JACKSON COUNTY - 1868

Florida Union (Jax), Sat., March 14, 1868.

Mass Mosting at Marianna.

A large Ratification Mass Meeting of Republicans was hold at Marianna on the 7th inst., at which the following resolutions were unanimously passed.

Whereas, The United States Congress, in the fullness and goodness of its power, made smooth for us the road to freedom, and bid_us march under their triumphant banner into the golden fields of posec and equality; and

Whereas, Major W. J. Purman, Emanual Fortune, L. C. Armistead and Homer Bryan, our fellow cifizons and delegates to the late. Constitutional Convention of the State, carried out with unfaltering fidelity the Reconstruction Laws of Congress, and assisted in establishing forover our principles and rights on the immovable foundations of law and instice;

Therefore be it resolved by this meeting of the citizens of Jackson county, that the action of our above named delegates in the late Constitutional Convention, thereby making a safe and sure ground work for our rights, only fulfilled our request, and now resoives our most cordial approlation, for without this action our Constitution would have been built on a foundation of sand.

Rosolvod, That we endorse and thank our delegates for the unimpassioned, fair and equal manner in which they legislated upon the rights and privileges of all citizens, for the noblest principle to politics as well as in business, is "to live and lot live."

Iterativel, That all the people of the State, who love peace and justice, can now shake hands together as friends and brothers upon the equitable Constitution framed by the late Convention, and that we, who never asked for more than our Republican equal rights and chances, commend again our delegates for their wisdom, and devotion, and declare to them, "Well done, good and faithful servants, our lasting confidence shall be your honor and reward."

Resolved, That in our candidates, Hon. Harrison Road, for Governor, Hon. Wm. II. Gleason, for Lieut. Governor, and Colongl C. M. Hamilton, for Congressman, we have the unusual fortune of having the right men for the right places, and we pledge them our votes with as much pleasure as in the past we received the many pledges of their devotion and worthiness in the cause of freedom and patriotism, and in them the country has true and tried friends, who will never falter in their labors for the good and happiness of all the people of the State.

limelived. That these resolutions be forwarded for publication to the Florida Union, at Jacksonville, the organ of the Republican party of the State of Florida.

CALVIN ROGERS, President.

Dr. Finlayson, Secretary.

JACKSON COUNTY -- 1869-70

Savannah Morning News, February 29, 1872.

(From the Marianna Courier) Crime in Jackson County.

It is impossible to conceive the means whereby a foundation could be had for the exaggerated statement of crimes committed in this county, as stated by the Assembly Committee on Outrages. It is even doubted if the fertile imagination and boundless capacity to lie and slander, which are characteristics of W. J. Purman, Senator from this district, with his ready clan of perjured witnesses, could produce a number so greatly in excess of the real figures. Yet the report of the Committee so reads, and as published is considered official and authoritative. It says:

Messrs. Wallace, Stearns, of Escambia, and Butler, form a special committee appointed to investigate into the cause of crimes and other irregularities perpetrated in certain localities of the State, submitted a long report charging Jackson, Lafavette and other counties (which they don't even mention) with being hot beds of secession, where defenceless men, women and children have been and are being murdered because they dare to think for themselves; that one hundred and eighty-four murders have been committed in Jackson in three years, and that the President ought to be requested to declare martial law in said county. The report was doubtless written by Senator Purman, and will be understood. Such slanders generally emanate from such men.

The following minority report was received from the same committee:

Hon. M. L. Stearns, Speaker of the Assembly: Sm: The undersigned, members of the committee to investigate outrages in some of the counties of this State, would beg leave to state, on their own behalf, that they differ in some important plints from the majority of the committee. It cannot be denied that in the county of Jackson there is much disorder and has been much crime, which has not been brought to punishment. But it must be admitted also that all the witnesses whose testimony has been taken are of one side in politics, and without any intention to impeach the verscity of those witnesses, fairness requires that in making up an impartial opinion, both sides should be heard. This is especially true in cases of high political excitement, which is the state If society in that county at this, time and for several years past. It is not reasonable to suppose that all the crime in such a case would be on one side. The undersigned would therefore ask that due allowance should be made in forming an opinion where the testimony in a case of high political excitement is from only one side of party politics.

J. Brown, Chairman. L. B. Bhodre.

"One hundred and eighty-four murders in Jackson county in three years!" This is a stupendous lie. Yet so low, so base, so vile, and lost to honor, honesty and even shame, has the Legislature of Florida become, that it merely conserves political purposes and to further party ends. What greater iniquity or more damning act could be conceived of man than for one who has been honored by becoming the servant of the people to wilfully dishonor and disgrace that trust by

standering and traducing these who conferred it! Such is the continuous history of the reign of scallawag-carpet-bagism in Florida.

The following is a true summary of all the crimes of high grade which have been committed in the county since the conclusion of the war—1865—embracing nearly seven years, as compiled from the best sources of information. A written statement, of which, in detail, has been submitted to those who have occupied positions by which they would deal and come in contact with the facts of perpetration of crimes, and every instance added up to date:

Murdered and assassinated......23

Killed by causes and for causes unknown..... 3

Killed in fights, brawis and encounters,..... 17

Killed by accident or capalities)
Attied in the commission of a criminal act		3
Mapes committed by colored men	. 9	
Incendiarisms by colored man	,	١
aggravated cases	. 8	
	Justifiably killed by officers of the law. Killed by accident or casualties. Killed in the commission of a criminal act. Total killed since the surrender. Rapes committed by colored men. " white " Assaults with intent to murder. Incendiarisms by colored men. False imprisonments by F. Burgan Aganta ways.	Justifiably killed by officers of the law Killed by accident or casualties. Killed in the commission of a criminal act. Total killed since the surrender. Rapes committed by colored men. White Assaults with intent to murder. Incendiarisms by colored men. I False imprisonments by F. Bureau Agents, very aggravated cases.

There are probably a few cases which have failed to be recollected, but certainly none of importunce.

Six of the cases mentioned under "Murdered or Assassinated" were committed by parties from Alabama—several are parties who fled from that State. The county adjoins Alabama—and is often attempted to be availed of by the fugitives from that State who thereby andeavor to escape arrest. Horse thieves and aggravated cases of this character

are generally summarily dealt with.

The amount of crime which has been perpetrated in the county is very great, but when it is remembered that C. M. Hamilton and W. J. Purman arduously labored for two years to create dissatisfaction, cause disagreement and endanger and increase hostility and enmity between the two races, it is not to be wondered that their hellish teachings should have resulted as they have. When the seeds of enmity, hatred and malignity are sown, its offspring nurtured in iniquity and crime, it is natural and legitimate that it should blossom in bloodshed and lawlessness, and fruit in murder, arson and rape. But with all the lawlessness and criminal tendency which have existed in the county, there has never been a time when an officer could not rally the comty to the enforcement of the law. There has never been a time when the supremacy of the law has been attempted to be subverted or failed to be recognized and regarded by the people of the county. Courts of justice could at all times have been held and their decrees and mandates obeyed and executed. If there has been dereliction or failure in this particular, it is due to the dastardly administration which has been foisted upon the State by the aid of bayonets and the double-back-action ballot-boxes, in its imbecile, corrupt and infamous reign, and not be imputed to the people.

McCLELIAN, J. E.

Florida Times-Union (jax), April 17, 1890.

JUDGE MOCLELLAN DEAD.

Panadolla, Fla, April 16.—Shortly after midnight last night Judge J. C. Me-Ciellen, of the Piret judicial circuit, passed poscessiy away, after an illness of five weeks. Bunday morning, when he was taken with sinking spells, which to the hour of his death came periodically every six bours, it became apparent that the end was only a metter of a few hours.

Judge McClellan was born near Bristol,

Judge McCleilan was born near Bristol, in Sullivan county, Tenn., in August, 1834, and came to Florida in 1846. Having been admitted to the bar at Marianus, in Jackson county, be at once began the practice of his profession. In 1848 he married Miss Advise McKenzie Yonge, a sister of the late Col. Chandler Cox Yonge of this city, then a resident of Jackson county. To this union four children were born: of these—but—one, a con, is living. The latter, Chandler Yonge McClellan, is now a prosperous merchant of Fort Worth, Tex.—Less than—a month-since death deprived the subject of this akacch of a dearly beloved child in the person of Mrs. W. H. Milton of Marianus, and the thought of this was the source of much of the disquietude which characterized the last days on earth of the distinguished dead, for he

was fendly devoted to his last attriving daughter, having lest another under peculiarly and and strying circumstances, as will be narrated further on.

When Florida accorded from the Union

Judge McClelian organized at Marianna the Gulf State Guards, to the captaincy of which he was elected. He took his little command to the scene of war, and was attached to Mahone's division in the army, of Northern Virginials, serving at differ ent times under Brigadier-Commanders Finnegan and Magruder. He served throughout the war and was seriously wounded in that sanguinary struggle known to history as the battle of the Wilderness. He was among the very last of his ranguished fellows to turn his face homeward; and it was not long after his return when the sorrow which had followed a defeat in arms was given added force in the death of his wife, which occurred in 1806. He was then bending every energy to retrieve the losses to himself and family occasioned by war, and he naturally became one of the most prominent figures. of his section in the days when reconstruc-tion spread its black pall over civil liberty. when Aryan supremacy was abolished in the heartiess domination of the carpetbagger, when the claim to justice and the assertion of respectability by the rebal were unpurdonable crimes; but Justice McClellan's spirit remained undaupted. and by reason of his active participation as a democrat in the trials of those direful days, he was made to

a penalty that he would gladly have given life to evade. He had insurred the displaceure of the negrees and his life was threatened. One evening in the year isst, as he sat at hence in the bosom of his family, a load of buckshot, fired by the hand of a dastardly assassin, entered the room, and a lovely daughter fell, plerced to death, at his side. One of the shot took effect in one of his thighs, and he limped a cripple to the day of his death as a rample.

tune, and set to work with renewed seal to deliver his state from the thraildom under which it languished. He was a member of the constitutional convention of 1868. He was returned term after term to one house or the other of the legislature. He was regarded as a fit successor to the lamented Hawkins; was selected to complie a digest of Florida laws, and was the author of the work of that description which bears his name. He was sent to the convention which revised the constitution in 1865, and was shortly thereafter appointed by President Cleveland to the surveyor generalship of the state. This office he relinquished to become judge of the First judicial circuit of Florida, tendered

him by Governor Perry, a position which he held at the time of his death.

In 1875 Judge McClelian married the second time. The woman of his choice on this coession was Mrs. De Roullac, a resident of Jackson county, by whom he is survived. There was no issue to this mar-

shortly after his appointment to the judgeshie he, with his family, took up a residence in Penincola, the most important city of his circuit, and the fact preved a pleasant and profitable acquisition to her local legal and social circles, which are now pervaded with gloom in consideration of his death.

The funeral, which was one of the most largely attended ever held in this city, took place this afternoon at 5:50 o'clock from the Epispocal church, of which he was a life-long member. The following were pail hearers: Hon. William A. Blount, John Eagan, William Fisher, E. C. Maxwell, Hen. John C. Avery, members of the local har; and Meaners, B. Jones, F. C. Hivest, and Judge Walter Taie, who were close and intimate friends of the deceased.