THE BOOK LOVER'S GUIDE TO FLORIDA

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10 THE FLORIDA PANHANDLE

DEAN DEBOLT

Apalachicola River Valley

Driving west on Interstate 10, today's travelers cross the Apalachicola River and immediately adjust their watches. This river marks a time-zone boundary placing much of Florida in the eastern time zone and the Florida Panhandle in the central time zone. Yet this river and the Apalachicola River Valley have played a strategic part in Florida history. De Soto's men crossed the river on their trek into the interior, and Spanish, British, and Indian residents placed great importance on the resources of the valley.

For the Indians, the valley surrounded by fertile lands and lush forest provided food, trade goods (fur pelts), and security. During the Seminole Indian wars, the Indians used the Apalachicola River valley to evade army regulars who found the junglilike terrain nearly impassable. Robert Wilder's Bright Feather (New York: Putnam's, 1948) provides a fictional account of life in this region during the Second Seminole War.

In the 1840s, with the growth of King Cotton as the predominant southern commodity, the valley took on new importance. The Apalachicola River valley provided a transportation conduit from the interior of Alabama and Georgia to the Gulf of Mexico. A thriving movement of crops, passengers, and commerce opened up between Columbus, Georgia, the northern terminus of the Apalachicola River, and Apalachicola, Florida, 300 miles south on the Gulf of Mexico.

When the Civil War broke out, the Confederacy established the Confederate Navy Yard at Columbus, and many of the South's gunboats and ironclads were constructed by shipyards along the river. At the southern terminus, Apalachicola had an extensive ship-building operation to provide provisions for Confederate military forces. Maxine Turner has documented the Civil War history of the valley in Navy Grey: A Story of the Confederate Navy on the Chattahoochee and Apalachicola Rivers (Tuscaloosa, AL: University of Alabama Press, 1988). Dr. Frank Slaughter, a prolific Florida author, used the valley as a setting for his fiction about Dr. Kit Clark in Storm Haven (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1955), which is set in 1863. Cora Mitchell's Reminiscences of the Civil War (Providence, RI: Snow & Farnham Co., 1916) offers firsthand testimony
of life in Columbus and Apalachicola up through the Civil War by the daughter of Thomas Leeds Mitchel, a cotton merchant from Connecticut.

The Apalachicola River winds its way south, cutting through the Panhandle and broadening out into Apalachicola Bay before meeting the Gulf of Mexico. In 1832, the county of Lafayette was created between the Apalachicola River and the Chipola River, with a northern boundary of the Alabama state line. Just as quickly, in 1834, Lafayette was abolished and became the only Florida county to pass out of existence; other counties have either been renamed or reaccessed from other counties. Rubylen Hall's God Has a Sense of Humor (New York: Duell, Sloan, 1950) is centered on the Apalachicola River country, including Calhoun County and Wewahitchka.

Apalachicola

Located on U.S. 29 on the western edge of Apalachicola Bay, Apalachicola, a once-thriving port city, is today home to Florida's oyster industry. The name of this beautiful little town comes from an Indian word meaning the people on the other side, referring to the term used by one Indian tribe for another, or from an Indian word meaning allie. Known for its Apalachicola Bay oysters, the town was one of the most important commercial centers of Florida in the third and fourth decades of the nineteenth century because of its location southwest of Tallahassee and near the Gulf of Mexico. After its founding in 1831, Apalachicola quickly became the third-largest cotton-shipping port on the gulf. It grew even more when the city of St. Joseph (located 28 miles up on St. Joseph's Bay) was abandoned after a yellow-fever epidemic in 1841 and its population moved to Apalachicola. The booming port period is chronicled by Alexander Key (1904-) in his novel The Wrath and the Wind (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1949) about the fictitious adventures of Maury St. John, a slave-trader in Apalachicola, and the destruction of St. Joseph by yellow fever and a hurricane. It acquired its first newspaper, the Advertiser, in 1836, to be followed three years later by the Apalachicola Gazette, a newspaper whose main function was to attack the nearby town of St. Joseph. It became Florida's first daily newspaper and lasted from 1839 to 1840. Alexander Key also used Apalachicola as a setting for another novel, Island Light (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1950), which traces the escape of Maximilian St. John, a Confederate prisoner, from Fort Jefferson near Key West to St. George Lighthouse on Apalachicola Bay. Key is perhaps better known for illustrating other novels and for his fantasy novel Escape to Witch Mountain (1975), which was made into a Walt Disney film in 1975. Apalachicola is also the setting for intrigue, an inherited house, and a counterfeiting ring in Dorothy Wordsworth's Enchanted Harbor (New York: Avalon, 1966). The surrounding area is also the setting for The Varmint's (New York: Knopf, 1946) by Peggy Bennett (1925-), an Apalachicola writer; the plot centers on three orphans growing up in the late 1930s and emphasizes psychological interaction among the characters.

Apalachicola was also the home of Dr. John Corrie, who arrived in 1838 to practice medicine. The 1843 yellow-fever epidemic led him to speculate on the fact that yellow fever does not seem to exist in dry or cold climates. In 1843 he developed a device to circulate ice-cooled air throughout a room to reduce the probability of yellow fever. Challenging at the lack of ice, he patented an artificial ice-making machine in 1850. Today visitors can learn more about his work at the Corrie State Museum (904-653-3397). See Raymond B. Becker's John Corrie, M.D. (New York: Carlton, 1970) and V.M. Vivian M. Sherlock's The Fever Man (Tallahassee: McElroy Press, 1988) for more about this Floridian whose statue is in Statuary Hall at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Life in Apalachicola from 1900 to 1917 is recalled in A Florida Sandpiper, or A Fool Rushed In Where Angels Fear to Tread (Gainesville: Street's Printing Company, 1982), the autobiography of agricultural teacher George Norton Wakefield (1889-). Wakefield describes life in Apalachicola, the influence of the Episcopal Church, and the islands (St. Vincent, St. George, and Dog Island) as well as his later years at the University of Florida and as an agriculture teacher in other parts of Florida.

Several significant authors have lived in Apalachicola. Alvan Wentworth Chapman (1880-1890), who lived in the Chapman House on the corner of Broad Street and Chestnut Avenue, wrote Flora of the Southern United States (1888), an important early botanical work about Florida. Teresa Holloway (1906-), who was born in Apalachicola, graduated from the Florida State College for Women (1926) — later Florida State University — and worked as manager of the town's chamber of commerce (1947-1950); she later moved to Jacksonville, where she worked as an author and television documentary writer. She has published 39 novels under her own name and the pseudonym

**St. Vincent, St. George, and Dog Island**

To the south of Apalachicola and across Apalachicola Bay lie a small chain of barrier islands: St. Vincent, St. George, and Dog Island. Only in recent years has attention been drawn to preserving these islands as unsullied natural vegetation and animal habitats. St. Vincent island has had a long reputation for its beauty and wildlife; William Temple Hornaday (1854-1937) published *A Monograph on St. Vincent's Game Preserve* (Buffalo, NY: 1909) based on his story in the *Buffalo Express* on May 30, 1909; Hornaday told of the development of the game preserve by Dr. Ray V. Pierce. In recent years, the St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge has been established to protect the island, which is still accessible to visitors but only by boat and under controlled conditions. Jack Rudloe (1948) of Panacea has done much to encourage the protection of these areas; his descriptions of Apalachicola and Chestawhatchee Bay were published in his *The Wilderness Coast: Adventures of a Gulf Coast Naturalist* (New York: Dutton, 1988).

Dog Island has a somewhat more lurid history, beginning when a ship, *Le Tigre*, foundered on a reef near the island in 1766 and 15 survivors made it to Dog Island, where Indians found them. The Indians took six survivors to another island where they robbled and abandoned them. These six were the *capitain* of *Le Tigre*, his wife and son, together with Vidued, his black slave, and a business partner (Deschau). Captain La Couture and Deschau drowned while paddling a rotten canoe. The other four made a raft to travel to the mainland, but young La Couture was sick and had to be left behind. Four days later, Vidued and the widow, who were starving, killed the slave and ate him. A party of soldiers from St. Marks Fort at Apalache discovered the pair after another ten days and then rescued young La Couture.

In 1768, the French book *Naufrage et aventures de M. Pierre Vialud, natif de Bordeaux, capitaine de navire* was published, telling the tale of three survivors of this shipwreck: young Vialud, the newly widowed captain's wife, and the black slave. The book scandalized Europe with its gruesome tale of starvation, cannibalism, and more than a hint of sex. For several centuries, it was considered fiction until Auburn University professor Robin Faber stumbled across documents which lent veracity to the story. His discovery and an English translation were published as *Shipwreck and Adventures of Monsieur Pierre Vialud* (Pensacola: University of West Florida Press, 1990).

The history of St. George Island and Apalachicola appears in *Outposts on the Gulf: Saint George Island and Apalachicola* (Pensacola: University of West Florida Press, 1986) by William Warren Rogers. The first of two planned volumes, it covers from early exploration of the area to World War II.

**St. Joseph**

To the west of Apalachicola, along St. Joseph's Bay, is the site of Old St. Joseph, a town whose history is entwined with Apalachicola. In 1858, St. Joseph was the largest town in Florida with 8,000 inhabitants. Its location on the Gulf of Mexico made it a booming port and, some say, the richest and wickedest city in the Southeast. When yellow fever arrived aboard a South American ship in the early 1840s, panic ensued; many abandoned the city and moved to nearby Apalachicola. The port closed, ships avoided the site, and an 1844 hurricane finished off the destruction of the town. This Sodom and Gomorrah history has inspired a number of writers. Alexander Key wrote *The Wrath and the Wind*, mentioned earlier, and Ruby Hall, *The Great Tide* (New York: Duell, Sloan, & Pearce, 1947), which chronicles life in St. Joseph in the mid-1830s through the adventures of Caline Cohan.

**Port St. Joe**

With the boom in naval stores in the early twentieth century, the area around Old St. Joseph saw the emergence of manufacturing plants for fish oil and fertilizers. A town and port facilities grew up around these companies, and this area, five miles north of Old St. Joseph, became known as Port St. Joe. In 1928, the Port St. Joe Paper Mill opened and became one of the largest paper mills in Florida to manufacture kraft paper. Today, over 4,000 people live in Port St. Joe.

**Panama City**

Panama City, on St. Andrews Bay, 60 miles west of Apalachicola on U.S. 98, is the county seat of Bay County (named for St. Andrews Bay), created in 1813. The western portion of Panama City, originally the town of St. Andrews, was promoted and laid out by the St. Andrews Bay Land and Lumber Company in the late 1890s. Three miles east of St. Andrews, the town of Panama City was developed in 1905 and possibly was named for being north of Panama City, Panama. Other small towns along this stretch included Millville, Lynn Haven, and Springfield, but a 1925 legislative act merged all of them into Panama City.

The St. Andrews Bay area has long been a major lumbering and naval stores region. The Confederate Salt Works was established nearby to supply the military and was one of the largest such operations in the South. During the Civil War, St. Andrews Bay was an important part of the Union blockade of the South, especially with frequent federal raids on the salt works. See *Stand By the Union* (Boston: Lee and Shepard, 1902) by Oliver Otis, a pseudonym for William Taylor Adams (1822-1897). The story, part of the Blue and Gray series, tells the story of Christy Passford, a young commander in the Union
blockade of St. Andrews Bay and Pensacola Bay who thwarts the plans of his Confederate cousin to take over his ship.

Newspaper editor George Mortimer West (1845-1925) frequently wrote about the history of the area; his columns have been collected and published in a number of books including Gems Gleaned from the Pages of the Panama City Pilot (Panama City, FL: Panama City Publishing Co., 1900) and St. Andrews Florida: Historical Notes... (Panama City, FL: Panama City Publishing Co., 1922). His wife, Lillian C. West, became renowned as a manager or editor of three Bay County newspapers: Panama City Pilot, St. Andrews Bay News, and Lynn Haven News Press.

Other reminiscences of the area include Two Yankee Coastal Traders, A West Florida Diary, 1822 (Tampa: 1971) by Francis Hand Ware (1857-1942) comprising Ware's diary of life in the area; Scorn of Civilization (Montgomery, AL: The Paragon Press, 1957) by Tony Veverka, the fictionalized story of Walter Colquitt Sherman, real estate investor and founder of the St. Andrews Bay Land and Lumber Company; Harold W. Bell's Glimpse of the Panhandle (Chicago: Adams Press, 1961) and Your 50 Golden Years in Bay County, Florida (Panama City, FL: Boyd Brothers, 1967) emphasizing Panama City and other Emerald Coast areas; On Saint Andrews Bay, 1911-1931: A Sequel to the Tampa of my Childhood (Tampa: S. K. Dean, 1955), an autobiography by Susie Kelly Dean; and Elsie Lillian Surber's A Study of the History and People of the St. Andrews Bay Region (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1939). Biographies of Bay County residents appear in Some Who Passed This Way (Panama City, FL: 1972) by Ira Augustus Hutchison, 1879-1938, while poetry and essays about the area have appeared in Baylines: A Bay County Anthology (Panama City, FL: Bay Humane Society, 1981), James K. Calhoun's newspaper columns covering 1981-1982 are reprinted in his Call Me Cav (Panama City, FL: Panama City News Herald, 1982). The development of nearby Tyndall Air Force Base is reflected in Fordham (New York: Vantage, 1985), an autobiography of William M. Grout, a soldier in World War II. A different perspective is provided by former University of Florida professor Angus McKenzie Laird, who tells of his early years in Panama City and academically in the Florida university system in Like I Saw It (Tallahassee: St. Andrews Press, 1981).

A major Panama City writer has been William Thomas Person (1900-), many of whose books are written especially for young adults. Among his works are Aken: A Novel (1949) about a poor farm boy who works his way through a southern agricultural college; No Land Is Free (1946) about a small-town hardware clerk who turns to farming in the Arkansas swamp country; Ben Fae (1953) which follows a boy and his pet mone in the Louisiana bayou country; The Land and the Water (1953) which tells the tribulations of a displaced Latvian family on a Mississippi cotton plantation; Trouble in the Trace (1953), an adventure of the hardships and joys of pioneer families on the Natchez Trail; New Dreams for Old (1957) which chronicles a high school dropout who tries to be self-sufficient in the Big Swamp; The Rebellion of Ben Chatham (1957) about a budding romance between a boy and girl brought home from college by the financial difficulties on their Mississippi delta farms; and Sedge-Hill Satter (1960), a tale of a boy and his setter pup, set "East of Memphis and South a little."

Clarence Earl Gideon of Panama City, Florida, has been immortalized in Anthony Lewis's Gideon's Trumpet (New York: Knopf, 1964) and his Clarence Earl Gideon and the Supreme Court (New York: Knopf, 1972) which recounts Gideon's application to the United States Supreme Court in the case of Gideon vs. Wainwright. The case established the right of a defendant to legal counsel, a landmark decision in the legal profession.

At least one ghost story set in Panama City and around the bay has been published. Howard Rigby's humorous "I'll Be Glad When You're Dead," which originally appeared in Argosy magazine in 1926, has been reprinted in Dixie Ghosts (New York: Rutledge Hill Press, 1983). Rigby is better known for his western novels and his scripts for the Renwick TV series. Ironically, Rigby in 1943 coauthored a dramatic Broadway play, South Pacific, which folded after five performances. Five years later, a musical play of the same name by Rodgers and Hammerstein, based on James Michener's Tales of the South Pacific, opened to rave reviews, and both play and book went on to win Pulitzer prizes. Recent fiction with a partial setting in a Panama City Beach locale is John Grisham's The Firm (New York: Island Books, 1991).

The Emerald Coast

For 60 miles west from Panama City, U.S. 98 parallels a strip of the most beautiful white beaches in Florida, an area referred to as the Emerald Coast because the turquoise green of the waters. Numerous beach villages and communities dot the coast, including Seaside, a unique architecturally inspired small town, designed to bring classic Main Street to a resort setting; the town includes an amphitheater for community concerts, carefully laid-out shopping districts, and boardwalks to encourage strolling and reduce automobile traffic.

Destin

At the entrance to Choctawhatchee Bay, 50 miles west of Panama City and nestled on a narrow strip of land between Choctawhatchee Bay and the Gulf of Mexico, lies the town of Destin. Fifty years ago a fishing resort with a population of 25, today it has over 7,000 residents primarily due to the development of Sandestin, a conglomerate of condominium and hotel villages offering year-round vacation, boating, golfing, and recreational adventure. The community takes its name from Captain Len Destin, an early settler and ship pilot who is mentioned in Nathaniel Holmes Bishop's Four Months in a Sneak-box: A Boat Voyage of 2,000 Miles down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, and along the Gulf of Mexico (Boston: Lee and Shepard, 1879). The early history of the area and its families have been collected in Vivian Foster Mettler's And The Roots Run Deep (Destin, FL: Distributed by Old Destin Post Office Museum, 1988). The resort setting of the town is captured in Anne Rice's The Witching Hour (New York: Knopf, 1990), which describes a New Orleans couple traveling along this area on a honeymoon trip in the 1980s.
Nearby Choctawhatchee Bay is bordered by white sand beaches and long stretches of shallow water lending themselves to wading, shell collecting, and water activities. This area has always been known for its beauty. An early visitor, R.C. Irwin wrote Life and Scenes of the Beautiful Choctawhatchee (Pensacola, 1800), a collection of poems and small photographs taken with a Kodak box camera. Neil Kelso Walker used the area for some of his fictional Open Vistas (New York: Vantage, 1951). More recently, the Northwest Florida Water Management District has collected and recorded interviews and recollections, published as Historical Recollections of Choctawhatchee Bay (Havana, FL, 1985) edited by James H. Gason.

**Fort Walton Beach**

At the western end of the Emerald Coast, where Choctawhatchee Bay meets Santa Rosa Sound (seven miles west of Destin and 60 miles west of Panama City) is the city of Fort Walton Beach. Originally a summer resort known as Camp Walton, the town was renamed in 1998 to honor the old Seminole War fort at this site. As beach tourism swelled in the 1950s, Fort Walton became Fort Walton Beach. From a population of just 100 in 1939, Fort Walton Beach has grown into a major resort, providing support services to service personnel and families at nearby Eglin Air Force Base and tourist facilities for a thousand of snowbirds; northerners who winter under the warm Florida sun. Recollections of the history of this area, including folklore, have been published as Camp Walton to Fort Walton Beach (Fort Walton Beach, FL: The Service League, 1987). For a study of the area's native plants and wildflowers see Fanny-Fern Davis's Nature's Seasonal Splendor (Valparaiso, FL: Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, 1983).

**Mary Esther**

On the western edge of Fort Walton Beach is the town of Mary Esther. Originally a summer resort named for Mary Esther, the town was settled by Presbyterian minister John Newton settled here with his family, naming the area for his wife, or perhaps his daughters, Mary and Esther. Newton was one of the earliest educators in Florida, teaching at Knox Hill Academy in Walton County in the 1860s; for his learning and scholarship, he is one of only four Floridians in the nineteenth century to be named to the American Academy of Science.

**Gulf Breeze Peninsula**

Continuing westward from Fort Walton Beach on U.S. 98, the highway traverses a large peninsula of land which extends westward from Santa Rosa County. This region known as Gulf Breeze Peninsula is bordered on the north by East Bay and on the south by Santa Rosa Sound, and the waterway between the mainland and Santa Rosa Island. Just before Gulf Breeze, the road enters a section of the Gulf Islands National Seashore known as the Naval Live Oaks Reservation. Henry Marie Brackenridge (1786-1821), a Pennsylvanian who arrived in Pensacola as a confidant of and diplomatic officer for Andrew Jackson in 1821, had already achieved notoriety as a writer; his History of the Late War Between the United States and Great Britain... (1817) on the War of 1812, subsequently translated into French and Italian. His View of Louisiana, together with a journal of a voyage up the Mississippi River in 1811 (1814) was one of the first narratives to describe the eastern fringe of the Louisiana Purchase and was noteworthy for its description of the Indian mounds at Cahokia, Illinois, across the Mississippi from St. Louis. In 1820, he told of his diplomatic mission to South America in Voyage to Buenos Ayres Performed in the Years 1817 and 1818, by Order of the American Government (1820).

Brackenridge became interested in the preservation of live-oak trees to provide a source of timber for the U.S. Navy. In the 1820s, American ships could require upwards of 2,000 pounds of live-oak timber for a ship; live oak was preferred as it grew slowly and was very dense and heavy. This wood caused cannonballs to bounce off American ships and gave rise to the name ironwood.

Brackenridge purchased a large tract of the peninsula land, most of which was covered by live-oak forest, and built a pinon, adding lemon, orange, and peach trees. The plantation did not do well and, in 1827, he decided to sell his land to the federal government. The land was purchased and has remained in federal hands since 1828. His "Letter on the Culture of Live Oak," written from St. Rosa (Gulf Breeze vicinity) to Secretary of Navy Southard is the first documentation in American history of forest conservation. He urged purchase of the land to provide the government with a supply of wood and farming techniques to ensure replanting and new growth for reforestation.

Brackenridge's "Live Oak" letter was published in his Speeches on the first Bill, in the House of Delegates of Maryland,.. (1829), a collection of his speeches and writings. Ironically, the forest was never needed; steel soon replaced wood in American vessels, and the Naval Live Oaks Reservation remained untouched and preserved, one of the first wilderness areas set aside for conservation in America.

**Gulf Breeze**

At the western terminus of Gulf Breeze peninsula lies Gulf Breeze, a town bounded on three sides by water (Pensacola Bay to the north and west, Santa Rosa Sound to the south); the eastern boundary is the Live Oaks Reservation. For many years, this area was simply a cross-road point for people traveling from Pensacola to the white-sand beaches of Santa Rosa Island. It also marked the end of the old St. Augustine-to-Pensacola trail established in the nineteenth century. From this point, boats or ferries would take travelers across Pensacola Bay to Pensacola. In 1931, a three-mile, two-lane bridge was constructed across Pensacola Bay, but Gulf Breeze was not developed until the late 1950s, when retirees and vacation-home seekers discovered its access to waterfront property.

Today Gulf Breeze is a mix of retirees and commuting Pensacolians who take advantage of being close to an urban sprawl yet near the water and beaches.
for relaxation. A number of writers have made Gulf Breeze their home. Jim McDade, former editor of the Gulf Breeze Sentinel, has published several compilations of his newspaper columns: My Lawn Mower Died and Other Stories (Gulf Breeze, FL: Sandspur Press, 1984) and More of the Stuff I Wrote Before I Got Famous (Gulf Breeze, FL: Sandspur Press, 1988). Other area writers who regularly contribute columns to local publications like the Gulf Breeze Sentinel, Pensacola Magazine, and other works include Donna Freckenman and Doug Adams. Playwright Grace Thompson has authored plays centering on historical personalities such as Louis May Alcott (The March Sisters of Concord, 1973) and Andrew Jackson. In recent years, Gulf Breeze has seen numerous sightings of unidentified flying objects, prompting a rash of media reports and studies. Ed Walker's recollections of his experiences in 1997 and 1988 have been published as The Gulf Breeze Sightings (New York: William Morrow, 1999).

Santa Rosa Island/Pensacola Beach

South of Gulf Breeze, across the Bob Sikes Bridge, lies the barrier island of Santa Rosa. The eastern part of the island is part of Eglin Air Force Base and contains radar facilities scanning the gulf and the Caribbean, and the western part (between Navarre and Pensacola Bay) is part of the Gulf Islands National Seashore. Santa Rosa Island extends 60 miles eastward from Pensacola Bay to Fort Walton Beach and is noted for its sugar-white sands and pristine beaches. Pierre Francois Xavier de Charlevoix (1682-1761) described a visit to the island (and Pensacola and St. Joseph) in his Journal of a Voyage to North America (London: Printed for R. and J. Dodsley, 1761). American painter George Catlin (1796-1872) in his Letters and Notes on the Manners, Customs and Condition of the North American Indians (London: Towliff and Myers, 1841) commented on the island with words “as white as the drifted snow” in his Letter No. 35. His painting “Seminole drying fish, Santa Rosa Island” appears in Volume 2 of the Letters.

Richard Henry Wilde (1789-1847), a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Georgia and an Italian scholar, wrote an epic poem on the theme America which was posthumously published in his book Hesperia (Boston: Ticknor and Fields, 1867). Canto I is titled "Florida" and contains references to Santa Rosa Island, Escambia Bay, and Pensacola. He, too, was captivated by the beauty of the island, the soft waves, and shimmering sand. Today these same scenes are enjoyed by thousands of Florida tourists and retirees.

The settlement of Pensacola was originally located on the island and named Santa Rosa Punta de Siguennas. A 1743 drawing by Dom Serres, resident and agent for the Havana Company, was published in An Account of the First Discovery and Natural History of Florida by William Roberts (London: Printed for T. Jefferys, 1763) and titled "A North View of Pensacola on the Island of Santa Rosa." It shows a number of buildings and a small fort. After a 1762 hurricane, the settlement and fort relocated to the mainland. The Dom Serres
drawing was used as the basis for a short-lived reconstructed Spanish village on the island during the Florida quincentennial in 1959.

Santa Rosa Island remained abandoned until 1926, when the U.S. Army began construction of Fort Pickens on the western edge of the island to guard the entrance to Pensacola Bay. After the victory at Fort McHenry in 1814, the United States recognized the usefulness of a strong system of forts guarding the entrance to each port along the Atlantic and gulf shores. Fort Pickens, along with sister forts McRee (to the west of Pickens, on the opposite side of Pensacola Pass) and Barrancas (to the northwest of Pickens, on the mainland) provided three fortifications to guard the entrance to the largest deepwater harbor in North America. The history of these forts can be found in James C. and Irene S. Coleman’s Guardians of the Gulf: Fort Pickens, 1698-1898 (Pensacola: Pensacola Historical Society, 1962). Construction of Pickens began in 1826 and was completed in 1836; its garrison was approximately 60 men, and by 1844, it mounted 175 guns.

Although in run-down condition, Fort Pickens took on strategic importance in 1861 when Florida seceded to join the Confederate States of America. While Fort McRee and Fort Barrancas fell to Confederate hands, Fort Pickens remained in Union control throughout the war, preventing the Confederacy from using Pensacola as a blockade-running base. Most of what we know of the Civil War period in Pensacola comes to us from the numerous observers who visited the fort and other areas in Pensacola and the South in 1861, published his Pictures of Southern Life, social, political, and military (New York: J.G. Gregory, 1861).

To avoid another Fort Sumter, federal troops rushed to reinforce Fort Pickens in 1861 and were supplemented by additional men throughout the duration of the war. Blue- and hard New Englanders wrote numerous regimental histories and reminiscences about life on Santa Rosa Island, tales, folklore, and reflections on southern climate. Among these are Henry Augustus Story’s The Story of the Maine Fifteenth... (Bridgton, ME: Press of the Bridgton
News, 1800) and William C. Holbrook’s *A Narrative of the Services of the Officers ... 7th Regiment of Vermont Volunteers* (New York: American Bank Note Co., 1889), and William Lawrence Huskin’s *The History of the First Regiment of artillery* (Portland, Maine, 1879). Huskin’s regiment was originally ordered to Fort Pickens in October 1845 during the Mexican War and also served during the Civil War; his book provides a longer perspective of military life on the island.

Life was not dull at Fort Pickens. Among the arriving troops were the infamous Captain Billy Wilson’s Zouaves (Sixth New York Regiment), a unit known for its devilment, drinking, and misbehaviour. Most all regimental histories about Pensacola touch on the activities of this outfit, but perhaps none match the breadth of a series of letters of the Jesuit priest, Michael Nash, chaplain to the Zouaves. His 11 letters from Santa Rosa Island to fellow Jesuits and friends in New York were published in the *Woodstock Letters* (1867-1868), a private Jesuit historical journal. Another source is *Recollections of a Chastened Life by a Good Templar* (Napanee, Ontario, 1868). Although the author is unidentified, it is generally accepted to be E.T. Hammond, a Scotman who emigrated to New York in 1850 and enlisted in Captain Billy Wilson’s Zouaves. The book is a memoir of the author’s time in Hammond’s battle with “demoralise” but has some good accounts of life in the Zouaves on Santa Rosa Island and later the Pensacola mainland when the federals captured the city. The major account of the unit remains Governor Morris’s *The History of a Volunteer Regiment...Known as Wilson’s Zouaves* (New York: Veteran Volunteer Publishing Company, 1901) and touches on the theatrical programs performed by members of the company while in Pensacola.

Many narrative reports and drawings of Santa Rosa Island, Pensacola Harbor, and Fort Pickens appeared in *Harper’s Weekly* newspaper during 1861 and 1862, especially the unsuccessful Confederate attempt to capture the fort in November 1862. Benjamin Labree’s *Pictorial Battles of the Civil War* (New York: Sherman Publishing Co., 1891) includes an illustration titled “Pensacola Harbor at Night” by Thomas Nast, who in later years became world-famous for his depictions of corrupt Tammany Hall and the development of the iconography of Santa Claus. The Fort Pickens setting was used in *The Boy Spy* (Chicago: M. A. Donohue & Co., 1860), a cheap paperback thriller by Joseph Orton Kerby, who details his adventures as a messenger to Fort Pickens. Given Kerby’s Civil War service, the book may not be entirely fictional.

After the Civil War, Fort Pickens reverted to minimal activity. In the late 1880s, it became a prison for Apache Indians, including Chief Geronimo; see Woodward B. “Woody” Skinner’s *The Apache Rock Crumbles: The Captivity of Geronimo’s People* (Pensacola: Skinner Publications, 1987). The fictional story of Massai, one of Geronimo’s warriors, his capture, imprisonment at Fort Pickens, and subsequent escape and revenge are told in Paul I. Wellman’s *Broncho Apache* (Carden City, NY: Macmillan, 1938). Fort Pickens was reinforced and upgraded with new armament and earthworks during World War I and II for a threat that never came. The age of jets and rockets made the fort obsolete; it became a state park in 1949 and is today administered by the National Park Service as part of the Gulf Islands National Seashore.

**Pensacola**

Possibly the oldest European fiction story concerning West Florida is the Welsh legend of Prince Madog ap Glyndyfr. According to claims of Richard Hakluyt (Princely Navigations... London, 1589), based on Welsh lental poems of Meredith ap Rhys (circa 1477), Madog or Madoc sailed west to the New World, traveled along the gulf coast, and finally settled on Mobile Bay. Various scholars, including Thomas Stephens, Robert Jen, and Dean DeBolt, have debunked the legend, but it makes for an exciting tale. See Joan D. Rice’s *Prime Madog: Discoverer of America* (Boston, MA: Brandt Publishing Co., 1901-1918) and Ellen T. Boggs’s *Brave His Soul* (New York: Dodd, Mead, 1970) about Madog’s exploits.

Nevertheless, Pensacola can claim to be the oldest European city in the United States because Tristan de Luna brought 1,500 colonists into Pensacola Bay in 1559. The settlement lasted only two years and Pensacola was not resettled until the 1690s. Pensacolans continually assail St. Augustine’s claim to be the oldest city by appending the term *permanent*. St. Augustine was settled in 1564, five years after Pensacola, but the former settlement persevered, making St. Augustine the oldest *permanent* European city in the United States.

De Luna’s attempt failed because a hurricane destroyed his ships and Indians refused to help the inhabitants secure food and information. Agustin Davila Padilla (1589-1604), archbishop of Santo Domingo, wrote the history of the de Luna expedition in his *Historia de la fundacion y descubrimiento de la provincia de Santiago de Mexico* (Madrid, 1586). It is more than real, as it speaks of the angering of the wind gods, miracles, and presence of evil spirits determined to harm de Luna’s goals. De Luna’s own letters to Spain were compiled by Herbert Ingram Friesley in *The Luna Papers* (1928; reprinted, Fremont, NE: Books for Libraries Press, 1971). A fictional account of the de Luna expedition is John Appleward’s *De Luna: Founder of North America’s First Colony* (Pensacola: Applleward Agency, 1977).

In 1588, the Spanish returned to Pensacola under the command of Andres de Aviles, who began construction of Fort San Carlos de Austria at the present-day site of Fort Barrancas. Though never completed, Fort San Carlos, from the entrance to the bay, looked imposing, and when the French arrived two months later, they were surprised to see a formidable Spanish outpost guarding the harbor. The French commander, Pierre le Moyne de Bienville, thus took his fleet westward to settle Biloxi. Caught in the forges of European war, Pensacola was captured by the French in 1719; see Michael Leigh’s *Warrior’s Truth* (London: Heinemann, 1955) for a fictional account of 1719-1722 Pensacola through the experiences of John Cotter, an Irish soldier in the service of King George I. Sheppard Stevens’s *The Sword of Justice* (Boston: Little, Brown, 1899) also touches on life in Florida during the conflict between Spain and France, while Harris Dickson’s *The Black Wolf’s Breath* (Indianapolis:
Bowen-Merrill Co., 1899) is a fictional account of French activities in the
settlement of Biloxi and capture of Pensacola. Spain recaptured Pensacola in
1722 and finally relinquished the region to England in 1763. See also William
Edward Dunn's Spanish and French Rivalry in the Gulf Region of the United

With the new territory, King George III established the royal colony
of British West Florida, England's first colony west of the Appalachians. With its
capital at Pensacola, the colony included the lands of southern Louisiana,
the lower half of present-day Mississippi and Alabama, and Florida to the
Apalachicola River.

Interest in the new "fourteenth" colony was met by scattered efforts of
British writers to incorporate West Florida's history, geography, botany,
and folklore into something akin to travel guides. London magazines contained
articles such as "Some Account of the Government of East and West Florida..."
in Gentleman's Magazine (November 1768); "Florida Being Now in Our Posses-
sion..." in Universal Magazine (January 1769); and "Florida, being divided into
two governments..." in London Magazine (March 1765). Among the finest
natural-history documentation for this period is William Robert's An Account
of the First Discovery and Natural History of Florida... (London: T. Jefferys, 1763),
which includes a number of Thomas Jefferys's maps of Pensacola, St. Joseph
Bay, and Pensacola Harbor. In addition, Jean Bernard Bousou (1720-1792)
completed his Travels through that part of North America formerly called Louisiana
(London, 1771), which contained letters of the author from Pensacola and a
catalog of plants, shrubs, and trees. Another hallmark work was Bernard
Romans (1792-1794) A Concise Natural History of East and West Florida... (New
York: Bernard Romans, 1779); Romans, a Dutch civil engineer and naturalist,
covered the 1782 hurricane, the activities of Pompey (a free black man and
"curious herbalist" of Pensacola), plants of the region, and topographical
descriptions. Many of these guides, while extremely valuable firsthand accounts,
are often compilations of personal correspondence, journals, diaries,
and other writings.

The first appointed English governor of West Florida, George Johnstone,
arrived in Pensacola in October 1764. Accompanying him was James Macpherson
(1756-1796), a poet and compiler of ancient Scottish poems, whose
writeings caused much controversy at the time in England. In 1760, Macpherson
published Fragments of Ancient Poetry Collected in the Highlands of Scotland, to
be followed by Fingal (1762) and Temora (1763), works that the author claimed to
be translations of epic poems of the third-century Gaelic poet Ossian. The
well-known Samuel Johnson doubted the authenticity of the works and did
much to besmirch the name of Macpherson, but the latter helped the romantic
literary movement become established in Europe. When George Johnstone
became governor of the western part of Florida in 1765, Macpherson joined
him in Pensacola and became his secretary and surveyor-general of the
province. But instead of spending much time in Florida and possibly writing
some important works, Macpherson quarreled with his superior and left the
state to travel to other places.

Another companion of Johnstone was Archibald Campbell (1726-1780).
The son of a Scottish minister, Campbell spent most of his life as a pur-
son on His Majesty's ships. Nicknamed "Horrible" because of "the malignity of
his heart [and] terrible countenance," Campbell claimed he "had the happiness
to live with" Johnstone in Pensacola where he also became familiar with
Macpherson. In their debates about Macpherson's poems, Campbell wrote
that Johnstone enticed them "more than he might really think they deserve,
and I depreciating them as much." While in Pensacola, Campbell wrote two
manuscripts. In Lesbia,he bore the title attacked the currently fashionable
writing style. In the satire The Sale of Authors, he rebelled against such authors as
Samuel Johnson. Campbell later published these books in London, and his
Sale of Author (London 1767) is dedicated to Johnstone and was probably
published in Pensacola between 1764 and 1765. West Florida, because it did
not have a printing press, possibly missed out on the opportunity of printing these
two early works. For more about Johnstone see Robin P.A. Fabel's Bombs and
Breadrolls: The Lives of George Johnstone (Tuscaloosa, AL: University of Alabama
Press, 1987).

Scientific interest in the new British colony encouraged visits by and
publications of cartographers including George Gauld, Thomas Hutchins,
William De Brahm, and Bernard Romans. Gauld (1726-1782), upon his return
to England, published a print "A View of Pensacola in West Florida" (Londen,
1765), a rare illustration of Pensacola as seen from the deck of a ship. The
maps of Gauld, Hutchins, DeBrahm, and Romans appear in numerous atlases
and gazetteers. Scientific organizations in England and America solicited
specimens of plant and animal life from the new colony as well. Gauld's
biography is told in John D. Ware's George Gauld, Surveyor and Cartographer
of the Gulf Coast (Tampa: University of South Florida Press, 1982). William
Bartlam's Travels through North and South Carolina, Georgia, East & West Florida
(Philadelphia: James & Johnson, 1781) detailed the botanical wonders of the
region. John Ellis, the king's agent for West Florida, and a member of the Royal
Society of London, encouraged scientific inquiry, assisted by Dr. John
Lorimer, a resident surgeon. For their efforts, five men associated with West Florida
Lorimer, Gauld, Hutchins, Romans, and Ellis — earned memberships in the
prestigious American Philosophical Society.

When the American Revolution broke out, Pensacola became a safehaven
for Englishmen and British sympathizers (Tories) fleeing the colonies. See
Frank Slaughter's Flight from Natchez (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1955) for
a fictional account of Dr. John Powers, a Natchez Loyalist. In 1779, Spain
declared war on England, and Pensacola was recaptured by Spanish forces in
1781 under the command of General Bernardo de Galvez. Galvez's account,
Diario de las operaciones de la expedicion contra la Plaza de Pensacola (Habana,
1781) is a zestful battlefield journal of the siege of Pensacola. Also see
An American-Spanish Confrontation on the Gulf Coast During the American
Revolution edited by William S. Coker and Robert R. Rea (Pensacola: Gulf Coast
History and Humanities Conference, 1983). The British forces at Pensacola had one
vessel, the H.M.S. Mentor, which was stripped and burned to prevent capture.

The story of an American privateer in waters off Spanish-held Pensacola is told in Albert W. Aiken's (1840-1934) The Winged Whale, or, Red Jacket of the Gulf (New York: Beadle and Adams, 1879), one of the many dime novels of the 1870s. Aiken wrote over 125 books for Beadle & Adams, some under other names.

Another novel about the southwestern frontier (1790-1815) is Odell Shepard and Willard Shepard's Holdfast Gaines (New York: Macmillan, 1946), James Howell Street (1903-1934), a journalist and playwright who served a repatriation stint with the Pensacola Journal in 1926, wrote Oh, Promised Land (New York: Dial Press, 1940). Street's book details the adventures of the Dubay family in the southwestern frontier of West Florida; later exploits about the family included Tomorrow We Have (New York: Dial Press, 1949) with James Childers and Mingo Dubay (New York: Dial Press, 1950). Other fiction covering this period includes Eugenie Price's Maria (Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1977) which offers a woman's perspective, and Zachary Phelps (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, 1899) by Edwald Lasseter Byrner (1892-1893); Byrner's novel is set in the Florida Panhandle from the Suwannee to Pensacola and details the adventures of a young boy who falls into the company of Aaron Burr and later Andrew Jackson and others on the Florida frontier. David Hart White's Vicente Feliz, Governor in Spanish Florida - 1782-1811 (Washington, DC: University Press of America, 1981) is also about this era.

Spanish influence in West Florida continued to dwindle. American forces under General Andrew Jackson attacked Pensacola in 1814 during the War of 1812 and again in 1818 as part of an American military expedition against the Seminoles who had been attacking settlers along the southeastern frontier.

The 1814 incursions are covered in Historical Memoirs of the Wars in West Florida... (Philadelphia: John Conrad & Co., 1818) by Arsen L. Latour, Napoleon's agent in Louisiana and Jackson's chief engineer, and in John Henry Eaton's Life of Andrew Jackson (Philadelphia: M. Carey, 1817). The fictional The Lost Virgin of the South: A Tale of Truth Connected with the History of the Indian War of the South... (Tallahastee, c.1851) is perhaps one of the earliest Florida-published fiction about the Creek Indians of this period. A viewpoint of the Choctaws who accompanied Jackson is given in Horace G. Kidaughty's Hall's Branch Office (Citra, FL: Florida's Choctaw Indians, 1987).

Another unique perspective is provided by one of Jackson's Tennesseans, Davy Crockett, whose biography A Narrative of the Life of Davie Crockett of the State of Tennessee (Philadelphia: W.L. Case and A. Hart, 1834) tells of Pensacola, life along the "Scamby" (Escambia) River, and tracking Crocets in the Panhandle. University of West Florida professor Richard Hauck (Crockett: A Bio-Bibliography (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1982) calls the book Crockett's

The logbook of this ship has survived (in the University of West Florida Library) and has been published as The Log of H.M.S. Mentor, 1760-1761 (Pensacola: University Presses of Florida, 1982) edited by James A. Service. The ship's captain, Robert Dearn, apparently took the log back to England with him, for it appears to have been used as Mrs. Dearn's notebook after 1781. Another book about this period is N. Orwin Rusht's Spain's Final Triumph Over Great Britain in the Gulf of Mexico (Tallahassee: Florida State University Press, 1966).


Between 1781 and 1821, Pensacola remained under Spanish control, and the Spanish authorities encouraged the English inhabitants to remain, even supporting the efforts of British firms such as the Panton, Leslie and Company trading empire. This company became the largest trading concern in the southeastern United States, owning vast tracts of present-day Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida through its trade with the Indians. The extraordinary history of the company has been documented in William S. Coker's Historical Sketches of Panton, Leslie and Company (Pensacola: University of West Florida Press, 1978) and William S. Coker and Thomas D. Watson's Indian Traders of the Southeastern Spanish Borderlands: Panton, Leslie & Company and John Forbes & Company, 1785-1817 (Pensacola: University of West Florida Press, 1983). The company dealt extensively with British, Spanish, and Indian representatives, including Alexander McGillivray of the Creeks. During this period (1781-1821), the Southeast remained embroiled in the intrigue and suspicion of rival factions (the French, English, Spanish, Americans, and Indians). Robert P. "Bobby" Dew's Mobile East (Edison, GA: Rebel Books, 1972) offers a fictional perspective of the company based on the diary of Rebecca Sherwood Panton (1776-1858), the adopted daughter of William Panton.

Welborn Kelley's fictional Alabama Empire (New York: Rinehart, 1957) tells the exploits of Dr. John Adam Fye, McGillivray's physician, and the Creek country in 1780-1793. A frequent Pensacola visitor and general agent for the
contribution to American comic literature. The West Florida setting was used in Walt Disney's 'Davy Crockett' TV series in the 1950s and remembered for the resulting comical-caped effect.

The life of the soldiers in Jackson's army in 1817-1818 is recounted in Joel P. Walker's 'A Pioneer of Pioneers' (Los Angeles, CA: Adon David, 1933), his memoirs dictated in 1876, and 'Diary of John Banks' (1836), those of a Georgian volunteer angered over repeated Indian depredations. The third edition of Henry B. Eaton's 'The Life of Major General Andrew Jackson' (Philadelphia: McCarty & David, 1828) is the only one to include a special addendum on the history of the Seminole War and 'Cession and Government of Florida' on the second Jackson invasion in 1818. A fictional account of Florida's annexation to the United States appears in Bayard H. Kirkendall's 'Flames of Time' (New York: Scribner, 1948). A fictional account of a company of boys in Andrew Jackson's army in 1814 is told in 'Captain Sow; or, The Boy Scouts of 1814' (New York: Putnam's, 1876) by George Cary Eggleston (1839-1911). A similar juvenile adventure is 'The Land Hero of 1812; or, Campaigning with General Jackson' (Philadelphia: David McKay, 1904) by Chauncey Crafts Hotchkiss (1835-1878). A different narrative told from a multi-generational Creek Indian family perspective is 'David P. Mason's Five Dollars A Scalp: The Last Mighty War Whoop of the Creek Indians' (Huntsville, AL: Stude Publishers, 1785).

The Adams-Onis Treaty of 1819 transferred both East and West Florida to the United States, and in 1819, Jackson was appointed governor of the new Provisional Territory of Florida. Rachel Jackson accompanied her husband to Pensacola in 1821; her diaries about the local customs are preserved in her letters which appear in James Parton's 'Three-volume Life of Andrew Jackson' (New York: Mason Brothers, 1856) and in 'Irving Stone's The President's Lady' (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1951). Homested for Tennessee, the Jacksons left Pensacola after only three months. Andrew Jackson and Pensacola (Pensacola: Department of History, University of West Florida, 1974) is edited by James R. McGeever and provides a good overview of the Jackson period from 1814 through 1821. glimpses of Pensacola life during the military occupation can be found in John Lee Williams' 'A View of West Florida' (Philadelphia: H.S. Tanner, 1827) and in 'Travels through North America during the years 1825 and 1826' (Philadelphia: Carey, Lea & Carey, 1828) by Karl Beraud, who lived in Pensacola.

Compilations of folklore and tales of this period are 'Where Romance Flowered: Stories of Old Pensacola' (Pensacola: Pensacola Printing Co., 1947) and 'Jackson and the Enchanted City: Stories of Old Pensacola' (Pensacola: Pensacola Printing Co., 1949) by Pensacola society columnist Celia Myrro Robinson. These provide factual and apocryphal stories about Pensacola places and community leaders such as the Jacksons, William Panton, Alexander McMillan, and others. A companion volume is 'The Crown Jewel: Fabulous Families of Old Pensacola' (Pensacola: Pensacola Printing Co., 1948) with family histories and genealogies of Spanish families that settled in Pensacola just prior to and during the Jackson period. Some of these legends and stories also appear along with modern addenda in 'Ghost, Legends and Folklore of Old Pensacola' (Pensacola: Pensacola Historical Society, 1990), compiled by Sandra Johnson and Leora Sutten. Finally, 'Henry M. Breckenridge's A Topographical Description of Pensacola and Vicinity in 1821' edited by Brian R. Baeker (Budapest, FL: Patagonia Press, 2001) gives a good view of the area.

For most of the eighteenth century, Pensacola remained a small town, more a frontier village than an urban destination. John James Audubon visited Pensacola in 1837, observed the brown ibis, and wrote that the town is "a small place at present; principally inhabited by Creoles and Spaniards of the lowest class, and some few amiable and talented families of Scotic and Americans." Traders, frontiersmen, and Indians traveled through the area constantly. Alexander McGillivrany, chief of the Creeks and a frequent Pensacola visitor, traveled to Washington in 1791 to negotiate a treaty with President George Washington. His likeness was captured by artist John Trumbull. Other portraits of West Florida Indians were published in Thomas L. McKenney and James Hall's 'History of the Indian Tribes of North America,' (1836-1844) reprinted as 'The Indian Tribes of North America' (Totowa, NJ: Rowman and Littlefield, 1976) and preserved in paintings of George Washington Styf, a Pensacola artist in the mid-1830s.

Contacts with southeastern Indians greatly diminished after their defeat in the Second Seminole War in the late 1830s. Fiction about this period, covering Pensacola and the Panhandle, include Frank G. Slaughter's 'The Warrior' (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1947); Robert Wilder's 'Bright Feather' (New York: Putnam's, 1947); 'The Red Eagle: A Fawn of the South' (New York: Appleton, 1855), an epic poem about a Creek Indian chief; 'Wentworth and the War,' by Alexander Beaufort Meek (1814-1863); and Peter Hanscon's 'Creek Rifles' (New York: Dell, 1939), a historical adventure. The forced removal of the Creek Indians and other West Florida tribes is covered in Gloria Jahoda's 'The Trail of Tears' (New York: Holt, 1975) and in Luke Wallin's 'In the Shadow of the Wind' (New York: Bradbury Press, 1934) about a Creek Indian village in Florida/Alabama.

With congressional approval of the new territory of Florida in 1822, American troops were sent to Pensacola to assist in guarding the port and providing protection against Indians. One of the new West Point graduates assigned to Pensacola, George A. McCull (1809-1886), wrote a number of letters to his family in Philadelphia describing Pensacola. These appear in his 'Letters From the Frontiers' (1866; facsimile reprint Gainesville: University Presses of Florida, 1974). Pensacola was also the childhood home of Octavia Walton Le Vert (1810-1877); her later move to Mobile and world travels are recounted in two volumes of her 'Souvenirs of Travel' (Mobile, Ala: S.H. Goetzel, 1857); and her Pensacola years are told in Frances Gibson Satterfield's 'Madame La Vert' (Edisto Island, SC: Edisto Press, 1887). For the most part, Pensacola in the antebellum period was a small port city. Roger Joseph T. Herle stated in his autobiography, 'The Life of the Celebrated Mail-Runner and Darling Highwayman... (Philadelphia: J.B. Perry, 1844), that the gains of his crimes on the road between Baton Rouge and Pensacola were spent in Pensacola on balls and Spanish ladies.
Other forms of entertainment included the theater. An 1839 anecdotal theatrical journey through the Creek Nation is recorded by Solomon Franklin Smith (1801-1869), a stage company manager, in his autobiography, "Theatrical Management in the West and South for Thirty Years" (1869; New York: B. Blom, 1968). Smith was instrumental in the development of theaters in the southeastern frontier including Mobile, Natchez, St. Louis, and other cities. A companion view is provided by Noah Miller Ludlow (1785-1866), a former business partner of Smith, in his "Dramatic Life As I Found It" (1860; Bronx, NY: B. Blom, 1966), considered one of the best stage histories ever written and a major source for social history of the Old Southwest. Ludlow, influential in the Mobile, Alabama, theater, considered Pensacola to be the El Dorado of the South.

Pensacola's rough reputation and predominantly Catholic population were a natural magnet for religious missionaries. Sara Jenkins's "Saddlebag Parish" (New York: Crowell, 1956) tells the story of the fictional Jared Crittenden, newly converted to Methodism, and his difficulties as the first Methodist circuit rider in west Florida in the 1820s. Nevertheless, Pensacola remains home to one of the oldest Catholic churches in Florida whose story is told in Mary Merritt Dawkins's "The Parish of Saint Michael, the Archangel: The First Hundred Years, 1781-1981" (Pensacola: University of West Florida, 1991).

While the population was small, there was increasing demand for labor - on the docks, at the Pensacola Navy Yard, and in the new brickyards along Escambia Bay. Slave-owning residents often earned income renting their slaves to the navy or local businesses. Thus, abolitionists, like Captain Jonathan Walker of Massachusetts, who lived in Pensacola from 1837 to 1843, were considered a threat to economic livelihood. In 1844, he returned to Pensacola and on June 22, 1844, sailed from the harbor, carrying seven black slaves. He attempted to reach the Bahamas, but suffered a stroke, and his boat was seized and returned to Pensacola. He was charged with stealing slaves, narrowly avoided being lynched, was placed in a pillory and paint with rotten eggs, and given a jail sentence and fine. His case was closely chronicled in the northern abolitionist press including William Lloyd Garrison's "The Liberator" and "The Emancipator." Possibly his worst punishment was to be branded on the hand with the letters SS for slave stealer.

Finally freed, Walker returned to New England and wrote his "Trial and Imprisonment of Jonathan Walker, at Pensacola, Florida, for Aiding Slaves To Escape from Bondage" (1845; reprinted Gainesville: University Presses of Florida, 1974). Walker's ill treatment in Pensacola and horrifying disfigurement shocked many northerners. John Greenleaf Whittier composed a popular poem, "The Branded Hand," which appears in the second edition of Walker's book (1846). Walker himself joined the abolitionist lecture circuit, displaying his branded hand and inciting abolitionist emotion. He allowed his hand to be photographed by the daguerreotype firm of Southworth and Hawes, providing one of the earliest conceptual portraits to show a part of the human body; see Robert A. Sobieszek and Odette M. Appel's "The Spirit of Fact" (Boston: Godine, 1978). Philip Van Doren Stern wrote a fictional account of this episode in his "The Dream of Morning" (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, Doran, 1943) about Jonathan Bradford, an abolitionist leader in the period, 1837-1860.

Walker was not the only northerner to call attention to the slavery issue in Pensacola. A brickmaker, John Williamson Cray, Sr. (1814-1897), came to Pensacola in 1857 to the firm of Bacon and Abercombie. The firm held a contract to provide millions of bricks for Fort Jefferson near Key West and other government construction projects but could not produce quality bricks rapidly enough. Cray invented a brick-making machine which appeared on the cover of "Scientific American," January 5, 1851. Cray's manuscript memoirs, written in the 1890s, have been published as "Reminiscences of the Old South from 1834 to 1866" (Pensacola: Perdido Bay Press, 1984) and equally detail his concern over the plight of the slaves in the South.

With the election of President Lincoln in late 1860, Florida joined the new Confederate States of America. Pensacola promised to become a major port for the new government and thousands of troops were rushed to the city to secure its facilities. Fort Pickens, guarding the entrance to Pensacola harbor, remained securely in Union hands, and after a unsuccessful attempt to capture the fort in 1862, Confederate forces abandoned the area. Federal forces continually occupied the nearly deserted city until the war's end in 1865. One interesting literary product of this period is "Adrift on the Black Wild Tide" (Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1879) by James Johnson Kane (1837-1921). It purports to be a vision of a soul's journey to heaven experienced by Kane while ill with yellow fever in Pensacola in 1863. An 1896 reprint allowed to this experience as a nautical version of "Pilgrim's Progress." Kane claimed his experience inspired him to preach about it on 20 different occasions and a version was published in the "New York Herald" in March 1874. The Union blockade of Pensacola harbor is recounted in Oliver Optic's "Stand By the Union" (Boston: Lee and Shepard, 1892). Recollections of a Pensacola-born soldier, beginning with his service in Pensacola, are told in Henry H. Baker's two-volume "A Reminiscient Story of the Great Civil War" (New Orleans: The Rustin Press, 1911).

Between 1855 and 1920, Pensacola grew from a small town into an urban sprawl. The trans-Panhandle railroad was completed in 1882, linking the city with Jacksonville and establishing a dozen new cities in west Florida. See *Iron Horse in the Pines* (Pensacola: Pensacola Historical Society, 1982) for the full history of this effort. The railroad brought travelers to Pensacola, and shipments of goods, money, and goods became the target of outlaws. See the autobiography *The Life of John Wesley Hardin* (Seguin, TX: Smith & Moore, 1896) and *They Died with Their Boots On* (New York: Doubleday, 1885) by Thomas Ripley (1856-) for the story of outlaw John Wesley Hardin, whose gang was captured in Pensacola in 1877.

The railroad made possible the development of lumber companies by providing a means to get timber to ships in Pensacola harbor; the Pensacola waterfront boomed with shipping companies, passenger lines, telegraph facilities, foreign consulates, and businesses. Along the waterfront were places of entertainment: bars, saloons, and houses of ill repute. A young pianist who came to Pensacola in 1910-1920 was a member of the Danton Walker's orchestra, which went on to become a respected outfit for the *New York Daily News*.

As Pensacola moved into the twentieth century, it changed from a small port city to a major urban center. This change is characterized by the growth of *The American Silversides*: *Fourteen Years' Experience in a Southern Convict Camp* (Chicago: H.J. Smith & Co., 1891). Powell tells of the post-Civil War life and the exploits in west Florida with moonshiners, Ku Klux Klan members, and county sheriffs, from a lawyer's perspective of crime and violence. Another gripping memoir of crime and lawlessness is *J. H. Harrington's When Crime Pays Off* (Mobile, AL: Press of Heister-Summers, 1937) about his service on the Pensacola police force between 1937 and 1938.

As America moved into the 1880s, interest in health and leisure led to the development of resorts, the concept of vacations, and the quest for scenic and invigorating climates. Literature promoting Florida and Pensacola began to appear in such publications as *Ellen Call Long's Florida Brevet* (Jacksonville: Ashmead Bros., 1882); *Benjamin Robinson's An Historical Sketch of Pensacola, Florida* (Pensacola: Advance-Gazette, 1882); and *Silvia Sunshine's Pecan from Sunny Climate* (Nashville: Southern Methodist Publishing House, 1880). Famed American poet and musician Sidney Lanier (1842-1881) came to Pensacola in 1910 and 1915 to write his history of the city's history, *Florida: Its Scenery, Climate, and History* (Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1875) became one of the earliest Florida guidebooks, and he took note of the lumber and shipping industry in Pensacola and its navy yard.


Progressivism found a natural outlet in journalism. More Pensacola newspapers were established in the 1890s and 1900s than in any period before or since. Inventor John Williamson Craig (1814-1897), at various times on the editorial staff of three different Pensacola papers, used the columns to discuss commercial tariffs, the circulation of money, the four-hour workday, and other progressive ideas. His *Sixty Years a Brick Maker: A Practical Treatise* (Indianapolis: T.A. Randall & Co., 1890) brought him national renown in the brick-making industry and as an expert in the firing of clay. Another printer and former shipbuilder, John McElhany, recalled his work with various Pensacola newspapers and used salty comments on their owners and editors in *Fifty Years in Pensacola: Personal Reminiscences and Anecdotes* (Pensacola: Mayes Printing Co., 1944).


Booker T. Washington (1856-1915), visiting Pensacola, commented on the progress of the African-American business community in his *His Negro in Business* (Boston: Hertel, Jenkins & Co., 1907). In this community was a major Florida African-American newspaper, *The Florida Sentinel*, under the leadership of M.M. Lewey. Eventually this paper moved to Jacksonville, Florida. Dramatic changes for Pensacola took place with the founding of the Pensacola Naval Air Station in 1911 and an increased military presence after World War II. Pete Hamill (1935-) set down a fictionalized autobiography of his days at Elson's Field, Pensacola, 1952-1954, in *Loving Women: A Novel of the Fifties* (New York: Random House, 1989); his novel interpetes vignettes of the 1950s in contrast with a return trip to Pensacola in 1987. As an occasional columnist for *Esquire*, Hamill incorporates Pensacola themes as appropriate see his "America's Holy War" about the bombing of the Pensacola abortion clinics in the November 1989 issue. His columns for the *New York Post* and *The

Between 1865 and 1929, Pensacola grew from a small town into an urban sprawl. The trans-Pensacola railroad was completed in 1882, linking the city with Jacksonville and establishing a dozen new cities in west Florida. See Iron Horse in the Pineyards (Pensacola: Pensacola Historical Society, 1982) for the full history of this effort. The railroad brought travelers to Pensacola, and shipments of gold, money, and goods became the target of outlaws. See the autobiography The Life of John Wesley Hardin (Seguin, TX: Smith & Moore, 1896) and They Died With Their Boots On (New York: Doubleday, 1935) by Thomas Ripley (1895–) for the story of outlaw John Wesley Hardin, whose gang was captured in Pensacola in 1877.

The railroad made possible the development of lumber companies by providing a means to get timber to ships in Pensacola harbor; the Pensacola waterfront boomed with shipping companies, passenger lines, telegraph facilities, foreign consulates, and businesses. Along the waterfront were places of entertainment: bars, saloons, and houses of ill repute. A young piano player at one such establishment, Danton Walker, who went on to become a respected columnist for the New York Daily News, recounted his life in Pensacola in 1910–1920 in his Danton's Inferno (New York: Hastings House, 1955). J.C. Powell, an overseer in one of north Florida's prison camps, wrote of the "wildest sort of debauchery along the harbor front" in reference to Pensacola in his autobiography, The American Silversia, or, Forty Years' Experience in a Southern Convict Camp (Chicago: H.J. Smith & Co., 1891). Powell tells of Pensacola life and his exploits in west Florida with moonshiners, Ku Klux Klan members, and county sheriffs, from a lawman's perspective of crime and violence. Another gripping memoir of crime and lawlessness is Jeff M. Herrington's When Crime Pays Off (Mobile, AL: Press of Heiter-Strake, 1937) about his service on the Pensacola police force between 1907 and 1955.

As America moved into the 1880s, interest in health and leisure led to the development of resorts, the concept of vacations, and the quest for scenic and invigorating climates. Literature promoting Florida and Pensacola began to appear in such publications as Ellen Call Long's Florida Brenda (Jacksonville: Ashmead Bros., 1882); Benjamin Robinson's An Historical Sketch of Pensacola, Florida... (Pensacola: Advance-Gazette, 1882); and Silvia Sunshine's Petals Picked from Sunny Climes (Nashville: Southern Methodist Publishing House, 1880). Famed American poet and musician Sidney Lanier (1842–1881) came to Florida to try to revive his failing health; his Florida: Its Scenery, Climate, and History (Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1875) became one of the earliest Florida guidebooks, and he took note of the lumber and shipping industry in Pensacola and its navy yard.


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As Pensacola moved into the twentieth century, it changed from a small port city to a major urban center. This change is the theme of James R. Mc Govern's The Emergence of a City in the Modern South: Pensacola, 1900-1945 (De Leon Springs, Fl: E.O. Painter, 1976). A good view of the city's history is Norman Simmons and James R. McGovern's Pensacola in Pictures and Prints (Pensacola: Pensacola-Escambia County Development Commission, 1974). The history of the county with emphasis on the development of schools and growth in government is recounted in History of Escambia County, Florida (St. Augustine: The Record Company, 1930) by Henry Clay Armstrong (1870–1950), headmaster of the Pensacola Classic School and a mayor of Pensacola.

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Pensacola writers include Evelyn Dahl, whose Belle of Destiny (New York: Greenberg, 1928) is a fictionalized account of the life of Octavia Walton Le Vert. Florence Glass Palmer’s Life and Miss Celeste (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1927) is about two spinsters who maintain their independence and interest in life despite their poverty during the Great Depression; her Spring Will Come Again (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1940) tells of life in the Alabama cotton-growing black belt during the Reconstruction. Elza Stone’s gothic romances include The Secret of the Willows (1970); Dark Masquerade (1978); Whisper of Fear (1978); and The Visions of Emmae (1976).


Newspaper editor Jesse Earle Bowden (1898-) has authored a number of west Florida books including Always the River Runs (Deland: A Memoir (Pensacola: University of West Florida Foundation, 1978), a collection of essays about west Florida supplemented by editorial cartoons drawn by Bowden and taken from the pages of the Pensacola News-Journal. His The Write Way: Editor’s Guidebook for Students of Writing (1967) grew out of his journalism instruction at the University of West Florida. Bowden has also written for the Pensacola Historical Society, including the text of its recent photographic history Pensacola: Florida’s First Place City (Norfolk, VA: Donning Co., 1989).

Michael Leigh (1912-1987), a native of Ireland, came to Pensacola as a Pensacola News-Journal columnist in 1948. His books have included Cross of Fire (1949), a fictional retelling of the conquest of Zululand; Rogue Brauns (1951), an adventure set against the romantic background of seventeenth-century Ireland; and He Couldn’t Say Amen (1951), an adventurous prose version of Shakespeare’s Macbeth.

Biographical writings by Pensacolians include Thomas Jefferson Thompson’s The Thrilling Adventures of Thomas Jefferson Thompson (1922) which tells of his life in the frontier West (Arizona, Colorado, and South Dakota) during the period 1849-1910; The Fourth Quarter (Tallahassee: 1976) by Alto Lee Adams (1899-) is an autobiography by a former justice of the Florida Supreme Court chronicling his early career in Pensacola and legal personalities and cases of the area in the 1920s; the humorous memoirs of an Escambia County deputy sheriff are recalled in Doc Parker’s collected stories, You’re Under Arrest, I’m Not Kidding (Pensacola: Carol Book, 1985) and Officer Needs Assistance Again (Pensacola: Carol Book, 1986) the biography of Teddy Joe (Martin Weissman) and his famous “avator waterings-hole” is told in Trucker Joe (Menlo Park, CA: Castle Books, 1986) by Fred Brown.


Juvenile fiction by Pensacola authors includes Celia Myrover Robinson’s Rainbow’s Happy Summer (Chicago: Bond McNally, 1912); Gene S. Sturton’s Three Little Indians (Washington, DC: National Geographic Society, 1974) describing life for children in Chiyenne, Creek, and Noxap Alpha Indians; University of West Florida graduate K. Paul Braxton’s The Bubble and Bury Machine (Marine, FL: Harriet Press, 1985); McMillan schoolteacher Dorothy Gathon’s Pedro the Pig (New York: Exposition Press, 1965); and Cynthia Broomhall Richardson’s Size Cucumber, Shrinks Letters (New York: G. Gabriel Sons, 1944) about the letter-writing campaign of a little dog—the book was so popular that numerous letters were sent to Richardson over the years simply addressed to Size Cucumber.

Works set in and around Pensacola include Anna Conlin’s The Belle of Pensacola (Cincinnati: Editor Publishing Co., 1999), a fictional account of life in the city in 1865; Pensacola in the 1940s during World War II is revealed in Requiem in Hate (Boston: Little, Brown, 1945) by John Philip Marquand (1899-1969); Midnight Water (New York: E. P. Dutton, 1989) by Geoffrey Norman is a fictional account of a drug-smuggling ring in the Florida Panhandle; Barbara Davis’ Flight of Desire (New York: Dell, 1987) is a candlelight ecosy romance” set in Seville Square of Pensacola. James P. Hogan’s The Mirror Maze (New York: Bantam Books, 1989) is an espionage-thriller about two former University of West Florida students; the story deals with a contemporary social issue of the 1960s in Pensacola; the problems of nude dancing in bars. Poetry about the area includes Maude Haynes Hollowell’s This Little Things (New York: Vantage, 1979).

Juvenile fiction with a Pensacola area setting includes Wesley Ford Davis’s The Time of the Panther (New York: Harper, 1958) about a 14-year-old’s coming of age in a west Florida lumber camp; Borden Deal’s A Long Way To Go (New York: Doubleday, 1968) about three children who, when their parents fail to return from Gulf Beach, begin walking up the west Florida coast to Alabama; and Ruby Lee Hall’s Davie (New York: Duell, Sloan, 1961) about a west Florida
schoolboy growing up on a sharecropper's farm in the 1920s. An eight-year-old orphan's arrival in the fictional town of Bishop in West Florida is the theme of Mary N. Dolbin's *The Bishop's Passion* (New York: William Morrow, 1992); Wyly Folk St. John's *The Mystery of the Other Girl* (New York: Viking Press, 1971) is a novel for young people based on scenes and activities in Pensacola, including the Night in Old Seville (Square) Festival; sunken treasure is the theme of Ann Waldron's *The Luckie Star* (E.P. Dutton, 1977). North Florida locales are also the setting for Cory's *Cheney's Fortunes* (New York: Henry Holt, 1955) and *The Rocking Chair Buck* (New York: Henry Holt, 1956); and Layne Shroder's *The Four of Them* (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, 1957) is a psychological novel of four young artists at a resort town on the Florida gulf coast.

Other less-definable but Pensacola-influenced books include Mickey Friedman's *Hurricane Season* (New York: Dutton, 1983) and Michael McDowell's *Blackwater* (New York: Avon Books, 1982). Originals published as six suspense paperbacks about a family and a town situated between the Perdido and Blackwater rivers somewhere a little west of Pensacola.


Pensacola's setting on the water has been the theme of a number of novels narrating life on the water and sailing the bay. One of the earliest is *Four Months in a Smack Boat: A Boat Voyage of 2600 Miles down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, and along the Gulf of Mexico* (Boston: Lee and Shepard, 1879) by Nathaniel Holmes Bishop (1839-1902); it details a voyage in a home-built boat with descriptions of Santa Rosa Island, Fort Pickens, Choctawhatchee Bay, St. Joseph and other points, and stories of local personalities such as Captain Len Deavin, Prentiss Ingraham's *The Wild Fishermen*; or, *The Cruise of the War Cloud* (New York: Beadle & Adams, 1865) is a novel about a ship and its participation in the Cuban revolution and its cruise in Pensacola Bay. Pensacola's red-snapper industry is recalled in *Snapper Fishermen of the Gulf* about Pensacola's red-snapper fishing fleet in *Tales of Old Florida* (New Jersey: Castle Books, 1987) edited by Frank O'Kelley. A cruise near Pensacola in 1908 is recounted in *A Florida Outing* in *North Sunny Southern Shores* (New Orleans: Press of Palfrey-Rockefeller, 1908) by Clara Marion Williamson.

Yacht trips of the F.P. Bingham family throughout west Florida are humorously recounted in *Leg of the Pook O'Day Summer Cruises in West Florida Waters, 1912-1915* (Sogada, FL: Patagonia Press, 1991) edited by Brian R. Rucker and Nathan Woolsey and compiled from the original Sunday newspapers per columns written by Bingham. These excursions on Pensacola waters probably led composers Frank E. Ormsbee and Perry W. Reed to write their songs "Down Pensacola Way" (1923) and "In a Florida Houseboat" (1924). Other west Florida trips are recalled in William C. Anderson's *The Headstrong Houseboat; or, Barnacles Are Better Than Blownales but Beware of a Lazy Basin* (New York: Crown, 1972); Lady Peg Wilson's *Skippy Rides through Florida: A Dog's Eye View of the Sunshine State* (New York: Vantage Press, 1969), where Skippy, a Boston terrier, narrates her travels through Panama City and Pensacola. A cruise of a different sort is given by Jay Norwood Darling (1876-1962), a popular cartoonist in the 1930s, in *In the Cruise of the Bouncing Betty: A Trailer Travelogue* (New York: Stokes, 1987); a portion covers his gulfcoast exploits from Gulfport, Mississippi, to Pensacola illustrated by "Ding" himself.

As Pensacola's quadricentennial approached in 1985, the city felt a renewed interest in local history. The Penasco Historical Society, located in Old Christ Church in Seville Square, preserves unpublished and published materials about city history as well as artifact collections to support its museum. Its publishing program has included quarterly journals (Pensacola Historical Quarterly, *The Echo*, Pensacola History Illustrated) as well as monographs by local historians including Norman Simon, Leon Sutro, Woody Skinner, Virginia Parks, and Jesse Earl Bowden. John Appleward has published a number of histories of agencies including the United Way, Baptist Hospital, the school district, and city government. These efforts have been complemented by regional publications of University of West Florida faculty.

The West Florida Literary Federation, founded in 1965, oversees the publishing of works of several local writers. It has awarded the title of poet laureate of the Panhandle to such writers as Adelia Rosasco-Saul and Leonard Temme. In 1988, the federation began publishing an annual *Emerald Coast Review*, which is an anthology showcasing dozens of authors, works including poetry, drawings, stories, and essays. The federation also provides support and encouragement for writers, including high school students.

Pensacola schools also foster literary production among their efforts are Washington High School's *Flashback* of literary efforts and oral histories collected by English classes; Escambia High School's *Rebel Writer* of 1964 and 1965, an anthology of student writings; Woodham High School's *Wimberley Students* (1985) and *Works of Wimberley Students* (1986), collections of student prose and poetry, under the leadership of teacher Betty Martin; and Warrington Middle School's *Arts, etc., creative-writing anthologies*.

Poetry, the music of literary expression, has been alive since Richard Henry Wilde composed his *Hesperia* in 1867. Other nineteenth-century poets writing in Pensacola included Richard Henry Browne's *War Lyrics* (Boston: Ticknor and Fields, 1866) with Civil War verses mentioning Pensacola and Mobile; Laura Insibide's *Legends and Lyrics of the Gulf Coast* (Biloxi, MS: Herald Press, 1866), an anthology of her local newspaper and magazine pieces.

Samuel L. Robertson's *Gulf Songs* (Birmingham, AL: Roberts & Son, 1908) is an epic poem (200 p.) with references to Pensacola and other Gulf Coast
The U.S.S. Lexington was decommissioned in 1991 and transferred to Corpus Christi, Texas, and is to be replaced by the U.S.S. Forrestal.


Pensacola has always been positive in supporting the presence of the navy, although, as with all seaport cities, there is some parental concern about young women and sailors. The song "Peggy, the Pearl of Pensacola," in 62 Outrageous Songs (New York: Oak Publications, 1956), is reminiscent of this feeling, with Peggy wasting her days, singing sad songs, and waiting for the return of her sailor from the sea.

Memories of Pensacola authors and NAS aviators include Richard Evelyn Byrd's Skyward (New York: Putnam's, 1928), an account of his training at Pensacola, 1917-1918; A Landshark at Sea (Ames, IA: Powers Press, 1950) by John Leslie Powers about his trip aboard the U.S.S. Langley aircraft carrier on its trip to Pensacola from Guantanamo (the Langley was one of the first ships used for naval aviation); Beloved to be Alive (Middlebury, VT: Erickson, 1981) by John W. Thornton (1982) about the experiences of a helicopter pilot captured in Korea in 1953-1954; George C. Kenney's The Saga of Pappy Gunn (New York: Duell, Sloan, 1959), a biography of Colonel Paul "Irv" Gunn, who trained and was stationed at Pensacola from 1917 to 1928; James Roberta Narciss's Shadows of the Past of Pensacola Navy Yard (Pensacola: 1966); Ship Black Sheep (New York: Putnam, 1936), the memoirs of Gregory "Pappy" Boyington and his Black Sheep Squadron. Though briefly mentioned, Boyington was an instructor at Pensacola NAS before leaving for the warfront. See also The Heart Has Its Reasons: The Memoir of the Dunker of Windsor (New York: D. McKay, 1956) for the autobiography of Wallis Warfield Simpson Spencer, her account of life in Pensacola, marriage to Lieutenant Earl Winfield Spencer, and life at the navy yard in 1916. Chaplin Raymond W. Johnson's Postmark Mehong Delta (Westwood, NJ: Revell, 1968) tells the reminiscences of a Pensacolian in the Vietnamese conflict in 1961.

Eleven miles north of Pensacola is the campus of the University of West Florida. Founded as an upper-level university in 1965, the university today has over 6,000 students and 250 faculty members on its 1,000-acre campus. The John C. Pace Library with over 500,000 volumes includes the special collections department, which collects, preserves, and makes available primary and secondary materials documenting the history and development of west Florida's
ten-county Panhandle. The 650,000 items in the collections include rare books, manuscripts, maps, photographs, newspapers, and related materials, making it one of the largest research collections in Florida. The published and unpublished literary manuscripts and papers of such west Florida writers as E.W. Carraway, John Diamond, Ocievel Griffith, William S. Rosasco, III, Adelia Rosasco-Soule, and others are housed here, as well as a large Floridiana-author book collection. A unique collection is the West Florida Cookbook Collection of hundreds of culinary compilations from cooks, churches, and Florida organizations. These include Pensacola chef Earl Peyroux's multi-volume Gourmet Cooking (Pensacola: Pensacola Junior College, 1988- ), taken from his PBS-TV series on WSRF-TV, Pensacola.

The library is also home to the Bibliography of West Florida project, an ongoing bibliographic indexing program to locate and annotate every major item published in and about west Florida regardless of subject. Arranged by publication date and comprehensively indexed, four volumes (1895-1981) were published by library director James A. Serviss in 1981, continuing under Jean Debolt, four additional volumes have been compiled, bringing the coverage up through 1992. The library has also issued a number of special library publications for Friends; among these are James A. Serviss's The Singe of Pensacola, 1781: A Bibliography (Pensacola: John C. Pace Library, 1981); R.L. Mencken on Panti-pressers, Publishers & Editors (Pensacola: John C. Pace Library, 1983) on Mencken's remarks at the National Conference of Editorial Writers in 1947, taken from a manuscript in special collections; and John Updike's poem The Angels (Pensacola: King & Queen Press, 1968), a private press printing by James A. Serviss.

The university faculty have contributed immensely to the literature of the Panhandle with articles, books, and college textbooks. It is impossible to list but only a few. The history department continues to sponsor the annual Gulf Coast History and Humanities Conference; the 26 volumes of the published Proceedings of the conference include hundreds of scholarly articles and papers on west Florida history and culture. History department faculty William S. Coker, James McGovern, and George Pearce are widely known for their books and publications on west Florida — many already cited in these pages. Wiley Lee Umbrecht has written a number of books on sports culture, including a recent history of the Heisman Trophy. Psychologist William Mikulas has seen his books on metaphysics reprinted and translated into several foreign languages. Spanish culture and thought are reflected in Allen Joseph's The White Wall of Spain: The Mysteries of Andalucian Culture (Ames, IA: Iowa State University, 1983), and his studies on Hemingway have made the university the home of the Hemingway Review. One of the most interesting sociological studies based on Pensacola life is Ray Oldenberg's The Great Good Place: Cafes, coffee shops, community centers, beauty parlors, general stores, bars, hangouts and how they get you through the day (New York: Pantheon House, 1989).

The English department has published the Panhandle since 1976; the twice-yearly literary magazine of essays and poems features the work of writers from around the United States as well as local authors. This is supplemented by the Panhandler Chapbook Series, an annual which features longer manuscripts.

Milton

Milton is located on U.S. 90, 20 miles east of Pensacola. Situated on the Blackwater River, Milton is the seat of Santa Rosa County and in the nineteenth century was a major shipping port for goods sent by water to nearby Pensacola. The town became the center for a manufacturing complex of shipyards, lumber companies, and sawmills operations. The history of the town and county is recounted in Brian Rucker's Blackwater and Yellow Pine: The Development of Santa Rosa County (Tallahassee: Florida State University, 1990) as well as M. Luther King's History of Santa Rosa County (Milton: FL: 1972). Other historical sources include Linda Lasare's columns in the Santa Rosa Free Press and Brian Rucker's Jackson Mortor: West Florida's Soldier, Senator, and Secessioneer (Milton: FL: Patagonia Press, 1989), a biography of this Milton citizen and United States senator (1849-1855). These histories are complemented by personal reminiscences of area writers like William S. Rosasco, III, Adelia Rosasco-Soule, and William Wells.

William S. Rosasco, III (1929- ) is a local businessman active in real estate development; his columns from the Milton Press-Courier newspaper were compiled into Musings: In God We Trust (Pensacola: University of West Florida Press, 1980). Adelia Rosasco-Soule (1901-) immigrated to Milton in 1909 from Genoa, Italy, to join her father, Peter S. Rosasco, and his two brothers, who founded a thriving lumber company in Santa Rosa County. The genealogy of the Rosasco family has been traced in Jane E. Richardson's Born to Serve: the Rosasco Story (Pensacola, FL: 1976). Adelia Rosasco-Soule's memories of life in the county, at Bay Point and the Bay Point Lumber Company, and travels as a military wife and mother are recounted in the delightful Panhandle Memories (Pensacola: West Florida Literary Federation, 1988). Her other writings include short stories and poems which have appeared in numerous national and regional publications and three published books of poetry: The Thinking Chair (1979), Listen, Pilgrim (1980), and A Bird with a Broken Wing (1982). In 1986, she was named the first poet laureate of the Panhandle by the West Florida Literary Federation. William James Wells has written on the families of Santa Rosa County in Pioneering in the Panhandle (Fort Walton Beach, FL: Melvin Business Services, 1976) and in a personal memoir on growing up in Santa Rosa County in Eighteen Years in Dixie (Foley, AL: Metropolis Printing, 1986).

Cedelise Sibley, journalist and writer, grew up in East Bay in Santa Rosa County and became a newspaper reporter for the Mobile (Alabama) Register under editor Marion Toulmin Gaines (later with the Pensacola newspaper). Sibley's memoirs Turned Punny (New York: Harper and Row, 1988) include her reminiscences of life at East Bay and in Pensacola (1935-1936), as well as stories about the Colley, Bronson, and Lovett families of Santa Rosa County.
She frequently mentions her mother, who lived in Alford, Florida, north of Tallahassee, in her stories and in her *Mothers Are Always Special* (1970).

Creative writing by young people is fostered by the National Journalism Honor Society at Milton High School. Since 1982, they have annually published a literary magazine known under the title *Reflections* and later *Rhapsody*. And at the Milton campus of Pensacola Junior College (PJC), the Santa Rosa Center for the Literary Arts has produced an annual *Santa Rosa Review* of prose and poetry by students of PJC, under the direction of Donald Mangum.

**Bagdad**

One mile south of Milton on Highway 89, just north of Interstate 10, lies the village of Bagdad. In the 1890s, this region became one of the first major manufacturing areas of Florida. It began with John Hunt's brickyard, and lumber companies and a shipyard soon followed. At nearby Aracdia, one of the first cotton mills in Florida opened, its machinery powered by water. Many of these companies were destroyed during the Civil War, but in the 1890s, lumbering returned to the region to supply the demand of Victorian America and Europe for southern pine-wood products. An eyewitness account of the lumber industry and the area is provided by Emory Fiske Skinner's *Reminiscences* (Chicago: Vestal Printing Co., 1909). Skinner came to Bagdad and Pensacola in 1874 after running a sawmill in Nevada. The presence of the Bagdad Sash Company and the later Bagdad Land and Lumber Company influenced the growth of a small company-town of early twentieth-century pine cottages, churches, and company stores. The Bagdad Land and Lumber Company closed in 1980, and today most residents commute to work in nearby Milton and Pensacola.


Another Bagdad native was Leon Odell Griffith (1921-1984). Griffith, though born in Crestview, grew up in Bagdad, the son of a Methodist minister. His journalistic career included stints with newspapers in Pensacola, Fort Walton Beach, and Jacksonville, and he returned to Pensacola in 1954 to found a public-relations agency. His novel *A Long Time Since Morning* (New York: Random House, 1954) is set in a northern Florida community somewhere between Pensacola and Jacksonville and tells of life in a small southern town with deep South characters and simmering conflicts. Certainly the book has some Bagdad, Milton, and Pensacola in it, especially since the fictional town is named Creighton, possibly from Creighton Avenue, a major thoroughfare in Pensacola. Griffith followed it up with *Seed in the Wind* (New York: Random House, 1960), a novel about integration in a small southern town. Griffith's focus on racial intolerance may have sprung from his World War II experience. After serving with an integrated military, he recalled his experiences in a story for *Negro Digest* in 1946 titled "Back Home in Dixie: A Southern White Veteran Comes Home to Get a New View on Race Prejudice."


**Floridale and Harold**

Proceeding eastward from Milton, following the railroad along U.S. 90, are the towns of Harold, Holt, and Milligan. Harold, originally known as Good Range, was one of the first stops for the Louisville and Nashville Railroad when it began service in 1883. Sometime in the 1890s, Senator Eheneezer Porter of Kansas visited the area and purchased the land around Good Range and...
around Holt, the next eastward stop of the train. He attempted to rename the two towns for his sons, but only Good Range was replaced as the Harold E.E. Porter subdivision.

In the ten-mile stretch between Milton and Harold, U.S. 90 also passes by a now-invisible site originally known as Floridale. The Floridale Townsite Corporation in 1926 acquired 50,000 acres and began construction of a 150-room, Spanish-style hotel. Partners in the corporation were architect W.L. White and Richard T. Ringling of the Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey Circus. The lavish hotel was white with red tiles and constructed in the best style of the day with hot and cold running water, an ice plant, a power house, billiard room, and a tower which could be seen for several miles. The hotel housed the power plant and provided a panoramic view of the town and graded streets which had been laid out around the hotel. Plans called for sales of five- and ten-acre lots, a golf course, shopping center, and orchards, and the site would be the winter quarters for the Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey circus. Construction on the project halted in mid-1928 and never resumed, doomed by the Great Depression. The deteriorating hotel and tower were eventually demolished, and little remains of this dream today. History of the area has been collected and written by Audrey A. Stabler in Memories Coming Home (Harold, 1983) and in Max Cooper's History of Holt, Florida (Pensacola: University of West Florida Press, 1969).

**Crestview**

Located 40 miles east of Pensacola on U.S. 90, Crestview sits on a peak of a range of hills and boasts the second-highest altitude in Florida at 532 feet above sea level. A post office was established here in 1883, and the town owes its founding to the construction of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. It became the county seat of the newly formed Okaloosa County in 1916, which took on more prominence when Eglin Air Force Base was established in 1944. Crestview is the home of Robert Lee Fults Sikes, United States congressman in the House of Representatives from 1940 to 1979. His papers and office are in the Sikes Public Library in Crestview, and his autobiography *Bob Sikes Story* (Pensacola: Perdido Bay Press, 1984) documents his congressional career and impact on Crestview, Okaloosa County, and Eglin Air Force Base.

A charming folktale set in this area and written in black dialect is "De Snow White Buck o' Okaloosa" by Susan W. Partridge. Published in the short-lived *Outdoor Florida* in 1936, it tells the adventures of two little black children who become frightened at the appearance of the ghost in the nighttime forest. The works of Okaloosa poets appear in *Poems of Okaloosa* (Crestview: Webb's County Museum, 1973).

Eglin Air Force Base, the largest in the world, came into existence primarily as a bombing test center for World War II. Since that time it has been home to thousands of aviators and Special Forces units and a major facility for Star Wars research. One biography set at the base is Lloyd Mullan's A Day in the Life of a Supersonic Project Officer (New York: D. McKay Company, 1968).

**DeFuniak Springs**

In May 1881, the survey party for the Pensacola and Atlantic Railroad, later Louisville and Nashville, was riding eastward about 90 miles from Pensacola when they came out of a forest to find themselves on the shores of a round lake. Enchanted with the beauty of the spot, Colonel William Dudley Chipley ordered the building of a railroad way station (supply stop), and they named the site Lake de Funiak in honor of Fred R. de Funenik, general manager of the L&N line. By 1883, there was a small village at this site, which quickly grew when the Florida Chautauqua was established in 1885. For a history of the Chautauqua and town, see Dean Debolt's "The Florida Chautauqua: An Overview of Its History" in *Traditions of Tradition and Culture along the Gulf Coast* (Pensacola: Gulf Coast History and Humanities Conference, 1986) and his "The Florida Chautauqua" in *Florida Endowment for the Humanities Forum* (Fall 1990), pp. 6-10. Some of the lecturers at the first Florida Chautauqua discovered the lake was not a lake but a spring, and the town name was changed to DeFuniak Springs in 1898.

The Florida Chautauqua had a major impact on the city and the region. Today one original building still stands, the Hall of Brotherhood, built in 1908, surrounded by dozens of Victorian cottages and homes erected by visitors and Chautauqua entrepreneurs. The Chautauqua presence led to the creation of the coeducational Florida State Normal University in DeFuniak Springs, Florida's first public teachers' college. In 1905, it was moved to Tallahassee and became part of the Florida State College for Women, which later became Florida State University (FSU). In 1886, the Florida Chautauqua hosted the first State Teachers Institute in DeFuniak Springs; two organizations were created during this institute: the Escambia County Teachers Association (Escambia Education Association) and the Florida Education Association United, both organizations still active today.

A frequent Chautauqua speaker, Wallace Bruce (1844-1914) of Poughkeepsie, New York, eventually became president of the Florida Chautauqua and settled in DeFuniak Springs. His two-volume *In Clover and Heath* (1890) and *Forget-me-not* (1896) contain poems written and read at DeFuniak Springs and used for Florida Chautauqua events. From his stint as U.S. Consul to Edinburgh, Scotland, he wrote a number of books, including *Here's a Hand* (1899), a biography of Robert Burns, and *Scottish Poems* (1907). He lectured about the Hudson Valley and Yosemite, writing about these places in *Along the Hudson with Washington Irving* (1919), From Grant's Tomb to Mt. MacGregor: Patriotic Poems and Addresses along the Hudson (1897), *The Hudson* (1881), *The Hudson River by Daylight* (1879), and *The Yosemite* (1880), this latter being poems about Yosemite's grandeur. He composed other books of poetry including *Old Homestead Poems* (1888), *Leaves of Gold* (1907), and *Wayside Poems* (1895). Wallace's son, Kenneth, wrote a novel about the American Revolution, *The
**Return of the Half Moon** (1909), which was published under the pseudonym of Diedrich Crayon, Jr.

When the Walton County Courthouse burned at Eucheeanna in 1885, Defuniak Springs, located on the railroad, became the county seat. John L. McKinnon's *History of Walton County* (Atlanta: Byrd Printing Co., 1911), the only county history so far published, is actually more of a memoir than an accurate retelling of the area's history. It is, however, a splendid account of the immigration of and settlement by Scotch Presbyterians in the region.

**Westville**

Eleven miles east of Defuniak Springs is the small town of Westville in Holmes County. During 1890-1892, Laura Ingalls Wilder (1867-1957), author of the *Little House on the Prairie* books, lived here with Peter Ingalls and his family before returning to South Dakota. Information collected from Ingalls' descendants was published by Alene M. Warnaek in *Laura Ingalls Wilder: The Westville, Florida Years* (Mansfield, MO: The Laura Ingalls Wilder Home Association, 1978).

**Bonifay**

Bonifay, county seat of Holmes County, is another in the string of west Florida towns which owe their existence to the Pensacola and Atlantic, later Louisville and Nashville, Railroad. As the railroad moved eastward from Pensacola in 1882, railroad camps were established and named for individuals associated with the railroad. Towns were laid out around these camps and lots sold by the railroad. Bonifay was named for Frank Bonifay, a Pensacola judge and railroad official; a post office was established in 1884. From Horse in the Pinelands, Building West Florida's Railroad: 1881-1883 (Pensacola: Pensacola Historical Society, 1982) edited by Virginia Parks is a centennial history of the area.

The history of the town and county along with folklore and customs is covered in two books: *Anna Paiger Wells' Heart and History of Holmes County* (1900), which delves heavily into family history and genealogy, and E.W. Carswell's *Holmestead* (Chipley, FL: E.W. Carswell, 1996). The county itself was carved from three surrounding counties in 1848, possibly because of distance and perhaps because of the presence of the wilderness along the Choctawhatchee River, which meanders through the county. Music seems to be inspired by the area; Bonifay teacher Maymee Orliska Adams Griffen composed "Feelin' Lonesome and Blue" (New York, 1944), and Pensacola Margaret Axelson published "Where the Choctawhatchee Flows" (Cincinnati, 1924), an oft-requested song.

Life along the river is documented through oral history collected in *Historical Remembrances of Choctawhatchee River* (Tinwana, FL: Northwest Florida Water Management District, 1989).

**Chipley**

Chipley is another of the Pensacola and Atlantic railroad camps which became a town. It was named for Colonel William Dudley Chipley, who came to Pensacola in 1881 to be President of the P&A Railroad. The county seat of Washington County, it is centered in a predominantly agricultural region. Children's writer and illustrator Ray Fauther used this agricultural setting for *Anthony and Sabrina* (New York: Macmillan, 1975) about two children visiting their grandmother's farm in Chipley. Chipley is also home to one of Florida's most prolific and honored writers, Elba Wilson Carswell (1918- ). For many years, Judge Carswell was the West Florida bureau chief, writer, and reporter for the *Pensacola News-Journal*. Along the way, he came to know the history, people, politics, and folklore of the Panhandle heartland better than any other person. In addition to news writing, his weekly newspaper columns covered such subjects as folklore, food, biographies, reminiscences, history, and a myriad of other West Florida topics.

Carswell has collated and reprinted these columns into books around central themes. These have included *Constitution in the Magnolia Tree: Commentary and Recollections about Country Living* (Bonifay, FL: Taylor Publications, 1981) about Washington County; *A Grateful Note to Creek Ashmore* (Bonifay, FL: Taylor Publications, 1982), a collection of biographical columns of people in the Panhandle and Florida; *Tell No 'Shine Before to Time*; *More Commentary and Recollections about Country Living* (Bonifay, FL: Taylor Publications, 1981); *Remembering World War II Before Kilroy* (Bonifay, FL: Taylor Publications, 1982) on recollections of the war; and *Tales from Grandpa and Cousin Fitzhugh* (Bonifay, FL: Taylor Publications, 1981). A lifelong interest (inquisitive and culinary) in possums led to *Possum Cookbook: America's Amazing Marsupials and Dozens of Ways to Cook Them* (Chipley, FL: Carswell Foundation Press, 1975) and more compilations about cooking and folklore titled *Possum in Every Pot* (A Slogan for our Next Election: All You Ever Wanted to Know About Possums, But Were Afraid...

Carwell's interest in history led him to write Tempestuous Triangle: Historical Notes on Washington County, Florida (Chipley, FL: Washington County School Board, 1974) which he revised and enlarged with Washington County's Twentieth Century (Chipley, FL: Carwell, 1991). The history of nearby Holmes County was covered in Holmestead: The History of Holmes County, Florida (Chipley, FL: Carwell, 1989). Judge Carwell has been honored by the Florida Folklore Council for his contributions to preserving the history and folklore of the Panhandle, and his work has established him as a major Florida author.

Other tales and histories of the Chipley area have been collected and published by Joan P. Chance in her Through the Years (Chipley, FL: Panhandle Area Educational Cooperative, 1986) and Reflections (Chipley, FL: Panhandle Area Educational Cooperative, 1986), anthologies of writings about area businesses, families, and folk stories. Sam Shuemaker has written Peace at Sundown: True Life Story of the Trials and Tribulations of an Old Florida Pioneer (Opa, FL: Observer, 1910) including his service in the Walton Guards and Confederate Army. An appendix contains poetry by Redick and others. George C. Gates's religious revival in 1916 is recounted in his Gates Union Revival, Chipley, Florida (Lachine, KY: Pentecostal Publishing Co., 1917).

Chipley has another claim to fame. In 1902, Chipley resident C.E. Pleas, a Quaker horticulturist and naturalist, obtained some cuttings of a small plant which the Japanese had shown at the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. He found the plant more of a nuisance than a benefit, but it did thrive in sandy soil and on very little water. Eventually he developed a nursery, sold cuttings all over the South, and widely promoted the vine as a food for cattle. Because of its prolificity, the vine soon grew throughout the state and is today known as kudzu or, as some say, the "cuss-you" vine. Pleas was one of the first photographers to study nature photography, producing some of the earliest and finest nature photographs in Florida. These are still preserved in the C.E. Pleas Collection at the University of West Florida.

Chipley was also the home of Will McLean, Florida balladeer and author. His works include Florida Sand: Original Songs and Stories of Florida (Earleton, FL: Lake & Emerald Publications, 1977) and Cross the Shadow of My Face (Seattle, WA: Typography/Seattle, 1989).

Graceville

Thirteen miles north of Chipley is Graceville, which sits almost astride the state line between Florida and Georgia. The feverish minor-league baseball activities here are chronicled in Robert P. Dew's G.A.P.L.A League (1933-1933) (Edison, GA: Rebel Books, 1985). Paul Hemphill recounted his 1954 Graceville adventure of playing Class D baseball in "I Gotta Let the Kid Go" in Life (September, 1979), which was reprinted in his anthology The Good Old Boys (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1974); the story was expanded into the book-length Long Gone (New York: Viking, 1979) about the Graceville Oilers and turned into the 1987 movie of the same name but with a team called the Tampico Stogies.


Marianna

Twenty miles east of Chipley on U.S. 90 is Marianna, the seat of Jackson County. Founded in 1849, the town was named for Mary and Anne, two daughters of a pioneer merchant. Today Marianna is known for its architecture and mansions, having escaped destruction during the Civil War. For the history and folklore of the county see J. Randall Stanley's History of Jackson County (Marianna, FL: Jackson County Historical Society, 1950) and also Jerreil H. Shoemaker's Jackson County, Florida: A History (Marianna, FL: Jackson County Heritage Association, 1985). A collection of family stories, poems, and historical sketches is Janie Smith Rhine's Our Yesterdays (Marianna, FL: Jackson County Floridian Press, 1968), taken from her writings in the newspaper. Rhine has also published a collection of poems, Salt Wind (1945). Rhine's daughter, Mary Elizabeth Witherpoon (1919), has written Somebody Speaks for Us (New York: Dodd, Mead, 1957) about a 17-year-old girl who goes off to Florida State College for Women and then to a career in social services in New York City and The Morning Cool (New York: Macmillan, 1972), both are fiction dealing with social issues. Northern Jackson County is the setting for Iris Tracy Comfort's Ghosts of the South (New York: Doubleday, 1977), a fictional account of a psychic investigator.

Another Marianna writer is Wilma Russ, whose Quivering Earth: A Novel of the Everglades (New York: David McKay, 1958) tells of life in the Everglades at the turn of the century. A brief mention of Marianna is afforded in Melvia Reeves's Marianna, Catherine I (New York: Pagant Press 1957) about a honeymoon trip through the area in 1887.

Marianna is also the home of Governor John Milton of Florida. His son, Jeff Davis Milton (1861-1847), grew up in Marianna, moved to Texas, and had an illustrious career as a Texan ranger; see his biography, Jeff Milton, A Good Man With A Gun (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1948) by James Evertt Haley. Marianna's Rita Dickens, a great granddaughter of Governor Milton, has written Marie Neil: The Story of an Old Southern Family (New York: Exposition Press, 1959) based on the Miltons and dealing with southern white folks and their relationships with black families before and after the Civil War.

The Reconstruction era was difficult for the area. A Freedman's Bureau was established, and its work, coupled with local animosity toward carpetbaggers, provided for unrest in race relations. The lynching of Claude Neal at
Marianna in 1884 was investigated by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and is recounted in James R. McGeever's *Anatomy of a Lynching* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1982). J. Russell Reiver's compilation of Florida Folktale (Gainesville: University Presses of Florida, 1986) includes a tale about outlaws in Jackson County (Tale 20).

A major African-American writer from Marianna is Timothy Thomas Fortune (1866-1928), who was born a slave in Marianna and attended a Freedman's school in Tallahassee and Howard University in Washington, D.C. He moved to New York City in 1879 and in 1884 began publishing a black newspaper, the *New York Freeman*, which became the *New York Age*. At the turn of the century, he was probably the best-known, most-militant, and most-articulate race spokesman in the North. His books, *Black and White; Land, Labor, and Politics in the South* (1924) and *The Negro in Politics: Some Pertinent Reflections on the Past and Present Political Status of the Afro-American...* (1895), reflect his severe views of race relations. He is also one of the earliest Florida African-American poets to publish a poetry anthology: *Dreams of Life* (1925). For biographical information, see Emma Lou Thornbrough's *T. Thomas Fortune, Militant Journalist* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1972).

Ironically, Marianna was the final home of another writer who achieved literary stardom over the issue of race relations — Caroline Lee Whiting Hentz (1800-1856). A major novelist, Hentz was one of the best-selling fiction writers in antebellum America, with her well-written books about domestic life and rebellious women protagonists. A Massachusetts native, Hentz followed her husband through six southern and western states. After he fell ill in 1849, it was her writing which supported the family until her death in Marianna. Her books include *Lovel's Folly* (1839); *De Lara; or, The Moorish Bride: A Tragedy in Five Acts* (1834); *Aunt Patty's Scrap-Book* (1846); *Linda; or, The Young Pilot of Belle Creole* (1850); *The Measuring Man and Other Tales* (1850); *Rena; or, The Snow Bird* (1891); *Eoline; or, Magnolia Vale* (1892); Marcus Wardland; *or, The Long Mass Spring; a Tale of the South* (1892); *Helen and Arthur; or, Miss Thurn's Spinning Wheel* (1883); *Wild Jack; or, The Stolen Child and Other Stories* (1888); *The Pilgrim's Northern Bride* (1854); reprinted Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1970); Robert Graham (1855); *Courtship and Marriage; or, The Joys and Sorrows of American Life* (1856); *Ernest Linwood* (1856); and *Low After Marriage; and Other Stories of the Heart* (1857). Some of these works were published with different titles as well.

Hentz's most important work is *The Pilgrim's Northern Bride*, written as a southern answer to Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Some critics castigated *Bride* for its too-rosy view of southern life. As with most popular fiction, it is hard to place Hentz's books in a specific geographical setting, but Marcus Wardland appears to be set in St. Andrews Bay, Florida. Hentz is almost forgotten today, but she was one of the most prolific writers of popular literature in the antebellum South.

**Greenwood**

Settlers from South Carolina changed the name of this town from Panhandle to Greenwood to honor their former home. Rubytea Hall (1910-1973) was born in Greenwood, Florida, and went on to earn a degree at Florida State University. She taught in Florida public schools (1927-32), worked with the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (1932-33) and at Camp Blanding in Florida (1943-44) and in the chemistry-pharmacy library at the University of Florida (1944-49); and then became director of customer services for Q-Tips, Inc. in New York (1950-54).

She wrote three significant Florida novels, *The Great Tide* (New York: Duell, Sloan & Pearce, 1947), which won the Bollingen Award of the Southeastern Conference of Libraries for the best novel of the South, 1947-48, was about the doomed Florida town of St. Joseph during the 1830s and 1840s; it was the town where Florida's first constitution was written (1830-32), and which became a center of the slave trade in the Southeast; it was devastated by a yellow-fever epidemic, a hurricane, and a tidal wave. Her *Flamingo Prince* (New York: Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1954) was about the great Seminole leader, Osceola. Her *God Has a Sense of Humor* (New York: Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1960) was about two sides of a family growing up in the Florida Panhandle around 1900.