

Copy of taking of Dido from Dr Story's Diary

Nov 1855 Mrs Cotton & myself in gig Rachel on horseback left Redbanks about 5 a.m. When at north end of Wet Marsh Henry's dog Paddy ran up (we had accused Dido of stealing him I called out loudly to Paddy and Dido accosted us calling out "I am Dido didn't you know your old servant Dido He said he must detain us, that he intended neither to rob nor hurt us and that he would let us away at 7 o'clock He was mounted on J Watson's mare, He and several other men were walking about and two horses were tied to a tree nearby - Dido's mate also mounted kept sentry - It was difficult at first to tell whether Watson was in charge of the Bushrangers or they of him - Dido endeavoured to assure his mistress his mother Mrs Cotton that no hurt should befall her, that he would not hurt one of the Cottons & that he must keep us till night for his own safety, I shook hands with him wished him well and would always befriend him - He was somewhat excited with liquor He and his mate both asked for medicine which I gave them I warned them of the folly of remaining there as a party would most likely be soon after them from Waterloo Point Dido determined to drink our healths in gin, I advised him not to drink too much but he took a good drink wishing health to all the Cottons, their forefathers & children & to all that ever were or will be & the Storys likewise. Dido became more and more drunk & when a vehicle was seen coming from Waterloo Point Dido went down to meet it

Saying I am a gallant Cavalier, I am a Troubadour and whilst capering about dropped his double barrelled gun and the stock was separated from the barrels in the fall. He went on, the Carriage stopped at bottom of hill and the party alighted, Dido fell off his horse and couldn't remount - I went down and Watson essayed to follow but was ordered back by the mate - I tied Sarah Fergusson & the girl Maria Ellis not to be alarmed but to join the Party & no harm would come to them. I joined Dido and Fergusson who was endeavouring to persuade Dido to give himself up. He was much more inebriated & turned to me saying I am sure to be taken I will destroy myself, I intreated him to desist & to give me the Pistol which I think I afterwards returned to him, Fergusson & I endeavoured to persuade both men to give themselves up or go away but they refused. Though the mate decided to send away the men who were tied. By this time things were getting into confusion as he had released his strict watch over them. He was still heavily armed therefore no one could control him nor dare to face him. Dido was reeling they were both on foot and whilst in this disorder I stood before the mate, Fergusson was on his left hand advising him to give up. When all of a sudden Fergusson jumped behind the mate seized both of his arms and by a violent effort threw him down calling at the same time for help, those that were near held him down & took away the weapons.

All the men present - Came forward to assist and handkerchiefs were in requisition to tie their hands and feet, for Dido was secured by Coivil as he was tumbling about - This was the work of a few moments both offered but little resistance Dido being so much under the influence of liquor as to be incapable of doing anything though he called out - I also assisted to disarm him Dido struggled and called out Oh Mother dont let them tie me - The Mate made little resistance and allowed himself to be tied, but one thing was wrong, their hands were tied in front - instead of at their backs They were put in carriage Dido requiring lifting in still calling out Oh Mother Oh W^m Cotton dont let them tie me - I collected the arms and cartridges and gave them to Thos Watson telling him to look after the men lest they escape and I would look after his horse, which after Dido left it fed by the road side, It started into the bush when Carpenters son fired the shot at Dido's Mate whilst I was taking off a belt - which the man said contained a spy glass in a leather case, The shot seemed to go ^{past} by my right ear as it stung for a long time afterwards and bits of wadding ^{striking} ~~struck~~ my chest and legs, This man had just been reproved for brutality in kicking Dido in the ribs after he was secured and was lying on the ground 3 or 4 days later I examined his side with W Willes for Dido complained much of it.

(4)

I was much annoyed when I found the Bushrangers in the District. The District Constable who ought to have watched their movements was himself taken by them. Jonas Thompson was robbed a fortnight before.

To the Chief Police

Having been instrumental in the securing of the notorious Bushrangers Dido & his mate for whose capture the Government has offered a reward, I had to lay claim to a share of that reward and in consequence beg to forward the following statement of the occurrences that took place after my arrival until they were secured

Walter Gaca

April 14th 1829

Copied by Mrs Collins Amos from
Mr Storey's Diary in the Mitchell Library Sydney