

APPENDICES

No. 1 – Marshall Plantation Historical Marker text by Marion County Historical Commission, 1999

A short distance north of here stood the sugar plantation of Jehu Foster Marshall, established in 1855. At the start of the Civil War in 1861, Marshall was named a colonel in the Confederate Army and soon commanded one of General Wade Hampton's infantry units, the 1st South Carolina Rifles. Colonel Marshall was killed during the Second Battle of Manassas in August 1862. The plantation continued in operation under the supervision of his widow, Elizabeth Anne DeBrull Marshall, until March 10, 1865, when Union troops staged a surprise raid. The Marshall Plantation and the sugar mill were burned to the ground. The raid was conducted by elements of the 3rd United States Colored Infantry, led by the black Sergeant Major Henry James. The Ocala Home Guard pursued the Union force and during the running battle, two of the home guard members were killed. After crossing the Ocklawaha River, the raiders set fire to the bridge. Company H, 2nd Florida Cavalry, led by Captain J.J. Dickison, encamped at nearby Silver Springs, soon gave chase and succeeded in driving the Union troops into St. Augustine, and reclaiming all property seized during the raid.

No. 2 – Sergeant Henry S. Harmon's letter – text lightly edited – in *The Christian Recorder*, April 22, 1865

THE JACKSONVILLE EXPEDITION.

MR. EDITOR: - The many expressions of heartfelt sympathy and kindness that are borne to us on every northern breeze, from our friends at home, for the colored soldier, compels us to let nothing transpire that we think will be interesting to them to know, without giving them due information of it, so far as lies in our power.

In view of this fact I take the liberty of your columns, to present for their perusal an account of an expedition, which left Jacksonville under the command of Sergeant-Major Henry James, 3d U.S.C.T., on the night of the 7th of March consisting of sixteen (16) of the 3d U.S.C.T., six (6) men of the 34th U.S.C.T., and seven colored citizens, and one (1) of the 107th O.V.I. Thirty (30) men in all.

After waiting some time for darkness to throw her pall over the scene, the commander gave the order to push off. The party then moved up the St. John's River, in pontoon boats to Orange Mills, where he landed with ten men and skirmished the country to a point near Pilatkia, where the boats met them, and seeing all well, he again skirmished to what is called Horse Shoe Landing, said to be 100 miles from Jacksonville, which brought them well up in the day: having fatigued themselves considerably, they remained in the swamp until the boats came up, about nine o'clock in the evening, when he embarked again and proceeded to what is called Fort Gates .

He then ordered the boats pulled close into the shore under cover of the dense swamps, and proceeded with the whole force across the country to the Oclawaha River, to what is known as Marshall's plantation. Here was one of the objects of the expedition reached without serious opposition, and almost in the heart of the enemy's country, and as yet quite unknown to him.

Here the expedition captured some 25 horses and mules, burnt a sugar mill, with 85 barrels of sugar, about 300 barrels of syrup, a whiskey distillery, with a large amount of whiskey and rice, and started on their return, bringing along 95 colored persons, men, women and children, recrossed the Oclawaha River, burning the bridge.

Six men then were detached from the command and sent under charge of Sergeant Joel Benn, of Co. B, 3d U.S.C.T., with Israel Hall, scout, to Hawley plantation, where they were attacked by a small body of rebels, and Sergt. Benn was killed, shot through the heart, Henry Brown, scout, wounded, and Israel Hall, chief scout, captured, as was another citizen named Ben. Gant, the others being compelled to return to the main body.

Their troubles had now commenced in earnest, this being the second fight of the day, for having to charge the bridge in going to Marshall's and killing three rebels had only stirred them up, but they pushed on, for much of their success depended on their speed.

But when within about twenty miles of the St. John's River, the enemy numbering about fifty men well-mounted, came down on them, calling on them to surrender, or suffer themselves to be hanged.

But there was another alternative which he, the enemy, did not think of, and which the Sergeant Major, who, by the way is not a surrendering man, resolved to take, which was to fight them awhile first.

Seeing this, the enemy prepared himself to make it warm for the little band of colored men. Breaking to the right and left under cover of a hill, they dismounted and formed their line of attack, and came over the crest of the hill, in quite an imposing array to find the little band of seventeen men, (the balance being left to guard some prisoners and the avenues of retreat,) deployed, as skirmishers to meet them, covered as much as possible by the trees. But on they came.

And every man selecting his man, when they were near enough for every man to make sure and waste no ammunition, Sergt. James gave the command to commence firing, and for awhile nothing was heard but the sharp crack of the soldiers' rifle and the louder roar of the citizens' fowling-piece, blended with the yells of their wounded and dying. The firing on the part of our men was good, as was shortly proved, for the enemy suddenly broke for their horses, when our men, leaving their cover, dashed in among them with the bayonet and clubbed guns, scattering them in every direction, leaving some 20 of their men dead and a few wounded.

Finding the way clear again, Sergt. James, on summing up, found the woods had afforded them such good covering that he had only two men wounded, and after taking possession of the best of their horses, (although the enemy suffered so severely, he showed himself to be no mean marksman, as numerous holes in our men's clothing amply testifies, among which, a hole through the commander's cap, caused him to withdraw his head from a dangerous position,) he again took up the line of march for the St. John's, having to abandon one wagon on the way, and soon reached the river and commenced crossing at 12 o'clock on the night of the 10th, and at daylight on the 11th had all across except 9 horses, when the enemy coming up made [it] impossible to recross, consequently had to leave them.

They then destroyed the three boats which they had used, and pushed on towards St. Augustine, and by the time they had got one day's start, Dickerson's guerrilla cavalry were in full pursuit, and, when within seven miles of St. Augustine, the enemy overtook some of the colored people, who were unable to keep up, 19 in number. The remainder of the party reached St. Augustine on the 12th inst., in safety with the wounded, 4 prisoners, 74 liberated slaves, 1 wagon, 5 horses, and 9 mules, having travelled over 200 miles of the enemy's country, doing without food for 3 days, and 100 miles of our own country, in five days and nights, reaching Jacksonville last evening, the 19th inst., with all their booty.

This expedition reflects great credit on Sergt. Major James, for the masterly manner in which it was commanded, and gives further proof, that a colored man with proper training can command among his fellows and succeed where others have failed. And a great deal is due to the men for their good behavior, and steadiness, and obedience, and if it were not for occupying too much of your space, which I fear I have done already, I would give their names, but that at some other time.

I am still an ardent lover of my race, and a soldier.

H.S.H.,
Sergeant Co. B., 3d U.S.C.T.
Battery McCrea, Jacksonville, Fla.,

April 3d, 1865.

No. 3 – Captain J. J. Dickison's account in *Confederate Military History*, Vol. 11, published in 1899, p. 133-134

On March 15th Captain Dickison reported subsequent operations in his field as follows:

On the evening of the 10th inst., I received information from Marion county, through Col. Samuel Owens, that the enemy was advancing by way of Marshall's bridge and had advanced 12 miles in the interior, burning the bridge. I immediately ordered out my command and in two hours was in rapid march in that direction. While near Silver Springs a courier reached me with a dispatch, stating that the enemy had burned the

Ocklawaha bridge and were retreating toward the St. John's river. I then ordered my command to march back in the direction of Palatka, and sent an advance guard to have the flatboat in readiness for us to cross the river. On arriving at the river the wind blew very strong, which delayed our crossing about ten hours. After much difficulty, hard labor and great peril, we succeeded in crossing 50 of my command, leaving the remainder with one piece of artillery to guard and picket other points on the river. Hearing, on my arrival at Palatka, that the enemy had gone up the river in barges, I marched all night and at times at half speed and reached Fort Peaton, 7 miles from St. Augustine, where I overtook four negroes. We continued at fast speed toward the city and within a mile of their picket line, and captured twenty more, also a wagon and six ponies. Three of these ponies have since been claimed by citizens and delivered to them. The enemy, on hearing we were in pursuit of them, left wagons, mules and provisions at the river, where they had crossed near Fort Gates.

The march was truly a hard one. We marched four days and nights with but little forage or provisions. My men were resolved, and showed a determination to pursue the enemy to the very gates of the city. The negroes, twenty-four in number, with the wagons and mules captured, belonged to Mrs. Marshall, of Marion county. The raiding party on reaching her plantation destroyed 200 hogsheads of sugar. Some of our militia met them, and in an engagement two of our men were killed. Had information reached me earlier they would have been overtaken with their rich spoils before reaching the river. All praise is due these noble, gallant men for their unflinching spirit and resignation, having endured every hardship without a murmur.

No. 4 – General Orders from the Office of Major General Gillmore, by Assistant Adjutant General W. L. M. Burger (General Gillmore was occupied with the flag-raising ceremony in Charleston at this time.) published in *War of the Rebellion: Official Records of the Civil War*
<https://ehistory.osu.edu/books/official-records/100/0190>

GENERAL ORDERS,

HDQRS. DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH, Numbers 42. Hilton Head, S. C., April 12, 1865.

On March 7, 1865, a party of colored soldiers and scouts, thirty in number, commanded by Sergt. Major Henry James, Third U. S. Colored Troops, left Jacksonville, Fla., and penetrated into the interior through Marion County. They rescued 91 negroes from slavery, captured 4 white prisoners, 2 wagons, and 24 horses and mules; destroyed a sugarmill and a distillery, which were used by the rebel Government, together with their stocks of sugar and liquor, and burned the bridge over the Oclawaha River. When returning they were attacked by a band of over fifty cavalry, whom they defeated and drove off with a loss of more than thirty to the rebels. After a long and rapid march they arrived at Saint Augustine on March 12, having lost but 2 killed and 4 wounded. This expedition, planned and executed by colored men under the command of a colored non-commissioned officer, reflects great credit upon the brave participants and their leader.

The major-general commanding thanks these courageous soldiers and scouts, and holds up their conduct to their comrades in arms as an example worthy of emulation.

By command of Major General Q. A. Gillmore:

W. L. M. BURGER,

Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 5 – Letter of Mrs. H. B. Greely, dated March 18, 1865 as provided in “We Are Truly Doing Missionary Work”: *Letters from American Missionary Association Teachers in Florida, 1864-1874* by Joe M. Richardson in *The Florida Historical Quarterly*: October 1975, published by The Florida Historical Society, pp. 178-195, esp. p. 186-187

St. Augustine, Fla.
Mar. 18th-64

Dear Br. Whipple

... Twenty five Colored men from Col. Tighlman's [sic – Col. Benjamin Chew Tilghman, commander of the 3rd USCT] regiment stationed in Jacksonville went out on raid last week in this state, and brought into this City, Seventy contrabands. They were the most destitute objects I ever saw. Many of them almost entirely naked. The teachers of the F. R. Ass. [Freedmen's Relief Association] having some money resulting from the sale of books & c. and other means which we could raise, have been very busy this week in making up clothes for the women and children, and we shall soon have them in comfortable condition to remain here, or go elsewhere as Government may see fit to dispose of them. The raiders also brought in some fine horses and mules.

They would have brought more people and more booty had they not been betrayed by a girl on the plantation where they had killed the Overseer, & burned the sugar mills with a quantity of sugar syrup & whiskey and the body of the Overseer in the sugar house.

This betrayal brought upon them a portion of Dickenson's [sic] Guerilla army about seventy, with which they had a fight on Friday P.M. before they reached here on the Sab. Following. They killed the Capt. And 27 of his men, wounding eleven and capturing four whom they brought in with them, making forty three, out of seventy of the rebels, and lost of their own number on the guide who was captured. Doesn't this show Negro valor?

And they claim a little humanity, as they say they left several of the rebels so severely wounded and alone, as their companions had fled, they thought duty to go back, a few of them, and finish them. They say when the parties met they charged upon the rebels in the name of “Fort Pillow.”

Dickenson, the “John Morgan” of this Guerilla band, is highly enraged and determined to have these Col. Men if possible. So the Tues. night following the Sab. After they came

in, at two o'clk we were awakened by the report of a heavy gun at the Fort and a cry from the guard – “two o'clock and alarm in the Camp.” It was found that several of the rebels had crossed the river about a half mile in the rear of the City and others were on the way in their “dug-outs,” but they were scattered leaving their boats behind. We are about being reinforced and shall not probably fall into their hands

Very Truly Yours, [Mrs.] H. B. Greely

No. 6 – Newspaper article about the raid - Jacksonville Union, March 18, 1865, p. 1

THE WAR IN FLORIDA A Raid into the Interior and its Results

A party consisting of a detachment of the 3rd and 35th U.S.C.T., left Jacksonville on Thursday the 7th inst., on an expedition into Rebeldom. They landed on the morning of the 8th at Orange Mills. The party here divided, a portion going by boats and a portion by land to oposite Pilatka [sic]. Here they again united and proceeded up the river to Fort Gates where they landed and struck out into the interior.

They soon reached the plantation of Mr. Mason. Here they found two rebel soldiers planting whom they made prisoners. They also secured five stand of arms. They next visited the plantation of Mr. Marsh. Here they captured two more soldiers, one horse, one mule, and six stand of arms. At the plantation of Mr. Williams they captured two contrabands and one horse. They then struck the bridge over the Ocklawaha river where they encountered two pickets belonging to Capt. House's company, who fled to Col. Marshes' plantation where they were overtaken and shot.

At this place they made a haul of 21 horses and mules with their equipments, and 75 contrabands, and burned 75 hogsheads of sugar, 350 barrels of syrup, 400 barrels of whiskey, and the still and sugarworks. This was accomplished by three men. The rest of the party had been left to guard the bridge. The expedition then set out on its return. At Lake Church hill they were overtaken by Captain House's cavalry, numbering some 32. A fight took place which lasted about two hours.

The rebels were defeated with 26 killed and two wounded. The loss on our side was one killed and two wounded. The casualty on our side was occasioned by the treachery of a rebel who had surrendered and afterward fired upon his captors, killing one and wounding another. The party succeeded in crossing the St. Johns river and reaching St. Augustine on Sunday the 12th, with all their booty except five and two prisoners, who were lost in the fight; having marched over 300 miles. No official report has been received at headquarters as yet, of the affair. When the official report is received more particulars will probably be learned.

(There was no further mention of the raid in subsequent issues of the Jacksonville Union.)

No. 7 – Letter to the Editor of the Quincy (FL) Dispatch, March 22, 1865 as reprinted in *Dickison and His Men* by Mary Dickison, pp. 209-210

FROM EAST FLORIDA

[Correspondence of the "Dispatch," Quincy, Fla.]

Baldwin, East Florida, March 22, 1865.

Editor Dispatch:

Captain Dickison recrossed the river St. John's a few days since with twenty-four negroes, several deserters, wagon, mules, etc., which he had recaptured from the enemy within a mile of St. Augustine. The negroes and wagons belonged to Mrs. Marshall, of Marion county. She is the widow of Colonel Foster Marshall, who commanded one of the South Carolina regiments of cavalry of Hampton's Legion, and was killed in 1862, in one of the battles around Richmond. She was one of the largest sugar planters in East Florida, and made, last year, at least two hundred hogsheads, all of which was destroyed by the raiders, except twenty, which they endeavored to carry with them, and pressed her mules and wagons for that purpose. A portion of these bold raiders were met by some of our militia, and, in an unfortunate engagement, two of our men were killed.

Captain Dickison, receiving information of their raid, and that they had retreated in the direction of the St. John's river, started in pursuit of them. Pursued by this heroic and intrepid officer, with a detachment of his brave men, they [the raiders] recrossed the river, burned the bridge, and had nearly made their escape, but were overtaken in the very suburbs of St. Augustine.

The cavalry, discovering themselves so closely pursued, put spurs to their horses and galloped into town, leaving their 'colored brethren' to fall a prey to the 'War Eagle' of Florida. He made them right- about, and marched them back to the 'old plantation home,' having it in his power to restore with them much stolen property to the owners.

E. O.

[Captain Dickison has not only the applause and thanks of every true man and woman in Florida, but the still higher satisfaction which attends him in the consciousness of having done his duty faithfully from the beginning of the war to the present hour, and reflected honor upon his country in the noble station assigned him. — Editor.]

No. 8 – Sergeant Henry S. Harmon's Letter published October 21, 1865 in *The Christian Recorder*

https://archive.org/details/christianrecorder_1865_v5_no40_to_52/page/n8/mode/1up

Letter from Gainesville, Florida

Mr. Editor:

In your paper of Sept. 9th, 1865, I saw a letter from Fort Bailey, over the signature of William P. Green, and Sir, how glad would I be if I could contradict the statement in it made! But even for my dear friend I cannot. I can only endorse it: honor and justice demand that I and every other colored soldier should or every one form this military division that I have heard speak upon this matter, and in evidence of the fact I will state the experience of our own command, as it has been since we left Jacksonville, for this post [in Gainesville] on June 8th, 1865. Since the surrender of the troops in Florida by General Samuel Jones, and during the actual existence of the Rebellion, we have been told by our commanding officers on the eve of battle to forget old grudges and prejudices, and fight like men for a common cause, meaning for us not to let the unjust and cruel treatment of the officers to the men, influence us to a disregard for our duty to our common country. But now there is nothing of the kind of fear, the officers having the feeling that they have nothing now to fear from stray bullets, are exercising all the arrogance and despotism that their power gives them, and what appeals has an enlisted man if he applies for redress to the superior officer? It can only be endorsed through the officer who is his worst enemy, whose endorsement will be, as a matter of course, the most detrimental to the interest of the soldier. Now we have the tying up of the thumbs of which Mr. Green speaks, on the public streets of the town, and what is called riding the horse, which is two upright posts set in the ground, full seven feet high, and three-cornered cross beam, on which men are compelled to sit astride, and other punishment, which even these people, both white and black, are horrified at witnessing, used to slavery and its horrors as they all are. And for what? Because some of those staunch [sic] union men, many of whom wear the uniform of the so-called confederacy, and have not to this day taken the oath of allegiance - but their word is sufficient to condemn any amount of colored soldiers or citizens, for even citizens feel the effect of that most prevalent and baleful disease, negrophobia. Negro citizens although they have been the only true and avowed friends of the United States Government in this section of the country, are still compelled to feel that they are black, and the smooth oily tongue of the white planter is enough to condemn any number of them to tying up for twenty-four hours [presumably by thumbs], or two hours up and one down [presumably astride the beam].

Such, my friends, is what we endure or witness, and if the United States Government ever gets five year men, she will not get them from the veterans of the 3d Regiment U.S.C.T., until she is compelled to give us officers of our own choice, who will be officers and gentlemen. Officers who can sympathize with the enlisted man without regard to color; men who will take into consideration a man's former conduct before punishment.

We are rarely allowed to mingle with the people of color around us; in consequence of which, I have not written to you for a considerable time, although there is considerable interesting matter to be found worth relating to your readers, which would throw considerable light upon many things that at present seem dark to the public mind.

Hoping that I have not occupied too much space, I am truly a soldier, and I hope a good soldier.

H. S. Harmon

Co. B, 3d U.S.C.T.