children - all butchered.

A negro Woman named Hester belonged to Benjamin Stedham was assisted by Dr Holmes to make her escape about 4 oclock, but as she went off she received a wound in the arm - she made to the river, swam the ~~river~~ Alabama River and kept the road to the Tombigbee river and swam that and on the next morning by 8 oclock she was the first to tell the news at Mt Vernon to Genl Claiborne -

Tom covered his young master out of

danger for in the woods, but afterwards carried the Boy back when by the order of Tecumshe's half brother he was dispatched with a war club – Tom is now a driver on Mr Sisemore's plantation – & it is supposed he went back to the West to get his freedom which the Indians had promised all negroes but had no idea they would kill the Boy – which Tom regretted afterwards –

Papers in relation to the Battle of Carr & fall of Capt. McInnis –

4

Notes Of Doctor Thomas G. Holmes
of Baldwin County Ala.
in relation to the "Burnt Corn expedition"
"the massacre of 553 men, women & children
at Fort Mims" and other things which
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The following is a rough sketch of a conversation had with Dr Thomas G. Holmes of Baldwin county Alabama written down while he was talking upon the subject of the destruction of Fort Mims – Dr Holmes was one of those who escaped at the Fort & was familiar with the affair – This conversation was had at his home 3rd June 1847 – He is a good looking intelligent very dark skined [*sic*] old gentleman with a remarkable memory.[1]

Gen Hampton caused a road to be cut from Fort Stoddert to Mr Carson's ferry on the Bigbee & ~~from there to~~ ^ through Nannyhubbar Eisland to Samuel Mimms Ferry on the Alabama river – from them [*sic*] to the Chattahoochee river by the Escambia then by Burnt Corn. Road established in 1811 by Lieut Lucket was employed in cutting it out with a full company of Regulars. As soon as said road was cut there was a general dissatisfaction in all of the Creek nation of indians [*sic*], resulting in the prediction of a fall of their nation The first commencement of hostilities was their stoping [*sic*] ^ Brig Genl Flournoy in 1812 on his way through the Creek to command the army at N. O. The chiefs of the nation had the stopage of Genl F. made. He was detained two days – Flournoy proceeded to N. O. and relieved Genl Wilkinson, who ~~coming~~ came through the same route, stoping at Fort Mims. A volunteer company of some 70, commanded by ~~Lieut~~ Captain Lerter & Lieut Rodgers ~~and~~ conducted him to Georgia. Flournoy went to N. O. in 1812 & Wilkersons ~~returned~~ ^ went in May 1813 to Georgia. This party was strongly threatened on their route with being cut to pieces – In June 1813, between Burnt Corn & Escambia, the mail rider was arrested & nearly burnt to death & the mail carried to Pensacola & plundered there under the full observance of the Spanish authorites [*sic*]. A set of half breeds among others Sam Manac a

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[1] This first paragraph was written on a small strip of paper and affixed with wax to the top of the first page.

AJP's handwriting is sometimes difficult to read. The editor gave him benefit of the doubt concerning the correct spelling of some words. Misspellings were transcribed in instances where incorrect letters or omission of letters was obvious. Discerning between dashes and periods was also difficult.

respectable man of wealth settled on this new Road to accommodate travelers, and drove and plundered by the hostiles. Also a number of half breeds for being friendly with the whites ~~were~~ who were settled upon the Alabama, David Tate Capt Dixon ^ Baily & others, were driven from their homes and took protection from the whites – soon after which ^ William Weatherford a half breed took command of a large party of hostiles and was invited by the Spanish authorites to Pensacola – on the promise of giving him a large supply of arms, ammunition &c to carry on a war with the American settlers – When he arrived at Pensacola with his party, said arms & supplies were given him ^ by Ambrister ^ & Woodbine under the command of Col Nicoll. The arms and ammunition were publickly displayed upon the public square & ^ in the presence of the Governor even distributed to the respective indian towns in due proportion to fill the wants of the different hostile towns. In consequence of which the whites in the counties of Baldwin, Washington & clarke [*sic*] collected a body of 170 men for the purpose of intercepting said Weatherford & his hostile party on their return march. They were commanded by Col James Callier who lived in St Stephens neighborood [*sic*], commissioned by the Territorial Government. Lieut Col McGrew was second in command, ^ Major Wood, Major McFarlan, Major Jourdan, Maj Philips, Capt Sam[l] Dale, Capt Smoot, Capt Dixon Bayley a half breed. This force concentrated at the escambia [*sic*], all mounted rifleman from there they proceeded to the wolf trail running three miles East of Burnt Corn. & there encamped for the night hourly expecting the arrival of the hostile party. In the morning they continued the route of the wolf trail towards Pensacola (~~in July 1813~~) after proceeding 10 miles they met the advanced party of the hostiles and a ~~fight~~ running fight commenced, the indians retreating – it is supposed some got killed, none of the whites – ten miles further on, the main party of the hostiles were discovered ~~camped~~ encamped in the bend of Burnt Corn Creek – and immediately Col Callier ordered his troops ti dismount & charge which was promptly discharged – indians driven from their position – packs & pack horses containing their arms and supplies were captured – they precipitately fled in the

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[2] AJP left a blank space, and someone has pencilled in the name "Ballard," but it does not appear to be AJP's handwriting.

permitting ^ Capt Dixon Baily to charge the swamp as he wished to do several times – The battle commenced ~~on~~ at 12 o clock, in the latter part June 1813. and was most desasterous [*sic*] in its results for it inspired the hostiles with great confidence – Many of the expedition suffered greatly on their retreat – Col Callier himself was lost in the Swamp on the Alabama river for 15 days & suffered great privations and had almost lost his reason when found. also Major Woods. Soon after then troops under Callier returned & the news of the Battle had produced much alarm, the citizens white settlers in S° Ala determined to go into fort and that ill fated fort Mims was commenced ~~& completed~~ by the citizens & completed after the plan of Brg Genl Claiborne & under the supervision of Maj Beasley – B. was from North Carolina – about 30 years old – he joined the army in the neighborhood of Baton Rouge and came to S° Ala under Claiborne about 5 feet ten inches high, dark eyes & hair with a very fine looking & determined countenance – ~~In July~~ The ground upon which the fort was errected [*sic*] belonged to Samuel Mimms – After the fort was completed Genl Claiborne ~~review~~ inspected it & pronounced it capable of repelling the six nation of indians – Beasly came over & took command of the fort with 160 men – Within ten days thereafter, Captain Lowery with his company of 40 men was dispatched to Garrison Fort Easly in clarke [*sic*] county on the east side of the Bigbee – Lieut Bowen with forty men was sent a few days after to garrison fort Madison in Clarke county. Another detachment of 20 men under Lieut Montgomery was sent to fort Pierce within two miles of Fort Mims Again Lt Davis was sent with 18 men to defend Joshua Kennedy's saw mills – In the mean time there was an addition put up to the Fort for the accommodation of the regular soldiers of 60 feet wide running the entire length of the fort enclosure – presenting in all about 500 port holes, which were about three feet from the ground and about 3 ft apart – To defend this large slaughter pen there was only 65 effective men, – deducting the troops dispatched to defend the above named neighboring forts, it was found that only 42 of Maj Beasly's troops remained and that the balance of his command making only 65 in all was made up by neighboring citizens in the Fort. Being in

the month of August & the Fort situated near the alabama [*sic*] swamp; the ~~Fort~~ garrison & inmates had experienced a great ^ deal sickness [*sic*] – day after day spies that would be sent out would come in hastily and give information of approaching hordes of Indians – Maj B with ~~with~~ much alacrity would send off command after command in search of them - they would as often return with great disappointment & report to the Major no indians, nor signs – These often disappointments, ~~produced~~ [brought?] the Major & his command into a state of false security – all got to believe, that no indians would approach them – on the 29th August two negro Boys were out minding beeff [*sic*] cattle ~~that~~ one belonging to John Randan & the other to Josiah Fletcher – about 5 o clock in the evening said Boys rapidly approached the fort and reported that they had deliberately counted 24 indian Warriors two miles distant. Maj B. forthwith sent a command of some 20 men under Capt Middleton with the negro Boys as pilots in search of the indians – The Capt returned about sun down & reported no indians nor signs. Maj B. forthwith demanded of Randon that his Boy should be punished for having given this false report – He consented and under the eye of adutant [*sic*] the boy was severely punished – a similar demand was upon Fletcher for his Boy who replied that he would not suffer his Boy to be whiped [*sic*] for reason that he would believe him sooner than he would Capt Middleton. Mr F's refusal brought down the vengeance of Maj B. & the insulted Capt Middleton, after a consultation of the officers, they ordered Fletcher with his family to depart from the fort by 10 o clock next morning – Mr F having many friends among the citizens en masse went to Maj B and petitioned that his orders should be countermanded He consented ~~that~~ upon the condition that F would consent for his Boy to be tied & then receive 100 lashes – Mr F by the persuasion of his friends did so the unfortunate boy though he had told the truth & nothing but the truth was tied up – but alas to the shame of B & Middleton the hour of 12 o clock came and the yell of the indian was announced at the eastern gate and to the greats astonishment of the officers soldiers & citizens – The unerring rifle of the murderous inidan almost destroyed the inmates of the unfortunate fort, at the first fire. The indians

came within 400 yds of the fort where there was a thick ravine ~~that~~ in which they secreted themselves by laying flat on the ground, untill the 12 o c drum beat – having received information by a very intelligent negro named Joe, belonging to Capt Zacharia McGirt that if they would await untill that hour, that the officers soldiers & citizens would all be engaged at dinner, which was the fact, and at that awful moment, they made a general rush and undiscovered untill they surrounded the fort, and were in possession of three fourths of the port holes before the men assigned to defend them could get to them. The work of death now commenced with all its horror. The brave Capt Dixon Baily got with his Command to the Bastion on the North side of the fort as will appear by reference to the plan of the fort. Scarcely arrived before the Bastion was charged, by 150 of these inhuman monsters using all the contorsions [*sic*] that their fanatitism [*sic*] could stimulate them to, little expecting to meet the fate they received from the unerring rifles of the whites – Capt Baily very judiciously had supplied with rifles and extra guns most of them double barrels, soon soon [*sic*] as the first discharge from Baily's troops was made, the guns were withdrawn from the port holes and the extras put in their place which inflicted such a deadly fire that they past [*sic*] around with out being able to occupy the port holes of which Dixon B had command – But a little time elapsed before an [undivided?] number and with horible contorsions [*sic*] & painted faces, those hell hounds came as though certain of their prey but again they met the same disappointment, for the inmates of the Bastion instead of relaxing they seemed to be nerved with a spirit of defense never to yield – about this time, Mr James Baily, Mr Danil Baily and some several other got up into the roof of Mimms large house placed in the center, knocked off some shingles which they used as port holes, where by the by from time to time kept at a deadly fire upon the indians on the outside of the fort shooting over the pickets – after several rounds from this position, the ^ indians again made a violent attack upon the Bastion commanded by Capt Baily and were again repulsed with much loss – from time to time they kept up attack after attack upon this Bastion each time with equal loss untill about 4 o clock when they seemed to have abandoned the attempt

to take the Bastion – in the early part one solitary man of Capt Jack's company of regulars that got up into the half finished block house with his yauger charged ^ and ~~with~~ twenty carterages in his carterighe [*sic*] box, this brave and worthy soldier some days after the fall of the fort was found laying on his back with one hand griped [*sic*] to the ram rod the other to the yauger, his head perforated with a Ball and the brains running theirfrom [*sic*] – with the last load from his Box about half ramed [*sic*] down ~~with~~ in his yauger, with 23 dead indians laying on their backs killed by said yauger for reason that they were in reach of the bok [house?] & no possibility for those indians to have been killed by any other than by this brave man, who had sold his life with so much honor to himself nay to his country and so very dearly to the enemy – after his death, the Indians succeeded in cuting [*sic*] the pickets on the south side of the Fort covered by two large Houses represented in the drawing as a kitchen and smoke House, & succeeded in communicating fire to both of these houses where the conflagration raged in the houses the wind sprang up and communicated the fire to the large building of Saml Mimms in the centre – then it was that horror and dismay was to be seen in every face within the fort – even that brave and worthy soldier Capt Dixon Baily was head to give up – that his large family were all to be butchered by the savages there was no alternative left. then it was that Doct Thomas G. Holmes a surgeon in the garrison determined to cut ~~the~~ ^ two of the pickets as soon as the conflagration became general and the brave fellows ~~wh~~ and citizens who were protected by the house in the center had to flee therefrom the Bastion commanded by Baily was the only place that they could flee to with any prospect of safety. There was little to be found there, for such was the fact when they all crowded together, there was no chanced [*sic*] of defense – escape was the only alternative – those pickets previously cut by Dr Holmes were thrown down, when the brave Dixon Baily ordered his negro man Tom to take up his favorite son ^ 14 year old Ralph, ^ who had long been sick and carry him on his back – The negro in obedience to the order of his master forthwith went out of the fort through the pickets, followed by his master with his unering [*sic*] rifle in hand, and followed

by his intimate friend Dr Holmes & the most rapid flight took place – soon after passing the north west corner of the fort 150 indians attempted to cut off their retreat when by the by as they ran Capt B gave them a fire from his rifle and Dr Holmes from both barrels of his gun. Baily had boiled his bullets in oil with the buck skin patch sowed over them to make them go down easy – So far the informant Dr Holmes knows not how the others escaped after he left but presumes by the same breach in the walls X X X There were 1200 warriors when they were discovered & the discovery was known to the commandant, he rushed sword in hand to the gate and attempted to shut it, but owing to its being made of very heavy materials it mad much swagged again the gate was planted on the declivity of the slope & from several heavy rains the earth had washed considerably against said gate and rendered it impossible for Major Beasy with all his phisical [*sic*] powers to shut it – five of the principle profits [*sic*] rushed with all their infurated [*sic*] fanaticism to the centre of the fort over the body of Beasly who had been dispatched with a war club – after reaching the centre of the fort, they got to dancing in defiance of the citizen soldiers, for they had assured their deluded followers, that they could dance in defiance of American powder or ball for reason if they attempted to shoot them, that their Balls would split, but to their great disappointment they met their fate and that very suddenly for they were all five shot down which it was said dampened the feelings of the whole indian army – for much confidence had been placed in whatever they represented again, those deluded followers had evidence that they could not split the balls, for before five o clock 500 of them had been pierced by american lead – The destruction of the Fort is horrible to tell – There were 553 ~~soldiers~~ citizens and soldiers and among the number about 453 women & children and only 13 escaped. The way that many of the unfortunate women were mangled and cut to pieces is shocking to humanity, for very many of the women who were pregnant had their unborn infants cut from the woomb [*sic*] and lay by their bleeding mothers – They were striped [*sic*] of every article of apparel, not satisfied with this, they in humanly scalped every solitary one – not satisfied with scalping in the ordinary manner but

took from the skin of the whole head so as to make many scalps for the Spaniards with more barbarous feeling than the inhuman indian had promised them $5 for every scalp they would bring them, thus they took the whole skin to make many scalps. again Armbrester & Woodbine claiming as they did all the advantages of a religious education had the barbarity to offer a like reward to the indians – Col Nicols an officer of high grade, from England, assured the indians that he was authorized by his government to pay the same price for scalps – The indians had the cuning [*sic*] to make many scalps from each killed white that they murdered – They carried them on poles each town had a pole heavy with scalps and danced and sang & shouted in horrid yells on their way to Pensacola after the fall of fort Mims – where they went to tell of their victories to sell their scalps and receive more supplies – after the Battle was over they encamped that night outside of the remains of the fort where they trimed [*sic*] and [fixed?] the scalps. There were many acts of bravery on the part of the females – Mrs ^ Daniel Baily loaded guns ~~by~~ during the whole engagement for the defenders of the Bastion – There was a Sargent Mathews taken with violent chill, & struck like a man with a third day fever & ague and from his sweating the water ran from him as freely as though he had been deluged with water from a river – his teeth chattering together as though he was freezing This brave Mrs Baily urged him from time to time to get up & fight like a man and defend the women children [*sic*] that were in the fort – he refused to do so, she earnestly assured him that if he did not fight that she would certainly bayonett [*sic*] him which by the By she done some 15 or 20 times in his rump, all to no purpose for he lay like an ox – afterwards he made his escape and fled & reached ~~the white settlement~~ Mount Vernon where Claiborne was in command and then reported to the gen^{l} & the officers that he had killed 20 odd indians – it so raised him in the estimation of the gen^{l} & the officers that they one and all recommended him to a commission in the army which it was probably [*sic*] he would have gotten of Dr Holmes had not have prevented this unworthy man from succeeding by his false statements to the general – when D^{r} H charged him with lying, he persisted in it until the D^{r} proved by the marks on his posterior

that Mrs Baily had bayoneted him –

Again, all the females acted with great heroism & bravery and if they were not remarkable in feats as Mrs Bayly, they nevertheless displayed the greatest coolness From 12 o clock untill 5 not a scream was heard

The Blood was shoe deep in the Bastion about 3 o clock it was thought the indians were whiped The [*sic*] took a great deal of the baggage out of the additional part of the fort were were encamped the officers and suddenly retreated and went to the House of Mrs O'neal [*sic*] about 300 yds distant and for a short time appeared to be packing up with a disposition to be off. Suddenly a conspicuous ~~chief~~ indian Warrior supposed to be William Weatherford dashed up on a horse and appeared to be harranging [*sic*] them for about 30 minutes, when their baggage was suddenly laid down, and they returned with a rush yelling & screaming like perfect Demons – when they again charged the Bastion such was their horrible appearance that it required all the nerve of the soldier to meet them, but the inmates of the bastion pored [*sic*] them a deadly fire – again & again they charged until about 4 o clock they quit all further assaults upon the Bastion.

Every ~~warrior~~ ^ Indian was provided with a gun, war club a bow and arrows pointed with iron spikes – With few exceptions they were naked – around the waist was drawn a girdle from ~~the~~ which was tied a cows tail running down the [...] ^ back and almost dragging the ground – It is impossible to imagine people so horribly painted. Some were painted half red & half black[1] and half black Some were adorned with feathers – their faces were painted so as to show their terible [*sic*] contortions Rishbury a soldier died from pure fear after the fall of the fort; the indians burnt and destroyed every house in the neighborhood –

Within 8 or 10 days after the fall of Fort Mims Gen[l] Claiborne sent over a Command of 300 soldiers, to bury the dead that had been massacred at Fort Mims,

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[1] From the line "Again, all the females acted with great heroism & bravery..." two paragraphs above, until "Some were painted half red & half black..." is written on page thirteen of the original. Page thirteen was rewritten by AJP. The original page thirteen is written on the back of page one and is crossed out.

which they done by diging [*sic*] ~~too~~ two large vaults about 20 feet square, one in front of the Bastion on the North Side where most of the bodies lay they were rooled [*sic*] in and covered up – ~~The~~ Major Joseph P. Kenedy [*sic*] who commanded the expedition saw many ravens devouring the Bodies – they were never seen before & have not been seen since – over four hundred persons were deposited in the vaults – shockingly mangled – There were many women in the family way & all the infants were cut from their bellies, and fence rails run up their privates – Some families had 12 or 14 children – all butchered.
A negro woman named Hester belonged to Benjamin Stedham was assisted by Dr Holmes to make her escape about 4 o clock, but as she went off she received a wound in the arm – she made to the river, wan the ~~river~~ Alabama River and kept the road to the Tombigbee river and swam that and on the next morning by 8 o clock she was the first to tell the news at Mt Vernon to Genl Claiborne –

Tom carried his young master out of danger far in the woods, but afterwards carried the Boy back where by the order of Tecumshe's half brother he was dispatched with a war club – Tom is now a driver on Mr Sisemore's plantation & it is supposed he went back to the Fort to get his freedom which the Indians had promised all negroes but had no idea they would kill the Boy which Tom regreted [*sic*] afterwards –

[*Endorsement*]
Papers in / relation to the / Battle of Burnt / Corn & fall of / Fort Mims

[*Original page thirteen written on the back of page one*]

again, [as?] justice to the females in the fort, to shew that they all if not equally [brave?] with Mrs Bayley were consistently so for [...][2] was not a murmur or scream during the ~~time the upon~~ the period of five hours for the engagement

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[2] There is a tear in the page rendering illegible this word and the word that is perhaps "brave."

lasted that long.

The blood was shoe deep in the Bastion about 3 o clock it was thought the indians were whiped [*sic*]. They took a great deal baggage out of the fort, ^ additional part of the fort and suddenly retreated and went to the home of Mrs O'neal [*sic*] ^ about 300 yds distant of the fort and for a short time appeared to be packing up with a disposition to be off – Suddenly a conspicuous indian Warrior supposed to be William Weatherford dashed up ^ on a horse and appeared to be harranging [*sic*] them for about 30 minutes when their baggage was laid down and they returned with a rush yelling & screaming like perfect demonds [*sic*], when they charged the bastion such was their horrible appearance that it required all the nerve of the soldier to meet them, but they were met with such distruction [*sic*] that they had to [pass?] the bastion with indian velocity – again they charged, & again untill about 4 ock they quit all further assaults upon the Bastion –

Every Indian was provided with a gun, a war club and a bow with several arrows with a dart in each arrow – They were generally naked – with a cows tail tied with a belt around them and passing down their arses – Some were painted half red