

service were the Ocmulgee, St. Matthews, and William Gaston.^b The William Gaston was taken off this run in 1854, and was then used as a river boat. She towed many rafts up and down the river, and it was a peculiarity of her captain, Charles Willey, as soon as he rounded Commodore's Point or Grassy Point, which was usually late in the night, to begin to sound his whistle and keep it blowing until he had reached his landing, to the great annoyance of midnight sleepers in Jacksonville.^f

In 1851 two new steamers were put on the Savannah run—the Welaka and the Magnolia. The Magnolia ran only a short time, when her boiler exploded while she was off St. Simon's Island, Ga., killing her captain, William T. McNelty. A few years later the Welaka was wrecked on the St. Johns bar. These vessels were replaced by the Seminole and the St. Johns, both of which likewise met with disaster, each in turn being burned at her dock at Jacksonville. The hull of the St. Johns was raised and rebuilt, and she ran on the same route until 1862; after the war she ran under the name of Helen Getty.^b

The last of the early boats built for this line was the St. Marys, in 1857.^b In February, 1864, the St. Marys, while loading cotton, was blockaded in McGirts Creek by the Federal gunboat Norwich, and to prevent capture was sunk there by her crew.^e She had escaped capture on a previous occasion by dodging into Trout Creek just as the United States gunboat that was looking for her came up the river. The St. Marys then came out, went down the river, and out to sea, bound for Nassau, N. P.^e The St. Marys lay buried in McGirts Creek until March, 1865, when she was raised, rebuilt,^e and eventually placed on her old run under the name of Nick King.

The Charleston Steamers

In 1851, the Florida began running regularly between Palatka, Jacksonville, and Charleston. Two years later the Carolina was put on, and in 1857, the Everglade, then the Cecile, and a short time before the war the Gordon and the Calhoun. The Gordon became famous as the vessel on which the Confederate commissioners ran the blockade at Charleston and proceeded to Havana.^b