

Panama City Pilot

Vol. 1.

Panama City, Washington County, Florida. February 20th, 1908.

No. 39

Beach Combings.

Senator Gregg of Apalachicola was a Panama City visitor on Friday and Saturday last, leaving on the Tarpon Saturday morning for Pensacola. The Senator has been visiting various points on the bay this past week.

We are informed that John Walsingham, of Grassy Point, has bought or leased the sawmill at this place owned by M. R. Pritchard, deceased, and will start up business in the near future.—Banner Chipley.

Mr and Mrs Cheek were Panama City visitors yesterday. We understand they will soon remove from Dothan to the bay country. Mr Cheek is a conductor on the A. & St. A. B. R. R. and wishes a home at this end of the line.

The Gulf Coast Development Company have set aside about 4 acres of land to the northwest of town for a cemetery. It lies high and dry, and is on a pleasant oak knoll. It will be surveyed this week, after which parties wishing lots can secure them.

W. M. Gordon, president of the B. C. & St. A. R. R., is reported as saying that the right of way is secured for the proposed extension northward from Chipley, Fla., to Enterprise, Ala., a distance of 60 miles, but that no survey has as yet been made.

T. J. Thompson, who has been stopping with his brother Berry at Apalachicola for some weeks, came here on business on the boat Saturday, returning to Apalachicola yesterday. Tom looks as though his sojourn in Texas agreed with him. He reports his family all well.

Mr Vickery, of the bay bottling works was a pleasant caller at the PILOT office this past week. This firm will soon advertise their specialties in the PILOT. They have their works in condition to turn out a large output, which judging from the experience of last season will be eagerly sought after.

The bottling works of McKenzie & Co., have opened up for Spring trade, and are already sending out a fair quantity of goods. They will continue to use only the best material and take the greatest pains in the manufacture of their drinks, and undoubtedly will receive a liberal support from the bay people. Send in your orders to this firm for sample cases.

Miss L. M. Tuthill, of Quincy, Ill., who was visiting her sister Mrs. M. B. Jenks, was called home this past week on account of the serious illness of their sister, Mrs. Barr. Miss Tuthill had intended staying some months with her sister Mrs. Jenks, and it is to be hoped that she will find her sister so greatly improved in health that she can return and enjoy our beautiful Spring days.

"The West Bay Naval Stores and Lumber Company" is the title of the new corporation that has applied for letters patent to operate at West Bay. The application for a charter shows that Frank C. Sullivan of New York, holds 2,000 shares, Ernest Pope of the same place, 1,999 shares, and W. B. Merritt, of West Bay, Fla., 1 share, making a total of 4,000 shares of \$100 each, or a total of \$400,000.

From the Chipley Banner we learn of the death of Miss Willie Harvey which occurred at her home there on Monday, the 10th. Miss Harvey was well known and highly esteemed by many of our bay people, as she had been here during the summers, and her death will be most sincerely regretted by all who knew her. Her remains were laid at rest in the cemetery at Greenwood on Tuesday of last week.

Judging from reports from our vessel men and through the papers the bottom of Apalachicola Bay has been "getting up in the world" this past week or so. The Tarpon so found it in the fog last Friday morning, and the papers report the tug Monarch striking it so hard as to cause the boat to leak badly. There has been a succession of storms, with low water lately, which probably accounts for these little eccentricities.

Old St Andrews!

Its Destruction In 1863

REAR ADMIRAL BAILEY'S OFFICIAL REPORT

The PILOT often receives from visitors and others requests for the facts relative to the destruction of Old St Andrews during the war. To answer these enquiries we herewith publish the official report made by Rear Admiral Theodore Bailey, commanding the East Gulf squadron, under date of December 28th, 1863.

It will be noted that the destruction of the 32 houses then standing along the bluff was not the principal object of the boats entering the bay, but they came rather to destroy the immense salt works which lined the three arms of this bay, and furnished a large supply of salt to the Confederacy.

These salt works were repeatedly attacked and destroyed, but were rebuilt and put in operation about as soon as the Federal forces had gotten out of sight. They continued doing a large business in the matter of manufacturing salt until the latter part of the war.

Destruction of Salt Works in St Andrews sound, Florida.

Reports of Rear Admiral T. Bailey, United States Flag Ship San Jacinto.

Key West, December 28 1863.

Sir:

I have the gratification of reporting a very important service performed by the blockading force in St Andrews sound, under the command of Acting Master William R. Browne in destroying a very extensive and valuable quantity of salt works both at Lake Ocala and St Andrews bay. The circumstances are as follows:

On December 2, a boat was dispatched from the bark Restless, then lying at St Andrews sound to Lake Ocala, some twenty miles to the westward, where Acting Ensign J. J. Russel landed with his men and marched some five miles inland to Kent's salt works consisting of three different establishments, and utterly destroyed them. There were six steam boat boilers at this place cut in half lengthwise, and seven kettles, made expressly for the purpose, each holding three hundred gallons. They were in the practice of turning out one-hundred and thirty bushels of salt daily. Besides destroying these boilers, a large quantity of salt was thrown into the lake. Two large flat boats and six ox carts were demolished, and seventeen prisoners were taken, who were paroled and released, as the boat was too small to bring them away.

On the 10th of December Acting Ensign Edward Cressy arrived at St Andrews sound from the East Pass of Santa Rosa's sound, with the stern wheel steamer Bloomer and her tender, the sloop Caroline, having heard of the expedition to Lake Ocala, and placed his command at the disposal of Acting Master Browne for more extensive operations near St Andrews. Accordingly three officers and forty-eight men were sent from the Restless to the Bloomer, and she proceeded to West bay where the rebel government's salt works were first destroyed which produced 400 bushels daily. At this place there were twenty-seven buildings, twenty-two large boilers, and some 200 kettles, averaging 200 gallons each, all of which were destroyed, together with 2,000 bushels of salt, and some store houses containing three months provisions. The whole was estimated at half a million dollars. From this point the expedition proceeded down the bay, destroying private salt works, which lined each side for a distance of seven miles, to the number of one hundred and ninety-eight different establishments, averaging two boilers and two kettles each, together with large quantities of salt. Five hundred and seven kettles were dug up and rendered useless, and over three hundred buildings were

destroyed, together with twenty-seven wagons, and five large flat boats. The entire damage to the enemy is estimated by Acting Master Browne at \$3,000,000. Thirty-one contrabands, employed at these works, gladly availed themselves of this opportunity to escape, and were of great service in pointing out the places where the kettles were buried for concealment.

In the meantime, while the operations were going on, Acting Master Browne got under way in the bark Restless, and ran up to within one-hundred yards of the town of St Andrews, which had been reported to him by deserters, as being occupied only by a military force, for the last ten months, and commenced shelling the place, and some soldiery, who made a speedy retreat to the woods. Selecting the weather most house for a target, the town was fired by the third shell, and thirty-two houses were soon reduced to ashes. No resistance was offered to our people throughout the affair. Acting Master Browne speaks in highest terms of Acting Ensign James J. Russel and Charles N. Hicks and the forty-eight men from the Restless, as also Acting Ensign Cressy, and the six men belonging to the Bloomer, for the prompt manner in which they carried out their orders.

Respectfully,

Theodore Bailey,
Acting Rear Admiral, Commanding Eastern Squadron.

Millville.

W. H. Parker was in town a few days this week surveying.

Rev F. Wineman preaches here next Sunday night at the usual time and place.

Mrs William Prows father, from Kentucky, arrived on the Tarpon last week on a visit to his daughter.

Miss Cora Melvin who has been visiting her father in Jackson County several weeks, returned Tuesday night.

To-night the Superior Camerograph Show will give another exhibition of moving pictures here. The entertainment is a good one and well worth attending. M. D. Horlett and Chas Bracken were here Wednesday arranging for the exhibition.

Capt Walter Holmes, of Tampa, the youngest son of Mrs Holmes, who has been making his mother a ten days visit, left Saturday via Chipley. He is in charge of the three masted vessel Samuel J. Beechum, which is running between Tampa and Cuba. Before coming here he visited his sister in Chipley, then went to Pensacola where he met and visited with his brother Jerry, who is in the Navy.

Mr and Mrs Willard Pratt have the sympathy of their friends over the loss of their baby girl, Hazel Luciel, who died at 4:30 a. m. February 13th. The child had always been very frail, but was exceedingly bright and active, and her childish smile and winning ways were very attractive, and are sadly missed in the home. She lacked two days of being eleven months old. The burial took place at St Andrews late Thursday evening.

A Card of Thanks.

We desire to thank the good people of Millville who so kindly assisted us during the sickness and at the death and burial of our little daughter, Hazel. Works are but weak tokens of the gratitude we feel toward these people for the kindness and sympathy shown us during this our sorest need.

Mr and Mrs WILLARD C. PRATT.

Wetappo.

Allanton and Farmdale has an epidemic of measles.

J. B. Taylor was up looking after his turpentine interests Monday.

W. J. Burnett came in from Wewahatchka Saturday and proceeded to his home at Millville.

The storm prevented Taylor, Sherman and Company's workmen from crossing the bay Friday, and they had to remain on this side all night.

HARBOR IMPROVEMENT!

Letter from W. B. Lamar.

Below will be found a letter from Hon W. B. Lamar relative to present conditions regarding the Harbor Improvement. In addition to what Mr. Lamar has done, there has been no let up to others in pressing the claims of this section of Florida, Alabama, and Georgia in the matter of securing a deep water port here, and exceedingly strong support has also been vouchsafed the improvement by those in position to materially aid the project. Possibly the proposed visit of the local Engineer may be productive of more prompt action upon the part of the Board in arriving at a favorable decision. Such a visit will be welcomed by the friends of the Improvement, and every effort made to lay before the representative of the Board the exact facts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON,

February 13, 1908.

Mr. G. M. West,
Panama City, Fla.

Dear Sir:

I have been informed by the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, that it would not act on the St. Andrews Bay matter until I could be heard again in behalf of the survey.

In addition to what you have presented, and the statements I have already made, I desire to appear before the Board in a personal statement setting forth the advantages and needs of your bay and harbor.

The Board informs me that it has directed the District Engineer to make further investigations at St. Andrew and to report. So you see the matter is at least in the shape where everything that can be said and done for St. Andrews Bay that is possible.

For the five years I have been here, I have presented to the Rivers and Harbors Committee on each occasion of a river and harbor bill, the advantages of St. Andrews Bay and the necessity of improving same. As long as I am in congress, or out of it, I will take the greatest interest in advancing the interest of St. Andrews Bay, and in securing ample appropriations for St. Andrews Bay and harbor.

You can give publicity to this letter, if you desire, through the columns of your newspaper. With regards, I am,

Very truly yours,
W. B. Lamar.

Hurricane Island.

Enquiry has been made as to how Hurricane island received that name, and when. The early maps, that is those over a hundred years old, show this island under the name of "Hummock," probably thus named on account of the sand hummocks on the westerly portion of it which have always received notice by those mentioning the island. On J. L. Williams map of 1827 it is still named Hummock. Mr Williams was the first man to carefully outline the harbor entrance and a portion of the bay, so must have known whereof he wrote when he described the island as Hummock island. So meantime between 1830 and 1860 the change in name was made. Just why or by whom it would be interesting to learn, and possibly some PILOT reader can inform us. Perhaps some circumstances connected with this island and the hurricane of 1858 was the cause of the change in name. When the blockading vessels were laying at the entrance of this harbor during the war, it was always called Hurricane in the reports of the officers, so it must have been well known by that name at that time, 1862.

That that the road may be shortened from the north to this place it is proposed to extend Harrison avenue through to the old St Andrews and Chipley road. This would only be an extension from where it is already worked of three quarters of a mile, and would shorten the distance materially in reaching here from points north.

St. Andrew.

H. M. Felix is this week painting the interior of the bank.

Rev Hastings has removed to Millville to be more centrally located.

M. G. Post returned from his vacation, on the north bay mail boat, last night.

W. H. Gwaltney left on Fridays Tarpon for Pensacola where he has employment.

R. McLellan, the PILOT printer, has been laid up all this week with an attack of the grippe.

George Mallock, who bought the John Surber place at Pretty Bayou, moved there yesterday.

The Tarpon brought in a large consignment of brick for the new West Bay turpentine company.

C. H. Casey returned from Pensacola on Tuesday on the smack G. W. Pfeiffer, which came into the bay after a load of fish.

The north bay mail contract, for four years from next July, has been awarded by the department to Capt L. M. Ware for \$960.

On Thursday last, on the fathers, G. W. Surber, Sr's, 66th birthday, there was born to himself and wife a ten pound boy, Dr Kester attending.

Mr Rynearson and wife will leave on Friday's Tarpon for the north. Their many friends here have enjoyed their stay, and regret that they can not find it practicable to remain here all the time.

About every one not doing anything else hereabouts are having the measles. There never was such a general spread of the speckled beauties as are to be found in so many of our households this Spring.

Some strange fatal disease has been prevalent among the cats here during the past week. They sicken suddenly, and die in a very short time. It looks as though there would be no cats left in town if the disease keeps on. We have not heard of it elsewhere.

Miss Ethel Brainard, who is teaching across the bay, is at home this week, the school having been closed for fear that the measles which are so prevalent on this side of the bay, might be introduced into that neighborhood through the school.

A called meeting of the Odd Fellow lodge was held on Tuesday evening for the purpose of initiating candidates. The following new members were initiated: John Cavanagh and Will Harper, of Southport; L. C. Gay, of Gay; W. S. Gwaltney and L. M. Ware, of St Andrew.

Ed Hand is working in the shop of C. H. Casey upon a launch for J. W. McKinney, which will be ready for launching in a very short time. The boat is 35 feet in length, 7 feet 4 inches beam, and will be equipped with a 3 cylinder, 16 h. p. Eclipse engine. With this power and Eds usual good modeling and workmanship, the boat should prove a goer.

The Buena Vista Hotel, under the management of Messrs Joyner & Moates, is having a good run of patronage as is evidenced by the arrivals there the past week. Among them have been J. A. Dickson, Mobile; Tom Cain, Pensacola; L. F. Metcalf, Mobile; B. S. Hancock, Pensacola; H. W. Wertheim, Savannah; T. M. McCall, Mobile; M. J. Kahn, Pensacola; Mr Murrey, DeFuniak Springs; C. G. Coleman, New Orleans; J. N. Marshall and wife; J. F. C. Griggs, Apalachicola.

The German American Lumber Co. have had arrested under warrants issued by Justice Sturrock, of St Andrew, some of the men engaged in grading in the neighborhood of Nixon, on the A. & St A. B. R. These men were brought before the Justice and gave bail for their appearance for trial at a later date. As the offence alleged occurred outside of Justice Sturrocks jurisdiction, there is much talk as to why warrants were issued by the Justice, and why any officer is serving warrants issued in St Andrews district, in Nixons district.

Martin Rynearson, of Hammond, Ind., was a pleasant caller at the PILOT office on Saturday last.