
January 4  Encamped near a large cypress swamp.


January 6  Encamped near Ft. Taylor (Captain Fowler) 1st Dragoons. Pony Dick.

January 7  At work on wharf for landing provisions. Bad foundation.

January 8  Sent with Captain Fowler to ascertain if a practicable road could not be found through the Big Cypress Swamp.

January 9  Returned, making a favorable report. Camped on Gadsden's old trail.

January 10  Column under General Eustis moved.

January 12  Encamped near Big Cypress.


January 19  Left camp, near Ft. Lloyd.

January 20  Encamped a few miles from Gen. Taylor's battleground.


January 26  Encampment on Jupiter River — Ft. Jupiter near scene of Lt. Powell's re-embarkation after his affair with the Indians.

January 27  Sergeant Boggs sent to General Hospital at St. Augustine.

February 5  Column marched in search of the Indians.

February 7  Reached sawgrass swamp. Parley with Halleck Hajo. White flag sent out. Lt. Dyer and myself with Company D, perform some wading at

February 8-9  Conference —

February 10  Left Camp Truce for Ft. Jupiter.

February 11  Returned to Ft. Jupiter.


February 14  Lt. Linard sent by General Jesup to Washington — said to bear proposal that the Indians be permitted to remain in the south of Florida.

February 15  The Indians are to come into a camp near Ft. Jupiter — there to await the decision of the President.


February 27  Council — Halleck Hajo with Tuskegee and others said when the answer came from Washington to the proposition of General Jesup they would General Jesup have their answer about

*From Robert Anderson's Diary, January 3-May 19, 1838, Robert Anderson Papers, Book 2, 1838-1839, MSS Division, Library of Congress.
March 2

abiding the President's will. They would see what they would do. Ceremonious dance.


Changed the camp to about 1/8 mile above Cooly's patch. 30 Steam Boat Alabama and sloop Citizen here with provisions. Site of Ft. Lauderdale. 31

March 15

Learned that Col. Bankhead 32 had arrived at Ft. Dallas 32 and that he is placed in command of country south of Jupiter. Party of Indians discovered by our scouts about 10 miles from camp. Col. Bankhead arrived with four companies, H and D [of the] 1st Artillery [and] H and D [of the] 4th Artillery. Information brought that a messenger had been sent to the camp of Coa-
cu-chie 34 and Alligator. 35 He is to return in four or five days.

March 20

Two companies of 1st Artillery arrived.

March 21

Indian messenger Joseph 36 entered camp saying that he could not find the Indians, that they had scattered.

March 22-25

Left camp in steamer Isis. Powell's command in boats ascended the south fork of the south branch of New River and encamped at the old Tallahasse275 village. Three Indians brought in by the Tennesseans. Lt. Anderson ordered back to camp sick. Command with great labor reached Pine Island. 36 The white flag fired on. The Indians driven from the Island. Boats, jewelry, coonti, cooked provisions, etc., found on island. Command returned from camp on Pine Island to Camp Lauderdale. The finger of one man slightly wounded. One of the prisoners (Indian) escaped from the guard.

March 28

Alex Hajo 39 arrived from Ft. Jupiter on a mission to the hostile Indians. Tustenuggee and Little Bear 40 came in from their camp about 15 miles from Camp Lauderdale.

March 29

Left camp with Pioneers and Capt. Deering's 41 company of mounted Tennesseans, with orders to bring in Tustenuggee and the camps near him. Marched about 10 miles.

March 30

Reached camp between two small cypress. Went to Tustenuggee's camp and told them I wanted them to come near or into my camp. Tustenuggee and two families came with me and the others promised to follow.

March 31

About 1 a.m. Tustenuggee came to my tent and informed me that one of the camps (families) had gone off. That all the others (44) were in his camp except Little Bear who was near. He expressed fears about Little Bear going off.

April 1

I told the Indians that my orders were to take them to Camp Lauderdale. There was 13 warriors, 33 women and children, eight rifles, one musket. Encamped near Hillsboro and returned to Camp Lauderdale (for names see last page).

April 2

Col. Harney 43 arrived and relieved Col. Bankhead and expressed his dissatisfaction at the Indians having been taken and brought into camp.

April 3

Birthday of Sarah A. 43

April 4

Major Lauderdale and Tenn. departed for Ft.
Jupiter. Pioneers retained as such to Col. Harney's command.

April 6
News by express that Alligator had delivered himself up to Col. Taylor on the 4th instant.

April 7
Penetrated the Everglades by south branch of south fork of New River about two miles. Rocky bottom through the cypress. Singular spring limestone. Quantities of fish — many dead — shrimp — muscles [mussels] — snails — eggs, etc. Birthday of Lucy [?] A. 44

April 9
Commenced building the pickets of Ft. Lauderdale, 60x50 feet. Pickets seven feet long, sunk 1½ feet. Loopholes under top string pieces.

April 11
Finished the picketing. Commenced preparing top pieces for loop holes.

April 13
Work discontinued and ordered to prepare for a

April 15
march. Four days' rations. 13 men and one corporal unable to march. Ordered to cross the river at four p.m. Encamped on south trunk of New River.


April 16
Crossed Middle River [Little River] at the dam of the burnt coonti mill and marched through a country of pines, prairies, coonti and rocks of decayed limestone to the site of Ft. Dallas at mouth of the Miami — about seven miles.

April 17
Crossed the Miami — no boats. Had pack ponies swimming. Marched to Lewis' plantation 49 where we hoped our march would terminate.

Sample pages of Anderson's diary.
April 19

About 2½ miles. Camp Center.60

A small skirt of rich land. Pine barrens covered
with jagged limestone. The peaks [? firm, the
body of the stone seemingly composed of cir-
cular pieces of lime (as large as pins' heads)
united by a hard cement Quartz. There we found
plantains, coconut trees, limes, oranges — sugar
 cane, papayas, etc.

April 22

Left camp in Boats at 8 p.m. Col. Harney and
Lt. Anderson and Rutledge,41 Dr. Motte42
48 Dragoons, 30 with Colt rifles, 55 artillerymen,
sailed and rowed all night. Breakfasted on the
beach about sunrise. About 14 miles.

Ordered to follow a trail seen on the shore.
Pursued it through a mangrove swamp until
its place of crossing a deep stream. Returned
and sailing about 1½ miles north, encamped
near the old Hunting Ground.53

April 24

The command of about 46 Dragoons and 43
artillerymen left camp and marched in WSW di-
rection about 10 miles. Found a small party of
Indians said to belong to Sam Jones'54 party.
Exchanged a few shots and ran, leaving two
squaws (one wounded). Corporal Marshall55
and 12 artillerymen on the left flank, it is believed
we met the principal party, say about 15 war-
rriors. Returned to our camp of the 23rd, bring-
ing the squaw, the cooking utensils, coonti, skins,
etc. The Indians protect the bottom of their
moccasins by pieces of alligator skin, crudely
prepared.

April 27

Col. Harney and 46 Dragoons left camp in the
boats about ½ past 11, leaving Lt. Anderson with
his command of 55; 19 of "D," 3rd Artillery,
24 of "A" and 12 of "D," 1st Artillery.

Marched with 30 men about five miles west.
The country pine woods, intersected by saw
grass and other prairies. Rocks rugged, bad

April 29

Sailed back to Camp Center, leaving at eight
and arriving at 12. Express arrived directing the
troops to be sent North.

April 30

[Monday] Ordered by Col. Harney to prepare
for returning to Ft. Lauderdale in the first steam-
boat. Information from squaw by George56 —
interpreter - that Sam Jones left with most of
his party about one hour before we reached his
camp.

May 1

Crossed to Ft. Bankhead57 on Key Biscayne to
await the arrival of boat Isis in which the company
is to return to Ft. Lauderdale. Embarked after
Sam Jones abandoned. Command moved across
to Ft. Bankhead.

May 5

Steamboat Isis arrived having thrown over most
of her loading — Lt. Dyer 3rd A. and Lt. May
Dragoons.

May 6

Left Ft. Bankhead in SB [steamboat] Isis: Col.
Warner,58 Aisquith, Donaldson59 with 1st Artil-
lerie detachment, one company, left at Fort
Bankhead.

May 7

Left Ft. Lauderdale with Lt. May's company
Dragoons and one detachment Colt's Rifles.

Unequal distribution of baggage. Col. Harney 1,
May Dragoons 2, Colt's Rifles 2, Company D 1.

Reached Ft. Jupiter 40 minutes past a.m., having
marched 63 miles since 60 minutes past 7 on the
7th instant. Letter from General Scott59 received
offering me situation of aide-de-camp.

May 12

Left for Ft. Pierce in one of the public transport
steamboats. One boat abandoned on the river in
a sinking condition.

May 13

Dick here nearly tormented to death by the flies.

Left in Schooner Nevis at 8 a.m., 180 miles.
Lt. Hooker.

May 16

St. Augustine Lighthouse in sight at sunrise.
Arrived at St. Augustine. Captain Webster64 and
company detachment under Lt. Donaldson,
with Lt. Warner and company waiting for out-
ward breeze.

May 17

Left St. Augustine in Packet Empire, crossed
the bar at 4 p.m. Col. Fanning,65 Captain D.
H. Vinton,66 Lt. Peyton,67 the [?] of Dra-
goons. [?]

May 18

Arrived at Charleston at 5 p.m. Major Kirby68
at Charleston with companies commanded by
Captains Hansen,69 Webster and Lts. Warner,
Aisquith, Mackall,70 McLane71 and company
recently under Lt. Magruder.72

May 19

Left in cars at 5 a.m. Captain Vinton, Lt. Ais-
quith and company reached Augusta at about
5¼ p.m. 137 miles. General Eustis, Lts. Ross73
and Martin.74
FOOTNOTES

1 Brigadier General Abraham Eustis, commander of one of four columns of Major General Thomas Sidney Jesup's army which pushed into south Florida in early 1838. Eustis' column ascended the St. Johns River and then moved south through the interior, reaching the Atlantic coast at Jupiter Inlet.

2 Fort near the upper St. Johns River in present-day Orange County, constructed by Jesup's command at Christmas time, 1837, and used as a launching point for his expedition into southeastern Florida the following January.

3 Fort on the upper St. Johns near Lake Poinsett in present-day Brevard County.

4 Fort near the upper St. Johns about one mile west of Lake Winder in present-day Osceola County.

5 Captain Henry Waller Fowler from New York State. He became a captain in the 2nd Dragoons on June 8, 1836.

6 Okeholwaeke Swamp, east of Lake Kissimmee in present Osceola County.

7 Trail cleared by Captain James Gadsden, who surveyed a route down the Florida east coast from St. Augustine to Biscayne Bay in 1825.

8 Fort on Taylor Creek, eight miles northeast of Lake Okeechobee.

9 Captain Benjamin Lloyd Beall who attended the U.S. Military Academy from 1814-1818 and became captain of the 2nd Dragoons on June 8, 1836. He was brevetted major in March 1837 for gallantry in the war against the Seminoles.


11 Fort at Indian River Inlet established in January 1838 by Jesup's command, and named for Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin K. Pierce. Fort Pierce served as the eastern anchor of a string of outposts stretching across the state from Tampa Bay.

12 Site of the Battle of Okeechobee, fought on Christmas Day, 1837, between troops under Colonel Zachary Taylor and Seminoles commanded by Alligator, Coacoochee, and Sam Jones, near the northern point of Lake Okeechobee.

13 Battle of Lockahatchee or Loxahatchee, fought on the Loxahatchee River near Jupiter Inlet between Jesup's forces and the Seminoles.

14 Sergeant Bogg was a member of Lieutenant Anderson's Company D, 3rd U.S. Artillery, and helped build Fort Lauderdale in March 1838.

15 McPherson and Brown were apparently also enlisted men in Anderson's Company D.

16 Fort on the Jupiter (Loxahatchee) River constructed by Jesup's command on January 26-28, 1838. Fort Jupiter served as the main base and supply depot for troops operating southward along the coast.

17 Lieutenant Levin M. Powell, naval officer in command of a joint army-navy force assigned to penetrate the Everglades. Powell and the 152 men under his command reached the New River on March 8, 1838, and established "Camp Powell" across the river from Fort Lauderdale.

18 Halleck Hajo was a subordinate of the Seminole sub-chief Tuskgee. After the Camp Truce conference, he entered U.S. Army service as a messenger-negotiator to treat with Sam Jones. Jones killed him on New River in March 1838.

19 Second Lieutenant Alexander Dyer, who graduated sixth in his class at the U.S. Military Academy in 1837, and became a major general in the Union army in 1865.

20 Located between present Deerfield Beach and Delray Beach. General Jesup's army reached a truce with a large band of Seminoles led by sub-chief Tuskgee and his subordinate Halleck-Hajo during a conference here on February 8-9, 1838.

21 U.S. Army paymaster located in Washington, D.C.

22 Lieutenant Thomas B. Linnard, Jesup's aide-de-camp.

23 Martin Van Buren was president from 1837 to 1841.

24 Colonel Zachary Taylor, commander of the territory between the Peace
and Kissimmee rivers. Taylor was order-
ed east from Tampa Bay with 1,200
troops to meet Jesup during the latter’s
invasion of southern Florida. His troops
fought the Seminoles at the Battle of
Okeechobee on December 25, 1837.  
Taylor succeeded Jesup as commander
in Florida in May 1838. He became a
national hero as commander in the
Mexican War, and was elected president
of the United States in 1848.  
25Captain Thomas Barker, 1st Infan-
try, was a veteran of the War of 1812.
He died in 1839.  
26Second Lieutenant Bennett Hoskin
Hill, 1st Artillery, graduated twenty-
first in his class at the U.S. Military
Academy in 1837. He was brevetted
brigadier general in the Union army in
1865.  
27Seminolesub-chief who had been
captured by Jesup’s forces in December
1837. After making his escape, he led
the attack on Powell’s command at the
Jupiter River, January 15, 1838. The
following month he negotiated a truce
with Jesup’s army at “Camp Truce.”
28Major William Lauderdale of Sum-
ner County, Tennessee, veteran of the
Creek Wars, protege of Andrew Jackson,
and commander of a battalion of Ten-
nessee Volunteers in the Second Semi-
nole War. Lauderdale commanded the
column, composed of his own Tennes-
seans and Anderson’s artillery company,
which marched from Fort Jupiter to the
New River in March 1838. Fort Lauder-
dale was named in his honor.
29New River was called “Coonti-
hatchee” — coontie river — by the In-
dians because of the abundance of
starch-producing coontie plants in its
vicinity. The concentration of this im-
portant Seminole food staple was a
major factor in the decision to con-
struct a military outpost on New River.
30Plantation belonging to William
Cooley, leader of the New River Settle-
ment in the years preceding the Second
Seminole War. The plantation was locat-
ed on the north bank of the New
River roughly in the vicinity of today’s
4th-7th Avenue bridge. It was here
that Cooley’s wife and three children
were killed by Indians on January 6, 1836,
signalling the end of the New River
Settlement.
31Anderson’s reference to “Fort Lau-
derdale” here indicates that the out-
post was thus named from the time it was est-
blished. This designation became offi-
cial on March 16, 1838, when General
Jesup issued Special Order No. 74 stating,
“The new post established on New River
by the Tennessee Battalion of Volun-
teers and Company ‘D,’ 3rd Artillery,
will be called Fort Lauderdale.”
32Lieutenant Colonel James Bank-
head, 4th U.S. Artillery, arrived at Ft.
Lauderdale on March 18, 1838, with
263 men, and commanded the fort until
April 2.
33Fort on the north bank of the
Miami River, near its mouth, established
in February 1838 by the joint army-
navy force under Lieutenant Levin
Powell.
34Coocoochee or “Wildcat” was one
of the most influential leaders of the
Second Seminole War until his capture
in 1841. In 1838, he was active prin-
cipally in the New River region.
35“Alligator” — Halpatter Tusen-
gee — was a chief of the Alachua group
of Seminoles. In 1836 he led his band
of approximately 200 Indians south from
the Tampa Bay area into the Everglades,
where he operated primarily in the
vicinity of New River and Biscayne Bay.
36Seminole Indian messenger
employed by Lieutenant Colonel Bankhead
in his negotiations with Sam Jones and his
band on New River in March 1838.
37Seminole group descended from
the Upper Creeks of Alabama and
speaking the Muskogian language. At the
beginning of the Second Seminole War
they resided in the Tallahassee area of
Middle Florida. Along with the Mikas-
uski, the Tallahassees were considered
among the most warlike of the Semi-
noles.
38Island or hammock in the Ever-
glades in present-day Davie. It was a
favorite gathering place for southeast
Florida Seminoles.
39The same as Halleck Hajo (see
note 18).
40Seminolesub-chief who escaped
capture at Hillsboro River when the
rest of the Indians there were captured
by Anderson and his company and the
Tennessee Volunteers under Captain
Deering.
41Captain William Deering, command-
er of one of the five companies com-
prising William Lauderdale’s battalion of
Tennessee Volunteers.
42Lieutenant Colonel William Selby
Harney, 2nd U.S. Dragoons, commanded
Fort Lauderdale from April 2, 1838
until its evacuation on May 7. Harney
conducted negotiations with the Semi-
noles at the second and third Fort Lau-
derdales in 1839, and commanded an
army-navy expedition into the Everglades
in 1841. He served in Mexico and in the
West, and was brevetted major general in
1865.
43Apparently a member of Anderson’s
family; perhaps a sister. The 1850 federal
census lists Anderson at Fort Preble,
Maine, with wife Elesa, age 26, and
daughters Eebra, age 5, and Maria, age 2.
44See note 43, above.
45Second Lieutenant William E. Ais-
quith of the 1st Artillery had a very
checkered career. He graduated eleventh
in his West Point class of 1827, but was
dismissed from the army for misconduct
in 1832. In 1837, he was accepted as a
second lieutenant in the 1st Artillery.
Several times thereafter he was reduced
in rank to private and sergeant, but be-
came a captain in 1847, only to be re-
duced to sergeant the following year.
46First Lieutenant Charles Augustus
May of the 2nd Dragoons entered that
unit upon its formation in 1836. He was
a favorite of President Andrew Jackson,
and became a hero in the Mexican War.
47Rio, Ratones, or Snake Creek,
flowed from the Everglades into Dun-
foulding Lake and thence into Biscayne
Bay. Some maps identify the portion of
the stream from the Everglades to Dun-
foulding Lake as Snake Creek and the
channel from the lake to the bay as Rio
Ratones, while others, like Anderson,
use the two terms interchangeably.
48Here Anderson confused Little
River, which flows into Biscayne Bay
approximately nine miles north of the
Miami River, with Middle River, which
flows into New River Sound (now part of
the Intracoastal Waterway) in Brow-
ard County.
49Plantation near the Miami River
granted to Jonathan Lewis under the
Donation Act in 1824. Lewis was the
son of Charles (or Surl) and Franke
Lewis, first non-Indian settlers on the
New River.
50Lieutenant Colonel Harney led this
expedition (of which Lieutenant And-
erson and his men were a part) in search of
Sam Jones and his band. Camp Center
was the old Jonathan Lewis plantation
(in 1838 owned by Richard Fitzpatrick)
on the Miami River. It was probably
named for being the midway point of the
expedition from Fort Lauderdale to what
is now Homestead.
51Second Lieutenant Arthur Middle-
ton Rutledge of Tennessee graduated
from the U.S. Military Academy in 1837.
He resigned his commission in August
1838, but served as a major of artillery
in the Confederate army.
52Jacob Rhett Motte was an assistant
army surgeon attached to Jesup’s Army
of the South. His diary provides a detail-
ed and insightful account of the war in
southeast Florida.
53Indian hunting ground located on
the approximate site of today’s Coco-
nut Grove.
54Sam Jones or Arpke, the fierce
Mikasuki medicine man, led his band
south from the Withlacoochee River
area to the upper St. Johns, the Lake
Okeechobee region, and finally the
Everglades, as the war progressed. He
was operating primarily in the New
River area by 1838. Managing to escape
capture in both the Second and Third
Seminole Wars, he died at an advanced
age in about 1859.
55A member of Lieutenant Ander-
summer/fall, 1986
son's Company D, 3rd Artillery.
36George was a black interpreter with the army. In September 1839, he survived an ambush by Sam Jones' Mikasuki on New River in which his two companions, soldiers from Company K, 3rd Artillery, were killed.
37Military post established at the Cape Florida lighthouse on Key Biscayne in 1838 and named in honor of Lieutenant Colonel James Bankhead.
38Second Lieutenant William Horace Warner, 1st Artillery, graduated from West Point in 1836. Brevetted captain in the Topographical Engineers, he was killed by hostile Indians in the Sierra Nevada in 1845.
39Second Lieutenant James Lowry Donaldson, 1st Artillery, was an 1836 West Point graduate. He became a hero in the Mexican War, and a Union major general in 1865.
40Major General Winfield Scott, a hero of the War of 1812, had been commander of military operations in Florida in 1836. In May 1838 he was placed in charge of the removal of the Cherokee Indians with headquarters at New Echota, Georgia. He was appointed commanding general of the U.S. Army in 1841, serving until 1861.
41Captain Daniel D. Tompkins from New York State graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1820, and served in the 1st Artillery. He was brevetted major in 1836 for gallantry in action against the Seminoles.

42Second Lieutenant Joseph Hooker, 1st Artillery, graduated from West Point in 1837. A Union major general during the Civil War, he became known as "Fighting Joe" Hooker. Lincoln gave him command of the Union Army of the Potomac. He reorganized the army, but was severely defeated by Robert E. Lee at the Battle of Chancellorsville in May 1863.
43Second Lieutenant William Henry French, 1st Artillery, an 1837 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, he became a Union major general in 1865.
44Captain Lucien B. Webster, commander of Fort Marion at St. Augustine.
45Lieutenant Colonel Alexander C. W. Fanning, 3rd Artillery, a veteran of the War of 1812, commanded the forces in the vicinity of St. Augustine.
46First Lieutenant Daniel Hammond Vinton, 3rd Artillery, was promoted to captain July 7, 1838. His brother, Captain John Rogers Vinton, commanded Fort Lauderdale for a time in 1841.
47First Lieutenant Richard H. Peyton, 2nd Artillery, had graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1831. He became a captain in July 1838 and died the following year. In 1838 he probably served as quartermaster in the dragoons.
48Major Reynold H. Kirby, 1st Artillery, had commanded the 689 regular soldiers involved in the Pine Island skirmish in March 1838.
49Probably Second Lieutenant Weightman Key Hanson of the 7th Infantry, Hanson, a native of Washington, D.C., graduated from the Military Academy in 1835, and died in 1844. If Anderson was referring to him, he was wrong—Hanson did not become a captain until August 1839.
50Second Lieutenant William W. Mackall, an 1837 West Point graduate, was wounded in the Seminole ambush on the steamer Santee near New River Inlet in 1839. He served in the Mexican War and as a brigadier general in the Confederate Army.
51Second Lieutenant Robert McLane commanded Company E of the 1st Artillery.
52First Lieutenant John B. Magruder of Virginia graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1830, and served with the 1st Artillery in Florida, where he fought at Pine Island with the forces under Lieutenant Powell. He also served in Mexico and as a Confederate major general in the Civil War.
53First Lieutenant Richard H. Ross of the 7th Infantry. Ross graduated from West Point in 1830, and rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Mexican War, where he was cited for gallantry. He was a native of Maryland.
54Second Lieutenant William Thomas Martin graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1837 and served briefly in the 4th Artillery before resigning his commission in June 1838.

Confederate Major General John B. Magruder, who, as a lieutenant, had served in the Florida War. "Fighting Joe" Hooker, as he appeared during the Civil War.