

## Thomas H. Claiborne to Andrew Jackson, November 20, 1811, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### THOMAS A. CLAIBORNE TO JACKSON.

Natchez, November 26, 1811.

*My dear Sir* , The intimate acquaintanc[e] which I had the satisfaction to maintain with you during my residence in Tennessee renders it unnecessary for me to offer an apology for obtruding on your notice; the particulars of a recent affair of honor in which I officiated as surgeon to one of the gentlemen engaged. Indeed it so frequently happens on such occasions that facts are mistated, either with, or without, an intention of producing an improper impression, that I feel particularly anxious, that you should know the circumstances from one who witnessed them precisely as they occurred.

During the late election contest; the most violent struggle was made to prevent the reelection of [George] Poindexter Esquire, as our representative in the Congress of the United States. The means imployed by the federalists, were deemed by mr Poindexter to be of a personal nature highly indecorous and insulting to his feelings. Among those who were most active and vigilant in the circulation of hand bills, to promote the views of the federal party and the election of Robert Williams, was Abijah Hunt Esquire merchant of Natchez. The Election resulted in favour of mr Poindexter by a majority of 1346 Votes.

This part of the drama, was followed by an immediate demand, of Mr Hunt to come to an eclaircissement on the field of honor, with mr Poindexter for the personal injuries and insults which he believed he had sustained from mr Hunt, during the canvass. The invitation was accepted, and the parties met on the western margin of the mississippi on

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Friday the 7th. Instanc. Wm C Mead Esq late an officer in the army of the United States and Lieutenant James Peyton were the friends of mr Poindexter and I at his particular request attended him as surgeon. E Bradish and Elijah Smith Esquires were the friends of mr Hunt and Doctor Duncan attended him in the charecter of surgeon. At four oclock [ *mut.* ] the parties took their posts, at the distance of ten paces, and at the first exchange of fire; mr Hunt received the Ball of his Antagonist through the Abdomen of which wound he expired, on the Sunday Evening following. It is due to mr Poindexter to remark, that from the commencement to the close of this unfortunate affair, he behaved with the greatest coolness and composure, and observed the strictest attention to etiquette and the principles of honor. . . . .