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Where Andy Jackson took over Florida for U.S

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Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



WHERE ANDY JACKSON TOOK OVER FLORIDA FOR U.S.

By HAMPTON DUNN

PENSACOLA --- Andrew Jackson was a man of action, very impatient, and when given a task to do he wanted to accomplish it straight away. So it was he must have been a most frustrated man that Summer of 1821 when he was ready to take over Florida for the United States after his government had made a deal with Spain.

But slow-moving Spanish leaders, unhappy about having to leave this delightful community anyway, took their own sweet time about saying goodbye. Jackson had arrived near the city on June 15 and set up headquarters at the Gonzalez house at Cantonment to await cutting of the red tape for the transfer. His sweet wife Rachel soon got tired of living out in the sticks, so she moved into the city to stay with friends. Finally, on July 17, the big day arrived.

The smartly-dressed, well-disciplined U.S. troops, under command of Col. George M. Brooke, marched into town with the mighty Andrew Jackson in the lead. The ceremonies took place in Plaza Ferdinand VII, on Palafox between Zaragossa and Government streets, the pleasant town square which still serves that purpose today.

Americans on hand for the changeover were in a gay mood, the outgoing Spaniards, however, were sad. As the bands played, the Spanish flag started downward and the Stars and Stripes began moving up the pole. At midway of the staff, the two flags rested side by side momentarily, then the changeover was completed. The Americans cheered, but Andrew saw how sad the Spaniards were and he halted the noisemaking. Next day, the Spanish garrison sailed away to Havana.

