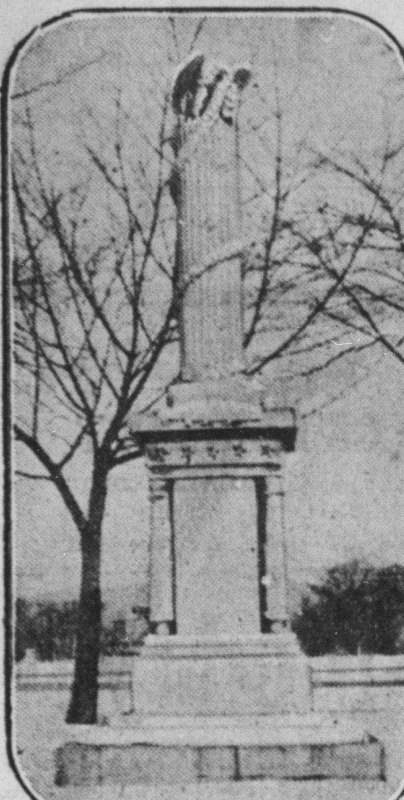


"They Fell Without an Attempt to Retreat"



The Dade Monument at West Point



Seminole Trading Camp near Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.



Osceola, Chief of the Seminoles

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

DECEMBER 28 is the anniversary of one of the most inspiring deeds in the history of the American army. If you go to the United States Military academy at West Point you will see there, opposite the library, a tall white shaft, capped by the carved likeness of an eagle, and with these words engraved upon one face of the base: "To commemorate the battle of the 28th of December, 1835, between a detachment of 108 United States troops and the Seminoles of Florida in which all of the detachment save three fell without an attempt to retreat." On another side of the monument the inscription reads "Dade and his command: Major Dade, Fourth Infantry; Captain Gardner, Second Infantry; Lieutenant Bassinger, Second artillery; Lieutenant Mudge, Third artillery; Lieutenant Keals, Third artillery; Lieutenant Henderson, Second artillery; Doctor Gatlin, medical staff." The third side tells that the monument was "Erected by the three regiments and the medical staff whose comrades fell on the 28th of December, 1835, serving their country and promoting their profession," and the fourth records that "The remains of the dead repose near St. Augustine, Fla."

Such is the simple record of heroism in a now almost-forgotten battle of one of the costliest wars ever waged by the United States. The war originated in the determination of the United States to remove the Seminole Indians from their ancestral home in Florida to beyond the Mississippi river. The result was protracted warfare extending over seven years, during which time Osceola, a young Seminole war chief, and his warriors, some two or three thousand in number, had taken the lives of more than 1,500 regular army soldiers and at least that number of settlers and volunteers and the war had cost the United States twenty millions of dollars.

Early in December of 1835 two of the ten companies of the regular army stationed in Florida were ordered from Fort Brooke, on Hillsboro bay near the present Tampa, to meet a force from Fort King, in the center of the state, near the forks of the Withlacoochee river for a punitive expedition against the Seminoles. At Fort Brooke enough men were drafted from Maj. Francis L. Dade's Fourth Infantry detachment to complete two full companies of 50 men each of the Second artillery and the Third Infantry, commanded by Captains Gardner and Frazer respectively. Lieutenants Bassinger, Henderson, Mudge and Keals and Assistant Surgeon Gatlin were the subordinates. Captain Gardner was to command the expedition, but when it was ready to start it was discovered that his wife was seriously ill. Major Dade thereupon volunteered to lead the party so that Gardner could remain with his wife. On the morning of December 24 the expedition, composed of 109 officers and men, carrying ten days' provisions and accompa-

regulars that there was no stamped on this occasion. The soldiers left the road instantly, took to the trees which stood on the other side of the road and poured a heavy fire upon their assailants. Then for forty minutes they stood firm there, fighting as coolly as though there had been no surprise, and holding their fire until they caught sight of an Indian and knew that they could make their shots effective. As a result the Seminoles withdrew their forces and the fighting ceased.

But Captain Gardner, who had assumed command after Dade's death, knew that this was not the end of the affair. Hastily collecting the wounded, he moved back a short distance and immediately set his men, now less than fifty in number, at work felling trees and throwing up a triangular breastwork. But before this had risen three small tree trunks high, the Indians, heavily reinforced, returned to the attack. In a few moments a furious battle was in progress. Surrounded on all sides by the Indians who poured their fire into the depression in which the little fort had been built, the result was inevitable. Captain Gardner, mortally wounded, cried out, "I can give you no more orders, lads. Do your best!"

Outside the breastwork Lieutenant Bassinger and a small detail of artillerymen continued to fire their six-pounder until every man except the lieutenant was killed. Then, seriously wounded, he dragged himself inside the logs and fired a musket until a bullet cut him down. In spite of a broken arm, Lieutenant Henderson did the same. By two o'clock the fire of the defenders had been silenced, the Indians swarmed into the little fort and began scalping the dead. Then, fearing that the troops from Fort King would arrive any minute, the Seminoles fled.

After they left the battlefield a party of some fifty renegade negroes appeared to plunder the dead. They found Lieutenant Bassinger still alive and, despite his appeal for mercy, cut him down with their hatchets. Three of the privates, who were severely wounded, felled death and the negroes left without molesting them. Two others, although wounded, had managed to get away during the confusion of the fight, and although one was killed by an Indian, who discovered them during their flight toward Fort Brooke, the other finally reached the fort—a tragic messenger of the defeat.

It was not until the following February that an expedition from Fort King was able to visit the scene of the Dade disaster and in the report of Capt. E. A. Hitchcock of the First Infantry on what he found in the little log fort, one reads this statement: "Within the triangle . . . were about thirty bodies, mostly mere skeletons . . . lying, every one of them, in precisely the same position they must have occupied during the fight; their heads next to the logs over which they had delivered their fire, and their bodies stretched with striking regularity parallel to each other. They had evidently been shot dead at their posts . . ." "Shot dead at their posts"—what better epitaph for an American soldier than that?

nied by a six-pounder drawn by four oxen and one light horse wagon set out with a Spanish negro to guide it to the rendezvous on the Withlacoochee.

Soon after they left, Captain Gardner found that he could send his wife to her family on a transport, which was just ready to sail for Key West and, having done that, he hastened after Dade's party. In the meantime the ox team had broken down and Dade had sent back for horses to pull the cannon. Because of this delay Gardner was able to catch up with the detachment that evening, little realizing that what he regarded as a fortunate circumstance in reality meant his doom. The progress of the expedition was slow, it taking Dade four days to make 65 miles. During that time, no Seminoles had made their appearances, although unknown to him the negro guide was a traitor who had betrayed the route of the expedition to the Indians and Chief Osceola had resolved to ambush the oncoming soldiers.

The Seminole leader had intended to direct the attack in person, but on that day he had been busy elsewhere—making a swift raid near Fort King, where he shot down General Thompson, the Indian agent who had once put him in irons, and four others. So it was Micanopy, the head chief of the Seminoles, who was in charge that day. On the morning of December 23 Dade and his men had crossed the fork of the Withlacoochee and were marching along a trail which ran across an open barren. On one side of the trail was a stretch of swamp overgrown with grass five feet high and in this grass Micanopy had hidden 200 warriors with strict orders to hold their fire until he gave the signal.

Unmindful of the hidden danger, Dade's force marched along the trail with Captain Frazer and Lieutenant Mudge leading the advance. Not a sound came from the Indians until the whole column was under their guns. Then taking careful aim, Micanopy shot Major Dade, killing him instantly. At that signal the tall grass was ablaze with flame. Captain Frazer was killed at the first fire and Lieutenant Mudge mortally wounded. Lieutenants Henderson and Keals were severely wounded and Captain Gardner, Lieutenant Bassinger and Doctor Gatlin were the only officers who were unhurt. Under the circumstances—the surprise of the attack and the appalling losses—it would not have been surprising if the whole column had been thrown into a panic immediately. Such a thing had happened more than once before when white troops were ambushed by their red enemies. But it is to the everlasting glory of these

The KITCHEN CABINET

(©, 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)
"I have only just a minute
Only sixty seconds in it
Forced upon me—can't refuse it
Didn't see it—didn't choose it
But it's up to me to use it
I must suffer if I lose it
Give account if I abuse it
Just a tiny little minute
But eternity is in it."

WINTER DISHES

As the colder weather comes on we enjoy boiled dinners, fish, clam and oyster chowders and pork in various ways such as:

Pork Loaf—Take three pounds of lean pork from the shoulder, one and one-half cupfuls of bread crumbs, one tablespoonful of salt, one-half teaspoonful of pepper, two well beaten eggs, one can of pimento, one and one-half cupfuls of sweet milk. Mix and put to roast in a moderate oven.

Sheet Chocolate Cookies—Take one cupful of sugar, one-third of a cupful of melted butter, one beaten egg, one-half teaspoonful of salt, two-thirds of a cupful of milk, two cupfuls of flour, one teaspoonful of soda, one cupful of raisins and one-half cupful of nutmeats with two squares of melted chocolate. Mix and spread on a baking sheet and bake in a moderate oven. When cool cover with the following frosting:

Chocolate Frosting—Take one cupful each of white and one of brown sugar, two tablespoonfuls of flour, two-thirds of a cupful of milk, cook and stir until the mixture boils, then add a tablespoonful of butter and cool. Beat until thick and cream. Add chocolate to suit the taste. Spread over the sheet of cookies and when cool cut into any desired shape.

Harvard Beets—Mix one-half cupful of sugar with one tablespoonful of corn starch and one-eighth teaspoonful of salt. Add one-third of a cupful of cider vinegar and one-third cupful of boiling water. Cook until the sauce is clear. Add two cupfuls of freshly cooked, drained, diced beets. Set in a warm place for half an hour. Add two tablespoonfuls of butter and serve.

Oyster Stuffing—Take twenty oysters, drain, rinse and place in a square pan with two tablespoonfuls of butter; bring to the boiling point, add four cupfuls of bread crumbs, one-half tablespoonful of salt and pepper to taste. Add a tablespoonful of minced parsley and stuff turkey.

Thoughts and Things.
The constant aim of the thrifty housewife is variety for the table within the limit she has to spend for food.

The using of every particle of food with no waste and serving wholesome well balanced meals, is a study that needs the closest attention of the capable housewife.

The saving of all liquors in which vegetables have been cooked is not just saving waste, but it is saving many of the valuable mineral matters which give vegetables their value in the food. Such liquors may be served as sauces for vegetables or may be used in making gravies as well.

Rub a little fat into the skins of the potatoes before putting them into the oven to bake. The skins will peel with no waste after the potatoes are baked.

Save the rice water when cooking rice, if any is left. It makes fine starch for light dresses and lazes.

Dip the broom into hot suds after washing the laundry, then hang up to dry. This cleans the broom, and keeps it straight and makes it last longer.

Change the folds in table linen occasionally to change the wear. Folding tablecloths lengthwise three times before cross-folding makes a better looking center.

Proper fitting shoes will save much discomfort and irritability. High heels or those run over are responsible for many disagreeable dispositions.

Keep a pair of shears in the kitchen for cutting raisins, marshmallows, parsley or other things. They are easier to clean than the chopping bowl or food grinder.

Turn mattresses often to keep their level and comfortable.

Beware of pacifiers. When mothers learn that thumb-sucking and pacifiers cause enlarged tonsils and adenoids, children will have less trouble with them.

A long bottle will answer for a rolling pin when one has nothing else to take the place of a real one.

Talcum powder is a great convenience when traveling. If a greasy spot appears, cover with talcum and let stand for a day or two. The spot will be absorbed. Sprinkle talcum into shoes to relieve tired feet, dust new shoes with it before wearing, it helps the breaking in process.

Metal sponges, scouring soaps and vegetable brushes are indispensable to most housewives; however, other utensils should be bought when one finds them useful. Many of the so-called conveniences are only an annoyance and a room-taker—never used.

Nellie Maxwell



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Sample each free.
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Whiskers Not Likely to Return to Fashion

Some men (a few) look well in whiskers, but fashion doesn't care a whit for that. It says, Nay. The uncovered face makes a clean sweep. A few mustaches survive, small reminders of the period following the Civil war, when they gradually superseded the beards the generals and many soldiers in the ranks brought back from the camp and the battlefield.

President Harrison was the last of the Presidents to wear a beard. There was a general ruck of hair in the later 1890s; even college students in photographs can be seen wearing more or less transparent burnside. The depilation began soon after that. The hair on the caput became shorter, also; and the manfolk generally began to be "down on hair." It was a wrench for the elder masculine population to give up their chin whiskers, but they yielded and compromised on keeping the upper lip unshaven. Now, few men living know what their whiskers would look like if they "turned them out," curious as many of them are about it.

The hirsute tide may turn almost any year, and the physiological decorations of our granddads bloom again.—F. H. Collier in the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Vessels May Be Older Than St. Patrick's Time

An interesting archeological discovery was made by men clearing an old ditch at Mornington, county Louth, Ireland, a village at the mouth of the Boyne.

Mornington is connected by tradition with St. Patrick, who in 432, after unsuccessful efforts to effect a landing in other parts of Ireland, entered the Boyne there and ran his vessel into what was then known as the harbor at Colpa, now called Colp.

In a ditch into which within living memory the Boyne used to flow, forming a natural harbor, workmen unearthed the timbers of several oaken vessels lying at an angle to the stream and apparently of great age. The length of the vessels cannot be ascertained until after further excavations. The fact that sandy soil will preserve oak for thousands of years opens up the possibility that the vessels may be even older than St. Patrick's time. Steps have been taken to protect them until they have been seen by an archeological expert.

Super Talk

Peggy Udell, the Follies girl who is going to enter a convent, criticized the movies at a night club. "The movies," she said, "are enough to send any girl into a convent. All this super talk! Every film is a super-film nowadays. A man said to me the other night: "I don't see any difference at all between a film and a super-film." "The more fool you, then," said I. "At a super-film the prices are double."

Added Interest

"Van Spenger claims to have a great following."
"Well, I think he must have—he owes everybody."—New Bedford Standard.

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