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## WILKINSON CALL, SOLDIER AND SENATOR

By ALBERT HUBBARD ROBERTS

### PART I

IF WILKINSON CALL was fortunate politically in being of a family already prominent in Florida affairs, he may have suffered historically as the nephew of a great uncle and the uncle of a great nephew; his own colorful career, including eighteen years as a United States senator, being obscured by the earlier glory of Richard Keith Call, as soldier and territorial governor of Florida, and to the present generation by the recent service of Rhydon M. Call, State and Federal jurist. Relatively few Floridians of today remember more than the name of Wilkinson Call and of these, fewer know that Tallahassee was his home from boyhood until he had first been elected a senator from Florida.

Wilkinson Call, a son of Dr. George W. and Lucinda L. Call, was born in Russellville, Kentucky, January 9, 1834, according to the Congressional Directory and the few other biographical data available. These sketches are all brief, and none records Senator Call's residence in Tallahassee. Despite their consistency as to the date of his birth, several circumstances which will be noted later question its accuracy.

Of his earlier years in Tallahassee we know little. General R. K. Call moved to Tallahassee from Pensacola in 1832, and was appointed governor of the Territory of Florida by President Jackson in 1836. It was probably about this time that his brother, Dr.

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Note—This paper was read in part before the Tallahassee Historical Society on Jan. 11, 1934.

Call made the same city his home, occupying "the old Randolph house" at the southeast corner of Monroe and Brevard streets; a long, one-story frame dwelling, with five immense red brick chimneys, a quarter-mile southeast of Governor Call's mansion. This old home of Dr. Call's was razed several years ago, but the site may be further identified to strangers by the marker at the corner-commemorative of old Fort San Luis, two miles westward.

His brief biographies tell us that Wilkinson Call had an academic education ; received mostly, it would seem, in Tallahassee, as even then children there had good educational opportunities. He must have chosen the law for his profession early in life, for on December 25, 1846, Governor William D. Moseley approved "An Act to admit Wilkinson Call to practice law in the several Courts of the State;"<sup>1</sup> truly an extraordinary Christmas gift to a boy not yet thirteen years old, if the only date we have of his birth is correct. While the act was conditional upon young Call's standing a satisfactory examination before the Circuit Court, and while it recognized his minority by a removal of certain of its disabilities, it seems incredible that the Legislature would have passed this Act if Call had not been several years older than it. would appear. The public records of Leon County show that on February 22, 1851, he purchased from R. K. Call, and conveyed to his mother two weeks later, Lot 139, City of Tallahassee, on the west side of Monroe Street.<sup>2</sup> If Call were actually born in 1834, he was only 17 years of age

<sup>1</sup>Chapter 131, *Laws of Florida, Acts of 1846*.

<sup>2</sup>This lot is now occupied by the Floridan hotel annex. The old house on this spot, which was known in its latter days as "Miss Girard's Millinery Shop" was occupied as an office by Senator Call's father and a brother, Dr. John L. Call, who died in Tallahassee in 1857.

at the time this conveyance was made, which brings the accuracy of this date further into question. Napoleon is said to have altered the date of his birth in order to make himself a native-born Frenchman, and lesser statesmen may have found it politic to do likewise, though for reasons which may not be apparent to a puzzled later generation. The records of St. John's Parish show that Wilkinson Call was confirmed in the old Episcopal Church on December 26, 1852, but they give no information as to his age.

Young Call was taken into partnership in due course by his kinsman, David S. Walker, afterward a justice of the Supreme Court and governor of Florida. Several cases may be found in the Florida Supreme Court Reports for several years preceding the War between the States, in which these attorneys appeared. One of these cases (Tallahassee R. R. Co. vs. Macon, 8 Fla. 299) is of interest because of its dealing with the ancient institution, human slavery. In this case, decided in 1859, the Supreme Court, sitting in Tallahassee (at that period the high court sat in various parts of the State) affirmed a judgment against the railroad company in favor of Walker & Call's client, for \$600.00 on account of the death of a slave while hired to the company, saying, in part: "The bailee of a slave upon hire is bound to bestow the degree of care and attention which a humane master would bestow on his own servant under the like circumstances." This ruling of the high court seems to be consistent with the general trend of its decisions when the welfare of slaves was an issue.

In 1856 David S. Walker was the candidate for governor of the American party, successor to the defunct Whigs, and was defeated by a small plurality by Madison S. Perry, Democrat. Walker ran considerably ahead of the electoral

ticket, pledged to ex-President Millard Fillmore. Call doubtless supported Walker in this campaign, though four years later, in a speech at St. Augustine, in, the first campaign in which his activities have been preserved to us in the public prints, he denied having been a "Know-Nothing" in 1856; which was probably more the repudiation of an uncomplimentary political appellation than a denial of the fact itself.<sup>3</sup>

The campaign of 1860 found Wilkinson Call and his brother, George W. Call in opposite camps. George Call being a leader of the extreme State's Rights Democrats, while Wilkinson followed the lead of their uncle, ex-Governor R. K. Call, the recognized leader of Union sentiment in Florida, in the support of "the Constitutional Union Party, with no platform but the 'Union, the Constitution and the enforcement of laws'," with John Bell for President, and Edward Everett for Vice-President. The state convention of this party met at Quincy June 27, 1860, and adopted resolutions reported by Wilkinson Call as chairman of the Committee on Federal Relations, which, in addition to endorsing the principles and the candidates of the national party, asserted the equality and sovereignty of the states, and contained the following veiled threat of the secession the party was vainly trying to forestall :

Resolved, That if the next or any future Congress shall pass laws directly or indirectly prohibiting slavery in the Territories, and the Supreme Court of the United States shall declare such laws to be Constitutional, the safety and honor of the Southern States will require of them extreme and decided measures, That in an exigency so important no party should prescribe the course to be pursued, but a convention of the people of the State should be called to decide and adopt such measures as may be necessary.<sup>4</sup>

The State gave a decisive majority to the

<sup>3</sup>St. Augustine *Examiner*, Sept. 22, 1860.

<sup>4</sup>*National National Intelligencer*, Washington, July 10, 1860.

Southern Democratic ticket headed by John C. Breckenridge and Joseph Lane. Wilkinson Call, as a candidate for elector on the Constitutional Union ticket, made a thorough canvass of the State, speaking at numerous meetings, and laying the foundations for his later success, in his reputation as a forceful and eloquent speaker.

The Republicans having carried the election nationally, with Abraham Lincoln as their candidate for president, the Florida Legislature promptly called a state convention to consider withdrawal from the Union.<sup>5</sup> The resolution to this effect was reported in the Senate by George W. Call, now a senator from the Nassau County district (Fernandina) and chairman of the Senate Committee on Federal Relations.<sup>6</sup>

On December 17, 1860, a mass meeting was held in the capitol building to nominate delegates from Leon County to the approaching convention. After voting down a resolution to submit the action of the convention to the people for ratification, the following candidates for delegates were nominated: Wm. G. M. Davis, John Beard, Geo. T. Ward, James Kirksey and James V. Jones.

A dissatisfied group met later, and named the following as a "People's ticket," pledged to submit the action of the convention to a popular vote: Geo. T. Ward, Wilkinson Call, M. D. Papy, G. W. Parkhill, and D. P. Hogue. Mr. Papy declined the nomination, having previously declined a place on the ticket first named.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>The republicans had no electoral ticket in the Southern states. Unionists in Florida, and the more moderate secessionists, generally supported the Bell and Everett ticket, giving it a strength in Florida far out of proportion to its vote nationally.

<sup>6</sup>Florida Senate Journal, 1860.

<sup>7</sup>December 20, 1860.

Wilkinson Call made a number of speeches in various places before this special election, but the secession sentiment, both within and without Leon County, was too strong to combat successfully, and on January 10, 1861, Florida withdrew from the Union, declaring herself a free and independent nation. Shortly thereafter she joined the Southern Confederacy.

Though the Call brothers had been on opposite sides politically before the die was cast, each volunteered his services to his State and to the Confederacy when war came. George W. Call's military career was gallant but brief. He was killed at Seven Pines May 31, 1862, three weeks after being promoted to the rank of major.<sup>8</sup> General R. K. Call died September 14 following, heart-broken by the calamity he was powerless to prevent, but following his State when the majority had spoken.

Records of Florida soldiers of the War are unfortunately far from complete. It is surmised that many of these records were destroyed when the Confederacy collapsed, and before the Federal troops entered Tallahassee, in order to destroy evidence that might be used in "treason" trials then both threatened and feared. Other records possibly were lost or destroyed during the carpet-bagger regime, from 1868 to 1876. A great deal of data collected in after years by Robert E. Lee Camp, United Confederate Veterans, in Jacksonville, were lost in the great fire of 1901. Two years later, the Legislature made an appropriation of \$5,000.00 for the purpose, and Governor William S. Jennings, employed the late Fred L. Robertson to procure and compile all available information relating to Florida's part in all past wars.<sup>9</sup> This painstaking work was published

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<sup>8</sup>*Soldiers of Florida*, page 95.

<sup>9</sup>*Id.*, Preface and page

under the title of "Soldiers of Florida," ending with the Spanish-American war of 1898.

From this publication (page 55) we learn that on September 21, 1861, the Concordia Infantry, Wilk Call, Captain, was mustered in by Francis L. Dancy, Adjutant and Inspector General, for six or twelve months service. The name indicates that the company was recruited principally in the Concord vicinity, in the northeastern part of Gadsden County. Apparently it disbanded at the end of six months, most of the men re-enlisting in Company A, 6th Florida Regiment, and in the Fifth Florida Cavalry.

Records in the War Department in Washington show that Call previously tendered a company at Tallahassee on June 27, 1861, for six months service in the Confederate States Army, and that he was appointed Captain, Adjutant General's Department, Provisional Army, Confederate States, to take rank May 1, 1864.<sup>10</sup>

*Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (Series I, Vol. XXXV, Part II, p. 23.) contains the following order:

Adjutant and Inspector General's Office  
Richmond, June 7, 1864

Capt. W. Call, assistant adjutant general, will proceed without delay to Lake City, Fla., and report to Gen. Anderson, commanding, for assignment to duty in the District of Florida. By command of the Secretary of War.

J N O .  
Assistant Adjutant General.

Other official correspondence of this period shows Call to have served as Acting Assistant Adjutant General of the district of Florida, and that he was stationed at Camp Melton, near Jacksonville. He participated in the battle of Olustee, on February 20,

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<sup>10</sup>Letter from War Department, Adjutant General's Office, Washington, to Secretary Florida Pension Board, Sept. 19, 1933.

1864, and appears to have had the confidence and esteem of the Confederate commander, General Joseph Finnegan.<sup>11</sup> Olustee, though a minor battle with respect to the number of men involved, is credited with the highest percentage of casualties, both Union and Confederate, of any battle of the war. It was an important Confederate victory over superior numbers, also, and it was the first of the two battles (Natural Bridge, 16 miles southwest of Tallahassee, fought March 6, 1865, being the second) that saved from capture by Union troops the one Southern capital which flew the Confederate flag until the end of hostilities.

Possibly Call's last official act as a Confederate officer was to endorse, "Official, W. Call, A. A. G." on a copy of a telegram dated April 27, 1865 (now in the possession of Mrs. Leroy Collins, of Tallahassee) incorporating General Order No. 18, Headquarters Army of the Tennessee, near Greensboro, N. C., signed by Howell Cobb, Jr., A. D. C. and P. C. Warwick, A. D. C., in which it was directed that the Confederate troops in the district surrender on the same terms granted General Joseph E. Johnston's army at Greensboro, and advising that Florida troops west of the Apalachicola River were privileged to surrender on the same terms. At that time Call was Assistant Adjutant General of Sub District No. 1, Military District of Florida. He was paroled at Tallahassee, May 13, 1865, his description on parole being stated as follows: height 5 feet 11 inches; light hair, light eyes, light complexion.<sup>12</sup>

Seven days later, United States troops took peaceable possession of the Florida capital, and the war of secession became history.

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<sup>11</sup>Letter from A. L. Woodward, of Monticello in *Florida Times-Union*, August 27, 1910.

<sup>12</sup>Letter from War Department. (20)

Whether Capt. Call's service in the Adjutant General's Department was wholly in Florida, or whether he was for a time one of the Assistants Adjutant General on duty in Richmond, is not shown clearly from available records. That he was for a time in Richmond seems probable, and we can not imagine any other basis for the somewhat curious statements which we find in several biographical sketches of Call implying that he "served as," or "attained the rank of" Adjutant General, in the Confederate army, since General Samuel Cooper was the only Adjutant General of the Confederate States Army, under either the provisional or the permanent government.<sup>13</sup> It would be unfair and unwarranted to suggest that Call purposely misled anyone as to his actual rank in the Confederate army, but as an astute politician, it is doubtful if he ever bothered to correct any misapprehension that tended to magnify his own importance, at any time or in any way.

In line with his general policy of reconstruction, President Johnson appointed Judge William Marvin, of Key West, a Unionist who had refused to follow his state into secession, as provisional governor of Florida and at an election held under Marvin's orders, David S. Walker was elected governor of the State; chosen unanimously to the office for which he had been defeated ten years before. Walker, also a Union man in sentiment, had yielded his personal views to the will of the State, and had continued on

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<sup>13</sup>Adjutants General take varying ranks. General Cooper had the rank of full General in the Confederate service; as Adjutant General of the United States Army, he had ranked as Colonel. This office now carries the rank of Major General. In Florida and most other states at this time, the Adjutant General ranks as Brigadier General. Many Assistants Adjutant General during the Civil War ranked as Captains.

the State Supreme Court after Florida joined the Confederacy.

The ensuing Legislature during prolonged balloting which resulted in the election of Governor Marvin to the United States Senate for the short term, took one ballot for the long term which resulted in the election of Call over his old commander General J. Patton Anderson, by a vote of 51 to 21.

Officially, at least, Call then lacked a few days of being 32 years old, and even allowing a little latitude in the matter of age, was still one of the youngest men ever to be elected United States senator, and possibly the first Ex-Confederate to attain this distinction. It proved an empty honor, however, except as it laid the foundation for future successes, since the "radical" Republican congress, at loggerheads with the President on reconstruction policies, refused to seat either Call or Marvin; to the especial humiliation and resentment of the latter, who found this treatment his reward for having been loyal to the Union during the four years of war.

Though Call was denied the seat in the United States Senate to which he had been duly and legally elected, he put in his time to good advantage, politically, while waiting the Senate's action on his credentials. On May 1, 1866, he attended a dinner in New York City in honor of James Brooks, who had been deprived of his seat in Congress, in which, as a spokesman for the South, Call said:

We have buried our dead—the past, with its recollections, has gone. \* \* \* We have accepted the invitation to return to the Union \* \* \* We come with untarnished faith to maintain the American Union and the Constitution of the United States \* \* \* We come with no reservations \* \* \* The South will shed her blood as freely for the flag of the United States as in the past she has misguidedly shed her blood against it. (cheers.)<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>44</sup>Tallahassee *Sentinel*, May 1, 1866.

Two foreign wars since then have made his prophecy history, but in his re-avowal of his old Unionist convictions the young senator must have gone far beyond the Southern thought of that day. He was under the necessity of combating a very different conclusion prevalent in the North at the time, and supported by such evidence as the testimony of John W. Ricks, collector of customs in Florida, a few weeks earlier, to the effect that "the general impression among the people was that they had been overcome, but not conquered. There has been no material change for the better in any portion of the State lately in rebellion."<sup>15</sup>

In August, 1866, Call attended a national convention of Conservatives in Philadelphia, as a delegate from Middle Florida. He served on a committee on Resolutions and Addresses, and was chosen also as a member of the National Union Executive Committee.<sup>16</sup>

Governor Marvin's credentials as a senator from Florida were presented on January 19, 1866; Call's on June 6, following.<sup>17</sup> On March 27, 1867, still hopeful that his election might be recognized, Call issued, from Washington, a lengthy address to "The People of Florida," advising submission to the reconstruction acts, even to giving negro suffrage a trial. In this address Call said, in part:

In my opinion we should submit without opposition to the Congressional Law and conform to its requirements. \* \* \* In my judgment, the only practical question for us to consider is whether we will be dragged in the career of the Republic by the chains of a relentless destiny or \* \* \* participate in its rights? We should conform to the Congressional policy as it is, if for no other reason, yet, while we have no power to change it in the direction of leniency, we may have the power to change it for the worse. \* \* \* I venture little in stating that the political

<sup>1</sup> <sup>5</sup> *Weekly* (New York) March 31, 1866.

<sup>16</sup>Davis, *Civil War Reconstruction* page 434.

<sup>17</sup>*Congressional Biography*(1927)page285.

feeling against the South is more intense than it has heretofore been. There has been a continual progress in the direction of severity.<sup>13</sup>

But efforts at conciliation were in vain, as no recognition was given by the Senate to the claims of either Call or Marvin, and soon thereafter there appeared in the *Floridian* of Tallahassee, the issue of May 3, 1867: "Hon. Wilk. Call returned to his home in this City Wednesday last after some weeks in Washington in behalf of the interests of the State."

On August 24, of the same year, Call delivered a long address before a Leon County convention and the same paper (Sept. 3, 1867) lists him amongst the speakers at "The Club Meeting" on the previous Saturday evening. Writing from Tallahassee a month later (October 4, 1867) to "Messrs. Alvin May, John Townsend and others," he advised against the holding of a State Constitutional Convention, saying in part :

In view of the now apparent fact that the carrying into effect of the reconstruction measures of Congress, commonly called the "Military Bill" and the "Enabling Act," is the complete political subjection of the white people of the South to the blacks \* \* \* in view of the fact that the white race is and of right should be the governing power of every state in the union \* \* \* I state to you as I declared in a speech lately made to the Conservative Union Convention, assembled in this city, that every means within our power should be used to defeat the convention, without regard to consequences, for surely no greater evil could befall this country than the carrying into effect of these measures.

In spite of Democratic opposition, however, the convention was held and the constitution of 1868 was adopted, being superceded by the present constitution, framed in 1885, with its numerous amendments. In considering the history of this period in Florida, it must be borne in mind that by "Conservative" is meant "Democrat," and by "Radical" is meant "Republican." The white voters of Florida, many of them of Whig antecedents, were not quite ready

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<sup>13</sup>Tallahassee *Floridian*, April 12, 1867.

to adopt the name "Democrat," which many of them had despised in years gone, nor were they willing to concede to their carpet-bag, negro and scalawag opponents a party name with even (to them) the then limited respectability of the term "republican."

This letter apparently closes Call's political career as a resident of Tallahassee; It must have been shortly thereafter that he removed to Jacksonville his second and last Florida home. Differences growing out of the administration of Governor Call's estate led to a permanent estrangement between Wilkerson Call and his uncle's heirs, and his visits to his old home town became more and more political or professional in their nature.

Though now a private citizen, Call, while a resident of Middle Florida, had acquired a political eminence that followed him into East Florida readily, and in 1868 he was a delegate to the National Democratic Convention, serving again on the Committee on Resolutions. He spoke also at a ratification meeting winning the following praise from the St. Augustine Examiner (August 1, 1868) :

We have just received the eloquent appeal in behalf of the prostrate South of one of Florida's distinguished sons, Hon. Wilk. Call made at a ratification meeting held in New York shortly after the nomination of Seymour and Blair. We can only say that it was manly, patriotic, dignified and comprehensive, an effort creditable even to the 'Eloquent Floridian' as he is justly termed, by our Northern Exchanges.

On August 1, 1868, "Colonel" Call (by this time he had received the usual complimentary rank conferred by their admirers upon lawyers in politics) addressed the State Convention in Tallahassee, giving a full report of the National Convention and praising highly its nominees. He was given a tremendous ovation, according to friendly newspapers of the day, and delivered a long speech, casting aside to a great extent any efforts at conciliation, and bitterly denouncing the Republican administration

then in power, as "Jacobins." and singling out the principal officials as "a half-dozen strangers from other States, remarkable for their ignorance and stupidity." Leaving Florida for Georgia, metaphorically, he referred to the celebrated Ashburn case in the following words :

The history of no country and of no age presents a more barbarous spectacle than the treatment of the citizens of Columbus who were falsely accused of the death of the miserable wretch, Ashburn.

Astute politician he may have been, but Call was not enough of a prophet when he spoke these words to see a shadow across his path, a quarter of a century away.

As a Democratic candidate for presidential elector, Call spoke for the ticket throughout the State, being one of the speakers at the rally in Marianna October 20th. A special effort had been made by the Democratic Committee to get the colored voters to attend this speaking and barbecue dinner. But the "colored brother" seems to have been conspicuous by his absence, possibly offended that separate tables were provided for white and colored voters, but deterred also, according to Contemporary accounts, by a skillfully circulated story that the Democrats were inviting the negroes to this function for the purpose of poisoning them all.<sup>20</sup>

Governor Harrison Reed, Republican, charged Call with having sought Republican support for the United States senatorship in 1867, to which Call published a scathing denial, further denouncing Reed and asserting that he considered the carpet-bag governor less desirable as a man and as an official than some of his negro appointees.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>20</sup>*Id.*, August 11, 1868.

<sup>20</sup>*Id.*, October 20, 1868.

<sup>21</sup>*Id.*, September 15, 1868, reprinted from Jacksonville "Mercury."

Taking no chances on the State's giving the National Democratic ticket a majority, the Republican Legislature fell back on the antiquated but entirely constitutional plan of selecting the three electors without a popular vote, choosing of course the three Republican candidates. Four years later Call was again a Democratic candidate for elector, (the state going Republican again in the general election) and in 1876 was once more nominated by his party for elector, besides serving as a delegate in the National Democratic Convention which nominated Samuel J. Tilden for president and he served also as a member of the Democratic National Executive Committee. In those days, although presidential electors merely registered the wishes of the people, as now, State conventions chose candidates for elector with great care, as Florida was a doubtful state. Call's eloquence and persuasiveness as a public speaker doubtless influenced his selection as an electoral candidate by the Constitutional Union party in 1860, and by the Democratic party in every election during the period of reconstruction.

In 1876 ("The Sentinel," Tallahassee, issue of October 7) we are treated to the following facetious reference to Call, from the Republican side:

*"Chronicles of Florida, Chapter I. \* \* \* 4. And Wilk, the smooth-tongue Apollo, the words of whose mouth flow as honey, even as honey from the rocks. The same Wilk that defies Grant and his satraps and the armies of the nation."*

Call's candidacy for presidential elector in 1876 almost made him one of the most important men in the country, as one more electoral vote would have chosen Samuel J. Tilden president of the United States instead of Rutherford B. Hayes, and would have restored the Democratic party to power nationally in 1877 instead of 1885. So many volumes

have been written on the election of 1876, it is a temptation to comment on it here at length. But we must content ourselves with noting that a majority of the State Canvassing Board and the outgoing Republican governor, Marcellus L. Stearns, declared elected and issued certificates to the four Republican candidates for elector, while the third member of the Canvassing Board, the incoming Democratic Governor, George F. Drew, and the newly elected Democratic Legislature, recognized the Democratic electors, Robert Bullock, Wilkinson Call, R. B. Hilton and J. E. Yonge, whose right to act was upheld, furthermore, by the Circuit Court of Leon County, in quo warranto proceedings, the judgment given by this court not having been reversed by any Appellate Court, to this day. But the return for Hayes was sustained by the United States Senate and by the specially created Electoral Commission (the House of Representatives dissenting) and all other contested returns submitted by Congress to the Electoral Commission being similarly disposed of, Hayes was declared elected. One circumstance of the Florida case will, however, be mentioned here.

Apparently every case referred to the Electoral Commission was decided by a vote of eight to seven, and both critics and defenders of this Commission have seemingly fallen into the assumption that in each case Joseph P. Bradley, (the fifth Supreme Court Justice on the Commission) voted with his Republican colleagues. But there seems to have been one exception, which we may note here, at the risk of, straying somewhat from the proper limitations of this paper.

The Electoral Commission, after first determining its general powers, adopted the following order in the Florida case:

"Ordered, That no evidence will be received or considered by the commission which was not submit-

ted to the joint convention of the two Houses by the President of the Senate with the different certificates, except such as relates to the eligibility of F. C. Humphries, one of the electors."

This order having been adopted by a vote of 8 Republicans for, to 7 Democrats against, the Republican Commissioners lost interest in the eligibility of Humphries, and it devolved upon one of the Democratic members to move that they receive the evidence on this point. On this motion, Justice Bradley voted with the seven Democratic members, the seven Republicans, other than Justice Bradley, voting in the negative. Although Justice Bradley subsequently voted with the seven other Republicans in holding the evidence against the eligibility of Humphries, to be insufficient, he should in fairness be credited with casting one vote contrary to the apparent interest of his party's nominee; the more so, as Justice Bradley has been condemned for partnership in these proceedings more than any other member of the Electoral Commission. It should be remembered, also, that the exclusion of a single vote for Hayes would have made the electoral vote a tie, and the House of Representatives, with a majority of the State delegations Democratic, would have elected Tilden president.<sup>22</sup>

In the meantime Call had been defeated for the senatorship in 1875. Neither the Democratic nor the Republican parties had a clear majority in the legislature that year, and the balloting was prolonged, David S. Walker, Wm. D. Bloxham, John L. Crawford, Robert Bullock, John Anderson, and

<sup>2</sup> <sup>2</sup> *Annual Cyclopaedia* (Appleton's) for 1876 and 1877 contain very full reports of the disputed presidential election, and of the conflicting returns from Florida, as well as the contested election for the governorship of the state. The latter (Drew vs. State Canvassing Board) is also set out fully in 16th Florida Supreme Court *Reports*.

Wilkinson Call being amongst the democrats voted for. Call, indeed, at one time received 35 votes, only five short of election. The contest ended February 4, 1875, on the 24th ballot, when a sudden break to Charles W. Jones, a Democratic representative from Escambia County, gave him the victory over Horatio Bisbee, Republican, by a vote of 40 to 30, a few scattering to other candidates.

Despite the bitter partisanship of that day, there was a general feeling of relief when the deadlock was broken, and Republican papers joined with Democratic organs in praising the personal fitness of the new Senator, and a mass meeting in his honor, held in Gallie's Hall, in Tallahassee, several nights after the election, was attended by Governor Stearns, United States Senator S. B. Conover, and other leading Republicans, as well as Democrats. The meeting was presided over by ex-Governor Walker, while Call and Colonel Bisbee also proved themselves good losers by delivering addresses.

Governor Walker's graceful speech on this occasion was all the more creditable to him, as he had, in fact, received a majority of votes on one of the joint ballots, only to have the prize snatched from him when a Republican representative from his own county, who had given him the necessary vote, found himself unable to withstand the storm on his own side of the chamber, and declared that his vote was intended for "Samuel Walker" before the result could be announced.<sup>23</sup> This defeat of Walker was

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<sup>23</sup>*Floridian*, *Legislative Journals of 1875*, and "Carpethag Rule in Florida" by John Wallace (colored), State Senator from Leon County at that time. It is singular that Wallace, in his exhaustive work covering the period 1865-1876, does not once mention Call's name. Even later writers of Call's own race and party, give him scant mention in their formal histories. The one history—and a very authoritative one—which mentions Wilkinson Call's career prior to his first election to the United States Senate in 1865, confuses his position with that of his brother, Major Geo. W. Call, and mentions him, casually and incorrectly, as a leader in the secession movement.

probably a "lucky break" for Call. Had the former Governor gone to the United States Senate from Florida in 1875, it is altogether unlikely that his younger relative and former partner would have been chosen to the other seat four years later, or at any time.

If Wilkinson Call "took stock" politically in the spring of 1877, the process was not inspiring. Elected United States senator in 1865, and arbitrarily denied his seat by a hostile senate; defeated in his effort ten years later to be elected senator again; defeated for presidential elector three times, and his vote rejected by the senate and the Electoral ticket when that vote would have put his party back in the White House; such a series of disasters would have finished a less determined politician. It may have been fortunate for Call that there was no senator to be elected from Florida in 1877.

*(This will be concluded in the next issue.)*

## APALACHEE DURING THE BRITISH OCCUPATION

A description contained in a series of four reports  
by Lieut. Pittman, R. E.

(According to Prof. F. H. Hodder, in the introduction to his reprint of Pittman's work entitled "The Present State of the European Settlements on the Mississippi," there are but few available biographical data pertaining to Pittman. Hodder there presents such information as he was able to collect. Apparently Pittman must have accompanied the first British detachment occupying Florida, he states that he "resided four years as an engineer in those parts" and it is known that he left towards the close of 1768. Apparently during 1767 he was occupied in making surveys in different parts of West Florida, as records survive indicating his departure from Pensacola for Apalachee on June 16, 1767.

However the four reports here considered, submitted by Lieut. Pittman to General Haldimand bear no date. They are preserved among the Haldimand papers in the Public Archives of Canada, where they are calendared as Series B (Haldimand) Vol. 17, pp. 313-325. They are respectively numbered 313, 316, 319 and 322.)

MARK F. BOYD

*Tallahassee*

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### (I) *A description of the Fort at Apalachy and the Lookout Tower.*

**T**HE FORT of Apalachy is in the Lat. of 30d 10m North and about 237 miles E. of Pensacola and 113 miles W. of Saint Augustine, is situated on a small point of land formed by the confluence of two small rivers, which run from N. E. and N. W. they mix their waters at this point and become one channel, of about 900 feet broad running S. 9 miles, and then empties itself into the Bay of Mexico. The Navigation of this channel for upwards of 4 miles is so intricate owing to a vast number of oyster banks, which form a labyrinth that it would require at least a month's examination before one could attempt to give any just account of it, however, vessels that

draw 7 feet water may go safely to the wharf at the Fort.

The Fort was originally designed for at least 200 men, but the surrender of it and the adjacent country to the English in 1763 prevented the Spaniards from completing their design, it at present consists of one Bastion which stands on the side of the N. W. River and part of a Curtain built of stone. The Bastion contains the Barracks and a store, which are made of boards, and covered with Bark, they appear to me at first only to have been intended as temporary lodgings for the Troops and are consequently very improper receptacles at present, not being even shelter from the weather, they are capable of lodging about 60 men. The commanding officer's house, kitchen, prison and Powder magazine are without the gorge of the Bastion, and are enclosed by a stone wall of an irregular form, and part of the curtain and the Ramparts as may be seen. On the North face the Bastion has been designed to be 5 feet 9 inches high and 15 feet broad but are not finished, and only here and there small pieces of the parrapet built up, and the faces are filled up by square pickets supported by a frame, the curtain is built up 64 feet from the flank and is discontinued for sixty four feet more, there being only a scarp to the ditch 3 feet 6 inches from the surface, then the curtain again appears, but unfinished, being only 10 feet above the level, and then extends itself 81 feet farther and is a back wall to the greatest part of the casemets, which go 21 feet further, with a wall of lesser dimensions. The exterior sides of the casemets of which there are 4, are 132 long by 37 in breadth and 17 feet high, and the interior dimensions of each are 21 by 31 and 15 feet 6 inches high, the whole built of squared stone, and might at very little trouble and expence been put and kept in good repair.

The ditch has never been finished being only 24 feet wide, and in the center not more than five feet deep; at high tides it is full of water which retires with the tide. The lands for the circumference of 2 miles round the Fort are very low, and are sometimes overflowed by the sea at high spring tides but a bank of 3 feet high, would sufficiently secure them from this inconvenience, the surface of the land is a fine black mould with a small mixture of sand.

On the opposite side of the River at the distance of 1018 yards, bearing about S. S. W.  $1/2$ , W. from the Angle of the Bastion of the Fort, stands a small castle of 51 feet long by 26 feet square, and consists of a tower which is designed as a sea mark, being 12 feet square and 45 feet high, an out yard in which is a cistern and a cooking place, a room of 22 feet 6 inches for the garison to lodge in and on a second story is one for an officer, of the same dimensions, the top is flat and covered with terrace having wall raised five feet high thereon, and has five embrasures, the walls of the castle are 2 feet 10 inches thick and pierced with loop holes on each side. It is at present out of repair, wanting stairs to ascend the Tower, and some joists to the officers room which have been cut away and all the planks of the flooring carried off. It appears to me that this castle was designed as a defence to the workmen employed in the stone Quarries, which are within a few yards of this building ; for every other particular the plan which accompanies this description must be referred to.

Ph. Pittman

Lieut. 15th Regt., Assist. Enger.

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## (II) *A Description of the Face of the Country.*

From the sea to the Fort at Apalachy the land is very low and flat, being bordered by the sides of the

River with (a) mark (muck?), which goes only a small distance back after which there is a very rich soil being black mould with a very little mixture of sand, but does not extend itself above one mile and a half back and then the pine barren commences, near the look out Tower the stratum of mould is not above 9 inches thick, and covers the stone quarries, which were formerly worked by the Spaniards, who took from them, all the stone made use of in building the Fort and look out; it is equally good as the Portland free stone. The N. W. River is navigable for small vessels about 3 miles above the Fort and for canoes about 7 or 8 miles, its source is 25 miles N. W. of the Fort, and near where a Spanish Fort formerly stood, and which the Indians obliged them to abandon many years ago. One can trace out the ditch and there remains many broken pieces of Ordnance, and an entire bell was taken from thence some little time since by the Indians. The N. E. River takes its rise from some small brooks near Mikisuki about 45 miles N. E.<sup>ly</sup> from the Fort, it runs under ground for some small distances and then shows itself here and there like ponds. The bed of the river being about fifteen miles above the Fort, and the River is navigable for canoes about twelve miles and for small vessels 6 or 7 miles. Both Rivers abound with varieties of very fine fish particularly trout which is in great perfection. The rivers are bordered by swamps which afford many valuable woods, as cedar, cypress, live oak, white oak, ash and elm, besides there are a great number of laurel, tulips trees or magnolias, bays and palmetto or cabbage trees. The lands for two miles to the northward of the fort are tolerably good, and then the pine barren commences which however affords good grass and numerous herds of cattle might be maintained there, tho' there are no running waters, except in the N. E. and N. W.

rivers which are very distant from each other. Nature has nevertheless been equally provident, a number of fine ponds supplied by springs from the rocks and swamps supply that defect. The Pine Trees in general are remarkably large and Bees hive in them. The Indians take their honey in the proper seasons, and are well supplied with that commodity.

Both the Indian Towns stand in a very fine soil; and they rise a great deal of maize, french Beans, callivances, pumpkins, etc. They rear also a great many fowls, and some pigs but have no horned cattle.

As these descriptions are accompanied by a general sketch of the country as far as I saw, it will clear up whatever may appear wanting in them.

Ph. Pittman

Lieut : 15th, Assist Enger

[Endorsed:] A Report of the Fort of Saint Mark at Appalachy and the look out tower and a description of the face of the Country.

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(III) *Communication from Pensacola to Apalachy*

During the time of the Equinox and winter, it is certainly far safer and all most as expeditious to go by land as by sea from Pensacola to Apalachy. As there are two different routes, the one more easy in the dry season, and the other more practicable all the year round I shall describe them both.

The first is to go from Pensacola by water to Rose Bay, keeping betwixt Rose Island and the Main. This Channel does not afford sufficient water for any boats drawing above four feet. On arriving at Rose Bay the person who is to go must land on a Bluff which is opposite to the East end of Rose Island, and must keep along the side of the bay about twenty-five miles, by which means he will avoid all

Bluff  
38  
from  
Pensa-  
cola

25

the swamps which lie nearer the sea; then by going a little to the Northward of the Northeast about fifty three miles, he will come to a river which empties itself into Saint Andrews Bay, this river is crossed by a sort of Natural Bridge. As the River goes underground for some small distance this place is known to the Indians by the name of Acouthinna, which word in their language is a description of it. These sorts of passages are not uncommon in this country. The road to this place is frequently interrupted by boggs, ponds, etc., but the Traveller must take care to keep to the Northward of them: following this course he will come to a small river called Chipouly, which empties itself into the River Apalachicola about thirty miles below the Forks, and is twenty three miles from the bridge. Then he must proceed to an Indian town called Tomothlies, situated on the east side of the Apalachicola and two miles below the forks; this place is twenty two miles from Chipouly. As far as this, the roads in general are very good, passing over a hilly country and pine barren, from hence he must proceed to the river Ocolacola, which is about thirty miles further, and then going South Easterly he will arrive at Apalachy which is forty five miles from the river Ocolacola. The road very good all the way and the country pine barren.

23

22

30

Now we come to the second road which is Traveled as hereafter described. The person who is to perform this journey must cross the Bay of Pensacola at six or seven miles above Deer point and then go easterly 20 miles so as to clear the Bay, after which he must keep nearly a N.N.E. course through a pine barren about one hundred and fifty miles, which will bring him to a river called Chacto Hatchy which empties itself into Rose Bay. This river is about one hundred yards across, it is very deep and is generally passed on rafts, the road in general is pretty

Total Distance 315 miles

25

good. From hence he must go to Chipouly going nearly east about twenty miles, the land is level being pine barren, and the road is very good quite to Ichiscafaloufa which is an Indian village situated on the west side of the N. W. branch of the river Apalachicola forty miles above the forks and twenty from Chapouly. From thence to Apalachy is one hundred miles and the road continues good.

These descriptions I got by interrogating some Indians and Traders, who have travelled these roads and they did not differ materially in their accounts.

Ph. Pittman

Lieut. 15th Regt. Assist Engr.

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(IV) *Communication from Apalachy to Saint Augustine*

Miles

40

From the fort at Apalachy to the river of Scilly is 40 miles. Horses, etc. are ferry<sup>d</sup> over the N. E. River by the soldiers at the Fort, and the Traveller immediately falls into the path leading Eastward, which to the Scilly in wet seasons is very bad, being so swampy that horses (in those times) without the greatest care are liable to sink to their bellies, but this obstacle does not render it impassable. The River Scilly is about forty five yards across, is very deep, and Rapid after heavy rains but at other times is fordable.

21

From the river Scilly to a small river, which at the crossing place takes a subterraneous passage for about ten yards and then appears again forming a Natural Bridge, which by the Indians is called Acouthinna, twenty one miles, the road is very good, being through pine barren.

From Acouthinna to another small river of about fifteen yards across, and sometimes fordable, six miles. The soil about it is a very fine clay having

many Palmetta trees growing on it. The road is very good. From this small river to a creek of nearly the same width but very deep six miles, and a very good road.

6

From the creek to Stony river so called from its bottom which is very rough and for that reason difficult to ford, fifty four miles. this river is nearly twenty yards across, and at the time of the freshes is not fordable, and runs with great rapidity. The soil about it is a red clay and the road to it very good, except two small bogs.

6

From Stoney river, Sauvanny [Suawanee] an Indian village thirty four miles. This village is situated on the side of a river of the same name, which is very deep, and about five hundred yards across. The Indians lend their canoes to Travellers and assist them in swimming their horses over; the road is good and through a pine barren, till within sixteen miles of Sauvanny where there is a fine plain of ten miles broad after which road goes through an oak swamp, which is however tolerably passable.

Miles

34

From Sauvany to Lockway [Alachua] fifty miles, this is an Indian village situated on the side of a very fine Savanna, the soil of which is remarkably good there are found here numbers of large stones variegated with red and yellow veins, the road very good and through a pine barren.

50

From Lockway to Picolata (a corporals guard on the east side of the river Saint Juans) fifty seven miles, passing very good lands and a very good road there is a ferey boat at the Post the river Saint Juans is here near three miles wide.

57

From Picolata to Saint Augustin twenty three miles through a very indifferent soil but good road.

23

The description wrote on the other side I took from the Journal of a gentleman who had travelled the

Whole distance 291 miles

road and was confirmed to me by the accounts *given*  
by these other persons.

Ph. Pittman

Lieut. 15th Regt, Assist Engr

To General Haldimand

[Endorsed:] Descriptions of the Communications  
betwixt Pensacola and Apalachy and Apalachy  
and Saint Augustin.

THE PANTON, LESLIE PAPERS

James Innerarity to John Forbes

Mobile 12th August 1815

John Forbes Esq.

Dear Sir,

It is a long time since I have written to you and for a long time I neither dared nor could write to you. During this interval I have trusted to my brother to keep you informed of our affairs. Since a year past we have both passed through many scenes disagreeable to recollect, more so to relate, and torturing to suffer. The worst evils we have met with, however, beyond all Comparison have been inflicted by the hands of our quondam Countrymen. Of all the Fiends that ever assumed the human form to disgrace it and torment mankind, some of the most atrocious and the vilest were vomited on these Coasts by England during the last summer or fall. On this subject (which I hope John has fully explained, I dare touch but slightly ; for when I think of it, my reason leaves me. Sufficient to say that for the unparalleled wrongs we and others have suffered from these bands of Commissioned robbers, these British Algerines, these barbarians cowardly and treacherous, who flee before their enemies and plunder their allies a memorial claiming reparation has been addressed to Castlereagh. This was a last resource ; for the sundry representations addressed to the British Commanders, Cochran and Malcolm produced nothing but false promises, equivocation and evasions: Neither indeed do I expect any better re-

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*Note*—This letter is in continuation of the series of records of Panton, Leslie & Co. and its successor, John Forbes & Co., the publication of which has been continuous in the *Quarterly*. These are in the possession of Mrs. John W. Greenslade who has transcribed them.

sult from the other: these High and Mighty gentlemen tread us worthless worms beneath their feet, and think us insolent if they but chance to notice that we writhe with anguish.

You also I perceive (and it affords me no consolation) have had your share of suffering from that pillager in chief, the truly denominated "infamous Cockburn." I shall be really rejoiced to learn that you have recovered your property, but I fear that the far famed Shewy humanity of the African association, Abolition Society and others of a like stamp will prove an insuperable bar to your success. In the eyes of these Right Revd. Honble. Right Worshipful and Right Honest Gentry, Negro Stealing is no crime but rather the chief of virtues-of course they will protect the thieves-Too much however of this most detested subject.

My brother will have kept you informed of our transactions at Pensacola, where I believe some good business has been done to counterbalance in part our losses.

Here for years past we have literally been toiling for nothing, partly from having received none but scanty and ill assorted supplies, partly from the circumstances of the time. I suggested sometime ago to my brother and desired him to communicate to you a new plan for carrying on our business to this place. It is first to abandon London for Liverpool. On comparing a variety of invoices from the latter place with our own from the former I find the difference ever since 1803 would hve amounted to a fortune: and taking into consideration the reduced profits that we must hereafter calculate on making ruin will follow a continuance of our old system.

In the next place our importations to or exportations from Mobile can no longer be carried on

through Pensacola, as goods once landed there will be subject here to an increased duty, as our collector will not afterwards suffer them to come here on the English Invoice ; but at an imaginary value that they bear or are supposed to bear at Pensacola, which of course presumes the addition of the charges of importation there. It is very clear also that American shipping must be employed for our importations here to avoid the addition of 10 p cent on the amount of duties on goods imported in foreign vessels.

Perhaps even a greater difference will be imposed when the new Permanent Tariff to be reported to Congress next Session is established. I therefore propose that our future orders for this place be addressed to Hamnet Roscoe and Wilson through you or thro' Gordon-that they be instructed to lay them in at the shortest customary credit, say six months at the utmost or to ship there on as low freight as they can, taking advantage if possible of shipping going out to New Orleans with short freight for that purpose. Such will take our goods for less than vessels freighted solely on our account.

If Mr. Glennie has made the establishment in Liverpool that he announced sometime since and you to give him our business I can have no objection, but to whoever is to have it, I would beg you to be particular in recommending the utmost care in laying in our assortments, as on that and the lowness of price depends our whole chance of success and hopes of being able to make speedy remittances-Our returns will be principally be made in bills; or when Cotton comes to be plenty in our market, (as will be the case in the year 1817 and not before, as little has been planted this year) in that article on their order and account, as I would rather decline speculating in it at all times for ourselves.

In conformity with these ideas I now hand you an order that you can address at pleasure to H. R. & W. or to A. Glennie Son & Co. in which you will find nothing but articles of trade and such as commonly command a ready sale. They ought to be here early in-March to insure a reasonable sale before our dull season (from the latter part of May to the end of September) comes on. If they cannot be here in March, I would suggest the propriety of dividing the shipment, if it can be done without much increasing the freight on the whole (in the way aforementioned) so that one half should arrive in April or May and the other half in September-the whole of the woolens to be reserved for the latter.

I would advise that our Pensacola trade also be carried on to and from Liverpool. The trifling quantity of skins that will hereafter be purchased can be disposed of to advantage in New Orleans, if we adhere in a certain degree to the plan of giving reduced prices for them, as is completely in our power. Our importations to that place can come in British or American vessels or freight. If British vessels continue to be employed in the New Orleans trade; freights to Pensacola in such ought to be procured on lower terms than in Americans, as the former would seldom get valuable outward freights to N. Orleans on acct. of the foreign duty-if, in addition to this supposed. low outward freight, a conditional bargain could be made to be optional with us to accept or not, for a reasonably low homeward freight for Cotton, it might give us some advantage in the Market here, on Account of the reduced duty on the British bottom, being as we hear only 1d p w & 3d in Americans. This advantage to be sure would be in some degree counterbalanced by the freight to Pensacola of the absurd system of duties there-In no case however should we be bound

either here or at Pensacola to provide a homeward freight for the vessels-If H. R. & W. do our business in England, it may become expedient. to give our N. Orleans business to their new branch in that City-this would give a general direction to our transactions that would be advantageous to all the parties concerned-I do not however promise that such shall be the Case.

I must again beg leave to state that a very strict attention to our interests will be required-on this indeed will depend the Continuance of the Correspondence.

I trouble you on this occasion, because it is the first step in a very important change in the Conduct of our business; one which more immediately requires your Sanction, and which I should be far from presuming to attempt to carry into effect without it.

The Indian Nations, the Creeks particularly, may now. be. looked on as annihilated, - their trade has long been an unprofitable one, but from the Ockmulgie to the Tombegbie, & from the Spanish line to the Cherokees (excepting the N. E. angle of the Creek Nation) their place will be supplied in a few short months by industrious Whites, the products of whose industry will afford an hundred fold trade, & a much more profitable one, of which we can obtain our full share if we are well & regularly supplied with goods.

The importance of Jackson's treaty to all our establishments in indeed great. The population on the Alhabama & its waters will now Create Mobile, & will be of inestimable advantage to Pensacola, whilst the Settlements that will Speedily be formed on the Chatahootchie & Flint Rivers would have given (& may yet give) not only value to the Apalachicola lands, but have made that establishment

as a Mercantile one highly profitable. That however now depends on Contingencies.

A variety of reasons induced me to use my efforts to prevent the Semanolics from joining the hostile Creeks-I should have succeeded and we should now have been in possession of a valuable establishment, but in the critical moment the enemies of peace & of human kind arrived & destroyed my work. The consequence (not to enter into details that drive me almost to frenzy) is this, Our Store is broken up with considerable loss, over & above that of our Cattle eaten by the plunderers, & negroes robbed by them-our influence over those Indians dead, or expiring, & Prospect Bluff & the Lands in possession of the Negroes whom the unspeakable Villains robbed from their Allies the Spaniards of Pensacola & East Florida, & even (astounding iniquity !!!) from the Indians themselves.

Yes-when the return of peace stopped their own career of atrocity; when the British Admirals pressed by the representations of the inhabitants & Government of Pensacola, found that they could not without eternal disgrace Carry off the negroes, they adopted a course, that while it bore a Shew of honour, really was calculated & I doubt not meant, to perpetuate by them the miseries of the Country-They would not deliver up the Negroes ; no, that could not be done without a violation of British faith!!! Which had been pledged for their freedom, but they *left* them at Prospect Bluff (after having trained them to Military discipline) in possession of a well constructed fort, with plenty of provisions, & with Cannon Arms & Ammunition of every description, not only in abundance but in Profusion for their defence-report says, they have even since sent them an accession of Strength, and they are now organized as Pirates, have several small Ves-

sels well armed, & some Piracies that lately occurred in the Lakes are supposed to have been committed by them.

Although one fruitless effort has been made to regain possession, yet I despair not, the attempt will be renewed as soon as any opening presents : as a last recourse, the Lands can be sold to Americans who will settle them in spite of Indians, Negroes or English.

I entertain therefore still, strong hopes of turning them to good Account & of possessing my 5000 acre tract, when your good self with your nephew & my friend Gordon shall see proper to make me a title to it.

Pray did you ever receive the plats I sent you for that purpose through my brother.

The mention of lands naturally introduces the subject of the Baton rouge Lands & my pledge to you, that as soon after peace as practicable, they & our other possessions, should be disposed of, for the purpose of clearing off with their proceeds all our old scores.

That pledge is as yet unredeemed, but not forgotten.

After so great distress as this Country experienced, things do not all at once resume their wonted course or activity, nor can property rise from its depression to its proper value.

On two occasions within these few months I have written to Milne respecting the prospects of disposing of our New Orleans property being desirous of realizing it first.

You have enclosed Copy of his answer to my last letter just now received. I also wrote in April last pr. duplicate to our Agent at Baton Rouge, Mr. Percy but have as yet received no answer: from

other sources I have heard that Lands like ours, in that quarter, are worth with warranted titles from 2 to 3 drs. p. acre--The rise in the price of Cotton may be expected to enhance their value still further, & the fall being the season of emigration, I shall write to Percy to sell, ours if he can in entire tracts without warrantie at from 2 drs. to 2 1/2 drs. p. acre--One fourth down & the balance in one two three & four years--Altho' I look on the risk as nothing we cannot properly give a warrantie until Congress have Confirmed the title, & as the Commissioners have by this time made their reports this may be expected next Session.

Mobille, since the bustle of War subsided has been Comparatively very dull: it will not however long continue so : the great emigration expected this fall to the Alhabama will give it an impulse that will hereafter go on increasing. Meantime houses bear a very fair, rent; not to say an high one.

At this moment we have some empty, but they will soon fill. This-description of property as being very productive is the last I would wish to part with--Whenever I can realise good prices however in proportion to the rents it shall be sold.

Our unimproved lots & lands in this district I shall sell whenever proper opportunities of doing so occur.

I have this object constantly in view, & I do hope that before the end of next year, the whole may be disposed of on such terms, as will enable us to do full honour to all our engagements. Some of our lots I mean to sell at a perpetual rent, as the most eligible plan for their speedy disposal, but in general I shall sell for one fourth Cash, & the balance in one two three & four years, especially the lands which it would be difficult to dispose of on shorter times to advantage.

The enclosed copies of letters from R. P. Johnson & a Mr. Irving, nephew of a Gov. Irving of Georgia to J. P. Kennedy will inform you of an attack that I expect will very soon be made upon us.

I got the letters from J. P. K. who settled in our town soon after its capture, & whom I have since retained putting into his hands the few Suits we have-We are of course friends according to the Spanish proverb. On giving the letters he observed (altho' I neither consulted nor informed him on the Subject) that Johnson could not recover, as being an interested person, & having no evidence but his own.

I observed simply, that he had made the attempt before at Charleston, & had thought prudent to withdraw & that if he renewed it he would most certainly burn his fingers. I take no notice of this affair, until I see how the Confederates mean to begin, but I shall resist the claim as in justice & duty bound to the very utmost.

Meantime Mr. Gordon should be informed of this new Circumstance, & your engagements with him be (as I think) suspended until the event be Known.

Let me have his & your advice on the subject.

Has Armstrong or any other lawyer of eminence been consulted? You can write me in your New Cipher which I received & have a copy.

Our bar here is not remarkable for abilities-the best lawyers are young men the one whom I mean to employ in future (continuing however to give a retainer to Kennedy, on the principle on which the Indians worship the Devil) is our late land Commissioner Mr. Crawford, a cousin of the Ambassador's, & a man in my opinion & that of every one here, of much probity & rather superior in talents

& knowledge to any of his brethren. He is now however absent at Washington City making his report. To him, in the defence of this cause I shall probably join another young man we have here, an Eleve of Livingstons of N. O. who is said to be Clever, & should it appear requisite I shall even get Counsel from New Orleans. All this will be expensive, but the business will be brought to a decision & I have little doubt to a favorable one to the heirs of the old partners. We shall have the Judge against us so far as he dare go, but the Cause can be moved out of his district if ground for it appears.

Until the attack takes place, I can not anticipate its mode, but every obstacle possible shall be thrown in the way of the enemy-you shall be advised when it begins.

It may be proper or necessary that your nephew & Mr. Gordon send me a power to act and employ Counsel for them & their connexions in the Suit of Johnson & Irving-their simple letters provisionally may answer.

The Brickery speculation has not been so productive as I expected, owing to the same cause as all our other evils., From the length of time that it was necessarily abandoned, the works had suffered so considerably as to cause the earlier & better part of the present season to be Spent in repairs: it is now however going on as rapidly as my diminished force (since the robbery of ten valuable Slaves by the plunderers at Bon Secours) will permit, & I still have sanguine hopes of its proving a very valuable establishment. Mobbille is to be built ; & will take off a quantity of materials, besides the demand for New Orleans, which latter has not yet revived however to any considerable degree.

If H. R. & W accept our business, I presume they would do it on the terms they formerly did business with Simpson, say, on half commissions on both sides & sharing all such commissions as they should recommend to us & we to them.

The impossibility of procuring freight from London except by Chartering & the exhorbitance of those Charters is a conclusive Argument against that port & in favor of Liverpool for our trade. Vessels are almost daily sailing from the latter for New Orleans with little or no freight to load Cotton home, whereas London has hardly any trade in this quarter at all.

In proof of this I could purchase at this moment from regular Merchants, goods at a considerably lower advance on genuine Invoices, than what we have ever imported than from London, adding the American duties-this supposes certainly a very great difference in the Charges of importation, besides the difference in price that I have already noted-Say, I could now buy certain goods at 60 p cent advance-duties 32 to 35-when have we imported for 25 p cent-supposing even the Merchant to have no profit?

My brother & myself have been remarkably unfortunate with regard to our assistants. Some have become drunkards, & been dismissed, others & very valuable ones have left us in quest of better prospects than this Country, especially under its late disastrous circumstances, afforded. We want each of us one confidential capable assistant at least; if you could help us to them it would be doing us a great Service; indeed I foresee that without we get them we shall never be able to have our affairs brought into or kept in proper order. You may think this a trifling difficulty, but I find it otherwise, as after the experience we have had I cannot bring

myself to trust A[merica]n rovers in search of employment.

I remain My Dear Sir

Yours Most Sincerely

**JAS. INNERARITY**

It is possible that Congress may continue the present high duties on some of the articles ordered or even may lay on still higher. Should advices of that kind reach Liverpool, before the Shipment is made we request such articles be omitted.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FLORIDA  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**MINUTES**

The thirty-first annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society was held in the Willow Branch Public Library at Jacksonville, Florida, on Tuesday, November 21, 1933, at 11 A. M.

The meeting was called to order by vice-president Alston Cockrell. The following members were present :

Carl Bohnenberger, W. T. Cash, Alston Cockrell, T. Frederick Davis, Mrs. T. Frederick Davis, Miss Margaret Fairlie, Miss Louise Gamsby, J. F. Marron, A. J. Mitchell, Mrs. R. V. Ott, Albert H. Roberts, Bates M. Stovall.

Proxies were examined and admitted as follows:

F. M. Blount, H. L. Grady, F. W. Hoskins, Wm. H. Knowles, S. Pasco, J. S. Reese, Dr. F. G. Renshaw, J. H. Sherrill, James C. Watson, W. H. Watson, Geo. P. Wentworth, Francis M. Williams, J. C. Yonge, J. E. D. Yonge, P. K. Yonge.

Vice-president Alston Cockrell presented and read the annual report of President P. K. Yonge. (post.)

Treasurer T. Frederick Davis read his annual report. (post.)

T. Frederick Davis urged that everybody obtain at least one new member for the Society. He stated that even under present conditions there are many people who would be glad to join the Society. In response to this plea the meeting adopted a motion introduced by Mr. Marron, that each member make his best effort to secure at least one additional member during the coming year.

T. Frederick Davis moved that the members extend a vote of thanks to Representative S. Pierre Robineau, of Dade County, Florida, for introducing a bill in the 1933 Florida Legislature to secure an appropriation for the Society. The motion was adopted and the secretary was instructed to send a copy of the motion to Representative Robineau.

Librarian Carl Bohnenberger read his report (post) and moved that a committee be appointed to consider the matter of lending the Society's books to the members of the organization, the committee to have power to act subject to the approval of the board of directors of the Society. If the loan of the books be recommended, a statement as to the availability of the books shall be published regularly in the Quarterly. The motion was carried, and the chair appointed T. F. Davis, A. J. Mitchell, and Carl Bohnenberger on the committee.

In furtherance of a suggestion by Albert H. Roberts and W. T. Cash that some method be used to further closer contact between the Florida Historical Society and local historical organizations, it was moved by J. F. Marron that a committee on relations with local societies be created. This motion was carried and J. F. Marron, W. T. Cash, and A. J. Mitchell were appointed on this committee.

For the nomination of officers and directors, the chair appointed as a nominating committee Mrs. T. Frederick Davis, Miss Margaret Fairlie, and Mrs. Roy V. Ott. The committee retired and presently returned and reported the following nominations :

For president, P. K. Yonge.

1st vice-president, Alston Cockrell.

2d vice-president, Peter O. Knight.

Treasurer, T. Frederick Davis.

Recording secretary, Francis M. Williams.

Corresponding secretary and librarian, Carl Bohnenberger.

For directors: J. F. Marron, C. Seton Fleming, A. J. Hanna, Mrs. R. V. Ott, Mrs. Garrett Porter, James A. Robertson, Albert H. Roberts, and Julien C. Yonge.

Directors ex-officio are: The president, the 1st vice-president, the treasurer, and the recording secretary, making twelve in all.

A motion was adopted by the Society that the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for the officers named by the nominating committee. In furtherance of this motion, the secretary cast the ballot.

The Society voted unanimously in favor of a motion directing that a message be sent to President P. K. Yonge expressing the keenest regards and regretting the inability of President Yonge to be present at the meeting.

Pursuant to a motion duly made and carried, the meeting was declared adjourned.

**BATES M. STOVALL,**  
*Acting secretary.*

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE FLORIDA  
**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

*To the members of the Florida Historical Society:*

I submit here the thirty-first annual report of the Society :

The records of the Society for the past year, reflecting the times, must of course show some decrease in our activities as well as a loss in membership; but neither is as great as would be expected. Sixty-two members have been dropped from the roll for delinquency in dues beyond the time allowed by our by-laws, but twenty-four new members have been

enrolled ; and we now have exactly three hundred active members.

Though the *Quarterly* has been reduced in size, every issue has been published and paid for with no other source of revenue than the dues of members. The interest shown in the Society by those of the three hundred who have paid their dues-many with difficulty-is encouraging to the officers and editors. The Contributing Members for the past year (with dues of ten dollars) are : N. P. Bryan, Washington E. Connor, Alfred J. Hanna, Peter O. Knight, Edward M. L'Engle, C. B. Reynolds, E. H. Reynolds, Mrs. W. N. Reynolds, Mrs. Henry L. Richmond, Mrs. Raymond Robbins.

The historical library of the Society occupies an ample and suitable room in the Willow Branch Library of the Jacksonville Public Library. During the past year this valuable collection of Florida historical material has been catalogued and thus made readily available to any one interested through a detailed card index-thereby increasing its value many fold. The Society records its appreciation of this extensive work and its thanks to Mr. Joseph F. Marron, Librarian of the Jacksonville Public Library and a director of our Society, to Mr. Carl Bohnenberger our librarian, and to Miss Monie N. Jones under whose supervision this work was done.

During the year the Society has received a notable gift from Mrs. Marie Cruzat de Verges, of New Orleans, this being several hundred miscellaneous letters and other documents relating to Panton, Leslie and Company and its successor John Forbes and Company. These had been preserved by her mother, Mrs. Heloise Cruzat, a descendant of John Innerarity the last surviving partner of John Forbes and Company. Mrs. Cruzat, a former resident of Pensacola, felt a keen interest in its history, and at her

death two years ago had for long been- a member of our Society; so it was her wish that these papers should come to us. It was her purpose to edit some of them for publication in our *Quarterly* - a work for which she was especially fitted through her extensive labors in and contributions to the history of Louisiana. Selections from them will appear in many issues of the *Quarterly* beginning in an early number.

The Society should be and is grateful to our treasurer, Mr. T. Frederick Davis, whose continuous interest in and indefatigable efforts for the well-being of the body have made our work possible.

P. K. YONGE,

*President, Florida Historical Society.*

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

November 16, 1932 to November 20, 1933

Our books show exactly three hundred active members including contributing members, representing a total possible annual income from dues of \$680. To date we have collected \$544, or within \$136 of the maximum, which means that 80% of the membership have paid their dues. Membership in the Society is predicated from the month of entry, and of the 20% not yet paid many, I am satisfied, will pay before the limit is reached when they will have to be dropped from the roll as provided by our by-laws.

We have paid all bills including the cost of five issues of the *Quarterly*. The postage item advanced considerably during the year owing to the increase of the postal rate to three cents. An itemized statement of receipts and disbursements is attached, from which it will be seen that we start the new year with all bills paid and a cash balance of \$9.74.

*Financial Statement*

Receipts :

Nov. 16, 1932, Cash on hand . . . . .	\$ 45.03
Nov. 20, 1933, Total income from dues . . . . .	544.00
Nov. 20, 1933, From sale of publications..	25.30
	<hr/>
	\$614.33

Disbursements :

Total <i>Quarterly</i> expenses . . . . .	\$562.13
Postage, due notices, etc. . . . .	17.45
Stationery, printing and supplies of every kind . . . . .	18.75
Members checks returned by bank . . . . .	6.00
Government tax on checks . . . . .	.26
	<hr/>
	\$604.59

Summary

Total receipts . . . . .	\$ 614.33
Total disbursements . . . . .	604.59
	<hr/>
Cash balance on hand . . . . .	\$ 9.74

(Signed) **T. FREDERICK DAVIS,**  
*Treasurer.*

**REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN**

I regret that this first report to the Society should be as slim as it is, but due to pressure of business during the past year it has been impossible for me to devote as much time as I would have liked to the affairs of the Society. However, I am glad to report the following concerning the Library:

(1) The library has been catalogued and classified. The work, not yet quite complete, will be finished by the end of the year. The library will be catalogued according to the Dewey System, which system was decided upon due to its ready and access-

ible method. In other words, new accessions to the Society's collection can be easily added to the collection no matter where it is or by whom administered. The classification has been made elastic and general so that it is intelligible to anyone using it.

(2) 384 volumes have been catalogued, 219 pamphlets have been catalogued, 1647 cards have been typed and filed, 120 volumes have been repaired and cleaned.

(3) The Society possesses a total of 476 volumes and a total of 187 pamphlets. We also have the beginning of a working collection of other State societies' publications and periodicals.

(4) We hope to have all maps, manuscripts, photographs and portraits completely catalogued before the end of the year.

(5) I wish it very thoroughly understood that the full credit for this work should go to Miss Monnie N. Jones, chief cataloguer of the Public Library who has given the collection her expert attention. Mrs. Buckman working under Miss Jones' supervision has done the actual work of the cataloguing. She deserves great credit for her able work.

I hope by the time of the next general meeting, to have the room still more attractively arranged and more of our rare material on display.

I should like to recommend the following for the attention of the officers of the Society, either for acceptance or rejection, as they see fit:

(1) That the collection be made available by loan to members of the Society living within Florida. The borrower to pay all cost of mailing both ways and observe rules similar to those observed by the Library of Congress and other agencies that loan books, namely: the person borrowing the book must be in good standing as to dues, and be engaged in

genuine research which calls for the use of volumes not available in his vicinity. I believe such a service would enhance the value of membership in the Society ; that it would further the fact that this is a state-wide society; and I am certain that there would be no risk whatsoever. Of course, manuscript material or exceedingly rare volumes would not be loaned.

(2) That if the Society agrees to the loan of material as recommended that a statement as to the availability of the books be printed regularly in the Quarterly.

(3) That from time to time the *Quarterly* publish a list of the numbers that are exhausted in the Society's library. As, for instance, we have no copies left of the July 1928 issue, containing Mr. Davis' article on MacGregor.

**CARL BOHNENBERGER,**  
*Librarian.*