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## List of the Inhabitants of Pensacola Who Were Householders at the Time of the Capitulation

by WILLIAM S. COKER AND RODRIGO FERNÁNDEZ CARRIÓN

**T**HE Spaniards prepared a list of householders soon after their victory over the British at Pensacola on May 10, 1781, although the exact date of the document is unknown. They used this list to wrap other documents and it carries a note: “*Varios memoriales dentro y otros papeles en Yngles qe. u guardan pa. en caso de reclaman*” (inside are various memorials and other English papers that are kept in case of claims).<sup>1</sup>

In recent years there has been some discussion about whether these names constitute a “census,” as historian Lawrence H. Feldman claims, or merely a “list” as the title indicates.<sup>2</sup> A “list of householders” is not a “census.” In compiling the list, the Spaniards made no effort to enumerate the population. The document does not include dependents or non-household residents. Also, a householder may or may not have been a resident or present at the time the Spaniards prepared the document. The householder also may have possessed additional “householdings” in other parts of West Florida. For example, Patrick Strachan’s name appears in the Tombigbee and Tensaw districts as well as in Pensacola.<sup>3</sup>

Feldman’s book contains only seventy-four names from the list. Actually, the list has eighty-four names, although the blacksmith Leonard Wisner appears twice. This might indicate several things: 1) that there were two Leonard Wisners— father and son; 2) that Leonard Wisner owned two houses; or 3) a mistake. There are also six spelling discrepancies between Feldman’s list and the original document.

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1. The document has no place or date but clearly was prepared at Pensacola soon after the Spanish victory there on May 10, 1781. The original is located in the Papeles de Cuba Collection, Archivo General de Indias, Papeles de Cuba, legajo 200, Sevilla, Spain.
2. Lawrence H. Feldman, *Anglo-Americans in Spanish Archives: Lists of Anglo-American Settlers in the Spanish Colonies of America* (Baltimore, 1991), 48.
3. Feldman, *Anglo-Americans*, 35, 97.

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The ten names missing from Feldman's book include the following:

John Morison	Atty. at Law
[Jo]hn Bay	Atty. at Law
====Miller	Magistrate
Charles Grant	Carpenter
James Aird	"
William Testard	"
And=====e	"
=====rove	"
Serjt. Jaisen	Military Housekeeper
Serjt. Drassen	"

The six names which differ in spelling are:

<i>Feldman</i>	<i>Original Document</i>
Richard Carol	Richard Carr
Chrystil	=== [Ca]ptn. Chrystie
Paden	====Ogden
Ysham Safold	Isham Saffold
Leonard Wesner	Leonard Wisner
William Whiteside	Willm. Whissell

Note: = Indicates physical damage to the document. Information may or may not be missing.

List of the inhabitants of Pensacola who were Householders at the time of the Capitulation:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Occupation</i>
=William Clifton	Chief Justice
=James Bruce	Counsellor
=David Hodge	"
=John Stephenson	"
=Captain Johnstone	Military Gentleman of the Council
=Captn. Rainsford	"
=Edmund Rush Wegg	Attorney General
=Elihu Hall Bay	Prove. Secy. & Judge Admty.
=Alexr. Macullagh	D. Pro. Marshal Genl.
=J. Allen Martin	Comptr. & Clk Pleas
=John Morison	Atty. at Law
===[Jo]hn Bay	"

===Miller	Magistrate
Arthur Strother	"
George Gauld	"
+John Lorimer	"
William Marshall	"
John Mitchell	"
Robert Tait	"
Arthur Neil	Officer of Ordance [sic.]
+William Wilton	"
James Amos	"
+Joseph Purcell	D. Surveyor Genl.
+William Garden	Commissary
+Peter Swanson	Merchant
James Fairlie	"
+John Falconer	"
Robert Donald	"
John Finley	Schoolmaster
Alexr. Moore	Planter
+Patrick Strachan	"
James Kirk	"
Richard Carr	"
John Stokes	Baker
+John Simpson	Tavern Keeper
John White	Carpenter
+Isaac White	Taylor
Thomas Pashley	"
+Leonard Wisner*	Black smith
Vincent Corona	Retail of Liqui=
George Watson	Ship Carpent[er]=
+James Oneil	Shop Keeper
+Stephen Shakespear	"
Richard Seamark	"
+Thomas Underwood	House Keeper
John Moore	barman
William Duncan	Court Cryer
James Griest	Pilot
William Johnson	"
Jesse Brashier	Yeoman
+John Glover	Master Carpenter
Phenix Stephens	Constable
William Burns	Pilot

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Charles Grant	Carpenter
+James Aird	"
William Testard	"
+Abd=====e	"
=====rove	"
Barthw. Besly	"
James Traviss	"
Henry Legg	"
+James Irving	"
+Barnd. Richardson	"
+John Amer	Ordance do. [sic.]
Thos. Kirton	Goaler
Isham Safford	Depy. Surveyor
+Mattw. Arnold	Brick layer
John Hannay	Taylor
Wm. Walters	Yeoman
Mrs. Farmar	Widow
Mrs. Bell	"
===[Ca]ptn. Chrystie	Military Housekeeper
=====Ogden	"
=====Ramsay	"
David Halley	"
+Serjt. Wadman	"
+Serjt. Burns	"
+Serjt. Jaisen	"
+Serjt. Drassen	"
+Serjt. Porter	"
+James Murray	Genl. Clerk
+Leonard Wisner*	Black smith
+Willm. Whissell	"
+Mary Crozer	Widow

## Notes:

= Indicates physical damage to the document. Information may or may not be missing.

+ This is a marginal notation in the original that is not explained anywhere, but certainly indicated something. Sixty-two of the marginal entries are legible and twenty-nine contain the plus symbol.

\* Leonard Wisner, blacksmith, appears twice in the list.

Only one name from the list appears in the later Spanish censuses of northwest Florida. John Morison, sixty-eight years old,

from Scotland, and his wife Caty, forty-eight years old, and their seven children, ages ten to twenty-six, are in the Spanish census of the Escambia River, 1820. Indeed, it is possible that this was the same Morison who was on the 1781 list. Many Anglo-Americans moved into this area some twenty-five to forty miles north of Pensacola between 1781 and 1820. No Spanish census of northwest Florida (Pensacola) included the Escambia River area until 1820, when the Spaniards grew concerned about the large number of "foreigners" residing there.<sup>4</sup>

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4. William S. Coker and G. Douglas Inglis, *Th Spanish Censuses of Pensacola, 1784-1820: A Genealogical Guide to Spanish Pensacola*. (Pensacola, 1980), 134,127.