

Jacksonville had been occupied continuously by Federal forces since February 7, 1864, and under their protecting wing many negroes had collected here from surrounding districts, expecting to be fed and clothed at the expense of the general government.^b The former residents on their return found their ex-slaves and servants walking the streets of Jacksonville imbued with the idea that they did not have to work. Their demeanor had changed, too, from one of respectful obedience to that of insolence, especially on the part of the women—not all, for some of the older generation remained faithful to their former masters and as elsewhere in the South were cared for through the coming years.^a

Confronted by all these conditions, business destroyed, property gone, and denied the rights of citizenship, these war-worn residents did not sink into a state of lassitude. In a patient, manly way they set to work to obtain a living and to collect what little remained to them after a desolating war. Little by little they got together what they could. In time a few of the old merchants brought in goods and opened stores. Business revival crept slowly onward during 1866 and into 1867. With the peace the privately owned steamboats that had survived crept from their hiding places and again appeared on the St. Johns. Several sawmills were now in operation, and here and there the hum of small industry could be heard.^a Northern capital had already arrived seeking legitimate investment in lands and sawmills;^b tourists, too, braved the tedious journey south and began to come in numbers.^a So it may be said by the fall of 1867, Jacksonville had started on the road to business revival.

Military Occupation of Jacksonville

After the close of the war the Federal troops were retained at Jacksonville for the purpose of maintaining order during the process of re-establishing the civil government in Florida. This had been practically accomplished when the amendment to the Freedmen's Bureau act provided for their retention, and in 1867 the "Reconstruction" act delayed their withdrawal until the spring of 1869. Jacksonville, therefore, was continuously occupied by armed forces of the United States for four years after peace.

The close of the war found principally colored troops here. The earthworks at the brick yard in West LaVilla were gar-