

Archives  
Closed  
LD  
175  
.A40K  
Th  
108

THE HISTORY OF THE EXPLOITATION OF THE FORESTS  
OF SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

---

A Thesis  
Presented to  
the Faculty of the Graduate School  
Appalachian State Teachers College

---

In Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree  
Master of Arts

---

by  
Fletcher Fairwick Carter  
May 1960

THE HISTORY OF THE EXPLOITATION OF THE FORESTS  
OF SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

by

Fletcher Fairwick Carter

May 1960

Approved by:

*J. C. Yoder*

Chairman of Thesis Advisory Committee

*Eratis Williams*

Director of Graduate Study

*Ina Van Noppen*

Major Professor

*John G. Barden*

Minor Professor

THE HISTORY OF THE EXPLOITATION OF THE FORESTS  
OF SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

---

An Abstract of a Thesis  
Presented to  
the Faculty of the Graduate School  
Appalachian State Teachers College

---

In Partial Fulfillment  
of the Requirements for the Degree  
Master of Arts

---

by  
Fletcher Fairwick Carter  
May 1960

## ABSTRACT

### I. THE PROBLEM

It was the purpose of this study (1) to trace the history of the exploitation of forests in Santa Rosa County, Florida; (2) to determine how this exploitation has affected the economy of the county; (3) to discover the factors leading to the termination of this exploitation; and (4) to show to what extent reforestation has occurred.

### II. PROCEDURE

As this thesis was for the most part based upon materials gathered from primary sources, conversations with the men directly concerned with the exploitation of the forests were given important consideration. Libraries visited to obtain information included the Appalachian State Teachers College Library, Boone, North Carolina; the Pensacola Public Library, Pensacola, Florida; and the Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. Invaluable aid was received from rare books found in the T. T. Wentworth Museum, Pensacola, Florida. Deeds and wills were located by the writer in the County Clerk's Office in the Santa Rosa County Courthouse, Milton, Florida, and were examined carefully. Other places visited to obtain information included the Santa Rosa County Farm Agent's Office, the United States Soil Conservation



Office, and the Milton Abstract Company, all of which are located in Milton, Florida.

### III. CONCLUSIONS

It was found that the exploitation of forests had occurred continuously for a period of approximately 110 years. This exploitation had severely upset the economy of the county by depleting large stands of valuable timber without provision for regrowth. The exploitation was finally brought to a close by several factors, the chief one being the almost total destruction of the forests in the county. The destruction was brought about by such factors as high taxation rates imposed upon the lumber companies, low margins of profit on lumber, and repayment of large debts incurred in buying mills. Since the cessation of exploitation, much has been undertaken toward reforestation in the county. Through laws, education, and a growing awareness of the value of good forest management, Santa Rosa County is forging ahead in the production of pine trees for pulpwood.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This thesis was written as a result of the lifelong ambition of the writer to help, in some small way, the citizens of his native county to have an awareness of the beauty and value of their forests.

To all of those citizens of Santa Rosa County who in any way encouraged the writing of this thesis, the writer is eternally indebted. His particular thanks go to Mr. Obie Willis of Bagdad, Florida, and Mr. M. L. King of Milton, Florida.

The writer is grateful for the assistance extended to him by the librarians of the various libraries that he visited for information, especially Mr. William L. Eury of Appalachian State Teachers College and Mr. T. T. Wentworth of Pensacola, Florida.

The writer extends heartfelt thanks to Mr. Imre Sutton and Dr. Howard Decker for taking time to read parts of this thesis and making timely and helpful suggestions.

For suggestions in editing this thesis the writer wishes to thank Mrs. H. H. Hughes of Boone, North Carolina.

The writer's deepest gratitude goes to the members of his thesis committee: Dr. Julian Yoder, for his assistance in selecting the problem and for the many helpful suggestions which he has contributed to the writing of this thesis;

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS (continued)

Dr. Ina Van Noppen, for her suggestions and time which she extended so unselfishly; and Dr. John Barden, whose patience and understanding of the problem contributed to the form and style of this thesis.

Finally, the writer extends that humble gratitude a son may have for his father to Mr. O. M. Carter, Sr., of Bagdad, Florida, without whose immeasurable assistance this thesis would not have been possible.

F. F. C.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. THE PROBLEM AND DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED . . . .	1
The Problem . . . . .	1
Statement of the problem . . . . .	1
Importance of the study . . . . .	2
Definitions of Terms Used . . . . .	2
Naval stores . . . . .	2
Sawmill . . . . .	2
Planer mill . . . . .	3
Bandsaw . . . . .	3
Southern yellow pine . . . . .	3
Standard deal . . . . .	3
St. Petersburg standard deal . . . . .	3
Rio deal . . . . .	4
Standard load . . . . .	4
Turpentine face . . . . .	4
Turpentine still . . . . .	4
Log run . . . . .	4
Dead head . . . . .	4
Mill pond . . . . .	5
Log boom . . . . .	5
Steam skidder . . . . .	5
Virgin timber . . . . .	5



## TABLE OF CONTENTS (continued)

CHAPTER	PAGE
Grant . . . . .	5
Arpen . . . . .	6
II. THE HISTORICAL SETTING . . . . .	7
III. THE GEOGRAPHY OF SANTA ROSA COUNTY . . . . .	16
Location and Climate . . . . .	16
Location . . . . .	16
Climate . . . . .	16
Geology and Soils . . . . .	19
Geology . . . . .	19
Soils . . . . .	20
Vegetation and Crops . . . . .	21
Vegetation . . . . .	21
Crops . . . . .	22
Population and Industrial Landuse . . . . .	22
Population . . . . .	22
Industrial landuse . . . . .	22
IV. EARLY LUMBERING IN THE COUNTY . . . . .	24
V. LUMBERING AND NAVAL STORES 1866-1902 . . . . .	31
VI. THE FINAL DESTRUCTION OF THE FORESTS . . . . .	38
VII. CONSERVATION AND REFORESTATION . . . . .	50
VIII. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS . . . . .	62
BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . .	69

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE	PAGE
1. General and Transportation Map of Santa Rosa County, Florida . . . . .	17
2. Bagdad Land and Lumber Company As Seen on the Last Day of Operations in 1939 . . . . .	49
3. View of the Mill Site of Bagdad Land and Lumber Company As It Appeared December 29, 1959 . . . . .	49
4. A Scene Illustrative of the Many Acres of Under- stocked Land in Santa Rosa County . . . . .	53
5. Contrast Between Land Which Has Been Burned Annually Since 1940 on the Left and Land Which Has Not Been Burned Since 1940 on the Right . . . . .	53
6. General Map of Santa Rosa County, Florida, Showing Areas of Concentration of Pine and Hardwood Trees . . . . .	59

## CHAPTER I

### THE PROBLEM AND DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED

The forests were for many years the sole economic effort of the inhabitants of Santa Rosa County, Florida. The destruction of the forests which accompanied this economic effort was carried on without regard to the future occupants of the land. The devastation was so great that many broad acres of tall yellow pine were reduced to open fields covered, if at all, with the blackened snags of burned out stumps. The lumbering industry, the turpentine and naval stores industries, as well as the individual farmer and stock raiser, all contributed to this destruction of the forests.

The long-leaf yellow pine is gone except in a few scattered stands. But the people of Santa Rosa County are beginning to realize the value of their pines, and reforestation of the depleted fields bodes well for the future economy of the county.

#### I. THE PROBLEM

Statement of the problem. It was the purpose of this study (1) to trace the history of forest exploitation in Santa Rosa County, Florida; (2) to determine the economic effects of this exploitation upon the population of



the county; (3) to discover the factors leading to the termination of this exploitation; and (4) to show to what extent reforestation has taken place.

Importance of the study. There has been a long-standing need for a study of this type to be incorporated into the history of the county. This area is rich in the history of the sawmill industry in Florida. The sawmill at Bagdad was one of the longest continuous lumbering operations in the South, having a record of some 110 years of operation.

Since much of the destruction of the forest has been through the ignorance of the population of Santa Rosa County, there is a definite need for education in conservation of forests and in the influence forestry has upon the economy of the area. If the public can be made aware of the value of their forests, both now and in the future, this writer's purpose will have been accomplished.

## II. DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED

Naval stores. Naval stores are those products of the forest which include turpentine, rosin, and pine tar.

Sawmill. A sawmill is an establishment, either portable or permanent, whose function is the sawing of logs into lumber.



Planer mill. An establishment, usually an integral part of a sawmill, which has the function of dressing rough lumber into standard sizes is termed a planer mill.

Bandsaw. A saw in the form of an endless steel belt running on pulleys, one of which is powered, is called a bandsaw. Either edge or both edges may have saw teeth. Thus a double-cut bandsaw, having saw teeth on both sides, may be used to cut slabs of lumber from a log traveling in either direction.

Southern yellow pine. The term "Southern yellow pine" is a collective term denoting four different species of pine: (1) long-leaf pine (*Pinus palustris*), (2) slash pine (*Pinus caribaea*), (3) loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), and (4) short-leaf pine (*Pinus echinata*).

Standard deal. In this study, the term "standard deal" is used to denote a pine board sawn to the specifications of three inches by nine inches by twelve feet long.

St. Petersburg standard deal. A pine board sawn to the specifications of one and one-half inches by eleven inches by twelve feet long is referred to as "St. Petersburg standard deal." Such boards were sold in lots of 1,980 superficial feet, superficial meaning, in this case, more or less.

Rio deal. Rio deal is a term used to refer to a standard deal which has to show solid heart on one face and at least two-thirds heart on the opposite face.

Standard load. Lumber, both sawn and hewn, is usually sold in sixty cubic foot lots known as a load.

Turpentine face. To collect the sap or resin from the tree, a section of the bark and wood is cut away with an axe, leaving a flat face cut in such a manner that the resin will flow into a cup attached to the tree below the face.

Turpentine still. A turpentine still is an establishment where gum or resin from pine trees is distilled into turpentine, leaving a residue called rosin.

Log run. Before modern means of transportation were developed, logs were often bound into rafts and floated downstream on a river to the sawmill. Where there was a seasonal laxity in the flow, a ditch was dug near the river, fed by water from a temporary dam across the river. The logs were floated down this ditch when the water behind the dam reached a sufficient height and was released into the ditch.

Dead head. A log which, because of its high specific gravity, sank while being floated to a mill was called a "dead head." These logs have a high resin content and have

survived to make usable lumber when raised from the water even after many years.

Mill pond. When logs were brought to a mill, they were generally dumped into a pond or river, thereby keeping the wood impervious to rot and insects.

Log boom. To keep logs enclosed within a certain area of a mill pond or to serve as a guide for floating logs downstream, a log boom was constructed by chaining logs together and thus providing a floating fence.

Steam skidder. After the logging railroads were built, a fast means of dragging the logs to the collection was sought. The answer was found in the steam skidder, a crane-like device with a powered drum for reeling in cable. The cable was hooked onto the log and dragged through the forest to the skidder, often a thousand feet or more. This method of collecting logs wrought great damage upon smaller trees.

Virgin timber. Timber standing in a forest which has never been touched by the hand of man is referred to as virgin timber.

Grant. In return for special services to the Crown or upon application for settlement, the Spanish Governor of



West Florida would grant land to an individual in the name of the King of Spain. These grants of land were usually made in return for certain concessions such as establishing thereon a cotton mill or a sawmill or in clearing the land for cultivation.

Arpen. An arpen was a measure of land in use in Spanish West Florida prior to 1821 which was equivalent to one and twenty-six hundredths acres. Most grants made in Spanish West Florida were for eight hundred arpens of land or about 1,008 acres of land.



## CHAPTER II

### THE HISTORICAL SETTING

When the Spaniard, Don Tristan de Luna y Arellano, sailed into the port of Ochuse in 1559 with explicit orders to establish colonies,<sup>1</sup> he found only a small tribe of Indians dwelling along the great network of bays and rivers. These Indians were a branch of the Choctaw Nation, one of the five large tribes of Indians that inhabited the South at this time. Though of insignificant numbers, these tide-water dwellers were to give their tribal name to the later city of Pensacola.<sup>2</sup> These Indians were related to the Chacatos who dwelt on the higher ground of the Blackwater and Yellow rivers. Don Damian de la Vega, Governor of West Florida in 1639, after concluding a peace treaty with the Chacatos, remarked, "It is an extraordinary thing, because the aforesaid Chacatos never had peace with anybody."<sup>3</sup>

All that is left of the aboriginal settlers of the country are their relics scattered in mounds on the shores

---

<sup>1</sup>Kathryn A. Hanna, Florida, Land of Change (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1948), pp. 21-23.

<sup>2</sup>Frederick W. Hodge, Handbook of American Indians (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1910), II, 227.

<sup>3</sup>J. Clarence Simpson, Florida Place Names of Indian Derivation (Tallahassee: Florida State Board of Conservation, 1956), p. 8.

of the larger bays and their names for the various rivers. They were a fish-and-oyster-eating people, and even today their villages may be traced from the numerous piles of oyster shells scattered along the beaches.

The names of the rivers and creeks were for the most part translated literally from the corresponding Indian word. Hence Okaloosa became Blackwater River,<sup>4</sup> Weeluste became Pond Creek,<sup>5</sup> and Weekasupka became Coldwater Creek.<sup>6</sup>

In 1561 the ill-fated colony of Tristan de Luna suffered a terrible hurricane which sank all but three of their ships and destroyed the settlement.<sup>7</sup> The colony was abandoned to be replaced in 1698 and by a more permanent settlement on the mainland in 1719.<sup>8</sup> In that year, however, Pensacola was destroyed by a French fleet and its survivors sent in chains to Havana. The settlement was once again rebuilt in 1723 by the Spaniards after the conclusion of the peace between the French and Spaniards. Because of its extreme exposure on the bay-side of Santa Rosa Island, it was again destroyed by a hurricane in 1754.<sup>9</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., p. 80.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., p. 127.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid., p. 125.

<sup>7</sup>Hanna, op. cit., p. 24.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid., p. 68.

<sup>9</sup>Rowland H. Rerick, Memoirs of Florida (Atlanta: The Southern Historical Association, 1902), pp. 73-74.



The colony was rebuilt once more on the mainland near the present location of the city, only to be conquered once again by a foreign foe in 1763.

What is now Santa Rosa County must have presented a formidable challenge to these early settlers. Thousands of acres of tall long-leaf pines, interspersed with great moss-covered live oaks, extended down to the sandy beaches of the coast. And in the swamps there were giant cypresses which had been growing for centuries.<sup>10</sup>

At the end of the French and Indian War, Florida was ceded to Great Britain. The British found Pensacola to be a collection of "forty huts, thatched with palmetto leaves, and barracks for a small garrison, the whole surrounded by a stockade of pine posts." The surrounding land was unimproved.<sup>11</sup> The Spanish settlers elected to remove from their former colony, and the British were left with a new country in which to display their colonizing ability.

Colonization was at first slow, but with the advent of the American Revolution, Loyalists from the rebelling Northern colonies flocked into Florida. Upward of seven thousand descended into Florida in the year 1778. Among

---

<sup>10</sup>Paul S. Martin, George I. Quimby, and Donald Collier, Indians Before Columbus (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1947), p. 390.

<sup>11</sup>Rerick, op. cit., p. 85.

these were William Panton and Thomas Forbes from Charleston, who established a trading post at Pensacola. An immense and far-reaching trade was built upon the former territory covered by traders from Charleston and Savannah. Shielded by the military power of the British and their Creek allies, other merchants were attracted to this rich field, and Pensacola became the trade capital of a prosperous province.<sup>12</sup>

In 1783, by the provisions of the Treaty of Paris, Florida once again became a Spanish colony. Most of the British settlers were required to leave West Florida, but Panton, Leslie and Company was allowed to stay because of its immense value to the colony.<sup>13</sup> After several years it was found that the colony was declining. By granting land freely for settlement, a large number of settlers, both Spanish and American, were invited into the Floridas, and the colony began to flourish once again.<sup>14</sup>

During this period a Spanish noble residing in Pensacola had taken a Negro slave as his mistress and she had borne him a son. The son, taking the name of his mother's master, was known as Joseph Kelker. As he grew up he began to resemble his father, causing this illustrious person

---

<sup>12</sup>Ibid., p. 94.

<sup>13</sup>Ibid., p. 102.

<sup>14</sup>Ibid., p. 101.



considerable embarrassment. The father obtained a grant of land for Kelker on the northeastern shores of Escambia Bay in present-day Santa Rosa County. The extensive bayou on the property became known as Mulatto Bayou, and the small town that grew up there around a sawmill and ferryboat terminus was known as Mulat.<sup>15</sup> This was one of the first settlements in what is now Santa Rosa County.

Andrew Jackson received Florida for the United States at ten o'clock in the morning of a bright sunny day, July 17, 1821, from Don Jose Callava, the Spanish Governor of West Florida at Pensacola. Jackson immediately created two counties: old West Florida, from the Perdido River to the Apalachicola River, became known as Escambia County; and old East Florida was called Saint Johns County. Having established the government in working form by October, 1821, Jackson left Florida and returned to Tennessee.<sup>16</sup>

By 1826 Pensacola had become a trading and shipping center for all of Northwest Florida and South Alabama. A stagecoach route was established from Andalusia, Alabama, to Pensacola. The stagecoach made the journey in two days, a distance of some sixty miles. Leaving Andalusia early on

---

<sup>15</sup>M. L. King, Santa Rosa County historian, in a conversation with the writer, December 20, 1959, Milton, Florida.

<sup>16</sup>Marquis James, The Life of Andrew Jackson: The Border Captain (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1937), I, 237.

the first day, the stage arrived at a little settlement at the mouth of Blackwater River on the evening of the second day. From there the passengers and mail were carried to Pensacola by boat.<sup>17</sup>

Almost completely surrounded by swamps, the little town at the mouth of the river must have had a hard time at the beginning. It was known at first as "Hard Scrabble" and later as "Scratch Ankle," no doubt because of the hordes of salt water mosquitoes rising from the swampy land.

After 1832 the town was known as Milton. The most logical reason for the name was the arrival just prior to this of a Doctor Milton Amos, the direct ancestor of the Amos family residing in Santa Rosa County today.<sup>18</sup>

On February 12, 1842, three years before Florida became a state, the Pensacola Gazette carried the following news:

A petition, numerously signed by the inhabitants of the eastern part of this County, is now before the Legislative Council, praying a division of the county, making the Escambia River and Bay the dividing line.<sup>19</sup>

The Territorial Governor signed the bill into law on February 18, 1842, and Santa Rosa County became Florida's

---

<sup>17</sup>M. L. King in a conversation with the writer, June 12, 1959, Bagdad, Florida.

<sup>18</sup>Richard M. Amos in a conversation with the writer, October 8, 1958, Milton, Florida.

<sup>19</sup>News item in the Pensacola Gazette, February 12, 1842.



twenty-first county.<sup>20</sup> Santa Rosa de Viterbo was a saint of the Roman Catholic Church held in high regard by the original Spanish settlers. Milton was chosen as the county seat.<sup>21</sup>

In 1860 Santa Rosa County sent her delegate to the State Convention in Tallahassee to vote for secession from the United States. On January 10, 1861, Florida became the third state to secede from the Union, following the leadership of South Carolina and Mississippi.<sup>22</sup> During the week of March 11-16, 1862, all of the lumber mills in Santa Rosa County, together with a shipbuilding firm, were destroyed to keep them from being seized by the Federal forces operating out of Pensacola. Most of the people were evacuated to South Alabama for the remainder of the war.<sup>23</sup>

After the war those who had quit the county as a result of the Federal occupation returned and began to rebuild. Santa Rosa County had its share of carpetbagger and Ku Klux Klan rule. By 1900 the county boasted a population of 10,293.

---

<sup>20</sup>Acts of the Territorial Legislature, Pensacola Gazette, March 12, 1842.

<sup>21</sup>Allen Morris, The Florida Handbook (Tallahassee: Peninsula Printing Company, 1949), p. 176.

<sup>22</sup>Ibid., p. 46.

<sup>23</sup>William W. Davis, The Civil War and Reconstruction in Florida (New York: Columbia University Press, 1913), pp. 165-169.



Lumbering, shipbuilding, and sheep-herding were the principal industries.<sup>24</sup>

During World War I, a number of wooden minesweepers were built in Bagdad, south of Milton on Blackwater Bay. The shipbuilding industry continued there until 1921, building small coastal trading ships and at least one giant four-masted schooner, which was lost in a storm near Newfoundland in 1958.<sup>25</sup>

By 1939, Santa Rosa County was suffering economically not only from the depression but also from the closing of several large lumbering industries, which had exploited most of the major tracts of timber. Many people began to commute to Pensacola to work at the Pensacola Naval Air Station.

The county was given a boost in 1943 when the Navy established Whiting Field Naval Auxiliary Air Base eight miles north of Milton. In the same year a paper mill was built in Cantonment across the line in Escambia County. Many people from Santa Rosa County found work there as well as in the extensive holdings which this company, the St. Regis Paper Company, owned in the county.

In recent years the county has become the center of large chemical industries. The Escambia Chemical Company

---

<sup>24</sup>Rerick, op. cit., II, 360.

<sup>25</sup>News item in the Santa Rosa Press-Gazette [Milton, Florida], June 11, 1959.

was established near Pace in 1955, followed by the Columbia National Refining Company, smelters of the rare earth metals, Zirconium and Hafnium, in 1956. By the summer of 1959 the American Cyanamid Company was in full production of synthetic fiber in their Acralon Fiber Plant near Mulat.

## CHAPTER III

### THE GEOGRAPHY OF SANTA ROSA COUNTY

To understand better the forests of Santa Rosa County and their relation to the soils and climate, a short geography of the county is essential.

#### I. LOCATION AND CLIMATE

Location. Next to the last county in the western panhandle of Florida, Santa Rosa County is bounded by Escambia County on the west, Okaloosa County on the east, and the Alabama-Florida line on the north. The center line of Santa Rosa Sound completes the boundary on the south.

The county lies between  $86^{\circ} 48'$  and  $87^{\circ} 18'$  West Longitude and  $30^{\circ} 20'$  and  $31^{\circ} 00'$  North Latitude. From east to west, the county is approximately thirty-one miles wide and from north to south, forty-four miles long.<sup>1</sup> There are approximately twelve hundred square miles within the county, of which 1,022 square miles are land.<sup>2</sup>

Climate. The county lies but  $6^{\circ} 50'$  north of the Tropic of Cancer, thus having a semi-tropical climate. Yet

---

<sup>1</sup> General Highway and Transportation Map of Santa Rosa County, Florida (Tallahassee: Florida State Road Department, 1955). Revised.

<sup>2</sup> United States Census of Agriculture (Washington: Department of Commerce, 1954), Part 18, I, 64.



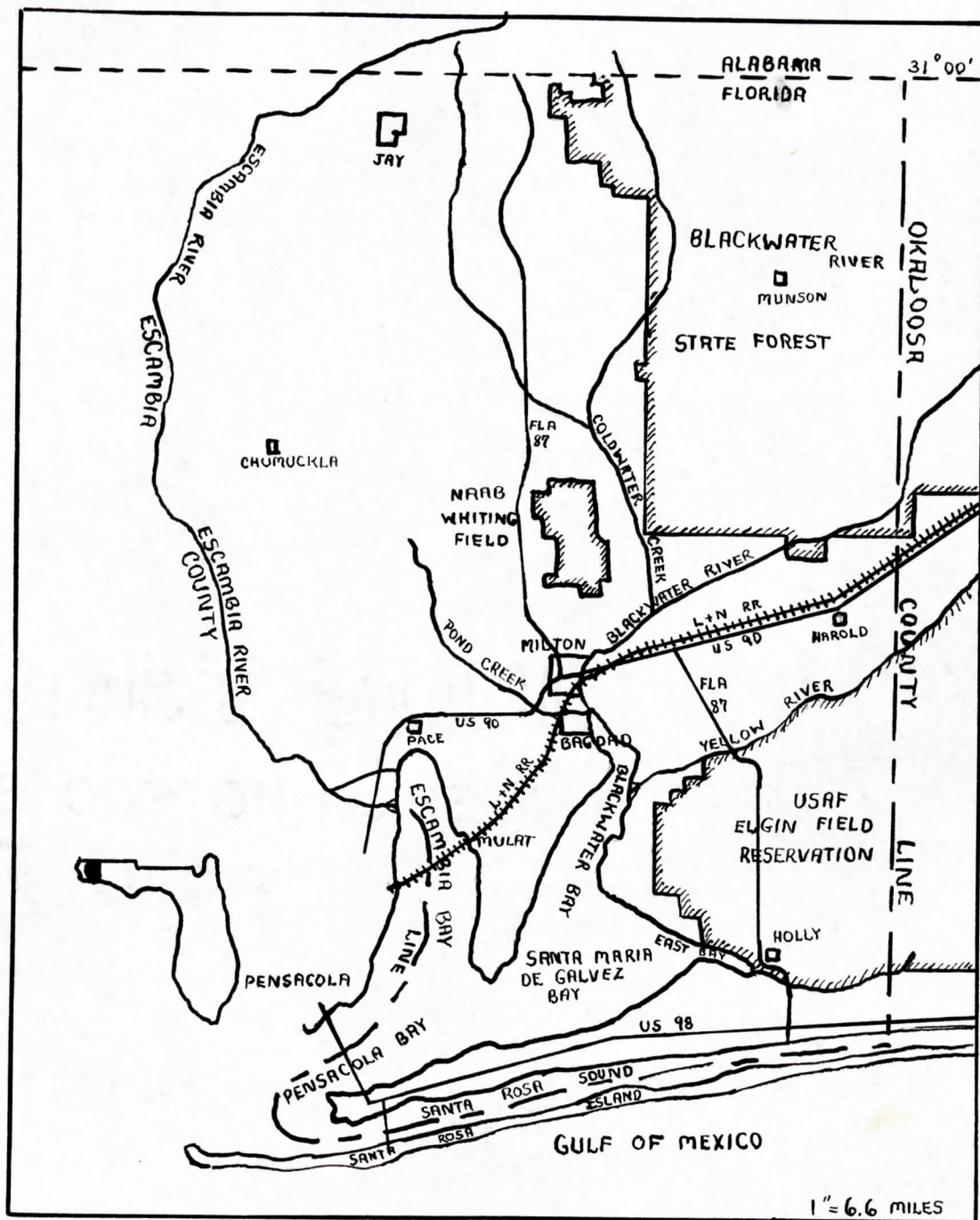


FIGURE 1

GENERAL AND TRANSPORTATION MAP OF SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

it lies almost at the southeastern extremity of a large continental mass in the Northern Hemisphere without natural barriers to stop the flow of cold air from the Arctic.

Nevertheless, the wide bays and rivers and the proximity to the Gulf of Mexico create a warming effect during the colder months. While extremes of cold as low as  $14^{\circ}$  F. have been encountered in the county, the average for the colder months is well above freezing.<sup>3</sup>

Again, the moderating effect of large areas of water comes into play in the hotter months of summer. While extremes of  $101^{\circ}$  F. have been recorded, the average for the month of August is only  $82.5^{\circ}$  F. The annual average as recorded at the Pensacola Weather Bureau is  $68.8^{\circ}$  F.<sup>4</sup>

Lying on the southern coast of a large continental area, the county is susceptible to some light monsoonal activity from the Gulf of Mexico during the summer months. This gives rise to a belt of thunderstorms and showers in the area. The meeting of cold and warm front activity in the winter months also gives rise to large quantities of rainfall. The average annual rainfall recorded at Pensacola Weather Bureau is 61.77 inches. The total average

---

<sup>3</sup>Weather Bulletin (Washington: Department of Agriculture, 1959).

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

rainfall for July, August, and September is twenty-one inches.<sup>5</sup>

## II. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Geology. An outcropping of the continental shelf of North America forms the Florida Plateau, which in this area lies at a depth in excess of four thousand feet. Above this base of granite lies a thick layer of limestone known as Ocala Limestone. Overlying the limestone, which forms the parent material of the soils in the county, is a layer of reddish sandy clays known as the Citronelle Formation.<sup>6</sup>

The formation of the topography of the county began with the rise and fall of the seas during the Great Ice Ages. The action of waves near the shoreline of a relatively shallow sea results in a gradual build up of land.<sup>7</sup> As the great glaciers took up the water, the sea receded and formed the four sloping plateaus which characterize the county.

The elevations of the land range from an average of 270 feet in the north along the Alabama line down to sea level along the coast.<sup>8</sup>

---

<sup>5</sup>Ibid.

<sup>6</sup>C. Wyeth Cooke, Geology of Florida (Tallahassee: Florida Geological Survey, 1945), Bulletin No. 29, p. 29.

<sup>7</sup>Henry M. Kendall, Robert M. Glendinning, and Clifford H. Macfadden, Introduction to Geography (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1958), p. 208.

<sup>8</sup>Cooke, op. cit., p. 30.



The source of ground water in Santa Rosa County is sand and gravel formations in which the water occurs under artesian conditions. The water found in the county is lower in mineralization than in any other part of the state.<sup>9</sup>

Soils. The soils of Santa Rosa County reflect the climate and geology of the section. They range in type from the sandy loams of Southern Alabama to the fine crystalline sands of the Gulf shores, and in color from dazzling white to the deepest of reds.

The five major types of soils include loamy fine sand, pebbly fine sand, clay loam, sandy loam, and deep sands. The better soils range in depth from eight to eighteen inches, with a subsoil of sandy clay loam extending down to sixty inches. All of these soils are strongly acid throughout.

Along the coast, south of East Bay, are found deep, very permeable sands, usually more than thirty inches in thickness. The looseness of this sand yields to a rapid leeching of the soil and a resulting loss of organic materials.

Near the shoreline of the bays, and especially on the peninsula between Escambia and East Bays, are found "flatlands." These soils are all very wet, black, acid, deep

---

<sup>9</sup>Florida's Water Resources (Gainesville: Florida Water Resources Study Commission, 1956), p. 38.

sandy lands.<sup>10</sup>

### III. VEGETATION AND CROPS

Vegetation. The original vegetation of Santa Rosa County includes several types of pines and oaks to which the climate and soils are naturally suited.<sup>11</sup> The heavier soils of the northern section of the county support large stands of long-leaf pine, while the wetter, more heavily leached soils support scattered stands of slash pine. Near the coast are found small, short-needed shore pines.

The oaks include the wide-spreading live oak, usually festooned with Spanish moss, water oak, blackjack oak, post oak, and turkey oak. After the natural pine growth was cut from the sandy ridges, large stands of the fast-growing blackjack oak took its place. In the low-lying swampy areas, bay, magnolia, sweetgum, blackgum, and sycamore stand side by side with the bald cypress.

On the deep sands near the coast are found extensive areas of land covered by deep-rooted and snake-infested palmettos.

---

<sup>10</sup> Soils Memorandum FL-8, Land Capability Classification (Washington: Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service). Mimeographed.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.



Crops. Of the 655,000 acres of land in the county, 58,699 acres are in cultivation of some sort.<sup>12</sup> The main crops are cotton, corn, soybeans, peanuts, small grains, and watermelons. Large pecan orchards are found throughout the county. Some citrus groves are also found in the county, consisting mainly of the small, thick-rinded Satsuma orange.<sup>13</sup>

#### IV. POPULATION AND INDUSTRIAL LANDUSE

Population. The population of the county was estimated at the end of 1959 to be twenty-six thousand people, thus having an average density of approximately twenty-seven persons per square mile of land.<sup>14</sup> The population is grouped mainly around four small urban areas: Milton-Bagdad, Pace, Gulf Breeze, and Jay. In addition there are several small farming communities scattered throughout the county, the larger of which are Chumuckla, Munson, Allentown, and Holly.

Industrial landuse. Three-fourths of the land of Santa Rosa County is owned by large companies, the state, or

---

<sup>12</sup>United States Census of Agriculture, op. cit., p. 64.

<sup>13</sup>J. C. Mahoney, Santa Rosa County Farm Agent, in a conversation with the writer, December 28, 1959, Milton, Florida.

<sup>14</sup>Glenn Gibson, Santa Rosa County Tax Assessor, in a conversation with the writer, December 28, 1959, Milton, Florida.



the Federal Government. The largest landowner is the St. Regis Paper Company of Cantonment in neighboring Escambia County, Florida. In scattered tracts in the county, they own approximately 160,000 acres. The State of Florida has another tract of 122,000 acres of land in its Blackwater State Forest. The Federal Government, with its defense branches of the Air Force and Navy, uses another 73,000 acres. Various sawmill and paper interests have some 52,000 acres of land.<sup>15</sup>

---

<sup>15</sup> W. G. Beatty, Work Unit Conservationist, United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, in a conversation with the writer, December 31, 1959, Milton, Florida.

## CHAPTER IV

### EARLY LUMBERING IN THE COUNTY

There is no record as to when the first sawmill was established in Santa Rosa County. However, it can be inferred from the status of grants issued by the Spanish Crown that such mills were in operation in the county prior to 1818.

One of the key grants of the period was that of Juan de la Rua. Upon application to Governor Masot, he received eight hundred arpens of land between Black Creek<sup>1</sup> and Clear Water Creek in September of 1817.<sup>2</sup> These grants were issued with the provision that part of the land be cleared and put into cultivation within a year. It is entirely possible, but hardly likely, that de la Rua cleared the land and burned the timber. It seems more reasonable that he built a sawmill and sawed the timber into lumber, for there was a small dam and mill located on the property when it was sold in 1828.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>This creek, known variously in early records as Black Creek and Blackwater Creek, is now called Pond Creek.

<sup>2</sup>Documents, Legislative and Executive, of the Congress of the United States, in relation to the Public Lands. Edited by Walter Lowrie, Secretary of the Senate. (Washington: Deff Green, 1834), IV, 84.

<sup>3</sup>Deed from John de la Rua to Joseph Forsyth (Milton: Santa Rosa County Clerk's Office, 1828), Deed Book A-1, p. 13.

According to a will made by John Simpson, who died in 1830, a small sawmill was located near the present site of Floridatown which operated from 1826 to 1830, netting over that period about fifteen thousand dollars from the sale of lumber.<sup>4</sup> This mill may have been the first commercial endeavor in the county.

Another early deed made in 1828 lists "a steam sawmill with two saws" on certain property in the Village of Bagdad.<sup>5</sup> It seems likely that such a mill probably was a commercial endeavor, considering the size of the mill and the capital invested in steam machinery.

Early commercial lumbering in Santa Rosa County is inseparably connected with the names of Forsyth and Simpson, owners of the mill at Bagdad after 1841.

Joseph Forsyth, according to local legend, immigrated from New Orleans to Pensacola after having killed a man in an altercation.<sup>6</sup> He worked at various mills around Pensacola until, having gained the necessary capital, he bought, in 1828, the eight hundred arpens of land belonging to John de la Rua

---

<sup>4</sup>Account of the Estate of John Simpson (Pensacola: Escambia County Judge's Office, 1830), File No. 0-1074.

<sup>5</sup>Charles H. Overman (ed.), Abstract of Title to Simpson and Company (Pensacola: West Florida Abstract and Title Company, n.d.), p. 2.

<sup>6</sup>M. L. King, Santa Rosa County Historian, in a conversation with the writer, December 19, 1959, Milton, Florida.



on Blackwater Creek.<sup>7</sup> He operated this mill for a few years, probably expanding to include the manufacture of shingles, since a shingle mill was included in the property when it was advertised for sale in 1841.<sup>8</sup> During this time a horse-drawn railroad was built from the mill site at Arcadia to Bagdad, the third such railroad in Florida.<sup>9</sup>

John Simpson had immigrated from the Pendleton District of South Carolina to this area sometime about 1826. From 1826 until his death in 1830 he operated a sawmill near Floridatown. E. E. Simpson, his son, inherited a share of the estate worth \$2,955. He sought to invest his inheritance in a local enterprise.<sup>10</sup> He was taken into a partnership by Joseph Forsyth after 1830, and the enterprise became known as Forsyth and Simpson.

The mill at Arcadia soon became unprofitable because of the distance from sources of timber and from transportation for the lumber. In 1841 the mill was sold,<sup>11</sup> and Forsyth and Simpson entered into a mortgage with Caleb Bowen for the mill at Bagdad in January of 1842.<sup>12</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup>Deed from John de la Rúa to Joseph Forsyth, loc. cit.

<sup>8</sup>Advertisement, Pensacola Gazette, September 18, 1841.

<sup>9</sup>King, loc. cit.

<sup>10</sup>Estate of John Simpson, loc. cit.

<sup>11</sup>Advertisement, Pensacola Gazette, loc. cit.

<sup>12</sup>Legal Section, Pensacola Gazette, January 8, 1842.

This enterprise grew in size as well as in production. By the time of Forsyth's death in March, 1855, the mill consisted of "a steam saw mill and a planer mill."<sup>13</sup> Forsyth had profited enough from his venture to leave, among other bequests, \$25,000 to each of his two daughters, a rather considerable sum for that period.<sup>14</sup>

A one-eighth share in the venture was sold in 1851 to Benjamin W. Thompson for \$6,250, showing by this reckoning a total value of the mill and lands as \$50,000.<sup>15</sup>

After Joseph Forsyth's death in 1855 the mill and lands were known as E. E. Simpson and Company until after the Civil War.<sup>16</sup>

An interesting sidelight on the price of lumber may be found in the records of the Masonic Lodge in Milton. The lodge building was begun in 1854 and finished in 1856, with lumber supplied by E. E. Simpson and Company. The entire cost of lumber for this two-story building approximately

---

<sup>13</sup>Deed from Estate of Joseph Forsyth to Richard M. Bushnell (Milton: Santa Rosa County Clerk's Office, 1855), Deed Book A, p. 297.

<sup>14</sup>Last Will and Testament of Joseph Forsyth (Milton: Santa Rosa County Clerk's Office, 1855), Final Decree Minute Book B, p. 144.

<sup>15</sup>Deed from Joseph Forsyth to Benjamin W. Thompson (Milton: Santa Rosa County Clerk's Office, December 31, 1851), Deed Book A, p. 79.

<sup>16</sup>Simpson and Company, loc. cit.



one hundred and fifty feet long by fifty feet wide was \$646.<sup>17</sup> The building is still standing today, having been constructed of "heart" pine. The side boards on the corners are twenty-two inches wide by one inch thick by thirty feet long and are without "sap" lumber in any part.

A petition to the Territorial Legislature in 1841 throws some light on the existence of another early mill. In that year the McDavid brothers sought to have Juniper Creek, a tributary of Blackwater River, declared a navigable stream for the purpose of shipping lumber from their mills on this creek.<sup>18</sup>

The lumber from these mills found a common shipping point in Pensacola. Large numbers of ships ranging from coastwise schooners to full-rigged ships paid a visit to Pensacola for the purpose of loading lumber. Many sources of this period list Pensacola as the foremost port on the Gulf Coast dealing in lumber and naval stores.<sup>19</sup> An average amount shipped from the port of Pensacola during this period was over 100,000 board feet of lumber a week. During the week of May 15, 1841, five ships left the port with a total

---

<sup>17</sup>Minutes (Milton: Santa Rosa Lodge No. 16 F & AM, 1856). Permission to quote secured.

<sup>18</sup>Pensacola Gazette, May 29, 1841.

<sup>19</sup>Pensacola Gazette, May 15, 1841.



of 108,000 board feet of lumber.<sup>20</sup>

A shipbuilding firm which used native lumber and materials was established in Bagdad prior to the Civil War.<sup>21</sup> Another firm using lumber from the mill in Bagdad was a sash and door factory established by Benjamin W. Thompson. This company shipped fine doors and cabinets all over the world.<sup>22</sup>

Thus, prior to the Civil War a small lumbering industry had been established in the county. The vast forest wealth of the county had not been substantially tapped. These early sawmills, lacking transportation facilities for their logging operations, depended upon the streams to bring their logs to the mills.

It is to be presumed then that a selective cutting of the forest took place. Only those logs which would produce the most lumber were cut. And only the logs which were floatable could be taken to the mills.

In 1862, when it was known that Fort Barrancas and Pensacola could not hold out before the Federal forces, the mill owners voluntarily fired and destroyed their mills to keep this valuable property from falling into Federal hands.

---

<sup>20</sup>Pensacola Gazette, May 15, 1841.

<sup>21</sup>King, loc. cit.

<sup>22</sup>Miss Ella Creary Thompson, granddaughter of B. W. Thompson, in a conversation with the writer, December 28, 1959.

Two Confederate ironclads built in the shipyard at Bagdad were destroyed.<sup>23</sup> At this time many people of Bagdad and Milton became refugees in Southern Alabama for the remainder of the war.<sup>24</sup>

Before the war, James Creary, one of the partners of E. E. Simpson and Company, took the capital funds of the company by ship to New York. He invested part of the funds in New York City banks and took the remaining monies to Cuba until after the war.<sup>25</sup> Thus the infant industry had capital to rise phoenix-like from the ashes of the war and begin again.

---

<sup>23</sup>William W. Davis, The Civil War and Reconstruction in Florida (New York: Columbia University Press, 1913), p. 166.

<sup>24</sup>Minutes, loc. cit.

<sup>25</sup>Thompson, loc. cit.

## CHAPTER V

### LUMBERING AND NAVAL STORES 1866-1902

After the Civil War the people who had quit the county during the Federal occupation returned and once again began to tap the virgin timber of the county. This was a time of great growth in the lumbering industry, particularly in export lumber. European countries, as a result of the spread of the Industrial Revolution, were looking abroad for quality lumber. The tall virgin pines of the Gulf Coast region offered a strong, longlasting lumber to these European markets. As a result, the lumber from this area sold for top market prices in those markets.<sup>1</sup>

Many people came to Northwest Florida during this period seeking their fortune and expecting wealth overnight. Only those who could operate on an extended scale survived the competition.<sup>2</sup>

Yellow pine by its nature requires several weeks of air drying to make it suitable for transport. An excessively wet period of drying will prolong the necessary time almost indefinitely. If the lumber is not allowed to dry, it will

---

<sup>1</sup> Emory Fiske Skinner, Reminiscences (Chicago: Vestal Printing Company, 1908), p. 138.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p. 130.



warp and turn green as rot sets in, lowering its market value considerably.<sup>3</sup> Without the capital to maintain operations over a considerable period of drying, many newcomers to the lumbering industry went bankrupt. Emory Fiske Skinner, one of the successful entrepreneurs of the time, stated: "The loss of a dollar on a stick of timber amounts to a large sum of money in the purchase of two or three hundred thousand."<sup>4</sup>

Despite the capital which had been invested in the North and in Cuba prior to the Civil War, E. E. Simpson and Company of Bagdad in rebuilding found it impossible to continue operations without taking in other partners. In January of 1866 articles of co-partnership were signed by seven partners, and the business became known as Simpson and Company. Before reorganization of the company in 1890, no less than nineteen different partners were to sign their names to the articles of co-partnership, which were signed approximately every five years.<sup>5</sup>

Increasing costs of production and the lack of modern means of transporting logs eventually caused the company to

---

<sup>3</sup>Stanley F. Horn, The Southern Pine Story (New Orleans: Southern Pine Association, 1960), p. 29.

<sup>4</sup>Skinner, op. cit., p. 139.

<sup>5</sup>Charles H. Overman (ed.), Abstract of Title to Simpson and Company (Pensacola: West Florida Abstract and Title Company, n.d.), p. 3.

sell in 1902 to Sterns and Culver, a large corporation in Illinois.<sup>6</sup>

Before 1900 only the timber which grew close to streams could be cut, since streams were the principal means of transportation to the mill. Logging proceeded up a stream until it became too shallow to float logs. Thereafter a ditch called a "log run" was dug alongside the stream and flooded by a pond formed by a dam farther upstream. Logs were brought to the log run by ox-cart and piled into the dry ditch. The sluice gates were then opened and the logs floated down to a deeper part of the stream. Where the mouth of the stream opened into a bay some distance from the mill, the logs were bound into rafts and towed to the mill by tugboat.<sup>7</sup>

Dr. Charles Mohr reported in the Census of 1880 that Milligan, Chaffin and Company [sic] located twenty miles above Milton on the Blackwater River had dug a canal twenty miles long to reach its source of timber. He also stated:

The large manufacturers of Bagdad have adopted a similar system, and by these means, and by the construction of tramways tapping [sic] the more remote and isolated regions tributary to the waters of the Black and Yellow Rivers toward the northern part of the State.<sup>8</sup>

---

<sup>6</sup>Ibid., p. 74.

<sup>7</sup>Skinner, op. cit., p. 134.

<sup>8</sup>James Boyd, "Fifty Years in the Southern Pine Industry," The Southern Lumberman, December 15, 1931.



The forested areas not adjacent to streams were left virtually untouched while the industry remained in this stage. Lumbermen soon realized the necessity of building railroads to reach the more remote stands of timber. To build railroads, however, required more capital than many of the smaller enterprises could afford, and after cutting out the timber along the streams these companies eventually disbanded.<sup>9</sup>

When Emory Fiske Skinner came to the area in 1874, thousands of acres of virgin pine timber remained untouched. Mr. Skinner had been a partner in a large lumbering industry in Wisconsin and knew the business well. He invested heavily in forest lands in Escambia County and later in Santa Rosa County also. His mill was located across Escambia Bay from Santa Rosa County, but much of his later logging operations were in Santa Rosa County.

At the beginning of his operations he bought all the logging camps along the Escambia River in Florida in order to have places to roll his logs into the river. He soon realized the necessity for a logging railroad and began building one in 1884, the first logging railroad with steel rails in Florida.<sup>10</sup>

---

<sup>9</sup>William S. Rosasco, Jr., Santa Rosa County lumberman, in a conversation with the writer, December 23, 1959, Pensacola, Florida.

<sup>10</sup>Rowland H. Rerick, Memoirs of Florida (Atlanta: The Southern Historical Association, 1902), I, 680.



Skinner's logging operations were considerably enhanced by the purchase of the McDavid brothers' tract of timber in 1883, adding approximately twenty thousand acres to his holdings in Santa Rosa County. With the addition of this large tract of timber, the length of his railroad was increased to thirty miles, extending from Molino on the Escambia River to Chumuckla.<sup>11</sup>

The logging technique employed by Skinner combined the use of railroad and water transportation. The railroad, which had movable track, could pick up logs anywhere in his timber holdings and transport them to the river. From the dumping point of the river they were floated downstream to his mill at Escambia on Escambia Bay.<sup>12</sup>

After sawing the timber into standard deals and drying the lumber, it was usually taken to Pensacola for export overseas.<sup>13</sup> Lumber shipped abroad had to meet certain specifications. One standard was the "Rio deal," in which one face had to be solid heart and the opposite face at least two-thirds heart.<sup>14</sup> The lumber was usually sold in standard

---

<sup>11</sup>Skinner, op. cit., p. 142.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid.

<sup>13</sup>Ibid.

<sup>14</sup>Obie Willis, Santa Rosa County lumberman, in a conversation with the writer, December 26, 1959, Milton, Florida.

lots also. One such standard was the "St. Petersburg standard" consisting of 1,980 superficial feet. The price was usually specified in English sterling--pounds, shillings, and pence. Lumber, both sawn and hewn, was sold in standard loads, each load consisting of sixty cubic feet.<sup>15</sup>

Pensacola Harbor was described at this time as being so full of ships waiting to be loaded with lumber and naval stores that a person might walk from deck to deck across the bay, a distance of about four miles.<sup>16</sup>

All of these ships wanted lumber, and this lumber in turn required millions of trees. Skinner described the Southern forest belt in this manner in 1907:

The pine belt that at one time existed on the Gulf Coast and lower Atlantic, at the close of the Civil War, was a forest of great extent. Its area was practically level and streams were found in almost all its parts. Where the timber was not in easy haul of the streams, it was an inexpensive thing to build railroads to the timber. The pine at this writing, in comparison with 1865, is practically exhausted. Of course there is a great deal of it still left, enough to give employment to lumber men for several decades, but the end is in sight.<sup>17</sup>

Timberlands were incredibly inexpensive, being valued in Florida at only fifty cents per acre for second-growth

---

<sup>15</sup>Skinner, op. cit., p. 139.

<sup>16</sup>T. J. Bowers, Santa Rosa County woodsman, in a conversation with the writer, December 22, 1959, Pea Ridge, Florida.

<sup>17</sup>Skinner, loc. cit.



pine land.<sup>18</sup> In 1889 James D. Lacey, testifying before the Ways and Means Committee of the United States Congress, said:

In 1880, when I first went South, we estimated what the value of government land was. It was nearly all vacant then and it was timber land. In 1889 it was offered at \$1.25 an acre. We estimated these lands would cut about 6,000 feet per acre, as they were then cutting timber. They were not going above the first limbs; the balance was left in the woods or burned.<sup>19</sup>

Simpson and Company of Bagdad was able to extend its holdings over considerable portions of several counties in Northwest Florida, owning in all about two hundred thousand acres. Likewise, at the height of his business Mr. Skinner controlled over one hundred thousand acres of timberland.<sup>20</sup>

Timber cutting was very wasteful during this period. A large yield of timber was two thousand board feet of lumber to the acre, while the same land under modern methods of cutting would yield up to ten thousand feet to the acre.<sup>21</sup>

Before the turn of the century the outlook was one of unlimited forests. If one tract of timber was cut, there was always more on the next hill. But, sooner than anyone expected, there was to come a time when the next hill would also be bare of timber.

---

<sup>18</sup>Ibid.

<sup>19</sup>Bureau of Corporations, The Lumber Industry (Washington: The Government Printing Office, 1908), I, 185.

<sup>20</sup>Rerick, op. cit., pp. 678-680.

<sup>21</sup>Bureau of Corporations, op. cit., p. 189.



## CHAPTER VI

### THE FINAL DESTRUCTION OF THE FORESTS

In 1903 after thirty-seven years of continuous operations, Simpson and Company of Bagdad sold its mills and forest lands to Sterns and Culver, a corporation of Chicago, Illinois.<sup>1</sup> For a few years Sterns and Culver continued operating on lines similar to those used by Simpson and Company. The company shipped its lumber via the railroad which Simpson and Company had built from Bagdad to the Louisville and Nashville Railroad two miles west of the mills. From Pensacola the lumber was shipped all over the world as well as within the United States.

In 1911 Sterns and Culver changed its name to Bagdad Land and Lumber Company, an Illinois Corporation.<sup>2</sup> The company immediately began building a railroad to its timber holdings in the northeastern section of the county.

Mayo, Chaffin and Company, located about twenty miles north of Milton, had built a railroad from its mills to Milton for transporting lumber to points of shipment.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>Charles H. Overman (ed.), Abstract of Title to Simpson and Company (Pensacola: West Florida Abstract and Title Company, n.d.), item number 83.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., item number 85.

<sup>3</sup>A. J. Spencer, Santa Rosa County lumberman, in a conversation with the writer, December 28, 1959, Milton, Florida.

Bagdad Land and Lumber Company bought this railroad and extended it to the northeastern part of the county and eventually to Alaflora, a small logging camp in Southern Alabama.

Munson was established as a base for logging operations. Named for the general superintendent of the mill at Bagdad, Munson became a center for the turpentine operations of the company as well.<sup>4</sup>

With the building of the railroad, logging operations changed considerably for the Bagdad company. From this time until the company closed in 1939, the destruction of the forests continued at a rapidly increasing rate.

The coming of World War I and the increased need for lumber products created a labor problem for the company. In 1917 convict labor was used by the mill, continuing to be used until about 1925.<sup>5</sup> Their barracks and cookhouses were located on the mill site. The convicts were treated well, receiving their rations from the company and working during the war on three eight-hour shifts a day.<sup>6</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup>Obie Willis, Santa Rosa County lumberman, in a conversation with the writer, December 29, 1959, Bagdad, Florida.

<sup>5</sup>C. H. Overman, former civil engineer for Bagdad Land and Lumber Company, in a conversation with the writer, December 29, 1959, Milton, Florida.

<sup>6</sup>W. C. Shepard, saw filer for Bagdad Land and Lumber Company (1918-1939), in a conversation with the writer, December 30, 1959, Bagdad, Florida.



The mill at Bagdad at this time consisted of the sawmill, a lath mill, a planer mill, a generating plant for supplying the mill and town with electricity, and an engine house for train and locomotive repairs. The sawmill had a double-cut bandsaw capable of cutting both ways. With this addition the sawmill could saw from 100,000 to 125,000 board feet of lumber a day.<sup>7</sup>

Mr. James Pace had bought all of the timberlands in western Santa Rosa County which had formerly been owned by Skinner and Company. He began sawmill operations near Pace in 1910. The railroad which Skinner had built from the Escambia River to Chumuckla was extended to the mill located approximately eight miles west of Milton.<sup>8</sup>

Chumuckla Springs, twenty-one miles northwest of Milton near the Escambia River, had been settled by a community of Scots in the early part of the nineteenth century. The springs became famous locally in the latter part of that century as a health spa. The waters of the spring, rich in iron and sulphur, were bottled and shipped to Northern cities.<sup>9</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup>Ibid.

<sup>8</sup>Burgess Pace, owner and operator of Pace Farms, in a conversation with the writer's father, March 28, 1960, Bagdad, Florida.

<sup>9</sup>O. M. Carter, Santa Rosa County civil engineer and surveyor, in conversations with the writer, December 16-31, 1959, Bagdad, Florida.



With the building of Mr. Skinner's railroad and the continued use of the railroad by Pace Mills, a community about five miles southeast of the springs grew up around the logging camp; it was called Chumuckla.

As the timber was cut, the land was cleared and put under cultivation. After 1925 Mr. Pace discontinued sawmill operations and expanded his farming operations. A cotton gin, which has continued ginning operations to the present time, was built at Chumuckla. This is an example of far-sighted planning on the part of an astute businessman such as Mr. Pace was known to be.<sup>10</sup>

World War I increased the country's need for naval stores and resulted in a combination of sawmill and naval stores operations by many of the timber industries in the area. Both Pace Mills and Bagdad Land and Lumber Company had turpentine stills, the former at Pace and the latter at Munson. Mr. James Estes also had a turpentine still near Harold.<sup>11</sup>

Turpentine operations began in the forest, where the tree was cut on one or both sides to allow the sap to flow into a cup. This resulted in a shallow face on the tree. Successive cuts deepened the face and extended its length

---

<sup>10</sup>Pace, loc. cit.

<sup>11</sup>Carter, loc. cit.

from three to five feet. The sap or resin was collected and taken to a still where the turpentine was distilled. The still, then, shipped two products: turpentine and rosin.<sup>12</sup>

Unless the tree was felled within a year after the first turpentine cut, the extent of the face was no longer available as lumber. In the extended operations of the various stills, many trees which could not be used for saw timber within the time limit were tapped, resulting in a loss of much valuable lumber. As the face was cut deeper, usually on both sides of the tree, the ability of the tree to withstand fire and wind was weakened. As a result, many trees fell to these catastrophes of nature.<sup>13</sup>

Across Pond Creek from Bagdad a pine tar plant was established in 1915. Using the stumps of pine trees and rosin from the turpentine stills, this small plant produced pine tar, pine oil, and charcoal. With the decline of prices and the competition of larger industries such as Newport Industries of Pensacola, the plant ceased operations in 1941.<sup>14</sup>

Smaller mills in the county during the period included the Bay Point Mill Company, the Robinson Point Mill Company,

---

<sup>12</sup>Ibid.

<sup>13</sup>Spencer, loc. cit.

<sup>14</sup>Carter, loc. cit.

and the Odis Lumber Company.

Several Italians of Genoa, Italy, became interested in the fine quality of the timber from the Santa Rosa County area and in 1897 bought several thousand acres of timberlands in the county. The Rosascos, of Anglo-Italian descent, had been a shipping family in the area since before the Civil War. They purchased these timberlands in 1903 and began lumbering operations at Bay Point four miles south of Bagdad on Blackwater Bay. The decline in lumber prices during the depression of 1921 and the lack of modern transportation facilities for logging operations forced the sawmill to close.<sup>15</sup>

The Robinson Point Mill Company, operated by the Tomisella family of Bagdad, cut timber from the Garcon Point peninsula south of Bagdad. After a destructive fire in 1923 this mill was also closed.<sup>16</sup>

The Odis Lumber Company, operated by Sim Odis near Mulat, also cut timber from the Garcon Point area and from logs floated down the Escambia River. Mr. Odis closed his mill in 1925.<sup>17</sup>

---

<sup>15</sup>William S. Rosasco, Jr., Santa Rosa County lumberman, in a conversation with the writer, December 23, 1959, Pensacola, Florida.

<sup>16</sup>Ibid.

<sup>17</sup>Carter, loc. cit.



By 1922 Bagdad Land and Lumber Company was under the control of W. B. Harbeson, J. D. Henderson, and G. O. Waites.<sup>18</sup> Mr. Harbeson, the president of the company, had a policy of selling his lumber in carload lots at bids from construction men. His agents covered the United States looking for buyers to bid on the lumber.<sup>19</sup> The export market was opening again after the war, and the Henderson-Waites block thought the company should exploit this outlet for their lumber.

Finally, after bitter talks among the partners, Mr. Harbeson put his part of the company up for sale for \$1,200,000.<sup>20</sup> Putting up what money they had, the Henderson-Waites partnership scoured the South for the remaining funds. They borrowed some money from James Pace of Pensacola, and some from the Henderson Estate of Andalusia, Alabama, but most of the funds came from the issuance of six per cent notes.<sup>21</sup>

This bond issue was to have far-reaching effects upon the company's forest management. Taxation and low profit margins were also to take their toll upon the destruction of the forests.

---

<sup>18</sup>Ibid.

<sup>19</sup>Willis, loc. cit.

<sup>20</sup>Carter, loc. cit.

<sup>21</sup>Ibid.

As the county's needs grew in proportion to its population, it seemed feasible to the county commissioners to look to its industries for taxation. Many lumber companies lost out because of the burden of taxation. Investigations in all of the Gulf Coast states before World War II revealed that second-growth timberlands were assessed at higher values than any other class of real estate. Many companies operated literally day and night cutting their timberlands so that the trees would not be on the land to be assessed.<sup>22</sup> In Santa Rosa County, Bagdad Land and Lumber Company owned one-seventh of the acreage of the county and paid one-fifth of its taxes.<sup>23</sup> To a partnership determined to meet payments on notes, such taxes would be a definite handicap.

Another handicap which the partners encountered was the low margin of profit on lumber. The 1920 Census reported the average value of lumber f.o.b. mills as \$28.17 per thousand board feet. The Southern Pine Association reported the costs for this same year as \$26.18 per thousand. These costs included stumpage, logging, manufacturing, selling, taxes, insurance, and overhead. The profit for that year was, then, only \$2.53 per thousand.<sup>24</sup> The

---

<sup>22</sup>James Boyd, "Fifty Years in the Southern Pine Industry," The Southern Lumberman, December 15, 1931.

<sup>23</sup>Overman, conversation, loc. cit.

<sup>24</sup>Boyd, loc. cit.



margin, of course, increased during the twenties; however, many thousands of feet of lumber had to be cut to repay a debt of \$1,200,000.

There were two theories for handling a lumber industry. One was that by running day and night and saving the amount that would have to be paid for taxes and other overhead, the profit would be larger than by following the second plan, which was to prolong the cut as long as possible with the hope that higher prices after the others had finished would bring a higher profit than to cut out at the earliest possible moment.<sup>25</sup> Henderson and Waites chose the former theory and pursued it to the end.

The Bagdad Land and Lumber Company put steam "skidders" in the forest to pull the logs to the tracks of the railroad. Stationing the skidder in a central location permitted logs to be pulled from all directions to the loading point, where they were placed on the log train. As the logs were pulled out of the forest, they would "fishtail" or swing back and forth, destroying or injuring thousands of smaller trees.<sup>26</sup> The log trains during the 1930's averaged two trains a day, with from twenty to thirty cars in each train. Six to ten logs were placed on each car. A maximum of about four to

---

<sup>25</sup>Willis, loc. cit.

<sup>26</sup>Ibid.



five hundred trees a day could be cut in the woods and carried to the mill.

Until a fire destroyed the main sawmill of the Bagdad Land and Lumber Company in 1935, it was capable of cutting 125,000 board feet of lumber a day. Knowing that the forest could not sustain the cutting to which it had been subjected during the past few years, the company replaced the large sawmill with a smaller one having a capacity of only 70,000 feet a day.<sup>27</sup>

The destruction of the forests in the northeastern section of Santa Rosa County finally came to a halt in 1939. The reason was simple: There was no more timber to be cut. The company collected the rolling stock of its railroad, tore up the rails, and sold the mill equipment for scrap. The mill hands, the section gangs, and the wood crews were laid off at a time in the history of our country which was exceedingly trying. The whole county suffered from the loss of its largest industry, and Bagdad, once a thriving town of nearly two thousand people, was to become almost a ghost town for a time.

Thus ended a saga. A sawmill had stood on the banks of Blackwater River continuously from 1828 to 1939, 111 years

---

<sup>27</sup>F. L. Whirley, general foreman of Bagdad Land and Lumber Company (1919-1939), in a conversation with the writer, December 30, 1959.

of continuous operation. It took a hundred years to destroy the forests of Santa Rosa County, but even as the forests were being destroyed, new growth was returning. Forests can die or be destroyed, but trees will grow back if given the chance.



FIGURE 2

BAGDAD LAND AND LUMBER COMPANY AS SEEN ON THE LAST DAY  
OF OPERATIONS IN 1939



FIGURE 3

VIEW OF THE MILL SITE OF BAGDAD LAND AND LUMBER COMPANY  
AS IT APPEARED DECEMBER 29, 1959



## CHAPTER VII

### CONSERVATION AND REFORESTATION

Revegetation will take place on a natural basis if man does not interfere with nature in a harmful manner. The Gulf Coast is the original home of the Southern yellow pine family, and the soils, climate, and topography are almost perfect for the growth of these trees throughout the region. Given the chance, the pine will reseed itself and mature into a timber tree in twenty to forty years, depending upon the species. Man has retarded this process significantly in various ways besides cutting and turpentineing.

If sufficient seed trees are left after cutting the timber, they will broadcast the seed over a wide area. The early lumberman practiced selective cutting, and thus second- and even third-growth timber is present in the county today. But the injurious use of "skidders" and modern lumber methods eradicates even the seed trees over a wide area.

Loggers often left pine tops and branches lying in the areas where the trees had been cut. This added greatly to fire hazards that are common to "cut-over" lands. Dried branches added fuel to destructive fires which often came when the young pines were beginning to grow.<sup>1</sup> As a result,

---

<sup>1</sup>Stanley F. Horn, This Fascinating Lumber Business (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1943), p. 106.

many thousands of young pines were destroyed and the economy of the county set back accordingly.

During the Civil War cattle raising was started in the county to meet the needs of the Confederate troops as well as those of the Federal forces stationed at Pensacola. Many herders made small fortunes selling beef to both sides during the war.<sup>2</sup> At the end of the war the raising of cattle spread over the entire county, the cattlemen taking advantage of the "open range" afforded by the large timber holdings in the county. This practice was very detrimental to the growth of young pines in the "cut-over" lands.

Cattle, as well as sheep and goats, will eat the young bud on a pine sapling up to a height of five or six feet, particularly during a time of drought or when the grass has been burned by fire.<sup>3</sup> Local cattlemen have held the erroneous theory for years that burning the old grass in the early spring will encourage young tender grass to grow back in a few weeks. Since grass takes from twenty to thirty days to grow in a burned area, the cattle are without food except for the buds of the saplings which have survived the fire.

---

<sup>2</sup>John Rogers, grandson of early cattlemen, in a conversation with the writer, February 23, 1957, Bagdad, Florida.

<sup>3</sup>O. M. Carter, civil engineer and surveyor, in conversations with the writer, December 16-31, 1959, Bagdad, Florida.



Not only does the fire destroy the smaller pines but it burns the small amount of organic material which nature has so painstakingly gathered from the fallen needles of the pines. After repeated burnings over a period of several years, the soil no longer contains sufficient root networks to prevent leaching by heavy rains, and even pines will not grow on the barren soil in sufficient numbers to increase the value of the land. Much of the good pine-growing soils of Santa Rosa County have been depleted in this way.

The depleted soil will support only short-growth vegetation, such as grasses and related plants, until sufficient humus has been added to the soil to allow small "scrubs" to grow in the burned areas. Scrubby oaks, such as blackjack oak, will take over the land and continue the cycle until the topsoil is deep enough to support pines once again. If fire sears the land again during this entire cycle, the process must be repeated.<sup>4</sup>

Conservation of forests by state and federal governments has been one answer to the problem in many cases. In 1828, upon the recommendation of Senator Brackenridge and Joseph M. White, sixty thousand acres of land on the Santa Rosa Peninsula were set aside as a live oak nursery by the

---

<sup>4</sup>Gifford Pinchot, "Forest Destruction," Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution, June 30, 1901 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1902), p. 402.





FIGURE 4

A SCENE ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE MANY ACRES OF UNDERSTOCKED  
LAND IN SANTA ROSA COUNTY



FIGURE 5

CONTRAST BETWEEN LAND WHICH HAS BEEN BURNED ANNUALLY  
SINCE 1940 ON THE LEFT AND LAND WHICH HAS NOT BEEN  
BURNED SINCE 1940 ON THE RIGHT

United States Congress. This was the era of oak-ribbed sailing ships, and the preservation of this forest meant the continuation of an important source of oak. This was the first act of the federal government in the conservation of forests. The project was abandoned in 1831.<sup>5</sup>

Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed the region south of Yellow River and north of East River as Choctahatchee National Forest in 1908. Florida and Santa Rosa County can, therefore, claim another first in federal conservation practices, as this was the first national forest east of the Mississippi River in the Southern states. On June 27, 1940, this area was made a part of the Eglin Field Military Reservation. The United States Government attempts to conserve the forests in this area by replanting, selective cutting, and forest fire protection. All the soils in the area are very poor; therefore, very little gain in pine tree production has resulted. This forest, however, blazed the trail for the state to begin forest management.<sup>6</sup>

The Florida Board of Forestry was organized in 1928. By 1929 the detection and reporting of forest fires had been strengthened considerably by the erection of steel lookout

---

<sup>5</sup>Archer S. Campbell, Forest Practices in Florida (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1932), p. 133.

<sup>6</sup>C. H. Coulter, "The Forests," The Florida Handbook, ed. Allen Norris (third edition; Tallahassee: Peninsula Publishing Company, 1952), pp. 54-55.



towers. During the 1930's the Civilian Conservation Corps began planting pine seedlings, clearing underbrush, and plowing fire trails. After World War II the invention of the tree planter enabled two men to do the work that had formerly required sixteen men in planting pine seedlings.<sup>7</sup> The process of planting was made less time-consuming, and many areas, too depleted to reseed naturally, could be planted economically in rapid growing species.

In 1946 the state took over about 180,000 acres of land in northeastern Santa Rosa County and northwestern Okaloosa County and created the Blackwater River State Forest. A pine nursery was started in Munson and in 1959 produced approximately ten million seedlings. These seedlings were sold at a nominal price to small landowners, and, at the same time, the number was sufficient to meet the needs of the state's forest.

Santa Rosa County, taking advantage of a local option law, voted in 1951 for a fencing law which required that all cattle be kept within fenced area. The "open range" was gone, and it was hoped that the destructive fires which had accompanied the open range would be curbed. Such was not to be the case, however, and the Florida State Legislature passed laws calling for a mandatory two-year prison term for

---

<sup>7</sup>Ibid.



anyone caught setting fire to forests. The law has reduced considerably the number of fires set in the county.

It may be seen, then, that the people of Santa Rosa County have awakened to the need for preserving their forests. Every year, however, there are many destructive fires, both on private and public lands. It is almost incredible that 98 per cent of the fires are set by man. Of these fires 67 per cent are set with deliberate intent. In spite of efforts to apprehend the culprits, convictions for arson on forest lands have been alarmingly low.<sup>8</sup> Perhaps destruction of forests as a result of arson will gradually diminish, and the forests of the county will be allowed to grow without destructive interference from man.

Educating the youth of the county in the four R's, "reading, riting, rithmatic," and resources, has been one of the answers to the problem of conservation in Florida.<sup>9</sup> For all grades in public school, conservation in some form must be taught for one six-week period. Forest conservation has been one of the most popular courses in the program. Both state and industrial foresters visit classes to explain forest management and conservation, while students in upper elementary grades are taken on field trips to observe well-managed

---

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Coulter, loc. cit.

forests. In this way, the youth of the county have a real chance to see for themselves the value of good forest management. The value of educating the future landowners cannot be stressed too greatly.

The St. Regis Paper Company has set aside a number of twenty-acre lots for the use of 4-H and Future Farmers of America clubs in the county. In these areas forest management practices are taught to future landholders, and the clubs are allowed to keep the proceeds of their efforts in the forest. As a result, a firsthand display of the value of tree farming is taught to the club members.

To a large extent, the economy of Santa Rosa County depends upon its forests. Approximately 75 per cent of the land in the county is forest land, owned either by the state or by industrial or private enterprise. Of this amount only about 49 per cent of the land is good forest land; the other 51 per cent is found on sandy ridges or marshy ground where pines will grow slowly, in small quantities, or in poor stands.<sup>10</sup>

Production of timber is slow even in the good forest lands because of the scrub trees and underbrush and the relatively wide distances between trees. Increased planting

---

<sup>10</sup> Robert W. Larson, The Timber Supply Situation in Florida (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1952), p. 27.



and fire prevention should increase the productivity of tree farming. Fire protection alone cannot effect rapid recovery, however, because the absence of fires encourages the growth of tree-choking underbrush and scrub growth, especially on poor timber-growing lands. To grow well, pines need open sunlit spaces with no shade such as may be cast by the rapid-growing blackjack oak. For this reason controlled burnings are being permitted in the county. Under such a plan a fire is set and allowed to burn upwind so as not to kill young pines by its heat.<sup>11</sup> Only those stands of timber in which the young pines are of sufficient growth to withstand the fire are burned. Such a plan permits a cleaner forest and the planting of good pasture grasses for cattle raising.

Poor methods of timber harvesting often result in poor stands of timber. In harvesting pines for pulpwood the land is often cleared of all the mature trees, leaving only those pine saplings under four inches in diameter. As these often take years to reach seed-bearing age, rapid-growth brush is given a chance to grow higher and thicker. In timber production only straight poles of nine inches or more are cut, often leaving crooked, inferior trees which reseed the land with poor quality stands.<sup>12</sup>

---

<sup>11</sup>Ibid., p. 43.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid., p. 44.



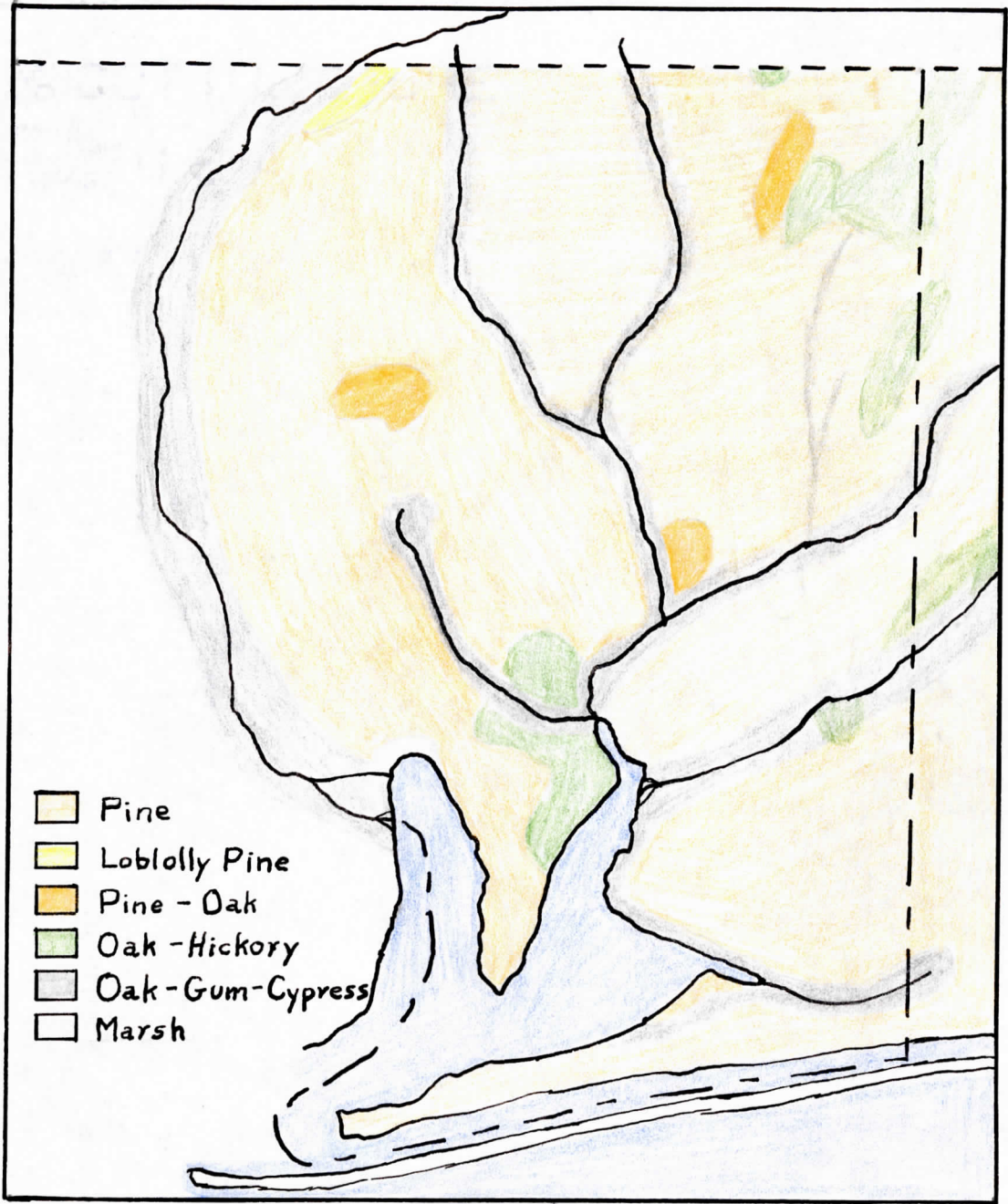


FIGURE 6

GENERAL MAP OF SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA, SHOWING AREAS OF CONCENTRATION OF PINE AND HARDWOOD TREES

Most of the poor stands today are located on privately owned forest lands. There is a definite need to encourage hundreds of small owners, who have a wide variety of interests, to recognize the potential returns from their timberlands and to adjust their management practices accordingly.<sup>13</sup> These owners are either not aware of the potential returns from timber on their lands or they are so absorbed in other occupations that they give little attention to timber growing. The lack of interest in managing their land for timber crops is reflected by the kind of cutting being done on the lands. In 1945 two-thirds of the cutting on private timber lands, exclusive of lumber and pulp companies, was rated poor or destructive. In contrast, all of the cutting on pulp company land was rated fair or better.<sup>14</sup> Many small landowners have yet to realize the potential of their forest lands.

Free public forestry services, low-cost planting stock, and incentive payments for following specified forestry practices are available. Large owners of forest lands generally take advantage of these aids. Some small owners often give the excuse that they cannot see any benefits to be derived from the program. In most cases, however,

---

<sup>13</sup>Ibid., p. 45.

<sup>14</sup>Ibid.

the small owners are not aware of the benefits, and it is in this area that education can produce changed attitudes and practices.<sup>15</sup>

The Farmers' Bulletin, No. 1256, issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, indicates an instance of a profit of \$168.44 per acre on an original investment of \$7.00 per acre planted in slash pine.<sup>16</sup> This amount was realized from the sale of pulpwood, sawlogs, and naval stores. Pine trees may be planted on marginal farming land and afford a profit which will result in a benefit to the landowner, the county, and the state.

---

<sup>15</sup> Annual Report, 1958 (Asheville: Southeastern Forest Experiment Station, 1958), p. 35.

<sup>16</sup> United States Department of Agriculture, Farmers' Bulletin, No. 1256 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1939), pp. 52-53.



## CHAPTER VIII

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

When the United States bought Florida from Spain in 1821, the virgin forests of Santa Rosa County stood in towering stands, untouched by the destructive hand of man. Those who had seen these trees described them as being from 100 to 150 feet high, with the first limb often 100 feet above the ground. These trees were often four to five feet in diameter and produced enormous amounts of lumber.

Today these trees are found only in the memories of the older people of Santa Rosa County. The destruction which accompanied the cutting of these trees could be excused had the lumbermen thought of the future and provided for the protection of the forests.

In spite of a continuous and concentrated cutting of the forests for approximately 120 years, it is a tribute to the durability of the Southern yellow pine that any have survived the terrible destruction. Not only has it endured exploitation by lumbermen, destructive firing by cattlemen, and the indifference of the public to its value, but it now appears that the pine will continue to grow in ever increasing numbers in the county.

Before the Civil War lumbering had started on a small scale in the county. Because of the difficulties of

transportation and a limited market, the industry remained small. After the Civil War came new methods of milling lumber, and both the lumber and naval stores markets expanded to include overseas markets. The advent of the railroad in logging permitted wider operations, and the period of destructive exploitation began.

The indifference of the public permitted governmental officials to raise the taxes on timberlands and force further wasteful exploitation of the forests with no thought for the future. Whole forests were destroyed to keep the assessment of taxes down.

The small lumber companies were soon forced to close their operations because of the lack of sufficient capital to carry on in the face of high taxes and outmoded logging operations. The Bagdad Land and Lumber Company, one of the larger companies, employing 375 to 400 men, worked day and night to keep ahead of the tax collector and to meet deadlines on notes issued to buy the mill. Not only Bagdad but all of Santa Rosa County lost its only large industry when the mill finally closed in 1939.

Exploitation destroyed not only the valuable timber of the county but also led to severe economic upsets in the communities of the county. The Census of 1910 listed the population of Robinson Point as 920 persons, Chaffin as



1,390, and Pine Level as 1,190.<sup>1</sup> The Census of 1950 did not list these as individual communities.<sup>2</sup> In fact, Chaffin has ceased to exist, Robinson Point is but a collection of private homes, and Pine Level is a small farming community. Had it not been for the increased employment afforded by the threat of war in 1940, Bagdad would have lost its population in the same way.

The year 1939 marked the closing of an era in Santa Rosa County. The county's large lumber industry was gone. Some of the sawmills had closed because of the low profit margin in the lumber business. Others were destroyed by fire and found it unprofitable to rebuild. Still others, hampered by a lack of modern means of transporting their logs to the mill, were forced to close. The chief reason for the termination of forest destruction in Santa Rosa County, however, was the final cutting of most of the valuable timber without provision for reseeding or replanting. Had modern methods of conservation been practiced as late as 1920, the forests of Santa Rosa County would still support a large lumber industry.

---

<sup>1</sup>United States Department of Commerce and Labor, The Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1912), I, 5.

<sup>2</sup>United States Department of Commerce, The Seventeenth Census of the United States, 1950 (Washington: The Government Printing Office, 1952), IX, 7.



The once flourishing naval stores industry is dead also. Even with the high prices offered for naval stores during World War II, trees of turpentine size (five inches or more in diameter) could not be found in sufficient numbers to make an enterprise profitable.

The forest lands of Santa Rosa County were left to the lean "woods cattle" which still roamed the open range. Fires, set by cattlemen with good intentions from their viewpoint, destroyed millions of tiny seedlings which struggled to replace the forests once again. Only action by the Florida State Forest Service, organized in 1937, saved the forests of the county from complete extinction. Fire-fighting crews of the Forest Service and the St. Regis Paper Company now control and limit the destruction by fires when they are set.

Education is acquainting thousands of young Santa Rosans to the need of conservation of resources. The public school system, as well as private industries, is carrying forward programs of conservation aimed toward public awareness of the value of good forest management.

Santa Rosa County was honored in 1959 by being selected as an area for a Pilot Forest. This program, sponsored by the St. Regis Paper Company and the American Forest Association, is designed to show how the small landholder can profit by good forest management.

Today Santa Rosa County appears to stand on the threshold of a new era. Her forests, with the help of man, are beginning to flourish once again. Through the leadership of men dedicated to continuous selective cutting, rather than to destructive exploitation of the forests, the county will no doubt forge ahead.

In spite of these encouraging improvements, however, many undesirable forest conditions still exist. Santa Rosa County still has more area in scrub oak than in pine forests. There is still far too much land which is poorly stocked. Before any substantial progress can be made, corrective action along several lines must be stepped up.

1. An expanded program of education in methods of conservation must be pursued in the schools, not only for the students but in the interest of the general public. Each school needs to maintain a small plot of trees on its grounds where conservation can be practiced every day. Such a plot of trees would be a lesson in conservation not only to school children but would also serve as an example to their parents.
2. An increased program of replanting should be followed, especially on lands of poor quality. Many thousands of acres in Santa Rosa County are denuded of all pine timber. These lands will not ordinarily reseed unless pines are planted.



3. Most of the damage to timber caused by fire could be eliminated if burning in connection with cattle raising could be controlled. Restraining those who run their cattle on others' land would help in this problem. Demonstrations of how pine trees may be grown on pasture lands could show that needless burning of forest lands destroys valuable timber.
4. Demonstrations in the value of naval stores production would increase awareness of the profit which may be realized from these products.
5. Demonstrations in correct procedures of cutting timber would show the value of leaving seed trees to help reseed the land and also leaving certain trees to make poles and saw timber. This is especially true where private pulpwood cutters often leave a forest denuded even of parent trees for reseedling.
6. An enlarged educational program to make the average citizen more aware of the value of good forest management, not only to the individual landowner but also to the general economy of the county, is needed.

The future holds promise of substantial expansion in forestry once growth can be brought more nearly in line with



the productive capacity of the forest land. When this expansion will take place depends upon how rapidly the corrective measures suggested are put into practice.

If these measures are adopted, the "end in sight" will not be the complete destruction of the forests as foreseen by Emory Fiske Skinner in 1904, but rather the beginning of a forest which will engender pride in the hearts of the people of Santa Rosa County.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### A. BOOKS

- Campbell, Archer S. Forest Practices in Florida. Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1932.
- Coulter, C. H. "The Forests," The Florida Handbook. Edited by Allen Morris. Tallahassee: Peninsula Publishing Company, 1952.
- Davis, William W. The Civil War and Reconstruction in Florida. New York: Columbia University Press, 1913.
- Hanna, Kathryn A. Florida, Land of Change. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1948.
- Horn, Stanley F. This Fascinating Lumber Business. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1943.
- James, Marquis. The Border Captain. Vol. I of The Life of Andrew Jackson. 2 vols. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1937.
- Kendall, Henry M., Robert M. Glendinning, and Clifford H. Macfadden. Introduction to Geography. Second edition. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1958.
- Martin, Paul S., George I. Quimby, and Donald Collier. Indians Before Columbus. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1947.
- Morris, Allen. The Florida Handbook. Tallahassee: Peninsula Printing Company, 1949.
- Rerick, Rowland H. Memoirs of Florida. 2 vols. Atlanta: The Southern Historical Association, 1902.
- Skinner, Emory Fiske. Reminiscences. Chicago: Vestal Printing Company, 1908.



## B. PUBLICATIONS OF THE U. S. GOVERNMENT

- Bureau of Corporations. The Lumber Industry. Vol. I. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1908.
- Hodge, Frederick W. Handbook of American Indians. Vol. II of 2 vols. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1910.
- Larson, Robert W. The Timber Supply Situation in Florida. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1952.
- Lowrie, Walter (ed.). Documents, Legislative and Executive, of the Congress of the United States, in relation to the Public Lands. Vol. IV of 5 vols. Washington: Duff Green, 1834.
- Pinchot, Gifford. "Forest Destruction," Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution, June 30, 1901. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1902.
- Southeastern Forest Experiment Station. Annual Report, 1958. Asheville. Mimeographed.
- United States Bureau of the Census. Seventeenth Census of the United States: 1950. Vol. IX. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1952.
- United States Department of Agriculture. Farmers' Bulletin Number 1256, Slash Pine. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1939.
- United States Department of Agriculture. Weather Bulletin. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1959.
- United States Department of Commerce. Census of Agriculture. Vol. I, Part 18, of 3 vols. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1954.
- United States Department of Commerce. Thirteenth Census of the United States: 1910. Vol. IX. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1912.

## C. PUBLICATIONS OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Cook, C. Wyeth. Geology of Florida. Bulletin 29. Tallahassee: Florida Geological Survey, 1945.

General Highway and Transportation Map of Santa Rosa County, Florida. Tallahassee: Florida State Road Department, 1955. Revised.

Florida's Water Resources. Gainesville: Florida Resources Study Commission, 1956.

Simpson, J. Clarence. Florida Place Names of Indian Derivation. Tallahassee: Florida State Board of Conservation, 1956.

## D. UNPUBLISHED MATERIALS

Deedbook A. Milton: Santa Rosa County Clerk's Office, 1851 and 1855.

Deedbook A-1. Milton: Santa Rosa County Clerk's Office, 1828.

File Number 0-1074. Pensacola: Escambia County Judge's Office, 1830.

Final Decree Minute Book B. Milton: Santa Rosa County Clerk's Office, 1855.

Minute Book. Milton: Santa Rosa Lodge Number 16, F & AM, 1856. Permission to quote secured.

Overman, Charles H. (ed.). Abstract of Title to Simpson and Company. Pensacola: West Florida Abstract and Title Company, n.d.

United States Department of Agriculture. Soil Conservation Service. Land Capability Classification. Soils Memorandum FL-8. Mimeographed.

## E. PERIODICAL ARTICLE

Boyd, James. "Fifty Years in the Southern Pine Industry," The Southern Lumberman, December 15, 1931.



## F. REPORT

St. Regis Paper Company. Annual Report for 1958. New York.

## G. NEWSPAPERS

Pensacola [Florida] Gazette, January, 1842-December, 1856.

Santa Rosa Press Gazette [Milton, Florida], June 11, 1959.

## H. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Richard M. Amos

W. G. Beatty

T. J. Bowers

Glenn Gibson

M. L. King

J. C. Mahoney

C. H. Overman

Burgess Pace

John Rogers

William S. Rosasco, Jr.

W. C. Shepard

O. J. Spencer

Miss Ella Creary Thompson

F. L. Whirley

Obie Willis