

JACKSON'S BRAVE SOLDIERS.

Heretofore Unpublished Account of the Strenuous Alabama Campaign Against The Creeks.

It is not, perhaps, unnatural in the people of this day, so lately removed from the scenes of the greatest war of the world, to look with some indifference upon the results of former wars and former battles which preceded the war between the States of 1861-65, and underrate their importance. They did not regard with proper admiration the campaign of Gen. Winfield Scott from Vera Cruz to the City of Mexico, which was, in fact, up to that period, unexcelled by any campaign in brilliancy, heroic achievement and masterful strategy; or to the battle of New Orleans, won by Gen. Jackson, with untrained and undisciplined riflemen, against a splendid, well-equipped British army, which has never been excelled for its unparalleled success by that of any armies recorded in history. Yet the greater numbers engaged, and the greater losses on both sides in the civil war have tended to make us look upon these and other battles which preceded them as of comparatively small moment.

The true test in all such matters is what was achieved, and not what was the strength of the armies engaged.

I propose in this paper to write of a battle but little heard of in this day, which was not only a great military victory, but the results of which were far-reaching and of great importance to people of this country. This was the battle of Tohopeka, the Indian name, or the Horseshoe, or Horseshoe Bend, won by Gen. Andrew Jackson over the Creek Indians in the bend of the Tallapoosa river, in Alabama, on the 27th day of March, 1814, the details of which I do not think are familiar even to the average well read person. This is not singular, as I have failed to find mention of this important event in some of the leading encyclopedias, which are presumed to give accurate accounts of, at least, leading events of the history of the country, nor in some of the popular histories which I have consulted. It is true that some few of the latter make meagre mention of the event, but pass it over as a matter of small importance.

The Creek Indians were properly the Muskogean, or swamp dwellers, and formerly occupied almost all of the territory of Mississippi and Alabama, and large portions of Georgia, Florida and South Carolina.

During the seventeenth century the Spanish colonists had several contests with the Creeks on the Tallapoosa river. The Creeks were finally subjugated. The French settled about the mouth of the Mississippi river, and English pioneers on the shores of the Atlantic. These Indians, known to them as the Chickasaws, afterwards ceded their territories to the English in 1763. Troubles, however, continued.

The great uprising of the Creek Indians, in 1812-14, was instigated by the British and Tecumseh.

Near the close of the year 1813 the American settlements in what was known as the Mississippi territory, were comprised in three portions of that country. In the Natchez district there were about 20,000 persons; in the eastern or Tombigbee settlements, which included the annexed portion of Florida, near Mobile Bay, there were about 7,000 persons, which also included a settlement west of Amite of a population of about 5,000. The third settlement was in the great bend of the Tennessee river, and had a population of about 8,000. This territory was also the home of five powerful tribes of Indians, among whom the Creeks, who were a brave and war-like people.

The Creeks, as a nation, for many years under Spanish influence, had shown hostility to the American settlers, yet, after occupation of Louisiana by the United States, they had made treaties of friendship. Soon after the beginning of the war of 1812 with Great Britain, emissaries were dispatched by that government to the chiefs and head men of the Creek nation to excite them to an insurrection against the Americans. The beginning of this movement was the sending of Tecumseh by the Canadian authorities to unite all the Indian tribes south of the Ohio into a league with those of the North for

a general war with the United States. The Creek Indians, inspired and encouraged by their powerful allies, commenced depredations on the whites. On the 30th of August they appeared before Fort Mims, where, beside the families which had taken refuge there, more than 250 persons were massacred in the fort. On the 13th of the following December Gen. Claiborne, with 1,000 men, some of whom were friendly Choctaw Indians, under Chief Pushmataha, attacked the Creeks under Mathersford, at Eccanacha, or Holy Ground, and defeated them.

Gen. Andrew Jackson, who was major general of the Tennessee militia, moved on the 10th of October from Huntsville, Ala., with 2,000 troops. He attacked the Creeks on Tallahatchee creek, near the Coosa river, and defeated them, and they fled, leaving 186 warriors dead on the field, and 84 were taken prisoners. The loss of the Tennesseans under Jackson was 5 killed and 41 wounded.

The next engagement was near Talladega, where Jackson had a force of 1,200 infantry and 800 mounted riflemen. The Indian forces were about 1,000. The battle was fiercely fought on both sides and continued for two hours. The Indians lost 300 dead on the field, while Jackson's loss was 15 killed and 85 wounded. This battle terminated the first campaign of the Tennessee troops against the Indians.

The hostile Creeks now concentrated all of their available forces at the Horseshoe Bend of the Tennessee river, and some minor engagements occurred before the battle of the Horseshoe.

Early in March, 1814, Gen. Jackson was appointed a major general of the United States Army, and was reinforced by the Thirty-ninth regiment of United States Infantry, under command of Col. John Williams. In the meantime a number of Choctaws from the Tombigbee and Black Warrior and some Choctaws and a few friendly Creeks had joined Gen. Jackson. Jackson moved on their fortified position on the 27th of March, and commenced the attack. The battle lasted five hours.

Gen. Jackson's report of the battle was made to Governor Willie Blount, of Tennessee, and is on file in the archives of the historical society of that State, at Nashville. Following are extracts from that report, dated March 31, 1814:

"I reached the bend of the Tallapoosa, three miles beyond where I had the engagements of the January 22, and at the Southern extremity of Newyonga, on the morning of the 27th. This bend resembles in its curvature that of a horseshoe, and is hence called by that name among the whites. Nature furnishes few situations so eligible for defense; and barbarians have never rendered one more secure by art. Across the neck of land which leads into it from the North they had erected a breastwork of the greatest compactness and strength, from 5 to 8 feet high, and prepared with double rows of portholes, very artfully arranged. The figure of this wall manifested no less skill in the projectors of it than its construction. An army could not approach it without being exposed to double and cross fire from the enemy, who lay in perfect security behind it. The area of the peninsula thus bounded by the breastworks includes, I conjecture, 80 or 100 acres.

"In this bend the warriors from Oakfurkee, Oakchaya, Newyonga, Hillabecca, the Fish Pond and Eufaula towns, apprised of our approach, had collected their strength. Their exact number cannot be ascertained, but it is said by the prisoners we have taken to have been a thousand. It is certain they were very numerous, and that, relying with the utmost confidence upon their strength, their situation and the assurance of their prophets, they calculated on repulsing us with great ease.

"Early on the morning of the 27th, having encamped the preceding night at the distance of six miles from them, I detached Gen. Coffee, with the mounted men and nearly the whole of the Indian force, to pass the river at a good ford about three

miles below the encampment and to surround the bend in such a manner that none of them should escape by attempting to cross the river. With the remainder of the forces I proceeded along the point of the land which leads to the front of their breastworks, and at 10.30 o'clock a. m., I had planted my artillery on a small eminence, distant from its nearest point about 80 yards, and from its farthest point about 250, from whence I immediately opened a brisk fire upon its center with musketry and rifles, and kept up a galling fire whenever the enemy showed themselves behind their works or ventured to approach them. This was continued, with occasional intermissions, for about two hours, when Capt. Russell's company of spies and a part of the Cherokee force, headed by their gallant chieftain, Col. Richard Brown, and conducted by the brave Col. Morgan, crossed over to the extremity of the peninsula in canoes and set fire to a few of the buildings which were there situated. They then advanced with great gallantry toward the breastworks and commenced firing upon the enemy, who lay behind it. Finding that the force, notwithstanding the determined bravery they displayed, was wholly insufficient to dislodge the enemy, and that Gen. Coffee had secured the opposite bank of the river, I now determined upon taking possession of their works by storm. Never were men better disposed for such an undertaking than those by whom it was to be effected. They had entreated to be led to the charge with the most pressing importunity, and received the order which was now given with the strongest demonstrations of joy.

"The effect was such as this temper of mind foretold. The regular troops, led on by their intrepid and skillful commander, Col. Williams, and by the gallant Major Montgomery, were presently in possession of the nearest side of the breastworks, and the militia accompanied them in the charge with a vivacity and firmness which could not have been exceeded, and has seldom been equaled by troops of any description.

"A few companies of Gen. Doherty's brigade, on the right, were led on with great gallantry by Col. Bunch; the advance guard by the adjutant general, and the left extremity of the line by Capt. Gordon, of the Spies, and Capt. McMurry, of General Johnson's brigade of West Tennessee militia. Having maintained for a few minutes a very obstinate contest, muzzle to muzzle, through the portholes, in which many of the enemies bullets were welded to the bayonets of our muskets, our troops succeeded in gaining possession of the opposite side of the works. The event could no longer be doubtful. The enemy, although many of them fought to the last with that kind of bravery which desperation inspires, were at length routed and cut to pieces. The whole margin of the river which surrounded the peninsula was strewn with the slain. Five hundred and fifty-seven were found by officers of great respectability, whom I had ordered to count them; besides a very great number were thrown into the river by their surviving friends, and

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killed in attempting to pass by Gen. Coffee's men, stationed on the opposite bank.

"I do not know the exact number of prisoners taken, but it must exceed 300, all women and children, except three or four. The battle may be said to have continued with severity for about five hours, but the firing and the slaughter continued until it was suspended by the darkness of the night. The next morning it was resumed, and sixteen of the enemy slain who had concealed themselves under the banks. Our loss was twenty-six men killed and 107 wounded; friendly Creeks, five killed and eleven wounded."

The thirty-ninth regiment of infantry commanded by Gen. John Williams, had as lieutenants Sam Houston and Benjamin Wright. The latter was just behind Major Montgomery when he was killed and was the first man to mount the ramparts. Houston received a wound in the right shoulder from an Indian arrow, which gave him pain all his life.

The result of this battle was to forever destroy the power of the Creek Indians, who had proved such formidable and determined foes.

William Weathersford, chief of the Creek Indians, who commanded the Indians in Alabama, was born in 1770, and died in 1824. His father was a white trader and his mother a Seminole or Creek Indian. On the 14th of April, 1814, he voluntarily surrendered to Gen. Jackson, and, on making his surrender, said:

"I am in your power. Do with me as you please, I am a soldier. I have done the white man all the harm I could. I have fought them, and fought them bravely. If I had an army I would yet fight, and contend to the last, but I have none. My people are all gone; my warriors can no longer here my voice. Their bones are at Talladega, Tallahatchee, Emmuckfaw and Tohopeka. I have not surrendered myself thoughtlessly. Whilst there were chances for success I never left my post nor supplicated peace. But my people are gone and now I ask it for myself and for my nation. The women and the children of the war party who are now starving in the woods call for peace."

There was a crowd around Gen. Jackson's tent who had listened to the speech, and some cried out, "Kill him!" Gen. Jackson, in his peculiar, imperious manner, waved his hand and said: "Any man who would kill as brave a man as this would rob the dead."

Weathersford lived for many years on his plantation on Little Run, in Monroe county Alabama, and retained the respect of the white people.—Marcus J. Wright, in New Orleans Picayune.

Comptroller General Jones will in a few days send out the checks for State pensions. The State Treasurer has borrowed \$200,000 for the purpose of meeting the pension payments. The State Treasurer in addition had on hand on May 1 \$151,948. The State is quite flush just now with its accumulation of borrowed money.

THE STATE PENSIONS.

Problem Getting to be a Serious One for the State—The Payments.

[Columbia Record, May 11.]

Despite the fact that there were 517 deaths during the year of those on the pension rolls, there was a net increase of 247, showing that nearly 800 names had been added to the rolls. The Comptroller General this morning issued an interesting statement of the pensions by counties and showed the distribution of each. There is a change in the law which makes each Clerk of Court return funds not distributed for any reason, and this money now goes back into the general fund, whereas it formerly went into the pension fund of the following year. Last year \$6,600 went back to the State Treasurer.

The statement is as follows: Number of pensioners on the roll in 1905, as compared with 1904, showing increase and decrease by classes:

	1904	1905
Class A.....	67	74
Class B.....	202	192
Class C, No. 1.....	573	583
Class C, No. 2.....	4,020	4,032
Class C, No. 3.....	728	756
Class C, No. 4.....	2,954	3,124

The above classes cover soldiers, 4,862 in 1904, and in 1905 4,911, an increase of 49.

Total number of widows on roll, 1904, 3,682, and in 1905 3,880, showing an increase of widows drawing pensions of 198.

Paied expenses:	
Pensions.....	\$196,583 00
Joint resolutions and legislative expenses.....	84 00
Expenses of State Board.....	119 00
Stationery and stamps.....	102 35
County Board and Commissioners.....	2,342 30
Salary Pension Clerk.....	600 00
Balance on hand.....	169 35
Total.....	\$200,000 00

The roll of 1904, as compared with 1905, is as follows:

Roll 1904.....	8,544
New names added 1905.....	829
Less those who died in 1904.....	9,373
Less those off from other causes.....	582
Roll of 1905.....	8,791
Net increase.....	247

The sovereigns of Europe have revenues as follows: Czar of Russia, \$12,000,000; Sultan of Turkey, \$7,500,000; Emperor of Germany \$3,800,000; Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary, \$3,700,000; King of Italy, \$3,210,000; King of Great Britain, \$2,600,000; King of Bavaria, \$1,400,000; King of Spain, \$1,400,000; King of the Belgians, \$700,000; King of Saxony, \$735,000; King of Portugal, \$525,000; King of Wurtemberg, \$400,000; King of Greece, \$200,000; Queen of Holland, \$240,000; King of Servia, \$240,000; King of Roumania, \$237,000.

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An Intelligent Dog.

A story is told illustrative of the intelligence of the Scotch shepherd dog, the collie. A purpose on the part of the master was to prove the value of his dog. He was lying before the fire in the house, where, with the family present, conversation was proceeding. In the middle of a sentence concerning something else, the master said: "I'm thinking, sir, the cow is in the potatoes."

The account goes on to tell that "the dog, which appeared to be asleep, immediately jumped up, and, leaping through the open window, scrambled up the roof of the house, where he could see the potato field.

"He then, not seeing the cow, ran and looked into the byre, where she was, and finding that all was right, came back to the house.

"The owner, a shepherd, said again what he did at the outset, when the dog once more made his patrol. But when a third attempt was made, the dog got up, looked full at his master, who laughed. Then the sensible animal gave a little friendly growl and curled up by the fire."

The "Lazzy" Microbe.

A learned professor claims to have discovered that "laziness" is caused by a germ. If the eminent doctor is right, Rydale's Liver Tablets can rightly be termed Microbe Killers, because they always remove that tired, lazy, sluggish feeling that has usually been attributed to a torpid liver or constipated bowels. Rydale's Liver Tablets are guaranteed to cure constipation and all liver disorders. They are small, compressed chocolate coated tablets, easy to take, pleasant in effect, reliable. Any dealer in our remedies will return your money if you are not satisfied with these tablets. 50 tablets 25 cents. Walhalla Drug Company.

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The poor but honest young man had bearded the millionaire in his den. "Sir," he said, "I want to marry your daughter."

"Impossible, sir, impossible," exclaimed the old man. "Why I would rather give up every dollar I have than part with my only daughter."

"Oh, very well," calmly rejoined the diplomatic youth. "If that's the way you feel about it, I won't be too heavy on you. Just write me out a check for half a million and we'll let it go at that."—Chicago News.

VERY LOW EXCURSION RATES, BY SOUTHERN RAILWAY,

To the Following Points:

St. Louis, Mo.—National Baptist Anniversary, May 16-24, 1905. Rate, one first-class fare, plus 25 cents, for round trip. Tickets on sale May 14, 15, 16, with final limit May 27th, 1905.

Asheville, N. C.—South Atlantic Missionary Conference, May 17-21, 1905. Rate, one first-class fare, plus 25 cents, for the round trip. Tickets on sale May 16th and 17th; final limit May 23d, 1905.

Fort Worth, Texas—General Assembly Southern Presbyterian Church, May 18-26 1905. Rate, one first-class fare, plus \$2.00, for round trip. Tickets on sale May 15, 16, 17; final limit May 31st, 1905.

Toronto, Ont.—International Sunday School Association, June 29-27, 1905. Rate, one first-class fare, plus 50 cents, for round trip. Tickets on sale June 19, 20, 22, 23, 1905; limited June 30th, 1905.

Hot Springs, Va.—Southern Hardware Jobbers' Association, June 6-9, 1905. Rate, one first-class fare, plus 25 cents, for round trip. Tickets on sale June 3, 4, 5; final limit June 13th, 1905.

Savannah, Ga.—National Travelers' Protective Association of America, May 16-23, 1905. Rate, one first-class fare, plus 50 cents, for round trip. Tickets on sale May 13th and 14th; final limit May 20th, 1905.

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