poses, and such force will be supplied by details drawn from our citizens. I advise and earnestly admonish our citizens to remain at their homes and pursue their usual avocations, and I call upon all good citizens to give their aid and counsel for the preservation of good order throughout the entire community. It is the opinion of our most experienced and intelligent citizens (and I think a correct one) that if the enemy meet with no resistance, private property will be respected, and unarmed citizens will be allowed to pursue their usual occupations. I trust, therefore, that our whole population will act with becoming prudence, and that no unnecessary provocation may be given that may furnish a reason for violence from any quarter; and if after we have offered no resistance and given no just provocation, violence should be committed, the whole blame will rest on the aggressors. Every citizen able to perform police duty is hereby required to hold himself in readiness to go on duty, upon receiving notice from the Chief of Police.

H. H. Hoeg,
Mayor.

March 7, 1862.

This proclamation not only did not produce the desired effect, but on the other hand greatly intensified the alarm. The residents were panic-stricken, and two or three days later, when news was received that Fernandina had been occupied by Federal troops, all the Southern sympathizers who could go away left Jacksonville. Business along all lines was entirely suspended. The one railroad out of the town was taxed to its utmost capacity, carrying refugees to Lake City and other points in the interior of Florida. Others left with their belongings in wagons, some of them, women and children, having no destination and guided and protected only by faithful servants. A recital of the hardships that many of these women and children suffered during the next few years would soften the most callous heart. Numbers of them found refuge with relatives or friends in the interior, but there were some who suffered terrible hardships and were subjected to all the horrors incident to war.

When the city offices were closed the records were secretly buried for safe-keeping. After the war, when these records were exhumed, it was found that they were practically worthless because of illegibility due to decay.

First Federal Occupation

Four Federal gunboats, Seneca, Pembina, Ottawa, and Isaac Smith, and two transports of Commodore DuPont's squadron, crossed St. Johns bar March 11, 1862, and anchored