

U. S. Str. [Steamer] E. B. Hale
Off Mayport Mills, St. John's River, Fla.
October 4th, 1862

Sir

I have the honor of reporting that in obedience to your orders I proceeded with this vessel to Jacksonville the evening of the 9th inst.

The morning of the 10th I made a careful search on shore at Jacksonville, assisted by detachments of men from the "Cimerone" and the "Water Witch" for two Steam Pumps, being unable to find the Pumps, I proceeded with the vessel to Palatka. As the vessel approached the town about thirty guerrillas hastily left it.

I was informed that the enemy had that day crossed a portion of their baggage train to Palatka and that the remainder had been sent back into the woods opposite the town when the vessel was discovered approaching.

The morning of the 11th I was employed in raising two large Barges, each about seventy (75) five feet long, and in destroying several flats and boats, which had been collected there since the former visit of the "Hale."

While floating the Barges, forty (49) nine contrabands got aboard them, and thus got alongside the vessel. All of these contrabands were brought down the river.

I left Palatka at about two P.M. on the 11th with the two Barges in tow. Below the town several flats and boats were discovered, all of which I had destroyed.

At sunset, I fired Orange Mills, which with large quantities of lumber in their vicinity were completely destroyed.

When off Jacksonville, I was directed by Comdr. Woodhull [Commander Maxwell Woodhull] to bring down the Barges and Contrabands.

Very Respectfully
Your Obedt. Servt. [Obedient Servant]
A. T. Snell
Lieut. Comdg. [Lieutenant Commanding]

Comdr.
Chas. [Charles] Steedman
Comdg. [Commanding] U.S. Naval Stores
In St. John's River.

[Different handwriting on back]

Report of Lieut. Comdg. Snell's Expedition to Pilatka [Palatka] to destroy boats flats
Oct. 1862
Copy forwarded

Transcribed by Nicole J. Milano, University of Florida, 2009