

general in the army, recommended Jacksonville and his recommendation prevailed.

Notice that Black Point had been selected was given out from Washington about the first of September, 1917. It was stated that the camp would be placed here if the authorities would keep liquor away from the soldiers. The Government being promised that its demands would be met promptly, at once sent out bids to Florida contractors for building the camp, which was estimated would cost two and a half million dollars. Wrangling among the contractors about some provisions of the bids caused an annoying delay, but it was finally straightened out and on October 1, 1917, actual work commenced on the camp under the supervision of constructing quartermaster Maj. Frederick I. Wheeler, U. S. A., and constructing contractors A. Bentley & Sons Co. On October 13, Lieut. Col. Fred L. Munson and staff arrived and a few days later assumed formal charge of Camp Joseph E. Johnston (named for the Confederate general who before the War Between the States was quartermaster of the U. S. army).

*On the morning of October 16, 1917, a soldier in uniform appeared at the office of the contractor at Camp Johnston and said he had arrived to report for duty. The contractor was astonished and did not know what to tell him as work on the camp had just started and it was not ready to receive recruits. Colonel Munson was hunted up and it was decided to provide quarters for the lone soldier and fix him up a mess. So Private Barclay, sent here by mistake from Camp Custer at Battle Creek, was the first private soldier to enter Camp Johnston.

Workmen swarmed over the grounds at Black Point and the camp rose like a mushroom. The first batch of officers and enlisted men for training arrived at the camp November 19, 1917; two weeks later the first detachment left Camp Johnston for duty overseas.

In December, 1917, Camp Johnston was selected as a remount station, officially known as Auxiliary Remount Depot 333. One hundred and sixty acres were allotted for it and as completed the depot comprised 16 buildings for the men, and 14 stables with accommodations for 4,000 horses and mules.