

HISTORY
OF

MOSS BLUFF

FLORIDA

~~HISTORY~~

1835 = 1942

BY

FRANK BURNSIDE KINGSBURY

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A HISTORY
OF

MOSS BLUFF AND VICINITY IN
MARION COUNTY FLORIDA

1835 - 1942.

ALSO A GENEALOGICAL REGISTER

THE SUNSHINE STATE.

BY

Frank B. Kingsbury.

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" THE SUNSHINE STATE "
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Author and compiler of:

Ancestry of Nathaniel Kingsbury, Keene, N.H., (1739-1803)
and descendants of his daughters, 1904; 63 pp.
The Marshall Family Record, 1913; 103 pp.
History and Genealogical Register,
Surry, N.H., 1925; 1064 pp.
Sketch, Edward A. Kingsbury, Keene, N.H., 1839-1927.
History of Langdon, N.H., 1932; 784 pp.
And other historical and genealogical works.

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"One generation passeth away, and another
generation cometh, but the earth abideth forever."
-- Eccles. 1-4.

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INTRODUCTION

The work of gathering material for this history of Moss Bluff and vicinity was begun the winter of 1938 and ended on April 11, 1941. During those four winter periods we lived in our house-trailer on land adjacent to Lester R. Wheeler's store and filling station.

This work was undertaken without thought of pecuniary compensation. Moreover it has been a labor of love to preserve from oblivion some of the outstanding historical and traditional events that have taken place in this section of Marion County and especially in recording the names of many of the present and former inhabitants who have resided in the Moss Bluff area.

So far as discovered no one has heretofore made any serious attempt to gather up and chronical in concise form those family records for future generations.

Owing to the fact that Moss Bluff is an unincorporated section in southeastern Marion County we have had no town records to consult in compiling this history, nor have we had access to the County, Land, Probate or Vital records. Our chief sources of information have been obtained from a personal visit from house-to-house, from family Bibles, from headstones and lastly from tradition. Naturally, numerous differences have been discovered. In at least one instance, two Bible records of the same family found in the same home failed to coincide. It must be understood, the numerous sources from which this material has been received and several unharmonizing traditional items, there naturally will appear a few unavoidable errors, yet we have taken special pains to make the work as accurate and reliable as possible under existing conditions.

Some of the early settlers, especially the Griggs, the Forts and the Morrisons, were prolific and numerous for the first two or three generations. They married and intermarried; many were inclined to be gregarious after establishing their own home, while those who moved elsewhere, settled mostly in other parts of Florida.

While engaged in compiling this history we have discovered this section of Florida has experienced several exciting events in the past one hundred years, however, from reliable sources, most of the citizens appear to have been a loyal, law-abiding and respected class of people.

As author and compiler of this History I close with the following lines: "

I have been sincere and humble
In this work I chose to do
I have praised instead of censured
And saw the good in you.

I have done what I was able
To advance a worthy cause
I have striven to lessen evil
And obey God's righteous laws."

*This address
will be O.K.
in the book.
J.B.K.*

Keene, N.H.

Frank B. Kingsbury.

EARLY HISTORY

According to history, John and Sebastian Cabot, two English navigators, were the first white men to discover what is now the state of Florida, in the year 1496. They were soon followed by other Europeans; De Soto, Ponce de Leon, a band of French Huguenots and others.

Florida was organized as a territory of the United States in 1822, and was admitted into the Union March 3, 1845. On January 11, 1861 it seceded along with other southern states, but was readmitted following the close of the war, in June 1868.

Although Florida -- the Land of Sunshine, was visited by white men nearly 450 years ago, and St. Augustine is the oldest city in the United States, yet the state as a whole did not advance in either industry or population until about the time we entered the present century.

Marion County -- the Kingdom of the Sun, was established, March 18, 1844 with the County Seat located temporarily first at Fort King, in a humble log structure. Here the first county business was transacted and, on Sept. 12, 1845 the first Post Office in this county was opened in this Fort. After some two years the Post Office and the county office headquarters were moved into Ocala where they have remained to this day.

The Moss Bluff section is situated about 25 miles southeast from Marion County Court House. In general it is bounded on the north by Lake Bryant, on the east by the Big Scrub, on the south and west by the Oklawaha River. Within the bounds of this territory is a small settlement known as Electra; also a few dwellings, electric power plant and a former settlement at the old Turpentine Still near the south side of the River south of the present White's draw-bridge.

also

MOSS BLUFF

Who coined the name of this place has not been established but it has retained that name since 1860. Tradition says it was Robert Fort who owned and operated a warehouse on the north bank of the Oklawaha River. Another party reports a lady from Texas while taking a trip into this section of Florida as a passenger on one of the River boats, inquired the name of this place. Receiving no reply, as she stood admiring the overhanging live oak laden with festoons of Spanish moss, remarked, "why not call this place, MOSS BLUFF?"

Moss Bluff is situated mostly in Range 23 and 24 East; Township 15 and 16 South; L.R. Wheeler's store the center of this community. Longitude 81°-51'-8" west; Latitude 29°-4'-55" north.

~~Population~~

~~County, 1940, 30,751; Ocala (est) 10,000 Moss Bluff (est) 250.~~

~~United States Census, 1850~~

~~Marion County, 3,127 sq. miles; 329 farms; 394 dwellings; 3,338 population; white 2,068; slaves 1,269; 1 free colored person.~~

INDIAN HISTORY

Owing to the fact that several Indian Mounds have been discovered by the early settlers in Moss Bluff some brief mention should be made in this work of those Aborigines.

When the Spanish mariners arrived here in 1539 they found the Timucua tribe of Indian inhabiting what is now Florida. Some believe they were a branch of the Aztecs Indian who inhabited Yucatan, Mexico. They were similar in stature, language and custom ^{but} ~~and~~ possessed a higher degree of culture than the average North American Indian. Around the year 1750 a large band of wandering Creek Indians, who adopted the name of, "Seminoles", came into Florida from the Mississippi Valley ~~country~~ and not only conquered but almost exterminated those original settlers. Those Timucuas were the Mound builders; ^{they} manufactured earthen-ware, pottery, and ~~were~~ large size men, who desired to live in peace. But the Seminoles were a war-like tribe who later committed many acts of cruel vengeance upon many of the early white settlers.

INDIAN MOUNDS

Some years ago a number of men from the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., came up the Oklawaha River in the boat, "Alligator" and made a careful search for all those Indian mounds. They excavated each one and took all valuable articles found back to Washington, thus making it impossible to now determine the shape and size in ~~its~~ ^{there} original form. We believe they were circular or elliptical, four to five feet high and about 12 to 15 feet in diameter, though some were even larger.

There was a large mound on an island in the north-west section of Lake Bryant, owned for many years by the Stana-land family. Here were found skeletons, flint spear and arrow points, old iron, crockery, axes, hoes and the remains of an old gun. There is a mound near the late George W. Waters' home, about $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles south-west from Electra. Another is near the highway some 10 rods east of White's Corner. Four can be located on the Harry H. Hart farm, south-west of the White's iron draw-bridge; all are between the road leading to Oklawaha and the River. Two large ones contain many fragments of earthen ware, bones, etc. ^(to this day)

Two mounds are on S. Jefferson Martin's farm, some 50 rods southerly of his buildings. Remains of men of giant size have been taken from those mounds. In the pasture owned by John S. Martin, 1940, was a sizeable mound. It is ~~around~~ ^{some} 80 rods south of L.R. Wheeler's store. A report states there is a mound in the Big Scrub, in the vicinity of Lake Catharine. There possibly are others of which we have no knowledge. Those mounds in fields are being obliterated owing to long tilling the land. ^{cultivated}

Battles in the Seminole War

The following is a list of the battles fought in the Seminole Indian War in Florida so far as we have knowledge:

- Dec. 19, 1835, battle of Alachua Savanna (perhaps near, Alachua, Fla.)
- Dec. 20, " , Battle of Micanopy.
- Dec. 28, " , massacre of Gen. Thompson and his party by Osceola.
- Dec. 28, " , massacre of Major Dade and over 100 of his men.
- Dec. 31, " , battle of Withlacoochee (probably near that River.)
- Jan. 8, 1836, battle of Dunlawton.
- Jan. 9, " , 2nd battle of Micanopy.
- Jan. 9, " , battle of Wetumpka.
- Feb. 29, " , 2nd battle of Withlacoochee.
- Mar. 28, " , Georgia troops crossed the Oklawaha at Moss Bluff.
- Mar. 28, " , Gen. Joseph Shelton shot an Indian near Moss Bluff.
- June 9, " , 3rd battle of Micanopy.
- Nov. 18-21, " , battle of Wahoo Swamp. (S)
- Jan. 7, 1837, battle of Harcheelutee. (HARCHEELUSTEE, OK)
- Feb. 8, " , battle of Lake Monroe, near Sanford, Fla.
- Mar. 6, " , treaty with Seminoles, signed at Camp Dade.
- Oct. -, " , General Jessup seized Osceola and 71 prisoners.
- Dec. 25, " , battle of Okeechobee.
- Dec. 26, " , battle of the Waccasassa River, near Dunnellon.
- Jan. 15, 1838, battle of Juniper Creek, near Lake George.
- Jan. 24, " , battle of Juniper Inlet.
- Jan. 30, " , death of Osceola at Fort Moultrie, Charleston, S.C.
- June 2, 1840, battle of Chackachatta.
- Sept. 6, " , battle of Wakahoota.
- Dec. -, " , Gen. Harrison's expedition into the Everglades.
- Apr. 19, 1842, battle of Pilaklikaha (the last battle).
- Aug. 14, " , Seminole War was officially declared ended, ~~which~~ although

Those 200 or 300 Seminole Indians, and runaway negro slaves, followers of Osceola, were never conquered nor was peace ever declared. They fled to the fastnesses of and depths of the Everglades below Lake Okeechobee, where they and their lineal descendants have lived to this day. Within the past 30 or more years a few have ventured out to see that the White men were developing in Florida. A small band of that tribe have occupied the Indian Village at Silver Springs during recent years, yet, they still retain their dress, language and customs as of yore.

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AN INDIAN ENGAGEMENT

During the Seminole Indian war ^{which} an engagement took place near Moss Bluff in April 1836 ~~that~~ we have discovered in our research in compiling this work. During the early months of 1933, Mr. H. J. Shaffer, formerly associated with The Florida State Museum, University of Florida, at Gainesville, spent some time in research work relative to the Seminole Indian war in Florida; he was living at Longwood, Fla., in 1940.

of which Mr. Shaffer not only visited Moss Bluff but consulted the following works while preparing his historical article, a copy he sent to Mrs. Lemuel A. Griggs, March 2, 1933.

He examined; "Notices of Florida and the Campaigns", by Lieut. Meyer M. Cohen, 1836; Vol. IV, "Book of the Indians", by Samuel A. Drake, 1841, and a copy of Spragues, "Florida War", 1848, etc.

Owing to the fact that Federal soldiers passed through Moss Bluff during ~~the~~ April 1836, and crossed the Oklawaha River, about one mile south-west of the present cemetery, (at what later became known as the Morrison-Pendarvis ferry), Mr. Shaffer's article will be read with special interest.

Mr. H. J. Shaffer's historic paper.

ENGAGEMENT NEAR MOSS BLUFF

April 1836

March 24, (Thursday), 1836, Gen. Scott's* left wing under command of Gen. Abraham Eustis, assembled at Fort Columbia (Volusia) and Fort Butler just opposite, and near the present town of Astor in Volusia county, Fla.

The Georgia Volunteers and the detachment of regular artillery, under Col. Butler, had built Fort Butler at Astor before the arrival of the regiment of Carolina troops and the Washington and part of another corps of Charleston, S. C., troops, who had already made one campaign and were re-enlisted for Scott's campaign.

With two volunteer regular officers, who were off duty and had signed up for this drive, Lieut. Cohen with a section of sappers of the Washington Volunteers went in advance to build a bridge across the Oklawaha where the road from Volusia to Dade's Battle ground crosses that River ~~and~~ and some 20 miles north of Lake Eustis. (This places it in what is now Moss Bluff.)

The Georgia troops were camped near the north-east bank of the River when the sappers arrived to construct the bridge, and they served as a guard while the latter were engaged in building the bridge, between noon and dark on Monday, March 28, 1836. By the time it was

Note - A few additions in names, dates, etc. have been made by the author in order to augment Mr. Shaffer's valuable paper.
* This was Gen. Winfield Scott, b. June 13, 1786; d. May 29, 1866.

Would like this article in smaller type

5 X

finished, all the left wing was assembled there to cross. During the passage over the bridge, the cannon and heavy wagons caused the bridge to subside in the middle, when the floor sank below the surface of the high rushing water and it had become too dark to see clearly, it was necessary to take the horses out and to muscle the wagons and cannon over by hand. So swift and high was the water at the time, several of the men slipped overboard and were drowned, as it was dangerous to strike a light lest the Indians open fire at the light. It was after midnight of the 28th, the troops were still crossing and pulling the cannon over by long drag ropes and, having hard work to keep the caissons and wagons right side up on the uneven floor.

After a few mishaps, with the loaded wagons, the rest were unloaded and the empty ones were dragged over, and the loads were carried across by hand.

Luckily the cannon had been put across before the bridge had settled too badly. During the crossing two Indian fires were seen across a nearby lake. Col. Butler with a detachment of volunteers, one of whom was Brigadier-General Joseph Shelton who had volunteered as a private soldier when his own unit had not been chosen, went on a scout to see what the fires signified. Shelton found three or four Indians near the fire, one of whom he shot in the neck, but his 2nd barrel and his pistol snapped as the Indians rapidly approached and before Gen. Shelton could reload he was shot in his hip at very short range. At that moment Barclay Gibson came up and shot the red skin in the back and, who died while re-loading.

Other famous volunteers on this scout were Captain Broome, who came to Volusia to take charge of his company who were to assemble at that place and, where Broome had arranged to join them, but lest a delay be occasioned, Gen. Eustis did not wait for Broome's arrival but appointed an officer in his place, so Captain Broome volunteered and came along as a private under Captain Allen Barnwell's South Carolina Volunteers.

On Tuesday March 29, 1836 the column got under way from the bridge, where they hastily had entrenched themselves. This fortification they called, Camp Butler, after the Colonel of the Georgia Volunteers who had been the first of the troops to arrive after the bridge was planned and who served as a guard to the sappers while it was being constructed. They had scoured the woodland on the easterly bank of the River and had assisted in bringing in the bridge timbers and flooring aside from building an entrenchment as a safe retreat in case of attack, although no Indians appeared at that time there was plenty of signs that they were in the vicinity.

--- 3 An Indian Engagement:

A few miles after the column left the bridge, they arrived at an abandoned Indian village and, nearby they found the body of the Indian who had shot Gen. Shelton the previous evening. He was Mad Wolf (or Yo-had-adjo) Chief of the Oklawaha village of 50 warriors. So suddenly did the troops arrive in this village that they captured clothing, provisions, rifles and about 50 scalps.

The scalps were fastened flag-wise to small pine sticks; the hair was fine and thick and appeared to have been taken from women and children. Chief Mad Wolf and his warriors, later captured, resembled in their decorations, a branch of the Yemassee tribe --- possibly of Yemassee, S.C.

Six miles beyond this village the advance guard of the column was met by a sharp fire from the enemy who were concealed in hammocks to the left of the troops. General Eustis himself led a charge into the hammocks where several of his men were picked off by the hidden enemy, but not an Indian was seen. The same thing happened later as the column passed south-westerly through Okahumpka, with the same result.

About midway between Fort Butler at Astor and Tampa was a place called, Pilaklakaha, to which place Mic-anopy had moved after he had abandoned his fields near Oklawaha. This place was about 65 miles from their starting Fort. Here the troops found extensive orange groves in full bloom, as had been the case in the village near the bridge at Camp Butler.

The column now started on their return from this long tiresome chase down the State though seldom was an individual Indian seen along the way while they were continually beset by the enemy and were losing both men and horses. Upon arriving at the bridge at Moss Bluff they found the Indians had attempted to burn the bridge but without success. With the help of Major VanNess and Lieut. Allen of the First Artillery, who had volunteered for this service, and Lieut. Cohen and his engineers, the bridge was soon repaired. From past experience the Artillery was posted on the east bank as soon as it could be rushed across, then the Cavalry cleaned up the nearby hammocks before the wagons started across, but the Indians managed to pick off several of the pickets on guard, and here again some of the soldiers were drowned while trying to hold the wagons on the bridge as they passed over.

The column finally succeeded in reaching their starting point at Fort Butler, but it proved largely an expensivel and fruitless undertaking. *The end.*

The troops came and returned over the old Volusia road, that ran from Volusia on the east coast to Fort King near Ocala, until they arrived in the vicinity of Moss Bluff when they turned south-westerly where they built the bridge over the Oklawaha, as previously stated. It would be very appropriate for the citizens of Moss Bluff to erect a suitable monument on the bank of the former river, marking this historic spot in their midst.

beds

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their
Osceola the Sub-Chief.

In 1834 Osceola lived three miles southwest from Ocala, while Fort King, under the command of General Thompson, was an equal distance east of the city. On October 23, 1834, the Indians met in council at Silver Springs to discuss the demands of the United States relative to moving west. One branch under the leadership of Osceola would not ratify the contract. Finally, his wife, who was the daughter of a runaway negro slave, was taken from him and, for his threats of revenge, he too was seized and imprisoned for six days by General Thompson. Osceola in his wrath killed General Thompson and four others six months afterwards on Dec. 28, 1835 on the same day that Major Dade, marching to the relief of this Fort with over one hundred men, was waylaid near Wahoo Swamp, a few miles ~~southwest~~ from the present town of Bushnell, Sumter county.

finally Although beaten in several engagements, Osceola and his followers fled to the Everglades. "He was the soul of the resistance." To every appeal to peace, he replied, "Here I hunted when a boy; here my father lies buried; here I wish to die." In October, 1837, while holding a conference with General Jessup, under a flag of truce, Osceola was seized and taken prisoner to Fort Moultrie, Charleston, S.C., where he died Jan. 30, 1838. Seventy-one other prisoners were taken at the same time.

A life size monument was erected at Silver Springs in 1939 depicting Osceola in his wrath thrusting his dagger through the White man's demands for removal. Upon the base of this monument is a plaque reading:

OSCEOLA

1804 - 1838

OCTOBER 23, 1834, THE SEMINOLE INDIANS MET IN COUNCIL AT THESE SPRINGS TO DISCUSS DEMANDS OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THEIR REMOVAL TO THE WEST. OSCEOLA, THEN AN OBSCURE SUB-CHIEF, SWAYED THE COUNCIL WITH HIS ORATORY AND SET THE INDIANS AGAINST REMOVAL. THIS WAS THE REAL BEGINNING OF THE GREAT SEMINOLE WAR OF 1835-42, IN WHICH, AS HEAD WAR-CHIEF, OSCEOLA BECAME AN IMPORTANT INDIAN MILITARY GENIUS AND STRATEGIST OF AMERICAN HISTORY. HE WAS CAPTURED THROUGH DECEPTION AND DIED AT FORT MOULTRIE, CHARLESTON, S.C., JANUARY 30, 1838.

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It was NATURAL HISTORY
Oklawaha River

This is the most important river in this part of Florida. It signifies in the Indian language, "Crooked Stream" or "Crooked Water" ~~and~~ originally written, "Ocklawaha." It has been known by that name for over 100 years. It rises in or near Lake Apopka flowing thence northward through lakes, marsh land and recently constructed canals for 75 miles, to a point near Orange Springs, then turns south-easterly for 15 miles where its waters mingle with the St. Johns River near the town of Welaka in Putnam county.

Before the railroads entered this part of Florida this River was extensively used by a number of boats.

Lakes

As is well known, Florida is largely a prairie country, with no mountains ~~or~~ elevations worthy of being called a hill, yet she has a bountiful supply of lakes, marsh-land, swamps and pools. Among the more prominent lakes in the Moss Bluff area are the following:

Lake Mary and Lake Catharine in the Big Scrub, east of Moss Bluff, and now within the Ocala National Forest area. They received their names from Mary Fort and Catharine Fort.

Long Lake, ~~is~~ in the immediate Moss Bluff area; is about one mile in length. This is No. 50 lake in U.S. Forestry.

Lake Queen is near the home of John E. Wallace and about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile northerly of the northwest end of Long Lake.

Duck Lake is $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of Lake Queen.

Lake Bessie is easterly of L.D. Marsh homestead. It was named in memory of Miss Bessie Lee Sellers.

Lake Bryant is the largest lake in ~~the Moss Bluff area~~ *this region*. It is an irregular body of water, some four miles wide by five miles long. During high water it is connected on its northwest with Little Lake Bryant.

Parker Lake, named for Rev. J.P. Parker is northeast of where Harmony church formerly stood, in the Electra section.

About a mile south of White's draw-bridge is Lake Fay, named in memory of a Miss Fay who died and was buried near its shore. Deep Blue Sink is a lake near Lake Fay.

Lake Lewis is some 50 rods south of Samuel A. McKenney's home.

Hammocks

Tracts of land having a slight elevation over adjoining land are known as Hammocks. The following are mentioned:

Cow Hammock in the vicinity of the Muclan (Oklawaha) Farms.

Bear Hammock, near Swim Pond in the Big Scrub.

Levy (or Leavy) Hammock north of Lake Bryant. Here a large orange grove covers most of the upland. Tradition says this was an old Spanish land grant, one of several within the bounds of Marion county.

WILD LIFE

Florida was for generations ~~been~~ the safe refuge for many varieties of wild animals. The following are mentioned:

The Florida panther is the largest and one of the most savage, when wounded, for man to encounter. But few now remain except in the deep Everglades of southern Florida. The black bear ~~was~~ plentiful; wild-cats, deer, the opossum, squirrels, were somewhat numerous in by-gone-days. Alligators were also frequently killed, as well as rattlers, ~~up to within~~ ^{until} recent years.

Joseph Fort and his brother Robert, were hunters for big game. They shot many deer, several black bear, wild-turkey and a number of panther, — one very large one about 1868, near where Mrs. Harmon P. Griggs now lives. This wounded panther fought both hunters and dogs. In this encounter Joseph was severely clawed on his face.

Oliver Fort reports that he has killed one bear, many wild-cats, numerous deer, several wild-turkey and some large alligators, in his day.

Daniel J. Fort reports shooting a large 'gater while rowing across Lake Catharine in a small boat, ~~one evening~~. Many other old Timers no doubt have done equally ~~as~~ well in exterminating those early pests.

An occasional opossum still prowls about the farm-yard at night in search of a fat chicken. The hoot owl sends forth his nightly greetings from the depths of the Big Scrub. Flocks of turtle-doves and quail are frequently seen, but no wild turkey appear to have survived the hunters gun in this region. We fear they will be entirely exterminated in a few more years, unless the State protects them at an early date.

Great flocks of the Southern crow are seen ~~daily~~ flying in all directions in search of their daily ration. Also the buzzards are seen daily sailing serenely in search of food.

Printer to close up spaces

FISH

The lakes, ponds and rivers were well supplied with the "finny tribe" when the first white settlers arrived. Many of the larger lakes still contain a limited amount of sizeable fresh water fish. Two 10-pounders were taken from Long Lake in 1940 by Edwin J. Smith, a visitor from Munith, Mich.

Do

INDIAN COONTIE

When the first white settlers arrived here they found on the high dry land near the south bank of Oklawaha River, and the later Morrison-Pendarvis Ferry, a small palm plant which the Indians had cultivated and ~~which they~~ ^{were} called COONTIE. The roots from this plant ~~was~~ cleaned and dried, then ground into a flour for making bread, ~~for food~~. Some of those who came into this section during the Civil war period also planted and cultivated coontie for food.

WILD OATS

The late John S. Martin reported that when his people arrived in Moss Bluff most of the land was covered with a luxuriant growth of native wild oats---high as a horses back. Several inches of this damp decayed mulch covered the ground, and when the land was put under cultivation, bountiful crops were produced. But alas, hard cropping and numerous forest fires have robbed the land of most of that old time vegetation. Today not a spear or head of that plant appears to have survived. One Old Timer expressed regret over his inability to secure seed in order to sow a few more of his wild oats.

in this vicinity.

THE BIG SCRUB

A large tract of land east of Moss Bluff has been known as The Big Scrub for more than 75 years. Allen Fort, Jr., settled on some of the fertile portion of the Scrub when he arrived in this region, about 1853. He and members of the Griggs family, with a few other citizens, continued to live here until 1937. Soon after the United States Department of Agriculture acquired this land and established the Ocala National Forest. A substantial fence was erected and within this enclosure, a tract now ^{created} about 45 miles long by 40 miles wide, the Government has ~~set it apart as~~ a Game Refuge. Fire ~~warden~~ towers have been erected in and near this Refuge manned with keen eyed Wardens who constantly survey the far reaches for devastating forest fires.

created

NATIVE ORANGE TREES

No one now living appear to know when or by whom the first orange trees were introduced into this section of Florida. Soldiers who passed through here in 1836 found the fruit trees in this vicinity. Tradition says one of the largest Seedlings in this section formerly stood only a few rods east of the old Parker-Bliss dwelling, on land ~~now, 1940~~, owned by Lester R. Wheeler. The Parson Brown, ^{Valencia} in 1940 Pineapple and a few Valencia's are the present leading varieties grown in this area.

EARLY SETTLERS

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All the early settlers built and lived in log houses --- *in* some of them for many years. Two of those dwellings, though erected at a more recent date, are still standing. William Wilson, Sr. built a log house in 1871 in which he and his family lived until quite recently. This house, including a few additions, is ~~standing to this day, and~~ in quite good condition, though now unoccupied. On the west end is one of those old-time chimneys, constructed of clay, Spanish moss and wooden lattis ---cob-house fashion. This brickless chimney was quite fashionable with the pioneers. It stands westerly of the Charles F. Harris cement store building.

James B. Caldwell built a log house about 1879 not far from Little Lake Bryant. This building is now ~~1881~~, occupied by Ora W. Eggleston, a Vermont Yankee. This is, so far as known, the last log house in this section that is now occupied.

Lemuel Griggs who came here in 1835 and settled near the old Volusia Road was the first permanent settler so far as discovered. He built a log house about 38 rods east of the home where his grandson, Thomas Elfin Griggs, now lives, and about 400 feet north of the present highway. The site of that dwelling was 20 feet east of ~~an~~ slight depression that remains to mark the site of the old house well. *by this house,*

Hugh Stanaland arrived in 1848 and settled in a wilderness some distance from the west shore of Lake Bryant. Here he built and lived in a log house. His neighbor was Lemuel Griggs, four miles to his west.

ed
The late Robert C. Fort reports ~~that~~ there were only four settlers in the immediate Moss Bluff area in 1855, or near that date. His father, (Robert) lived in a log house that stood in the lot some distance south of where Thomas H. Griggs now lives. Washington Harrison occupied a log house which stood a few rods south of the present home of S. Jefferson Martin. Joseph Fort was living in a log house that stood on the ridge, some 15 rods north of the junction of the new Clay road with the main, east - west road, running through Moss Bluff. Allen Fort, Jr., the father of both, Joseph and Robert, settled in the Big Scrub when he arrived in this section about 1853. He took up a large plantation in and near Lake Mary and Lake Catharine, placing his 3-room log dwelling about midway ~~between the two lakes~~. Nearby were several log cabins erected for his slaves that he brought with him from Alabama. His log house and the cabins were on the south side of the old road and about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of where his great-grandson, Daniel J. Fort now lives. The old house continued to stand until ~~about~~ 1888, though occupied by various people during its latter years.

OLD ROADS

15

The old Volusia Road which started on the East Coast and ran westerly through Astor, the Big Scrub, cutting across the Moss Bluff section, about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of the David Sellers' Corner, thence on westerly passing through the farm of Lemuel Griggs, thence direct to Sharps Ferry, then six miles to Fort King, where it ended, some three miles east of what is now the city of Ocala. This Road was probably first opened by the Spanish. ~~At~~ any rate, it appears to have been a well established cross-state highway as early as the Seminole Indian war in 1835. No doubt ~~this~~ this was one of the first roads laid out in this section of Florida.

The Fort Mellon Road

Some confusion has appeared over this highway. Some report it was the Old Fort Mellon Road, while others call it the old Fort Mason highway. Possibly it ^{is} the same road, but the name ~~of~~ Mason came at a later date.

This Fort Mellon Road parted from the old Volusia Road ^{some} ~~short~~ distance east of Sharps Ferry and took a southeasterly course to Fort Mellon passing through Moss Bluff, enroute.

(1941)

The late Robert C. Fort stated ^{that} this road came to the White's Corner over practically the present highway. A few rods east of this Corner the old road diverged from the present road in a southeast direction, passing directly along the north side of his father's log house, which then stood some 25 or 30 rods south of where Thomas H. Griggs now lives, thence passing along the north side and quite near the Old Moss Bluff cemetery, thence east passing near where Andrew J. Harrell formerly lived, thence east passing near the north side of where James P. Martin now lives, thence easterly near the north line of S. Jefferson Martin's woodland, and near the site of the school-house, built around 25 years ago, thence easterly crossing the new Clay Road, south of two pug-holes on land now owned by Lester R. Wheeler, thence easterly and entered the present highway in the vicinity of Daniel J. Fort's house, ^{then} ~~it~~ followed the present discarded highway into the Big Scrub passing along the north side of the site of ^{old} Allen Fort, Jr., log house.

The present highway from White's Corner to the Scrub, was called the Melvonville Public Road, or at least a portion of it, according to an old deed. The old Fort Mellon road appears to have been discarded over 50 years ago, and in its place came the present or Melvonville Public Road.

Otis Squires reports that when he came to Moss Bluff in November 1917 the present highway easterly from the Davis' Corner was full of trees and stumps; traffic was obliged to dodge many stumps which were in the roadway at that late date.

The old roads have gone through many changes while others have been completely abandoned.

BOATING ON THE OKLAWAHA

It is impossible to give the dates and names of all the boats that ascended and descended the Oklawaha River from the arrival of the first settlers until the railroad was built within fairly recent years. Those river boats were doing a thriving business in this region 60 or 75 years ago. They brought in groceries, clothing, farm machinery and took out great shipments of oranges and vegetables. Aside from a limited amount of overland trucking this was the only direct contact those pioneers had with the outside world.

Warehouses and shore stations were established periodically on the banks of the river. U.S. mail arrived and departed on those boats.

The course of the River at that time was extremely crooked both above and below the present White's draw-bridge. In fact some of the boats were required to backup in order to navigate some of those hair-pin curves. The distance from the U.S. Locks to Starks Ferry was reduced one-half, from 16 to eight miles, ~~due to the recently constructed canal.~~ *in the construction of the canal.*

or Tradition states that scows poled up and down stream by *slaves* brawny craftsmen were the first to arrive with loads of freight. Soon after came the "Griffin", the first steamer direct from Jacksonville. This boat under Capt. A.L. Rice, made weekly trips during the winter season to accommodate the tourists. The Oklawaha steamer under Capt. Adams came soon after, also the Astalula, Okahumkee and Hiawatha, all known as the HART LINE, ~~and~~ they were built by a Mr. Hart who lived ~~at Palatka, Fla., during the late '70s.~~

A partial list of others engaged in this traffic are the following: Capt. Edwards commanded the Tuscawillow; Capt. Sparr the Emmie, and the Mayflower; the Howard Line, the Coons Line, all were doing a rushing river business prior to about 1900. Capt. Sewall operated a Barge Line between 1900 and 1910. Most of those boats handled both freight and passengers and went inland as far as Leesburg. Some of the larger ones took out three car loads of oranges on a single trip. *ended.*

When the railroads came ~~in~~ *as many as*, the river traffic ~~went out.~~ *have*

During recent years, ~~about~~ 100 boats of small size pass up and down the river annually, mostly private pleasure craft.

Warehouses.

No complete list of warehouses and shore-stations along the river bank is obtainable.

Before 1870 and until ~~about~~ 1900 there was a sizeable warehouse between two great oak trees, on the north bank of the old river bed, about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile above the present U.S. Locks. It was in charge of Robert Fort, and named, MOSS BLUFF. ~~Then on up~~ the river $\frac{1}{2}$? mile was the Shore Station on south bank at the Morrison-Pendarvis Ferry, then up stream a few miles ~~at~~ a small hamlet called Pine Bluff, ~~where~~ was a small warehouse.

One old citizen reports; "The old Moss Bluff warehouse was a sizeable building, about 16 X 25 feet." Mr. Fort employed James R. Hightower and others while he managed this warehouse. *frame*

17

CANALS -- U.S. LOCKS -- POWER PLANT

Prior to 1910 the bed of the Oklawaha River in this area was extremely circuitous. During the flood season its waters covered a large acreage. Finally some of the more enterprising farmers, assisted by the Government set on foot a plan to improve conditions along this river. ~~Surveyors and engineers engaged, projects were considered.~~ STOER'S

One plan ~~considered~~ was to start a canal near ~~Storey's~~ Farms, and run north to Lake Bryant, passing through Moss Bluff near the new Clay Road, the low-land a few rods west of William P. Wallace's dwelling house, thence through Long Lake, and on to Lake Bryant, thence overland to Lake George.

Another and the one adopted, was to dredge a canal from Starks Ferry to the White's Draw-bridge --- distance about eight miles. Then a second canal from near that bridge along the easterly shore of the old river for about five miles where it joined the old river bed. The ~~old~~ river bed ~~also was~~ ^{been} dredged and improved in many places. This work was started about 1918, and required nearly four years to build. present

The J.D. Young Company, Gadsden, Ala., was interested in the canal project on account of reclaiming a large acreage of rich muckland. The upper Farms are known at present as the C.H. Storey Muck Farms. The lower was purchased in 1940, by James Norris, of Chicago, and ~~are now known as the Muclan Farms,~~ ^{is} has since

STOER
OKLAWAHA, FARMS,

U.S. Locks

~~XXXX~~ The U.S. Government built the Locks near White's Draw-bridge in 1923 and '24, but the new water-way was not open to traffic until 1925. The top of cement at the Locks is 60' 6" above sea-level. From Lake Griffin to the Locks there is a fall of only two feet; a fall of 13 feet at the Locks, and from that point to the St. Johns River there is a drop of 40 feet. George A. Waters is Supt. of the Locks.

Power Plant.

This hydro-electric station was built in 1927 and '28, at present is a sub-station of the Florida Power Corporation, and utilizes the water-fall at the Locks. Here is a substantial cement, stone and steel unit, with two generators, rated at 6,000 K.W. every 24 hours, under favorable conditions. The present daily output is around 1,200 K.W., 1940.

Harry H. Hart is Supt. of this electrical plant.

Intendant

FERRIES AND DRAW-BRIDGES

The Oklawaha River was a great obstacle in the path of all early, east--west, travellers in this region. Owing to this level country -- with many long shallow river-lakes, during flood season, but few points along its course were suitable for either a ferry or bridge. *at a sharp bend*

During the Seminole ~~Indian~~ war, Federal troops built a temporary bridge across this river between noon and dusk, March 28, 1836. It was at a narrow point in the river, about $\frac{3}{4}$ a mile above the U.S. Locks, and possibly 100 rods southerly from Davis Corner. A. T. "Boss" Morrison operated a ferry at the same point over 60 years ago. He lived nearby on the south shore. He was succeeded by George Pen-darvis, a blacksmith, who lived at the same place, and operated his shop nearby. This ferry was in operation until about 1905. This was a free ferry -- so reported.

Andrew J. "Jack" White established his ferry about 1860 where the present steel draw-bridge stands. After his re-turn from war he continued operating his ferry for which he collected a small toll. Long poles were used to push over his first flat-bottom boat; later he improved this service.

Tolls at White's Ferry prior to 1900 were:

1 man on foot - - - - -	5¢
1 horse or ox team, one way - - -	20¢
1 horse or ox team, round trip -	35¢
2 horse or oxen, one way - - -	25¢
2 do do, round trip - - -	45¢

Special price for drove of cattle or flock of sheep.

Mr. White continued his ferry business until ~~about~~ 1902, when the County bought his right, at which time citizens of Marion county were exempt from toll, while Mr. White was retained to collect toll from all others. About 1906 the County erected a steel bridge at this point, but ~~this~~ *it* was of too light material for the ~~travel~~ *traffic*. This became a free bridge, to one-and-all about 1910. In 1926 the County purchased four steel bridges of The Austin Brothers Bridge Company, Atlanta, Ga., to be erected over the Oklawaha, one at Eureka, one at Delks Bluff -- formerly known as Colby's Landing, one at White's and one at Starks Ferry. *OLD* The iron bridge at White's crossing was ^{then} moved down the river $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the Muclan Farms where it still is in use. The replaced bridge is about ~~126~~ *draw* feet long by 12' 6" wide.

The late Andrew J. Holton served as draw-bridge tender at White's Ferry ~~crossing~~ up to Jan. 1, 1932 at which time Mrs. James N. Brenson took up the work and she has continued up to this date. She is required to place a lighted lamp at each end of the revolving bridge at dusk daily and, to turn the bridge at least once each week.

SCHOOLS

19

The first school house in Moss Bluff was built of logs as early as 1860. It was a small crude building and served for both a school and place for holding religious services; wood shutters served in place of the glassless windows, which were regulated according to the weather conditions. The chimney was built of clay, Spanish moss, incased in a wood-lattice frame work, which was a common chimney construction of that day. Nearby was a palm thatched arbor under which some of the first religious services in Moss Bluff were held, or in the log building on inclement Sundays. Rev. S. Thomas Stanaland frequently came here to preach, with many others. This served as a school until 1876?

The building stood southerly of the present Davis Corner, and near the old road leading southwest-wardly from near the present new Moss Bluff cemetery, to the former Morrison-Pendarvis Ferry, and some distance south of the former Fort Mellon road. Its site has not been discovered. Twenty-five or 30 scholars attended this school. A Mr. Connor taught this school, 1866-67, and Mr. Richard B. Erwin in 1868.

School in Union Church

About 1870 the local citizens built a sizeable square---4-pitch roof church building on the north side of the present road and near the north end of Long Lake. It was known as The Union Church. This building was taken down about 1876 and rebuilt in practically its original form some 50 or 60 feet north of where now stands the present Church of Christ. This was in use for a few years, both as a church on Sunday and as a school during week-days, and was finally taken down about 1880.

Miss Florida Fort taught this school when about 18 years of age, at which time there were 35 or 40 scholars.

This is believed to have been the second school building in Moss Bluff. *used for a school house.*

55

Long Lake Log School-House. *fenced*

formerly
long
The men in this section turned out and built this log school-house about 1879, on an acre of *fenced-in* land. *THIS* building has been gone for around 55 years, nothing now remains to mark its former location. It was, however, in what is now William P. Wallace's pasture land, several rods east of the present road, and around 30 rods southeast of the southeast corner of Long Lake. It was near an old road that started near the Wallace Corner and ran northeast to where Henry Wiley lived. This building was 18 x 25 feet, with a door in the south side and one at the east end. Two small windows were in the north side. The teachers chair, table and stove were near the northeast corner; a stove pipe extended out the north wall. Along the interior north wall was a narrow shelf used as a writing table. A large table filled most of the floor center, around which was a seat, this was the Study Table. A wide, 7-inch high, platform filled the west end of room, above and on the west end was a large black-board.

WALLS

in order

In constructing this building the logs were split and hewed ~~to make~~ to make the inside a fairly even surface. Joseph Fort is said to have donated the acre of land and furnished most of the timber for this log house. It was called the Long Lake school, rather than the Moss Bluff school.

Scholars from all this section attended this school; from across the River, coming over on the Morrison-Pendarvis flat bottom boat, from near Electra and from near Lake Bryant. They filled the room, of all ages, 6-to-20 years of age.

But few of those teachers are now recalled, though the following are mentioned: Dr. D.A. Thomaston, who later taught in Electra. Mr. Bowen, Henry Simmons, Mrs. Cunningham, Mrs. William W. Jackson, and Miss Minnie Fogg.

this

H.I. Thompson and James Daugherty are said to have razed the log school building about 1887, and a new frame school house was erected at the same place. After a few years this new building was taken down and rebuilt on woodland now, 1941, owned by S. Jefferson Martin, and only a few rods from the southeast corner of Otis Squire's orange grove. The latter building was used until 1922, when pupils were transferred by bus to the school at Lynne. Mr. Martin bought the old school building, 1923, and used the material to build a new barn, 1927. An old cast-iron pump ~~well~~ remains to mark the site of this seat-of-knowledge.

former

Electra School

(21')

1884

This Masonic -- School-house was built in 1884 by members of Morning Star Lodge and the school Committee. The Lodge had the top story and the school the ground floor; outside dimensions, 26' 3" X 40' 3", high-posted, paintless, door in west end, four windows on each side, and two in each end, in school room. A platform, 6' 6" wide and 10" high fills the east end of room, with 5 large blackboards on the wall at that end of the room. Three posts support the top-story floor. A stairs in southwest corner of room led to the Lodge. Window-shutters covered the eight openings, on sides & two in rear end.

George W. Waters, Joseph Smith and M.L. Searles were the Masonic building committee, and William E. Martin, George W. Waters and Ed Henderson served as School building committee. *previously*

During its erection, Dr. D.A. Thomaston taught the school for a few weeks under the nearby oak trees. He taught in the Long Lake log school and was the first teacher in this school.

Mrs. Florence E. (Pillans) Martin taught this school several terms at \$ 40.00 per month salary; her brothers also taught here. There were 50 pupils and the hours were from 8.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Since about 1923 the scholars ~~have been~~ *were* taken by bus to Lynne. For the past 18 years the building has only been used as a Precinct Voting center, and going to decay and ~~ruin~~.

being otherwise in disuse and neglect.

1922

ECCLESIASTICAL

The first religious services in what is now Moss Bluff probably were held under the Palm Arbor, or in the log school house nearby, near the road leading down to Morrison's Ferry. Rev. S.T. Stanaland preached here to some extent, about 1860.

Union Church

This edifice ^{was} erected about 1870 and the first church building in this community. It was about 30 x 30 feet square, without chimney or steeple. Its exterior was of plank, with a 4-way pitch roof and unpainted. Windows were on each side, and a door to the south and east. The pews were hand made on the ground, and ~~there was~~ room to accomodate 200 people. It stood a few rods north of the present road that runs along the north end of Long Lake.

After a few years it was taken down and re-built in its original form, a short distance north of the present, Church of Christ. There was a door on the north and east sides. Inside, some improvements were made in order that this building would serve as a church on the Sabbath and as a school room during week days. This building was razed about 1890. But little history of this church organization has been obtained, though Rev. Stanaland is said to have preached here and William E. Martin was Church Clerk at one time. See # 80.

The Church of Christ.

No Church Records of this ^{organization} ~~church~~ have been found, therefore, our only source of information is from old citizens. This church was organized about 1893 by George W. Waters, Philip T. Griggs, Joseph Fort, and possibly a few others. We find no list of officers, ~~nor the~~ ministers who have labored here.

Mrs. G.W. Waters, Oliver Fort and others are active members in this church at present. ~~1940~~ Rev. John R. Peden, of Dade City preaches every-other-Sunday at present. They have a church building, 18 x 26 feet, painted white. During the summer of 1940 an addition was built on the north end of the older edifice making it attractive and ^{an} commodious structure.

The Congregational Church

From the Church Records now in the hands of Mrs. Emmie I. Martin it appears that this church was organized on Tuesday October 9, 1894 by Rev. Elvis D. Luter assisted by Rev. J. J. Melton, at which time it was the "Long Lake Congregational Church." Rev. Mr. Melton was pastor of a church in Warnell, Sumter Co., at that time, and Mr. Luter became pastor of this church. Owing to the limited population in this area this church, like others, has had a hard struggle to exist.

The following 18 persons were the charter members of this church:

Males

- 1 William W. Jackson
- 2 William L. Smith
- 3 John B. Chalker
- 4 T. S. Vaughn
- 5 W. C. Vaughn
- 6 Murdock O. Morrison
- 7 G. W. Sharp
- 8 Porter Sharp
- 9 John Meadows
- 10 L. P. Waterman.

Females

- 1 Mrs. William W. Jackson
- 2 Mrs. William L. Smith
- 3 Mrs. Sophia C. Chalker
- 4 Mrs. E. K. Vaughn
- 5 Mrs. M. A. Reynolds
- 6 Mrs. Emma Morrison
- 7 Mrs. Lucy A. Sharp
- 8 Mrs. J. R. Waterman.

William W. Jackson was chosen the first Deacon

William L. Smith was chosen the first Church Clerk

At a Church Meeting held Dec. 9, 1894 Rev. Mr. Luter, who lived at Wildwood, Fla., received a call to preach in this church for one year. Services were held once-a-month, and he continued to labor under about those conditions, though somewhat intermittently, until about 1921. He probably never resided in Moss Bluff.

Aside from Rev. Mr. J. J. Melton who assisted Mr. Luter upon several occasions, ~~the following~~ the following clergymen have preached in this church prior to 1940;

B. F. Freer, W. Ray Anderson, S. F. Gale, J. L. Donovan, W. C. Coffin, W. F. Creson, Charles D. Brower, Jack Caines, Mr. Jollett, Mr. Gregory, William C. G. Kilgore, Robert H. Booth and Mr. Kirckhoff. ~~Several out-of-town~~ ministers have supplied this church during the last few years. *Other*

This was the Long Lake Congregational Church until 1901, according to the old Church Records, after which it became the Moss Bluff Congregational Church. It was changed again, 1931 to the "Congregational Community Church".

The Sunday School services have been conducted fairly regularly up to the present. Mrs. James P. Martin, Pres., Mrs. S. J. Martin, Treas., Mrs. W. C. White, Secy.

Deacons

William W. Jackson, 1894-99
Murdock O. Morrison, 1899-10
James C. Pillans, 1910-1925
John T. Lewis, 1925 - ?

Church Clerks

William L. Smith, 1894-01
Louis H. Pillans, 1901-06
James C. Pillans, 1906-25
Mrs. J. J. Smith, 1925- ?

Church Treasurers

William L. Smith, 1899-02
Louis H. Pillans, 1902- ?
None since elected.

Board of Trustees

William W. Jackson, Feb. 1898
J. W. Reynolds, " "
Murdock O. Morrison, " "
James C. Pillans, Dec. 1899
A. W. Meadows, Nov. 1910
A. E. Clifton, Dec. 1915

Owing to the fact that Moss Bluff is only a section of Marion County, rather than a township, there are no town records obtainable to which we can turn while compiling this history. The Congregational Church Record book contain the names of more local citizens than has been found elsewhere in our research.

For their historical value it appears wise to record the names of those citizens as they appear upon the Church Record Books. The following is a list of, officers, committees, trustees and members as recorded, with no attempt to correct mis-spelled names ~~or~~^{to} repeat names:

BARBER, Mrs.	MOCK, Mrs. M.
BARKER, Hester	PENDARVIS, Mrs. Nancy
BASS, Nancy	PILLANS, Charles P.
CAWTHON, James	" Meck Lillian
CHALKER, Lizzie	" Mr. & Mrs. J.C.
" Lulu	" Dixie A.
" Mollie	SELLERS, Ira L.
CLIFTON, L. L.	" Katie (Catharine)
DAUGHERTY, Mrs.	" Mr. & Mrs. Luther W.
DAVIS, Mr. & Mrs. J.P.	SMITH, Kate
DRIGGERS, Charles	" John
" Christopher	" Mr. & Mrs. J. J.
FAIL, J. H.	STAPLETON, Miss Annie
FORT, Joseph	STRICKLAND, Mrs.
GROSS, Mrs. H.C.	SQUIRES, Mrs. Otis
HASOLD, Miss Nora	REYNOLDS, Mrs. J. W.
HIGGINS, Mr. & Mrs. A.M.	VAUGHN, Benjamin T.
HOYT, Mrs. G. H.	" Statie ?
LEWIS, John J.	WATERMAN, Charles F.
" Mrs. John T.	" Julia
McKINNEY, A.	WHEELER, Lester R.
" Mrs. S.A.	WHITE, Mrs. A. Jack
" "Beady"	" Leona
" Dora	" Lilly
" Walter	" Mr. & Mrs. W.C.
MARTIN, Mrs. Nora	WILEY, Mrs. Anna
" Mr. & Mrs. S. Jeff	" John H.
MARSH, Mrs. Mattie L.	WOOD, Mrs. A. Jackson
MEADOWS, A. H.	
MORRISON, Addie	
" Ambrus M.	
" Mrs. M. A.	
" Sallie	

Sunday School

The Church Records fail to state when the Sunday School was first organized, but it probably was soon after ~~that of~~ the Church, in 1894. However, we find the Sunday School was re-organized in Febuary 1926, with Mr. J. H. Fail, Supt., Mrs. Otis Squires, Secy., and Mrs. Emmie I. Martin, Treas.

Congregational Church Building

The Church Records fail to disclose where religious services were held after the church was organized in October 1894, but its assumed they were held in private homes and in School-houses. The Church Records are obscure as to when work began in erecting the present church building, nor do we know the name of the ~~boss~~-~~carpenter~~ or if it was ^{ever} dedicated.

We do know, however, that Dea. William W. Jackson, John J. Lewis and William L. Smith were the Building Committee. Work probably began during the summer of 1897 to build this church.

The Records state; "The new church building of this church being now ready for occupancy was used for the first time" during February 1898. It was placed on land taken off the west side of John S. Martin's pasture and woodland, across the road east of the new cemetery. It is 25' 8" X 40' in size, 2-Way pitch shingle roof, sides covered with 1-inch boards, on end with but-to-but edges, and joints battened on both out/~~side~~ and inside. There are four windows on each side and two in the north end which give light to the auditorium. The door and vestibule are in the south end. When built there was a low bell-deck steeple on the south end ridge, but this was removed some ten years ago, and the bell was re-set in that end of the attic.

The raised platform, pulpit and ~~an~~ organ are in the north end; including a small library. There are 35 home-made pews, singing books and, a stove near east side with a stove-pipe extending through one of the ^{east} windows. ~~all within the auditorium~~

At a church meeting held November 1899, Messrs Jackson, Lewis and Smith, the Church Building Committee were dismissed as they reported they had finished paying for the new church building.

The Church Bell

During March 1900, the pastor, Rev. Elvis D. Luter, "called for subscription to defray the expense of purchasing a bell for the church" and William L. Smith was elected to receive the money. Those who subscribed were as follows:

William L. Smith	\$ 1.00	James Fort	\$ 1.00
John T. Lewis	1.00	A. M. Higgins	1.00
D. L. Morgan	1.00	Luther Sellers	.50
James C. Pillans	1.00	Henry Fort	.50
Joseph Falany	1.00	Preston Fort	.50
John Smith	1.00	John S. Martin	.50
Dea. William W. Jackson	1.00	M. O. Morrison	.25
Mr. Hinson	1.00	Total	\$12.25

A cast steel bell, No. 42 was purchased from the "National Bell Foundry Company" of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Harmony Baptist Church

According to tradition this church was organized between 1870 and 1880 with church buildings in Electra. But little of its history has thusfar been obtained.

William E. Martin was one of the founders and served as Church Clerk for several years as well as Deacon. He was succeeded as Clerk by Rev. George W. J. Brant. The Records are now in the hands of Mr. W. C. Henderson, Clerk of the Ocklawaha Bridge Baptist Church, near Lynne. The three church buildings have all stood on the same site --- that is --- about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of the present Masonic-School house in Electra, and on the northerly side of the old road leading from Electra across to the Sellers Corner

The first church building, small in size, stood until about 1890 when it was replaced by a much larger edifice. This was a plain unadorned affair without steeple or beauty of design. But this building was destroyed by fire about 1900. Soon plans were made to rebuild; the ladies held church suppers, sales, etc., money was raised in all manner of ways; a new church building arose from the ashes after several months labor, but not as spacious as the former church home. This Harmony Baptist church organization became so weak that it was obliged to disband and this 3rd church building was sold to Mrs. Nancy J. (Martin) Samford, who had the material moved to Moss Bluff where she had it built into a dwelling house just west of Otis Squires' house lot. This took place about 1930.

Today the only sign of activity having ever taken place on this plot of land is the usual old cast-iron pump.

Baptist Orphanage

40 acre

Rev. James P. Parker came to Moss Bluff as early as April 1875 at which time he bought the present L. R. Wheeler farm. He was locally known as, "Preacher Parker" and a fervent Baptist. Frequently he preached in a local school-house or in the church. He appears to have been a man of forethought, vision and perseverance. He sold his farm in 1884 and removed to Electra and soon after, with aid from the Baptist church missionary society, he began erecting a sizeable building as a Baptist Orphanage Home at Electra. Owing to lack of money the project was a failure and the building was never entirely finished. After a few years John J. Brown purchased the Home and made it into a dwelling and store in which he did business. This building stood about 75 rods north by northeast from the U.S., 1934 Section bound, 2-3 & 10-11 and 100 yards east from a great oak tree still standing and, near an old road leading easterly from near the present Masonic-School house to the site of Harmony Baptist church. A fire destroyed this Orphanage Home building 40 or 50 years ago.

HISTORY OF OKLAWAHA BRIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

The following historical article, with a few additions, is taken from a paper prepared ~~by~~ and read by the venerable Joseph Stanaland, born in the Moss Bluff area, January 10, 1858, and read at the church anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 1, 1940. While this edifice, with its exceptionally pleasing situation, is a bit outside of the Moss Bluff area, we feel ~~it~~ is of sufficient value to be included in this work. *the following*

An account of this Anniversary ~~was~~ published in The Ocala (Florida) Evening Star, on Friday, Sept. 20, 1940, *reads* as follows:

History of Oklawaha Bridge Baptist Church and Sunday School ~~read on~~ Anniversary.

1940, P-----

On Sunday September 1, *1940,* about 100 persons gathered at historic Oklawaha Bridge Baptist church, near Lynne, to celebrate the ninetieth anniversary of the establishment of the church, with an all-day meeting and picnic dinner.

Mr. W.C. Henderson, church clerk, was in charge of the meeting which included a sermon by Rev. J.L. Moore, of Lake Helen; a song service and a recital of the history of the church, by Joseph Stanaland, and a history of the Sunday School by Mr. W.C. Henderson.

One of the interesting features of the program was an introduction of old members. The first six to be introduced have been members of this church for 56 years. They are: Joseph Stanaland, W.C. Holly, Mrs. M.A. Hicks, Mrs. Kate Reynolds, Mrs. Florence Stanaland and W.B. Roberts.

The other old members and their length of membership are as follows: Mrs. Mae Fort, 53 years; Mrs. Q. Adina (Addie) Griggs, 52 years; Robert C. Fort, 50 years; W.C. West, 50 years; Lemuel B. Griggs, 48 years; J. A. Stevens, 46 years; H.H. Perkins, 44 years; T. H. Bagnell 41 years.

History of the Church

The history of the church, as read by Joseph Stanaland, is as follows:

We find at the settling of the country east of the Oklawaha River Lemuel (grandfather as he was called) Griggs who arrived, July 5th, 1835. Very few families were here at that time.

In 1848 a colony of people came here from South Carolina and settled around Lake Bryant. My father also came at that time, being a single man, he stayed with the Morrison's at Moss Bluff for a year. In 1849, uncle S. Thomas Stanaland and his wife joined the community.

*Printer to
close up
spaces*

In this community about that time there were the Chalker's, Long's, Sellers, Smith's, Lovell's, Holly's, Marlow's, Morrison's, Stanaland's, Griggs and Graham's. My grandfather, William Chalker, came in 1851. There was two preachers in this colony of settlers, Rev. Willits D. Sellers and my uncle S. Thomas Stanaland.

There was no church building in this community for the first settlers to worship in, so they went to the Indian Springs church near Anthony (some six miles north of the city of Ocala). They showed that they had the love of God in their hearts by the distance they would travel to a place of worship. At that time roads and means of travel were very poor.

Uncle ~~Joseph~~^{THOMAS} Stanaland and grandfather Chalker organized a little church on Little Lake Bryant. This church house, which was built about 1850 was burned during the Civil war, but another log church was built to take its place.

No regular services were held during the Civil war. The slave owners made arrangements for their slaves to unite and worship in the same church. In 1854, uncle Billy (Wm.) Holly moved to near Sharp's Ferry. Since there were a few families in this community, uncle Billy, with his slaves, and a few neighbors rived out cypress boards and dressed them for the building of a new church. This^{new} church was built near what is now known as the "Old Cemetery". It was called the "Ocklawaha Bridge Baptist church", because uncle Billy lived near the bridge that crossed the River.

Aunt Nancy Rainer, the last survivor of the colony from South Carolina, has assisted me in establishing some of these dates. She was only one year old when she came here, and died in 1940 at the age of 89 years. Another old settler in this section was uncle Billy (William) Chalker, who was born in 1852 and died last July 4th. at over 88 years.

It seems that in the early history of this church there was no regular pastor, but that the preaching was done by different preachers in the community and preachers who came through this region. Later there were three other churches organized: At Pleasant Plain, at Lake Kerr and at Electra, the Harmony church.

Of all the churches mentioned, the only one which has survived to the present is the Oklawaha Bridge Baptist church, which uncle Billy Holly and others started in 1855. In 1875 this church called its first pastor. Many of the first leaders in this church were just "moderators"; some of whom were: Bryant, Simons, McTom, Gandy Hull, Duriso, William, Holly and Marlow.

The first pastor was Rev. James P. Parker, of Moss Bluff, who served the church for seven years. I remember very well my first trip to this church. My father and I rode a mule bare back. What interested me most about the church was the glass windows, which I had never seen before. I had plenty to talk about when I arrived home. The people I saw there

at church were the Holly's, Long's, Henderson's, Griggs, Durisoës, Perkins, and Randall's. That was about 1868, when I was only a boy.

In 1881 this church invited the association to meet with them the following year. A brush shed was built large enough to take care of the crowd.

Rev. W.J.Hughes was our second pastor, who served for five years, or up to 1889.

Both the cemetery and the church were built upon U.S. Government land. A Mr. S. Blodgett got a deed to the land. The church appointed a committee of five men to see Mr. Blodgett and make a report at the next conference. Mr. Blodgett required that the church and cemetery be fenced with sawed cypress boards and that they be dressed and painted white and kept painted. The church could not comply with this request, so another committee of five was appointed to find a suitable place to move the church. Mr. E.M.Henderson then offered to give five acres of land on the north side of Mothershed Lake, which offer was accepted in November 1884. Mr. Henderson sawed the lumber and hauled it to the church grounds with his oxen. The man who drove the oxen was Mr. W. C. West. The first church on the present location was built in 1885. Mr. S. Blodgett finally gave a deed of five acres of land so that the cemetery could remain where the first Oklawaha Bridge Baptist church was erected.

When I joined the church there were present: Griggs', Holly's, Godwins', Barkdale's, Long's, Henderson's, Durisoës's, Stevens', Perkins' and Randall's. There was a young man called on to lead a prayer-meeting. He was so excited that he could hardly read, even though he wept as he read, he did not quit. He subsequently became one of the leading men in this church. His name was "Mann" (~~Long~~) Griggs. EMANUEL

Another family in the community was the Hinton's. Four families lived near Mrs. Hinton. She saw her husband and all her children baptized. Grandfather Griggs, as he was called, left his farm to his youngest son, Thomas B. Griggs, and the latter has left the old homestead to his youngest son, Thomas E. Griggs, who continues to occupy the same farm.

My uncle S. Thomas Stanaland lived over 80 years, but he did not lose interest in the Lord's work. Indians and wild animals made it hard for him to carry on his missionary work for several years. He would go as far as Saint Mary's River, carrying his gun with him for protection everywhere he went.

Families for four generations in this church are the following: Stanaland, Holly, Randall, Henderson, Griggs, Smith and Perkins.

A complete record of the pastors who have served in this church are as follows:

Rev. James P.Parker, 1875-1882; Rev.W.J.Hughes, 1883-1889; Rev.H.C.Martin, 1889-1898; Rev.T.N.Spicer, 1900-1901; Rev. P.J.Reaves, 1902-1904; Rev.Z.A.Crumpton, 1905-1906; Rev. N.B.Plummer, 1907-1909; Rev.R.F.Rogers, 1910; Rev.E.M.

Henderson and Haroldson, 1911; Rev.W.N.Martin, 1912; Rev. R.J.Corbett, 1913; Rev.B.I.Hull, 1915; Rev.E.M.Henderson, 1915; Rev. R.F.Rogers, 1916; Rev.H.E.Rideneour, 1917-18; Rev. R.Strickland, 1919; Rev.Gus Padgett, 1920-22; Rev. J.C.Boatright, 1923-24; Rev.R.E.Burke, 1925-26; Rev.P.M. Yeargen, 1927-28; Rev.J.L.Moore, 1929-39; Rev. A. Kelly, 1934, and Rev. J.L. Moore, 1938-40.

History of the Sunday School

The following history of the Oklawaha Bridge Baptist church Sunday School was read by Mr. W.C.Henderson:

Going back into the records, we find that our Sunday School was first organized by a public school teacher, a Miss Mamie Waldon, in a rived board school house. There was no sawed lumber at that time. The seats were half-logs with no backs to them. This school was in Brookland precinct. Its first name was the Waterman School, but later it was changed to Henderson, and the school house stood where J.A.Hicks' orange grove now is.

Miss Mamie Waldon was a consecrated Christian, trying at all times to do the Master's will. She was the first Sunday School superintendent, and served two years in this capacity. The second year she taught, 1882-1883, she spent one-half of her time in the Sunday school which she organized. The other half was spent in the Hickory Head church, which was only a short distance from the school house. Since Miss Waldon did not return to teach the following year, P.L.Durisoe was elected superintendent.

In 1885 the Sunday school was moved to the Oklawaha Bridge Baptist church, which was a new building on the north side of Mothershed Lake, where the church now is. At that time there was a library in the church for the Sunday school and remained there until the church house burned in 1923. In 1886 Rev. B.I.Hull was elected superintendent. He served until 1906, a total of 20 years in this capacity. My father, W.T.Henderson was superintendent, 1906-09. In 1910, Brother Elkins served as superintendent.

From 1911 through 1913, the Sunday school had its youngest superintendent; I was that "official", being only 15 years of age. I could not understand why Brother Joseph Stanaland and Brother Robert C.Fort wanted me, but for the past 30 years these two men have meant much to me.

Beginning in 1914, John R.Rogers served as superintendent for a few months over two years. In 1916 Robert C.Fort served for three years, at which time there was a large attendance.

The following have served beginning in 1919 and ending up to the present time: Reichard, 1919; ~~Dr. A.A. Wingo, 1920-21~~; Isaac W.Perkins, 1920-21; Dr.A.H.Wingo, 1922; Norman A. Fort, 1923-25; C. A. Hicks, 1926; Robert C.Fort, 1927; T.L.Randall, 1928; Robert C.Fort, 1928-32; E. R. Mills, 1933-35; Isaac Hicks, 1936-37; W.C.Henderson, 1938-39 and W.C.Wall, 1940.

In this history of the Sunday school we find that at times there were large numbers attending the Sunday school and at other times there was only a few, but that the Sunday school was kept going by the faithful few.

For the past eleven years, through the pastorate of Rev. J. L. Moore, the Sunday school has been larger than usual, and more has been given to the orphanage than in former years. The records also show that 95 per cent of all converts in the church came through the Sunday school. That is a good reason why we should find our place in Sunday school work.

--- The end. Sept. 1, 1940.

A Sneak Thief

On or about November 1, 1940 a sneak thief entered this Oklawaha Bridge Baptist church building and took away the church chairs and some other furniture. So far as known, that heir of the Devil was never apprehended.

Later--- Sheriff Gordon Moorhead offered a reward of \$ 25. for the apprehension of the thief who stole three arm chairs with cushions, one high back pulpit chair and 10 regular straight chairs.

*Printed to class ↑
up spaces*

tracts

Steer

stoker

INDUSTRIES

The Muck Lands

Moss Bluff is not a manufacturing center, yet the development of the Muck Land is worthy of mention, owing to the fact both are in our immediate vicinity. Two ~~acreage~~ tracts came about following ^{the} opening of the two canals. Some four miles above the U.S. Locks is the present C.H. ~~Storer~~ Muck ~~Land~~ Farms of about 1600 acres of rich, black muck, several feet deep and level as the surface of a lake. Over this tract has sailed all the old river steamers. Some years this land is utilized to raise celery, then for vegetables, etc. In 1939 ~~was~~ 1200 acres ^{were} planted to corn, and the following winter 400, 2-year old Texas steer were bought and fattened ^{ened} for local markets. John L. Yawn has been Foreman of the Farms, 1932-1941.

1932-41.

Two or three miles below the U.S. Locks is a much larger tract of muckland, and which includes portion of the former Heather Island. Here 5,200 acres ^{were} reclaimed, 3,400 of which ^{were} rich black muckland. Corn has been one of the chief crops raised on this land in recent years. James Norris of Chicago purchased this property in 1941, though ^{at the} time the land had not been tilled for a few years. Mr. Elias J. Paulk has been Manager and care-taker for over 12 years.

This property is ~~not~~ known as the Muckland Farms. A settlement of 10 or 12 dwellings have been erected on the Farms for the workmen. At present this is known as, "The Oklawaha Farms, Inc."

WAS

(1942)

Turpentine Still

The manufacturing of turpentine has been carried on in this section for years. About 1895 Capt. John B. Martin, came here from North Carolina and established a still half a mile south of White's Draw-bridge. More than a dozen ~~at~~ houses and cabins were erected for the workmen, -mostly colored.

The still and business was moved to a point four miles or so north of Electra where it has remained to the present, 1942. Capt. Martin used convict labor for years in his business. William Williams and others operated the Capt. Martin still.

early

also have

Mills

Mills have never been numerous in this section. About 1880 a saw and grist mill was erected on the brook which crosses the highway about half mile west of White's Corner. This was the only water-power mill in this vicinity, so far as known. Ambrus Meadows, Jr., and M.L. Searles, owned and operated this mill, but ~~which if either of the men built it~~ we are unable to state. Mr. Searles was a Mason and he cut the lumber used in erecting the present Masonic-School building in Electra. This mill stood south of the road, and ceased doing business about 1895. ^{Among the owners are,} There ^{have} been several portable saw-mills. James W. Reynolds, ~~owned one, also,~~ A.M. Higgins, D. Frank Stableton, Lawrence D. Marsh, Lester R. Wheeler and others.

ELECTRA

This settlement within the Moss Bluff area is now only a shadow of its former activity and industry. The place was known as Anson in its early history, and trained under the slogan --- "The Dawn of Light". About 1885 the name was changed to Electra which it still retains. At one time the place was called, "Dogs Neck", in jest, no doubt.

At one time this hamlet supported three stores, several dwellings, school-house and Masonic hall, and Harmony Baptist church. Today we find the Masonic-School building, the field office of the Luther Reynold nursery, the dwelling house of E. Bennett Avery, three or four small houses, and the cemetery. Here was the Electra Post Office for around 25 years, but finally it was moved a mile or two northward to the Charles F. Harris cement store. (M. Luther Reynolds)

The following is a partial list of old time settlers in the Electra area, though some were on farms a mile or so from the "Center":

James C. Pillans, the merchant, and Post Master. John J. Brown, also a merchant. Dr. M. D. Dwelly, Dr. D. A. Thomaston, George W. Willcoxson. George W. Waters, Isaiah Fort, William Wilson. Joseph Smith. W. R. Hardee. William R. C. Barclift. George F. Manson. J. A. Morse. Griggs family, A. M. Higgins. Pinkerton family. Mr. Algers. J. Mims Mock. Dr. Peak, and others.

Those living here of a more recent date are:

James B. Caldwell. E. Bennett Avery, on his one-acre plantation during the winter season. Jack Hudnell. The Griggs family. The Mock family. The Wood family, new-comers, in 1940.

Home Demonstration Club

One of the most active flourishing organizations in the Moss Bluff area within recent years has been the Home Demonstration Club --- a Marion county enterprise. Meetings are held monthly in the various homes in this community.

Miss Kathryn Riddle has been Agent for several years; she married John. Parish, May 1941. She has now been succeeded by a Miss - - - Rush.

Joy Postle Murals

Joy Postle, an Alumna of The Art Institute of Chicago, her native city, removed to an Idaho ranch where she rode horseback on sketching trips on arid desert and rugged mountain side.

She taught Art, Music and Drawing in Boise while taking up the study of murals and portraiture. Following her marriage to Robert E. L. Blackstone they came to Florida. In order to study wild bird life they spent two years in the Big Scrub in Moss Bluff area. 1934-36. Her colored chalk sketches of Florida wild birds have attracted attention over Florida and other States.

CEMETERIES AND BURIAL PLOTS

History fails to reveal the location of many individual unmarked graves --- Federal soldiers and pioneers. The former were usually buried near where they fell, while the latter were often placed in a small plot near their own dwelling. After a few years a graveyard was established for the general public.

The following is an ~~in~~^{all}complete list of graveyards, cemeteries and individual burial places in the Moss Bluff area, ^{so} far as known:

The Old Moss Bluff Graveyard

This ~~the~~ Yard is in the open field about 50 rods southwest from the Davis Corner, and formerly was a part of Robert Fort's farm. From the few fragments of the old fence which remain this graveyard was about six X eight rods in size, and just south of the old Fort Mellon road. But four headstones and two brick mounds can now be found, yet the late Robert C. Fort reported he believed there was around 75 people buried at that place, including his parents. The following is the inscriptions upon those four headstones:

"Sacred to the memory of Alexander T. Morrison, born Jan. 1st, 1850. Died July 11, 1880." Footstone, "A.T.M."

"Sacred to the memory of Hattie A. daughter of A.T. & S.B. Morrison, born Dec. 5, 1870. Died Nov. 3?, 1877."

"Sacred to the memory of Lillian C. daughter of A.T. & S.B. Morrison, born Sept. 30th, 1877. Died July 13, 1881."

"Sacred to the memory of Nancy C. Boyed, born Jan. 16th?, 1832. Died Feb. 14th, 1879". Footstone, "N.C.B".

The two ~~mounds~~ are without any inscriptions. Today one lone dead oak tree remains guard ~~over~~ this hallowed Yard. ^{This plot} ~~should be marked~~ ^{by permanent bounds.} ~~over~~

The New Moss Bluff Cemetery

This 1½ acre cemetery was given by Mrs. Mary (Goodson) Fort, but she died before a deed was made out and signed, according to a statement by her grand-daughter, Mrs. Isaac Perry. Mrs. Perry furnished the trees from which lumber was sawed to build the first fence around this Yard. The local public used this cemetery for nearly 40 years without any legal right. Finally Otis Squares bought ~~58½~~ acres of land, including this cemetery, and he then gave a bona-fide deed about 1925. This is now well fenced and an attractive enclosure ^{just} across the highway, ~~just~~ west of the present Congregational Community Church building.

Mrs. Laura F. Hightower who died March 8, 1886 was the first to be buried in this yard. Mrs. Laura A. Nix, who died October 25, 1887 was the second burial. Many unmarked graves are now found in this new Moss Bluff, God's Acre.

The Electra Cemetery

This cemetery of about one acre of land has been used for 40 or more years, and appears well cared-for. Many citizens of Electra and vicinity have been placed here. Possibly 35% have no headstone or marker.

buried

ROAD

The old Volusia ~~highway~~ Cemetery

This cemetery is on the ridge northwesterly of Little Lake Bryant and, near the old Volusia Federal highway, discarded at that point. Fires have entirely destroyed the former, board fence enclosure, and all the old wooden markers. The following is the only headstone that is found at present in this yard, ~~this~~ is broken:

Land
"In memory of Cyrus Long, born Feb. 22, 1860.
died Sept. 15th, 1880.

How short the race our brother has run,
Cut down in all his bloom,
His course on earth had just begun,
Now ended in the tomb."

From two old citizens we are able to mention the following who have been buried in this yard, though this is only a partial list:

Gabriel Long, the father of Cyrus Long --- above.
James J. Meadows and his wife Rachel (Gainey) Meadows.
Lizzie Sharp, daughter of Woodward, died, 1890?; age 16.
A baby girl of the Sharp family.
The aged parents of Woodward Sharp.
An infant daughter of Dr. Geo. Dwelly.
An infant daughter of Rev. George W. J. Brant.
Billy Freeman, a boy of three or four years of age.
Two or three members of the Marlow family.
A Mr. Underwood.
Old Mr. Corey, a soldier in Union army, aged about 85 y.
Mrs. Corey, his wife, who died suddenly, prior to his death.
Rev. Willits D. Sellers, 1807-1858. Also his widow,
Mrs. Sarah (Stanaland) Sellers, 1811-1886.
An infant daughter of Allen B. and Sarah (Snell) Fort,
Also many others, old and young.

With due respect for the departed we suggest that this old burying yard be inclosed with a ~~///~~ fence, or at least, *to erect* ~~erect suitable~~ stone, cement or iron corner posts ~~before~~ *(be erected)* this sacred plot passes into oblivion.

Mother's shed

The Ocklawaha Bridge Baptist Cemetery

This yard ~~while~~ outside of the Moss Bluff area, yet here can be found the burial place of several of our former citizens. The small ~~lake~~ near this Baptist church has an unusually pleasing and attractive situation.

The Lemuel Griggs family lot is on his old farm and near the present buildings. Here are the following headstones:

~~Lemuel Griggs~~
Lemuel Griggs, born Mar. 30, 1804; died Dec. 22, 1892.
Nancy Griggs, his widow, born Sept. 3, 1819; died July 22, 1894.
Agnese M. Martin, born Dec. 4, 1867; died Dec. 19, 1867.
Henry Walter Martin, born Jan. 15, 1873; died May 31, 1877.
William Edgar Martin, born Mar. 12, 1883; died Nov. 3, 1888.
(Children of William E. Martin, q v.)

Louis Griggs, born Aug. 8, 1878; died Aug. 13, 1878.
Mary A. Griggs, born Apr. 10, 1880; died Feb. 10, 1881.
(Children of John B. Griggs, q v.)

A child (without headstone) of Mr. Folsom who formerly lived on this Griggs farm, is said to have been buried in this yard before 1835.

Tradition says that William Wilson, Sr. and his daughter Frances Wilson also are buried in this yard, but have no markers.

The Rev. S.T. Stanaland Cemetery

It is understood that Rev. Mr. Stanaland donated the land for this cemetery, about one acre, from his home farm. It is now in woodland, and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile northwest of where John R. Rogers now lives, which is the present homestead of Joseph Stanaland. There are possibly 50 graves here, many having marble and stone headstones.

The Hugh Stanaland family plot

This family lot is near the old hoghouse site where Mr. Stanaland lived until his death, and is $\frac{3}{4}$ mile southeast of John R. Rogers' home, and now in the midst of deep woodland.

Here in this small enclosure are the graves of;

Hugh Stanaland, born Sept. 13, 1813; died May 4, 1869.
Lydia, daughter of Hugh, b. Feb. 1853; d. Mar. 12, 1869.
Sarah, " " " b. Mar. 1860; d. Oct. 23, 1863.
Amelia, " " " .Mar. 1860; d. Aug. 30, 1868.

Isaiah Fort family plot

One Half mile westerly of the Masonic-School house at Electra in woodland are three graves:

Isaiah Fort a Confederate soldier who died about 1880.
Isaiah E.M. Fort, son of Isaiah, b. Feb. 2, 1864; d. Dec. 13, 1877.
Also a wooden marker at a grave, but no identification.

- Cemeteries --4--

At the time James H. Halford died, 1901 he was buried near his farm buildings, together with three of his small children, about half mile northwest of Lawrence D. Marsh's present house. The family removed the ~~the~~ bodies to Electra cemetery in 1940.

After Adin Waterman died, Sept. 8, 1879, Robert Fort and "Jack" White made his coffin and buried him in a lone grave a few rods southeast from Davis Corner. His grave is marked by a headstone.

Tradition reports that a Mr. Jenkins was buried on the present H.H. Hart farm, but has no marker, nor is the exact location now known. Another traditional report states a Negro was lynched many years ago and buried under a large oak tree on the Hart farm. This tree has been removed in recent years by Mr. Hart.

Another Old Timer reports, ^a Mr. ^{old} Jenkins ~~was~~ buried about 150 feet southwesterly of Mr. Hart's dwelling house, ~~and two of his small children were buried at the same place.~~

The Negro was buried about 300 feet southwest of Mr. Hart's house, *and under the old Lynch Tree.*

~~No headstones nor markers have been discovered of any of those who have met a tragic death in the Moss Bluff area.~~

*Printer to close up
spaces
where practical*

While compiling material for this history items of local interest have appeared which have been placed in this chapter.

precinct

Voting Precinct Places

About 1890 James W. Reynolds sawed out lumber to built two voting buildings --- one for the Democrats, 16 x 24 feet in size and one nearby for the Republicans, 10 x 12 feet. The latter was used as a voting precinct until about 1920, and Lawrence D. Marsh took this building down in 1930. The Democratic building was used for a time as a Court House, at the time Judge W. W. Jackson served as local justice. This building was destroyed by a forest fire around 1896. Those two buildings stood on the north side of the old road that led from near the John E. Wallace house westerly to the home of Lawrence D. Marsh, and ^{both} they were on land owned by Mr. Marsh.

Since about 1920 the old Masonic-School house in Electra has served as a voting precinct.

Judiciary and Officiary

William W. Jackson served as local Justice over a period of years, he also was Justice of the Peace. a man of integrity, good judgement and business ability. ^{He was}

Lawrence D. Marsh was Deputy Sheriff of Marion County for 18 years, and a man highly respected in the community. He served three years under Judge Jackson, and 15 years under High Sheriff, Galloway of Ocala, ^{he} then resigned.

Charles F. Waterman was Justice of the Peace several years.

They

Clarksville

About 1880 several families came here from Clarksville, Tenn., and began a settlement about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of the White Draw-bridge, and named the place Clarksville after their home town. After a few years they all left and returned North. Among those ^{were} ~~was~~ the C. J. Smith family, William A. Williams family, the Fay family and others not recalled. While here a Miss Fay died and was buried near Lake Fay, named in her honor.

---By Mrs. G. W. Waters -- aged 85 yrs.

"Here was Morrison town
On Meadow street,
Old Mocks hotel,
With nothing to eat."

--- The author of this gibe unknown.

about 1920.

Morning Star Lodge
No. 94 of Florida, F. & A.M.

No very complete history of this Lodge is at hand. It was organized as early as 1880 with about 12 members, and disbanded ~~some 20 years ago~~. There was 25 or 30 members during its most prosperous days.

This Lodge in conjunction with the school district built the Masonic - School-house in Electra in 1884, which is still standing (1941) though in a somewhat dilapidated condition. This two-story paintless building during the past 20 years, or so, has been used for only a voting precinct for ~~all~~ the Moss Bluff area voters.

The lower story was occupied for the school, while the 2nd story was the Lodge headquarters.

The following is a partial list of members:

Cornelius Stanaland, John T. Lewis, George W. Waters, William E. Martin, Andrew J. White, J. H. Wiley, Andrew J. Snell, Clarence J. Smith, J. O. Hightower, H. E. Martin, L. W. Wilson, M. L. Searles (Surles?), Dillon Long, Benjamin I. Hull, E. R. Mills, J. S. Driggers, C. W. Mills, Connie Blue, A. J. Penrod, J. A. Reynolds, J. H. Parramore, Jack Wellhorner, J. M. Ennis, W. C. Wall, W. W. McDonald, J. G. Baldauf, E. O. Cordrey, C. H. Heath, Robert Fort, Granvil D. Holly, Harmon P. Griggs, J. H. Fort, J. M. Mock, John H. Moore, I. P. Stevens, James P. Parker, and others. Tradition says Old Adin Waterman was ^{also} a member.

^{the} The Great Freeze

This Freeze ^{It} destroyed nearly every orange and lemon tree in this part of Florida, came the night of December 29, 1894 and a second one came during the following February ~~on or~~ ^{about} 14th. The second freeze clinched what the first one failed ~~in~~ ^{to accomplish} in some groves. The freeze destroyed 300 acres of lemon trees on Levy Hammock for the Carney Company, and did many thousand dollars damage, in all sections of Florida.

Orange Groves

Marion County is noted for its numerous orange groves. Two popular varieties at present are the, Parson Brown and the Pineapple, both originated in this county. Nearly every farmer, land and householder, have those citrus trees --- some own many acres.

Stock Dip

built
The State enacted a law about 1925 to exterminate the cattle tick which was at the time a serious pest to all farmers and range cattle men. Numerous cement dips were established in nearly every section of Florida and for a period of 14 months, all cattle, horses, hogs, dogs, etc. took a complete bath twice monthly. The Moss Bluff dip was built several rods north of the present Congregational Community Church building; is about six feet deep, by 15 feet long and two feet wide, all of water-tight cement construction, with stock yards connected. This work is over at present and the stock is practically rid of the tick.

AN OLD MAP OF MARION COUNTY

The author has had an opportunity to examine an old Map of this section of Florida, issued by the U.S. Government, dated 1845. From the names found upon that map it would appear that if the date was set forward about ten years it would be more in harmony with some names found thereon.

Here appears Sharpes Ferry, then up the River about eleven miles is Whites Ferry, then passing *direct* on eight more miles to Starkes Ferry. The home of Allen Fort, Joseph Fort, Robert Fort, Isaiah Fort, James Reynolds, Lemuel Griggs, and old Mr. Sellers are shown on that old map. Mr. Griggs, Sr. was here at that date, but we cannot believe that Robert Fort, a boy of about 15, and some of his brothers, could have erected a house as early as 1845. Jack White's Ferry also appears on that old 1845 map, yet Mr. White was not born until 1837/38, according to his descendants now living.

The old roads, however, appear more reliable. Starting at Ocala then going east about three miles to Fort King, then on 6 miles to Sharpes Ferry on the Oklawaha River, thence easterly where this road divided into three branches, One leading northeasterly to Fort Gates on the St. Johns River. The middle road leading to Astor, known as the "old Volusia road" and the third one leading southeasterly to Fort Mellon and to ~~Starkes~~ Starkes Ferry.

An Early Religious Service

Tradition reports when the Stanaland's and Sellers came in 1847-48 they came to Ocala, thence on south to Starks Ferry for a cross-over, where they arrived late on a Saturday. Rev. S. Thomas Stanaland inquired if any religious services would be held about there on the morrow? Receiving no reply, he said; "Well there will be one tomorrow", when the Whites and Negroes were all invited. This was one of the very first religious services held in this section of Florida. (Per Jo. Stanaland.)

Sea Island Cotton

The production of Sea Island cotton was revived in this section of Florida in 1934. During 1940 the Pillans & Smith ginnery in Ocala shipped \$ 25,000.00 worth of this long staple cotton; two carloads were sold to the J. & P. Coats Thread Company of N.Y. The price ^{that} ~~this year~~ ⁽¹⁹⁴⁰⁾ is about 37¢ per pound.

Florida in 1830-1840-1850.

As previously stated, Florida became a state on March 3, 1845. The first Federal state census came in 1850, yet we have the census for 1830 and 1840 when it was a territory.

Census, 1830 --	white, 18,385;	colored, 16,345;	total 34,730
Census, 1840 --	" 27,943;	" 26,534;	" 54,477
Census, 1850 --	" 47,167;	" 40,234;	" 87,401

U. S. Census, Marion County, 1850:

3,127 sq. miles. 329 farms. 394 dwellings. Population, 2,068 white, 1,269 slaves, 1 free colored, total 3,338.

City of Ocala estimated population, 1942, 10,000.

Moss Bluff, estimated population, 1942, 250.

Marion County voters, March 1940

Precinct	1940	Precinct	1940
1. Ocala	3,832	19. Weirsdale	359
2. Reddick	257	20. Blitchton	78
3. Flemington	139	21. Belleview	272
4. Cotton Plant	59	22. McIntosh	250
5. Romeo	115	23. Pedro	117
6. Camp Izzard	58	24. Dunnellon	370
7. Shady	143	25. Candler	87
8. Summerfield	163	26. Sparr	151
9. Lake Weir	193	27. Eureka	61
10. Moss Bluff	158	28. Levon	92
11. Grahamville	224	29. Kendrick	125
12. Salt Springs	35	30. Martel	76
13. Fort McCoy	136	31. Fairfield	173
14. Orange Springs	94	32. Geiger	92
15. Linadale	96	33. Emathla	107
16. Citra	219	34. Burbank	79
17. Anthony	338		
18. Martin	105		
		Total	8,849

Population of Marion County 1940, 30,751; has seven incorporated towns and cities in county; has over 400 miles of hard-surface highways.

Ocala, the County-seat was named in 1841, now a city ~~about 10,000~~ population; elevation, 99 feet; average rainfall, 51.93 inches.

POST OFFICES AND POST MASTERS

Moss Bluff

Where is Moss Bluff? Not a difficult question -- every school pupil has the answer -- look on your Florida map!

But again the question -- Where is Moss Bluff?

According to records and tradition there ~~was~~ ^{were} two settlements in our midst in early days --- Moss Bluff and Long Lake. In 1879 local citizens built the Long Lake Log School-house on the William P. Wallace farm. In 1894 the Long Lake Congregational church was organized, and not until 1901 was it called the Moss Bluff Congregational Church. Thus it would appear, that prior to ~~1900~~ 1900 Moss Bluff included the land and inhabitants west of the present new cemetery. Long Lake at that time embraced those living easterly of said cemetery.

At the time John Bliss bought the present L.R. Wheeler 40-acres in 1884 the location was noted on the deed as being, "about one mile east of Moss Bluff."

From the evidence at hand it appears that the several locations of the old Moss Bluff post office's have established the "center of the place."

The first U.S. mail doubtlessly came and went via ^{been the main} early old river boats, at which time Robert Fort managed the Moss Bluff warehouse -- he acted as postmaster and his coat pocket served as the first "office". Next the Office was opened in his log house; south of T.H. Griggs present house, and he appears to have served as post-master for a year or two, at least.

A complete list and time of service of Moss Bluff Post-Masters is not at hand; from tradition the following information which probably is fairly correct is here given: James A. Evans was P.M.,

during the '70s, Adin ^{M.} Waterman ^{managed} ran the log store east of the Davis Corner and became Post Master with office in his store. J. Preston Nix was merchant and Post Master about 1890. His store stood on south side of road at the Corner. His successor as Post Master, probably was John T. Lewis in the same building. ~~was~~ About that time the Office was moved west to the present Robert E. Griggs house and Miss Emmie F. Fort was appointed Post Mistress. A.J. White was Postmaster about 1875.

Joseph P. Davis moved onto the John T. Lewis farm in Dec. 1913 and later Moss Bluff Post Office was re-established in the old Lewis store with the Davis family in charge of the Office, most of the time until 1921. One or two others may have served as postmaster in Moss Bluff. Otis Squires built a ~~store~~ just east of his house and opened a store in 1921. He soon after was appointed Post Master and held the office until 1933, ^{this} then territory was taken over by the R.F.D. with main office at Umatilla, then after a few years ^{was} changed to Oklawaha, with daily R.F.D. service. ~~1940~~ ¹⁹⁴⁰

In January 1931, Lester R. Wheeler opened a small grocery store and gasoline station on his 40-acres, in the heart of the Long Lake area (60 or 70 years ago), but in the apparent "heart" of Moss Bluff, in 1940.

Rewrite x 41
✓ 121

building

old

center

of

Electra

The Post Office in Electra has been somewhat of a wanderer, like that of Moss Bluff. But little of its history is at hand. James C. Pillans who managed the Farmers Alliance store in the early '90s was appointed Post Master with Office in his store. So far as learned Mr. Pillans was the first postmaster in that settlement. Charles F. Harris came from Massachusetts in 1922 and settled on land about one mile northerly of the present Electra cemetery. He built a cement store in which he carried on business several years. During that time he was appointed Post Master with Office in his store. discontinued

The Electra ~~area~~^{mail}, like that of Moss Bluff, was discarded in 1933 at the time the Rural Free Delivery was established. office

Mail Carriers

A complete list of those who brought mail into this section and delivered the same is now buried in oblivion. As previously stated, the early mail came in by the River boats. About 1882, the late Robert C. Fort had a years contract to carry the mail twice a week between Moss Bluff and Silver Springs. He went on horse back.

Henry Anderson carried the mail on horse back between Moss Bluff and Grahamville, then Horace I. Thompson took over this work. Mr. Mock had the work about 1920, also Mrs. Samuel A. McKinney; both making a daily trip from Electra to Oklawaha and return, via Moss Bluff. Andrew J. Holton ran the mail stage between the three points for four or five years. prior to 1933 when the Rural Routes were established. The automobile succeeded the horse conveyance, in 1920. slow

Rural Free Delivery

This delivery system was established in 1933, with main Post Office at Umatilla -- 20 miles away. James? Park was the first R.F.D. Postman. After a few years the Office was removee to Oklawaha where it has since remained. Raymond E. Gale succeeded Mr. Park as Postman, to-date. ~~XXXXXX~~

Printer to
close up
spaces

MERCHANTS

Moss Bluff

It is impossible to give a complete list of merchants ~~engaged in business~~ in Moss Bluff ~~---~~ especially in their chronological order. Richard B. Erwin came here and bought the present A.J. Wood farm in 1867. He erected a log store building on north side of highway about 1870 where he carried on business for several years, then sold out to Adin M. Waterman who continued until about the time of his death ⁱⁿ 1879. The next probably was "Mill" Holland who carried on business a few years, and probably the last man to ~~run~~ ^{log} this store.

^{two Jews,} ~~Two Jews~~, "Swetine Brothers" ^{to operate} came here about 1876 and built a log store in the northeast corner of the roads at Davis Corner. They hired Mr. Harrell as manager, and after a year or so, they located in Ocala. Tradition says, Horace I. Thompson, the mail carrier, J. Preston Nix, Frank Hill and his father, Joseph Fort and possibly others carried on business in this log building. This building stood at the Corner, ~~on~~ ^{near} Raymond R. Davis' present house-lot. James A. Evans kept store at this place and also was Postmaster at one time.

John T. Lewis bought and settled on the present Mrs. J.P. ^{near his} Davis farm in 1895, and soon after erected a small store ^{house} ~~on the south side of the road~~ at the Corner. He carried on business here until 1907.

Joseph P. Davis settled on the Lewis farm in 1913 and soon after re-opened the J.T. Lewis store and carried on business several years, then that location was discarded and the business was continued, in conjunction with a gasoline filling station, for several more years, in a small store building ~~in the southeast corner of their house lot~~, at the Corner.

This enterprise was discontinued several years ago, though the store building is now empty, except ^{for} farm tools.

Andrew J. White who ran the White's Ferry built a log store on south side of road several rods west of Whites Corner, about 1870 which he and his brother Clifford White conducted several years. He served a Postmaster of Moss Bluff for a few years, having the office in his store. William R.C. Barcliff ^{Barcliff} rented the property, 1882 and, engaged in general merchandise.

Harry H. Hart arrived in the Moss Bluff area in 1923, and settled on his present property south of the Whites Draw-Bridge and U.S. Locks. He and his family have operated a grocery store and gasoline filling station for the past number of years.

^{here} In 1920 Otis Squires built a store just east of his dwelling house and began the mercantile business in 1921 which he conducted 12 years. ~~He also was Post Master of Moss Bluff~~ ^{also the Post Office} during most of that time.

In 1928 Lester R. Wheeler built a small store building on his house-lot. Then on Jan. 10, 1931 he opened a grocery store and gasoline filling station which he has conducted to the present time --- 1942.

Merchants in Electra

what was there

William R.C. Barclift came to Electra when a young man and is supposed to have opened the first store in Anson --- later Electra. This was probably about 1878. His store was on the west side of the highway southwest of where now stands, E. Bennett Avery's dwelling house. He also carried on business in A. Jack Whites store at one time. He sold out his store in Electra about 1890 to the Farmers Alliance Company, formed by Dr. D.A. Thomas, Joseph Stanaland, George W. Waters, J. Preston Holly, Norman A. Fort and possibly one or two other local citizens. Mr. Waters managed this store about a year, and was succeeded by James C. Pillans who was manager for several years. Finally Mr. Pillans purchased the property and continued business in the same building for several more years.

The Company built a new store building about 1895 several rods north of the Barclift store. Nothing now remains to mark the site of either of those former business centers. This latter building stood across the road about west of the present home of J. B. Caldwell,

719415
As previously stated, Rev. J.P. Parker made an effort to establish a Baptist Orphanage in Electra and a sizeable building was erected for that purpose. But the project was a failure. John J. Brown appears to have purchased the unfinished building, and finished it off into a dwelling and store, which he conducted for several years. It stood on the southwest side of the old road leading from the present, home (1940) of J.B. Caldwell southeast to the site of the old Harmony Baptist church. Mr. Brown appears to have removed his store business into Mr. Barclift's former store.

After Mr. Brown, Mrs. H.P. Anderson came here and opened the store which she managed a few years.

Close up spaces

This is a most depressing chapter to relate in this work. It is largely traditional as to dates. Accidents cannot always be avoided. A few serious ones have taken place in the Moss Bluff area. Crime, both major and minor, have been a blot upon ^{the} fair name of this place. In fact, crime was so rampant in this region at one time the place was known as "Hell Town." The rustling of cattle and hogs; moon-shines and murders have caused some of the law-breakers an opportunity to spend some time at Raiford. Yet, the great majority of the citizens have been law-abiding. The names of those credited ^{with} crime, whether innocent or guilty, have usually been omitted in the following notations:

Accidents

Several Federal soldiers lost their lives in the Oklawaha River at the Morrison-Pendarvis ferry in March--April 1836.

Tradition states that when Mr. Stark was operating his ferry some eight miles above the present U.S. Locks, probably prior to 1860, he owned several slaves, one of whom was building a house in Ocala. Sambo returning home late one night found the ferry-boat on the opposite side of the River. Not wishing to disturb anyone at that late hour he decided to plunge-in and swim across, but an old 'gator was on watch at that point at that very minute--thus ended poor Sambo and this brief item.

Katie L. Marsh, a child of Lawrence D. Marsh, was accidentally burned to death, Nov. 8, 1892.

W. Byron Parker accidentally shot himself, Nov. 10, 1893 while using his gun to push a boat over the River at Heather Island.

C. H. Heath, was drowned Feb. 11, 1892, when his horse walked into the River at White's ferry late one night. The horse and wagon in which Mr. Heath was riding, were both lost. He lived at the time about one mile easterly of Electra.

Mrs. William W. Jackson, an early highly respected school-teacher, was burned to death by a grass fire March 8, 1910 while living on the present John E. Wallace farm.

Two serious accidents have taken place since we began compiling this manuscript:

Mr. and Mrs. John S. Martin were ^{both} instantly killed at the R.R. crossing, June 8, 1943, in Oklawaha while returning home from that village in their automobile.

John E. Hoover died in Ocala hospital Mar. 14, 1946 following an accident near his Moss Bluff home the previous day when a tractor he was riding jacked-up crushing and scalding him which caused his death.

Fires

A complete list of fires in this region is not at hand.

The Parker - Bliss house burned around 1900 -- # 35.

Two houses on Fort farm, # 64. Judge Jackson house, # 91.

James C. Pillans house # 121. James H. Halford house, # 106.

Voting precinct building # 93. The Baptist Orphanage, # 122.

The old Harmony Baptist church, # 123, and others.

blood Philemon B. Stewart a young man of about 20 was shot in cold-murder while riding his horse in the road in front of the old log store, # 14 about 1877 by the enraged proprietor as he stood in the door of his place of business. One report states the lad was annoying the old man by racing his horse, while others report it was a deliberate fiendish act without provocation. We have no desire to augment this crime, yet it has lingered in the minds of the older generation to this day. The assassin died after a long lingering illness and was buried in a lone grave near # 13.

Henry Wiley was shot by a neighbor at # ⁷³73. Tradition states he was intoxicated and looking for trouble at the time. This crime took place about 1882.

William Pendarvis was shot in the highway near the present Thomas H. Griggs house about 1902.

Mr. and Mrs. A.M. Higgins were both ^{or} murdered in their home which stood south of Lake Bryant, and some distance west of the present home of Rev. G.W.J. Brant. This cold-blood murder took place in the quiet of the evening on about June 26, 1913; it cast a gloom over the entire community, which remains to this day. This crime was supposed to have been committed by a man who has spent many years in confinement at Raiford, States Prison.

One man has been convicted for counterfeiting money in this region while another by the same name was convicted for murder.

Two men have been shot in the Big Scrub within fairly recent years according to reports. One was a Mr. Arms, about 1916 who was employed as a watchman against the stealing of cattle. The other was a Mr. McCraney, of whom we have little data.

A few other lesser crimes have been committed in the Moss Bluff area. A young man is reported to be now carrying a bullet in his head.

Another old tradition relates, at least three early settlers came into this region as a safe refuge following crimes committed in other states. However, to their credit, they became good law-abiding citizens, so far as learned, after arriving in Moss Bluff, ~~Area~~.

new According to reports a Negro was lynched from an oak tree that stood a few rods southerly of Harry H. Hart's dwelling house something like 60 years ago. We have no details of this affair, but reports are that the Negro was buried under the oak tree, and which Mr. Hart ~~cut~~ within recent years.

removed

SECTIONS - TOWNSHIPS - RANGES

After the U.S. Government had acquired the State of Florida over 100 years ago, surveyors were employed to survey the whole state. They started the zero lines North, South, East and West in the present city of Tallahassee; Ranges were numbered east and west from the zero point, while Townships were numbered north and south according to location. Thus; The Moss Bluff area was in Township 16 South (T.16 S.) and Range 24 and 25 East (R.24 & 25 E.). Each Township was six miles square and contained 36 square miles, disregarding lakes and ponds, and 36 -- mile-square Sections. Each Section contained 640 acres and were divided and sub-divided according the the desires of the purchaser. Sections in each Township were numbered consecutively -- one to 36, starting with No. 1, in the northeast corner of each town then alternating from right to left, ending with No.36 in the southeast corner of every town^{ship}.

The following tracts of land in this area, taken at random from abstracts, deeds and word-of-mouth are given for their historic value.

Lester R.Wheeler's 40-acres is in NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 19, Township 16 South, Range 25 East (thus--19-16-25). Its north line is in or near the south shore of Long Lake.

From his Abstract it appears that;

Feb.9,1858,U.S.Government sold this 40-acre to Allen Fort.
July 7,1858, Allen and Amanda E.Fort sold to Joseph Fort.
Apr.22,1875, Joseph and Margaret Fort sold to Rev.James P.Parker.
Mar.15,1884, James P.and Anna E.Parker sold to William B.Parker.
Dec.8, 1884, William B.Parker sold to James Preston Nix.
Dec.30,1884, James P.and Laura A.Nix sold to John Bliss.
Jan.25,1919, John Bliss sold to Lester R.Wheeler--present owner.

William P.Wallace purchased his present 40-acre farm about 1926. It is the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ S. 19-T.16-R.25.

Otis Squires' house appears on a 4-acre tract, south of the present highway ^{is in} on the SE corner of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of S.24-T.16-R.24E.

The late John S.Martin's house is on a 20-acre tract south of the highway, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of S.24; T.16 S.;R.24 E.

The present C.C.Church is on land taken from the Martin farm; is the NW corner of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of S.24; T.16 S.; R.24 E.

Lemuel A.Griggs lives on a 30-acre tract in SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of S.24; T.16 S; R.24 E. His 30-acres is the west half of said lot.

^{bought by Otis Squires} The new Moss Bluff cemetery ^{is} came from a 20-acre tract north of highway, leaving 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres, ^{is} in NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of S. 24. ~~Acres in SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of S.24; T.16 S.; R.24 E.~~

It appears from Mr. Squires' Abstract that:

The U.S.Government sold this land Feb.13,1884 to the heirs of Mary Fort. On June 8,1889, Victoria Fort, Jane (Fort) Bowen and William Bowen, heirs of Isaiah Fort sold to James W.Reynolds and Robert Fort. Jan.13,1904 James W. and Minnie Reynolds sold to Daniel E.Driggers; he sold Mar.29,1909 to Emanuel L.Martin; he sold Dec.19,1919 to W.Arthur Davis, they sold to Fred H. Davis and the latter sold to Otis Squires and the latter has given a deed for 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres for the cemetery. ^{new}

both
The present Andrew J. Wood farm of 73-acres is south of highway. This place embraces 40-acres in SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ and 33-acres just north, and ~~south of road~~, in S. 24; T. 16 S.; R. 24 E.

May 4, 1868 the Government sold this property to Richard B. Erwin. May 20, 1875 Richard B. and Mary E. Erwin sold to Adin M. Waterman. After his death his widow, Reola A. Waterman married A. M. Higgins and she sold, Nov. 30, 1900 to Lewis P. Waterman. Mar. 1, 1920, Andrew J. Wood bought the farm.

nu
Whites Corner and the Waters and Hart dwellings appear to be S. 23; T. 16 S.; R. 24 E.

E. Bennett Avery owns one-acre of land on which he lives. It is in the NW corner of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 2; T. 16 S.; R. 24 E.

William Eli Martin received a deed of the present S. Jeff Martin (160 acre) farm, # 56, by the Homestead Act, after having lived on the property several years. The Deed is signed by President Chester A. Arthur, under date of June 13, 1883; the land was the; S $\frac{1}{2}$ of S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ and the N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of the S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 24, and the N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 25, in Township 16 South and Range 24 East from Tallahassee.

The Tourist Crop

Philadelphia

While compiling material for this history the following incomplete list of visitors in Moss Bluff and vicinity have been discovered. They are frequently dubbed, in derision, "The Tourist Crop." Their names follow:

E. Bennett Avery and friend, *Wm M.* Van Hart of Penn.

Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Burch, and young Marvin of ~~Ind.~~ *No. Dak.* Mandan, *^*

Mrs. Edith Bryant Gunn, of Calif.

Rex Hubbard of Mich., and later of N. H.

Tryman Hunter and family of Mich.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank B. Kingsbury, of ~~N. H.~~ *N. H.* Keene and Winchester, *^*

George W. Miller and son Cecil, of Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Smith and Virginia Brockway, of Mich.

A. P. Swift, of Mich. E. C. Tulley, of Mich.

Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Wilder, of ~~Ind.~~ *Westmoreland, N. H.*

Mr. and Mrs. Woodruff, of Mich. ~~and~~ and many others.

" " " *A. P. Swift.*

The Crop

We hear so much of the "tourist crop"

We detest the name---it gives us a shock.

Now we of the north are a common class,

Who wish to escape some winter blast

So we head for Florida for a short stop

But rebel being dubbed the "Tourist Crop."

RESIDENCES

Present and former houses -- Historical land-marks

This Chapter must necessarily be very incomplete as well as un-satisfactory to many readers, owing in a measure to the lack of a suitable map of this area. *to settle*

The first generation in this region erected log houses, as a rule, in which they lived for possibly a full generation, though a few of those early houses were framed dwellings. With no cellars under those early houses, as ^{do} appear in many sections of our country, it is impossibility for the present generation to identify many an old house-site, or other historical places. The location of an old house is frequently established by an elderly citizen, or more probably by a building now standing, but, that latter one may have disappeared within a few more years leaving only an old pitcher pump to mark its site.

The ROADS are designated by the Roman figures, I, II, III, etc. The HOUSES, etc. by the Arabic numerals, 1, 2, 3, 4, etc.

Roads

- I. The present east-west road from Whites Corner east into the Big Scrub.
- Ia. The old east-west road from near Whites Corner into ^{the} Scrub.
- II. The Marsh Road, leading north from, I at Davis' Corner, to Lawrence D. Marsh's house and on to Sellers Corner.
- ~~III.~~ The Sellers Road, leading from, I north to Sellers Corner, and beyond.
- IV. The Martin Road, leading from, I south and east to S. Jeff Martins present house.
- V. The Henry Morrison road, leading from, I north to Mr. Morrisons house near the south-west shore of Long Lake.
- VI. A discarded trail leading from, I, near L.R. Wheelers house northeasterly to near the southeast corner of Long Lake. *Stoer*
- VII. The new clay road, (dubbed "The Cock-eyed road" by Otis) leads from I, southerly to ~~Stoer~~ muck farms and beyond.
- VIII. The Union Church road, leading from I near W.P. Wallaces house northerly around the east and north sides of Long Lake, passing the site of the old Union Church, to III.
- IX. The Wiley road leading northeast from near the corner of VIII and I, to Henry Wiley's house site.
- X. The Sidney C. Fort road, leading northeast from I, direct to his house and beyond to his cabin on the west shore of Lake Mary. *(burned 1940)*
- XI. The Pillans trail, now discarded, left VIII near south-east shore of Long Lake and ran northerly passing *near* Pillans house site and on joining VIII near H.P. Griggs.
- ~~XII. The Chalker road, now discarded, led northeasterly from VIII to former homes of "Cotie" Chalker.~~

-Residences --2--

---Roads:

TULLIS

- XII. The Oliver Fort road leading from VIII easterly to Mr. Forts home, *and on to the Galloway - Tullis home.*
- XIII. The Chalker trail, now discarded, leading northerly from VIII to home of Mr. Chalker and Isaiah Forts.
- XIV. The Mack Morrison road, leading easterly from III, to where Mr. Morrison formerly lived--road discarded.
- XV. The Isaac Perry road, leading from II northwesterly to Mr. Perry's former house, beyond where Mrs. John F. Hornbeak now lives.
- XVI. The Oklawaha Road, leads from Whites Corner, southerly to Whites Draw-Bridge and on into Oklawaha.
- XVIIa. Tradition states there was at one time a road or trail leading from Whites Corner northeasterly to II.
- XVII. The Capt. J. B. Martin road, led from XVI southeasterly to Capt. Martins former turpentine still settlement.
- XVIII. The Old Fort Mellon road, leading northwesterly from Whites Corner, is really the extension of I, and is supposed to follow the old Fort Mellon road direct to Sharps Ferry.
- XIX. The Muclan road, leads from XVIII westerly direct to the present *Oklawaha* ~~Muclan~~ Farm settlement, ~~---now the Oklawaha Farms.~~
- XX. The Electra road, leading northerly from XVIII to Electra and on to Lynne.
- XXI. The Wilcoxson road, leading west from XX at Electra, to the former home of Mr. Wilcoxson, ~~--- Mims Mock.~~
- XXII. The Harmony Baptist church road, leading from XX, at Electra southeast to III --- now practically unused.
- XXIII. The Hudnell road, leading from XX (north of cemetery and) ~~leading~~ southeast to III at Sellers Corner.
- XXIV. The Morris road led westerly from XVIII, from near the former home of George W. Waters to Henry Morris' house.

10

road

There also were two very early roads in this region; The Old Volusia Military from East Coast to Fort King, which crossed III about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of Sellers Corner. And a branch road leading from the above Military road southwesterly directly through Moss Bluff and to the River at the Morrison-Pendarvis Ferry, though this probably was only a trail through the woods.

at that time

as noted

- Residences --3--

Present and former Houses

In order to locate houses and other historic places in a general way, examine the Roads found in this Chapter. For instance, the site of the old Union Church building north of Long Lake is # 80 ,R-VIII, that is, it was on Road VIII. Left-hand and right-hand will appear as "lh" and "rh".

Starting At Whites Corner and going east along Road I;

1; R-I. The present home of W.C.White, County Commissioner; present house built about 1900 by A.Jack White.

2; R-I. rh. George Drawdy lived here in a log house about 1890. A.J.White took the house down 1910? It stood at the Corner.

3. R-I. rh. Remains of the old Indian mound. 1946 by Mrs. L.D. Marsh

4. R-I. lh. Dwelling house where Dillon Long formerly lived, now

5. R-I. lh. Present home of Robert E.Griggs.

6. R-I. lh. Present home of Thomas H.Griggs. Robert Fort built this house 1887 and where he later lived.

7. R-I. lh. Present home of W.Arthur Davis. He bought a portion of his parents home farm and erected this house in 1928.

1913
Davis
came
here

8. R-I. lh. Present home of Mrs.Joseph P.Davis. John T. Lewis bought this farm 1895, and soon after erected the present house, then erected a small building a short distance west of his house and opened a grocery store. Later he moved this store building across the road and continued business at,

9. R-I. rh. John T.Lewis' store stood southeast of present house Davis house and across the road at the Corner. The Davis family came here, Dec.3,1913 and soon after opened this Lewis store which they conducted a few years, then the business was moved back to the north side of present road, where it was continued several more years.

10. R-I. lh. Nothing now marks the site of the old log store of Swerine Brothers. It stood on the east corner, at the junction of R-II with R-I. Several carried on business in that store --- See Merchants in Moss Bluff.

11. R-I. lh. Present home of Raymond R.Davis; built within recent years. He harvests Spanish moss commercially.

12. R-I. rh. Gravestone of Adin^{M.} Waterman; died 1879.

13. R-I. rh. A few rods east of the above gravestone is the site where Richard B.Erwin built a house about 1868---whether of logs or frame structure --- traditions disagree. He sold this property May 20,1875. Those later here were; A.M. Waterman, Mrs.Reola A.Waterman-Higgins, Lewis F.Waterman, William A.Hand, G.W.Ward, J.E.Wilson and he sold farm to A.J.Wood,Jr.,Mar.1,1920.

#14. R-I. lh. On the ^{near} north side of the road, about opposite of # 13, is the site of the old log store built about 1870 by Mr. Erwin and where he carried on mercantile business for several years. Adin M. Waterman bought the property in 1875 and continued business here until his death which came in 1879. The next here probably was Mill Holland who carried on business a number of years, and is believed to have been the last man to do business in this log store. The building was soon after occupied as a dwelling by Mrs. Mary A. Lewis and her daughters. Later it was used as a hall for entertainments, and dances; it went to decay and finally was taken down, years ago.

15. R-I. rh. The present home of Andrew J. Wood, ^{Jr.} bought in 1920. Mr. Wood has an orange grove on his 73 acre farm.

16. R-I. lh. Present home of Mrs. Ambrus M. Morrison, ~~now lives~~. This house was built by Mr. Morrison, in January 1929.

17. R-I. rh. The present Church of Christ.

18. R-I. rh. Site of old Union church - school-house. It formerly stood directly north of present Church of Christ.

19. R-I. rh. Present home of James P. Martin. William E. Martin owned this 82 acre farm, and his son, Emanuel L. Martin ~~who~~ built the first house on farm in 1900. James P. Martin purchased the property, 1917; took down the old house and built present one on same site in 1938; --- both frame dwellings.

^{during} # 20. R-I. lh. The present (or new) Moss Bluff cemetery. This $1\frac{1}{2}$ acre plot was originally severed from a 60 acre tract of open land, purchased by Otis Squires within recent years.

21. R-I. lh. The present Congregational Community Church, was built ~~the~~ during the fall and winter of 1897/98, at the junction of R-III with R-I.

22. R-I. rh. Home of John S. Martin; he bought and settled on this farm in 1887 and has erected most of the present buildings. Mr. Martin has several acres west of his buildings at present (1940) in large size orange trees. He built present house in 1902.

23. R-I. rh. Joseph McCray is said to have been the first man to settle on the John S. Martin farm, prior to 1885--his frame house stood several rods west of Mr. Martins buildings, in what is now Mr. Martins orange grove. ^{present}

24. R-I. rh. This is a cabin on J.S. Martins farm, occupied mostly by Mr. Martins transient farm labor; stands south of house.

25. R-I. lh. This also is a cabin on J.S. Martin farm for hires help; stands some 40 rods north of presend Martin house.

26. R-I. rh. Residence of Mrs. Nancy J. (Martin) Sanford, was built from material from the last Harmony Baptist church. She has rented the house to Dana D. Wilder for the winter season within recent years. This house was erected about ten years ago on one-acre of land taken off the east part of John S. Martin home-farm.

27. R-I. rh. Present home of Otis Squires which he built in 1920 on a 4-acre tract which he bought that year from the southeast corner of John S. Martin's home farm. Most of his land is covered with a young orange grove.

28. R-I. rh. The old store and Post Office of Otis Squires, which he built and opened for business in 1921. Mrs. Squires was Postmistress for 12 years and until this office was ~~dis-~~^{continued} ~~banded~~ in favor of the R.F.D. During a portion of this time Mr. and Mrs. Squires received a "salary" of \$ 9.00 every three months.

29. R-V. lh. ^{standing} Henry Morrison lived in a 2-story frame house ^{there} that stood only a few rods south of the southwest corner of Long Lake, and the only house on this road, although it may have at one time been a trail farther northward around the shore of Long Lake. The family left here and the house was taken down, ~~some ten~~ ^{about 1930} years ago. It stood only a few rods west of the northwest corner of L.R. Wheelers home farm. Road V., left, R-I, near the present Wheeler house.

30. R-I. lh. Present home of Lester R. Wheeler, ^{who} he bought this 40-acre farm Jan. 25, 1919 and soon after built his present frame house, and other buildings, later.

31. R-I. lh. Small store and gasoline station of L.R. Wheeler; built 1928 on his house-lot.

32. R-I. lh. Small cabin few rods east of Mr. Wheelers store. Built in 1934 by Rex Hubbard -- 9 x 12 feet in size, was occupied by Mr. Hubbard, and possibly others;

Andrew J. Holton lived in this cabin a few years prior to his death, 1939.

Several northern parties have camped on Mr. Wheelers land during the past 15 years, ~~or so~~; in tents, trailers, etc. viz: "Tim" Hunter; Albertus P. Swift; Edward C. Tulley; Edwin J. Smith; Mr. Wing; Austin Smith and family and others, including the author and compiler of this history who lived in a trailer ~~on~~ ~~this land~~ during the winter seasons, ~~1938, 1939-40, 1939-41.~~

33. R-I. rh. Mr. L.R. Wheeler built this house on his farm across the road southeast of # 31, in the fall of 1925. He has rented the house to the following: His son Raymond E. Wheeler, Dec. 1925 to May 1928; to J. Edwin Sellers, Mrs. Nancy J. (Martin) Sanford, Henry Haggard for about 2-years, a Walker family, Robert E. L. Blackstone, Hiram T. Burch, winter of 1940-41. ^{Sold since}

^{to W. Maynard Martin.}
34. R-I. lh. Site of Allen and Amanda E. Fort's log house. It stood on the ridge near the east line of L.R. Wheelers present orange grove. Mr. Fort purchased this property from the U.S. Government, Feb. 9, 1858. Mrs. Sally (Fussell) Perry states, James Thomas was the first man to live on this 40-acre farm, and he may have built the log house. However, Mr. Fort appears, bought direct from the Government. He sold this property, to his brother Joseph Fort, July 7, 1858 who lived here. About this time James Fussell and family rented and lived in this log house. Joseph Fort sold the place Apr. 22, 1875 to Rev. James P. Parker. Mr. Parker probably was the last one to live here, as he soon after built a new frame house nearby, --- see # 35.

35. R-I. lh. The site of Rev. James P. Parker's frame house was in L.R. Wheelers orange grove, and possibly 400 feet northwest from # 34. He was known as "Preacher Parker". William B. Parker and J. Preston Nix later owned this place, then John Bliss of Gilsum, N.H., bought the place in 1885; he lived here a year or two then returned to New Hampshire. His house was burned a few years later. Mr. Wheeler bought the land in 1919; no buildings on the place at that time.

36. R-I. lh. The present William P. Wallace 40-acre farm. But little of the history of this farm is at hand. The Up-Church Lumber Company appear to have owned this property and cut /// off the timber then Harmon P. Griggs purchased the land and he sold it to William P. Wallace about 1926. The latter soon built his present dwelling house into which the family came, Jan. 1, 1927; --believed as the first dwelling on this farm.

37. R-I. rh. This cabin on the Daniel J. Fort farm was built within recent years. Some of Mr. Fort's ~~farm~~ help have occupied this cabin. *farm*

38. R-I. rh. The present home of Daniel J. Fort. Joseph Fort came to this farm from # 34 about 1860, and settled at # 39. He built the present house about 1880. Those living in this house are; Joseph Fort, Oliver Fort, a Mr. Ball, Thomas H. Griggs, Albert W. Fort and Daniel J. This house is now the last one on this old Fort Mellon road (now occupied) before entering the Big Scrub and the Ocala National Forest.

39. R-I. lh. About 100 feet across the road from # 38 is the site of Joseph Fort's house which he built about 1860. *swale*

40. R-I. rh. Some 60 rods beyond # 38 is the Old Sugar Hole. *swale*

41. R-I. rh. Passing the new fence which encloses the Ocala Forest and going southeast some 40 rods is the remains of an old road leading south; --- Pooser's Corner. Emerson Pooser built a house at the junction of the latter road, about 1880.

Later, Lemuel A. Griggs and his sister Mrs. Emmie F. (Griggs) Fort lived here, also Nicholas L. Fort, and possibly others.

The chimney to this house was constructed of wood-lattice, clay and Spanish moss. Daniel J. Fort took the old house down in 1937 and used the material in building his cabin at # 37.

42. R-I. lh. Frank Pooser, a brother of Emerson, built a house across the road north of # 41. in which he lived a few years -- nothing now marks its former location.

43. R-I. rh. About 30 rods easterly of # 41, is the site where Allen Fort first settled when he first arrived in this part of Florida, about 1853. He brought along several of his best slaves from his old S. Caro-Alabama homes and took up a large tract of land on which he settled in the edge of the Big Scrub. Here he built a large 3-room log house, using wood pins to fasten down the 4-inch thick "punching floor" plank, hewed of sides and edges direct from the forest, ~~all about him~~. Several families occupied this house after the Forts' removed, and it was finally taked down about 1880.

of logs

puncher

44. R-I. rh. A few rods back from # 43, Mr. Fort build several small log cabins in which his slaves lived until they were set free. All this land has been cultivated and nothing now marks the site of #43 or # 44. On the northerly side of the old road and about opposite of # 43, today stands a great oak tree still guarding this landmark.

45. R-I. Several rods east of #43, is an old road leading south directly to the north shore of Lake Catharine. On or near this ~~cross~~-road are # 45, # 46, # 47, #48, #49.

branch
At #45. on rh. is the site of Robert E. Griggs house in which he lived ~~until~~ within recent years. A few rods south of this site is, # 46, a 10 x 12 foot tool house, and the only building standing at present in this section. House, ~~torn down~~, 1937. *(was)*

47. About 12 rods southeast of # 46 is where Philip T. Griggs built his log house and settled here in December 1869. All of his children, excepting his two eldest, were born in this log house, which practically rotted down about 1900.

Mr. Griggs later built a frame dwelling in which he lived during his last years. His latter house was some distance northwest of # 47.

48. A few rods north of # 47, is the site of P. T. Griggs old sugar mill building. *Also on this branch*

49. rh. ~~Old cross-road~~, was where Robert E. L. Blackstone and wife camped in a small cabin and tent, 1935-37, *some 40 rods north of the north shore of Lake Catharine.*

50. #51. Were two cabins where a Mr. Swan and Mr. Ennis lived around 1890. They lived some distance south of Pooser Corner ~~by that trail~~ leading south. *and near a*

on this road
This brings to an end all the dwellings and points of interest in the edge of the Big Scrub, and ~~also~~ along Road I.

Next taking up the old Fort Mellon road which formerly ran parallel to Road I, *thus: Road I-a.*

52. Road Ia. rh. Nothing now marks the site of Robert Fort's log house, but it stood near the edge of the wood lot ~~a little~~ northwesterly of the Old Moss Bluff cemetery. ~~It~~ Reported, *and* built by an earlier settler --- name not given. *unknown.*

53. R-Ia. rh. The old Moss Bluff cemetery, *see Cemeteries,*

54. R-Ia. Near the junction of this road with the old road leading south direct to the Morrison-Pendarvis Ferry, was where Andrew J. Harrell lived over 50 years ago. The site of his log house has entirely disappeared from tilling farm land, but it stood southerly from Davis' Corner. Tradition says there was another house near # 54, at one time, but nothing regarding ~~that place~~ *its history* has been learned.

55. On this road leading south to the Ferry, was where the old log school house formerly stood; exact location has not been learned but it was some distance south of # 54.

56. R-Ia. rh. Present home of S. Jefferson Martin. Tradition states, Washington Harrison was the first man to settle on this farm --- probably at # 57. William E. Martin removed from # 90, in 1873 to this farm and lived at # 58. He built this frame house about 1883, first as a 2-story house but in 1915 it was re-modeled into a one-story dwelling, in which his son S.J. Martin lives. *now*

57. R-Ia. The first place on this farm was a log house that stood in the open field around 50 rods southerly of the present S.J. Martin house. "Wash" Harrison is supposed to have settled here after leaving his old home in Alabama. Tradition states, his name originally was Beasley and that he was closely related to the Wilson family. Nothing now marks the exact site of this dwelling but it was in the vicinity of two old Indian mounds. John Baker, lived here about 1868.

58. R-Ia. A few rods south of S.J. Martin's ^{present} house, and near his boiling kettle was where William E. Martin built his log house in 1873 and where the family lived until he built at # 56, about 1883.

59. R-Ia. lh. Site of frame school-house near northeast corner of S.J. Martin's home farm. The usual old pump now marks the site of this building -- see schools.

60. R-VII. rh. *(Clay road)* This house is part of the *STOER* ~~Storeys~~ Muck-Farms property and usually has been occupied by those who worked on those Farms. Albert C. Sellers lived here, 1940-41. This place is over a mile southerly from L.R. Wheelers store.

61. R-VII. rh. *(STOER)* This place, off the R-VII highway, is headquarters for the ~~Storeys~~ Muck Farms and home of the Manager of the Farms. John L. Yawn, Jr., came here Jan. 10, 1932 and has since been Superintendent for the ~~Storeys~~ Farms, to the present, 1941. *STOER*

62. R-IX. The old Wiley road passed along the southeast bounds of the old Long Lake log school-house yard. Nothing now marks the site of this building. Near the end of this road was;

63. R-IX. Location where Henry Wiley once lived. He was shot near his home and was first buried near his house, but later the remains were re-buried in Moss Bluff cemetery. A. Jack Snell lived here later, and the buildings were taken down about ~~1898~~ 1900. They stood about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile easterly from the present home of Oliver Fort. John H. Wiley, son of Henry also lived here. Henry Wiley built this house about 1880.

*Close up
spaces*

64. R-X. rh. Site of Sidney C. Fort's house destroyed by fire Saturday evening, October ? , 1940. This farm is a portion of the Allen Fort plantation, 1853? John Reynolds is believed the first settler here. Albert W. Fort came next. A fire destroyed the old house and about 1920, A.W. Fort erected near the former house site the house that his son lost in 1940.

65. R-X. rh. Around 80 rods easterly of # 64, and not far from the west shore of Lake Mary is the site of John H. Wiley's house which has been gone several years. Nearby is:

#66. R-X. Cabin of Sidney C. Fort, near the west shore of Lake Mary, and where he lived a few months after his house fire, then he removed into Ocala.

67. R-VIII. lh. John D. Jenkins built a house about 1880 a few rods from the southeast corner of Long Lake. Aden Fort lived here, John R. Sellers and possibly a few others, then the house went to decay. Near its site is;

68. R-VIII. lh. Is an empty house going to decay. It was built on 15 acres of land, 1935, by Harold A. Wallace.

68a A road or trail formerly left the present highway near # 68 and went along the east shore of Long Lake to a cabin built (68a) about 1917 by George W. Miller who had recently bought the present Samuel A. McKinney farm. He set out the first orange trees on this farm in the winter of 1917-18, and sold the property in 1924?. On the same farm was;

69. Is the site of William P. Pillans log house which ~~he built about the time of his marriage. 2/1/1873/~~ It stood on the ridge, in what is now, Samuel A. McKinney's orange grove; it was, say 30 rods east of the east shore of Long Lake, and some 60-70 rods northwesterly of Mr. McKinney's present home. An old early trail is believed to have left G.W. Miller's place and passing near # 69, entered the present highway in the vicinity of # 75.

70. R-VIII. rh. In 1939, Harold A. Wallace built a new house on 4-acres set-off from his father's home farm. This is a well constructed dwelling but thus far (1941) has never been entirely finished inside, nor has it been occupied. On the same tract of land formerly stood # 62 on Road IX.

71. R-VIII. lh. Present home of Samuel A. McKinney. He settled on this 40-acre farm about 1935. Road XII starts at #71.

72. R-XII. lh. The present home of Oliver Fort is at the end of this road and where he settled, 1909. He built present house on this 160 acre farm in 1909. It stands a few feet east of the first log house on this place. That was occupied by James Driggers, Rev. James P. Parker, James C. Pillans, a Mr. Mason, and possibly others. Mr. Fort purchased the ^{old} frame house at # 104 built by J.C. Pillans and used the material to build his present house in 1909.

73. The old J.W. Reynolds place was about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile *easterly* ~~southeast~~ from Oliver Fort's house --- # 72. James W. Reynolds lived there several years prior to 1900. He was followed by a Mr. Berthea ?, Samuel A. McKinney, and John P. Galloway, who later became High Sheriff of Marion county, and ~~he~~ removed to Ocala. *Buildings have been removed.* *the latter*

David L. TULLIS, settled here 1942.

74. R-VIII. rh. Present home farm of Mrs. Harmon P. Griggs. The late Harmon P. Griggs bought this farm and built the present house in 1928 --- the 3rd dwelling on the property. Philip T. Griggs lived at # 75. Capt. William P. Pillans at # 76.

75. R-VIII. rh. This log house was occupied by Philip T. Griggs from about 1867 until December 1869 when he settled in his new log house # 47 in the Big Scrub. This building stood several rods north of # 76. ~~Robert Fort~~ is said to have erected it before he went to war. ~~He moved from here to # 52. 1866.~~

76. R-VIII. rh. Capt. William P. Pillans built this log house according to reports, and where he lived a few years. It stood a short distance north of the present H.P. Griggs house. ~~Harold A. Wallace has occupied this old house for several years.~~

77. R-VIII. lh. Present home of James E. Sellers. John Smith built the first house on this place, which is not far from the northeast shore of Long Lake. Curtis Grear, Samuel A. McKinney and Ray Herndon have lived here, then Mr. Sellers came in 1932. ~~rents the place.~~

78. R-XIII. About $\frac{3}{4}$ mile northeast of # 77 was where Isaiah Fort lived for some years prior to his death in 1913. He built this frame house. Some distance northeast of # 78 was;

79. R-XIII. "Cotie" Chalker, brother-in-law to Isaiah Fort lived at the end of the Chalker road. This house also has been removed. No other dwellings were on that road--now abandoned. G.W. Sharp lived here about 1894 -- perhaps built first house.

80. R-VIII. rh. Site of the old Union church -- exact site has not been located by a visit upon the ground. It was built about 1870 and later taken down and rebuilt at # 18.

81. R-III. rh. A few rods north of the present C.C. church, # 21, is the cement stock-dip, still in-tact -- 1940.

82. R-III. rh. Present home of Lemuel A. Griggs. Mr. Griggs bought this 30-acre farm, 1910, and built the present house in 1927? This is the 3rd house on this farm. See, # 83 and # 84.

83. R-III. rh. William Driggers came here around 1860, and is believed to have built a log house in which he lived, that stood 15 or 20 rods ~~north~~ east of L.A. Griggs present house.

The traditional records fail to harmonize; one states he was killed before Richmond while serving in the war, and another record states he returned and later built a house at # 84.

84. R-III. rh. William Driggers built a new frame house that stood some 300 feet west of his old log house.

Lemuel A. Griggs lived in this house after he came here, until he built his present dwelling in 1927? Then he sold the old house to Negroes who rebuilt it in Oklawaha.

85. R-XIV. lh. This dwelling was practically wrecked during a high wind in 1933. Hugh Meadows lived here in the early '20s then removed to Orlando. Next came John Walton from Oklawaha, and then came Thomas H. Griggs who was the last occupant. This house was, possibly, 80 rods north of # 82.

86. R-XIV. The site of the Mack Morrison house was at the end of this road, yet a trail continued easterly to the west lower end of Long Lake, thence on to Henry Morrison, # 29. This site is a short distance northeasterly of # 85.

87. R-XIV--trail. Some distance easterly of # 86 was where William Morrison, a son of Mack, lived until fairly recent years. This house also has been removed.

88. Near the west shore of Long Lake, is a cabin built within a few years by Mr. and Mrs. Levi O. Brumbaugh, as a vacation lodge.

89. R-III. rh. This is the present home of Mrs. Z. Mae (Halford) Sellers and stands several rods east of the main road, R-III. West of her house and near R-III is, where Horace B. Mock built this house, 1893?; sold it, 1924?

90. R-III. rh. Site of William E. Martin house and where, his son John S. was born 1871. Mr. Martin moved from here to # 58. Not even an old pump marks the site of this house.

91. R-III. rh. The present John E. Wallace home, also is several rods off the main road, and possibly an equal distance north of Queen Lake. John Gardner reported as first settler and his old house stood a few rods north of # 91 in what is now Mr. Wallaces orange grove. This ~~probably~~ was a log affair. Judge William W. Jackson lived here several years, during that time he built a residence on or near the first house. Nearby his wife was accidentally burned to death by a brush fire. The next to live here was H. H. Harris of Miami, then W. D. ? LaVance.

Samuel A. McKinney bought this 240 acre farm in 1913?; this Jackson house was burned in 1917, then the family repaired an old packing house on the farm, where they lived for a time. John E. Wallace bought the property in 1924 and in 1938 he built his present residence.

92. R-III. lh. This place is northwest of # 91, and the former home of Ray Herndon; --- unoccupied 1940.

- Residences --12--

---Houses

93 & # 94. Were the former Democratic and Republican voting precinct buildings, mentioned elsewhere in this work. They stood northwesterly from # 92.

95. R-III. rh. The present home of David Sellers, at Sellers Corner. His 40-acre tract is a portion of the old *Rev.* Willis Sellers homestead. He built his present house during October 1899 --- enlarging the same in 1918.

96. R-XXIII. rh. Hosea M. Sellers present house is on a portion of the old Willis Sellers homestead, and where Jesse Sellers is understood to have lived. This house, only 50 ? rods northwest from Sellers Corner was vacated in 1940 at which time Mr. Sellers removed to Belleview --- where he died, 1942.

97 & # 98. Places are now occupied by Clarence H. Williams, lefthand side of R-III, and near the "clay bank", --- about one mile northerly from Sellers Corner. Rev. George W.J. Brant, his father-in-law, lives at # 98, perhaps half mile west of ~~# 97~~. *West of # 98 where Mr. & Mrs. A. M. Higgins were murdered.*

99. R-II. lh. Charles S. Davis built this house about 1923 on a portion of his parents farm --- some 40 rods north of their house -- # 8. This place has been unoccupied for the past few years, as Mr. Davis is employed at Eureka.

100. R-II. rh. Tradition states formerly there was a house some distance east of the road, and about east of # 99, also some distance northerly of # 16.

101. R-II. rh. A.J. Penrod formerly lived on this road, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north from the Davis Corner. This house site, now in wood-land, has not been found.

102. R-XV. lh. The present home of Mrs. John F. Hornbeak. Isaac Perry built this house in 1885 while living at # 103. After the death of Mr. Perry his widow sold this 40-acre farm to John H. Morrison and in 1920 he sold to John F. Hornbeak.

103. R-XV. End of road. About 26 rods northwest of # 102, in at present an orange grove is the site of Isaac Perry's old log house --- its early history cannot be given.

103a. R-II. lh. Walter F. Hornbeak bought land near # 102 in 1934 and built his present frame house the same year. *He lived here till he went to Levy Hammack.*

104. R-II. lh. The site of James C. Pillans home was some distance west of Road II, and possibly 80 rods southwest from Lawrence D. Marsh's present house. Mr. Pillans came here about 1884 and moved into "Mack" Morrison's old log house that then stood in an orange grove. Two years later he erected a frame dwelling a few feet east of the old house, and where he lived until he removed to Electra in 1892. His Negro, Samuel Davis lived in the log house after he moved into his new house.

Oliver Fort razed the new dwelling and used the material to build his present house in 1909 at # 72.

105. R-II. rh. The Marsh Farm. Lawrence D. Marsh and his mother settled on this farm about 1883 at which time she obtained 160 acres under the old homestead law. Here Mr. Marsh lived until his death, May 8, 1943. He was a thrifty farmer; former Deputy Sheriff and operated a portable ~~lumber~~ saw-mill for a few years. He has enlarged his farm until he owned 380 acres, of which about 50 acres are under water in Lake Bessie.

106. About one-half mile northwest of # 105, is the old home of James H. Halford. This house is still standing within the enclosure of Luther Reynolds Citrus Farms, and unoccupied.

Mr. Halford came to Moss Bluff from South Carolina and lived for several months on the J.C. Pillans farm, # 104. Then he bought this 80 acre farm of Joseph Stanaland about 1895, at which time there was an old frame house on the place. A fire destroyed the house in April 1909, and soon after Mr. Halford built near the site of the old house the present dwelling. *this* Mr. Halford and small children were buried northwest of ~~house~~.

Having now finished up most of the present and former houses and other points of interest easterly of White's Corner, we ~~now~~ start westerly from that Corner along the old Fort Mellon road, and through Electra northward. ~~[A Mr. Young also res. here]~~

then south of
107. R-XVIII. lh. Andrew Jackson (Jack) White built a log store ~~south of~~ the present highway about 12 rods southwest of the present W.C. White home, probably around 1875. Mr. White and his brother Clifford White carried on business in this building for several years then the store was rented by William R.C. Barcliff about 1880, while Mr. White continued to manage his Ferry and serve as Postmaster at which time the office was in his log store. W. Clarence White took this old store down about 1912 and nothing now marks its location.

108. R-XVIII. lh. "Jack" White built a log house about 1870, in which he lived until he moved to # 1, about 1900. This house was in the field ~~about~~ eight or 10 rods southwest from his log store, # 107. *same*

109. R-XVIII. lh. The site of the old Meadows-Searles saw and grist mill which was in operation around 1880. It was on the small brook west from White's Corner and some distance below the highway.

110. R-XVIII. lh. So far as discovered, Ambrus Meadows was the first settler on this farm. He lived in a log house that stood about 50 yards southerly of the present dwelling. He was succeeded by Murdock O. Morrison, his son-in-law, and in that log house, all of Mr. Morrison's children were born. Mr. Morrison built the present house in 1901, and in 1935 ~~by mistake~~ ~~this~~ ~~called~~ ~~Sambo~~ ~~and~~ ~~this~~ ~~brief~~ ~~item~~.

A recent shocking accident came at the Railroad crossing in Oklawaha, June 8, 1943, when Mr. and Mrs. John S. Martin were both instantly killed while returning home in ~~an~~ *their* automobile.

ms. sudden accident
110a, Home of Mrs. Harmon E. Martin off road

#111. R-XVIII. 1h. Present home of Emanuel L. ("Josh") Martin. He formerly lived at # 19. He bought and settled on this farm in the fall of 1913, and soon after built the present 2-story frame dwelling.

112. R-XIX. This road leads directly to the former Muclan Farms. Here is a small settlement of around 12 dwellings of which no record has been attempted in this work. Nearly all those houses are occupied by those who work on those Farms. Mr. Elias J. Paulk, the superintendent occupies one of those frame houses; --- 1940. *men*

113. R-XVIII. 1h. George W. Waters farm. The first house on this farm stood in the woodland some distance southwest from # 114. Henry Morris, William and Balma Fort, C.H. Heath, Thomas J. Sellers, "Hamp" Brooker and probably others lived here. *House gone for years.*

113a. R-XVIII. 1h. William Brooker built this house which stood between # 113 and # 114 and was the 2nd house on this farm. Mr. George W. Waters bought the farm and settled here in October 1882 and where he lived until he built at # 114.

114. R-XVIII. 1h. George W. Waters built this house 1907-08 and where he lived until he moved to #135. This house was occupied by Lemuel M. Turner and family until 1940 when they moved to # 4. Soon after this house was taken down. It stood near the old Fort Mellon road, some 300 rods northwest from the junction of R-XVIII and R-XX.

115. R-XX. rh. Some rods off this road still stands the old somewhat dilapidated Masonic-School house among the trees.

116. R-XXI. rh. About 80 rods ~~northwest~~ from # 115, is the former home of George W. Wilcoxson, Mims Mock and the Wood family ~~here~~ within recent years. Lemuel M. Turner moved here from # 4 in January 1941. He removed and now, (1945) Luther ~~/~~ Reynolds has added this farm to his other nearby orange groves and the buildings have been removed. The three Fort graves are westerly from # 116.* *Call*

117. R-XX. rh. The present winter home of E. Bennett Avery. John R. Avery bought an acre of land of James C. Pillans and erected the present house in 1915. The northwest corner of this 70 x 70 yard tract is 70 yards south of the U.S. $\frac{1}{4}$ Section corner, 3-2, bound.

118. R-XX. 1h. Across the highway southwest from # 117 was the former store of William R. C. Barcliff, John J. Brown and the Farmers Alliance Co., store about 1890. Its site has been obliterated.

119. R-XX. 1h. Site of the 2nd Farmers Alliance store. James C. Pillans managed this store several years then purchased the same and continued the same business. Here was the Electra Post Office for several years, and Mr. Pillans was Postmaster. This building stood across the road west from the U.S. Survey bound ($\frac{1}{4}$ Section corner, 3-2).

119a. R-XX. 1h. About 50 rods northwest from # 119 and several rods east of a small body of water formerly stood one of the first saw mills in Electra.

* Mr. M. L. Reynolds now (1946) has 140 acres in citrus fruit in Electra.

- Residences

--15--

---Houses

63

120. R-XX. rh. ^{M.} Present home, 1940, of James B. Caldwell, Jr. This house is on the Luther Reynolds Citrus Farms, and where Mr. Caldwell is employed. Tradition states that Luther Reynolds built this house, and Dr. Peak lived here or at # 121.

121. R-XX. rh. This is the site of James C. Pillans former home and where he lived 1892 until after 1908. After he left this place it was occupied by several transients until Samuel A. McKinney came here from # 91 and in 1932 this house was destroyed by a fire. It stood a few yards northerly from # 120.

A few rods east of # 120 ~~and # 117~~ ^{near} are still standing two or three small dwellings, also occupied by transients. The old road -- XXII, starts ~~between the two~~ above houses and leads in a southeast direction to, or near, # 106.

122. R-XXII. rh. ^{off} The site of Preacher Parker's Baptist Orphanage, was ~~on~~ this old road, possibly 50 rods from the junction with R-XX. Rev. Mr. Parker attempted to start this institution about 1884 and erected a sizeable building at this place. John J. Brown who lived on the old Volusia Federal highway ^{over} one-half ~~or more~~ mile northeast from Sellers Corner, ~~appears~~ ^{over} bought this old building and repaired it into a dwelling (where he lived) and a store which he conducted a few years then opened the old store at # 118. Nothing now marks the site of this old Orphanage building. Mrs. ~~M.~~ P. Anderson had a store here after Mr. Brown. ^{M.}

123. R-XXII. lh. The site of the three former Harmony Baptist church buildings. --- see Ecclesiastical Chapter.

Formerly there was one or two more settlers along this old road southeasterly of # 123. A Mr. Wright lived in that section years ago.

124. R-XX. rh. The present Electra cemetery.

Continuing northerly on this road there are several dwellings of which no record has been considered. There are, however, a few that may be mentioned; two or three are occupied by the Griggs descendants. ~~The Harris cement store, etc.~~

125. R-XX. rh. Charles F. Harris came from Massachusetts to this place in 1922 and later erected his cement store, still standing 1941, in which he engaged in business a few years; the Electra Post Office was moved into this building and Mr. Harris was appointed Postmaster. *Building now vacated.*

126. Near a side road westerly of # 125 still stands the unoccupied log house built by William Wilson in 1870-71, and where he and his family lived until 1937? This log house with frame additions is still in a good state of preservation. Here is, so far as discovered, the only brickless chimney in this community; being constructed entirely of Spanish moss, and clay, incased in a wood lattice frame work. William Chalker formerly lived and died on this farm, but in an earlier log dwelling. Mr. Wilson's widow, under the Homestead Act, purchased 160 acres. On a portion of that property Mr. Harris built his store, # 125; members of the Griggs family also now live on the farm and near # 125.

Later

127. Some two miles ~~northwesterly~~ from the Harris store, # 125, is the present Griggs farm, and where Old Mr. Lemuel Griggs settled in 1835. While this place is a bit outside of the Moss Bluff--Electra area, we briefly mention this old landmark as so many of Mr. Griggs' descendants are considered in this history. Mr. Griggs built a log house on the north side of the road in which he lived until his death, 1892.

128. The present Thomas E. Griggs farm is the property on which his grandfather, Lemuel settled in 1835. Thomas B. Griggs built the present frame house in 1902, and it is about 38 rods westerly from # 127. Thomas B. Griggs was the youngest son of Lemuel, and Thomas E. Griggs is the youngest son of Thomas B. Griggs. Near the present buildings is the small Griggs family cemetery. In the dooryard at this home is an arch holding one of those great 80 gallon southern ~~kettles~~. It is at least 75 years old and during the Civil war period, it was used by the farmers all about here for making sorgum sirup. It appears good for another 75 years. *cast iron*

129. R-XX, rh. Some distance northerly from # 125, and several rods off the main highway, is the present home of Ora W. Eggleston who lives in the old log house built by James B. Caldwell. It stands near the west shore of Little Lake Bryant, and so far as discovered this man is the last one in this area to reside in a log house. Charles F. Harris formerly lived here. *in 1879*
~~Young James B. Caldwell built this log house in 1896.~~

130. Northeast of #129, possibly one mile, and half a mile east of R-XX. is the farm of Joseph Stanaland and his son-in-law, John R. Rogers, who has served in the State Legislature two or more terms within recent years. *the aged in this vicinity;*

Jacob J. There also is several other old-timers, the Mock family; the ~~Jack~~ Hudnell place and several others not mentioned in detail. ~~in this area.~~ Now returning to White's Corner and taking the Oklawaha road, (~~Jack Hudnell lived on R-XXIII.~~) *white's*

131. R-XVI. lh. A short distance from ~~the~~ Corner is a substantial sign reading:

" DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE--FOREST SERVICE
U. S.
ENTERING Ocala NATIONAL FOREST "

132. R-XVI. rh. The Draw-bridge officers home on the *north* bank of the Oklawaha River. Andrew J. Holton was the bridge tender and since Jan. 1, 1932 Mrs. Ida T. Brinson has filled this position up to the present, 1946, *and lives here.*

133. R-XVI. lh. Around 40 rods south of the present White's Draw-bridge is the home of Harry H. Hart, also his gas filling station and roadside grocery store. He settled here Sept. 20, 1924 and has since made extensive repairs on his dwelling house. He is Superintendent of the Electric power station at the U.S. Locks. *Mr. Hart erected his new cement block dwelling house in 1945-46.*

134. R-XVI. 1h. Few rods northeast of # 133, is the present home of Dwight L.Hart. And nearby is the saw mill of Harry H.Hart.

135. R-XVI. 1h. Nearby the two above places is the home of George A.Waters and his aged mother. He is employed by the Government to open and close the gates at the U.S.Lock. *They formerly lived at # 114.*

136. R-XVI. 1h. In a triangular plot of land about 200 feet north of # 133, where two orange trees now stand, is the site of John T.Lewis' 1½ story frame house. Harry H.Hart razed that house about 1930.

137. R-XVI. 1h. A few rods southerly from # 133, was where the old "Lynch Oak Tree" formerly stood; nearby was buried a Negro, and also members of the Jenkins family, but no headstones mark their graves.

138. R-XVI. 1h. Some 40 rods south from # 133, is where Benjamin F.Freer built his log house in 1887--88. He lived here until 1900 when the family moved to Ocala. Nothing ^{above} ground ~~now~~ marks the site of this log house. *now*

139. R-XVI. 1h. On the Hart home acres near the corner of road leading to the Capt. Martin ~~still~~ village was where John T.Lewis formerly lived in a log house prior to the Big Freeze of 1894-95. Here he had a thrifty growing orange grove coming along which was ruined by that freeze. He lived ~~about that time~~, for a time at least, at 136, after which he settled at the Davis Corner and opened a store.

140. R-XVII. A full half mile southerly from White's Draw Bridge was the former village at Capt.John B.Martin's turpentine still. Around 25 years ago Captain Martin and William Williams, and possibly others, were carrying on quite a prosperous business here. At one time there were around 20 dwellings and cabins occupied by the managers and help, mostly colored, ~~and~~ At one time convict labor was quite extensively used in this business. After a number of years the available pine trees which supplied the pitch for this industry became so limited that the business was moved a few miles north of Electra. Numberless old pine trees in this area are still standing as a testimony to the savage treatment received by those old turpentiners.

No attempt has been made to itemize the dwellings in this village. Several of those old houses and cabins are still standing, while others have been sold and moved elsewhere.

It should be mentioned in closing this Chapter, that many early dwellings and points of interest in this area have been omitted owing to lack of authentic data. The names of many of the early settlers have passed into oblivion; the dates in numerous instances are only "approximately" given. From present indications the Ocala National Forest will in time own a much larger section of this Moss Bluff area.