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## Notes on Secession in Tallahassee and Leon County

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## NOTES ON SECESSION IN TALLAHASSEE AND LEON COUNTY

### CONSTITUTION <sup>1</sup>

Article 1. The name of the Association shall be the Southern Rights Association of Centreville District. Its objects shall be . . . . the protection of Southern interests and the vindication of Southern rights . . . . to preserve and protect the Constitution in its purity as the basis of Federal compact, and the only foundation on which the Union of the States was made, or on which that Union should be preserved.

Article 2. Every friend of the South who is prepared to co-operate in carrying out the objects of the first article shall be considered a member upon signing these articles.

Wm. Lester	David Mattox	Jas. J. Grace
E. M. Garnett	Lyman Smith	John Cain
Wm. A Carr	J. A. J. Roney	N. W. Holland
G. W. Holland	<b>G. W.</b> Roney	Dan O'Cain
Ben Chaires, Jr.	Solomon. Sills	Stephen Saunders
Edward Houston	R. Van Brunt	Gabriel Houck
T. W. Brevard	A. W. Potter	Jno. Branch
John Cromartie	J. H. Branch	B. M. Bentley
J. Hunter	Chas. Cole	Ed Bradford
J. L. Taylor	Wm. H. Branch	Wm. H. Bradford
James Roney	Richard Whitaker	D. H. Staton
R. B. Carpenter	Adam Grambling	<b>Wm.</b> W. Wood
N. W. Eason	A. D. Grambling	Thos. Morgan
T. A. Bradford	J. R. Crump	James E. Broome
Luke Smithwick	Grant Scurry	A. S. Cole
Jos. C. Gordon	Geo. Whitfield	D. J. Williams
<b>Jas.</b> J. Barnes	James Cohron	R. H. Bradford
Richard Saunders	Stephen Lester	Jacob Eliot
W. N. Saunders	J. R. Bradford	James Ponder

<sup>1</sup> *Floridian*, Tallahassee, March 22, 1851 (!)

D. P. Houck	J. T. Bernard	F. A. Fitts
J. F. C. Harley	J. W. Saunders	Nathan Lindsey
R. W. Williams	D. A. Felkel	G. H. Fisher
Thos. Laversage	W. A. Palmer	Thos. W. Carr
J. B. Jeffcoat	H. B. Bradford	Jas. T. Kilgore
C. W. Martin	G. F. Morris	John Felkel
S. S. James	H. Bradford	

LEON COUNTY DELEGATES TO STATE DEMOCRATIC  
CONVENTION, **1852** :

Thos. Baltzell	Bryant Groom	John Beard
Edward Bradford	A. L. Woodward	Richard Saunders
Firman Chaires	T. G. Oarman	Joseph Christie
J. P. Duval	J. M. Robinson	M. A. Long
Green Chaires, Jr.	Wm. Holderness	Geo. Whitfield
C. E. Dyke	Adam Powel	J. R. Nicks
J. Eliot	M. D. Papy	James Willis
Robert Butler	J. W. Dabney	Jos. Branch
Benj. Chaires, Jr.	J. P. K. Savage	John Cason
W. G. Moseley	J. H. Branch	R. Carpenter

Among the prominent Whigs of the period in Leon  
County were :

William Johnson	Calvin Johnson	Norman Scott
John W. Hale	Silas D. Allen	T. K. Leonard
J. C. Blake	Henry Allen	Robert H. Hall
Stephen Minton	J. Akin	R. W. B. Hodgson
H. T. Fisher	Joseph Allen	Seabon Rawls
J. J. Hoyle	Wm. M. Footman	Alex Cromartie
J. Q. Cromartie	J. H. Randolph	O. S. Burroughs
Wm. M. Maxwell	J. M. Hunter	J. L. Demilly
Thos. Hayward	T. P. Denham	G. W. Call
R. A. Shine	E. C. Cabell	Wm. S. Murray
B. F. Allen		

and that grand old Whig, Richard Keith Call, who had been a citizen of Florida from her first year, had served her uninterruptedly in official and private works--twice as her Chief Magistrate--who, seeing the widening rift separating her from the Country he loved as much as he did the State, fought valiantly

and continuously with word and pen the Democratic host rising about him ; and who, when he and his adherents had lost, and the bonds holding his Country and State together had been broken by the struggle for rights which perhaps he was too old to fully understand-died of a broken heart.

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*House Journal, 10th Session, 1861.*

January eleventh. The rule being waived, Mr. Blount moved that this House, preceded by the Speaker, do now proceed to witness the ceremony of the ratification of the Ordinance of Secession of this State from the Union of the confederacy once known as the United States of North America.

After witnessing the signing and ratification of the Ordinance of Secession, on the East Portico of the Capitol, the members of the House, preceded by their Speaker, returned and resumed their session.

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Tallahassee, January 10, 1861 <sup>2</sup>.

Miss Elizabeth M. Eppes :

By resolution of the Convention of the People of the State of Florida, we, the Judges comprising the Supreme Court of this State, are appointed to direct the enrolling of the Ordinance of Secession passed this day by them.

In discharging our duty, we have directed that the Ordinance be enrolled on parchment and bound with blue ribbon. The honor of binding the same we have, with your permission, entrusted to you, believing that you, as one of the native daughters of our beloved Florida, and a lineal descendant of the immortal author of the first Declaration of American Indepen-

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<sup>2</sup>*Convention Journal, 1861-62, p. 39.*

dence, will cheerfully lend your aid in embellishing the parchment which contains the Declaration of the Independence of the Sovereign State of Florida.

Yours with great respect,

**CHAS. H. DUPONT**

**WM. A. FORWARD** Judges S. C. State of Fla.

**D. S. WALKER**

Hon. C. H. DuPont, Hon. Wm. A. Forward and Hon. D. S. Walker, Associate Justices, Supreme Court of Florida :

Gentlemen: . . . . With you I glory in the solemn act of our own State Independence ; and in behalf of the ladies of *my native* State of Florida, I assure you we go heart and hand into the cause, and will do all in our feeble power to assist in the maintenance of her proud Declaration of Independence. I cheerfully accept the portion of duty assigned to me, and will embellish the immortal Parchment as you desire and request.

I have the honor to be, Yours respectfully,  
E. M. EPPES.

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Two companies from Leon County were a part of the 1st Regiment, Florida Infantry, sent, soon after the outbreak of the War, to Pensacola where one of its earliest battles was fought, the fight of Santa Rosa Island. These were : Co. A, Captain, A. Perry Amaker; and Co. F, Captain, Richard Bradford.<sup>3</sup>

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OFFICIAL REPORT OF COL. J. PATTON **ANDERSON**,  
**COMMANDING :**

First on the list [of losses] stands the name of Capt. Richard Bradford, 1st Reg. Fla. Vol. He

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<sup>3</sup> Soldiers of **Florida**, F. L. Robertson, Compiler, Tallahassee (1903).

fell at the head of his company in the first engagement with the enemy . . . . Capt. Bradford was brave, just, generous and enlightened, and his native State, upon whose soil he fell and whose cause has been consecrated with his blood, will long delight to honor the memory of a son whose short career has shed lustre upon her arms, and whose fate she laments as a public calamity.

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About January 1, 1862, was organized the *Leon Volunteers*, Captain, D. B. Maxwell ; . . . . 2nd Sergeant, I. M. Auld ; 3rd, N. C. Butler; 4th, J. R. Hart ; Corporals : Robert Munroe, W. F. Floyd, Peter Plotz, G. W. Edmonson; Ensign, F. O. Maxwell.

"This company, built on the ruins of the old 'Cross Infantry', is now thoroughly organized."<sup>4</sup>

Another Leon County company was mustered in on February 20, with these officers: Captain, R. N. Gardner; 1st Lieutenant, Joel C. Blake ; 2nd Lieutenant, Junius S. Taylor; 3rd Lieutenant Walter R. Blake.

The next was organized about March 1, under the name *Trapia Guards*, with officers: Captain, W. D. Bloxham; 1st Lieutenant, C. A. Bryan ; 2nd Lieutenant, M. Lively ; 3rd Lieutenant, J. D. Galbraith.<sup>5</sup>

On the third of the same month the organization of an artillery company was completed with R. H. Gamble, Captain; F. L. Villepigue, 1st Lieutenant; C. R. Dyke, 2nd Lieutenant; E. W. Gamble, 3rd Lieutenant.<sup>6</sup>

On May 8th was organized a cavalry company officered : H. T. Blocker, Captain ; J. W. Oliver, 1st Lieutenant; S. E. Conyers, 2nd Lieutenant; R. C.

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<sup>4</sup> Sentinel, Tallahassee, Jan. 7, 1862.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.* March 4, 1862.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

Booth, Jr., 3rd Lieutenant; Hugh Archer, 1st Sergeant. Sergeants : J. H. DuPont, Robt. Daniels, Jno. L. Taylor, W. A. Bruton ; Corporals : G. W. Goodson, M. B. Hunter, C. W. DuPont, J. J. Higdon.<sup>7</sup>

And on the same day the *Tallahassee Guards* elected these officers : Captain, Geo. W. Scott; 1st Lieutenant, D. W. Gwynn ; 2nd Lieutenant, D. B. Maxwell; 3rd Lieutenant, Edwin A. Hart. 1st Sergeant, C. K. Miller. Sergeants: J. M. Galphin, W. G. Lester, J. A. Andrews, J. S. Ferrill. Corporals : Saml. Parkhill, S. B. Shehee, T. E. Randolph, A. C. Croom.

Organized later were: Company F, 1st Florida Cavalry, William M. Footman, Captain ; and Company E, 2nd Cavalry, Charles E. Dyke, Captain.<sup>8</sup>

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DISPATCH. *Richmond, June 3, 1862.*

C. E. Dyke, Tallahassee,

Second Florida Regiment sprang into battle 420 strong, and 202 are killed, wounded and missing. Its conduct was splendid-all that our proud State could desire.

S. R. MALLORY.

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Tallahassee, April 7, 1862. Resolved, That the Presbyterian Church in this city do now offer their Church Bell, weighing 955 lbs., to the Confederate Government when the materials of the same shall be needed for public defense.<sup>9</sup>

"A call having been made for Cordials, etc., for the hospitals, the ladies of Leon will please contribute and send the articles to the Sewing Room at the Capitol."

"Six of Lincoln's dogs of war were brought to this place last Saturday and lodged in prison. This makes

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<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.* May 13, 1862.

<sup>8</sup> *Soldiers of Florida.*

<sup>9</sup> Sentinel, April 15, 1862.

13 Yankees we have on hand. They are stout men, and mostly mechanics by trade."<sup>10</sup>

We are happy to see that the ladies have taken the matter in hand . . . . to establish a Wayside Hotel near the Depot for the benefit of travelling soldiers. It will be founded and supported by voluntary contributions.<sup>11</sup>

*(Notes on Reconstruction in Tallahassee will follow in a future issue.)*

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<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.* Nov. 17, 1862.