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 jungly 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 salt-making operation to provide provisions for Confederate military forces. Maxine Turner has documented the Civil War history of the valley in *Naval Gray: 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, 1953), which is set in 1863. Cornelia Mitchell's *Reminiscences of the Civil War* (Providence, RI: Snow & Farnham Co., 1916) offers first-hand 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 1822, the county of Fayette was created between the Apalachicola River and the Chipola River, with a northern boundary of the Alabama state line. Just as quickly, in 1834, Fayette was abolished and became the only Florida county to pass out of existence; other counties have either been renamed or recreated from other counties. Rubyylea Hall's God Has a Sense of Humor (New York: Dell, Sloan, 1960) is centered on the Apalachicola River country, including Calhoun County and Wewahitchka.

**Apalachicola**

Located on U.S. 98 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 *allies*. 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 25 miles west on St. Joseph's Bay) was abandoned during a yellow-fever epidemic in 1841 and its population moved to Apalachicola. The booming port period is chronixed 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 1838, 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 Ewing, 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 (1968), 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 Worley's Enchanted Harbor (New York: Avilon, 1958). The surrounding area is also the setting for The Varmins (New York: Knopf, 1946) by Peggy Bennett (1925-), an Apalachicoln 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 Gorrie, who arrived in 1835 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 1844 he developed a device to circulate ice-cooled air throughout a room to reduce the probability of yellow fever; chaffing at the lack of ice, he patented an artificial ice-making machine in 1850. Today visitors can learn more about his work at the Gorrie State Museum (904/653-9347). See Raymond B. Becker's John Gorrie, M.D. (New York: Carlton, 1979) and V.M. (Vivian M.) Sherlock's The Fever Man (Tallahassee: Medallion Press, 1982) 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: Storter Printing Company, 1982), the autobiography of agricultural teacher George Norton Wakefield (1899- ). 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 (1809-1899), who lived in the Chapman House on the corner of Broad Street and Chestnut Avenue, wrote Flora of the Southern United States (1889), an important early botanical work about Florida. Teresa Holloway (1906- ), who was born in Apalachicola, graduated from the Florida State College for Women (1925) — 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 pseudonyms....
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 1838, 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 Rubylea 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 Cohran.

**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 1958, 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, 67 miles west of Apalachicola on U.S. 98, is the county seat of Bay County (named for St. Andrews Bay), created in 1913. 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 1880s. 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 army and was one of the largest such operations in the South. During the Civil War, St. Andrews Bay was an important port 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, 1892) by Oliver Optic, 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
Confederate cousin lo take over his ship. Newspaper editor George Mortimer West (1845-1926) frequently wrote about the history of the area; his columns have been collected and published in a number of books including *Gems Cleared from the Pages of the Panama City Pilot* (Panama City, FL: Panama City Publishing Co., 1960) and *St. Andrews, Florida: Historical Notes* (Panama City, FL: Panama City Publishing Co., 1992). 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 Free Press*.

Other reminiscences of the area include *Two Yankee Coastal Traders, A West Florida Diary, 1862* (Tampa: 1971) by Francis Hand Ware (1857-1942) comprising Ware's diary of life in the area; *Seeds 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 *Glimpses 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, 1911-1917: A Sequel to the Tampa of My Childhood* (Tampa: S. K. Drau, 1969), an autobiography by Susie Kelly Dean; and Elsie Lillian Surber's *A Study of the History and Folklore of the St. Andrews Bay Region* (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1950). Biographies of Bay County residents appear in *Some Who Passed This Way* (Panama City, FL: 1972) by Irna Augustus Hutchison (1879-1975), while poetry and essays about the area have appeared in *Bay Lines: A Bay County Anthology* (Panama City, FL: Bay Humanities Council, 1981). James K. Cazul's newspaper columns covering 1961-1982 are reprinted in his *Call Me Cas* (Panama City, FL: Panama City News-Herald, 1982). The development of nearby Tyndall Air Force Base is reflected in *Yardbird* (New York: Vantage, 1958), 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 academic life in the Florida university system in *Like I Saw It* (Tallahassee: St. Andrews Press, 1981).

A major Panama City writer has been William Thomas Penn (1900-), many of whose books are written especially for young adults. Among his works are *Ameri Jarsis: A Novel* (1943) 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; *Barface* (1953) which follows a boy and his pet raccoon 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 on the Trace* (1953), an adventure of the hardships and perils 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 Ran Chatom* (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 Setter* (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: Random House, 1964) and his *Clarence Earl Gideon and the Supreme Court* (New York: Random House, 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 Argus magazine in 1958, has been reprinted in *Dixie Ghosts* (Nashville, TN: Rutledge Hill Press, 1988). Rigby is better known for his western novels and his scripts for the *Rawhide* TV series. Ironically, Rigby in 1943 co-authored 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 beaches in Florida, an area referred to as the Emerald Coast because of 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 2600 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 Mette's *And the Roots Run Deep* (Destin, FL: Distributed by Old Destin Post Office Museum, 1983). 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, 1900), a collection of poems and small photographs taken with a Kodak box camera. Nell K. Walker used the area for some of her fictional *Open Vistas* (New York: Vantage, 1951). More recently, the Northwest Florida Water Management District has collected oral history interviews and recollections, published as *Historical Remembrances of Choctawhatchee Bay* (Havana, FL, 1985) edited by James H. Caso.

**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 Pensacola City) is the city of Fort Walton Beach. Originally a summer resort known as Camp Walton, the town was renamed in 1932 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 metropolis, providing support services to service personnel and families at nearby Eglin Air Force Base and tourist facilities for thousands 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* (Pensacola, FL: Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, 1988).

**Mary Esther**

On the western edge of Fort Walton Beach is the town of Mary Esther. After the Civil War, Presbyterian minister John Newton settled here with his family, naming the area for his wife, or perhaps his daughter, Mary and Esther. Newton was one of the earliest educators in Florida, teaching at Knox Hill Academy in Walton County in the 1840s; 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, 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 was translated into French and Italian. His *Views of Louisiana, together with a Journal of a Voyage up the Missouri 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 Ironsides. Brackenridge purchased a tract of the peninsula land, most of which was covered by live-oak forest, and built a plantation, 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 peninsula) 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 reprovisioning. Brackenridge's "Live Oak" letter was published in his *Speeches on the J Eat 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 pass-through 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 1981, 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 Penascolians 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 Freckmann and Doug Adams. Playwright Grace Thompson has authored plays centering on historical personalities such as Louisa May Alcott (The March Sisters of Concord, 1978) 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 Walters’s recollections of his experiences in 1987 and 1988 have been published as The Gulf Breeze Sightings (New York: William Morrow, 1990).

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 sugary white sands and pristine beaches. Pierre François Xavier de Charlevoix (1682-1761) described a visit to the Island (and Pensacola and St. Joseph) in his 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: Tooswill and Myers, 1841) commented on the island with a description of the Seminole drying fish, Santa Rosa Island” appears in Volume 2 of the Letters.

Richard Henry Wilde (1789-1817), 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 elsewhere. 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 Signencia. A 1743 drawing by Dom Serres, resident and agent for the Havnann 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 1759 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 bicentennial in 1959.

Santa Rosa Island remained abandoned until 1826, 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 McNairy 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 deep-water harbor in North America. The history of these forts can be found in James C. and Irene S. Coleman’s Guardians on the Gulf: Pensacola Fortifications, 1699-1980 (Pensacola: Pensacola Historical Society, 1982). Construction of Pickens began in 1826 and was completed in 1839; its garrison was approximately 60 men, and by 1854, it mounted 179 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 sent to cover Fort Pickens for the emerging American news media. William Howard Russell (1820-1907), a newspaper correspondent for the London Times 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 wool-dash 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 Shorey’s The Story of the Maine Fifteenth... (Bridgton, ME: Press of the Bridgton
News, 1890) and William C. Holbrook's *A Narrative of the Services of the Officers ... 6th Regiment of Vermont Volunteers* (New York: American Bank Note Co., 1882), and William Lawrence Haskin's *The History of the First Regiment of artillery* ... (Portland, Maine, 1878). Haskin'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 mischief. Most all regimental histories about Pensacola touch on the activities of this outfit, but perhaps none more match the breadth of a series of letters from the Jesuit priest, Michael Nash, chaplain to the Zouaves. His letters from Santa Rosa Island to fellow Jesuits and friends in New York were published in the *Woodstock Letters* (1867-1890), a private Jesuit historical journal. Another source is *Recollections of a Checkered Life by a Good Templar* (Napanee, Ontario, 1868). Although the author is unidentified, it is generally accepted to be S.T. Hammond, a Scotswoman who emigrated to New York in 1850 and enlisted in Captain Billy Wilson's Zouaves. The book is mainly a temperance account of Hammond's battles with "demon rum" 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 Gouverneur Morris's *The History of a Volunteer Regiment... Known as Wilson's Zouaves* ... (New York: Veteran Volunteer Publishing Company, 1891) 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 LaBrecque's *Pictorial Battles of the Civil War* (New York: Sherman Publishing Co., 1884) includes an illustration titled "Pensacola Harbor at Night" by Thomas Nast, who in later years became world-famous for his deploration of corrupt Tammany Hall and the development of the iconography of Santa Claus. The Fort Pickens setting was used in *The Bay Spy* (Chicago: M. A. Donohue & Co., 1890), a cheap paperback-thriller by Joseph Orton Kersey, who details his adventures as a messenger to Fort Pickens. Given Kersey'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 Crusades: 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* (Garden City, NY: Macmillan, 1936). 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 ab Gwennwyd. According to accounts of Richard Hakluyt (*Principal Navigations...,* London, 1589), based on Welsh bardic 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. Numerous scholars, including Thomas Stephens, Robert Rau, and Dean DeBolt, have debunked the legend, but it makes for an exciting tale. See Joan Dane's *Prince Madog, Discoverer of America* (Boston, MA: Everett Publishing Co., 1901-1916) and Ellen Pugh's *Brave His Soul* (New York: Dodd, Mead, 1970) about Madoc'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. Pensacolians continually assail St. Augustine's claim to be the oldest city by appending the term *permanent*. St. Augustine was settled in 1565, 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. Agustín Davila Padilla (1562-1604), 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, 1596). It is more fantasy than reality, as it speaks of the anger 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 Priestley in *The Luna Papers* (1928; reprinted Freeport, NY: Books for Libraries Press, 1971). A fictional account of the de Luna expedition is John Appleyard's *De Luna: Founder of North America's First Colony* (Pensacola: Appleyard Agency, 1977).

In 1698, the Spanish returned to Pensacola under the command of Zacharias de Arriola, who began construction of Fort San Carlos de Austria, a 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 fortunes of European war, Pensacola was captured by the French in 1719; see Michael Leigh's *Warrior's Trail* (London: Heinemann, 1955) for a fictional account of 1719-1722 Pensacola through the experiences of John Cotton, 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 Breed* (Indianapolis;

With this 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 southeastern 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 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 1763), "Florida Being Now in Our Possession..." in Universal Magazine (January 1764); and "Florida, being divided into two governments..." in London Magazine (March 1765). Among the finest natural-history documentation for this period is William Robertson's An Account of the First Discovery and Natural History of Florida... (London: T. Jefferys, 1763), which includes a number of Thomas Jefferys' maps of Pensacola, St. Joseph Bay, and Pensacola Harbor. In addition, Jean Baudin Bossart (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 landmark work was Bernard Romans's (1720-1784) A Concise Natural History of East and West Florida... (New York: Bernard Romans, 1775); Romans, a Dutch civil engineer and naturalist, covered the 1772 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 (1736-1796), a poet and compiler of ancient Scottish poems, whose writings 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 1768, 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 (1729-1780). The son of a Scottish minister, Campbell spent most of his life at sea as a purser on His Majesty's ships. Nicknamed "Horrible" because of the malignancy of his heart (and terrific 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 extolled them "more than he might really think they deserve, and I depreciating them as much." While in Pensacola, Campbell wrote two manuscripts. In Lexiphanes, the bored sailor attacked the currently fashionable writing style. In the satire The Sate of Authors, he railed against such authors as Samuel Johnson. Campbell later published these books in London, and his Sale of Authors (London: 1767) is dedicated to Johnstone and was probably written in Pensacola between 1764 and 1765. West Florida, because it did not have a printing press, possibly missed out on the opportunity of printing those two early works. For more about Johnstone see Robin F.A. Fabel's Bombast and Broadsides: 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 (1792-1792), upon his return to England, published a print "A View of Pensacola in West Florida" (London, 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 Europe 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 Bartram's Travels through North and South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida (Philadelphia: James & Johnson, 1791) 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 safe haven 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 Anglo-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, 1982). The British forces at Pensacola had one warship, the H.M.S. Mentor, which was stripped and burned to prevent capture.
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, 1780-1781 (Pensacola: University Presses of Florida, 1989) edited by James A. Service. The ship's captain, Robert Denny, apparently took the log back to England with him, for it appears to have been used as Mrs. Denny's recipe book after 1781. Another book about this period is N. Orwin Rush'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 furs 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 Hisr~cal Sketches of Panton, Leslie and Company (Pensacola: University of West Florida Press, 1976) and William S. Coker and Thomas D. Watson's Indian Traders of the Southeastern Spanish Borderlands: Panton, Leslie & Company and John Forbes & Company, 1783-1847 (Pensacola: University of West Florida Press, 1986). 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 (1776-1852), the adopted daughter of William Panton.


The story of an American privateer in waters off Spanish-held Pensacola is told in Albert W. Aiken's (1846-1894) The Winged Whale: or, Red Rupert of the Gulf (New York: Beadle and Adams, 1870), one of many dime novels of the 1870s. Aiken wrote over 125 books for Beadle & Adams, some under other names.


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 frontiers. The 1814 incursions are covered in Historical Memoirs of the War in West Florida... (Philadelphia: John Conrad & Co., 1816) by Arcene 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... (Tallahassee: n.p., 1831) is perhaps one of the earliest Florida-published fictions about the Creek Indians of this period. A viewpoint of the Choctaws who accompanied Jackson is given in Horace G. Ridgway's Hell's Branch Office (Citra, Fl.: Florida's Choctaw Indians, 1957).

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


The Adams-Onis Treaty of 1819 transferred both East and West Florida to the United States, and in 1821, Jackson was appointed governor of the new provisional territory of Florida. Rachel Jackson accompanied her husband to Pensacola in 1821; her distress about the local customs are preserved in her letters which appeared in James Parton’s three-volume *Life of Andrew Jackson* (New York: Mason Brothers, 1860), and fictionally in Irving Stone’s *The President’s Lady* (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1961). Homesick for Tennessee, the Jacksons left Pensacola after only three months. Andrew Jackson and Pensacola (Pensacola: Department of History, University of West Florida, 1974) edited by James R. McGovern provides a good overview of the Jackson period from 1814 through 1821. Glimpses of Pensacola after the military occupation can be found in John Lee Williams’s *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 Bernard, duke of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach.


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 Creole Spaniards of the lowest class, and some few amiable and talented families of Scotch and Americans.” Traders, frontiersmen, and Indians traveled through the area constantly. Alexander McGillivray, 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, 1972) and preserved in paintings of George Washington Sully, a Pensacola artist in the mid-1850s.

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, includes Frank G. Slaughter’s *The War of the Warriors* (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1956); Robert Wilder’s *Bright Feather* (New York: Putnam’s, 1948); *The Red Eagle: A Poem of the South* (New York: Appleton, 1885), an epic poem about the Creek Indian chief Weatherford and the war, by Alexander Beaufort Mek (1814-1865); and Peter Hanso’s *Creek Rifles* (New York: Dell, 1982), a historical adventure. The forced removal of the Creek Indians and other Florida tribes is covered in Gloria Jahoda’s *The Trail of Tears* (New York: Holt, 1972) and in Luke Wallin’s *In the Shadow of the Wind* (New York: Bradbury Press, 1984) 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. McCall (1802-1868), wrote a number of letters to his family in Philadelphia describing Pensacola. These appear in his *Letters From the Frontiers* (1868; facsimile reprint Gainesville: University Presses of Florida, 1974). Pensacola was also the childhood home of Octavia Walton LeVert (1810-1877); her later move to Mobile and world travels are recounted in two volumes of her *Souvenirs of Travel* (Mobile, AL: S.H. Goetz, 1857), and her Pensacola years are told in Frances Gibson Satterfield’s *Madame Le Vert* (Edisto Island, SC: Edisto Press, 1987). For the most part, Pensacola in the antebellum period was a small port city. Rogue Joseph T. Hare stated in his autobiography, *The Life of the Celebrated Mail-Rohrer and Daring 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 bull and Spanish ladies.
Other forms of entertainment included the theater. An 1892 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* (1868; 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 (1795-1886), a former business partner of Smith, in his *Dramatic Life As I Found It* (1880; Bronx, NY: B. Blom, 1966), considered one of the best stage histories ever written and a major source for a 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 *Saddlebog Parson* (New York: Crowell, 1955) 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 1830s. Nevertheless, Pensacola remains home to one of the oldest Catholic churches in Florida whose story is told in Robert A. Sobieszek and Odette M. Appel's *The Spirit of Fact* (Boston: Godine, 1976). Philip Van Doren Stern wrote a fictional account of this episode in his *The Drums of Morning* (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, Doran, 1942) 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 Abercrombie. 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, 1861. 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 Confederates 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 an 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 1865. An 1895 reprint alluded to this experience as a nautical version of *Pilgrim's Progress*. Kane claimed his experiences 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 Reminiscent Story of the Great Civil War* (New Orleans: The Ruskin Press, 1911).

Between 1865 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 Pinelands* (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, 1899) and *They Died With Their Boots On* (New York: Doubleday, 1935) by Thomas Ripley (1895-1953) 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 such an establishment, Danton Walker, who went on to become a respected columnist for the *New York Daily News*, recounted his life in *Danton’s Inferno* (New York: Hinsings 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 Siberia: or, Fourteen 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 lawyer’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-Sturke, 1937) about his service on the Pensacola police force between 1907 and 1908.

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 Breezes* (Jacksonville: Ashmead Bros., 1882); Benjamin Robinson’s *An Historical Sketch of Pensacola, Florida*... (Pensacola: Advance-Gazette, 1882); and Silvia Sunshine’s *Petals Plucked from Sunny Climes* (Nashville: Southern Methodist Publishing House, 1888). Famous 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.


Progressivism found a natural outlet in journalism. More Pensacola newspapers were established in the 1880s and 1890s than in any period before or since. Inventor John Williamson Cray (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 eight-hour workday, and other progressive ideals. His *Sixty Years a Brich Maker: A Practical Treate...* (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 ship-loader, Don McElhaney, 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).

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. McGovern’s *The Emergence of a City in the Modern South: Pensacola, 1900-1945* (DeLeon Springs, FL: E.O. Painter, 1976). A good view of the city’s history is *Norman Sines 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 Classical School and a mayor of Pensacola. Booker T. Washington (1856-1915), visiting Pensacola, commented on the progress of the African-American business community in his *The Negro in Business* (Boston: Hertel, Jenkins & Co., 1907); included 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 (1935-1955) set down a fictionalized autobiography of his days at Ellyson Field, Pensacola, 1952-1954, in *Loving Women: A Novel of the Fifties* (New York: Random House, 1989); his novel interpolates 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 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 Pinelands* (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, 1895) and *They Died With Their Boots On* (New York: Doubleday, 1935) by Thomas Ripley (1895-1960) 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 Siberia; or, Fourteen 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-Starke, 1937) about his service on the Pensacola police force between 1907 and 1916.

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 Breztes* (Jacksonville: Ashmead Bros., 1882); Benjamin Robinson's *An Historical Sketch of Pensacola, Florida...* (Pensacola: Advance-Gazette, 1882); and *Silvia Sunshine's Petals Plucked 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.


Progressivism found a natural outlet in journalism. More Pensacola newspapers were established in the 1880s and 1890s than in any period before or since. Inventor John Williamson Gray (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 eight-hour workday, and other progressive ideals. 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 shiploader, Don McElhanain, 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).

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. McGovern's The Emergence of a City in the Modern South: Pensacola, 1900-1945* (DeLeon Springs, FL: E.O. Painter, 1976). A good view of the city's history is *Norman Simons 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 Classical School and a mayor of Pensacola.

Booker T. Washington (1856-1915), visiting Pensacola, commented on the progress of the African-American business community in his *The Negro in Business* (Boston: Hertel, Jenkins & Co., 1907); included 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 Ellyson Field, Pensacola, 1952-1954, in *Loving Women: A Novel of the Fifties* (New York: Random House, 1989); his novel interpolates 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
County deputy sheriff are recalled in Don Parker's collected stories, You're Under Arrest, I'm Not Kidding (Pensacola: Carololen Books, 1988) and Officer Needs Assistance: Again (Pensacola: Carololen Books, 1990); the biography of Trader Jon (Martin Weissman) and his famous "aviator watering-hole" is told in Trader Jon (Memphis, TN: Castle Books, 1986) by Fred Brown.


Juvenile fiction by Pensacola authors includes Celia Myrover Robinson's Rowena's Happy Summer (Chicago: Rand McNally, 1912); Gene S. Stuart's Three Little Indians (Washington, DC: National Geographic Society, 1974) describing life for children in Chayenne, Creek, and Nootka Indian tribes; University of West Florida graduate E. Paul Braxton's The Bubble and Burst Machine (Marianna, FL: Hermit Press, 1986); McMillan schoolteacher Dorothy Cawthorn's Pedro the Pig (New York: Exposition Press, 1960); and Cynthia Broxnaham Richardson's Susie Cucumber: She Writes Letters (New York: S. 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 Susie Cucumber.


Juvenile fiction with a Pensacola 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, 1965) about three children who, when their parents fail to return from Gulf Breeze, begin walking up the west Florida coast to Alabama; and Rubyela Hall's Davy (New York: Duell, Sloan, 1951) 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 May N. Dolin’s The Little Star (Seaview, TN: The University Press, 1982), an autobiography of a Pensacola Episcopal clergyman; Rabbi Julius A. Leibert’s The Laughing: A Novel About Moses (New York: Exposition Press, 1953); Methodist minister Charles E. Ellis’s Power of Prayer (New York: Vantage Press, 1975); John William Frazer’s The Untried Civilisation (Tallahassee, TN: Parthenon Press, 1921), a book of essays published to celebrate the centennial of Methodism in Pensacola; and Grace Dorothy Bell’s From Stage to Pulpit (Cross City, FL: Dixie County Advocate, 1982), the autobiography of a Pensacola evangelist with a meandering account of her battles with the devil.

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 Sloop-Daw: A Bait 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 (1837-1902); it details a voyage in a homelike boat with descriptions of Santa Rosa Island, Fort Pickens, Choctawatchee Bay, St. Joseph and other points, and stories of local personalities such as Captain Len Destin, Prentis Ingham’s The Wild Yachtsman; Or, The Cruise of the War Cloud (New York: Beadle & Adams, 1885) 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 Oppel. A cruise near Pensacola in 1900 is recounted in “A Florida Outing” in Neath Sunny Southern Shores (New Orleans: Press of Palfrey-Rodd-Purseil, 1908) by Clara Marion Williamson.

Yacht trips of the F.F. Bingham family throughout west Florida are humorously recounted in Log of the Beech O’Day: Summer Cruises in West Florida Waters, 1912-1915 (Baghd, FL: Patagonia Press, 1991) edited by Brian R. Rupe and Nathan Woolsey and compiled from the original Sunday newspaper 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 Blowouts but Beware of a Leaky Basement (New York: Crown, 1972); Lady Peg Wilks’s Skippy Rides through Florida: A Dog’s Eye View of the Sunshine State (New York: Vantage Press, 1959), 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 (1876-1966), a popular cartoonist in the 1930s, in The Cruise of the Bouncing Betty: A Trader’s Log (New York: Stokes, 1987); a portion covers his gulf coast exploits from Gulfport, Mississippi, to Pensacola illustrated by “Ding” himself.

As Pensacola’s quadricentennial approached in 1959, the city felt a renewed interest in local history. The Pensacola 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 Simons, Leora Sutton, Woody Skinner, Virginia Parks, and Jesse Earle Bowden. John Appleyard 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 1985, 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-Soule 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 West: Works of Erudite Students (1985) and Works of Erudite Students Too (1986), collections of student prose and poetry, undertaken 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 of Pensacola included Richard Henry Brownell’s War Lyrics (Boston: Ticknor and Fields, 1866) with Civil War odes mentioning Pensacola and Mobile; Laura Hinsdale’s Legends and Lyrics of the Gulf Coast (Biloxi, MS: Herald Press, 1896), 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.l) with references to Pensacola and other Gulf Coast
cities and areas. An unusual compilation is The Barefoot Barber: original Negro folkloric poems and other compositions (Pensacola, FL: 1922?) by Ed. St. Clare Thomas of poetry and prose heard in Pensacola and written in the Negro dialect. Father Malachi E. Kitterick (1871-1939), pastor of St. Michael's Church, Pensacola, frequently published poetry in area newspapers and magazines under the name "Gus Blunt." These were collected and published by his brother in A book of verse (Lafayette, PA: P.J. Kitterick, 1889). The work of another minister, Charles Haddon Nabers, was collected in Viewpoints: sketches and poems (Pensacola: Burrows Press, 1926).

Other Pensacola poets whose work has been published publicly and privately include Ruth Wolles Langford, Eunice Geiger, Louise M. Porter, Walt Aymond (whose Alphonse Alligator is a poem told in Cajun dialect), Zoll B. Engel, William Tyler, Clarke Bunn, and Adelia Rosasco-Soule. Continuing support of poet writers comes from the Backdoor Poets, a support group promoting oral presentations and readings, and the West Florida Literary Federation which has published Leonard Temme's Songs of Passion: Selected Poems, 1985-1989 (Pensacola, FL: 1990).

Southwest of Pensacola lies the Pensacola Naval Air Station (NAS), formerly the Pensacola Navy Yard. The Pensacola Navy Yard was begun in 1826 to serve as a naval supply base for the Gulf coast and to provide naval back-up to the military forces at Fort Pickens and Fort Barrancas. The navy yard achieved strategic importance during the Civil War when it fell to the Confederates, but proved unusable since Union forces controlled Fort Pickens and the entrance pass into the Gulf of Mexico. After the Civil War, the yard deteriorated and contained minimal staffing until the turn of the century. The history of this era is told in George F. Peerce's The U.S. Navy in Pensacola; From Sailing Ships to Naval Aviation (1825-1930) (Pensacola: University of West Florida Press, 1980). The Memorial of Henry Sanford Gausevoort (Boston: Franklin Press, 1875) edited by John Chipman Hoadley details the career of Captain Gausevoort, Commander of Pensacola Harbor and Fort Barrancas in 1868; it includes a long series of letters written to his sister in Boston detailing life at the navy yard and Barrancas, the yellow-fever epidemic in 1867, and the quarantine station at Fort Pickens, illustrated with photographs. The memoirs of a surgeon-general of the U.S. Army at the Pensacola Navy Yard in 1872-1875 including observations of the yellow-fever epidemics are told in Martha L. Sternberg's George Miller Sternberg, A Biography (Chicago: American Medical Association, 1920).

In 1914, the navy yard was reclaimed as a training site for naval aviators, which became more important during World War I and World War II. The military build-up during the Cold War along with frosty Cuban relations has made the Pensacola Naval Air Station (NAS) into a major military center for naval and aerospace support. With the development of aircraft carriers, the U.S.S. Lexington was assigned to Pensacola for use in training; the history of this ship is given in Tarawa to Tokyo, 1943-1946 covering its building, the disastrous Japanese kamikaze attacks in World War II, and the end of the war. 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.

Barrett Stedley's Learning to Fly for the Navy (New York: Macmillan, 1931) is a description of early aviator training in Pensacola. Fictional accounts of life at NAS include Harold Blaine Miller's Bob Wakefield, Naval Aviator (New York: Dodd, Mead, 1936); Cameron Rogers's Flight Surgeon (New York: Duell, Sloan, 1940) and Aviation Cadet; Dick Hilton Wins His Wings at Pensacola... (New York: Macmillan, 1941). Development and history of the NAS are given in Naval Aviation, 1911-1986 (Pensacola: Southern Publishing Co., 1986) and in The Cradle (Pensacola: Southern Publishing Co., 1989), the latter titled to reflect Pensacola as the "cradle" of naval aviation. A Matt Helm adventure novel, The Shadowers (Greenville, SC: Fawcett, 1964) by Donald Hamilton, is set in the Pensacola Navy Yard, with the cornering of the villain in an abandoned Santa Rosa Island fort.

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, 1966), is reminiscent of this feeling, with Peggy wasting her days, singing sad songs, and waiting for the return of her sailor from the sea.

Memoirs 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 Landlubber at Sea (Ames, IA: Powers Press, 1930) 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); Believed to be Alive (Middlebury, VT: Erikkson, 1981) by John W. Thornton (1922-) about the experiences of a helicopter pilot captured in Korea in 1951-1953; George C. Kenney's The Saga of Pappy Gunn (New York: Duell, Sloan, 1959), a biography of Colonel Paul Irving Gunn, who trained and was stationed at Pensacola from 1917 to 1928; James Roberts Nix's Shaduwrs of the Past of Pensacola Navy Yard (Pensacola: 1965); and Baa Baa Black Sheep (New York: Putnam, 1958), 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 Memoirs of the Duchess 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. Chaplain Raymond W. Johnson's Postmark: Mekong 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 1956, 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 600,000 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. Carswell, John Diamond, Odell Griffith, William S. Rosasco III, Adelia Rosasco-Soule, and others are housed here, as well as a large Florida-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 Peiryx's multi-volume Gastrél Cooking (Pensacola: Pensacola Junior College, 1988-92) taken from his PBS-TV series on WSRE-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. Servies in 1981; continuing under Dean 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. Servies's The Siege of Pensacola, 1781: A Bibliography (Pensacola: John C. Pace Library, 1981); H.L. Mencken on Point-Presse, Publishers & Editors (Pensacola: John C. Pace Library, 1980) 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. Servies.

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 biannual Gulf Coast History and Humanities Conference; the 20 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 Uptmplett 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 White Walk of Spain: The Mysteries of Andalusian 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 more interesting sociological studies based on Pensacola life is Ray Oldenburg'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: Paragon House, 1989).

The English department has published the Panhandler since 1976; the twice-a-year 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 naval stores 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 Laury's columns in the Santa Rosa Free Press and Brian Rucker's Jackson Morton: West Florida's Soldier, Senator, and Secessionist (Milton, FL: Patagonia Press, 1990), 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 (1929-94) is a local businessman active in real-estate development; his columns from the Milton Press-Gazette newspaper were compiled into Musings: In God We Trust (Pensacola: University of West Florida Press, 1980). Adelia Rosasco-Soule (1901-91) immigrated to Milton in 1903 from Genoa, Italy, to join her father, Peter S. Rosasco, and his two brothers, who founded a thriving lumber business in Santa Rosa County. The genealogy of the Rosasco family has been traced in Jane E. Richards'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, 1987). 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 (1989). 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 south 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 Eighty-seven Years in Dixie (Foley, AL: Metropolis Printing, 1986).

Celeste 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 Toulin Gaines (later with the Pensacola newspaper). Sibley's memoirs Turned Funny (New York: Harper and Row, 1988) include her reminiscences of life at East Bay and in Pensacola (1936-1939), as well as stories about the Colley, Broxson, 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 Mother's 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 Mingum.

**Bagdad**

One mile south of Milton on Highway 89, just north of Interstate 10, lies the village of Bagdad. In the 1830s, 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 Arcadia, 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 1880s, lumbering returned to the region to satisfy the demand of Victorian America and Europe for southern pine-shell products. An eyewitness account of the lumber industry and the area is provided by Emery Fisk Skinner's Reminiscences (Chicago: Vestal Printing Co., 1908); 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 cotts, churches, and company stores. The Bagdad Land and Lumber Company closed in 1999, 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 smoldering 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 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 Ebenezer 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 replatted as the Harold 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 Floride. The Floride 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 tower housed the power plant and provided a panoramic view of the town and graded (but unpaved) 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. Histories of the area have been collected and written by Audrey A. Stabler in "Memories Coming Home" (Harold, 1985) 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 345 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 Fulton 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 "Heaven: The 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 became 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, 1978).

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 Mullin’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. Entranced 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 Funilak in honor of Fred R. de Funilak, general manager of the L&N line. By 1888, there was a small village at this site, which quickly grew when the Florida Chautauqua was established in 1886. For a history of the Chautauqua and town, see Dean DeBo’s "The Florida Chautauqua: An Overview of Its History" in "Incroded 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 1885.

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 1909, 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 In Clover and Heath (1890) and Forget-me-nots (1898) contain poems written and read at DeFuniak Springs and used for Florida Chautauqua events. From his stints as U.S. Consul to Edinburgh, Scotland, he wrote a number of books, including Here’s a Hand (1893), a biography of Robert Burns, and Scottish Poets (1907). He lectured about the Hudson Valley and Yosemite, writing about these places in Along the Hudson with Washington Irving (1913), From Grant’s Tomb to Mt. MackGregor: Patriotic Poems and Addresses along the Hudson (1897), The Hudson (1881), The Hudson River by Daylight (1875), 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 Diedrick Crayon, Jr.

When the Walton County Courthouse burned at Eucheeanna in 1885, DeFuniak Springs, located on the railroad, became the new 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. Warnock in Laura Ingalls Wilder: The Westville, Florida Years (Mansfield, MO: The Laura Ingalls Wilder Home Association, 1979).

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 1883. 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 Pogut Wells’s Heart and History of Holmes County (1980), which delves heavily into family history and genealogy, and E.W. Carswell’s Homesteading (Chipley, FL: E.W. Carswell, 1986). 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 this area; Bonifay teacher Maymie Oriska Adams Griffen composed “Feeling Lonesome and Blue” (New York, 1994), and Pensacolian 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 (Havana, 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 Prather used this agricultural setting for Anthony and Sabrina (New York: Macmillan, 1973) 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 (1916-). 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 Magnolia Tree: Commentary and Recollections about Country Living (Bonifay, FL: Taylor Publications, 1981) about Washington County; A Grateful Note to Gracie Ashmore (Bonifay, FL: Taylor Publications, 1982), a collection of biographical columns of people in the Panhandle and Florida; He Sold No ‘Shine Before its 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 of Grandpa and Cousin Fitzhugh (Bonifay, FL: Taylor Publications, 1989). A lifelong interest (inquisitorial and culinary) in possums led to Possum Cookbook: America’s Amazing Mammals and Dozens of Ways to Cook Them (Chipley, FL: Carswell Foundation Press, 1975) and more compilations about cooking and folktales titled A 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 Temperrous Triangle: Historical Notes on Washington County, Florida (Chipley, FL: Washington County School Board, 1974) which he revised and enlarged with Washington: Florida's Twelfth County (Chipley, FL: Carwell, 1991). The history of nearby Holmes County was covered in Holmesreading: The History of Holmes County, Florida (Chipley, FL: Carwell, 1986). Judge Carwell has been honored by the Florida Folklife 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, 1989), 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 one West Florida Pioneer (Opp, AL: 1974), fictional reminiscences of the author's grandfather, a Chipley clergyman in the early twentieth century. Civil War reminiscences predating the creation of Washington County are found in Henry W. Reddick's Seventy-seven years in Dixie (Freeport, FL: Observer job print, 1910) including his service in the Walton Guards and Confederate Army. An appendix contains poetry by Reddick and others. George C. Cates' religious revival in 1916 is recounted in his Cates Union Revival, Chipley, Florida (Lousiville, 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 from 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 took over domestic land and is today known as kudzu or, as some say, the "ass-yout" 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 Shadows of My Face (Seattle, WA: Typographies/Seattle, 1980).

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 GA-FLA League (1933-1937) (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, 1972), 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 Cone (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 Stogles.


Marianna

Twenty miles east of Chipley on U.S. 90 is Marianna, the seat of Jackson County. Founded in 1829, 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 Jerrell H. Shofner's Jackson County, Florida: A History (Marianna, FL: Jackson County Heritage Association, 1995). A collection of family stories, poems, and historical sketches is Janie Smith Rhyme's Our Yesterdays (Marianna, FL: Jackson County Floridan Press, 1968), taken from her writings in the newspaper. Rhyme has also published a collection of poems, Salt Wind (1945). Rhyme's daughter, Mary Elizabeth Witherspoon (1919-), has written Somebody Speak for Katy (New York: Dodd, Mead, 1950) 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 Echoes of Evil (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, 1952) tells of life in the Everglades at the turn of the century. A brief mention of Marianna is afforded in Melvin Reeves's Marianna, Catherine and I (New York: Pagament Press, 1957) about a honeymoon trip through the area in 1957.

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 Texas ranger; see his biography, Jeff Milton, A Good Man With A Gun (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1948) by James Evette Haley. Marianna's Rita Dickem, a great granddaughter of Governor Milton, has written Murse Neil: The Story of an Old Southern Family (New York: Exposition Press, 1959) based on the Milton's 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 carpetbagger's, provided for unrest in race relations. The lynching of Claude Neal at
Marianna in 1934 was investigated by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and is recounted in James R. McGovern's Anatomy of a Lynching (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1982).

J. Russell Reaver's compilation of Florida Folktales (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1988) includes a tale about carpetbaggers in Jackson County (Tale 20).

A major African-American writer from Mariana is Timothy Thomas Fortune (1856-1928), who was born a slave in Mariana 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 (1894) and The Negro in Politics: Some Pertinent Reflections on the Past and Present Political Status of the Afro-American... (1885), 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 (1908). For biographical information, see Emma Lou Thornbrough's T. Thomas Fortune, Militant Journalist (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1972).

Ironically, Mariana 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 Mariana. Her books include Lowell's Folly (1839); De Lara; or, The Moorish Bride: A Tragedy in Five Acts (1843); Aunt Patty's Scrap-Bag (1846); Linda; or, The Young Pilot of Belle Creole (1850); The Mob Cap; and Other Tales (1850); Reu, or The Snow Bird (1851); Eoline, or, Magnolia Vale (1852); Marcus Warland; or, The Long Lost Spring, a Tale of the South (1852); Helen and Arthur; or, Miss Thos's Spinning Wheel (1853); Wild Jack; or, The Stolen Child and Other Stories (1855); The Planter'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 Love 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 Planter'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 Warland 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. Rubyela 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 (1959+).

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 1880s and 1890s; it was the town where Florida's first constitution was written (1838-39) and the place known as the wickedest city 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.