

A Christmas Tragedy Seventy Years Ago

Hon. W. E. Anderson, Former Mayor
of Pensacola.

This Christmas season brings to my mind perhaps the saddest tragedy in the history of our state, in extent, at least, which at the time caused a thrill of horror in every bosom, but which is now forgotten except by a few old persons like myself who live more in the past than in the present. In my early childhood the cottage next my father's house was occupied by a widowed lady named Dade. Her little daughter, Fannie Dade, was my playmate and schoolmate. They were the family of Major F. L. Dade of the U. S. Army, who on this Christmas day 70 years ago was killed, and his whole command of 150 soldiers, with the exception of one man, were massacred by the Seminole Indians under the leadership of their chief Micanopy.

Major Dade had been ordered to proceed from Tampa to reinforce some weak stations further down the country, and when two days out was attacked from ambush. The surprise was complete and he with a number of his command fell at the first fire. The others hastily felled trees and made a weak barricade where they fought until the last man had fallen. In the fury of the attack even the horses and draft oxen of the command were shot down and left upon the field. Their remains and those of the brave men who had perished on that fatal ground were found as they had fallen sixty days later by a relief party. One man who was wounded managed to escape detection by pretending to be dead, and when night came he crawled out and made his escape, and carried the news of the massacre to Tampa.

In the completeness of the destruction it surpassed even the celebrated defeat of Braddock, and the gruesome story with its frightful details which I often heard in my childhood filled me with such a dread of Indians that whenever I went out of town and got into the woods I looked with apprehension at every thicket and palmetto bush, fearing to see an Indian start up with a gun.

It seems strange that within the compass of a lifetime such events as this, and many others less in extent, but equal in ferocity and suffering, could take place in our state now so peaceful and prosperous.

There was a family living here about the same time named Easton. One of the daughters of this family was married to an officer who was stationed in South Florida. For some reason it became necessary that this lady should be sent under military escort from the post where her husband was stationed to the nearest seaport. On the way they were attacked by a party of Indians. The escort succeeded in defeating them, but one of the soldiers, a man named Huey, received so severe a wound on the head that his mind was destroyed. He was a harmless imbecile, whom I knew well for some years, but he was a constant reminder of the atrocities of Indian warfare and this deepened the impression which haunted my youth for years, and the fact that this tragedy happened on Christmas day, the season all over the world of peace and good will, created a painful association which I did not lose for many years.

I afterwards met some old settlers from Walton county who had served in the war against the Seminoles, and heard from them many anecdotes of their service. It is difficult to appreciate the bitterness of feeling that existed among these pioneers against the red men, even after they had surrendered and the hatchet had been buried. Two of these stories made a great impression upon my mind. Two of these settlers while hunting came upon an Indian hunter sudden-

ly and sought for him for some time without success. "At last," said the narrator, "after going backwards and forwards by being fleet of foot he escaped from them and took refuge in a bay-zall or head, which grew densely around a spring. They followed in



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through the head several times we were about to give up the search. I was crossing on a pine log where a tree had fallen across the stream when I happened to look down and I saw the Indian's eyes glaring up out of the mud. He had wriggled himself down in the mud and dead leaves until he was entirely covered, with only his eyes and nose out of water. If he had only had sense enough to shut his eyes, I would never have seen him, but they looked like coals of fire.

"What did you do?" I asked. "Why, I just threw my gun over and blew out his brains and left him lying there," was the reply.

These same two men were out hunting at another time when they came upon an Indian boy of about fifteen. They fired upon him and he fell with a broken back. They then decided to hang him and lifted him up between them and supported him to a neighboring oak tree.

"And what do you think?" said the narrator; "when he saw what we were going to do, the boy began to sing, and he sang until we choked the breath out of him."

There is something infinitely pathetic in the picture of that padlocked to death and in the hands of his enemies, singing his death song defiantly to the last.

Ill-fated race! Victims of that merciless and inexorable law, "the survival of the fittest," their homes destroyed, and their lands seized by the ever advancing tide of whites, it is small wonder if in their despair at impending destruction they were guilty of merciless and cruel warfare.

But prominent even among these blood stained annals will remain the story of Dade's massacre seventy years ago.

REMOVAL NOTICE
JEWELRY STORE—On and after January 1 my jewelry store will be located at 112 South Palafox at the place formerly occupied by Bass & Co. E. M. Andersen. 17decv

MAIL ORDERS
PROMPTLY
ATTENDED TO.

The Old, Old Story, CHRISTMAS AGAIN!

STORE OPEN
UNTIL
9 O'CLOCK P. M.

WE ARE READY FOR THE HOLIDAY SHOPPERS

as never before. All our stocks are at flood tide this bright season of the year. Completion is our boast, not depletion. The attractions in **FOOTWEAR AND HOSIERY**

are simply beyond the power of the advertising pen—magnificent, monumental, brilliant and thoroughly superior—a way that appeals to the thrift, the frugality, the economy and good taste of the trade-wise people. Choosing time is right at hand and merry throngs are making general preparations with intensity and earnestness. Do not wait for the last days. NOW'S THE TIME! WE HAVE SHOE SURPRISES FOR ALL! READ CAREFULLY THE LIST AND NOTE WELL THE BARGAINS WE ARE OFFERING.

<p>SURPRISE No. 1 \$1.75 Pair. For Ladies' Brown felt fur tops Julietts, worth \$2.50.</p>	<p>SURPRISE No. 7 \$1.25 Pair. Ladies' Patent Colt Shoes, Cuban heel, gull tops, worth \$2.00.</p>	<p>SURPRISE No. 13 \$2.25 Pair. Men's Tan Oze Slippers, worth \$2.75.</p>	<p>SURPRISE No. 19 \$2.90 Pair. Men's Pat. Colt Shoes, Blucher and lace; sizes 6, 6½, 7, 7½ and 8, worth \$3.50.</p>	<p>SURPRISE No. 25 \$2.50 Pair. Boys' Pat. Colt, Blucher Shoes, dull kid tops, military heel, worth \$3.00.</p>
<p>SURPRISE No. 2 \$1.50 Pair. Ladies' Black Felt Julietts, turn sole, fur tops, worth \$2.00.</p>	<p>SURPRISE No. 8 \$2.00 Pair. Ladies' Tan Shoes, Cuban Heel worth \$2.50.</p>	<p>SURPRISE No. 14 \$1.75 Pair. Men's Black Kid Slippers, worth \$2.25.</p>	<p>SURPRISE No. 20 \$2.40 Pair. Men's Vic Kid Shoes, wide, plain tops, lace, Goodyear welt, worth \$3.00; all sizes.</p>	<p>SURPRISE No. 26 \$2.00 Pair. Boys' Vic Kid and Box Calif. Blucher Shoes, worth 2.50.</p>
<p>SURPRISE No. 3 \$1.25 Pair. Ladies' Black and Purple Julietts, turn sole, fur tops, Cuban and common sense heels, worth \$1.75.</p>	<p>SURPRISE No. 9 \$3.00 Pair. Ladies' Patent Colt, Button Shoes, Cuban Heel, extension sole, good value at \$3.50.</p>	<p>SURPRISE No. 15 \$1.50 Pair. Men's Slippers, well worth \$2.00.</p>	<p>SURPRISE No. 21 \$1.50 Pair. Men's Blucher Shoes, soft stock, worth \$2.00.</p>	<p>SURPRISE No. 27 \$1.40 Pair. Boys' Vic Kid Shoes, Blucher worth \$2.00.</p>
<p>SURPRISE No. 4 \$1.00 Pair. Ladies' Black Felt Julietts, fur tops, worth \$1.25.</p>	<p>SURPRISE No. 10 \$1.25 Pair. Ladies' Silk Velvet Top Shoes, lace, worth \$1.75.</p>	<p>SURPRISE No. 16 \$1.25 Pair. Men's Felt Romeos, fleeced lined, worth \$1.50.</p>	<p>SURPRISE No. 22 \$1.25 Pair. Men's Blucher Shoes, good value at \$1.50.</p>	<p>SURPRISE No. 28 \$1.25 Pair. Boys' Pat. Leather Box Calif. Vic Kid Shoes, sizes 8 to 13½, worth \$1.50.</p>
<p>SURPRISE No. 5 75c Pair. Ladies' Blue and Black Felt Julietts, fur tops, good value at \$1.00.</p>	<p>SURPRISE No. 11 \$1.00 Pair. Ladies' Lace Shoes, medium heel, worth \$1.25.</p>	<p>SURPRISE No. 17 \$1.50 Pair. Men's Kid Romeos, worth \$2.00.</p>	<p>SURPRISE No. 23 \$1.20 Pair. For those famous Cable Screw Shoes.</p>	<p>SURPRISE No. 29 \$1.00 Pair. Boys' Kid Shoes, Blucher style, sizes 13 to 5, worth \$1.25 to \$1.50.</p>
<p>SURPRISE No. 6 75c Pair. Ladies' Felt Slippers, fur tops, worth \$1.00.</p>	<p>SURPRISE No. 12 \$1.50 Pair. Ladies' Lace Shoes, Blucher half heel, worth \$2.00.</p>	<p>SURPRISE No. 18 \$2.00 Pair. Men's French Kid Slippers made on the Bunlon last, worth \$2.50.</p>	<p>SURPRISE No. 24 \$2.00 Pair. Men's Shoes, several kinds and styles, all worth \$2.50.</p>	<p>SURPRISE No. 30 \$1.00 Pair. Children's Lace Shoes, Pat. Tip, sizes 8½ to 2, worth \$1.25 to \$1.50.</p>

We have other **Surprises in Hosiery and Shoes** not mentioned here which we will gladly show to all who call. There isn't a gloomy or uninteresting corner beneath this roof. Every aisle is aglow with charm, cheer and sparkle. Come here with money, much or little, and you will be **surprised and mystified at the value it will command.** Ample extra sales people to serve you.

LET YOUR GIFTS BE SHOES AND HOSIERY.

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TO LOOK AT
OUR WINDOWS.

MEYER SHOE COMPANY,

102 S. Palafox. Feet Furnishers For Folks.

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BOY'S CHRISTMAS SUITS AT 20 PER CENT DISCOUNT

HERE'S AN OPPORTUNITY SELDOM OFFERED TO THE CHRISTMAS SHOPPING PUBLIC—A REDUCTION IN STAPLE GOODS BEFORE CHRISTMAS; YET THAT IS JUST WHAT I AM OFFERING

To the Mothers of Pensacola

AND VICINITY. BUY YOUR BOYS' CHRISTMAS SUIT HERE: THERE'S EVERY STYLE THAT'S WORN AND THE FABRIC IS FIRST-CLASS IN EVERY RESPECT—EACH SUIT BEING BUILT FOR A BOY. REGULAR PRICES RANGE FROM \$2.00 TO \$7.50—ALL MARKED IN PLAIN FIGURES AND YOU CAN IN THIS WAY SEE THE MONEY SAVED IN BUYING AT THIS SPECIAL REDUCED PRICE.

Mens' Fine Suits \$7.50, \$10.00, \$12.00, \$15.00, \$18.00.
Cravatette Coats, \$12.50 and \$1.00.
Regent Shoes, \$3.50. Suspenders, 25c and 50c.
Monarch Shirts, finest made for \$13.50.

There's the biggest kind of values in these offerings. Will be mighty glad to see you.

Cor. Palafox and Main. **H. O. ANSON** Cash Clothier.

PEOPLE AND EVENT

(Continued from Page Twenty)

will give their annual Christmas entertainment next Friday evening at the church. All scholars are cordially invited to come and bring a Christmas offering for the poor.

Mr. E. Boyer, of Muskegon, Michigan, is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Boyer.

Prof. J. W. Yon has resigned his position here and will leave on the 23 for Nashville where he will enter the University of Tennessee to study medicine.

Mobile Register: Mrs. Ormond Durant left yesterday for a visit of a few days to her mother, Mrs. Knowles and her sisters in Pensacola, Fla.

Miss Hilma Holmes has returned after a pleasant visit to her sister in Canada.

The Misses Bass are at home again after a pleasant visit in the north.

Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Robinson are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Aiken.

Mrs. Wheat of Nashville, Tenn., arrived Saturday and is the guest of her sister, Mrs. J. W. Lorton.

Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Campbell are the happy parents of a baby boy, Monroe, Jr.

Miss Mabel Green is expected home Friday afternoon from Belmont. Miss Green will be accompanied by

Miss Belle Corbet of Arizona who will be her guest during the holidays.

Among the arrivals of this week were Mrs. J. A. Bronsaham and her sister, Miss Moseley, who have been visiting in Norfolk, Va., for the past four months.

Mr. Elmo Wilkinson, after spending several weeks with his parents, returned to Auburn University.

Miss Julia Gay returned Friday from Whitfield, where she has been as stenographer for the Jernigan Lum-

Foot Ball

Palmetto Beach,
FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 22
AT 3:00 O'CLOCK
Pensacola Classical
School

VS
Pensacola High School
ADMISSION 50c

ber Co., for the past eight months. Miss Gay has resigned her position and will now remain at home much to the delight of her many friends.

element weather, only a small crowd attended. The visiting ladies were Mrs. Hardy and Miss Lottice Rice, of Century. The next meeting will be with Mrs. "Dick" McAllister on Wednesday after Christmas.

The New City Finch Club met with Mrs. Frank Marston, Tuesday afternoon. The next meeting with Mrs. Morgan, will not be held until after the holidays.

Miss Lillian Hancock of Louisville, Ky., who has spent the last two winters with relatives in Pensacola, was married Tuesday afternoon to Mr. Marlon Knight, Mr. and Mrs. Knight will reside in Hazel Green, Ky.

A baby boy was born Friday morning to Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Morey.

Judge and Mrs. J. R. Landrum have leased the residence at the northwest corner of Palafox and Strong streets.

Beginning this week, Miss Haight and her mother, Mrs. Eaton, will have rooms with Mrs. James R. Landrum, on North Palafox.

Your cake may be delightfully light, but unless properly flavored will be disappointing in taste. Blue Ribbon Vanilla adds to the goodness of all desserts.

ANNUAL DOLL FAIR.

The Ladies' Missionary Society of the Presbyterian church will hold their annual doll fair on Tuesday, December 19, at the store formerly oc-

E. B. ACOSTA & CO. Prompt delivery to any part of the city.

Wholesale and Retail Dealers in

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