



## Commissioner John Lee Williams' October 29 Journal Entry

October 29th.—On the morning Neomathla called very early with an interpreter, and desired us to state to him before his chiefs distinctly what our object was in visiting his country. We informed, as before, that we were sent by the Governor to select a spot for him to build a house for his council to meet in; that the distance to St. Augustine was so great that he wished them to meet him in the center of the territory. Neomathla said that he was much annoyed by people from Georgia, who endeavored to get his land from him. But at length he told us to go and do as we pleased, but not to tell anybody that he sent us, and not to tell the Indians that he had given us permission to select a site for the seat of government. We paid him two dollars for our horses ranging in his fields during the night, and the charges of his people were enormous for corn and potatoes. We, however, left them in friendship and in passing through the numerous villages which abounded in the woods for more than twenty miles we were not molested. Neomathla is a shrewd, penetrating man; he evidently feels no affection for the white man. His interest restrained him at this time, so that he wished not to obstruct our progress, but he feared that his lenity would render him unpopular with his people.

October 29th.—Continuation. At 9 a. m. we left the council house and passed the old Tallahassee village, at the distance of three miles southeast, which extends over a high and uneven bank, from the trail near a mile and a half northeast, descending westwardly to a very large marsh or pond. The huts are few in number, though the fields are extensive and covered with large peach trees. Chifixico is the chief of this town; he is represented to be very rich. Proceeding eastward, after winding around the south end of an extensive marsh, we, in about three hours, entered a long savanna, through which ran the waters discharged by the old Tallahassee pond. This savanna was succeeded by pine woods, which extended to the middle branch of the St. Marks river. At 3 p. m. we encamped; left the doctor's serv-



ant with the baggage and proceeded east. In about two miles we reached the eastern branch, where it enters the earth under a natural bridge. It is here a considerably wide stream running with a brisk current. Our party was divided; Dr. Simmons and the guide proceeded northward to trace up the stream. Dr. Foster and myself proceeded westward along the skirts of a swamp which marked the course of a river. After traveling several miles we were unable to find where the waters emerged from out of the earth, on account of cane brakes and undergrowth, which rendered it absolutely impenetrable. On our return we were soon joined by my colleagues. They had traced the branch to the highlands, which were similar to those about Tallahassee.



The Selection of Tallahassee as the Capitol

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