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Richard Keith Call

Caroline Mays Brevard

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flag of the United States in 1821. In the long years of peace St. Augustine grew to be a very garden of oranges. Vessels from all along the coast came here for them. It is said as many as thirty vessels might be in the harbor at one time loading with oranges. The great freeze of 1835 destroyed all this and for many years there was no attempt at restoration.

For generations the sunset gun has boomed over the harbor, to be answered by the cry of the marsh hens from every marsh in reach of the sound. The fisherman has gone out in his canoe at night and returned early in the morning with the cargo he sold at the sea wall. And you look from the parapet and see the harbor alive with the motor craft to-day, while the seaward picture is the same as seen by Ponce de Leon or Menendez. St. Augustine harbor has indeed come back to its own- *Reprinted from Forest and Stream.*

RICHARD KEITH CALL.

BY HIS GRANDDAUGHTER, CAROLINE MAYS BREVARD.

(Conclusion of Article begun in the July Quarterly.)

From the early days of the organization of the Territory of Florida the inevitable struggle between the red and the white man had been foreshadowed. There were collisions and depredations when the white man would venture into the Indian reserves, or when the Indian would venture upon the white man's lands.

In 1826 the Indians became very bold and a whole family was murdered near the plantation of Colonel Achille Murat in Jefferson county, not more than twenty miles from the capital of the Territory. General Call placed himself at the head of a small force to seek out and punish the murderers. Quiet was restored for a while, but at intervals acts of violence and retaliation broke the peace until the outbreaks of 1835 aroused the country.

At the call for volunteers, General Call with about three hundred mounted men, marched to the Suwannee where he was ordered to unite with the East Florida volunteers, take charge of all, and to co-operate with General Clinch at Fort Drane. He joined Clinch on the 15th of December, and, as the volunteers had enlisted for only thirty days, the whole force was at once put in motion for the Withlacoochee.

Osceola, meanwhile had made haste to the south bank of that river, and the fight followed is described by General Clinch in these words: "About four o'clock on the 31st December after leaving all our baggage, provisions, etc., protected by a guard, the troops were pushed on with a view of crossing the ford and of surprising the main body of the Indians supposed to be concentrated on the south bank of the Withlacoochee river, but on reaching the river about daylight, we found, instead of a good ford, a deep rapid stream and no means of crossing except in an old and decayed canoe. Lieutenant-Colonel Fanning, however, soon succeeded in crossing the regular troops and in taking a position a little in advance, whilst Brig.-Gen. Call was actively engaged in crossing his bridge and in having their horses swim over the river; but before one-half had crossed, the battalion of regulars consisting of 200 men (about) was attacked by the enemy, who were strongly posted in the swamps and scrubs adjacent to the river. * * * * * The action lasted an hour, during which time the troops made three brilliant charges into the swamps and scrubs and drove the enemy in every direction, and after the third charge, although nearly one-third of their number had been cut down, they were found sufficiently firm and steady to justify the formation of a new line of battle, which gave protection to both flanks as well as to the position selected for crossing the river." He goes on to say that Gen. Call, after making every effort to get his men across, crossed over himself and "rendered important service

by his coolness and judgment in arranging part of his corps on the right of the Regular troops, which gave much strength and security to that flank."

On account of the strength of the enemy's position, their numbers, and the want of supplies in the American army, the forces were withdrawn across the river. "This was successfully done," wrote General Call to Governor Eaton, "in the presence of the enemy who covered our whole front. The war whoop was repeatedly given along the whole line, and we were in momentary expectation of a revival of the attack while crossing the river on a log, which in the course of the crossing had been prepared for that purpose. * * * * We returned the next day to Fort Drane."

On the 16th day of March, 1836, General Call was appointed Governor of the Territory of Florida, succeeding Governor Eaton who had been appointed minister to Spain. Col. Leigh Reid was now appointed to the command of the militia.

On the approach of warm weather, the regular troops retired to summer quarters. The volunteers had returned home. Most of the military posts having been abandoned, little resistance could be offered to the Indians who destroyed settlements and murdered families throughout the regions exposed to their invasions. The Creeks eluding the watchfulness of the army, were passing in larger or smaller bands from Alabama into the Peninsula of Florida, devastating the country in their march. No portion of the Territory was safe.

Governor Call strongly urged a summer campaign, believing that to be the only effectual measure for the protection of the country. Most of the officers of high rank were absent from the Territory. Some were on furlough ; some were engaged in conducting the war against the Creeks in Georgia or Alabama. Governor Call was given the command in Florida and authorized to conduct a summer campaign. The regular troops at

the different posts from Tampa to St. Augustine, few in numbers, were hardly able to hold their positions and furnish escorts for supplies sent from depots to interior parts. A force of about twelve hundred Tennesseans under General Armstrong were ordered to join Governor Call. With these, a small battalion of Florida volunteers and such of the regulars as might join him, or might be drawn from the military posts in East Florida, he was to pursue the Indians in the northern part of their reservation. General Jesup, according to plans agreed on with General Call, with forces from Alabama and the reinforcements he was expecting, would enter the enemy's country from Tampa Bay or the Withlacoochee.

On the 19th of September, Governor Call set out on the march from Tallahassee to Suwannee Old Town, thence to Fort Drane. Major Pierce at Black Creek was directed to advance with his forces and all the wagons with supplies for the army. A depot was ordered established on the Withlacoochee. Fort Drane was reached on the first of October. The plan of operation was to scour the Withlacoochee country from the mouth to the head waters, and to drive the Indians from their fortresses. A few Indians were killed near Fort Drane, and on November the 11th a camp was surprised, eleven warriors killed and some prisoners taken. The next day the passage of the river was attempted. It was much swollen and several men and their horses were drowned in trying to cross. The opposite bank of the river was held by the enemy who fired though without effect, upon the army. This fire was returned by two hundred riflemen of the Tennessee Brigade, though apparently with little effect. Another skirmish took place the same day between the Indians and a party sent to search for a ford. In this engagement the Indians were driven from their position with the loss of several killed and wounded. But "Indian Billy," the faithful guide of the army, fell. Other attempts to cross the river failed. A serious

danger threatened the army. The supplies were almost entirely exhausted ; expected supplies had not been met with, the country furnished no forage, and, in order to save the army from extreme suffering, it was decided to march at once to a depot of supplies.

On the 10th of October, Governor Call with a few regulars, the mounted Tennesseans and a regiment of Creek volunteers set out on a march from Fort Drane to a point on the Withlacoochee, thirty miles distant, where a crossing was effected on the 13th. On the next morning General Armstrong with a part of the Tennesseans attacked an Indian encampment. There was serious resistance but the attack was successful, and the Indians, were routed. Eleven of the attacking party were killed and wounded.

“On the morning of the 18th,” wrote. Governor Call, (1) “the baggage train was placed in a compact form, under the protection of two pieces of artillery, and a detachment of regular troops, commanded by Captain Thompson, and a guard of Tennesseans and Florida militia. At an early hour I marched at the head of 650 Tennessee troops, and about 11 o’clock after crossing the creek skirted with dense hammocks, which formed a part of the Wahoo Swamp, we entered a piece of open ground which brought us in view of a town which had been just abandoned and set on fire by the enemy. They were so closely pursued, that several of them were seen, as they entered the hammock, where they soon gave us to understand, they were prepared to receive us. The line of battle was immediately formed. The troops prepared to enter on foot, while a detachment of horse on each flank, remained in the open ground to act as occasion might require. While the men ordered to advance were yet in the open ground, and had approached within gun shot of the hammock; the enemy opened a deadly fire upon them. A charge was ordered and most gallantly made. Our troops entered the hammock and in a few moments

the whole line became engaged. It was soon discovered that the enemy, outflanked us on the right and left; and at one point showed themselves in force in our rear. Their numbers could not have been less than six or seven hundred. A part of the horsemen were ordered to dismount and charge on the right and left flanks, while others sent to disperse the Indians in the open ground, were fired upon in the rear from a distance. Capt. Fletcher, at the head of 18 mounted men, charged and most gallantly dispersed about fifty warriors from the open ground. Col. Bradford led the charge on the right, and Lieut. Cabal that of the left. Col. Trousdale and Lieut. Gill led the centre, and a more gallant and intrepid charge was never made on any occasion. In thirty minutes the enemy was driven at all points, and fled precipitately from the field. Our troops continued to pursue as long as the enemy could be seen, after which they returned in good order to the open ground, bringing the dead and wounded with them. The loss of the enemy on this occasion must have been considerable. In passing over the field twenty-five men were found dead, and it is believed many others were carried off during the fight, their wounded cannot be estimated. Our total loss of killed and wounded was fifteen.

“Too much cannot be said of the conduct of the troops on this occasion. * * * * * The next day, the 19th, being the day appointed for Colonel Pierce to unite with me, I marched down the road to Dade’s battle ground—still nearer the enemy - where I hoped to meet his division and enter the swamp on the 20th, but he did not reach that point until the following day at 12 m. The Swamp was about five miles distant and it was too late to march and enter it with the hope of accomplishing anything that day. The army had already been on half rations for several days, but I resolved to spend one day more in searching the swamp for the enemy. Accordingly, on the morning of the 21st after leaving our baggage under a

strong detachment, with the gallant Colonel Bradford, the army moved forward again to the swamp. It was soon discovered that the enemy was in the edge of it awaiting our approach. The line of battle was immediately formed. The Tennessee troops on the right, the Regular force in the centre, and the friendly Creeks on the left, while the horsemen constituted a reserve. So soon as the line was formed the Indians raised a yell in front, and opened a fire along the whole centre and right. A charge was ordered and our troops entered the hammock without discharging a gun, although they received a heavy volley from the enemy as they advanced in the open ground. For a few moments the fire continued heavy along the whole line, while the enemy gave way in every direction, being pursued until our troops lost sight of them. Some time was lost in finding the direction in which the main body of the enemy had passed to the left. The Regular troops with the mounted Florida volunteers under command of Colonel Warren, and the friendly Indians were ordered immediately in pursuit, while the Tennessee Brigade moved on to support them. The Regular troops under the command of Colonel Pierce, in their advance encountered a morass where the officers were compelled to abandon their horses and the men were sometimes above the waist in mud and water, and were at least one hour in advancing three quarters of a mile. The 2nd Regiment of Tennessee Volunteers, led by Col. Trousdale, encountered the same difficulty and experienced the same delay. In the meantime Col. Harvey Brown * * * had discovered a trail to the left avoiding the morass and passing over dry land through a dense hammock. At the head of about one hundred and fifty friendly Indians, he pressed forward with great intrepidity, and soon found himself engaged with a large body of Indians, strongly posted in a cypress swamp on the opposite side of a deep and boggy stream. A severe conflict ensued and while the brave Major Mon-

iac, one of the chiefs of the Creek Regiment was advancing to lead a charge across the stream he was shot down and sunk immediately in the stream. * * * Our total loss of killed and wounded in this engagement was sixteen.

“The conduct of all the officers and men engaged during the day was marked by the most deliberate courage, and that their success was not complete in every particular was owing to the nature of the ground and to the delay which was occasioned in crossing the morass. * * * The army had been on half rations for several days, a privation to which they submitted with cheerfulness, from anxiety to continue with the enemy as long as possible ; the wagon and artillery horses were without corn, while the grass of the country did not at this season afford them adequate support; consequently I felt compelled to march to this depot (Volusia) which we reached on the morning of the fifth day.”

Soon after this, General Jesup received the command of the troops, the number increased to eight thousand men, and Governor Call returned to Tallahassee to resume his duties in the executive office. Those duties were not easy. He was constantly hearing appeals from the frontier for protection or receiving news of murders and devastation committed by the enemy. The exposed territory was of great extent, the regular army was occupied for the most part in the peninsula and there was no means of maintaining any militia or volunteer forces that the governor might have raised. From the beginning of the war until a short time before the retirement of General Jesup from command, Governor Call defended Middle and West Florida with the militia and volunteers of the Territory. Except for a few weeks in 1836, until May 1, 1838, no regular troops were employed in this service. Great embarrassment was sometimes caused by the want of provisions, forage, and pay, so that the Governor was obliged to pledge his private fortune and bor-

row money to pay the troops. But, whatever the difficulties, he devoted all his powers to the protection of the people of Florida. He felt strongly that the executive should not only have the power of calling out the militia, but of maintaining them; a matter upon which he wrote plainly to the Secretary of War. A special message to the Legislative Council, February, 1839, recommended the raising of forces under the authority of the Territory, and acts were passed during this session conferring on the Governor the power for raising men to act under the authority of the Territory, also the power of issuing bonds to the amount of \$600,000.00 to maintain these troops. However the contingency did not arise which by the law would have authorized the issue of these bonds, and the Governor was disappointed in his plan of making another extensive summer campaign. Still we find that on the 28th of July, 1839, he wrote to the President, "I have two companies in the pay of and subsisted by the Territory, and I shall employ as many more as the limited resources of Florida can support, until the enemy shall have been driven beyond the reach of annoyance to the settlements."

These troops were employed in defending the frontier. Their number was increased to two hundred and fifty, and in September Governor Call made a persevering scout of thirty days through Middle Florida, dislodging the enemy wherever found. Two large settlements' were broken up. The troops on this expedition were subsisted at the expense of the Territory.

Meanwhile letters to the President and Secretary urged a more vigorous prosecution of the war. A deputation of prominent Floridians, (1) sent by the governor, went to Washington during the summer of 1839 to represent the condition of affairs in the Territory. This deputation urged that a large power and discretion be given the Governor in calling out and maintaining the militia and volunteers in emergencies, and for defend-

ing the frontier, that operations should not be suspended during the summer months; that "hollow truces" should not be made, but the operations continued with vigor until the enemy was subdued. The deputation was courteously received, but the only definite result of the interview seems to have been that permission was given for 300 troops, militia and volunteers, to be mustered into service, to be commanded by the Governor "in emergencies, or for frontier defence."

It is a thankless matter and perilous to one's advancement to call the attention of those in power to the inefficiency of their measures. This consideration had no weight with Governor Call, for he felt that the interests of the Territory and her people were at stake and it was his duty to speak plainly. His appointment as Governor in 1836 had been for three years. At the expiration of the term February, 1839, he was re-appointed for another term of three years. However, on the evening of the 24th of December he learned, through the medium of the newspapers, that he had been removed from office, Judge Robert Raymond Reid having been appointed his successor.

Governor Reid was hampered by the same restrictions and difficulties that Governor Call had known. During his brief term of office he labored with zeal to perform all his duty, but was disappointed in the conduct of the war, and wrote in his diary that he felt "Taylor was not the man for him."

During the presidential campaign of 1840, Governor Call did all in his power to secure the election of Harrison; for he felt that the re-election of Van Buren would be disastrous to the interests of the people. He spent the summer at the north, and made political speeches at a number of places, once speaking near "Kinderhook," the home of Van Buren.

One of the first official acts of President Harrison was to re-appoint Governor Call to office. This was in

March, 1841. The next year General Worth, after a vigorous "summer campaign," declared the Indian war ended. The few Indians who had not been sent west were assigned to a territory below Pease Creek, and so after years of warfare the people of Florida were freed from danger of the attacks and depredations that had menaced their safety and prosperity.

The question of the admission of the Territory into the Union as a State was one of moment, for the people as early as 1838 felt that they were entitled to the privileges of State government. The bill admitting Florida was passed and received the President's approval March 3, 1845, and Governor Branch fixed the date May 26, as the time for holding the first State election. Governor Call, who since 1840 had allied himself with the Whigs, was the candidate of that party. He was defeated by Wm. D. Moseley, the candidate of the Democratic party. This defeat ended Governor Call's political career.

His activities, however, in other directions did not cease. Space is too limited to permit more than brief mention of his interest in the development of the agricultural and industrial possibilities of Florida. He built the first railroad in the State, that from Tallahassee to St. Mark's and personally directed its operation for many years. He stood foremost in the ranks of intelligent planters, and wrote much in order to make known the capabilities of the soil and improved methods of its cultivation. He had engaged successfully in brick-making, established a saw mill and a grist mill. The little town of Port Leon, near the terminus of the St. Mark's railroad was owned almost entirely by him. But financial misfortunes came upon him now. This little town which promised to grow rapidly in importance, was after a few years almost depopulated by yellow fever; and storms destroyed the town itself. His mills were more than once destroyed by fire. His plantations, his railroad stock, in short, almost everything he possessed, had been mort-

gaged during his first term as governor. The general pressure of "hard times" affected all. Still these troubles did not crush him for, as he used to say, he "was like an arch," "strongest when bearing the heaviest weight."

Those who knew Governor Call in his private life were impressed by the breadth of his sympathies, for he lived always in closest touch with the lives of others. His generous hospitality has already been referred to. The stranger found a home under his roof, and the needy found in him a friend. The widow and the orphan he made his special care, and he gave practical aid to more than one young man making his start in life. He was a good master, looking carefully after the welfare of his servants in every way. He was a true friend, a loyal kinsman, and the tenderest of fathers.

Though no longer in public life, he still was always deeply interested in public matters. He was greatly distressed by the political disturbances leading to war between the States, and by the breaking out of that war. He had, from early manhood, been a "Union man," and now, with all the strength of his being he opposed secession. He advocated armed resistance to oppression, but held that resistance should be by revolution in the Union rather than by secession from it. In this view, however, he stood, it may be said, alone, and the ordinance of secession was passed almost unanimously.

War was inevitable, and the aged patriot, however wrung his heart at the breaking of old ties, did not hesitate in deciding upon his course. Without question he felt that his duty was first of all to Florida. In a public speech he declared that he was now too old to command, but might still be able to render some service in the ranks, and that he would do what strength permitted him for the defence of the State.

But it soon became evident that active duties were no longer for him. He had been so vigorous in every respect that the thought of age had never been associated with

him. Now the great changes, the distress of the country, troubles still to come, which with remarkable clearness of vision he foresaw - all weighed heavily upon his mind. His health failed, and he aged rapidly. He lived into the second year of the war, the last months of his life being filled with illness and suffering.

On the 14th of September, 1862, the end came. All day long a storm had been raging, and some feared that he would be disturbed. But he said he had always loved to hear the wind, and so he lay calm and undisturbed by the storm without. He had from his youth been a devout and humble Christian, and as now he lay dying, his lips moved often in prayer. Thus the day wore on and the evening came and he fell asleep, calmly and peacefully.

Antiquities at and near New Smyrna, Florida.

BY JOHN Y. DETWILER, New Smyrna.

These antiquities embrace at the present time, the "Spanish Mission," the "Old Fort" and the "Rock House," the latter within the last few years having been destroyed by the removal of the shell mound on which it was built, for road making purposes. This building as well as that of the Spanish Mission, however, has been perpetuated by photographs of which the Florida State Historical Society has authenticated copies.

Gradually, as the years advance, discoveries have been made of important archaeological ruins where none were supposed to exist. This is especially true in relation to the Spanish Mission, which from the earliest recollection of the oldest inhabitant, was known as the Turnbull Sugar house. The discovery of the Altar Lights, and other Paraphernalia pertaining to a Sacerdotal Edifice by Capt. Mathews, while removing an old stump to plant an