

Andrew Jackson from a
French Engraving of 1817

Volume 38, Number 7
July 2011

The July Meeting

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

3:00—5:00 p. m.

The Thomas E. McMillan Museum

The Program:

**Unauthorized American Raids in 1814 into Spanish Pensacola/
Santa Rosa County/West Florida by Colonel George Nixon and
Captain (Major) Uriah Blue**



Our Speaker

Dr. Brian R. Rucker is a professor of history at Pensacola State College and the University of West Florida.

A seventh-generation

native of Santa Rosa County, FL, he has authored over forty articles and books related to the Gulf Coast, specializing especially in frontier, antebellum, and Civil War history.

Later this year University Press of Florida will publish his latest book,

(Continued on page 2)

Unauthorized American Raids by Nixon and Blue:

Introduction

Both George Nixon (an officer in a regiment of Mississippi militia in the service of the United States), and Uriah Blue (an officer in Andrew Jackson's

command), were given the mission of leading their forces into Florida to find refugee Creek warriors who sought sanctuary in Florida after the Creek Indian War.

These raids into Florida take place in the context of the Creek Indian War and

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The August Meeting

Tuesday August 23, 2011

Guest Speaker

Hilmar Von Campe

The Program: Hitler's Youth

A Reminder

July 27th marks the
198th Anniversary of the
Battle of Burnt Corn Creek

Our Speaker (Continued)

(Continued from page 1)

Treasures of the Panhandle: A Journey Through West Florida, which will highlight the historical and ecological treasures of the 12 most western Florida counties.

ECHS members enjoyed Dr. Rucker as the tour guide for the field trip to the Arcadia Mill site in Milton (2010).

Arcadia Mill Complex

This was Florida's first and largest early-American, water-powered, industrial complex. During its 38-year operation (1817 to 1855), the various mills, shops, mule-drawn railroad and sixteen-mile log-flume played a pivotal role in the political and economic development of northwest Florida.

Today the archeological site offers a museum and a boardwalk trail that overlooks Pond Creek (http://escambia.ifas.ufl.edu/naturally_escarosa/05Arcadia_Mill_Complex.htm). €



Group shot of ECHS members on field trip to Arcadia Mill site. Dr. Brian Rucker is pictured second from the left on the back row. He is also shown in the upper right picture leading the group over the swaying bridge that crosses the stream which once powered the mill.



Unauthorized American Raids by Nixon and Blue *(Continued)*

(Continued from page 1)

the War of 1812 between the United States and Britain.

Author Chris Kimball in his article on Uriah's Blue's mission in Florida, "The Forgotten Campaign in the Wake of Jackson," suggests Blue's mission was part of a sustained attempt by the United States to acquire Florida as a territory (<http://www.southernhistory.us/majblue/hlm>).

Captain (Major) George Nixon's Forces in Florida

The raid led by George Nixon preceded that of Uriah Blue by several months. Dunbar Rowland in his Military History of Mississippi: 1812-1836 states of Colonel George Nixon's campaign into Florida :

"On July 16, 1814, Nixon's command marched from the Alabama River with a part of the Thirty-ninth regulars, under Col. Thomas H. Benton, to hunt out the refugee Creeks on the Escambia River. Later in 1814 they were stationed at Pierce's stockade, whence Captain Bachelder was sent out against Creek marauders December 16" (<<http://msgw.org/desoto/military/hist1812-36.html>>).

Pickett's History of Alabama summarizes the campaign, "During the Creek war, Colonel Nixon, at the head of a considerable force, scoured the swamps of the Perdido and other streams and frequently killed and captured Indians.

"After he had accomplished all he could, he marched to the head of the Perdido, where he



David Crockett joined the Second Regiment of Tennessee Volunteers on September 24, 1813. He served during the Creek War and took an active part in the fighting.

Made a scout because of his abilities as a hunter, trapper, and woodsman, Crockett is said to have fed the starving troops during the time of the Creek War with the game he hunted.

Crockett says in his autobiography of his time in Florida that he "went 'bar' hunting up the Scamby" (Wikipedia <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Davy_Crockett>).

divided his command, sending Major William Peacock, with the troops of the Thirty-ninth (U.S., Col. John Williams) to the boatyard on Lake Tensaw, while he marched the remainder of the command to Fort Claiborne.

"He was an excellent officer and served in the war until its conclusion" (<<http://msgw.org/desoto/military/hist1812-36.html>>).

Uriah Blue's Forces in Florida

Several sources suggest that this company of Tennessee volunteers mainly served as a rear guard for Andrew Jackson during December 1814-January 1815 after Jackson captured Pensacola in November of 1814 and then left for the campaign in New Orleans (*the CROCKETT-L Archives* <<http://listsearches.rootsweb.com/th/read/CROCKETT/2004-04/1082576347>>).

The Bedford County, Tennessee, War of 1812 Resources summarizes the campaign of the unit:

"Along with a battalion commanded by Major Chiles, this unit served in the Pensacola/Mobile region and was a part of Major Uriah Blue's expedition that roamed along the Escambia River in Florida in search of renegade Creeks toward the end of the war. Approximately 500 men served in this battalion, one of whom was David Crockett, a sergeant in Capt. John Conway's company.

"From Fayetteville, where the battalion was mustered in, they traveled to Fort Stephens (crossing the Tennessee River at Muscle Shoals); leaving their horses behind, the battalion marched to Pensacola

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Unauthorized American Raids by Nixon and Blue (*Continued*)

(Continued from page 3)

(via Fort Montgomery) where they participated in the battle of 7 November 1814; and returned to Fort Montgomery. At Fort Montgomery they were put under the command of Major Uriah Blue” (<www.tngenweb.org/bedford/war1812.htm>).

Further details of the locations and actions of Blue’s forces in Florida are noted by Chris Kimball, who narrates that the company crossed the Escambia River north of Pensacola where they found and killed two red-stick warriors, Davy Crockett “joining in the mutilation of the victims and the victory dance” (“The Forgotten Campaign in the Wake of Jackson” <<http://www.southernhistory.us/majblue.htm>>).

Kimble continues that the company reached Garcon Point on Pensacola Bay, attacked more Indians and then captured ten Indians and negroes who had taken refuge in John Innerarity’s trading house in Pensacola (“The Forgotten Campaign”).

The author also describes the forces going north to

the Blackwater River to another Indian village, killing more Indians and taking prisoners and packhorses with them, the action said to be near what is now Crestview.

From the same source, the detail that Blue’s forces then attacked a village on the Choctawhatchee near the present location of the town of Vernon. At this point, Major Blue was in trouble because he was out of supplies and was not successful in finding food for his troops.

He sent a large number of his forces back to Fort Jackson, then returned to Pensacola and captured Fort Barrancas but again was not successful in finding adequate supplies (“The Forgotten Campaign”).

He and his men then returned to Fort Montgomery in Alabama and the raid into Florida had ended. He claimed his expedition had killed 50 Indians and taken 200 prisoners, destroying several villages and camps (Chris Kimbell “The Forgotten Campaign”). €

Summary of Minutes from the June 2011 ECHS Meeting

Old Business

Pictures Printed on the Alabama Room Copier

After a short discussion , Jerry Simmons reported that a copy of each picture printed for other people is kept on software.

Donation to the Alabama Room for Purchase of Books

Jerry also reported that Marion (“Dinkie”) Odom Johnson sent a \$50.00 donation for additions to the Alabama Room library for dedication to her parents, Robert and Bobbie Hart Odom. He purchased Federal Roads Through Georgia and Alabama and Iron-horse in the Pinelands with the funds.

Progress on the Marker for the Escambia County High School in Atmore

Ranella Merritt reported that she had met with Cheryl Vickers of the Atmore Chamber of Commerce and Jonathan Terry of the Atmore Area YMCA and had received their approval and support for ECHS placing a marker at the site of the high school from 1909 - 1960.

The building on the site (dating from 1925), now houses the Chamber Offices and YMCA.

Cheryl Vickers also reported that she had shown the suggested wording for a marker and received approval from the Atmore Historical Society.

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Summary of Minutes from the June 2011 ECHS Meeting *(continued)*

(Continued from page 4)



Marker for the Site of the Cistern Ruins in Burnt-Corn-Creek Park

David Allen agreed to be responsible for the research and wording of a marker for the cistern. The City of Brewton had contacted ECHS for help on this project. The city will pay for and place the marker.

Post Office Mural

Yank Lovelace is doing research on the mural that used to be on the inside wall of the old office build-

ing in Brewton, which now houses the Escambia County School Administration.

Escambia County members gave President Tom McMillan approval for asking U. S. Representative Jo Bonner 's office to help with that research

Downing-Shofner School Historical Marker

Tom McMillan reported that the historical marker has been repaired and will be put up in two weeks.

Coordinating Historical Records

Tom also reported that he will continue to work on coordinating historical records in the Alabama Room and the County Courthouse, possibly coordinating them with the Alabama Department of Archives as well.

Rosenwald Schools

A national conference is planned for June 2012 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Rosenwald Schools. The conference will present programs to discuss the tools and strategies needed for preserving and documenting the remaining schools. This conference will develop strategies and programs that could be used for any preservation project.

Field Trips

ECHS field trips will be discontinued until the fall. €

The Missing Brewton Post Office Mural

"Logging," painted by artist John von Wicht, 1939, is the one mural which today is missing of the post office murals in Alabama (image courtesy of the USPS).

Originally from Germany, but in 1939 a resident of New York City, von Wicht chose as his theme the early history of the lumber industry in the area around Brewton. When it was installed it was met



with many favorable comments by the postmaster and the citizens in Brewton.

What happened to the mural is still an unanswered question. According to a Brewton local, the mural was painted over between 1965-1968.

However, according to Dallan Wordekemper, Federal Preservation Officer, USPS, the mural was removed by the GSA in 1965 (<<http://www.wpamurals.com/brewton.htm>>). €

The Rosenwald Schools

The Rosenwald School Building Program: Introduction

Called the "most influential philanthropic force that came to the aid of Negroes at that time," the Rosenwald School Building Program began in 1912 and eventually provided seed grants for the construction of more than 5,300 buildings in 15 states, including schools, shops, and teachers' houses which were built by and for African Americans.



Julius Rosenwald
Founder of the Rosenwald
Fund

The program began in Alabama as a collaboration between Julius Rosenwald, President and eventually chairman of Sears Roebuck and Company, and Brooker T. Washington of Tuskegee Institute (University).

Rosenwald believed that the lack of educational opportunities for

Afro-Americans was the most serious social problem of America at the time. He was able to do

something concrete about his concerns after he was introduced to Brooker T. Washington of Tuskegee Institute (now University).

With the encouragement of Washington, Rosenwald provided funds for the construction of six small schools in rural Alabama which opened in 1913 and 1914 and the Rosenwald School Building Program began (Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosenwald_School)

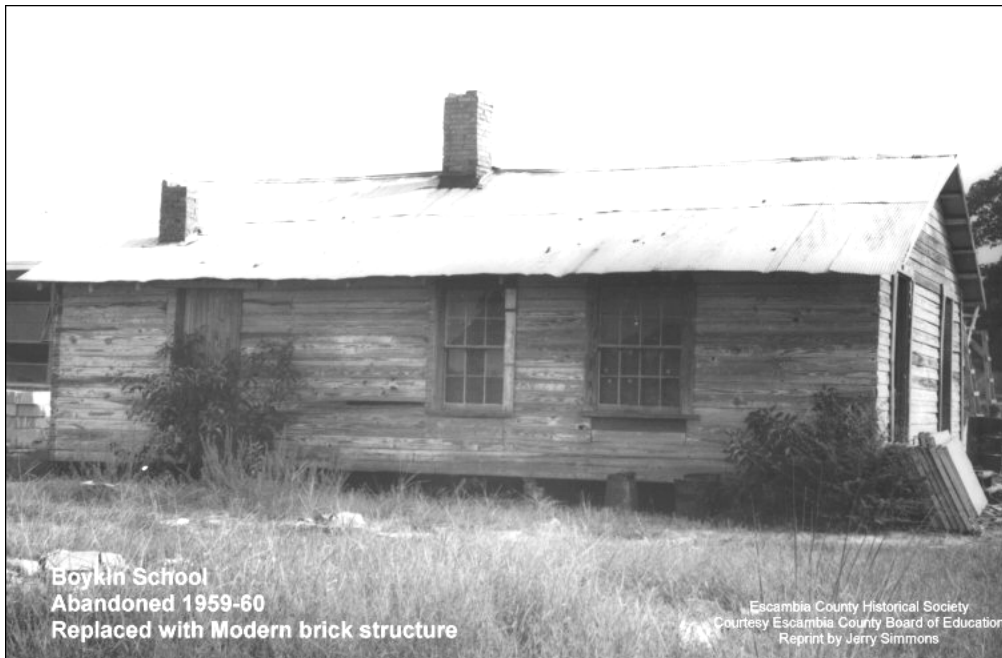
Alabama had 389 schools along with some shop buildings and teacher homes. To date, only about 2 dozen of these buildings or their former sites have been located.

Escambia County's Rosenwald Schools

Escambia County is credited by some sources as having had three Rosenwald Schools: Boykin, Mason, and Pollard-McCall. However, the Fisk University Site, which gives detailed information about the school as well as pictures, lists four: Boykin, Mason, Pollard-McCall, and County Training.

The Boykin School was a two-teacher type school built for a total cost of \$1050 with \$550 contributed

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Boykin School
Abandoned 1959-60
Replaced with Modern brick structure

Escambia County Historical Society
Courtesy Escambia County Board of Education
Reprint by Jerry Simmons

Picture of School at
Boykin, abandoned
in 1959-1960.

The Rosenwald Schools

by Afro-Americans, \$200 by the public, and \$300 by the Rosenwald funds.

There is no picture listed of the Boykin School at the Fisk University site, which has a detailed list and pictures of the schools.

Pictured on the bottom of the previous page is a school building which has the label Boykin School, Abandoned 1959-1960, Replaced

with Modern brick structure.” Whether this is picture of the Boykin School built as part of the Rosenwald project is open to question.

The other schools which are identified as Rosenwald Schools built in Escambia County are depicted below with details of dates and costs. All of the material for these three schools are from the Fisk University site for Rosenwald Schools. *



The Pollard School

A three-teacher type, the school was built for \$3400 with the cost shared by the public \$600, the Rosenwald Funds \$1000, and Afro-American donations of \$1800. The budget year was 1920-21.



The Mason School

A two teacher type, this school cost \$2750 with the cost shared, Public \$900, Rosenwald \$800, and Afro-Americans \$1, 050. The budget year is 1920-21.



County Training School

A six-teacher type school, the cost was \$22675 with the cost shared: the Public \$3,500, Rosenwald \$1500, Whites \$15, 050, Afro-Americans \$2,625, for the budget year 1925-26. This appears to be the old North Brewton School.

Snapshots of the June 2011 ECHS Meeting



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The ECHS *Journal* Section

Century's Own Rosie Riveters



Norman Rockwell's Rosie the Riveter

The 52-by-40-inch oil on canvas depicts "Rosie" on lunch break, her riveting gun on her lap as she uses a dog-eared copy of *Mein Kampf* as a foot stool.

Rockwell's Rosie is posed as an homage to Michelangelo's frescoed depiction of the prophet Isaiah from the Sistine Chapel ceiling.

Note that Rockwell put "Rosie" on the lunchbox.

By Jerry Simmons

Originally a column for the Alger Sullivan Historical Society for July 7, 2011, this article is reprinted with permission

You've heard of "Rosie the Riveter," an iconic phrase from World War II. The home-front equivalent of G.I. Joe, she represented any woman defense worker. Still for many women, she's an example of a strong, competent female. When I heard that term recently, I had the picture in my mind of the famous woman in the bandana rolling up the sleeve on her raised bent arm.

Norman Rockwell had a legendary picture on the cover of the *Saturday Evening Post* on May 29, 1943--a Memorial Day issue. That may be the most famous image associated with Rosie, but a man named J. Howard Miller was the one who created her. However, Miller's image of Rosie is brawny and larger-than-life, unlike the sweet, pretty woman painted by Rockwell.

In 1942 the federal government wanted people

to get to work producing massive amounts of war material and Miller's poster showed a female worker and the phrase "We can do it!" It seems the connection between the poster and a "Rosie" wasn't made until early in 1943, when a song was penned containing these lyrics:

"All the day long, whether rain or shine,
She's a part of the assembly line.

She's making history, working for victory,
Rosie the Riveter.

Keeps a sharp lookout for sabotage, sitting up
there on the fuselage.

That little girl will do more than a male will do."

So you have this song appearing in early 1943; then a few months later in May, you get the Rockwell cover. According to the website [Wikipedia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosie_the_Riveter), Rockwell may have heard the song, since he wrote the name "Rosie" on the lunch box in his picture.

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The ECHS *Journal* Section

Century's Own Rosie Riveters *(continued)*

(Continued from page 10)

This was a big boost to the Rosie story, because when a Rockwell drawing was going to be on the Post cover, the magazine published extra issues, since he was the most popular illustrator in the country.

Two weeks after the picture appeared on newsstands, the press picked up the story of a woman named Rose Hickey.

She and her partner drove a record number of rivets into the wing of a TBM Avenger airplane at a Tarrytown, New York plant.

Other women named Rose gained media attention before the end of the war. Rose Monroe, a riveter in Michigan, made a film about selling war bonds and then a commercial movie called Rosie the Riveter. Thus began the War Advertising Council's Women in War Jobs campaign and the most successful advertising recruitment campaign in American history.

Not all female workers during the war and since are similar to the fictional Rosie, and some of you may have known contradictions to the "Rosie" stereotype. Attached to this column is a picture of some real-life, local "Rosies," who did their part for the effort during World War II, according to former Century resident Patsy Lawson Cobb. She contributed the picture of some ladies standing in front of the loading dock at the Alger-Sullivan Lumber Company (ASLC) planer-mill during the war.

For those who need a reminder, the little office



Pictured left to right are Rosie Howell, Lillian Chavers, unknown in the yellow pants, unknown, and Loraiane Chavers Lawson in blue overalls.

of the ASLC planer mill foreman is at the windows in the right background, and the drying/shipping shed is at the extreme right of the photo.

There were many female workers in the planer mill from World War II on, doing tasks in which heavy lifting was not necessarily required. From my limited knowledge of the workload, these ladies probably fed boards into planing

machines, and stacked lumber, a few boards at a time. They also pushed carts with lumber from one station to the next and my guess is they rarely handled any boards over 2 X 10s.

There are few similarities between the women in the picture and the mythical depiction of Rosie the Riveter. You might notice she is oversized, with working-class brawn. However, our local working girls are also wearing overalls, men's clothes, like Rosie. Women didn't wear pants in public much before World War II; but during the war, it became common to see women on the way to and from work in overalls or trousers.

She's wearing regular shoes, like our ladies. Only after July 1943 were safety shoes with metal toes produced for women. There had been no need to manufacture these shoes in women's sizes before because women didn't customarily work in dangerous jobs where such shoes were needed. Most women wore their own regular shoes.

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The ECHS *Journal* Section

Century's Own Rosie Riveters *(continued)*

(Continued from page 11)

Rosie is powerful, competent, and womanly, and yet she's feminine, like the ladies here. She's wearing rouge and lipstick as they are. Makeup was essential to women's mental health, according to some articles of the time as well as today.

In recent years, scholars have shown interest in more than the myth. The big changes that brought them into war work began in 1942. Men were going to war and industries were switching to war production. Industries decided they were willing to hire women; after all, they wouldn't get drafted. At first, there was lots of reluctance on the parts of managers, husbands, male workers, and many women, too.

Women workers came from three main groups: first, women already working changed to the higher-paying, patriotic, defense jobs. So many women left laundries in 1942 that six hundred closed. The second group included women who had worked, but lost their jobs during the Depression or when their factories changed from civilian to war work. And the third group, which attracted the most attention, was first-time workers. About six million women entered the workforce for the first time. Many of these were married, white, middle-class women who had to be urged to go to work outside the home, a new idea for them.

However, there was the emphasis that many kinds of employment, not just defense and factory work, were "war jobs." These included women grocery clerks, elevator operators, telephone operators, farmers, ticket agents, and many others. The gov-



J. Howard Miller's Poster of Rosie

ernment said that if women didn't do them, "Our civilian life would break down." These were "necessary civilian jobs" and women were encouraged to take them.

There is still much debate on the long-term effects of women's war work on the position of women after the war. Did women return to their homes and families and become 1950s TV mothers like June Cleaver on "Leave it to Beaver"? No. The number of working women never again fell to pre-war levels. The idea that middle-class, married women could work and run a home was significant. Of course, poorer women had al-

ways done so. This was the beginning of women feeling that they could do something more.

"You, too, can do something more." Rosie's story continues and you can contribute to it. If you know a "Rosie the Riveter," a female war worker, you can interview her for the Library of Congress. Through the Veterans History Project in the American Folklife Center, the Library is gathering oral histories and other personal narratives and documents of those involved in America's wars, both in the military and on the home front.

Google "Veterans History Project" to listen to their stories, and to learn how to collect their oral histories. You will help ensure that we never forget the real Rosies who contributed to our victory in the Second World War. *

(Compiled from Internet sources)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

THE YANKEE CAVALRY RAID INTO WEST FLORIDA AND SOUTH

By **Andrew J. McCreary**

This article is reprinted from an earlier edition of ECHOES.

Major General Frederick Steel (U.S. Army, Commanding U. S. Forces operating from Pensacola Bay, Florida, started making plans early in 1865 to invade west Florida and south Alabama.

At the time, the Confederate Army had a small force at Milton along with the home guard, a sizeable force at Camp Pollard, Alabama, and cavalry units of considerable size in the area of Gonzalez, 7-8 miles north of Pensacola. The Confederate Army also had firm control of the west side of the Escambia River from the Alabama state line to Camp Gonzalez.

The Yankees had control of Fort Barrancas, Santa Rosa Island, Pensacola, Pensacola Bay and Escambia Bay. However, there were no Yankee troops in Santa Rosa County until Lt. Col. Andrew B. Spurling (Second Maine Cavalry, U. S. Army), landed his cavalry units from the steamer Matamoras on Feb. 22. Fifty mounted and 250 unmounted cavalrymen landed on Blackwater Bay, six miles below Milton at Pierce's Mill at ten o'clock at night and moved north at once to surprise the Confederate camp, just north of Milton.

The attack was made at daylight the next morning without even alerting the guard that was on duty. One Rebel was killed and 20 captured along with 29 horses and 5 mules; 50 stands of arms with full accoutrement along with all the camp equipment and foodstuff were destroyed. It was not known how many Confederate soldiers escaped into the swamp but it must have been at least 20 according to the number of rifles that were in the camp.

This troop landing and raid was taken to see what forces and how many Confederate soldiers were stationed in the Milton area and to pick a landing place to be used later on for a raid into south Alabama.

On March 19, Spurling, acting on orders from Steele, began moving his cavalry units from Fort Barrancas to Creigler's Mill (on the east side of Blackwater Bay, just north of the mouth of the Yellow River). Moving the troops by boat (again using the steamer Metamoras) took three days. The last of Spurling's troops and horses were unloaded by 6:30 a. m. on March 21.

This raid, known as "The Special Cavalry Expedition," was composed of the Second Illinois Cavalry, 429 enlisted men and 14 officers; the Second Maine Cavalry, 212 enlisted men and 10 officers; and the first Florida Cavalry, 177 enlisted men and 5 officers. This made a total of 847 cavalrymen, all on good horses and all well trained soldiers.

(The author gives detailed information about a map of the route the soldiers took in the raid into south Alabama. For this information see note # 1.)

The first unit landed was the First Florida Cavalry. Two companies, under command of Capt. E. D. Johnson, were sent to Milton on the 19th to see if the Confederates had reoccupied any of the area there, and to confuse the Rebels as to when and where the Yankees were going to strike next.

A large Yankee force was going to move from Pensacola toward Camp Pollard shortly.

Only a few Rebel pickets were found in Milton. These pickets were driven toward Camp Pollard where they disappeared into the swamps. Johnson's companies stayed only two days near Pollard and then joined the main column on the march into south Alabama.

As soon as the last unit was unloaded at Creigler's Mill, the expedition started moving north, bypassing Milton to the west and crossing the Blackwater River several miles upstream, making camp twenty-five miles above Milton at 6:00 p. m. Travel was slow as it had been raining for several days and the

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The ECHS *Journal* Section

THE YANKEE CAVALRY RAID INTO WEST FLORIDA AND SOUTH ALABAMA *(continued)*

(Continued from page 13)

streams were swollen. The first day's march was through sandy country and, notwithstanding the rainy weather, the roads were in good condition, but narrow.

The advance guard under Robinson joined the expedition that night. Robinson did not leave any troops at Milton because he felt the Rebels did not have enough troops available to cause any trouble in that area.

Not meeting any armed resistance, Spurling moved on through Santa Rosa County into Alabama on the west [east?] side of the Conecuh River to his planned crossing of this river at Montezuma Landing, just below what is now River Falls.

The main body of the cavalry traveled on roads which followed trails made by Creek Indians and used by Indians and Indian agents in the late 1700's and early 1800's to bring furs and other products from the Indian tribes of south and central Alabama to Pensacola to the Payton trading company (editor's note –actually Panton, Leslie & Company), for Alexander Mc-Gillivray, leader of the Creek (Muscogee) Indians. These products were brought into Pensacola from as far north as Tookabatcha, north of present day Montgomery.

Alabama. Ponies raised in the Creek Indian Nation were used as pack animals. They were unusually small animals but were very strong and could carry a load of one hundred and fifty pounds with ease on the very narrow trails. There were as many as one hundred and fifty pack ponies in some pack trains moving through the wild and unsettled area of south Alabama and west Florida.

Other than furs, honey, bear oil, beeswax, snake root, hickory nut oil, pine tar and medical plants were transported by pack animal to Pensacola over these trails. Some furs and products were brought down the Escambia River in canoes to Pensacola.

As the Yankees moved north, they found the road was only wide enough for an ox cart to travel on. Side roads were nothing more than Indian trails. In 1865, this road north from Pensacola and Milton, which had once been a major route for Indians to bring goods to Pensacola, was not now a well used road. Parts were so narrow that two cavalymen could not ride abreast; they had to ride Indian fashion, one behind the other (as Indian ponies had moved seventy-five and a hundred years before), or knees and shins would be injured by trees and brush along the side of the road.

The raiders did not meet any armed resistance after leaving Milton. The only thing that hampered their movement was rain. It rained every day they were on the raid. They passed very few houses until they crossed the Alabama state line. Shortly after, they entered Lewis's Station, a cross-road community with only a few houses, where they looted the houses, destroyed farm equipment, robbed potato banks, stole sugar cane syrup and replenished their saddle bags with corn for their horses, which they had not had a chance to do since leaving Fort Barrancas.

After leaving Lewis's Station, the Yankees crossed Menden-Hall Creek and came to a small hill known as "Screamers Ridge," so named because Mary Lewis McGowin Floyd, who owned and ran a store there, also made a corn mash whiskey which caused anyone who indulged in a few drinks to "scream with delight."

She sold farm equipment, household supplies and food staples necessary for daily needs to travelers, immigrants and local inhabitants. The homemade whiskey was made under her supervision from sour corn mash that was sweetened with sugar cane syrup and then distilled.

Mrs. Floyd had learned how to ferment and distill whiskey while living in South Carolina from the Irish that brought their knowledge of whiskey mak-

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The ECHS *Journal* Section

THE YANKEE CAVALRY RAID INTO WEST FLORIDA AND SOUTH ALABAMA *(continued)*

(Continued from page 14)

ing from the Old Country. They used rye or wheat where she used corn. There was not a Federal, state or local tax on whiskey until during the Civil War when the federal government put a tax on it. It was not illegal to make and sell alcohol products.

Mrs. Floyd with her second husband, Thomas, two Floyd daughters and two sons by her first husband, James McGowin, moved into the Mason Community in the early 1830's. For moving, they put most of their belongings in a large barrel on which were placed [trunnions], or shafts, to which an ox was hitched and as the ox pulled it, it would roll over and over and so it rolled all the way from the banks of the Flint River in Decatur County, Georgia to the banks of the Conecuh River in Conecuh County, Alabama.

The barrel was water tight to keep the contents dry while crossing streams. It must have been made out of good wood, as it was used to ferment the corn mash after the family arrived in Conecuh County. Some of their cooking and farming equipment was packed in a cart drawn by an ox. Members of the family took turns riding in the cart while other members walked. At night the family slept under the stars, preparing meals after making camp.

Screamers Ridge was on the old Three Notch Road, a roadway surveyed by the Federal Government in the early 1800s to give travelers a roadway into West Florida and Baldwin and Mobile Counties in Alabama, counties occupied by the British at that time. This road was used by some of General Andrew Jackson's troops on their way to Pensacola in 1814, when he ran the British out of Fort Barrancas before the American troops proceeded to New Orleans where they fought and whipped the English again.

The Three Notch Road was much wider than the roads in Florida and made movement of the cavalry much easier for the Yankees. After getting on this road, Spurling headed northeast toward Montezuma

Landing, his planned place for crossing the Conecuh River.

On his right he passed the M. M. Blackshare place where Mr. Blackshare's son, Abraham Blackshare, was buried. He was born June 15th 1843 and died in the service of the C.S.A. Army Nov. 25th. 1862.

As the Yankee Cavalry neared Grab Creek, they passed on their right the grave of Peter Mason McGowin in the Foshee Cemetery. He was born Oct. 24, 1833, and died of typhoid fever Dec. 19, 1863, in a Confederate Army camp near Mobile. His widow, Nancy Floyd McGowin, went to the camp where he died and brought his body back and buried him in the family cemetery, which later became known as the Foshee Cemetery. No doubt his grandmother, Mary Lewis McGowin Floyd, is also buried in this cemetery.

All the horses and mules that the Yankees found along the way were confiscated and taken with them. The ones not used for riding were used as pack animals to take foodstuff for both man and animal and the loot picked up along the way.

The Yankees passed through Dixie on March 22 and shortly thereafter passed on their left the home of Wiley Dixon and his family cemetery where his son, William H. Dixon, is buried. He was born April 8, 1829, and died Jan. 11, 1864, while in the service of the Confederate Army in the same camp near Mobile that Peter McGowin had died three weeks earlier.

His mother, Elsie May Dixon, went with Nancy McGowin in a wagon to the army camp where the two men had died and brought their bodies back home for burial. It took them almost two weeks to make the trip. They took their own food with them, camping out at night and sleeping in the wagon on the way to Mobile and under the wagon on the way back, as the coffins were in the wagon .

*** This story to be continued . . .**

ECHOES
THE NEWSLETTER FOR
THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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