



A McDonald's from 1955
Courtesy of Ed Williams

Volume 38, Number 8
August 2011

The August Meeting

Tuesday, August 23, 2011

3:00—5:00 p. m.

The Thomas E. McMillan Museum

Guest Speaker: Hilmar Von Campe

The Program: Mr. Von Campe's Experiences in the Hitler Youth Corp and as an American Citizen

Our Speaker



Born in Germany in 1925, Hilmar von Campe was in the Hitler Youth and is a WW II veteran.

He has a degree in economics from the University of Hamburg and worked for many years in Latin

America (Argentina, Brasil, Peru and Mexico).

While working in Lima, Peru, he met and married Dina Gamio. He has a son, Stefan, and a daughter, Sabrine.

He has owned his own businesses and been the chairman of the sub committee on foreign investments of The American Chamber of Commerce.

In 1990 he came to the United States, founded a new business here, and in 2004 became an American citizen. He has written six books and is the founder of the National Institute for Truth and Freedom.

(Continued on page 2)

Contents

Hitler Youth	2
News & Announcements	2
Summary of Minutes	3
Snapshots	4
... A One and A Two ...	5
Our Business Members	6
The Yankee Calvary Raid into West Florida and South Alabama	8

September Meeting

Tuesday, September 27, 2011

Our Guest Speaker will be Curtis Thomasson, Genealogist, who writes a column for the Andalusia Star News.

The Monroe County Heritage Museum will sponsor an Old Federal Road History Tour and Genealogy Session at the Bethany Baptist Church in Burnt Corn on Saturday, September 17th from 9 a.m.--2:30 p.m. It is free to attend. Advance registration is required. Breakfast and lunch provided. For more information, go to www.tokillamockingbird.com or phone 251-575-7433

The Hitler Youth



**"Every Girl Belongs to Us"
League of German Maidens
Poster**

*Photograph and comment from
[Ask.com](http://ask.com) <<http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/hitleryouth.htm>>*

(Continued from page 1)

The Encyclopedia Britannica Academic Edition gives this description of the Hitler Youth:

“Organization set up by Adolf Hitler in 1933 for educating and training male youths aged 13 – 18 in Nazi principles.

“Under the leadership of Baldur von Schirach (1907 – 1974), by 1935 it included almost 60% of all German boys, and by 1936

it became a state agency that all young "Aryan" Germans were expected to join.

“The youths lived a Spartan life of dedication, fellowship, and Nazi conformity, with little parental guidance.

“A parallel organization, the League of German Girls, trained girls for domestic duties and motherhood”(http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/268111/Hitler-Youth).



A Hitler Youth poses for a photograph in the Rhine-land city of Bruehl, 1934.

*Photograph and heading from
[Holocaust Encyclopedia](http://www.ushmm.org/lcmedia/viewer/wlc/photo.php?)
<<http://www.ushmm.org/lcmedia/viewer/wlc/photo.php?>*

News and Announcements



Recently a new approach to publicizing the historical society and the Alabama Room was unveiled in the form of today's social media, Facebook. A page entitled "Escambia County (Alabama) History" was created by Jerry Simmons, with additional administrators David O. Allen and Marion "Dinkey" Johnson, both members of the society.

Within days, maybe hours, a tremendous influx of people joined the page and began posting facts (even facts that were not necessarily factual), queries, and just general chats about everything Escambia County! The response was awesome! One former member, Lygia Cutts Corley, posted many of her collections of information that she'd compiled in the late 1990s and could have been found in various places on the Internet. Now, they can be placed in the Alabama Room files for more people to find in one consolidated place.

Within just a few days, the page has gotten attention from many people across the nation who were not aware of the museum, much less the wealth of data in place already in the Alabama Room. Most of these folks are going to donate their own family histories as well.



Grand Opening at the Alabama Department of Archives and History

ADAH is announcing the opening of the exhibit "The First Alabamians and The Land of Alabama" on August 27, 2011, 9:00-4:00.

Activities include Guest Speakers, Meet the Museum Experts, Family Activities, Hands-on Experiences. All Activities are FREE!

Summary of the Minutes of the July 2011 Meeting

General Discussion

The Scholarship Fund

A question was raised as to the origin of the scholarship fund. It was noted that the funds come strictly from donations. [Ed. Note: the fund was begun by a generous donation of \$500 and augmented by \$5 for each sale of the "Flomaton Centennial Scrapbook" from the Town of Flomaton and the Escambia County Bank. Since then, other members' generosity has kept the fund solvent.]

Possible Rummage Sale this Fall

Susan Crawford reported that Becky Breckinridge holds a rummage sale twice a year at the Hour Glass and suggested that ECHS consider participating this fall. ECHS does have items stored at the Hour Glass from a previous rummage sale.

No decision was made concerning participation in the fall rummage sale.

Old Business

Cistern Ruins in Burnt Corn Creek Park

David Allen reported that he has given to the city information on the history of the cistern ruins in Burnt Corn Creek Park, information which could be used on a marker. The city management will have the historic marker made.

Pictures for the Book on Escambia County, AL

President Tom McMillan stated he is still trying to collect pictures for the book on Escambia County to be published by Arcadia Publishing. He stressed the need for "people" pictures and asked the membership for any assistance they may be able to give.

The Downing-Shofner School Historical Marker

The historical marker has been corrected, painted, and attached to a new post. It will be installed shortly.

The Post Office Mural

Representative Jo Bonner's office responded to President McMillan's letter concerning the old post office mural stating that the National Archives has been contacted with for information.

New Business

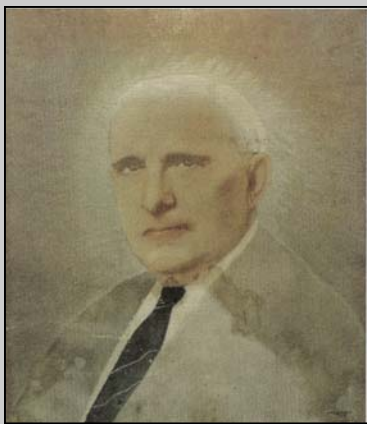
Mobile Genealogical Society

The society's fall seminar will be held October 8, 2011 at Springhill Baptist Church. Guest speaker for the seminar is nationally known genealogist John Philip Colleta.

The Program

Guest speaker Dr. Brian Rucker discussed unauthorized raids by American forces into Spanish West Florida in 1814.

Do You Know Who This Gentleman Is?



This portrait was found on the third floor of the American Legion Hall in Atmore. The picture appeared in the July issue of the Atmore magazine. The portrait is now at the Atmore News office. Sherry Digmon, editor of the Atmore maga-

zine says, "If you have any idea who he is, we'd love to know."



Commemoration of Battle of Fort Mims and Battle of Burnt-Corn-Creek Reenactment

These events to be held on August 27-28, 2011. The Battle of Burnt Corn Creek is in its 198th anniversary.

Snapshots of the July 2033 ECHS Meeting



“...A One and A Two and A Three...”

By Virginia Lee Clark

Until I heard our speaker, Sue Bass Wilson, in April discuss the Alabama State Song controversy, I didn't know states had official songs. I knew they had flowers, mottos and birds, but not songs. This piqued my curiosity to find out more and in doing so learned many intriguing facts. More importantly, I have the solution to the objection Julia Tutwiler's ghost has with changing Alabama's musical identity.

First, the facts.

You may have wondered why the characters on the TV shows “Jersey Shore,” “Jerseylicious” and “The Real Housewives of New Jersey” never hum the New Jersey State Song.

They don't have one.

The other 49 states and five territories have songs, but not the Garden State. Of course, I had to e-mail Governor Christie right away to let him know about this dubious distinction. I know he'll want to fix this and if anyone can do it, he can.

Even the horses at Churchill Downs would agree that “My Old Kentucky Home” comes as no surprise. “The Tennessee Waltz” and “Georgia On My Mind” are givens but I did find out, in the case of the latter, that Hoagy Carmichael wrote the music. South Carolina played copycat when in 1984 they chose “South Carolina On My Mind” even though they also have had “Carolina” since 1911. The stirring football fight song “On Wisconsin” is the Badger State's selection.

The Sooners can thank Rodgers and Hammerstein for their State Song “Oklahoma” from the 1943 hit musical by the same name.

New Hampshire has the most official songs with two State Songs, “Old New Hampshire” and “Live Free or Die” and eight honorary ones. One chosen in 1977 paid tribute to the Old Man of the Mountain, the famous granite profile of the face of a man that protruded from Cannon Mountain in the White Mountain range for centuries. The honoree, unfortunately, crumbled and fell off in 2003.

Some old favorites have been chosen by various states including “Yankee Doodle Dandy” by Connecticut, Florida's “Old Folks at Home” and “You Are My Sunshine” by Louisiana as one of that state's two official songs. Kansas picked “Home on the Range” and in 2007, the late John Denver's “Rocky Mountain High” was voted in as a State Song in Colorado joining the 1915 selection of “Where the Columbines Grow.” Indiana's “On the Banks of the Wabash” is also a familiar tune.

Growing up with the name Virginia, I always envied the romantic songs about other girls. Among them are “For It Was Mary,” “Rosalie, My Darling,” “Sweet Sue,” “Mimi,” “Goodnight Irene,” “Margie,” “Maria” and “Nancy With the Laughing Face.” Mine was “Carry Me Back to Ole Virginny.” Now that really makes a girl feel special.

Well, guess what the State Song of Old Dominion is? That's right. However, some others feel about it the way I do. Since 1998 the Virginia State Assembly has considered it the State Song Emeritus due to be replaced. There have been many submissions but as yet nothing has been selected. Some sources report the search has been suspended indefinitely.

Now, the obvious solution.

Alabama and Virginia don't replace – add on. So many states now have multiple State Songs or call the new ones by other names including State Anthem, State Ballad, State Honorary Song, State Ode, State March, State Folk Song, State Patriotic Song, State Rock Song, Unofficial State Song, State Hymn and even State Environmental Song, courtesy of Louisiana.

My home state's song is “I Love New York” which I'm sure I have never heard. I'd like to add “New York, New York,” made famous by both Frank Sinatra and Liza Minnelli. It could be called “The Impossible to Sit Still and Not Want to Dance State Song.”

Julia Tutwiler, rest in peace.

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The ECHS *Journal* Section

The Yankee Calvary Raid into West Florida and South Alabama

By Andrew J.
McCreary

The following is a continuation of an article from the July issue of ECHOES. It is a fascinating account of people and places as well as a detailed account of the destruction which accompanied the raid.

After passing the Dixon place, the raiders took a sharp turn in the road and within a short time arrived at the homestead of Isaac Hart on their left. They took what corn he had in his barn.

He had a short notice that the Yankees were coming so he took most of the corn deep in the swamps and hid it. He took his livestock, goats, sheep, work animals and his wagons as far off the road as possible. The raiders emptied his potato banks, took all his syrup and that is all he lost except the bucket he used to draw water from his well, which they took.

Mr. Hart had been living in Florida on the Yellow River when the Florida Creek Indian War of 1837 broke out. He joined the Army and served as a private in the West Florida Volunteers until the war scare blew over. He later moved into south Alabama and settled on the bounty land he received for serving in the army during this war.

Mr. Hart had four sons serving in the Confederate Army at this time. One of his sons, Allen Thomas, lived a short distance up the road from his father on

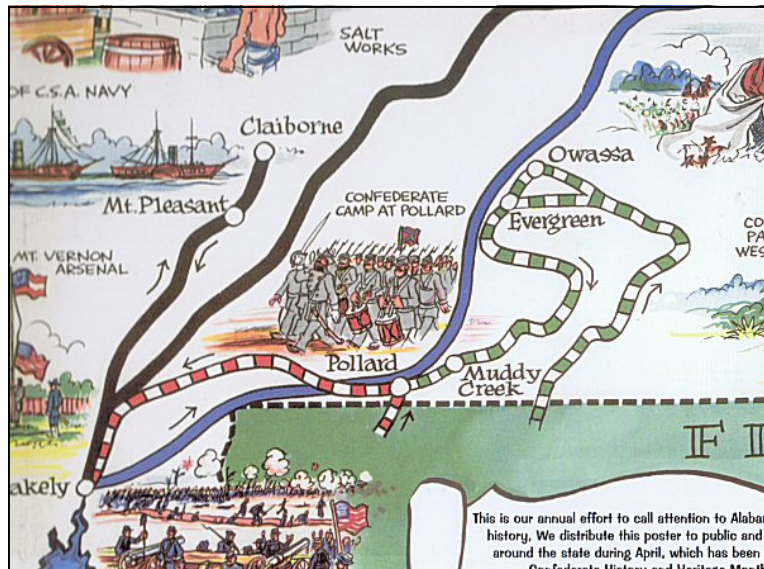


Diagram of Spurling's Raid

This excerpt is taken from a map entitled "Federal Raids into Alabama 1861-1865. A copy of the map is on display in the Alabama Room.

the right side of the road. He was in the Confederate Army and his wife, on hearing the Yankees were coming, took what livestock she could gather and what cured meat she could carry and hid everything in the woods back of her house. As the raiders were well supplied with corn and potatoes, she only lost some chickens and pigs that she could not hide and a wagon they burned.

Another son, Reuben Sylvester, was in the Rebel Army and was

captured Aug. 3, 1864 by the Yankees between Marietta and Atlanta, Georgia, during the Battle of Atlanta. He was wounded in Marietta a short time before his capture. An almost spent Yankee bullet hit him in his forehead, broke the skin for three inches and glanced off his skull. He said later that his head was too hard for a Yankee bullet to penetrate.

He was sent to Camp Chase, Ohio, arriving there Aug. 13. He was paroled from Camp Chase March 18, 1865, and was shipped to Point Lookout, Maryland, arriving there March 27 and was released shortly after the war ended April 9. It took him over a month to get home as he had to walk all the way home. He said people along the way were real nice, giving him food and letting him sleep most of the time in their barns. He was not alone; hundreds of others were going home the same way.

Although it was raining and had been for several

(Continued on page 8)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

The Yankee Calvary Raid into West Florida and South Alabama *(continued)*

(Continued from page 7)

days, high water did not hinder the Yankees on their march as there is not a creek of any size on the east side of the Conecuh River between where they entered the Three Notch Road and the town of Andalusia, so they did not have to cross any large swollen streams.

The people of south Alabama had been expecting the Yankee raiders for some time and a home guard had been formed and stationed at McCauley's Bridge, now McGowin Bridge, to protect it and to fight the Yankees. The guard was commanded by Capt. Milton Amos of Brooklyn, who lived in Belleville before moving to Brooklyn and in Milton, Fla. before moving to Alabama. Milton, Fla. was named for him; before that it was known as "Scratch Ankle." Trenches about twenty yards long were dug on the west side of the river on each side of the road leading to the bridge.

Word spread fast that the raiders were in south Alabama after they crossed the state line. Anybody that had a horse and could ride was going in front of the raiders telling everybody "The Yankees are coming." Some of the messengers were overtaken by the Yankees and made prisoners.

Two members of the home guard from McCauley Bridge were sent toward Andalusia by Capt. Amos to tell the people there and people living along the way that the Yankees were coming, but they were on slow horses and were overtaken by the much faster cavalry horses. They were captured and added to the growing list of prisoners the Yankees had taken.

When word was received at McCauley Bridge of the number of Yankees in the raiding party, it was



Calvary Depiction from Site for First and Second Maine Calvary
Spurling was a commander with the Second Maine Calvary.

[<http://www.mainecev.org/history.htm>](http://www.mainecev.org/history.htm)

decided to burn the bridge and not try to defend it and this was done. While it was still burning, a Yankee patrol was seen on the east side of the river. The deciding factor in burning the bridge was the small size and inexperience of the members of the guard and the need for good rifles. No attempt was made by the raiders to cross the river and it was never in the plans of Col.

Spurling to cross the river anywhere except at Montezuma Landing.

The trenches dug on the west side of the river can still be seen today. They are about four feet deep. The roadway can still be seen as it is also about four feet below the surrounding area. When the river is low, some of the bottom parts of the burned piling can also be seen. A bridge across the Sepulga River about a mile and a half above where it forks with the Conecuh River was also burned on the same day the McCauley Bridge was burned. No attempt was made to defend it. It was known as the Kenard Kendall Bridge. It was not rebuilt after the war.

This bridge was on an old Indian trail that wound its way from Fort Gaines, Georgia crossing the Conecuh River at a place known as the forks. Before the Kenard Kendall Bridge was built, travelers forded the river near where it was built.

After leaving the Sepulga River, the trail wound its way through the piney woods to Fort Crawford on Murder Creek, not having to cross a stream of any size until Murder Creek was reached. This route was used by some of the early immigrants as they moved into south Alabama and west Florida.

The McCauley Bridge was rebuilt several years

(Continued on page 9)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

The Yankee Calvary Raid into West Florida and South Alabama *(continued)*

(Continued from page 8)

after the war but not at the same site. It was built about two hundred yards upstream from where the burned bridge stood. A ferry was used until the new bridge was completed. The present bridge over the river on U.S. 29 is about half way between where the two other bridges stood.

While the home guard was staying at the McCauley Bridge, they had to furnish their own rations. If they needed something they didn't have, they would call upon the Samuel McGowin family for it. He lived about one half mile below the bridge. The men in the home guard had gotten syrup several times; when Capt. Amos went to get some more, he received several cans but when he got back to camp and opened them, they were filled with water. Capt. Amos said, "Those girls did that; they were mad with me because I didn't send some of these young Bucks to get the supplies." Mr. McGowin had five daughters.

After leaving the Harts, Col. Spurling moved his cavalry northeast toward Andalusia, passing the Conecuh River Baptist Church on his left. It is still standing today. Isaac Hart and his wife, Mary, are buried in the church cemetery. The cavalry stopped and made camp about sundown on the 22nd, only six miles from Andalusia near the Conecuh River, but word did not reach Andalusia until almost midnight that the Yankees were so close.

The small town was entered at daylight the next morning by the Yankees. It was the first crossroad of any size the raiders had seen since leaving Fort Barrancas. Most of them had not seen Milton as it was bypassed. The troops and horses had been living off the land since leaving Blackwater Bay and the



Unidentified Confederate Calvary Officer

From Digital Archives of ADAH at

<<http://digital.archives.alabama.>>

pickings had been rather lean at times, and the expedition also had the additional burden of the prisoners, blacks, horses and mules that had been picked up on the way.

There were only a few stores and warehouses in Andalusia, but they were well stocked, as the owners had not had time to move, hide or destroy the supplies. This was a welcome relief to the Yankees. Saddle bags

filled, the troops, prisoners, blacks, camp followers and the animals were fed and after a short rest, the advance guard left for Montezuma Landing, four miles north of the camp, to prepare for the crossing of the Conecuh River by the main body of the expedition. Some crossed by ferry, others swam their horses to the other side.

A large supply of Enfield rifles were found in Andalusia. There was one in almost every household, the owners expecting to use them to protect their life and property. There was a large supply in one of the warehouses. They were either destroyed or confiscated along with any that were found in houses.

After the advance guard left, the rest of the troops stayed several hours looting houses of jewelry, silver, cooking equipment or anything small enough that they could carry with them that had any value at all. Any citizen that made any resistance to the looting was shot. All stores and warehouses were burned before they left. They picked up several men of military age and took with them.

The treatment that the Yankee soldiers were giving defenseless citizens spread rapidly, and people

(Continued on page 10)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

The Yankee Calvary Raid into West Florida and South Alabama *(continued)*

(Continued from page 9)

began burying all their valuables such as jewelry, silver, knives, money and even farm equipment and taking their livestock and fleeing to places of safety as deep in the river swamps and as far from a road as possible. If the Yankee troops came up on such a group of people, they enjoyed shooting into the group. If any resistance was given to the looting in the country, the house was burned with all the farm equipment.

People in all directions out of Andalusia took to the woods and swamps when they heard what had happened in Andalusia, taking everything they could with them as there was no way of knowing where the Yankees were going after looting, stealing and burning everything in Andalusia. When traveling during the raid, the main body of troops stayed on the main road, but patrols were sent out on every side road of any size to investigate what was there and to pick up any male southerners of military age that might possibly be a soldier on leave, a member of the home guard, or any Negro that wanted to go with the Yankees.

A lot of farm equipment was destroyed on these minor raids and some food stuff was found for troops and horses, along with horses and mules. Patrols on these raids stuck to roads; they did not go into wooded places or try to take short cuts through woods as they did not want to become lost and left by the main body of troops for fear of being captured or killed by small bands of rebels hiding in the area.

After Col. Spurling got his troops, prisoners, Negroes, camp followers and equipment across the Conecuh River, he headed west toward the closest point on the Mobile and Great Northern Railroad, later known as the Mobile and Montgomery and still later as the L&N Railroad. They looted, stole horses and mules, both human and animal foodstuff, by burning barns and out-houses, and all farming equipment that could be found.

Shortly after crossing Pigeon Creek, the Yankees came up on a small detachment of Rebel soldiers. Lt. Watts of the Confederate Army, son of Governor Watts of Alabama, was home on leave in his native Butler County when he heard that the Yankees were coming. He hastily organized a rebel force to meet and engage the enemy. When he saw the size of the advance guard, he realized he could not offer enough resistance to hinder the advance of the Yankees, so he tried to escape but was wounded and later captured along with two of his volunteers.

The first raiders to arrive at the railroad tracks cut the telegraph wires and then began ripping up the cross ties and railroad track. This was about four miles above Evergreen. The following is the report made by Major Franklin Moore, commanding officer of the Second Illinois Cavalry for March 23, 1865:

"Arrived at Gravel Station, being ordered with a portion of my command to destroy the railroad, which I did effectually, I remained until the train ran off the track, capturing twelve prisoners. Remained near Gravel Station with my regiment and a portion of the Second Maine cavalry while Col. Spurling continued to march to Evergreen. My regiment and the Second Maine still waiting for the train expected from Montgomery,

"I placed a portion of my command between the train already captured and Montgomery to place obstructions on the track to prevent the retreat of the train in case of discovery of the wrecked train, which was done. The train arrived and was captured with 170 prisoners, a portion of which were citizens and paroled soldiers, which were afterward released by order of Col. Spurling.

The rebels fired on my regiment, killing one horse and wounding another. My regiment returned the fire, killing one man who was trying to escape. The train was loaded with clothing, grain, horses, mail, tobacco etc. Burned everything and resumed march.

(Continued on page 11)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

The Yankee Calvary Raid into West Florida and South Alabama *(continued)*

(Continued from page 10)

Joined Col. Spurling at Evergreen at 11 a.m., one company of my regiment guarding the prisoners until my arrival at brigade.”

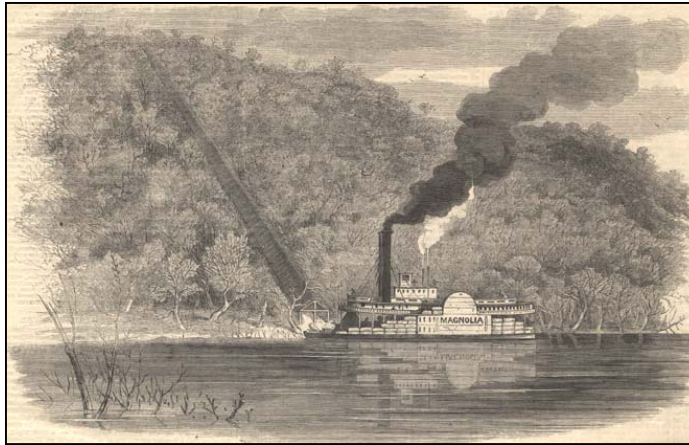
The first train was from Pollard; it consisted of the engine, one baggage, two passenger and four platform cars. Everything was burned after the train ran off the track. The train from Montgomery consisted of the engine, one baggage, four

passenger and two freight cars. When Col. Spurling arrived at Evergreen, he found an abundance of forage and rations. He destroyed what he could not use or take with him. The rolling stock found in the depot was burned, and engines set on fire.

When the Yankee cavalry moved toward Evergreen, these undisputed masters of the situation found much pleasure in firing upon defenseless citizens. They entered Evergreen without any military or civilian resistance and proceeded to rob families of silverware and jewelry and the surrounding plantations of mules and horses. They also burned the railway station.

Spurling and his forces left Evergreen at 2 p.m. and arrived at Sparta at 4 p.m. The Sparta Depot was filled with war material, six box cars filled with supplies. These were burned. The trestle between Sparta and Evergreen was destroyed. The court house was also burned. The Yankees camped at Sparta the night of March 24th, enjoying the fruits of their labor by watching the fires they had set glow and then seeing the buildings turn to ashes.

When war was declared in 1861, the railroad had



Cotton Chute on the Alabama

The River Boot Magnolia is being loaded down the chute. From the Illustrated London News, from 1861. The picture is part of ADAH collection <http://digital.archives.alabama>.

not been completed. Construction was begun in Mobile and Montgomery, at the same time, by two construction crews who were to meet, but there was a space of several miles above Evergreen that was still under construction.

This was the distance the two crews lacked meeting with the finished road. Plantation owners sent slaves, mules, horses and construction equipment to finish the line as soon as possible

as the railroad was needed to ship war supplies and troops.

Elijah McCreary, who lived fifteen miles south of Evergreen, sent several slaves and two teams of horses along with food stuff to help finish the line. He used only horses on his plantation. Mules were not used for any work. He also bought \$2,500.00 worth of stock in the railroad from which he never received any dividends. He also never got any of his investment back, but he helped build a railroad through the county. This actually helped him because he was having to haul his cotton to Claiborne on the Alabama River in wagons, a round trip which often took ten days.

With the extra man, horse, and mule-power, the railroad was completed within a short time, and when Company "E" (Concuh Guard), left Sparta for active duty on April 24, 1861, they rode over the newly finished rail line. Mr. McCreary had three sons that served in the Confederate Army.

Company "E" was organized April 2, 1861. The majority of its members were from the best families

(Continued on page 12)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

The Yankee Calvary Raid into West Florida and South Alabama *(continued)*

(Continued from page 11)

in the county and, for the most part, were the most promising young men in the area. The company was mustered into the Confederate Army at Lynchburg, Virginia May 7, 1861. Original members of this unit or their replacements fought, died and were wounded in twenty-four battles or skirmishes with the Yankees before it surrendered with General Robert E. Lee at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, April 9, 1865, over four years from the time it was activated.

When the people of Belleville heard that the Yankees were on their way to Sparta, they organized a home guard on short notice and rode out to meet, fight, and destroy the enemy. About half way to Evergreen, they rounded a bend in the road and found themselves confronted with a patrol of Yankees burning some farm equipment. The newly organized home guard turned around and headed for home. Before the raiders could mount and pursue the recruits, they were out of sight, all except

William J. McCreary, who was captured because his horse could not run as fast as the others. He was the son of J. A. McCreary and Almirah Naomi (Strange) McCreary. He was fifteen years old, born June 12, 1851.

Although his horse could not run very fast, the Yankees kept it. After being captured, he was taken to Mobile, and then later sent to Ship Island in the Gulf of Mexico. When the war was over, he was released in Mobile and had to walk home. After capturing Willie J. and his horse, the Yankee patrol turned back and did not go to Belleville.

After watching the embers of the buildings and supplies of everything that had been burned, the Yankee column moved out toward Brooklyn at 5 a.m. on the morning of March 25th. They arrived at Brooklyn at 11:30 o'clock. Migilbra Findley was visiting the family of his son, Martin, who was in the Confederate Army, when a color sergeant with the United State flag passed and Mr. Findley didn't nod

(Continued on page 13)

This account of the Yankee Raid on Evergreen and Sparta is from [Alabama Pioneers: the Genealogy Source](#).

Conecuh County experienced one Federal raid during the war. On March 21, 1865, Col. A. B. Spurling, in command of three brigades of cavalry, advanced from Milton, Fla., by way of Andalusia toward his work of destruction in Conecuh County. A little before midnight on March 23, he struck the Alabama and Florida Railroad five miles above Evergreen. Here at 4:30 on the morning of March 24 he captured and destroyed the train coming up from Pollard. At 7 o'clock, in like manner, he captured and destroyed the train coming from Montgomery, taking 7 commissioned officers and 100 soldiers.

Thence he proceeded to Evergreen where he arrived at eleven o'clock. Here he destroyed some stores and the rolling stock at the depot. The destruction of Confederate government property at Ever-

green was certainly an act of legitimate warfare. But the amenities of war were grievously violated by Spurling's men while in Conecuh county in their shooting at defenseless citizens, and in Evergreen in their despoiling families of their silver plate and jewelry.

From Evergreen the raiders went on to Sparta, arriving there at 4 o'clock. Here a clean sweep was made in burning the depot, the rolling stock, and some trestle work. An indefensible act in Sparta was the burning of the county jail. Col. Spurling spent the night in Sparta, and the next day proceeded southwest out of the county. His official report gives as the spoils of this Conecuh raid, 120 prisoners, 200 negroes, 250 horses and mules. Non-official spoils, such as silver plate and jewelry were not included <<http://alabamapioneers.com/index.php/Early-Alabama-Stories/early-conecuh-county-alabama-early-settlers.html>>.

The ECHS *Journal* Section

The Yankee Calvary Raid into West Florida and South Alabama *(continued)*

(Continued from page 12)

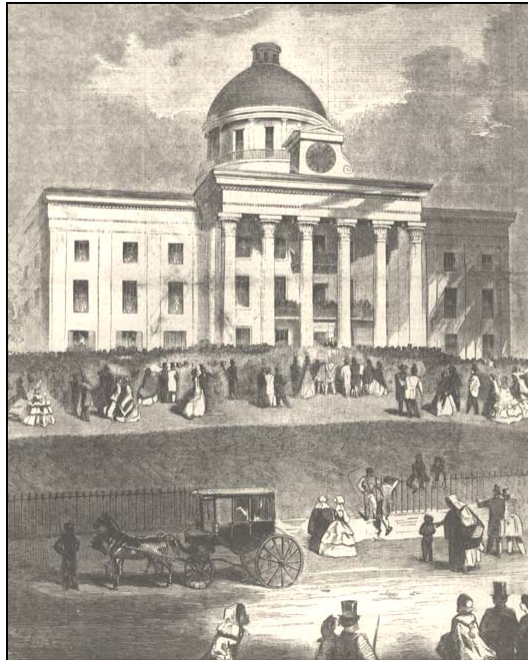
his head toward it or take his hat off.

One of the cavalry officers said, "Old man don't you know you're supposed to take your hat off in the presence of the American Flag." Mr. Findley replied, "I fought for that flag under Old Hickory Jackson in Pensacola and in the Battle of New Orleans but I don't have any respect for it today." The officers rode off without saying anything else.

After passing through Johnsonville, the Yankees passed the home of Thomas M. Floyd, father of Nancy, widow of Peter McGowin, on their right. On their left, they passed the home of Capt. Amos. Neither of these houses was burned, but all farm equipment and foodstuff not taken was destroyed. The Floyd house is still standing.

Shortly before getting to Brooklyn, they passed the newly built Brooklyn Baptist Church to their left. It was started before the war but finished during the war. The people of Brooklyn were warned well in advance that the Yankees were coming. They hid their valuables, took their livestock deep into the river swamps and for the most part stayed there with them. There were several members of the home guard stationed at McCauley Bridge that lived in Brooklyn but they were nowhere to be found when the raiders arrived.

It was said that there were more people in the swamps near Brooklyn than there were deer, and in 1840, it was estimated that 2,000 deer hides were shipped by boat from Brooklyn to Pensacola. Some



**Inauguration of Jefferson Davis
February 1861
From ADAH Digital Archives
<<http://digital.archives.alabama.gov>>**

looting was done in Brooklyn but for the most part the only losses were foodstuffs for both man and animal, either destroyed or taken with the raiders.

Five miles south of Brooklyn, the Yankees passed on their left the home of Mortimer Boulware, father of Gilchrist (Gil), who was at one time color sergeant for the Conecuh Guard. He received a wound in his right arm during the Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia and later the arm had to be removed. The only thing Mr. Boulware lost was some corn and all his sweet potatoes that were still in the banks.

A patrol rode down to the Sepulga River but did not cross it as the bridge (Kennard

Kendall) had been burned and the river was in flood stage due to the recent rains. About half way between the Boulware house and the river, the patrol passed through a forty-acre field in which was located Mr. Boulware's slave quarters, a large barn, and lots for keeping his livestock.

When the patrol returned from the river, some of the slaves had come out of hiding and a few left with them. After the slaves were freed, they all left except one named Milford. He stayed on in his cabin and died there several years after the war ended.

Mr. Samuel McGowin bought the Boulware Plantation after the war ended, and gave it to three of his daughters. They drew straws to see which part each one would receive, and Sarah Jane, Mrs. Ruben S. Hart, drew the longest straw and got the part with the Boulware house, known as the "Big House," on

(Continued on page 14)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

The Yankee Calvary Raid into West Florida and South Alabama *(continued)*

(Continued from page 13)

it. The Harts lived in it until they built their own house, which is still standing, then tore down the Boulware house as it was in great need of repair,

During the spring and summer, when the mosquitoes were bad, the Boulwares would move to a house they had built in the piney woods. This house was on a hill which became known as Summer House Hill. They built a slave cabin on the hill and would spend the entire summer there. The community the Boulwares lived in was known as Springdale, now Teddy.

It was named for a large spring that flows out of a hillside forming a fairly large creek, known as Boulware Mill Creek. It runs into the Conecuh River about a mile above McGowin Bridge. During the administration of Theodore Roosevelt as president of the United States the Post Office Department put on a campaign to shorten the names of as many post offices as possible. The name Teddy was suggested and accepted by the post office department, so Springdale became Teddy.

The Yankee column continued south, passing on their left the burned McCauley Bridge where some of the piling was still smoking and the trenches were unoccupied. Within fifteen minutes after passing the bridge that had burned only three days before, the raiders arrived at the home of Samuel McGowin.

The pickings were rather slim at the McGowin Plantation as he had helped feed the home guard when they were guarding the bridge. He had made sure that he would have enough seed corn and potatoes for his spring planting by hiding some of his best ears of corn and several bushels of potatoes in a thicket back of his house on Smith Creek.

The raiders got some of his chickens, sweet potatoes and syrup before they left. As the last of the Yankees were leaving, one of the soldiers threw a silk dress through an open window into the lap of Sarah Jane, one of Mr. McGowin's daughters. She started to throw it back when one of her sisters said, "Don't do that - we may find out who it belongs to," and they did. It belonged to a lady who lived near Sparta and it was returned to her.

The house that Mr. McGowin was living in was built by J. H. McCreary. It was built in the 1830's by having a house raising. Mr. McGowin, being a neighbor, had wanted to go to the house raising, but he didn't have a pair of shoes. He went to Brooklyn and tried to buy a pair on credit from Y. S. Hirshfelder, a Jew born in Germany who was running a general store there. Mr. Hirshfelder would not let Mr. McGowin have the shoes on credit, so he went to the house raising barefooted. He later bought the McCreary house when Mr. McCreary moved to Belleville.

(Continued on page 15)

From Atmore History

In 1860, A. H. Hall filed a claim for the northern half of Section 25, Township 1N, Range 6E, on which was located a large mineral spring. Tradition relates that both Confederate and Union soldiers at times camped here.

It was from this site, Canoe Station, Alabama, that Lt. Col. Andrew B. Spurling of the Union Army wrote his letter on March 27, 1865, to Capt. John F. Lacey, Assistant Adjutant General, reporting his raid through Andalusia, Evergreen, Sparta, Brook-

lyn, and Brewton. Then arrived in Pollard to find that the town and Confederate camp had been destroyed by Gen. Frederick Steel's column.

There is also a legend that Lucinda Hall, wife of A. J. Hall, upon learning that "The Yankees are coming," took all of their livestock except one bantam rooster to an island in Canoe Creek and hid them for safekeeping. A union soldier feasted on the lone bantam (<<http://www.lowery.tripod.com/atmore.htm>>).

The ECHS *Journal* Section

The Yankee Calvary Raid into West Florida and South Alabama *(continued)*

(Continued from page 14)

One Sunday the McCrearys were going to church in Brooklyn when the horses ran away, threw Mrs. McCreary out of the wagon, and broke her leg. It never healed correctly and she used a crutch to get around on. Her crutch left marks in the hard pine floors of the house. When the house burned in 1938, some of these marks could still be seen in the flooring.

The Yankee column moved on south, halted twelve miles from Brewton Station, and made camp at sundown. At eleven o'clock the next morning, the raiders arrived at Murder Creek and found that some of the planks on the bridge had recently been removed. While the bridge was being repaired, Col. Spurling sent an advance guard of un-mounted men across the creek to see if any rebels could be found.

These men had gone only a short distance when the rebels opened fire on them from a fortification of logs and dirt. Major Frank Moore, commanding officer, was ordered by Col. Spurling, when he heard the firing, to dismount his regiment and advance through the woods as skirmishers, which he did. After the rebels delivered their first and only salvo, they disappeared into the woods and the Yankees did not capture any of them, but they did wound Lt. Vose of the Second Maine Regiment, and two enlisted men of that regiment were slightly wounded.

Before crossing Murder Creek, the Yankees passed Fort Crawford on their right. This fort was used by the early settlers as a place of safety to go during uprising or fear of attacks by the Creek Indians.

Fort Crawford was also used by General Andrew Jackson as a rest stop and a staging area for his attacks on the Spanish and English in Florida. The Army unit that Magilbra Findley was in, while on its way to New Orleans, by way of Pensacola, made a rest stop at Fort Crawford the latter part of October 1814. Magilbra was in Pensacola Nov. 7, 1814,

when the British spiked their big guns in Fort Barrancas, blew up the fort, and set sail for New Orleans.

Gen. Jackson, after the engagements in Florida, moved his army as rapidly as he could to New Orleans where he met the English again on the Plains of Chalmette where the Battle of New Orleans was fought. The battle ended in a crushing victory for Gen. Jackson and moved him one step closer to the White House.

After the Battle of New Orleans, Mr. Findley and his unit stayed several weeks at Fort Crawford on their way to Union District, South Carolina where they had been activated. They helped repair some of the older parts and constructed some new parts that were needed to bring up the safety standards of the fort. This was just over one year since the Battle of Burnt Corn Creek, July 24, 1813, and the terrible massacre at Fort Mims, Aug. 30, 1813, and eight or nine months since the Battle of Horseshoe, Bend March 27, 1814.

There were still bands of Creeks wandering through the area living off the land by stealing livestock, foodstuff and clothing from whites that had run the Indians off their land. The settlers needed a place of safety to enter in case the Indians ever became strong enough to mount another attack.

The bridge was repaired, Brewton Station was entered, all foodstuffs, both animal and human, not taken with the raiders was destroyed. The direct road was taken to Pollard and the column arrived at six p.m. on March 26. The expedition had with it 120 prisoners, 200 Negroes and 250 horses and mules. Col. Spurling did not deem it necessary to make special mention of anyone in his reports where all had done their duty equally well. He was proud of the destruction and misery that he had left behind him.

Of the 200 Negroes almost all of them were men. The Negro women were reluctant to leave their slave quarters and go off with the U.S. Army soldiers, and

(Continued on page 16)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

The Yankee Calvary Raid into West Florida and South Alabama *(continued)*

(Continued from page 15)

they would have had to ride either a mule or horse. The cavalry moved fast for two reasons; they wanted their raid to be a surprise when they arrived and they did not want an attack from their rear.

Some of the Negroes were riding fine horses they had stolen from their masters or the wife of their masters if he was off in the war. A few were in fine buggies and surreys but most of them were riding mules that the Yankee troops had confiscated from plantation owners along the route. Quite often a slave would show the raiders where the mules, horses and other items were hidden.

A great majority of the Negroes were from near Sparta, as this was an area with many large plantations with lots of slaves. The Negroes had been hearing for some time that the Yankees were coming, and as they camped one night at Sparta, this gave the slaves ample time to leave their cabins and join the raiders.

As the Yankees moved on toward Blakeley, the Negroes were left to look out for themselves. A great majority of them returned to their ex-masters when the war ended and begged to be received into the family life they knew before being freed. Some were accepted, others were not. If they had ridden off on a horse or mule or informed the Yankees where some subsistence or animals were hidden, they were not allowed to stay, and other Negroes were not allowed to give them any food or clothing.

Very few of the ex-slaves wanted to work in the fields after they were freed, and most of them gradually left the plantations, migrated to nearby towns trying to find work. Others stayed with their former masters, who they called "Moster", and lived out their lives in their cabins, living for the most as they did before they were freed.

As the Negroes migrated to the towns, they settled in one area, usually several families living in one cabin or small house they built out of logs, chinking

the cracks with mud or clay and building stick and mud chimneys to cook in and to keep them warm during the cold winter months. These areas became known as "The Negro Quarters." Most of these areas are still known by that name.

Many of the land owners gave their most trusted and loved former slaves a few acres of land and a mule to plow it, and helped them to get started farming so they could feed their families. As most plantation owners were having trouble feeding their own families, it was a relief for some of the former slaves to leave.

Within a few years after the slaves were freed, most of the land that was once under cultivation was soon covered with young pine and oak trees. Within another few years, it was hard to tell the land which had been cultivated from the virgin forest. In some cases you could still see furrows where the land had been plowed, but even this soon disappeared.

Col. Spurling joined Gen. C. C. Andrews at Camp Pollard on the 26th. The Rebels, under Gen. James H. Clanton, retreated north from Camp Gonzalez, Florida when they realized they were greatly outnumbered by the Yankees. General Clanton made a final stand on the road at Pine Barren Creek below the Alabama-Florida line, but the rebels were defeated and made a hasty retreat into south Alabama, not even stopping at Canoe Station, the Rebel cavalry headquarters.

A few stragglers went through Camp Pollard, but they only stayed long enough to pick up what supplies they could find and take with them. They then disappeared into the swamps. General Clanton was shot in this battle, fell from his horse and was captured by the Yankees.

When the Yankees entered Camp Pollard, they found very little corn or hay for their horses and no subsistence for their troops, as the [fleeing] Rebel troops and the local citizens, on hearing the Rebels were retreating, carried everything that could be

(Continued on page 17)

The ECHS *Journal* Section

The Yankee Calvary Raid into West Florida and South Alabama *(continued)*

(Continued from page 16)

moved away from the camp and hid it deep in the swamps. The troops and most of the citizens went into hiding before the Yankees arrived.

The country through which the Yankees had been traveling was almost destitute of food supplies and their subsistence supplies for the soldiers, prisoners, Negroes and horses were about to run out. A supply ship, from Fort Barrancas, was supposed to come up the Escambia River with supplies, but even with the high water in the river, the ship failed to pass over a sand bar at the mouth of the river at Ferry Pass.

Camp Pollard was completely destroyed by the Yankees; every building was burned. A vegetable garden planted by some of the soldiers made good grazing for the mules and horses. One of the local citizens said that the only thing the Yankees didn't do was scatter salt on the ground so nothing would ever grow on the site of the camp.

After leaving Camp Pollard, the advance column of the raiders arrived at Canoe Station on the 27th. It had been raining for two days and the roads were in

very bad condition. Canoe Station had been headquarters for General G. C. Armistead's brigade, which was composed of the sixth and eighth Alabama Cavalry.

These units had taken the blunt of the fighting, trying to keep the Yankees from entering Alabama. The Yankees found considerable corn at the Rebel depot in Canoe Station, which helped them to replenish their supply that was getting short. Most of the rebel troops were away and the local citizens did not have time to remove it. Some local citizens were at the depot loading corn on ox carts when the raiders arrived. The Yankees ate the oxen that were hitched to the carts and burned the carts.

The raiders then moved on through Williams Station to Stockton and Blakeley, stealing horses and mules, destroying farm equipment, and rounding up cattle to be used as food as they moved on. Destruction was left everywhere the Yankees were. Spurling's march through west Florida and south Alabama was the same type march that Sherman made through Georgia, just on a smaller scale.



The caption for this picture from Harper's Weekly for February 9 1861 is,

“The city of Montgomery, Alabama, showing the state house where the Congress of the Southern Confederacy meets on February 4, 1861.”

From the Alabama Department of Archives and History Digital Archives found at <http://www.archives.alabama.gov/reference/private2.pdf>.

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