

# THE AUCILLA RIVERMEN

By: John E. Ladson III and George M. Cole  
 Courtesy of the Aucilla Research Institute

The lower Aucilla River and its neighboring region has attracted human occupation for thousands of years.

Its beautiful, mysterious waters, extensive forests and abundant fish and game first beckoned Native Americans, followed by European incursion and eventually sparse settlement, after Florida was ceded to the United States in 1819.

The Seminoles were pushed out by the 1840's, but it is hardly an exaggeration to describe the area as a frontier wilderness at the eve of the twentieth century.

Names like Chancy, Brown, Ward, Swift, Kinsey and Lewis speak to some of the early intrepid souls who penetrated this land and stayed.

It was not easy living. However, with determination, good luck and the requisite skills,

one could support a wife and family through fortuitous and lean times.

Indeed, the difficult times did arrive with regularity in the form of floods, storms and all manner of swamp pestilence.

Various forces pulled men to this raw, isolated sector, with the common thread being a vision of improved quality of life or, in some cases, escape from a life filled with trouble.

Benjamin Lewis saw opportunity in the logging of cedar trees. Ace Brown may have sought refuge from the law in the most remote setting he could find.

The Great Depression also impelled men into the region, as the Timber Boom circa 1900 – 1940 offered jobs and housing. A considerable number were lured from South Georgia.



Whatever drove their migration, the river's ambience had power, and that power captured most of them and their descendants.

The lumber industry moved on but the true rivermen endured largely through commercial fishing, hunting, guiding and free ranging livestock, primarily hogs.

Some would also act as caretakers for absentee landowners. Prohibition supplied the impetus for moonshine, and the fading evidence of that livelihood can still be

(Above left) The Nutall Rise Cafe is a part of the storied history of the lower Aucilla. Among those pictured are (from right) Red Padgett, H.P. Padgett and Broward Padgett. (Top right) Doug Padgett and wife, Dorothy, shown with channel bass (redfish) from Nutall Rise in the late 1940s. (Photos courtesy of William Wright)

found today.

When questioned about the prevalence of illegal whiskey production, a Nutall Rise resident was quoted as saying, "Things got so bad around here at one time people used to have to wear a badge to keep from selling moonshine to each other." (Lem Hartsfield, "Tallahassee Democrat, December 6, 1970).

On the lower Aucilla, the Nutall Rise community became most closely associated with the following men and their families:

Julian H. Padgett, Sr. was one of the early residents who developed a café, rental housing and a guide service catering to sportsmen.

Pinckney Hartsfield also operated a small restaurant for a while at Nutall Rise.

His brother, Lem, was a well-known guide for

many years.

Julian Padgett's son, Draden, was a part-time guide and commercial fisherman, as was Benjamin Lewis' son, Cephas.

Eph Williams, Jr. and sons, Bill and Lawton, Frank Gill, Lum Lewis and others are remembered as well.

Their heyday spanned 1920 to 1970 with sons and grandsons like Draden Padgett, Jr., Bud and Billy Hartsfield on the scene toward the end.

All these men had copious knowledge of the area's wilderness, great hunting and fishing skills and the highly-valued ability to navigate the treacherous Aucilla River channel.

The older generation lacked much formal education, but were extremely independent, self-reliant and ingenious.

They preferred an

existence immersed in nature and its attendant freedom. Aaron Brown and Lee Jackson (who will be featured in this series) were different characters with dissimilar backgrounds. Nonetheless, their stories provide a glimpse into a riverman's life experience.

(To be continued)

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Graham Bird & Ed Linton Cafe in Nutall Rise as pictured in 1948. (Photo courtesy of William Wright)

## LEGALS

(Continued from page 10)

SUBTENDED BY A CHORD HAVING A BEARING AND DISTANCE OF NORTH 52°31'13" WEST, 37.60 FEET; THENCE CONTINUING ALONG SAID YATES CREEK ROAD EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE, NORTHWESTERLY ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE, THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 2°59'14", AN ARC LENGTH OF 37.60 FEET TO A POINT OF TANGENCY OF THE YATES CREEK RD RIGHT-OF-WAY AS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 248, PAGE 506 OF SAID PUBLIC RECORDS; THENCE DEPARTING EASTERLY AND CONTINUING ALONG SAID YATES CREEK RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE ALONG A CURVE CONCAVE NORTHERLY, HAVING A RADIUS OF 50.00 FEET, AND BEING SUBTENDED BY A CHORD HAVING A BEARING AND DISTANCE OF NORTH 81°5'12" EAST, 72.30 FEET; THENCE ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE, THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 92°36'47", AN ARC LENGTH OF 80.82 FEET TO THE WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF COUNTY ROAD 361 (BEACH RD); THENCE NORTH 34°46'43" EAST ALONG SAID COUNTY ROAD 361 WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 290.55 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. THE ABOVE DESCRIBED TRACT CONTAINS 7,016 SQUARE FEET (0.16 ACRES), MORE OR LESS. ALSO; A TRACT OF LAND SITUATED IN SECTION 10, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 7 EAST, TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING A PORTION OF LANDS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 398, PAGE 797 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF SAID COUNTY, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST ONE-QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST ONE-QUARTER (NW 1/4 OF NW 1/4) OF SAID SECTION 10, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 7 EAST, TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING A PORTION OF LANDS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 398, PAGE 797 OF SAID PUBLIC RECORDS; THENCE NORTH 34°20'08" WEST, ALONG SAID SOUTHEASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 0.14 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE NORTH 34°20'08" WEST, ALONG SAID EASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE A DISTANCE OF 110.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH 34°20'08" WEST, ALONG SAID SOUTHEASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 235.52 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LANDS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 650, PAGE 439; THENCE CONTINUE NORTH 34°20'08" WEST, ALONG SAID EASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE A DISTANCE OF 0.14 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE NORTH 34°20'08" WEST, ALONG SAID SOUTHEASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 416.77 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LANDS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 650, PAGE 439; THENCE CONTINUE NORTH 34°20'08" WEST, ALONG SAID SOUTHEASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 535.35 FEET TO THE NORTH CORNER OF SAID PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 398, PAGE 797 OF SAID PUBLIC RECORDS; THENCE DEPARTING SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY AND ALONG THE NORTHEASTERLY PROPERTY LINE OF SAID PROPERTY, SOUTH 55°50'58" EAST, A DISTANCE OF 100.48 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUING ALONG SAID NORTHEASTERLY PROPERTY LINE A DISTANCE OF 212.60 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 56°50'40" WEST, A DISTANCE OF 211.08 FEET, TO A POINT ON A

NON-TANGENTIAL CURVE CONCAVE EASTERLY, HAVING A RADIUS OF 910.00 FEET, AND BEING SUBTENDED BY A CHORD HAVING A BEARING AND DISTANCE OF NORTH 00°11'18" EAST, 234.79 FEET; THENCE NORTHERLY ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE, THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 14°49'28", AN ARC LENGTH OF 235.45 FEET TO THE NORTHEASTERLY PROPERTY LINE OF SAID LAND AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING. THE ABOVE DESCRIBED TRACT CONTAINS 21,892 SQUARE FEET (0.50 ACRES), MORE OR LESS. For Clark Properties of Taylor County, LLC, a Florida limited liability company deed to Taylor County, the following described real property lying and being in Taylor County, Florida, to-wit: A TRACT OF LAND TO BE USED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES SITUATED IN SECTION 10, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 7 EAST, TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING A PORTION OF LANDS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 650, PAGE 439 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF SAID COUNTY, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST ONE-QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST ONE-QUARTER (NW 1/4 OF NW 1/4) OF SAID SECTION 10; THENCE SOUTH 89°13'39" WEST, ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID NW 1/4 OF NW 1/4, A DISTANCE OF 516.83 FEET TO THE SOUTHEASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF EXISTING COUNTY ROAD 361 (100' WIDE RIGHT-OF-WAY); THENCE NORTH 34°20'08" WEST, ALONG SAID SOUTHEASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 235.52 FEET TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LANDS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 650, PAGE 439; THENCE CONTINUE NORTH 34°20'08" WEST, ALONG SAID EASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE A DISTANCE OF 0.14 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUE NORTH 34°20'08" WEST, ALONG SAID SOUTHEASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 416.77 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LANDS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 650, PAGE 439; THENCE CONTINUE NORTH 34°20'08" WEST, ALONG SAID SOUTHEASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 535.35 FEET TO THE NORTH CORNER OF SAID PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 398, PAGE 797 OF SAID PUBLIC RECORDS; THENCE DEPARTING SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY AND ALONG THE NORTHEASTERLY PROPERTY LINE OF SAID PROPERTY, SOUTH 55°50'58" EAST, A DISTANCE OF 100.48 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUING ALONG SAID NORTHEASTERLY PROPERTY LINE A DISTANCE OF 212.60 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 56°50'40" WEST, A DISTANCE OF 211.08 FEET, TO A POINT ON A

DESCRIBED TRACT CONTAINS 13,607 SQUARE FEET (0.31 ACRES), MORE OR LESS. ALSO; A TRACT OF LAND TO BE USED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES SITUATED IN SECTION 10, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 7 EAST, TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING A PORTION OF LANDS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 650, PAGE 439 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF SAID COUNTY, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST ONE-QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST ONE-QUARTER (NW 1/4 OF NW 1/4) OF SAID SECTION 10; THENCE SOUTH 89°10'38" WEST, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 10, A DISTANCE OF 541.21 FEET TO THE EXISTING NORTHEASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF COUNTY ROAD 361 (BEACH RD); THENCE SOUTH 34°46'43" WEST ALONG SAID NORTHEASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY, A DISTANCE OF 118.59 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; SAID POINT BEING THE BEGINNING OF A CURVE CONCAVE EASTERLY, HAVING A RADIUS OF 910 FEET, AND BEING SUBTENDED BY A CHORD HAVING A BEARING AND DISTANCE OF SOUTH 21°11'23" WEST, 427.62 FEET; THENCE SOUTHERLY ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE, THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 27°10'41", AN ARC LENGTH OF 431.65 FEET TO THE NORTHEASTERLY LINE OF LANDS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 398, PAGE 797 OF SAID PUBLIC RECORDS; THENCE NORTH 55°50'58" WEST, ALONG SAID NORTHEASTERLY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 100.48 FEET TO THE AFOREMENTIONED EXISTING NORTHEASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF COUNTY ROAD 361; THENCE NORTH 34°46'43" EAST ALONG SAID NORTHEASTERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE A DISTANCE OF 0.14 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. THE ABOVE DESCRIBED TRACT CONTAINS 13,653 SQUARE FEET (0.31 ACRES), MORE OR LESS. ALSO; A TRACT OF LAND TO BE USED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES SITUATED IN SECTION 10, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 7 EAST, TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA, BEING A PORTION OF LANDS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 650, PAGE 435 OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF SAID COUNTY; AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 10; THENCE NORTH 88°51'48" EAST, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SECTION 10, A DISTANCE OF 669.30 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EXISTING WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF COUNTY

ROAD 361 (BEACH RD) AND THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 650, PAGE 435 OF SAID PUBLIC RECORDS; THENCE SOUTH 34°46'43" WEST ALONG SAID WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE, A DISTANCE OF 497.92 FEET, FOR THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUING ALONG SAID WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE, SOUTH 34°46'43" WEST, 151.73 FEET, TO A POINT ON A NON-TANGENTIAL CURVE, CONCAVE WESTERLY; THENCE DEPARTING SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY AND ALONG SAID CURVE HAVING A RADIUS OF 150 FEET, AND BEING SUBTENDED BY A CHORD HAVING A BEARING AND DISTANCE OF NORTH 19°02'04" EAST, 81.40 FEET; THENCE NORTHERLY ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE, THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 31°29'19", AN ARC LENGTH OF 82.44 FEET TO A POINT OF TANGENCY WITH A CURVE CONCAVE EASTERLY, HAVING A RADIUS OF 250 FEET, AND BEING SUBTENDED BY A CHORD HAVING A BEARING AND DISTANCE OF NORTH 18°17'28" EAST, 129.42 FEET; THENCE NORTHERLY ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE, THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 30°00'07", AN ARC LENGTH OF 130.91 FEET TO A POINT ON THE WEST RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF YATES CREEK RD AS DESCRIBED IN OFFICIAL RECORDS BOOK 248, PAGE 506 OF SAID PUBLIC RECORDS; SAID POINT BEING ON A NON-TANGENTIAL CURVE; THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY ALONG SAID WEST YATES CREEK RD RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE ALONG A CURVE CONCAVE EASTERLY, HAVING A RADIUS OF 777.41 FEET, AND BEING SUBTENDED BY A CHORD HAVING A BEARING AND DISTANCE OF SOUTH 51°19'09" EAST, 11.88 FEET; THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE, THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 0°52'32", AN ARC LENGTH OF 11.88 FEET; TO A POINT OF REVERSE CURVATURE, BEING A CURVE CONCAVE WESTERLY, HAVING A RADIUS OF 50.00 FEET, AND BEING SUBTENDED BY A CHORD HAVING A BEARING AND DISTANCE OF SOUTH 08°29'22" EAST, 68.54 FEET; THENCE SOUTHERLY ALONG THE ARC OF SAID CURVE, THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 86°32'03", AN ARC LENGTH OF 75.52 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. THE ABOVE DESCRIBED TRACT CONTAINS 5,742 SQUARE FEET (0.13 ACRES), MORE OR LESS. This anticipated exchange is noticed in the newspaper, i.e., first published once a week for at least two (2) weeks in a newspaper of general circulation public in the County, before the adoption by the Board of County Commissioners of a Resolution authorizing the exchange

of said above-described properties.

This Notice is authorized by the Board of County Commissioners and the hearing on a Resolution ratifying this exchange shall be at the Boards regular meeting on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 9:00 A.M. DATED this 25th day of February, 2022. GARY KNOWLES, Clerk of Court

### FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN THE 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN AND WETLAND

Publication Date: March 2, 2022  
 Name of Responsible Entity  
 Taylor County Board of County Commissioners  
 Address: 201 East Green Street  
 Perry, Florida, 32347  
 (850) 838-3500  
 To: All Interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals. This is to give notice that Taylor County Florida has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection to determine the potential effect that the activity in the floodplain and/or wetland will have on the environment. The activity is funded by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program under Grant Number 10179.  
 The proposed project is located in the 100-year floodplain, but not in any NWI designated wetlands. The proposed project is limited to the replacement of an existing 230KW emergency generator with a new 300kw generator set to be placed within the security compound of the Taylor County Jail at 589 E. US 27, Perry, Florida 32347. The replacement generator will be on a concrete pad with the approximate dimensions of 288" by 98". Taylor County has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values: (i) The reason that the replacement generator must be placed in close proximity to the Jail is so that it can provide the facility with electricity in the event of a power outage; (ii) alternatives were considered to reduce the impacts of construction within the floodplain that included the no action alternative. The no-action alternative would leave the jail facility vulnerable in the event of a disaster. By locating the replacement generator on the same

site as the Jail facility, the impact to the floodplain is minimized because the site is already developed.

(iii) The site design minimizes the floodplain impact to only that which is required to place the generator in a stable and secure location. As proposed, the project will include placing the generator on a small concrete pad with dimensions of approximately 288 inches by 98 inches. Post-development runoff from the concrete pad will be negligible and can be easily accommodated by the Jail facility's existing stormwater management system. Also, the project will be constructed in accordance with the City of Perry and Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) criteria for stormwater management. Taylor County has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative due to the scope of the project. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments. There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplain, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk. Written comments must be received by Jami Evans, Grants Coordinator at 201 East Green Street, Perry, Florida 32347, (850) 838-3553 on or before March 11, 2022. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 9:00 am to 4:00 p.m., M-F at the address shown above. Comments may also be submitted via email at grants.assist@taylorcountygov.com. Thomas Demps, Chairman, BOCC Environmental Certifying Official.