

COLONEL WILLIAM JOHNSON

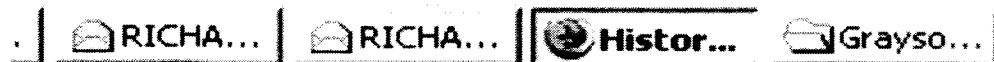
- **DESIGNATION:** 3rd Regiment East Tennessee Militia
- **DATES:** September 1814 - May 1815
- **MEN MOSTLY FROM:** Knox, Claiborne, Greene, Jefferson, Anderson, Blount, Carter, Cocke, Grainger, Hawkins, Rhea, Roane, and Sevier Counties
- **CAPTAINS:** Christopher Cook, Henry Hunter, Joseph Kirk, Andrew Lawson, Elihu Milikin, David McKamy, Benjamin Powell, James R. Rogers, Joseph Scott, James Stewart, James Tunnell

BRIEF HISTORY:

Part of General Nathaniel Taylor's brigade, this unit of drafted militia (about 900 men) was mustered in at Knoxville and marched to the vicinity of Mobile via Camp Ross (present-day Chattanooga), Fort Jackson, Fort Claiborne, and Fort Montgomery. Along the way the men were used as road builders and wagon guards. Many of them were stationed at Camp Mandeville (near Mobile) in February 1814, where there was much disease. For example, the company of Captain Joseph Scott had thirty-one listed sick out of an aggregate of 104 at the final muster.

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- **DESIGNATION:** 2nd Regiment East Tennessee Volunteer Militia



he had dictated the Treaty of Fort Jackson to the Creek Nation, wresting from them 23 million acres and ending British hopes that Indian allies would be of much help to them in their southern campaign. Still, in August 1814, the British advance forces established a base on the Apalachicola River and at Spanish Pensacola. Using Pensacola as a staging area, British land and naval forces, as well as some Indian allies, attempted and failed to take Mobile in September 1814.

British actions in Florida and against Mobile correctly convinced Jackson that the British planned larger operations in the gulf. Adm. Sir Alexander Cochrane planned to complete his operations in Chesapeake Bay, rendezvous with British veterans of the European wars at Jamaica, and stage a major invasion of the Gulf Coast before the end of 1814. Originally, Cochrane's plan called for Gen. Robert Ross to command the land forces in the assault on the gulf, but Ross's death in the Baltimore campaign required his replacement with Lt. Gen. Sir Edward Pakenham.

Although Jackson suspected the impending arrival of a large British land-and-sea force, he did not know where on

the Gulf Coast it was headed or what its major target would be. Partially to satisfy his and westerners' ambitions regarding the remainder of West Florida and also to remove a possible base of operations for the British, Jackson decided in the fall of 1814 to take Spanish Pensacola. As the British withdrew from the town rather than fight Jackson's superior force, they blew up the town's fortifications, making the town useless as a base either to themselves or Jackson. While at Pensacola, however, Jackson learned of the arrival of Cochrane at Jamaica and of the impending arrival of more British land forces there. He also learned from a New Orleans merchant who had been visiting the island at the time of Cochrane's arrival that the target of the British operation was New Orleans. Jackson left Pensacola immediately for New Orleans, anxiously hoping to reach the city before Cochrane. Jackson arrived in the city with his army on 1 December 1814.

Surrounded by swampy wetlands, New Orleans, located about 150 miles north of the Gulf of Mexico, had at least seven possible approaches for an attacking army. All of them presented problems to an attacker, but providing a

Tennessee. From the first and second he required 2,500 men respectively, and from the third 5,000 in addition to the 2,500 which were called out in the preceding July for garrisons in the Creek country. Jackson was informed of these requisitions and wrote letters seconding them.'

The response was generous. Kentucky, although she had contributed liberally to the war in the Northwest, sent 2,228 men under General Adair.' Georgia sent an equal number under General McIntosh. Tennessee sent 2,800 mounted men under General Coffee, something less than two thousand infantry from the eastern counties under General Taylor, and as many more from the west — by way of the Mississippi — under General Carroll. Mississippi Territory furnished a battalion under Major Hinds 150 strong, and the Louisiana militia, including the volunteer organizations in New Orleans, furnished nearly three thousand.' Jackson's total force was a little more than fourteen thousand militia and 2,378 regulars. Of these he left

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¹Monroe to Jackson, September 27, and October 10, 1814; Monroe to Governor Blount, September 25.