

Westview Cemetery Historic Tour 2003



1861-1863 USA



1861-1863 CSA

Mary E. Murphy

A project of

Edgefield-on-the-St. Johns

Also a labor of love

(You may also right click and print the page)

CAPTAIN RICHARD J. ADAMS

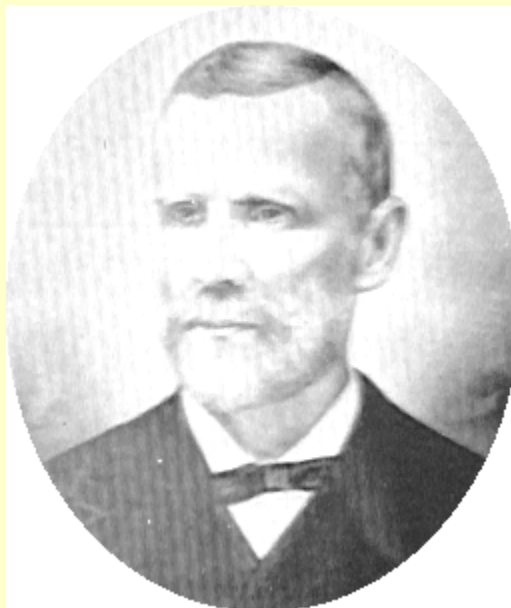
Captain Adams came to Palatka when it was a mere trading post. He engaged successively in the mercantile business, orange growing, and steam-boating. In the earlier—years of Palatka's existence he operated a stage coach line between Palatka, Ocala, Orange Springs and Tampa.

A native of Vermont, he fought valiantly on the Confederate side during the, Civil War. He was stationed at Gainesville in the quartermaster's department and furnished supplies to all the commands east and south of the Suwannee River. In 1864 he was ordered to Fort Meade with supplies for Dickson. He accomplished that, but was taken prisoner by deserters and his wagon train burned. Later he joined General Finegan at Olustee, where he helped care for the wounded. He next furnished commissary supplies from his wagon train until he joined Finegan at Camp Milton, where he remained until the brigade was ordered back to Florida from Quitman, and remained there until the surrender. One of his later services was to take the machinery off the gunboat *COLUMBINE* from Horse Landing to Waldo by wagon.

After the War, he returned to Palatka and assumed command of the Hart Line Steamer *SILVER SPRING*, which for a while was the only boat on the river, as all others had been captured. Later he was captain of the steamer *OCLAWAHA*, the first regular passenger boat in the river service.

On September 21, 1869, at Orange Springs he married Miss Emily F. Holland, of Madison, Ga. In 1872, he entered the grocery business, but soon disposed of it in order to become agent for various steamer lines, including the Clyde Line.

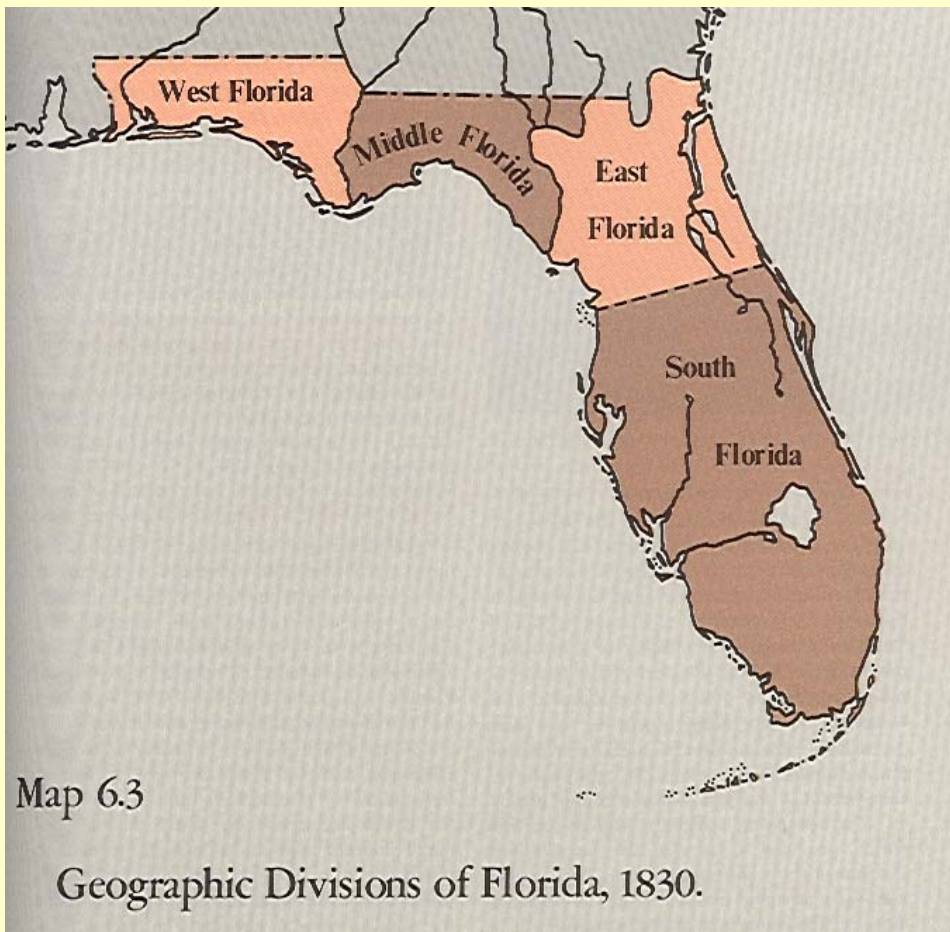
Captain Adams was one of Palatka's best-known citizens, and in his younger years was a potent factor in the business and political life of the community. He was a trustee for the first issue of city bonds, and served as City Treasurer and a member of city Council. He was a man of decided opinions and was noted for his strict honesty and sterling integrity. He was a charter member of the Veterans Association of Palatka, the first organization of its kind to be formed in the state.



SAMUEL AREY

Samuel Arey is one of three stones in Westview with the spelling of Palatka as “Pilatka”. Notice here that there is the added notation of “E. F.” This stands for “East Florida”. The Spanish had divided the territory into East Florida and West Florida with St. Augustine being the capital of East Florida and Pensacola being the capital of West Florida. When Florida became a Territory of the United States in 1821, Tallahassee was founded as a more centralized location for the capitol. This map shows the geographic divisions of the 1830s.

The 1850 Census lists Mr. Arey as a single resident of Palatka, having come from New Jersey, earning his living as a carpenter.



HARRISON RIDER BLANCHARD

Originally from Charlton, MA, his family settled in Jacksonville, in 1830 when he was 24 years old. His uncle, William Rider came with him to start a lumber business. In 1834, he returned to Charlton and married Ruth Wheelock and they returned to the St. Johns River area. Their daughter Ruth Blanchard was born in 1840 and two weeks later her mother died.

In 1844 Harrison married Harriet Columbia Geary of Talbot County, Maryland. Her father had been appointed by President James Monroe, as the Indian Agent for Florida, after the Territory had been ceded to the United States in 1919. The Blanchards were married in Jacksonville and resided there until after the birth of their first child, Fred Harrison, who was born March 2, 1845, the day before Statehood was declared. The family moved to Palatka around 1846 and purchased Lot No. 5 in the original plat of Palatka.

Harrison served as Judge of Probate, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioner, was lumber merchant for the government, and built the County's first official courthouse. This building stood until 1909 when the new courthouse was constructed and was later moved to the "Heights" and converted to Burt's School.

In November of 1871 Harrison went to Okahumpka, where Ruth and her husband Joseph A. Jeffreys, were then living, to visit his first granddaughter Rosa Mae, where he had a stroke and died and is buried.

In 1887 Harriett had a home built at 400 Emmett for herself, Frank, and Mary Elizabeth, "Minnie". For a while Miss Minnie ran a private school in her home and was loved by all her pupils.



The 1909 Courthouse (l) and the original 1855 Courthouse (r) at a time when the venerable Maltby Oak was still a young tree.

MARY EMILY BOYD

On or about October 7, 1862 several gunboats arrived at Palatka after conducting looting and mayhem up the river as far as Hawkinsville 168 miles south of Jacksonville. Ex-Governor Moseley and a Northern resident that was afraid to stay in Palatka any longer met with the commander of one of the boats. They claimed the town was deserted; that everyone was afraid of being arrested or shot and had left. The Northerner and his family were allowed to board the boat, when suddenly an armed force of about fifty men appeared behind the man's house. The commander put the Northern family off (nothing was said about Moseley) and fired several shells over the town, later claiming that three or four horsemen had been wounded or killed, then threatened to retaliate by burning the town.

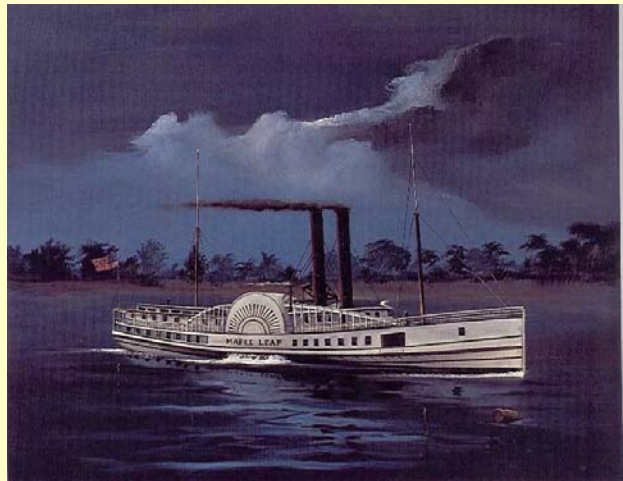
Mary Boyd heard of it when the alarm was spread, and was appalled that no man had the guts to ask for the town to be spared. So she gathered a group of ladies and while the shells were falling, went down to the riverfront. She located a sniper that was lurking in the vicinity of where the Presbyterian Church now stands, and persuaded him not to fire on the gunboats.

She then approached the gunboat commander and persuaded him that the men were passing through and that they, the women, were powerless to prevent the violence of the men. Furthermore, most men who were left were elderly or disabled, that the majority of residents were women and children with no place else to go, and to please not destroy the town.

The Commander agreed providing the women got the troops out of town within two hours, or he would start firing. The women carried this message, and the horsemen left. The Northern family left with the gunboats without further incident.



Mary Boyd in 1917



JUDGE JAMES BURT

Was one of Palatka's leading citizens and contributed much to the growth of the city both as a public official and private citizen. He served as Commissioner, Postmaster, Surveyor and Judge. As a private investor, he subdivided lots and is credited with surveying Palatka Heights (the hills above the Underpass) during the 1880s for its incorporation in 1886. He is also credited with developing the Satsuma Orange.

The building housing the present Putnam Historical Museum-the oldest home in Palatka, built in 1838-was for a time owned by Mr. Burt during the 1850s. They also owned a home on Third Street in the 1870s and one in Palatka Heights during the 1880s.

FANNIE RUSSELL BURT

Was the widow of Judge James Burt. She was the daughter of Major E. K. Russell, an army surgeon, and was born in Governor's Island, NY, where her father was stationed. In her early childhood, she moved to St. Augustine, to live with an aunt, Mrs. Kirby-Smith, mother of General Edmund Kirby-Smith, in the historic Segui-Kirby Smith house that is the present home of the St. Augustine Historical Research Library.

During the Civil War, Mrs. Burt, together with Mrs. Fannie Kirby-Smith and Mrs. Frank Fleming, were taken as prisoners of war when the Federal soldiers captured the Ancient City. Accused of supplying information to the Confederate army, the three women were transported to Hilton, NC, where they were later released by General Putnam, who expressed indignation that war should have been declared on women.

In 1869, she married James Burt, who at that time held the land where the present City of Palatka now stands, in his own name as agent for the three original holders, Robert Raymond Reid, Jr., Burroughs E. Carr, and George Burt. They had purchased it after Judge Isaac Bronson acquired it as settlement with a bankrupt land development corporation.

She was one of the founders of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. She came to Palatka originally with her uncle, Benjamin A. Putnam.

BENJAMIN PUTNAM CALHOUN

Was born in St. Augustine on August 7, 1855, died October 26, 1907. He received his education in the public and private schools of the day, and in the University of Nashville, Tennessee. He was the grandson of John Caldwell Calhoun, LLD, (not buried here) twice Vice-President of the United States, and later a Senator of the United States from South Carolina. His maternal grandfather was the Honorable Benjamin Alexander Putnam, one of the early circuit judges who resided in Palatka in the antebellum days.

He married Miss Julia Petermann in 1877. He studied law under Edmund Noble at Abbeville, South Carolina and was admitted to the bar in that state. He first practiced law in New York City, being connected with the law firm of Kling, Hetsell and Kling. He returned to Palatka in 1878, and became solicitor of the Criminal Court of Record. He served as a State Senator, a member of the School Board, city attorney, and division counsel of G. S. & F. Railroad. He took an active part in representing Putnam County in the State Conventions at Pensacola in 1884, St. Augustine in 1888, and Tampa in 1892. His practice embraced several partnerships including Calhoun, Davis & Gillis.

One of the Calhoun homes is the house at 220 Madison Street that is now the nationally known **AZALEA HOUSE BED & BREAKFAST INN**.



KATE PUTNAM CALHOUN and the CALHOUN FAMILY

In 1849 Benjamin Putnam's only daughter Katherine, or Kate as she was known, married Dr. John C. Calhoun, Jr., eldest son of the prominent South Carolina statesman. Unfortunately, he died shortly thereafter, whereupon she married his brother William Lowndes Calhoun. He also died, leaving her a young widow with three children: Benjamin Putnam Calhoun, John Caldwell Calhoun, and William Lowndes Calhoun. Kate died in 1866 at the age of thirty-five.

It is very difficult to read, but the inscription on her stone says: "In memory of Kate Putnam Calhoun only daughter of Hon. Benjamin A. Putnam, widow of John C. Calhoun, MD and relict of the late William L. Calhoun." "Relict" means surviving spouse.

One of the Calhoun homes is the house at 220 Madison Street that is now the nationally known **AZALEA HOUSE BED & BREAKFAST INN**, formerly the **MINUTE MAID BED AND BREAKFAST**.



COOK CARLETON

Palatka News and Advertiser, January 30, 1903

After an illness of two years, during the last six months of which death has been standing at the, door threatening entrance, Cook Carleton, for 30 years an honored and useful citizen of Palatka, died on Wednesday evening, Jan. 28th at the home of Mrs. Metcalf.

Mr. Carleton came to Putnam County from New York State some 30 years ago and settled on a homestead near Como. Later he came to Palatka, where he has been a familiar figure in business circles and for much of the time an important factor in financial affairs.

Mr. Carleton served for a time as purser on the Ocklawaha River Steamers under the late Col. Hart. He was afterwards County Tax Collector, and during the incumbency of that office by Joseph Price, was for four years a deputy collector. Later he was cashier of the Palatka National bank, which did business in the rooms now occupied by the Palatka News. About 14 years ago he started in the abstract business in which he continued until the purchase of that business by Judge E. E. Haskell about a year ago.

At one time Mr. Carleton was the possessor of considerable property in this city. He built the **SARATOGA HOTEL** and had many financial interests. His property, however, was swept away by unfortunate speculation. He was a good citizen and a thoroughly upright man. His word was a bond.

The funeral, which occurred from F. A. Gerber & Sons' undertaking establishment yesterday afternoon, was conducted by the Masonic fraternity, of which the deceased was an honored member.

Mr. Carleton leaves no family. His only surviving relative so far as is known here being a sister who resides in New York. His death removes one of the conspicuous figures in the life of old Palatka, and there is mourning in the city for the departure of one of God's noblemen.



GEORGE MERCER DAVIS

Was born April 26, 1832 at Edgefield, SC and at the age of 21 came to Palatka. He manufactured tanks and cisterns, starting in 1883 by hand for local use in a small shop in back of his residence at the corner of Lemon and North 5th Streets, where the old Mellon High School was located.

In 1890, the first out-of-town order was from the Creosote Lumber Construction Company of Fernandina. In 1891 the shop moved to Water Street (now First) where the Riverside Foundry & Machine Works-were located.

In 1892 George M. Davis' youngest son Howell A. Davis, entered partnership under the name of G. M. Davis & Son. In 1893 the first factory was constructed on the corner of Lemon and 8th. In 1896, the partnership was dissolved on June 11 with the death of G. M. Davis.

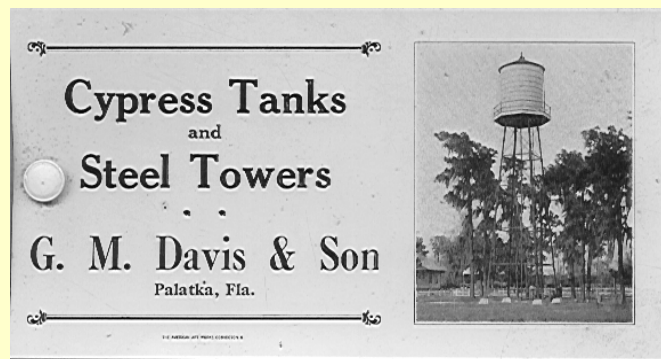


HOWELL A. DAVIS and FAMILY

Howell Davis was President and owner of G. M. (George M.) Davis and Son Cypress Tank Manufacturers. If one had 'bad' water--and most people did--calling on the Davises equated with calling the "Culligan Man". Their rain tanks provided clean, clear and soft water. Your hostess remembers water from a Davis-built tank on her family's farm in the late 1950s.

Howell Davis was Mayor of Palatka from 1908 through 1912 and again from 1924 through 1925. Mr. Davis was actively involved in other areas of community service, notably serving several years as a Cemetery Trustee. His name is on the plaque at the entrance to Westview.

The Davis family had investments in several houses in what is now the **Southside Historic District**, which they rented out. 314 South 8th Street was the family homestead, and has been on the **Tour of Historic Homes**.



CAPTAIN DAVID DUNHAM

Was one of Hubbard L. Hart's main employees during the steam-boating era. He served as master of such vessels as the **GRIFFIN**, **OCKLAWAHA**, **SILVER SPRINGS**, and **ASTATUALA**. He also spent much of his career in charge of Hart's Shipyard at Hart's Point on the east side of the river, after it was built in 1873.

One of the challenges to creating a viable excursion on the Ocklawaha River as to clear it of the numerous, trees, stumps, logs, and other- debris that made the river practically impassable.

"Masses of floating and decaying vegetation and thousands of feet of dead or water-logged trees had to be removed from the water as did submerged logs, snags and other hazards to navigation. Leaning trees hung out over the river from the banks and limbs always threatened passengers on the vessels. It is reported that in a 15 mile stretch of the river, some 300 trees were removed from the banks and 172 logs from the bottom."

Floating islands of vegetation were a perplexing problem, which vexed everyone. (No, these weren't the water hyacinths that we were unlucky enough to have Mrs. Fuller bequeath to us in the 1890s.) Captain Dunham is credited with solving the problem by sawing them into pieces and moving them onto flooded lowlands where they rooted after-being staked out.

Mueller, Edward A., *Ocklawaha River Steamboats*, c1983



JUDGE WILLIAM F. FORWARD

William Francis Forward was born in St. Augustine on May 8 1848. He may have been the only man in the history of Florida who was removed from the office of Clerk of the Circuit Court in a county [Putnam] and later was elected and served as Clerk in its parent county [St. Johns].

In the death of Judge William F Forward this morning this county loses another valued man. for the past year Judge Forward had been failing in health. A few months ago he was compelled to give up most of his office work as Clerk of the county, and lately W. Wallace Snow, his deputy, performed all duties of the office. Last month the patient was taken to Georgia, but the change of climate was not beneficial, and he wished to be brought back home. He grew slowly weaker, and shortly before his death this morning he was seized with a hemorrhage and died within a few minutes.

Judge Forward was born in the Anderson House fifty-five years ago. His father Hon. William A. Forward, a native of New York, served in Tallahassee as an associate justice of the Supreme Court of Florida (1861-65). Young Judge Forward went to Palatka, where he lived for twelve years. He married Annie J. Reid who was a granddaughter of Territorial Governor Robert Raymond Reid, (1789-1841) by his son of the same name. He held the position of Clerk of the Court for most of that time. He brought his family to St. Augustine fourteen years ago and first served as Justice of the Peace. Later he served as deputy under David Dunham, County Clerk, and at the last election he was chosen to fill the position of Clerk.

He leaves a widow, four daughters and two sons. The daughters are Mrs. B. E. Dysen of Jacksonville, Mrs. Frank C. Taylor, Mrs. W. Wallace Snow and Mss Edith Forward. The sons are William H. and Edwin J. Forward. Miss Flossie Reid, a niece, is also of the household. Judge Forward was an affectionate husband and devoted father. During his long illness his invalid wife displayed a wonderful degree of patience and Christian fortitude, and in her careful nursing performed tasks that would seem far beyond her strength. Her cheerful disposition in the sick room shed a bright ray of sunshine, and for her sake the weary patient battled against the inevitable until all strength was gone.

The funeral services will be held in Trinity Episcopal Church tomorrow (Saturday) at 10 o'clock, Rev. C. M. Sturges, pastor, officiating. The remains will then be taken to Palatka on the morning train for interment in the family burying ground. All members of the family will accompany the remains to their last resting-place.

Judge Forward, wife Annie and two daughters. The Forward home on North Third Street in Palatka.



GAY BROTHERS GROCERIES

The Gay Family consisted of three brothers, who with their parents, and sisters, came to Palatka in 1884 from New York. The three brothers, **Eugene**, **George**, and **Benjamin**, opened a grocery store on the corner of Kirby and Kirkland Streets, known as the **West End Grocery**. In 1896 the brothers acquired the 3-story brick building at the corner of Lemon and First Streets.

The brothers were active in community and service organizations, particularly Eugene and George. At the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, **Eugene** was among the first to volunteer. Entering the ranks as private he steadily promoted until he became quartermaster sergeant, and then recruiting officer for the regiment. It was thought his death was due to complications from Tuberculosis contracted during that conflict. He left Palatka in 1909 traveling back to his old home in New York trying to regain his health. Eugene died January 27, 1911 at the Banto Mountain Sanitarium in Hot Springs, SD, where he was buried at his request, and without a monument. The Knights of Pythias handled the arrangements.

George E. Gay was active in local and state politics for over 40 years. Starting in 1897, he served three terms as Mayor of Palatka. 1920 he was nominated for governor of Florida. He secured more than 44,000 votes, but was defeated by the Democratic nominee. He served as State Prohibition Director for nearly two years, then resigned to become Postmaster at Palatka, which he held during the Coolidge and Hoover administrations. He held offices in the old Palatka Board of Trade and other organizations and was Manager of the Palatka Telephone Company. He was married to D. M. Kirby's daughter, Kate.

Benjamin I. Gay was the longest lived of the three. At one time the Gay Grocery Company was one of the largest wholesalers and retailers in the area. Improvements in the road system brought a decline to that type of business and the property on Lemon Street eventually was sold. But Benjamin retained ownership and managerial responsibilities of the **West End Grocery** until early 1944 when declining health compelled him to hand the reigns to other hands. He never married.



THOMAS B. GILLESPIE and the RAVINE GARDENS

Ravine State Gardens is justly famous for its extensive plantings of azaleas and other ornamental plants, recreational uses, and aesthetic enjoyment.

The concept of one visionary: Thomas B. Gillespie had seen such gardens in South Carolina, and thought it possible to recreate a similar garden in Palatka. Also it was the height of the Depression. Jobs were scarce and people hungry. Gillespie wanted to give them jobs while creating a place of beauty. Money was a problem. As an engineer, he knew how to plan. First, he located a nursery in Winter Springs willing to sell him 75,000 azalea bushes for \$10,000.00. Next, he went to Washington DC and secured grants from the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) the Federal Works Project Administration (WPA) and the Civil Works Administration (CWA).

Mr. Gillespie returned to Palatka and hired Richard Forrester, a landscape architect from Jacksonville, at his own expense to plan and oversee the building of the Park. Mr. Forrester trained 100 workers for the task, as they had no previous horticultural experience. The springs were diverted to the Water Works located nearby, and this helped supply the City with water in the 1930's. Yields of 100,000 gallons per day were reported.

Palatka citizens were not thrilled until they began to see results. Then they began donating plants and holding fund-raisers to continue the project.

Described in the 1934 Florida Municipal Record as the NATION'S OUTSTANDING CWA PROJECT, the 59-acre Ravines were planted with over 95,000 azaleas including 64 varieties, 11,000 palm trees, and more than 250,000 ornamental plants.

The City of Palatka maintained the Park until it was deeded to the State in 1970. One of nine Florida State parks with New Deal Era structures, it is the only park with a formal designed landscape. The fieldstone terraces rock garden and massive cypress building construction is typical of the era. The Court of States and 64 foot obelisk dedicated to Franklin D. Roosevelt is located near the Park entrance.



CAPTAIN HENRY A. GRAY and ELIZA WADDELL GRAY

Captain Gray was an old line Whig who opposed the secession of Florida from the Union. However he organized and drilled a company of home guards called the St. Johns Rangers. This group mustered in as Company B, Second Florida Cavalry, commanded by General Benjamin Hopkins. Initially a First Lieutenant, Gray later achieved captain and held this rank until discharged at Waldo on May 20, 1865. At the battle of Gainesville, a horse was shot out from under him. He then mounted a riderless black horse of a fallen U. S. cavalryman. The saddlebags were found to contain silver articles that were subsequently handed down in the Gray family. Gray was involved in the capture and destruction of the **COLUMBINE**, at Horse Landing on May 22, 1864. Captain J. J. Dickison led the Confederate force. Gray had 17 of his men involved.

During the war, Mrs. Gray, their two young girls, a three-week old son, Harry, and some family slaves moved to Orange Springs, then to McMeekin where they farmed. Except for this interval, they lived all their lives in a home on the corner of 4th and Oak Streets. During the shelling of Palatka by the Federal Gunboats, a shell passed through the upper story leaving a hole large enough for a man's head to pass.

At War's end Captain Gray was out of funds. His chief asset was \$300 in gold zealously guarded by his wife during the war. Most of the time she wore it around her waist in a money belt. Captain Gray used it to build a barge to carry freight on the Ocklawaha. In time he became one of Hubbard L. H 's chief competitors until the end of the 1870's, when Hart was in a position to buy, him out. He did and retained Captain Gray in his employment. In early November 1880 Henry Gray sold his **MARION** to Colonel Hart for \$2,000. Captain Gray remained on as the **MARION'S** skipper although he commanded other craft for Hart especially the **ASTATULA** until the end of his working days.

Eliza Waddell was originally from Columbia, SC arriving in Palatka at the age of fourteen. On April 2 1857 she married Captain Gray. She was one of the first members of the Presbyterian Church after it's formation.



COLONEL HUBBARD L. HART

Literally one of the movers of the day, Hubbard Hart owned interests in the various modes of travel beginning with a stage line that he bought in the 1850s. He was also the builder and first owner of the Putnam House--a hotel that at its heyday boasted 500 rooms. He also maintained orange groves near the River, a shipyard at Hart's Point in East Palatka and engaged in other business enterprises. But he is probably best remembered as the owner and proprietor of the Oklawaha River steamers that took tourists on trips up the Oklawaha River. Below is part of a description of one of the steamers and the trip:

Strange in appearance, yet cleverly specialized, were the small recessed-sternwheel steamboats evolved on Florida's Oklawaha River between 1860 and 1920. The *Okeehumkee*, shown in this Hart Line advertisement, was typical. She was built to navigate the dark, crooked watercourse between Palatka and Silver Springs, through swamps which had once been the stronghold of the Seminole chief Osceola. Oklawaha boats had to be less than 90 feet long to get around the bends. They were at most 25 feet wide. Driftwood and narrow channels ruled out large, exposed wheels or propellers: so these little steamers were driven by a sternwheel completely hidden in a cleft at the stern. Despite her tiny dimensions, the *Okeehumkee* had 22 staterooms, after a second passenger deck was built in the 1890's. She ran until the end of the 1919 season, when the Hart Line finally succumbed to automobile and powerboat competition.



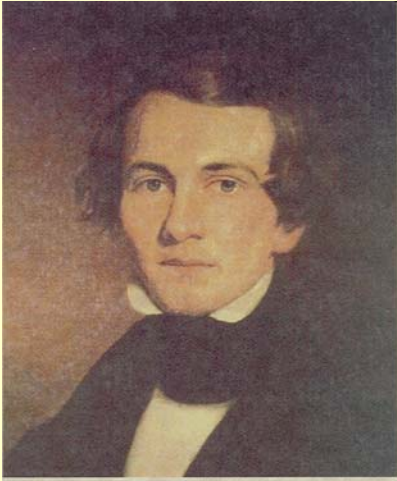
JOSEPH H. HAUGHTON and DORA T. HAUGHTON

Joseph Husson Haughton was the son of T. S. Haughton and Elizabeth Moseley Haughton. Governor William D. Moseley was his maternal grandfather, the first elected Governor of the state of Florida. Known as “Uncle Joe” to friends and family he was born in Palatka and attended local schools to age 12. He went to work in a pharmacy then attended the East Florida Seminary in Gainesville, returning in 1885 to go to work for W. O. Woltz. In 1886 he went into business for himself. Later he sold that business then was associated with the Canova Brothers and then H. E. Stewart. This was the City Drug Store. Uncle Joe purchased Stewart’s interest in the business and continued to operate it until 1936. He was a charter member of the Florida State Pharmaceutical Association, and attended 50 consecutive conventions. He was instrumental in the founding of the School of Pharmacy at the University of Florida. He was also active in community and civic affairs, and many fraternal organizations. He was vestryman and long-time member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. He served as Chairman of the School Board. He was President of the Palatka Board of Cemetery Trustees at the time of his death.

Theodora Thompson Haughton was a resident of Palatka for 67 years, and had resided, along with her husband, at 400 North 4th Street for 58 years. She was born in Keokuk, Iowa, daughter of William and Emma Thompson. On December 18, 1889, she and Joseph Haughton were married in Fredonia, New York. That same year they moved to Palatka.



DR. GEORGE ELIAS HAWES



Born at Society Hill, SC in 1816, he moved to the Dun Lawton Hammocks of Florida in 1846 with his sister and brother-in-law, John J. Marshall, then relocated to Palatka in 1854, after his sister died and the family moved to Louisiana. He was one of Palatka's earliest doctors. Besides his medical knowledge, he was a true Renaissance man. He was a surveyor, blacksmith, silversmith, well traveled, and played the violin. He served in both the State Senate and House of Representatives.

Hawes joined the Second Florida Infantry and fought for four years in Lee's Army in Virginia. He never married. Dr. Hawes lived in a two-room house on Second Street and according to accounts, when anyone was sick and did not have the funds to buy medicine, he first prescribed for them, then compounded the prescription in his apothecary free of charge. He never sold medicine, but always gave it away. He asked the patients that could afford their medicine to keep their pillboxes so that he would have them for those that could not afford medicine. He also was said to have paid the salary of the minister of St. Mark's, when collections ran short.

He was an avid outdoorsman and loved to go "partridge hunting" never admitting that there were quail in this country, but insisting that they were partridges.

He created the silver spurs that were presented to Capt. J. J. Dickison as a gift from the ladies of Orange Springs, fashioning them from whatever trinkets the ladies donated.

Dr. Hawes was a founding member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church and was their first Lay Reader. The Congregation placed the stained glass window above the altar in his honor.

GENERAL BENJAMIN HOPKINS

1800 - 1862

Benjamin Hopkins was a planter with a plantation near Horse Landing. He also was very interested in the development of the community to the extent that he is credited with establishing the first public school in the County in 1852. It was located in a room of the Courthouse. It is thought that he taught some of the classes himself, and also paid some of the salaries of other teachers out of his own pocket.

He distinguished himself during the Indian Wars, rising to the rank of General. When Florida seceded from the Union, he resigned his commission and enlisted in the Confederate Army, St. Johns Rangers, later Company B, Second Florida Cavalry. He had earned the rank of "Captain" by the time he died. He was close enough to home that his wife was able to be with him when he died. Winston Stephens succeeded him in command of the unit.

When interred in Westview, the monument maker restored him to his former rank.

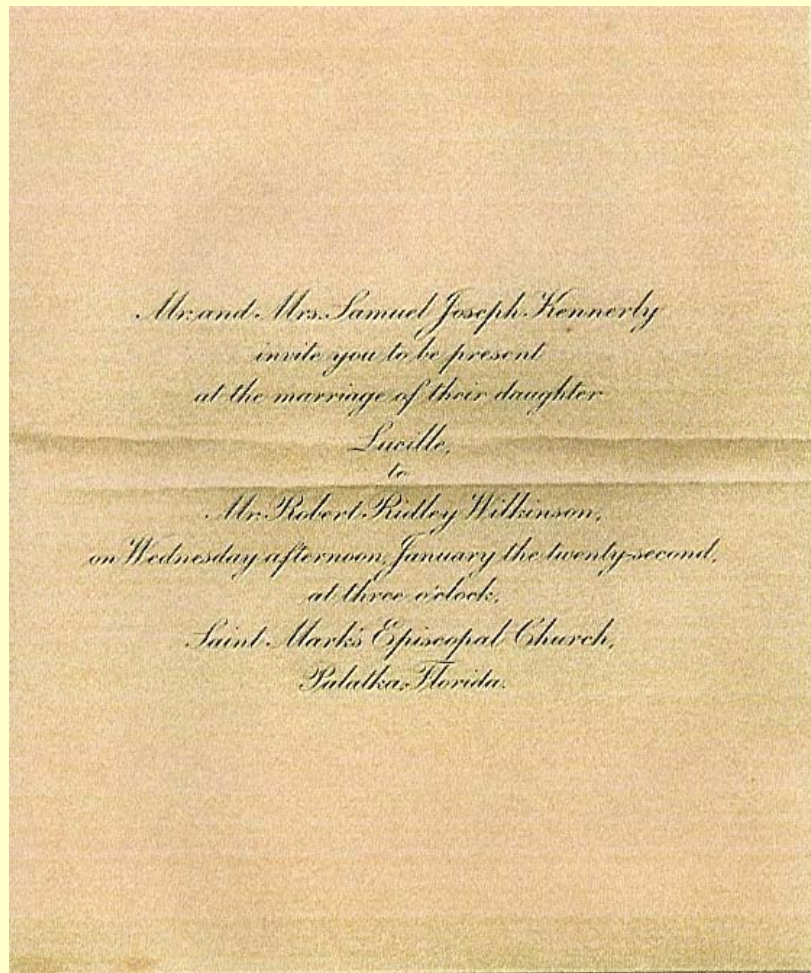


MAYOR SAMUEL J. KENNERLY

He was born in South Carolina. At the age of 17 he enlisted in Company D. 5th SC Reserves. He came to Palatka after the War in 1866. He worked for others until he owned his own business and became one of Palatka's wealthiest men. He used a great part of that wealth to help rebuild the city after the Great Fire of 1884.

During "Reconstruction", Mr. Kennerly worked with other Democrats, including Dr. E. S. Crill and Jesse L. Burton in restoring a decent government.

He served ten years as the County Treasurer. He also served as Mayor of Palatka in 1915 until he asked to be relieved due to failing health. He was a Mason, a Knight of Pythias, and an Elk.



DICK MURRAY KIRBY

This is the gentleman that sparked Jody Delzell's recent columns in the "*Palatka Daily News*". Those articles yielded the following information:

"He was born March 3, 1851 in Buffalo, New York, and died November 3, 1922 in Palatka. The funeral was held in St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

"He graduated from Cornell University and came to Florida and bought orange groves on Drayton Island in 1877. He later moved to Palatka to practice law and became prominent in the Republican Party. He at one time rented office space from the Palatka Guarantee and Title Company. He was appointed Postmaster in Palatka by President McKinley and served in that capacity for eighteen years.

"He had three daughters, one of which was Mrs. George E. Gay, of Palatka. He also had one son. His brother, Edwin, came to Florida in 1900 and lived at Mount Royal where he also had orange groves. (Drayton Island, in the north end of Big Lake George, can be seen from Mount Royal.)

"Their father was W. A. Kirby, inventor of the popular Kirby Reaper used in farming.

All of this came about because a Chattanooga, Tennessee relative of Mr. Delzell's, came across an 1893 letter from D. M. Kirby to a J. K. Hodges in Chattanooga regarding some land holdings, and thought Mr. Delzell would be interested.

ISADORE M. MEYER

The Palatka News and Advertiser, January 30, 1903

I. M. Meyer, since 1876 a resident of Putnam County, and for many years last past a leading businessman of this city, died at his residence at 520 Emmett Street at 4:10 PM last Monday. Gastritis and septic poisoning was the cause of death. He had been ill about 10 days.

Mr. Meyer was a native of Appliedain, Holland, where he was born March 24th, 1855, and where he remained until 17 years of age, when, he came to this country, settling in Savannah. He came to Palatka in 1876 and entered the employ of the late B. L. Lilenthal, as clerk in his store at Crescent City. Later he returned to Palatka, where he entered the store of Marcus Loeb, as clerk. The association this formed continued, as clerk and partner, until 1900, when Mr. Meyer bought out the interests of his partners and became the sole owner of one of the largest and most successful mercantile establishments in the interior of Florida.

Mr. Meyer married Miss Dena Sims of this city August 4th, 1882. The result of that happy union is one son, Clarence a young man now in his 20th year. These constitute his sole survivors, save for a brother and a sister, Mr. L. Meyer of Baltimore and Miss Henrietta Meyer of Savannah. She was here when the end came. The brother reached here in time for the funeral, which was held at the house Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock, being conducted by Rev. Thomas P. Hay of the Presbyterian Church of which Mrs. Meyer is a member and the deceased was a supporter.

The funeral was largely attended, all classes being represented. Every man and woman present felt that they had lost a friend and that loss weighed heavily upon them. It was a solemn occasion. The service was brief. Mr. Hay read a portion of scripture, offered fervent prayer and spoke eloquently, thoughtfully, and hopefully of a final reunion. A quartet composed of Mesdames Hamm and Philips and Messrs. Barstow and Vickers rendered in beautiful harmony "Rock of Ages" and "Nearer My God to Thee," favorite hymns of the deceased. The floral tributes were beautiful.

The interment was in Westview Cemetery. The pallbearers were S. J. Kennerly, J. H. Haughton, W. S. Burdette, S. J. Hilburn, Leo Jacobson and W. A. Strange. R. S. Mooney had direction of the funeral. In the death of I. M. Meyer Palatka has lost a model businessman and citizen one who held a ranking place in the confidence and affections of all classes of people, and whose death has cast a gloom upon the city and county.

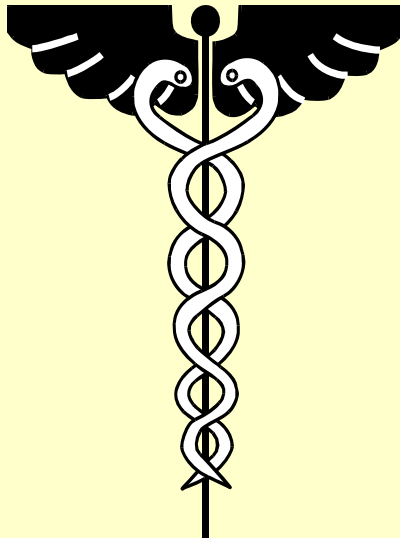
DR. NATHANIEL MORAGNÉ

One of the first pharmacists in the state and son-in-law of ex-Governor William D. Moseley. He owned and operated the **CITY DRUG STORE**. He was born in 1826 near the town of Willington, Abbeville District, SC. He was a son of Isaac and Margaret Blanton Moragné from Bordeaux, France. The elder Moragné was born in 1774, a Huguenot. He was educated, the school undetermined.

After the death of his mother in October 1852 Nathaniel moved to Palatka and set up practice. He married Alice Hill, the, youngest daughter of William Moseley in 1856 and had five daughters and one son.

He opened his store in 1856 and it is thought to be the first of it's kind in Palatka. He was involved in civic, religious, and fraternal life of the city and county. He served in the 1868 session of the Florida Senate as a Conservative candidate of the 17th District. He served in the State Senate from 1869 to 1872.

After death he created a stir when a skeleton was found in the rubble of his drugstore after the Great Fire of 1884. It was greatly feared that some unfortunate soul had lost his life, until it was remembered that Dr. Moragné kept a skeleton in the store.

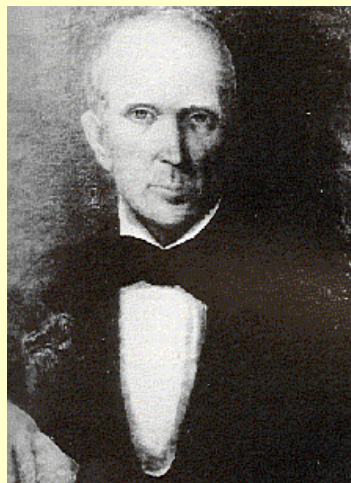


WILLIAM DUNN MOSELEY

First elected governor of the State of Florida, June 25, 1845--October 1, 1849, was born at Moseley Hall, NC. He taught school to earn the money to enter the University of North Carolina where academically, he bested James K. Polk, later President of the United States. He practiced law at Wilmington, NC and was active in public affairs. He bought a plantation on Lake Miccosukee near Monticello, FL in 1835 and resided there until 1851. He served in the State Legislature and defeated Richard Keith Call for Governor in the first election under Statehood. In 1851 he moved to Palatka where his daughters had settled, and was a planter and fruit grower. He may have represented Putnam County in the 1855 extraordinary session of the House of Representatives.

His last official act as Governor was to sign the Legislation establishing Putnam County on January 13, 1849.

Governor Moseley was almost arrested by the Federals during a skirmish in Palatka in 1862 wherein the Federals threatened to raze the town. He had gone down to meet the gunboats and tell the Commander that the town was for all practical purposes, deserted, unaware that a force of about fifty men had crossed the river the night before. He may have spent most of the day aboard the gunboat as a hostage while the mess was sorted out, but the record isn't clear. He was described as rather infirm and usually didn't venture far from home. His death came just three months after this incident.



GEORGE W. PRATT

Known as "Alligator Pratt", he was editor of the *Eastern Herald* and came to Palatka around 1868. Col. George W. Pratt was among the early pioneers in the newspapers business in Florida in the office of the *Eastern Herald*, a weekly newspaper established in Palatka in 1869. Only two papers in the state predate the *Herald*, these are the *Jacksonville Floridian* and the *Ocala Banner*. The *Eastern Herald* was successfully conducted by the Pratt family a long period, and was eventually changed in name to the *Palatka Herald*. In 1885 the *Herald* was consolidated with the *Palatka Times* and the publication became the *Times-Herald*.

Col. Pratt retired from active business in 1889 and the four sons, Joseph H. C. of Leesburg, Pierre d'A., Charles H., and William A. of Palatka, associated themselves under the name of Pratt Brothers and purchased the splendidly equipped plant of the old *Palatka News*, which had become bankrupt. The Florida Newspaper Union was now established together with the *Leesburg Commercial* and *Palatka Daily and Weekly*.

The Pratt Brothers owned the *Herald* for a number of years. The newspaper union was later merged with the Noble Newspaper Union and the plant was moved to DeLand.



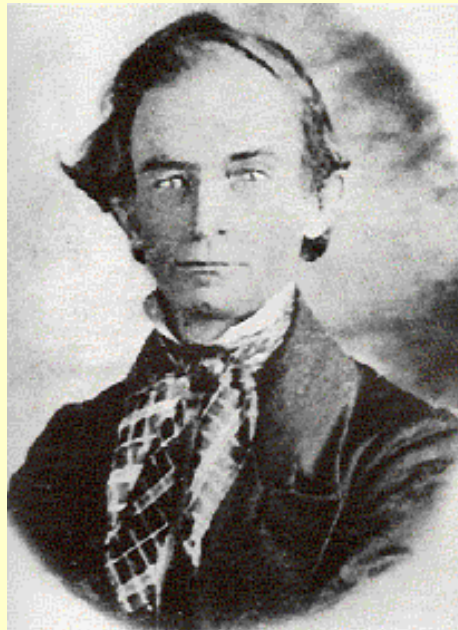
BENJAMIN ALEXANDER PUTNAM

The namesake of Putnam County. Putnam County was formed on January 13, 1849, the twenty-eighth county of Florida. Putnam was carved from parts of St. Johns and Alachua counties. In 1869 a portion of St. Johns that was east of the St. Johns River was added to it.

The Honorable Judge Putnam was a lawyer, soldier, member of the Florida legislature, judge, and first president of the Florida Historical Society. Born on Putnam plantation near Savannah, GA, he attended Harvard, studied law privately at St. Augustine and practiced there.

During the Indian Wars, he served as Major, Colonel, and Adjutant General, and suffered a crushing defeat at Dunlawton that haunted him politically.

He served in both houses of the Florida Legislature and as Speaker of the House in 1848. By appointment of President Zachary Taylor, he was surveyor-general of Florida from May 1849 to 1854. He died at home in Palatka.



REV. JOSEPH M. QUARTERMAN

Rev. Mr. Quarterman was the first pastor of the Presbyterian Church. The First Presbyterian Church was officially formed on February 16, 1856 by eight charter members. After holding services at members' homes, then the courthouse, the congregation was allowed the use of a small log building, on the site of the present church, originally erected as a powder magazine by the United States Government during the Indian Wars.

Mr. Quarterman died shortly after the church was formally organized, and may not even have seen the use of this structure. Certainly he would not know the present brick edifice. That building was designed by Richard Morris Hunt, and donated by Dr. Lennox Kennedy of New York City in 1881. Then 1884 came along with the **Great Fire** that destroyed most of downtown Palatka. Dr. Kennedy again came across with the funds, and the church rebuilt using the same plans. Most of the furnishings date from that time.



ARTHUR THOMAS and LOUISA EVILLE REED

Arthur and Louisa Reed were the original owners and probable builders of the home at 418 Emmett Street. Coming to Palatka in 1860, Arthur worked for the **Tilghman's Mill** for many years. After his retirement, he and Louisa ran a dry goods and notions business, "A. T. Reed and Son" next door at 420 Emmett, which was probably attached to the main house. For a time, Arthur also ran the **West End Grocery** for Benjamin and George Gay at 429 Kirby Street.

After Arthur died of complications following a fall from the roof of a different house in 1929, Louisa took in boarders to help make ends meet.



JOHN RODGERSON

The Palatka News and Advertiser, April 3, 1903

Mr. John Rodgerson died at the home of his brother-in-law, Edward Spain, on Kirby Street at 8 o'clock Sunday morning of typhoid-pneumonia.

Mr. Rodgerson was born at Blackburn, Lancastershire, England, on September 8th, 1859. He was an ex-soldier in the British Army and had seen service in South Africa during the late Boer war. Last year he returned by Natal, Cape Colony, where he served in the Department of Remounts. He had several medals presented him by the British Crown for valiant service. He has been residing in Canada and Michigan until recently, when he came to Florida with the intention of making this state his home.

Since his residence here he has been in the employ of Wilson Cypress Company. A wife and one daughter in this country and several other relatives residing in England survive Mr. Rodgerson. The funeral was held from the residence of Mr. Spain last: Monday morning at 10:30 o'clock, Rev. Douglas Matthews, rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church officiating. The remains were interred in Westview Cemetery.

N*O*T*E*

Mr. Rodgerson, though having a distinguished record, and recorded as buried in Westview, is not marked. If he had not had a kind obituary in the paper, a spot in the interment record, and two "Guardian Angels," you would not know his history, because his grave

I*S* N*O*T* M*A*R*K*E*D*!

Therefore, it is only through luck that he can "tell" his story. We have no idea where he is buried, though most likely in the Paupers' Area. (MEM & LAH)

THOMAS SHALLEY [SHELLEY]

March 26, 1885

Thomas Shalley, aged 55 years. To many of our old citizens his sudden death will bring deep pain, caused by the severance of strong ties which have endured unbroken for many years; to all our citizens, the announcement will be greeted with the sorrowful surprise of unexpected bereavement. The deceased was born in County Galway, Ireland in 1832, but came to America with his family in 1851. He settled at Palatka-in 1853 and has taken an important part in our public affairs since early manhood. Throughout the state, comrades will recollect him as a soldier in the Seminole War and a still larger number will recall his services under Captain Gray, in the Confederate service.

In 1860 he married Miss Margaret Lucas, of the city, who lives to mourn his loss, and of their family of nine children, six survived to surround the deathbed of their father and comfort the mother in the severest trial that can befall a loving wife. On his return from the army in 1865, he found all his property destroyed or of no cash value, but he began work with the energy which was one of his most striking characteristics, and before his death had amassed a most comfortable independence which he managed carefully and well.

In the history of Putnam County, since the War, the name of Thomas Shalley must occur on every page. On him as Sheriff devolved the duty of punishing the murderer of Collector Stephens in 1866 and he held the same office for twelve years under different governors of Florida. He was also Tax Collector for four years and Assessor for a like term.

Only a few days ago he was moving among us, strong and well. With A party of friends he went north to see the Inauguration at Washington and on his return was attacked with inflammatory rheumatism, which resulted in paralysis and caused his-death. Throughout the state those who knew the generous spirit and kind temper of Mr. Shalley will mourn his death; a host of comrades and friends who have been associated with him in the trials of many years extend sincerest condolences to the stricken widow and sorrowing children.

WINSTON JOHN THOMAS STEPHENS

1829-1865

A native of Welaka and a soldier in the Confederate Army, in the St. Johns Rangers, later Company B, Second Florida Cavalry, Stephens was killed in a skirmish near Cedar Creek in Jacksonville. He and his wife Octavia “Tivie” Bryant along with other members of the two families, corresponded by letters and kept diaries both before and during their brief marriage. These letters and diaries have been published in the book, Rose Cottage Chronicles; Civil War Letters of the Bryant – Stephens Families of North Florida, University Press, Gainesville, FL, c1998, and is available at Andrea’s Bookstore for \$34.95.

Originally buried in a Lake City cemetery along with Olustee casualties, the State of Florida in 1888 offered assistance to families who wanted their loved ones moved closer to home. So at that time Winston was relocated to Westview. Octavia Stephens is buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Welaka. No one knows why Winston was not buried there.

2001 Addendum:

For years the monument purported to be Winston's has held an honored space in Westview. This year it is missing. It has been said that Winston is in fact buried in Welaka, and that the spot really belongs to WILLIAM STEPHENS, first Sheriff of the County, murdered in 1866, and also a Veteran. If so, where is the proof and where is the stone?



CAPTAIN STEPHENSON and 2ND LT. GANNETT

Two of the earliest known interments in Westview Cemetery. Both men lost their lives in skirmishes during the Indian Wars (1835-1842). The local fort was named Fort Shannon and was located where the present Capital City Bank building on Reid Street now is. One of a succession of commanders was General Zachary Taylor who later became the twelfth President of the United States.

Notice the spelling of “Pilatka”. These are two of three stones so marked. “Pilatka” is the earlier spelling. Because there was a possibility that confusion would be created in mail delivery between “Pilatka” and “Picolata”, the spelling was changed. The third stone is that of **Samuel Arey** located north of the Gazebo.



JUDGE JAMES C. VERTREES

December 27, 1907

Death of Judge James C. Vertrees; he had been in poor health by reason of age and died suddenly on Monday the 23rd, of heart failure. Judge Vertrees made his home with his daughter and son-in-law Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Walton. By his side were Mrs. Walton, Mrs. W. A. Walton and Miss Susie Lee Walton.

Judge Vertrees had been confined to the house since the 16th when he had a slight attack of dizziness. He also had a severe cold, and his trouble was pronounced to be the flu.

The funeral occurred on Tuesday, with Rev. J F. Bell of the Methodist, and Rev. L. R. Lynn of the Presbyterian Churches officiating. The Veteran's Association of the Blue & Gray attended the body, as also did the Daughters of the Confederacy.

The body was taken to Nashville, Tenn., for interment, and was accompanied by his son, James C. Vertrees.

Judge Vertrees was bom in Grayson County, Kentucky, June 15, 1825. His family moved to Gallatin, Tenn., when he was 18 years of age, and there he lived several years, when he moved to Missouri, where he served some time as a Judge of Probate. At the breaking out of the Civil War, Judge Vertrees entered in Capt. McCart's Company of the 5th Missouri Infantry, serving under General Sterling Price. He was Third Lieutenant of his company. He served through the Missouri Campaign until the Battle of Lexington, where he was severely wounded. On returning to his regiment he was assigned by General Price as a commissioner for the exchange of prisoners. At the close of the War, Judge Vertrees returned to Gallatin, where he continued to reside until he moved to Palatka in 1884.

During his residence here, he served as County Treasurer, County Commissioner, and a member of the City Council. He was a senior member and founder of the firm Vertrees & Co., of this city, and a director of the Putnam National Bank.

He was married July 29th, 1849, and survived his wife a little over 12 years. He is survived by one sister, Mrs. Owen of Leitchfield, KY, who is two years his senior; by his sons, John H. and W. O. of Nashville, and James C. of this city, and one daughter, Mrs. J. N. Walton of Palatka.

(While Judge Vertrees may not be here, the home is located at 627 Emmett Street, ~~at the home of James C. Vertrees with Mary Ellen Murphy~~ as a noted merchant.) 34

JUDGE VERTREES WALTON and FAMILY

Born in Gallatin, Sumner County, Tennessee, August 16, 1884. His parents were John N. and Katie Lee Vertrees Walton. He was from Alabama and she from Tennessee. John N. spent his early youth in Alabama and then became a student at the University of Nashville. He also attended the Emory and Henry College of Virginia, where he pursued a course in civil engineering. When Vertrees Walton was six weeks old, the family moved to Palatka where his father entered the wholesale grain business of Vertrees and Co. He remained a partner until his death on May 23, 1912. He was connected with the Knights of Pythias and the Woodmen of the World. He was an active Democrat and one of three Trustees of the Putnam County Bond. He was elected to the County Commission but resigned.

J. V. was the eldest of three children, his sister Susie Lee and his brother Will N. He graduated from High School in 1903. He pursued his law course in the Washington and Lee University at Lexington, VA where he graduated in the Class of 1906. He took the Bar examination in that state before the Supreme Court in 1905, and was admitted to practice in the courts in October of that year. His certificate was held because he was still a minor and it wasn't given to him until he was 21. From the latter part of 1907 until November 1, 1911, he was associated with H. E. Merryday. He retired in 1961.

November 29, 1909 he married Sophia Elizabeth Howard, a native of Marion County, and the daughter of Captain James H. Howard. They had four children, Sophie Elizabeth Braulin, Lois Ann, and Mary. He was a staunch Democrat and active in community affairs.

One of his most famous cases that he and daughter Kate handled was that of **Zelma Cason vs. Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Baskin**. The case was a libel of character lawsuit, stemming from the book **Cross Creek**, which the plaintiffs won. J. V. died February 16, 1963 at his daughter Kate Walton Engleken's home in East Palatka.

(Judge Walton may not be here but the family is.)

33RD INFANTRY REGIMENT

United States Colored Troops

(Formerly the [1st South Carolina Colored Infantry](#))

The first of several all Black Infantry Units, formed May 1862. After several false starts, it reorganized under command of Captain C. T. Trowbridge. The first assignment was an expedition along the Georgia-Florida coast, under command of Colonel Oliver T. Beard of the 48th N.Y Volunteer Infantry and composed of Company A, 1st SC numbering 62 men under Captain Trowbridge. From November 3 to November 18, 1862, Company A raided Confederate posts, salt works, and saw mills along the Georgia/Florida coasts. Large quantities of rice and lumber were captured in addition to the liberation of 155 slaves. Ninety-four of them joined the 1st SC. Colonel Beard wrote: "The colored men fought with astonishing coolness and bravery. For alacrity in effecting landing, for determination, and for bush fighting, I found them all I could desire - more than I had hoped. They behaved bravely, gloriously, and deserve all praise."

On November 10, 1862, Colonel Thomas Wentworth Higginson assumed command. The regiment went up the St. Mary's River along the Georgia-Florida state line from 23 January to 1 February 1863. In March of 1863, five steamboats steamed up the St. Johns River with the 1st SC. and 2nd SC. Volunteer Infantry on board. On March 10, the forces occupied Jacksonville with no resistance. Both units repulsed several assaults on the town. Although successful, Jacksonville was abandoned by Federal forces.

The 33rd Infantry Regiment was organized February 8, 1864. Attached to U.S. Forces, Port Royal Island, SC, 10th Corps, Dept. of the South, to April, 1864. District of Beaufort, SC, Dept. of the South, to July 1864. Folly Island, SC, Northern District, Dept. of the South, to October 1864. 1st Separate Brigade, Dept. of the South, to March 1865. District of Savannah, Ga., and Dept. of the South, to January 1866.

SERVICE: -- Duty at Port Royal Island, SC, District of Beaufort, SC, till July 1864. Expedition to James Island, SC, June 30-July 10. James Island near Sessionville, July 2. Duty on Folly and Morris Islands operating against Charleston, SC, to November. Demonstration on Charleston & Savannah Railroad December 6-9. Devaux's Neck, December 6. Tillifinny Station, December 9. Ordered to Folly Island, December 9. Near Pocotaligo Road, December 20. At Pocotaligo, SC, till February, 1865. Occupation of Charleston till March 8. Moved to Savannah, GA., March 8, and duty there till June 6. Moved to August, GA. Duty there and at various points in the Dept. of the South till January 1866. Mustered out January 31, 1866.

Source: Dyer's Compendium, p. 1729

34TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

United States Colored Troops

Organized February 8, 1864, from the [2nd South Carolina Colored Infantry](#). Attached to Montgomery's Brigade, District of Florida, Dept. of the South, February 1864. 3rd Brigade, Vogdes' Division, District of Florida, Dept. of the South, to April 1864. Morris Island, SC, Northern District, Dept. of the South, to June 1864. District of Beaufort, SC, Dept. of the South, to August 1864. District of Florida, Dept. of the South, to October 1864. 4th Separate Brigade, Dept. of the South, to November 1864. 1st Brigade, Coast Division, Dept. of the South, to November 1864. 2nd Brigade, Coast Division, Dept. of the South, to January 1865. 4th Separate Brigade, District of Florida, Dept. of the South and Dept. of Florida, to February 1866.

SERVICE: -- Provost duty at Jacksonville, FL, till March 30, 1864. Moved to Palatka, FL, March 30-31, and to Picolata, April 12. Ordered to Folly Island, SC, April 13, thence to Morris Island, SC and duty there, operating against Charleston till May 20. Moved to St. Augustine, FL, May 20, thence to Tyree Island, SC, May 22. Expedition to Ashepoo River, May 26. Moved to Hilton Head, SC, Jun 30. Expedition to James Island, SC, July 1-10. Near Winter's Point, July 3. King's Creek, July 3. Actions on James Island, July 3 and 9-10. Burden's Causeway, July 9. Return to Jacksonville, FL, July 31. Expedition to Enterprise, August 2-5. Raid on Florida Railroad, August 15-18. Action at Gainesville, August 17. Duty at Jacksonville, Palatka and Magnolia Springs, FL, till November 25. Expedition to Boyd's Neck, SC, November 28-30. Battle at Honey Hill, SC, November 30. Expedition to Devaux's Neck, December 6. Moved to Hilton Head, SC, thence to Jacksonville, FL, January 1865. Duty at Jacksonville till February 1866. Mustered out February 28, 1866.

Source: *Dyer's Compendium*, p. 1729.

...And You Thought You Had a Bad Day...

By Simon Barker-Benfield, *Florida Times-Union* staff writer

Millennium Moment: May 24, 1864

Monday, May 24, 1999

May 24, 1864, kept getting worse for **Brigadier General George Gordon**, U.S. Army. Three days earlier he had set off south, up the St. Johns River from Jacksonville, on an abortive expedition to head off what he believed was a Confederate force 400 strong south of Palatka. Now he was hurriedly heading back to his base.

Three nights earlier, news of the Confederate force had arrived at 11 PM in fortified and garrisoned Jacksonville. Within an hour he marched 200 infantry on board the steamer **CHARLES HOUGHTON** and was on his way south. With him were two gunboats, the **OTTAWA**, and the **COLUMBINE**, to provide artillery support.

He was betting the river was not mined, as it had been in recent weeks when the transports **MAPLE LEAF**, **GENERAL HUNTER** and **HARRIET WEED** had been lost to mines. He won the bet.

After pausing at Picolata to pick up another 450 to 500 troops, Gordon reached Palatka. There he off-loaded his troops on the east bank and sent the vessels on south to investigate. Gordon left the river and headed south across country. His orders were clear: Any artillery fire heard would be ignored unless a signal rocket was fired.

That night he heard the sound of shelling near the mouth of Dunn's Creek. He ignored it: No distress rockets fired. But on May 23, Day 2 of his expedition, he found out Federal Posts at Welaka and Saunders had been captured. And now locals were talking about 700 Confederate troops being loose in the area, instead of 400. He believed them.

The next day, Day 3, he was back on the St. Johns, at Picolata, looking for the transport **CHARLES HOUGHTON** to carry him and his men back to Jacksonville.

Then he heard the bad news. The ship had been damaged on Day 1, by Confederate shelling near Dunn's Creek. That was the firing he heard.

But more bad news was to come. While he had been making his retreat back to Picolata May 23, the **COLUMBINE** had been captured -- by Cavalry, yet.

The **COLUMBINE**, heading back north to catch up with Gordon, had turned a bend near Palatka and steamed straight into an ambush set by Captain J. J. Dickison and 50 men and their artillery. About 20 Federals had been killed or drowned, six had been wounded and 65 captured. It was also Dickison and his 50 troops--not 400, not 700--who had captured the two outposts.

Gordon reported he was lucky that he had kept his troops out of trouble.

*Thank you for visiting our
Palatka and Putnam County
Heroes.*

*Please come back again as we
add to our collection.*

Mary E. Murphy-Hoffmann

eotsj@putnam-fl-cemeteries.org

