

SOME
"FLORIDA INCIDENTS."
The Hero of Natural Bridge.

MEMORIES OF
JACOB CHANCEY,
WHO WAS PROBABLY
THE SAVIOR
OF OUR CAPITAL
CITY DURING THE
CIVIL WAR.

IS IT JOHN PAUL JONES'
BODY?
—BY—
R. M.

NO. XXXI.

When I first knew Jacob Chancey in the 30s during the long Indian war of 1835-42, he was a lad of some 12 or 13 years, and he lived with a family of the name of Carter down at the Natural Bridge of the Aucilla river.

Jacob was also the name of the head of the family, and from the similarity of their names, I presume that Chancey was a relative.

One day Jacob Carter left home to visit the home of Col. Robert Gamble at Wealaunee, fell into an Indian ambush, and was killed. We soon learned the fact, and mounting we hastened to the relief of the exposed family taking them behind our saddles and bringing them to Wealaunee. I lost sight of Jacob until after the war, when, a married man, he lived in the neighborhood of his former home. He became a famous hunter and woodman, rivaling in his skill what we are told of the sagacity of famous Indian scouts. He could see without apparent effort, the slightest traces in the forest; traces which baffled the keenest eyes of his companions. Riding with him one day through the forest far down the Oscilla river on a hunting expedition, he suddenly stopped his horse, and gazing down, exclaimed, "Some animal has been killed here." We looked, but could see no trace. Chancey dismounted and carefully removing the fallen leaves and grass, exposed the bristles and hair of a hog which had been killed by some agent more than a year previous.

During the Civil war Jacob was hunting near the coast, and going to a landing on the banks of the river, he perceived that a boat from the blockading vessel had landed two men very recently. Immediately suspecting that they had been sent on some important mission, he determined to pursue, and procuring a couple of comrades, by his skill he tracked them through the forest some fifteen or twenty miles and surprised them in the act of setting fire to the railroad bridge across the Oscilla. He seized these two men who proved to be Confederate deserters, and brought them to Tallahassee.

At this time General Newton of the Federal army was prepared for an invasion; his ships were anchored in the Spanish hole in the St. Marks river, and knowing that most of the troops in middle Florida were far east of the city, he sent these men to burn the Oscilla bridge in order to obstruct the arrival of these soldiers to reinforce the militia of the district.

When his troops commenced the inroad, marching up the east bank of the St. Marks, he had intended to cross the bridge at Newport and by forced marches to capture the city of Tallahassee before the Confederate troops could come to its relief.

The small Confederate force available engaged him on East river, but were driven back by superior numbers, and, retreating, took position at this bridge. Daniel Ladd, a prominent citizen of Newport, had built some frame houses on the east side of the river, near the bridge, and when the enemy approached he fired them, and the planks were removed from the bridge.

When the enemy arrived, so fierce was the fire of the burning houses that he could not approach the bridge, and having no time to tarry, he marched on up on that side of the river with intent to cross at the natural bridge. The failure to burn the Oscilla bridge made possible the rallying of the Confederate forces, artillery and infantry, and he was met at the natural bridge, defeated and driven back to his ships.

After the war Jacob went to Southeast Florida, on the Atlantic coast, purchased and planted an orange grove, and died the owner of much valuable real estate.

His two prisoners were tried, convicted and shot near the depot.

It may be of interest to the reader if I add a little of the later history of Mrs. Carter. After the death of her

husband Jacob Carter, she married a regular by the name of Spooner, whose time of service had expired. Not long after the marriage a party of my neighbor started to go to Newport, on the St. Marks river, to make some purchases for their households. Most of the party rode in a light wagon and Mrs. Spooner went on horseback. They went down on what is known as the Pinhook road, and fell into an ambush of the Indians. The parties in the wagon were all killed with the first volley of the Indians, but Mr. Spooner was at the time walking on the opposite side of the wagon to the Indians, and escaped unhurt. Mrs. Spooner's little son, who was walking behind the wagon, also escaped. She galloped up, drew her little son upon her horse, and dashed away. From a distance she watched her husband trying to make his escape through the woods, pursued by the Indians, whom he kept at bay somewhat with his gun. She tried to get to her husband by riding around, but she saw him fall under their guns.

The previous history of the Carter family revealed some singular incidents. When Jacob Carter was a boy his father, living on the frontier in Georgia, was killed by Indians, and his grandfather also fell in a frontier war a generation earlier, killed by Indians.—Robert Gamble in Tallahassee Capital.

A Splendid Tribute to General Bullock.

The news of General Bullock's death is received with poignant sorrow throughout the state where his name in every community is a household word.

The following touching tribute is from the Tallahassee Capital:

"In his passing another of the land marks is removed.

General Bullock was one of the pioneers of Ocala, where his long life has been spent, but his services belong to the entire state.

In the troubled days of the civil war he served with distinction in the confederate army, receiving the rank of general.

In the days of peace he has been honored with many positions of honor and trust. He served two terms in congress where he took an active part in collecting the Indian war claims and has held a number of important offices in Marion county.

General Bullock was a man of great force of character; quick tempered, but always ready to atone for a wrong; loyal to his party and his principles; an upright, honorable man.

Perhaps the most beautiful part of General Bullock's life was his devotion to his wife, with whom he lived happily for more than fifty years. Mrs. Bullock was a notable type of womanhood; tactful, gentle, woman; and kind always. Her death, which occurred more than a year ago, was a blow which utterly crushed the strong man and made the last year of his life desolate and sorrowful. To her he was a lover always and with her away, death was to him in truth the gateway of life.

He will sleep by her side in the cemetery at Ocala, but his name and fame will live long in the annals of the state.

Nothing on the Market Equal to Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy.

This fact is well known to druggists everywhere and nine out of ten will give their customers this preparation when the best is asked for. Mr. Obe Witmer, a prominent druggist of Joplin, Mo., in a circular says: "There is nothing in the market in the way of patent medicine which equals Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy for bowel complaints. We sell and recommend this preparation." For sale by all druggists.

Mrs. T. E. Biggs and children left Monday for Hendersonville, N. C., to visit relatives for a few weeks. Later on she will go to the home of her husband's parents in Maryland for the remainder of the summer.

Mrs. T. J. Nixon and children, who have been spending a short while in Ocala with Mrs. Nixon's sisters, Mrs. W. C. Bull and Mrs. G. L. Taylor, returned to their home at Gainesville Monday.

To the Editor of the Ocala Banner:

Some remarks made by a minister of the very highest standing in our city to his congregation composed of a number of young persons upon whom he no doubt made a lasting impression, implying a doubt in his mind that the remains recently brought to this country for final interment and asserted to be those of John Paul Jones are the remains of that distinguished hero of the American navy, impels me to call attention to facts that seem to me ought to remove any doubt on this question.

The occasion of this minister's lack of faith appears to be the proneness of men "to find what they reach for," and an article by Tom Watson in Tom Watson's Magazine. As to the latter, it is well to call to mind that the weight to be given testimony often depends on the character of the witness, hence the opinions and statement of facts found in newspapers and magazines whose only purpose in life seems to be to find fault with the remainder of creation and ready sale at the news stands, must be considered with caution. The reflection implied by the former vanishes when we in this case reflect upon the motive and high standing of the well known American citizen who has spent so many years in this laborious search and at his personal expense. Before leaving my esteemed minister to briefly refer to the facts establishing the certainty of these being the true remains of our hero, I beg to remind those who were so fortunate as hear him on the occasion mentioned, that he has unflinching confidence in the truth of many things related in the Book that he then held in his hand that are much more incredible, and based on greatly less evidence, than we have to base our faith upon that General Horace Porter's labors have come to a successful end.

Now, what is the proof?

A gentleman who for more than 50 years has been before the public, and held by it in high esteem as a soldier, a man of letters, an ambassador to the French court, of pecuniary ability to do the work, conceives the idea that the body of the great sea fighter, and one who brought such renown to our flag in the revolution, should rest in American soil.

What motive could a man have in palming off a fake on his countrymen? He gets no pay for his services, and he well knows that but few will appreciate them.

We, therefore, have an honest man as actor in this transaction, which is all important in reaching a correct conclusion.

Paul Jones was not an obscure man when he died, but was at the height of his fame, and had he lived a few weeks longer would have been admiral of France. Following his death the Reign of Terror and long years of war occurred so that the removal of the body was not then considered.

So 113 years passed by. Where was he buried? After much investigation, years in fact, it is ascertained that his body was deposited in what is now an abandoned cemetery, one built over. After tunneling and fully exploring this ground, four leaden coffins are found, Jones was buried in one like these, name plates are on three, but none on the other, but in digging the grave for the coffin that rested over Jones it was observed that the wooden case had been pierced by what is supposed to be a pick, and as the wooden case had gone to decay, the plate was probably taken by the grave digger.

This coffin is opened in the presence of unimpeachable witnesses and turned over to two well-known professors, Captain and Papillault, in the school of anthropology. The features of this body were well preserved. The investigation disclosed: a body of same length of Paul Jones', size and shape of head identical, and exhibiting its peculiarities; hair, dark brown, reaching below his shoulders, combed back and curled in two rolls on the temples, same as the admiral's. A pall-bearer writes that his

body was prepared for removal to this country, and find this body finely packed, the limbs in tin-foil, evidently for transportation by a rough voyage. The features are those of pictures and medallions of Jones. The lines has marked in it the letter J or P according as it is read up or down. On an autopsy of this body discloses that death was from the identical disease that took the admiral to his grave.

All these matters of identification are established not only by the oaths of these men but by their well-known integrity. Our government is satisfied and brings this body home and we will give it a fitting burial. Watson says that experts had to be called in, arouses suspicion. Who but an expert would have been competent in such a case. Watson seems to have found what he "was looking for." He says: "As stated in a former number, I was certain they would find Paul Jones—in their minds—for that was what they were looking for." So like all who wish to disbelieve he disbelieves. His next reason is that politeness caused the experts to preserve the body genuine. This is silly.

He says the cemetery was closed by law in 1793. Yes, and the same cemetery is opened by law in 1905 and the body found.

He says his sword was not found, nor his uniform. Of course not, they were never in his coffin, and have long since been accounted for.

He says that he died of dropsy and his body was swollen, but that the experts say his measurement tallies with the living Jones. Did he die of dropsy? If he did, might not a body shrink during 113 years in death? He says most biographers put his height at 5 feet 8 inches. Doctors say a body in course of time will probably grow some shorter. This body measures five feet seven.

If this be not the real body of John Paul Jones, we have this most wonderful coincidence in history, of reputable gentleman without hope of reward, and I will add, without proper appreciation, have deliberately imposed upon the people. If what they say of this body is true, then the evidence is sufficient to establish it as Jones'.

The One Man Power.

The "Jim Crow" law has been declared unconstitutional. This leads us to remark that our government borders rather too much on the "one man power." We send men to the legislature to make laws, many of whom are lawyers of exceptional ability—such was the case at the last session of the Florida solons, when Avery, Buckman, Blount, Wilson, Raney, Harris and other leaders of the bar expressed their legal opinions on subjects under discussion. A bill comes up for consideration, after vigorous debate it finally runs the gauntlet of the house and senate, is passed upon favorably by the governor, and then one man declares "the law unconstitutional," thus setting at naught the work of the legislative and executive departments of the government.—Palatka Times-Herald.

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OCALA, FLA., Oct. 22, 1904.

Messrs. Strauss & Co., Wholesale Whisky Merchants, Ocala, Fla.

Gentlemen.— In accordance with your instructions, I visited your warehouse on the 19th, instant, and personally selected from your stock a sample of



"Strauss' Royal Reserve"
whisky, the analysis of which shows it to contain:

Alcohol (by weight), per cent.....	36.66
Alcohol (by volume), per cent.....	43.61
Degree proof, per cent.....	87.10
Residue on evaporation, p cent.....	0.660
Ash, per cent.....	0.011
Reducing sugar, per cent.....	0.225
Volatile acids, per cent.....	0.027
Amyl alcohol (fusel oil), per cent.....	0.073

The above results show the whisky to be a carefully blended brand of high grade and that it has been distilled from a clean, pure grain mash. The amount of fusel oil and of volatile acids is very low.

Respectfully,
F. T. SCHREIBER, Chemist.

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