river. In this it was unsuccessful and returned the next morning to join the fleet anchored off St. Johns Bluff.

On October 5th, Jacksonville was occupied the second time by the Federal army. A small Confederate force was stationed in the outskirts of the town, for the purpose of observation, but retired when the gunboat Cimarron opened fire upon them. The landing of the troops was completed in the afternoon of the 5th, and the next morning the gunboats went in search of Confederate steamers which rumor said were secreted in the creeks up the river. The fleet returned on the 9th, with the steamer Governor Milton, captured in a creek near Enterprise in a disabled condition, her boilers being entirely worn out. Jacksonville was evacuated on the afternoon of the 9th, after an occupation of just four days.

General J. M. Brannan, commander of the Federal expedition, said in his report of October 13, 1862:

On the 5th (October) I proceeded up the river as far as Jacksonville in the transport Ben DeFord, with 785 infantry. I observed a large quantity of corn and other crops on the banks of the river which it was at first my intention either to remove or destroy. This purpose I afterward abandoned as impracticable. Jacksonville I found to be nearly deserted, there being but a small portion of its inhabitants left—chiefly old men, women and children. From this town and neighborhood I bring with me several refugees and about 276 contrabands, including men, women and children.

The purpose of this expedition was not mentioned in the reports, but, evidently, it was to keep the St. Johns River open up to Jacksonville.

**Third Federal Occupation**

Jacksonville was occupied by Federal troops the third time March 10th, 1863, this time by negro troops commanded by white officers, namely, First Regiment of South Carolina Volunteers (negro), Colonel T. W. Higginson, and a portion of the Second Regiment of South Carolina Volunteers (negro), Colonel Montgomery. These troops were later reinforced by two white regiments, Eighth Maine and Sixth Connecticut.

On March 13th, General Finegan (C. S. A.), commanding near Jacksonville, issued the following proclamation: