

## **Andrew Jackson to Thomas Pinckney, March 28, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.**

**TO THOMAS PINCKNEY.**

March 28, 1814.

I feel peculiarly happy in being able to announce to you the very fortunate eventuation of my expedition to Emuckfaw. I reached the bend of the Tallapoosa, (called by the whites, the horse-shoe) about ten Oclk on the forenoon of yesterday, where I found all the strength of the neighbouring towns collected. Expecting our approach they had gathered in from Oakfusky, Newyorka, Hillabees, the fish-ponds, and Eufaula towns, to the number, it is said, of about a thousand. It is impossible to conceive a situation more eligible for defence than the one they had chosen; and the skill which they manifested in their breastwork, was really astonishing. It extended across the point in such a direction as that a force approaching would be exposed to a double fire, while they lay entirely safe behind it. It would have been impossible to have raked it with cannon to any advantage even if we had had possession of one extremity. Having determined to exterminate them if management could effect it, I detached Genl. Coffee with the mounted men and nearly the whole of the Indian force early on the morning of yesterday to cross the river about two miles below their encampment, and to surround the bend in such a manner that none of them should escape by attempting to cross the river. With the Infantry I proceeded along the point of land which led to the front of their breastwork. Having planted my cannon (one six and one three pounder) on an eminence at the distance of a hundred and fifty or two hundred yards from it, I opened upon it a very brisk fire, occasionally playing upon them with the musquetry and rifles whenever they shewed out from behind it. This was kept up, with a few intermissions, for about two hours; when a part of the Cherokee

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force, with Capt Russells Company of spies who had accompanied Genl. Coffee, Crossed over to the extremity of the bend in Canoes, and set fire to a few of the buildings which were there situated. They then advanced with great gallantry towards the breast work, and began firing upon the enemy who lay behind it. Finding that this force was wholly insufficient to dislodge them, and that Genl. Coffee had entirely secured the opposite banks of the river I now determined to charge their works; and take them by storm. Never were men more eager to be led to a charge than both regulars and militia. They had been waiting with impatience to receive the order, and hailed it with acclamation. The spirit which animated them was a sure augury of the success which was to follow. I think the history of our warfare furnishes no instance of a more brilliant sortie. The regulars, led on by their intrepid and skillful commander, Col Williams and by the gallant Major Montgomery, in the midst of a tremendous fire from behind the works were presently in possession of them; and the militia at the same instant charged with a vivacity and firmness, which would have done honour to regulars; For a few minutes a very contest was maintained, muzzle to muzzle, through the port-holes; when the works were scaled. Now it was that the most desperate fighting was witnessed. . . . .