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TORIES OF THE LOWER PEACE RIVER VALLEY

By Spessard Stone

The settlement of eastern Manatee County, now Hardee County, commenced in the fall of 1854. By April 1861, when the Civil War began, the region was populated largely by yeoman farmers, few of whom had slaves. Many had served in federalized companies during the Seminole wars and had a strong attachment to the national government. Most, however, appeared just not to want to be involved in the conflict and preferred to tend their farms and market their cattle. Cattlemen, furthermore, had a financial incentive as the Union garrison at Fort Myers (established in early 1864), paid for cattle in gold, not worthless Confederate paper money. These conditions would be further complicated by the conscription acts of 1862, and their enforcement by local Confederate agents, which alienated many area residents. Ultimately, repeal of draft exemptions for cattlemen by the Conscription Act of February 17, 1864 forced local men to choose one side or the other.¹

Some early citizens openly and warmly supported the Confederacy in the war’s early stages. When the Bartow-organized Company E, 7th Florida Infantry, C.S.A. was mustered in April 1862, lower Peace River enlistees included: David Brannon, brothers Reuben and Wright Carlton, James M. Hendry, brothers William J. and Stephen P. Hooker, Lewis H. Parker, brothers William C. and David H. Platt, E.W. Thompson, brothers Maxwell and John W. Whidden; brothers John A., James W. and Nathan Williams. William N. Hair enlisted on May 14, 1862 in Company E, 8th Florida Infantry, C.S.A.²

Despite recent scholarship, the legend of a Solid South persists among many descendants of pioneer families of South Florida, who express amazement or denial when confronted with Union ancestry. The Lower Peace River Valley, below Fort Meade and encompassing present-day Hardee County, was a region with an inordinate Union allegiance during the Civil War.
Others took the opposite path. For example, on December 2, 1863, Enoch Daniels of the Charlotte Harbor area disembarked at Key West where he proceeded to engage in talks with Federal officers to raise a volunteer force among refugees to conquer the country between Charlotte Harbor and Tampa Bay, a supplying area of beef cattle for the Confederate Army. General Daniel P. Woodbury was receptive and on December 14 informed the Federal commander at New Orleans that rebel army deserters and conscription evaders hiding in the woods between Charlotte Harbor and Lake Okeechobee were estimated from 200 to 800, many of whom would join if a military post was established in the area. He hence established the Florida Rangers with nineteen refugees in Key West.3

Soon the Union men were back on the mainland. On December 17, a slightly supplemented troop under Lt. James E Meyers of the 47th Pennsylvania, with Enoch Daniels as guide, proceeded to Useppa Island. Daniels with fifteen men and Lt. Jenks with fifteen men, thereafter, moved in three boats inland to the mouth of the Myakka River on December 25. Leaving Jenks and his men to guard the boats and await his return, Daniels proceeded thence to Horse Creek, with a dispatch on December 27 of four men to Fort Hartsuff. After being advised by a Union man that only seven men engaged in cattle driving would pen cattle the night of December 28, Daniels laid plans to capture the cow drivers. The mission was thwarted when six sentinel Rangers deserted and guided a Confederate attack on the Union boats. This forced their evacuation and a later rendezvous on December 31 with Daniels and they then sailed back to Useppa Island on January 1, 1864.4

Union authorities were not dissuaded from their plans by the setback. On January 5, 1864, General Woodbury was authorized to commission Henry A. Crane, then serving in the U.S. Navy and former publisher of the Tampa Herald and editor of the Florida Peninsular, as captain of the Florida Rangers, hereafter the 2nd Florida Cavalry. With the occupation of Fort Myers on January 10, the forcible removal of all inhabitants to the north side of the Peace River, and repeal of the draft exemption for cattlemen on February 17, 1864, Union activity in the region intensified.5

The enlistment of two prominent men, William McCullough and James D. Green, signified the changing of the status quo. McCullough, a veteran of the Seminole wars, had lived southwest of Fort Meade, but had laid out to avoid conscription before finally seeking refuge in Key West. On February 22, 1864, he was enlisted by Capt.
Green, whose home site in 1856 had become known as Fort Green, was another veteran of the Seminole wars, and the political leader of eastern Manatee County. He, subsequently, became 1st lieutenant and captain of Company B, Second Florida Cavalry.

The new volunteers brought helpful information to Union officers. Green and William McLenithan of Fort Meade, on arriving at Fort Myers on March 10, 1864, informed Capt. Crane: "That since the battle near Lake City, & great loss of provisions the Confederates were compelled to have cattle, and had stored supplies for that purpose at that point (Ft. Meade). That the forces or most of them had been ordered to Gainesville." In response on March 13, Crane dispatched troops led by Green to Fort Meade where on March 21 they proceeded to the homesteads of Confederates Willoughby Tillis and Thomas Underhill where at the former they confiscated supplies and at the latter killed Thomas Underhill.

A second raid with over 100 men was ordered by Capt. Crane, in which he in part instructed Actg. Lt. Green: "Let your whole energies be exerted to Capture (or kill if necessary) – Tillis, Parker, Lanier, Henry, Summerlin, Durrance, Tillman, Bogges, & Seward, as these are the leaders of the Guerillas – this being done, South Florida is ours . . . To those families who may wish to accompany you, advise them one & all to remain at home . . . I cannot tax our government further in receiving families . . . At Ft. Meade you will know from our spies the true state of affairs in Tampa.–Old Capt. Mizzell will meet you there, & if he thinks you strong enough, move upon that point & capture it." On April 7 at Bowlegs Creek, Green and McCullough's troops skirmished with James McKay, Jr.'s forces, killing Confederates James Lanier and wounding Henry Prine, but the Union's drive to Fort Meade was checked. The departing Second Florida proceeded to the Willoughby Tillis' place where they seized supplies and then burned his homestead.

Green and McCullough's commands, thereafter, participated in the May 6-7 occupation of Tampa. The Confederate response to the Fort Meade incursions had been an order on May 11 to "drive the deserters and tories before you." Receiving intelligence of the mistreatment of Union families and to secure beef cattle, Capt. J.W. Childs of the 2nd U.S.C.T., with the advice of Capt. Crane and Capt. Green, ordered an attack at Fort Meade. A 212-man troop, with Capt. Green commanding 100 men of Co. A and others colored troops of companies D, G and 1, crossed the Caloosahatchee River on May 14. After avoiding an ambush by crossing Peace River below the mouth of
Bowlegs Creek, Capt. Green with fifty men went in advance and took possession of the fort without meeting any resistance on May 19. Sixty mounted Confederates an hour later presented themselves, but retreated. After seizing considerable forage and supplies and destroying the barracks, the Second Florida left. Accompanying them included seven prisoners of war, seventy women and children, and over one thousand head of beef cattle. They returned to Fort Myers on May 27.9

Capt. Crane triumphantly noted:

The intelligence from the interior is that the Rebs to the number of 150 are stationed near the Alafia River, having fallen back 25 miles from their former position, leaving all south of that River to our paternal care & affection. Small squads occasionally make raids towards us a few miles, and secure any one, whether friend or foe, for their special malediction. The last one was the person of the notorious "Jake Summerlin" the great cow–driver, Indian agent &c, & one who has done more for the confederates, & more injury to us, than any other in his position. They have actually driven him from his home, and threatened death & destruction to his family. This is as I would have it, & the poison works finely. Driven to desperation he will come to us.

Another case is that of old Mr. Carlton, who drove his sons in the Rebel Army, with shouts of exultation. The Rebs have we heard, carried him off in Irons northward. One of his sons at home on furlough, seeing his father treated thus, came to us & I have the pleasure to–day of seeing him bear arms directly under our glorious old "Banner." The Florida Cavalry are respected even by their bitterest enemy. To–day I shook hands with a man, who offered a $1,000, for a horse to meet me in battle, at Tampa last December–his name is John Collier; he enters as a Soldier, under his old flag. In the ranks of our guard to–day stands the greatest Guerilla extant, "Frank Ivey" the despoiler of the whole Eastern Coast of Florida – he is obedient, & I expect to make him a corporal. – I feel an inward exquisite satisfaction in all this, without the smallest spark of resentment."10

J. J. Addison, sheriff of Manatee County, in July 1864 reported, "there is over half the Tax payers of this County gone to the Yankees and left no agent behind ... one of our County Commissioners has gone to the Yankees two of the authors taken and Prisiners and disqualified from doing any business ... we are in quite a critical situation in this County we don’t know what day or hour the Tories will be on us and
destroy all we got . . . I think it would be a good idea for the Governor to appoint another County Commissioner in Jesse Alderman place." In March 1865 Addison bemoaned "the Yankees & Tories are strolling around trying to capture all level officers."  

Elected to the Manatee County Commission on November 9, 1863 were L.P. Johnson, John Henry Hollingsworth, Jesse Alderman of Fort Green and Henry Langford of Fort Hartsuff. Alderman and Langford deserted to the Union while Hollingsworth was believed to have been captured but later managed to resume his office.  

An atypical pro-Union man was William Alderman who had moved to Manatee County in the early 1860s and after enactment of the Conscription Act of 1862 had laid out in the back county to avoid the Confederate agents. But in February 1863 he accepted the Manatee County Commission's appointment as agent to purchase supplies for the aid of Confederate families whose husbands were away at war. Then he enlisted in Capt. John T. Lesley's Company B, First Florida Cow Cavalry. Later he supplied beef cattle and hunted deer for the Union garrison at Fort Myers.  

More prevalent were the anti-secessionists of Fort Meade: F.C.M. Boggess, Francis A. Hendry, John Levi Skipper, and Jacob Summerlin. Skipper "was opposed to secession and voted against secession and did not voluntarily aid, abet or engage in the
rebellion." Yet he and the others ultimately gave their allegiance to the Confederacy. Surnmerlin was a contract beef supplier to the Confederates and, as did Boggess and Skipper, served in Company A, First Florida Cow Cavalry, captained by Hendry who previously had served in the Confederate Commissary Department.14

Boggess, 1st lieutenant and quartermaster in Capt. F.A. Hendry's Company A, presented the dilemma:

Captain Boggess had been through the Mexican War and loved the flag. He was opposed to secession as he thought the only way was to fight for his rights under the stars and stripes. He had an opportunity of engaging largely in the cattle business and he thought by moving off on the frontier that he would not have to go in the war. He moved near Fort Ogden . . .

What a delusion! A man was hunted, no difference where he went. There was a great deal of bad management and prejudice, one neighbor against the other. The people were poor, they were not able to move and maintain their families. If they joined the Confederate army they would have to move their families. They could go to Fort Myers and join the Federal army and be with their families. The woods were full of [Confederate] conscript officers. They allowed a man no time to prepare to move his family. He was arrested and carried off at once. He had no choice; he had no rights. At the beginning a good many volunteered. They were jealous of any one remaining at home and they were the foremost men to arrest and carry any one. Age nor anything else had nothing to do with it. They were afraid that the man at home would mark more cattle than they did. He had to go. All had to go.

Captain Boggess had a family but he was not able to support them and go to the front. He had no thought of going in the Federal army, although a strong Union man. There was a blockade put on in Charlotte Harbor. [Union r]efugees would make raids in boats, go to a man's house in the night time, arrest him and carry him to the vessel to take the oath. If he took the oath and returned and it was found out he was hung as a spy at once. A man was between two fires and he did not know what to do. A party of refugees went to Captain Boggess' house one night to capture him. He had just left and they missed catching him.

Captain Boggess was elected a member of the Legislature and he had to go. He left his family – told them to move at once to Fort Meade – which they did. That move kept them from catching him, or of his killing some one, or they killing him.

There was a battalion enrolled that was subject to the [Confederate] Quarter Master Department. It was their duty to gather and forward cattle to the Western army. Beef cattle brought $150 each.

The troops at Fort Myers would make raids up as high as Fort Meade. There was a skirmish at Bowlegs Creek. One man was killed and one wounded. The Yank's went at once to Fort Myers.

The Confederates kept up gathering and forwarding cattle until the war was ended. The war here was with refugees and negroes. There was no general engagement. Major William Footman
endeavored to capture Fort Myers. He made a complete failure . . .

The ordinance of secession was carried by a large majority. And any one advocating the cause of the Union was in danger of his life. Captain Boggess had been a Mexican Veteran and he loved the flag and was bitterly opposed to seceding and advocated fighting for their rights under the flag.

To be situated as a Union man was in the South was anything but pleasant. If a man’s sympathies were with the Union he could not forsake his family and all he possessed. Captain Boggess let everything shape its own course and abided by chance. He remained out of the army until he was driven in to it by force of circumstances. He, as it happened, came out honorably. He did but little fighting, and, in fact, it was a war distinct from the real war. They had a war among themselves. Those that had been neighbors fighting with the Confederates. It was a war against refugees and for the possession of this country. The Federal troops, mostly negroes and refugees, were stationed at Fort Myers and the Confederate troops were stationed at and above Fort Meade. About 100 miles apart, and but one or two families living between the two stations. The refugees at Fort Myers had a regular line of communication to the Confederate lines.”

After May 1864, the Union forces redirected their energies to raids at Brooksville in July and Manatee in August. Illness and then internal dissension developed between the white refugee families and colored troops, as well as alienation among the loyalist soldiers and officers and their Yankee officers. Especially demoralizing was the election, held at Depot Key on September 21, 1864, in which Capt. James D. Green was by a 317-0 vote unanimously elected Major of the Second Florida Cavalry, only to be rejected on the recommendation of Col. Benjamin Townsend who critiqued: “[Green] is a man of very limited education. In my opinion he is not competent to fill the position of 2nd Lieut. and is altogether unworthy of an appointment as Major.” Meanwhile, the cow cavalry had reasserted the authority of the Confederates in the Peace River Valley. The emboldened Confederates subsequently on February 20, 1865 launched an attack on Fort Myers, which was repulsed. Thereafter, a holding order prevailed until the South’s surrender.

Those enlisting in the Second Florida from December 1863 to March 1865 included from Fort Meade: Thomas J. Hilliard; Francis A. Ivey; William McClenithan Sr. and sons Tobias, William Jr., and Norman; William McCullough. Fort Green area enrollees included: James D. Green, James M. Hendry and his brothers, Charles and Robert C., and their cousin, Archibald W. Hendry. Fort Hartsuff enlisted: David J.W. Boney; brothers Calvin C. and John Collier, Jr.; brothers William M. and Dempsey D. Crews, Jr.; brothers William N. and Streety A. Hair; Berryan Summerall; Edward Whidden; John L. Whidden; Maxwell Whidden and his brothers Jesse, James E. and William; Wade Hampton Whidden and his sons Charles H., David D., Dempsey N. and John H. From Troublesome Creek came Reuben Carlton and his brother Albert, and from now Brownville: Simeon B. Williams. Lily enrolled: James A. Albritton, Henry Messer, and the Platt brothers: John W., Joshua A., Lewis B., and Nathan C., and at Horse Creek: George C. Mizell, brothers Henry and Riley Summeralls, and Thomas L. Thigpin.
These soldiers were described in early 1865 while stationed at Punta Rassa after the abandonment of Fort Myers:

The 2d Florida Cavalry differed hardly more in color than in character from the others [2d and 99th U.S. Colored Infantry]. Cavalry they were called, and as cavalry they were paid, but they were never mounted, much to their disgust. This was a regiment not to be lumped. Each man had a history of his own, sometimes more startling than fiction. In some the burning cottage, the destruction of home and household goods, the exposure of a wife and children to cold, penury, and starvation, if not a worse fate, filled the background of a picture not colored by imagination. Nearly all had been hunted, many by dogs. It’s not a pleasant thing for a man to be hunted as though human life was of no more value than of fox or a wolf, and it leaves many bitter thoughts behind. Finally, through many perils, after lying for weeks in swamps and woods, they had straggled one by one into the union lines. Happy were they who carried no corroding recollections of sudden deaths to friends, nor of fearful and bloody work to avenge them. Tall, thin, and loose-jointed were these men, incapable of rigid discipline, and of all ages; but the best shots, guides, and scouts in the army. They freely traversed at night the enemy’s country; were gone weeks, and safely returned with their families. Bitter experience had made them familiar with every outlying track and swamp; had taught them their friends and their foes, and established in the country a sort of masonic brotherhood in danger. Some, it is true, attached to neither side, and alternately deserting from each, intent only on plunder and villany, were among the rarest scoundrels and cutthroats which unsettled and perilous times produced; but the greater number were stanch and true.18

On May 29, 1865, a spokesman for the refugee citizens of Florida belatedly forwarded to President Andrew Johnson resolutions of a convention at Fort Myers on October 22, 1864, in accordance with Abraham Lincoln’s Proclamation of December 8, 1863. They, the Union citizens of Florida, stated they constituted more than ten percent of votes cast in Florida in the Presidential election held in 1860, necessary then for readmission. Resolutions included: Florida be a free state, confiscation of property of secessionists actively engaged in conscription of Unionists and those who ill treated them, separate townships for coloreds who may wish to farm, trials of those who forcibly inducted Union men into the Confederate Army or pursued and killed fugitives, eligibility for office or militia duty of civil or military office holders in Confederate or state governments active in the oppression of Union men, compensation for property confiscated.

He continued:

The loyal citizens in Florida numbered about 4000...2000 more were secretly attached to the Union cause...We were driven to the frontiers, and, when we would not join the Confederate army, lay out in the swamps till we could enter the Union lines — our homes were burned, our property confiscated, our stock and crops consumed, our wives and children when left behind driven to work in the...[?][?][?]. The Conscription officers tracked us with bloodhounds, shot us in the swamps like wild beasts, and when they had decoyed Refugee soldier by a flag of truce gave no
quarter. Let me mention an incident. Leslie, a Presiding Elder of the Methodist Church, and John Knight — the former Captain of the Guerillas in Hernando Co. Florida, the latter his lieutenant tracked a Refugee soldier named Duncan to the swamp, gave him no quarter, shot him down, and as he was dying, stamped on his head, a brutal act of savage barbarity. Yet such as these would escape by the oath of amnesty; I implore your Excellency by the rights of justice and humanity, of justice the ablest attribute of your exalted office, and of humanity, which forbids man made in the image of God to be treated like a savage beast, not to allow such offenders as these to live in the secure enjoyment of their ill gotten gains, but visit them with deserved punishment. The property of the Refugees in Florida amount to $1,000,000; these losses should be repaid by an income tax on the property of Rebels . . .

Following the war, a state of political turbulence existed with local government in Polk County being largely dominated by Conservatives (Democrats) while in Manatee County the Unionist Republicans for an interval were ascendant. The Constitutional Convention, convened October 25, 1865 at Tallahassee, reflected the coming order with Francis A. Hendry and James D. Green, representing respectively Polk and Manatee counties. Governor William Marvin's restoration of all civil officials on November 10, followed by the election on November 29, 1865 of James D. Green as Manatee's Representative and Dr. Daniel Stanford, a former slave owner, and Francis A. Hendry as senator from Polk–Brevard, mirrored the direction to come.

The Conservatives' control of the local courts and the difficulty in obtaining attorneys to represent them resulted in Union families being rebuffed for claims for losses incurred during the war. For example, Hillsborough and Manatee Union men, James A. Jones, John W. Platt, and James W. Jackson were advised by Capt. James D. Green and C. R. Mobley to engage, respectively, Judge A. A. Allen and John A. Henderson of Tampa to file suits against their rebel neighbors. They were stonewalled, however, when Judge Allen, whom they labeled "a leading Rebel [and] an open enemy of the Union party," demanded an unreasonable fee in advance. They then approached John A. Henderson, "but he also refused to aid us in obtaining our fights, he said that if he was to prosecute cases for the Union party that he would consider that he had sold himself away from his party." In utter despair they concluded that "there are no lawyers in the county who are able to complete with Allen and Henderson in short the lawyers are all implicated in the taking of our property it is impossible for us to get our rights in the courts of this state . . ."

F.C.M. Boggess corroborated the judicial situation. He recounted that after the refugees had left and joined the Union forces "the Confederate officials gathered their hogs and cattle and sold them." After the war when they returned home, he continued, "The refugees at once went to the commanding officer at Tampa and they made out many fictitious claims and had the settlers summoned to Tampa to court." Boggess especially berated the claim of his stealing a black stallion horse of Matthew P Lyons, who, along with Andrew Garner and David E. Waldron, had been captured by Boggess during the war. Boggess succeeded in having the cases dismissed: "Col. John A. Anderson [Henderson] went with Captain Boggess and introduced him to Major Cumbee, who had only a few days previous
relieved Lieutenant Smith, the officer who issued the summons. Capt. Boggess explained how matters stood to major Cumbee and he told him to go and tell all of those who were summoned to go home. Matthew P. Lyons became the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Hillsborough County, appointed by Governor Reed. Lyons and C.R. Mobley were the leaders of the Republicans in Hillsborough County, which position they reluctantly had to share with James T. Magbee, who in August 1868 was appointed Judge of the 6th Circuit, which included Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Polk and Monroe counties.

To add insult to injury, not only did Loyalists have property confiscated or destroyed by Confederates, but also were not always reimbursed for assets appropriated by the Second Florida. A case was Thomas H. Albritton of Lily who petitioned:

I took the oath of allegiance to the United States . . . I left the Conf. States about January 1865, and went to Fort Myers . . . Went for protection from the Rebels . . . Was occupied as a Teamster in the U. S. Quartermaster Dept. while gone . . . the Confederate authorities drove off my Beef Cattle, tore up my place, and injured my orange trees for which I never received pay. I was threatened with death if I remained home and for that reason left and went into the Union lines. I had two sons in the Rebel Army — one of whom was conscripted. George & Arthur both now in Manatee County . . . I was always opposed to the cause of secession, voted against it throughout with the cause of the union. I was present when the property described in my petition was taken — near Fort Myers, Fla. in 1865. The horses were taken by Lt. Ames, Acty Qr Master at Fort Myers, who said he would see they were taken care of . . . The condition of the horses was good, value Four Hundred dollars. The horses were kept in the service of the United States, and I have never receive any pay therefor.

John M. Bates, who had moved to Lily in 1860, also filed a belated Union claim in which he stated in part:

My Sympathies was on the Union side they were from the beginning to the end . . . I was employed tending horses in 1864 at Fort Myers . . . I was in that employment until Fort Myers was abandoned when I was sent to Sea Horse Key with my family who came to me about that time . . . I took the oath of allegiance at Cedar Keys, Florida . . . I was made to break up and leave home in 1864 in Manatee County. By Citizens but not regular forces. I was threatened with being taken up and sent to the Confederate army . . . I had a horse taken about 25 head of cattle and about (100) one hundred head of hogs. My property was taken in 1864. My horse was taken by John Collins Hogs by Wm Collins Cattle by Confederate agents. I was never paid therefor. Never filed for the same to the Confederate government or any office . . . I never had any property confiscated except a yoke of oxen . . . I carried the horse for which this claim is filed to Fort Myers with me and she was taken possession of by the officers of the United States for the use of the United States Army at Fort Myers . . .

The Reconstruction Acts of March 1867 and the constitutional convention of January 1868 brought dramatic changes to Manatee County and to a lesser extent Polk County. In May 1868 James D. Green was elected as
Representative in Manatee County while Democrats prevailed in Polk County legislative races. Despite the power of appointment, Republican Governor Harrison Reed and his successors, Ossian B. Hart and Marcellus L. Stearns, with a few notable exceptions, probably for lack of Unionists and political expediency, chose to appoint Conservatives in Polk County.25

Manatee County was led during Reconstruction by two former Union captains, James D. Green and John F. Bartholt. Green initially was the power broker, with his influence felt, not only regionally but state-wide. Eventually though, intraparty battles with James T Magbee and Governor Reed wounded Green and the party, then a disastrous race-marred state senate election to succeed Henry A. Crane in November 1870 ended Green’s legislative career although he continued to serve in local offices. A native of New York who served in South Florida during the was and who since 1869 had served as clerk of the circuit court, Bartholf superseded Green. Under Bartholf, Republicans maintained county control but lost legislative races. Finally in 1876, the local and state Democrats phoenix-like completed their rise to send the Republican Party into ashes, yielding the electoral votes to the national Republicans, who in turn agreed to end Reconstruction. A Democrat contemporary exulted, "The refugees held a high hand . . . but all of their schemes have fallen to the ground and good feeling prevails today."26

I wish to thank Kyle S. VanLandingham and Canter Brown, Jr. for their research assistance.


4 Ibid; Brown, 158-159; Enoch Daniel to Lieut. Meyers, January 2, 1864, National Archives. Enoch here signed his name Daniel; other references has Daniels. The deserters were: Miller Moody, Daniel J. Parker, John E McMullen, Brown (given name not stated, he was sergeant of the guards), John Weeks, and John Freeman.

5 Proctor; Brown, 159; Crane, Feb. 24, 1864, RG 393, Records of U.S. Army Continental Commands, 1821-1900 [Vol. 1], Entry 2269; Letters Received, t861-68, National Archives [microfilm @ P, K. Yonge Library, Gainesville].


7 Crane to Bowers, March 16, 1864, Brown, 162-163.

8 Crane to Green, April 2, 1864; Crane to Bowers, April 13, 1864; Brown, 162-165; Richard Livingston, "Enoch Everett Mizell 1806-1887," South Florida Pioneers 3 (January 1975), 13-17. The Fort Meade men included: Willoughby Tillis, Streay Parker, Francis A. Hendry, Jacob Surmerlin, Francis M. Durrence, F. C. M. Boggess. "Old Capt. Mizzell" was Enoch E. Mizell, who had commanded militia companies in the Second Seminole War and 1849. He had moved from Hernando Co. to now Pine level Ca. 1862. His son, George C. Mizell, enlisted April 15, 1864 in Co. B, Second Florida Cavalry.

9 Childs to Bowers, May 27, 1864; Brown, 166-169.

10 Crane to Woodbury, June 18, 1864; Brown, 169; Stone, Lineage of John Carlton (1991). "Old Mr. Carlton" was Daniel Wilson Carlton (1823-1891) of Troublesome Creek whose family was illustrative of the changing status of the war. His sons Reuben
(1842-1917) and Wright (1843-1929) served in Co. E, 7th Fla., CSA. It was Reuben, home on furlough, who enlisted in Co. B, 2nd Fla. Cav. Wright served in Co. E until captured Dec. 16, 1864 at Nashville and was a prisoner of war until released in June 1865. Albert Carlton (1845-1925), Daniel's third son, also served in Co. B, 2nd Fla. Cav. (Doyle E. Carlton, son of Albert, served as Governor of Florida from 1929-33.) Martha Jane Carlton, Daniel's daughter, was married to James E. Whidden, another enlistee in Co. B, 2nd Fla. Cav. Daniel's brothers-in-law, Ell English and Stephen P. Hooker, respectively, served in Capt. E. A. Hendry's Co. A and Co. E, 7th Fla., C.S.A.

11 Addison to Gwynn, July 5, 1864 and March 20, 1865.


15 F. C. M. Boggess, A Veteran of Four Wars (Arcadia, FL, 1900), 67-71; pension file of Boggess, N. A.; Brown, 162, 399. Francis Calvin Morgan Boggess (1833-1902), a native of Madison County, Alabama, enlisted February 3, 1848 in Capt. Blanton McAlpin's Company of the Alabama Battalion commanded by Col. Seibles, for service in the Mexican War, served at Vera Cruz, and was mustered out of service June 26, 1848 at Mobile, Alabama. He also served as first sergeant in Gen. Lopez's expedition to Cuba in May 1850, and from December 29, 1855 to December 1857 as first sergeant in Capt. F. M. Durance's Co. After Manatee County residents determined Representative William T. Hall had left the county and, thereby, vacated his seat, Boggess was elected representative on October 5, 1863, but was prevented by Tallahassee officials from replacing Duval. Boggess was, however, in November 1863 elected a justice of the peace.

16 Brown, 170-175; Volunteer Organizations, Civil War, "Florida 2nd Cavalry," RG 94, Box 199, AGO, N.A. In the election the inspectors were: Capt. William W. Strickland of Co. D, 1st Lt. John W. Platt, 1st Lt. M. H. Albritton of Co. C; clerks were Sgt. Samuel J. Pearce of Co. B and 2nd Lt. James B. Sheffield of Co. C.

17 Hartman and Coles, V, 1782-1806, 2032, 2066; U.S. Original Census Schedules, 8th Census 1860, Hillsborough & Manatee counties; Richard Livingston, "John Platt 1793-1874, South Florida Pioneers 29/30 (July/Oct. 1981), 19-21, & "Willoughby Whidden 1799-1861," South Florida Pioneers 11 (January 1977), 8-11. Hartman & Coles list these additional Union soldiers, buried in Hardee County, Friendship Cemetery: Nathan Lowe and William Lowe (both born Colquitt Co., Ga.), Daniel May, George W. Williams, Thomas E. Williams; also James M. Powell in Gardner Cemetery. John Wesley Platt (1833-1920) was a son of John Platt of Lily. Hartman & Coles, 1797, list John W. Platt's father as 1st Lt.; in fact, John W., the son, was the officer. Henry, Riley and Berryan "Sumroles" enlisted May 27, 1864 in Co. B, 2nd Fla. Cav. and deserted June 20, 1864. Henry and Riley then served in Company B, First Florida Cow Cavalry, C.S.A. The family of Willoughby Whidden was a family with divided loyalties. Sons, Maxwell and John W., and son-in-law, E. W. Thompson, served in Co. E, 7th Fla., while Maxwell also served in the Union Second Florida Cavalry, as did his brothers, Jesse, James E., and William. Son-in-law, James D. Green, was an officer in the Second Florida Cavalry. Son-in-law, Henry Langford, reportedly served in the Cow Cavalry, but was also the Manatee commissioner who deserted.


19 I. D. Parkinson to President Andrew Johnson, May 29, 1865, New York, Andrew Johnson Papers, series 1, Roll 14, LC. "Leslie" is Leroy G. Lesley, formerly of Tampa. An ardent Confederate, he had a plantation and was captain of a cow cavalry company. For more on the Lesley Case see "L.G. Lesley," Compiled Service Records . . . Confederate . . . Series 982, Roll #14 [1st Batt., Spec. Cav., Fla.], microfilm, N.A.

20 Brown, 182, 183.


23 Thomas H. Allbritton to John E Bartholf, ca. 1874, Southern Claims Commission, RG 233, N.A. in the petition his name was spelled "Allbritton," with an "X" for his signature. All other sources have his surname Albritton.

24 John M. Bates to Robert S. Griffith, January 18, 1879, Southern Claims Commission, RG 217, Case files 1877-83, Box 123, N.A.

25 Brown, 188-190, 208.

26 Brown, 184, 190, 200-203, 209, 225; Boggess, 75. Green had initially backed Josiah Walls, an African American, for Congress, but the ensuing firestorm among his heretofore loyalists constituents resulted in Green repudiation of Walls, but he had inadvertently burned political bridges and never recovered in the race. Bartholf continued as clerk until his resignation in August 1876. From 1869 to July 1876, he was also superintendent of public education in most of the Peace River Valley.