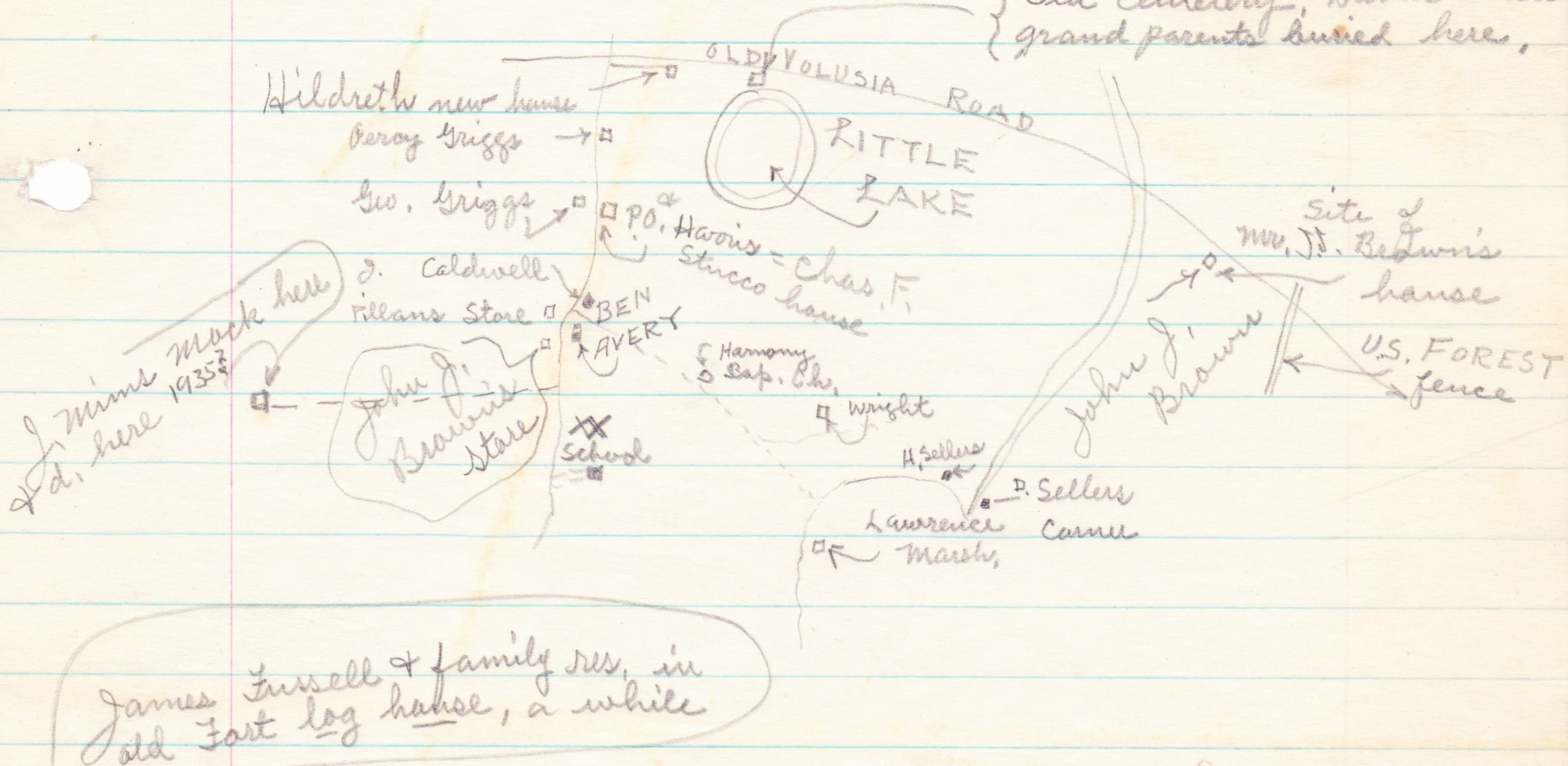


To follow p. 15

(Data by Mrs. David
Sellers, Feb. 13, 1940.)

OLD ROADS etc.:

The old ROAD from Ocala-Sharpes Ferry to Volusia county on East Coast passed easterly as per sketch --- { Old cemetery, David Sellers grand parents buried here,



The Present, EAST - WEST highway through MASS BLUFF:

OTIS SQUIRES says: when he came to Moss Bluff, 1917/18, the present road from near the CHURCH of CHRIST, easterly to near where Dan. J. FORT lives, was filled with standing trees, and many old stumps; the roadway was narrow, and dodged around a lot of when a team or auto traveled over this roadway. (Otis Squires, 1/8, 1941.)

ABSTRACT OF L.R. WHEELERS LAND --- Feb. 7, 1941:

Mrs. Sally (Fussell) Perry states old JIM THOMAS lived here first

1. JAMES THOMAS, perhaps built old Log House, then came;
2. ALLEN FORT, Jr. bought of U.S. Government, Feb. 9, 1858; 40 acres.
3. Allen & Amanda E. Fort sold to Joseph Fort, July 7, 1858.
4. Joseph & Margaret Fort sold to James P. Parker, Apr. 22, 1875.
5. James P. Parker sold to William Byron Parker, Mar. 15, 1884.
6. William B. Parker sold to James Preston Nix, Dec. 8, 1884.
7. James Preston Nix sold to John Bliss of Gilsum, N.H., Feb. 25, 1885.
8. John Bliss sold to Lester R. Wheeler, Jan. 25, 1919; present owner.

((James P. & Annie E. Parker sold to Wm. Byron Parker, 1884.)

(James Preston & Laura A. Nix sold to John Bliss, Dec. 30, 1884.)

This 40 acres is the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 19; Range 25 east and Township 16 south. (This was called the PARKER PLACE.)

An old Deed states the present L.R. Wheeler place was about one mile east of MOSS BLUFF, at that time the L.R.W. section was called, -- LONG LAKE.

----- / --- Item by L.R. Wheeler. 1941.

The 40 acre Wm. P. Wallace owns, was owned by the UPCHURCH Co. who cut off the timber & sold to "Hump" Griggs, & he sold to Wm. P. Wallace

OLD ROADS and HOUSES.

EUSTIS formerly was called, FORT MASON. The old FORT MELLON ROAD, ran from Ocala to ~~SHARPES FERRY~~, then on s.e. course and parallel up the northerly side of the Oklawaha River to FORT MASON (or FORT MELLON). *This was also called the Fort mason.*

on the "Section Line"
This old ROAD passes through Moss Bluff, From the JOSH MARTIN corner, the OLD ROAD ran to near Whites Corner on or near the present road; then on s.e. to near where Robert E. Griggs house where the old road bore off more southerly passing on north side of Robert Fort's old log house, thence on and quite near the ~~old~~ north side of the old cemetery, thence on s.e. passing near the log house where "Jack" Harrell lived that stood in the field some 25 rods south of the Davis Corner, then easterly passing on the present south end of Andrew J. Wood's farm, near where there was a very early log school-house, and nearby was a palm-stoop shelter where religious meetings were held in pleasant weather and in the schoolhouse when stormy; thence easterly on north side of present James P. Martin new house; thence on east passing the school-house that stood 20 yrs ago on north side of S. Jeff Martin's farm; thence east and near the south line of Otis Squires and L.R. Wheeler's land; then crossing the new ~~road~~ (cock-eyed) road to the muckland passing south of two mud-holes on L.R. Wheeler's 40 a; thence on east and enters present road near where Dan. J. Fort now lives.

The OLD LOG SCHOOL-MEETING HOUSE that formerly stood in south of Davis Corner, in 1865; Robert C. (Tob) Fort attended this log school when a small lad; Richard B. Erwin who bought the Wood farm in 1868, was one of the first teachers; a Mr. Connor, was, earlier than Erwin. There were 25 or 30 scholars in this school.

Harry H. Hart, states, he tore down the John T. Lewis $1\frac{1}{2}$ story frame house in 1930?; it stood between his gas station and the draw-bridge, and near some orange trees still standing by road.

Mr. Hart also states; there was an old house that stood in his field, 50? rods s.w. of his buildings, years ago; n.f.r.

Also, old Fort Moss Bluff stood on north side River and near south of old cemetery. (Per H.H. Hart, Mar. 6, 1940.)

OLIVER FORT says: An old road leading to the Henry Wiley house started near Wm. Wallace's house, ~~and~~ or corner of road, and ran northeasterly, passing south and quite near the old Long LAKE Log School-house, thence on to where Henry Wiley lived. He says no other buildings were ever on that old road. After death of Mr. Wiley, A. Jack Snell lived ~~on~~ in the Wiley house; he was last family to live here. Mr. Wiley built that house around 1880. 1/9, 41

Harold Wallace built 1935 house near Long Lake on Acres. In 1939 he built a new one on 4 Acres on south side of road, unfinished, 1940 near Log School house.

Brief History of
ANSON ----- ELECTRA.

Prior to about 1885, ANSON was a village in the Moss Bluff area... About that time some of the enterprising citizens of the community decided to change the name to Electra, a name which it has since held to the present.

A partial list of the early settlers in the Anson-Electra district, we give the following:

Dr. D. A. Thomas, who came from Union Springs, Ala.

George W. Willcoxon, who came from the same place.

John J. Brown, who came from Sandersville, Ga.

Joseph Smith, who came from Ga.

W. R. Hardee, who came from Meridian, Miss.

William R. Cobb Barclift, of Ala.

George W. Waters, who came from
Algers.

Pinkerton and family.

Some of those who came in later:

George F. Manson from in or near, Boston, Mass.

J. A. Morse, a relative, from Lawrence ?, Mass.

A. M. Higgins, from Galesburg, Ill.

James C. Pillans, of Madison, Fla.

Dr. Dwelly, M.D., from

Mass.; 1888-90.

Driggs, family.

There has been three or four stores in Electra and vicinity in former years: viz:

John J. Brown in his house n.e. of M-S-house.

The FARMERS ALLIANCE, James C. Pillans, Propr; later, owner.

Charles F. Harris, in cement building 1 mile north; still standing, 1940.

ITEM from the MARRION COUNTY NEWS, Mar. 22, 1940:

JAMES NORRIS, multi-millionaire of Chicago who purchased 5,000 acres, known as, "MUCLAN FARMS" in the Oklawaha river valley some weeks ago, is reported to have recently purchased a tract of 15,000 acres in Citrus county for a tung grove project.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS
on MOSS BLUFF.

To follow p 65
subject to
editing

John S. Martin states, "ONE OF THE LARGEST SEEDLING ORANGE TREES IN THIS PART OF FLORIDA, formerly stood in what is now the orange grove of L.R. Wheeler, east of his buildings, and near the old John Bliss house. He also states, that a Mr. PARKER, the preacher, lived in the Bliss house before Bliss came to Florida. The rough-and-ready boys were wont on teasing the man Parker,

MUCK FARMS near Moss Bluff.

C.H. STORY (STOWER'S) Muck Farms, 1600 acres, is reclaimed land caused by cutting a short-cut canal near Moss Bluff above the U.S. Locks on the Oklawaha River about 1926/7. This rich black muck land ~~was~~ formerly the bottom of the River and a bay was several feet under water, over which boats formerly traveled. A portion of this farm has been used to raise, potato, tomato and beans for the New York markets.

Corn was raised on 1200 acres during 1939, that was ground on the farms and fed to fat 400, 2-yr old steers that were sold around Jan. 1, 1940.

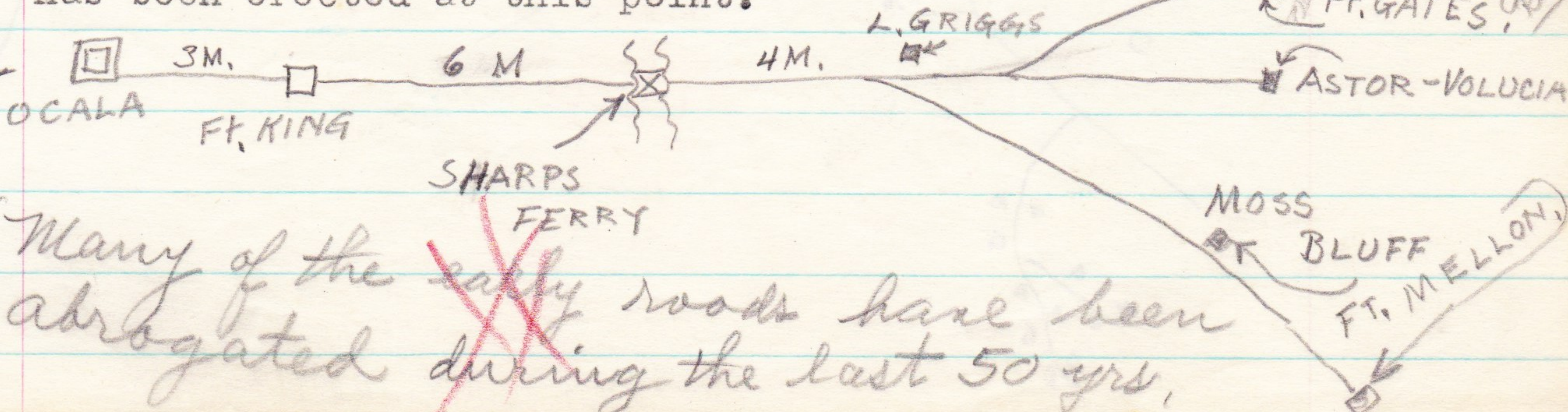
FERRIES and BRIDGES over OKLAWAHA RIVER

possibly was the old Spanish trail

The OLD VOLUCIA ROAD started at Fort KING, or possibly in the Indian settlement at Ocala, and ran easterly, and crossed the Oklawaha River at Sharpes Ferry; Here was a ferry at an early date, then the Government erected a wood bridge, but that served only a short time, when the ferry was re-established, and within more recent years a steel draw-bridge has been erected at this point.

county Ocala

% Joseph Stanaland, 1940:



he probably lived here until 1865

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS
on MOSS BLUFF.

To follow
subject to
redlining

John S. Martin states, "ONE OF THE LARGEST SEEDLING ORANGE TREES
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black muck land is formerly the bottom of the river and a bay
was several feet under water, over which boats formerly traveled.
A fertilizing farm has been used to raise, potato, tomato
and beans for the New York market.
Corn was raised on 1200 acres during 1932, that was ground
on the farm and fed to fat 400, 2-yr old steers that were sold
around Jan. 1, 1940.

THE OLD VENTURA ROAD STAYED AT FORT KING, or possibly
at Joseph Stensland, 1940:
The Ventura settlement at Stale, and ran easterly, and
crossed the Oklawaha River at Sharps Ferry; Here was a ferry
at early date, then the Government erected a wood bridge,
but that served only a short time, when the ferry was re-
established, and within more recent years a steel draw-bridge
has been erected at this point.

Catie Chalker

La. Fort.

LAKE

ASTOR-WILSON
SHARPS
FERRY
Moss Bluff

To follow - p. 65

FIRST LOG SCHOOL HOUSE
in MOSS BLUFF.

(Item from Mrs.
(Ambrus Morrison
(M.B.; Feb. 3, 1940)

1st church


Mrs. Morrison, states the older members of her family say, that the three MORRISON children, Mack, Murdock and Sophia C., went to a ~~sch~~ log school house that stood in the field southerly and quite a distance from the Mrs. Davis Corner. She reports hearing there were no windows in the building, and they used in their place, wood window-shutters; it had a Spanish-moss-clay chimney. --- See Tob. Fort and Lem A. Griggs. This

building, I suspect stood near the OLD ROAD, on north side of River. Near the school-house was a palm thatch arbor under which ~~rel~~ religious services were held in pleasant weather, and in the school in stormy days.

(Data by Tob Fort, Feb. 17, 1940)

2nd church

THE UNION CHURCH

 About 1870/1872/3, the citizens built a square sizeable frame church building among some oaks on north side of present road, and near the north end of Long Lake; it was known as the UNION CHURCH. This building was surmounted by a 4-way pitch roof; It was taken down about 1879 and rebuilt in the yard a few rods north of the present CHURCH OF CHRIST. This was used as a school house and church, combined, until the old Long Lake Log School house was erected. Oliver Fort attended this church-school when a small child.

[Mrs. Eloise R. OTT, 612 East Oklawaha Ave, Ocala, Fla.,
Has a history? of old Fort King, near Silver Springs, 1940.]

THE ORIGINAL MOSS BLUFF was a warehouse building that stood 1875? on the north bank of the Oklawaha River and some $\frac{1}{2}$ mile above the present U.S. Locks, & S of Bob Griggs. (Per Lem A. Griggs, Feb. 27, 1941.)

(Data by Tob Fort,
Feb. 17, 1940.)

EARLY SETTLERS IN MOSS BLUFF.

"Tob Fort"
He was b. 12/20, 1862. In 1865/68, there were 4 settlements on north side of the River in what is now Moss Bluff:

- 1st. His father lived in a log house south of Thomas H. Griggs, or S.E.
- 2nd. "Wash" Harrison, later Wm. E. Martin, on S. Jeff Martin, farm.
- 3rd. Joseph Fort lived in a log house in L.R. Wheeler's orange grove.
- 4th. Allen Fort, Jr., lived in a log house in edge of the GREAT SCRUB. Later, Philip T. Griggs moved into the SCRUB from Long Lake.

All the above places were on or near the old Fort Mellon Road, that went from Sharpe's Ferry south easterly to Eustis, formerly called Fort Mason. % Tob Fort, 2-17-'40.

Little Lake Bryant
Cemetery

-ASTOR

of Mrs. Sally Perry, Feb 3, 1941,

OLD VOLUTIA ROAD CEMETERY.

This cemetery is one of the oldest in this region; said to contain between one and two acres of land, and is owned by the State or Government, though now sadly neglected; has no enclosure, and fires have obliterated nearly every grave. Only one headstone (broken), can be found in this yard, 1940.

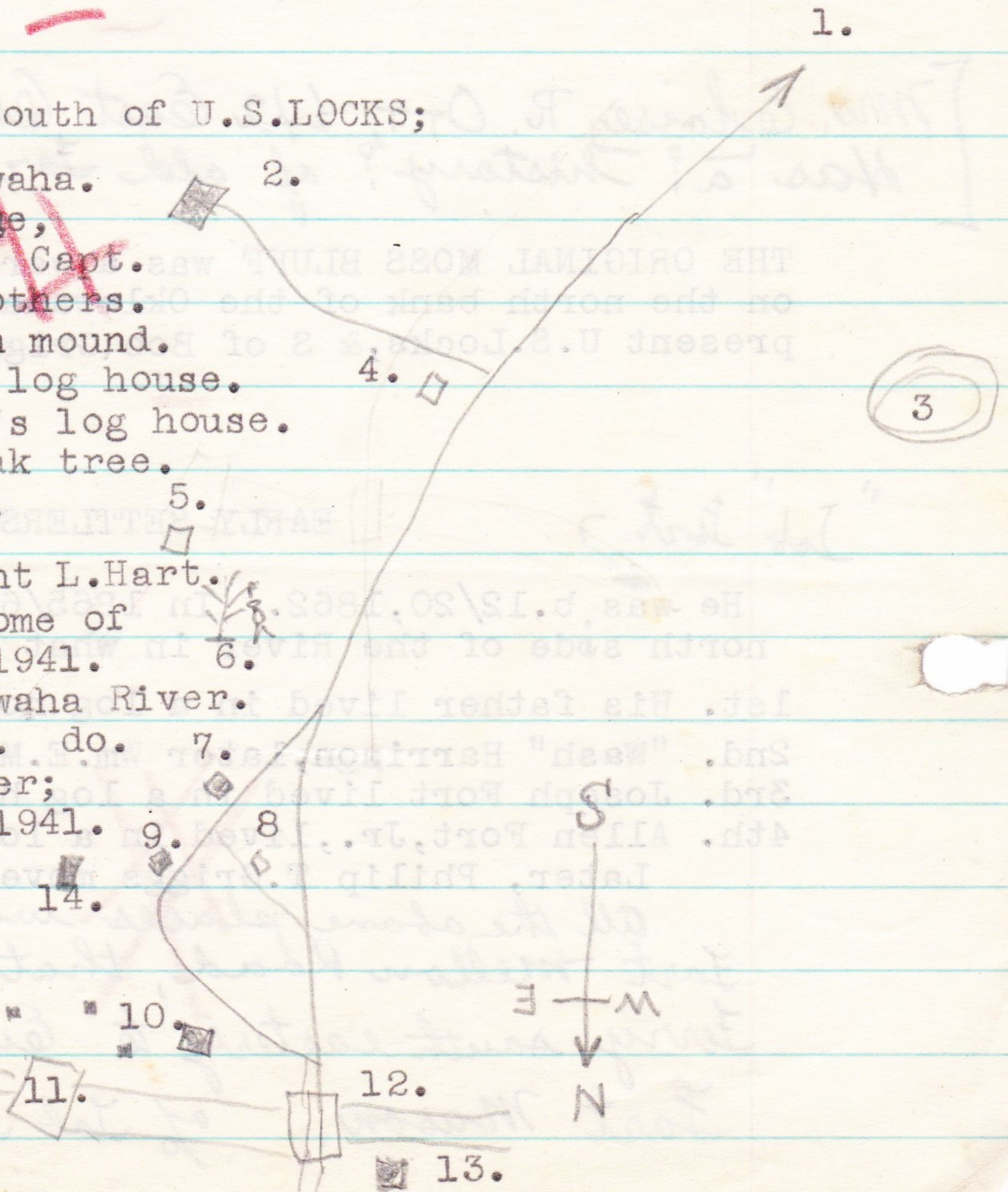
We have only a partial list of those buried in this Yard, as follows:

- An infant daughter of Dr. Dwelly.
- Cyrus Long, b. Feb. 22, 1860; d. Sept. 15, 1880; broken stone.
- Gabriel Long, father of Cyrus.
- James J. Meadows and wife Rachel (Gainey) Meadows.
- Lizzie Sharp, dau. of Woodard, who d. 1890?; age 16 yrs.
- Also a Sharp, baby girl.
- The parents of Woodard Sharp.
- An infant dau. of Rev. George W. J. Brant.
- Little Billy Freeman, a boy of 3 or 4 yrs.
- Two or three members of the Marlowe family.
- A Mr. Underwood.
- Old Mr. Corey, d. at 85 yrs; a soldier in Union army.
- Mrs. Corey, who left her husband; she d. suddenly.
- Willis Sellers and wife Sarah.
- An infant dau. of Allen B. and Sarah (Snell) Fort.

*a dau. of Allen Fort
& a lat mare,*

and present
OLD LOG HOUSES South of U.S. LOCKS;

- # 1. Road leading to Oklawaha.
2. Old Turpentine village, owned by M. Williams, Capt. John B. Martin and others.
3. Remains of old Indian mound.
4. Site of John T. Lewis log house.
5. Site of Benj. F. Freer's log house.
6. Site of Lynch Live Oak tree.
7. Home of Harry H. Hart.
8. Site of
9. Present home of Dwight L. Hart.
10. U.S. House at Lock; home of G. Augustus Waters, 1941.
11. U. S. Locks on Oklawaha River.
12. Draw Bridge over Do. do.
13. House of Bridge tender; Mrs. Ida T. Brinson, 1941.
14. H. H. Hart's new Saw-mill, 1941.



To follow p. 65

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in MOSS BLUFF.

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(Ambrus Morrison
(M.B.; Feb. 3, 1940)

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July 7, 1858, Allen & Amanda E. Fort, Jr. sold to Joseph Fort.

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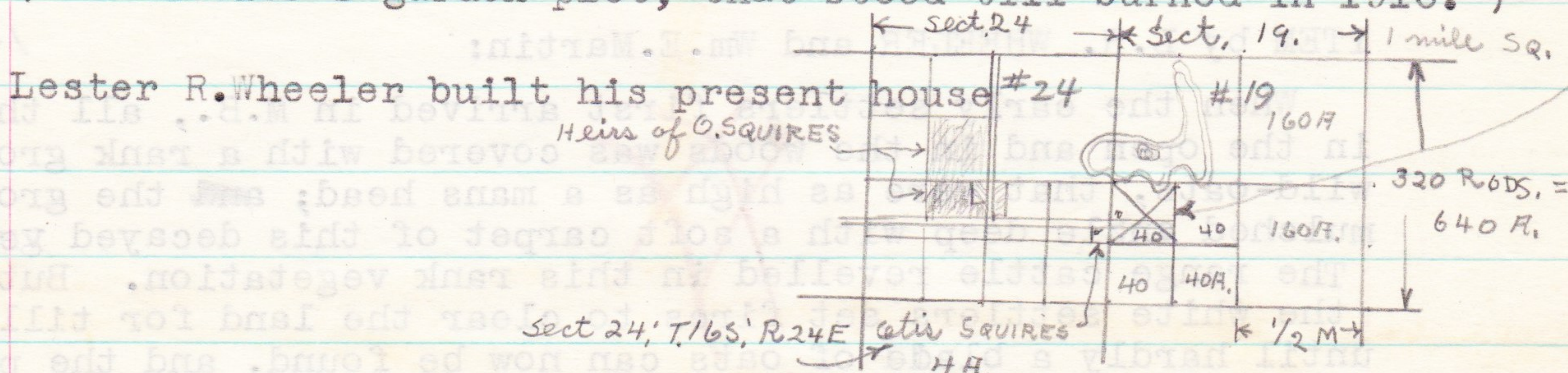
Dec. 30, 1884, James P. & Laura A. Nix, conveyed to John Bliss; 1st pay't.

Feb. 25, 1885, " " " " " to John Bliss, Warranty Deed; 40a

(Between 1885 and 1919, several held tax deeds, mortgages, etc.)

Jan. 25, 1919, John Bliss sold to Lester R. Wheeler, the same 40 acres.

(Tradition states, Joseph Fort built a log house in the present (L.R. Wheeler orange grove, in 1858; then in 1874?, he built a (2-story frame dwelling 200 or 300 feet n.w. of his log house, (in Wheeler's garden plot, that stood till burned in 1916.)



During fall of 1925, L.R.Wheeler built a dwelling across road, s.e. of his store & filling station. His son, Raymond E. Wheeler lived here Dec. 1925 to May 1928 when he returned to N.H. Fall 1928, J.Edwin Sellers and family here.

In 1929, Mrs. Jane (Martin) Sanford was here.

Henry Haggard, here about two yrs.

Tanner, of Orlando, several months.

1936, Walker, was here.

1937, Robert Blackstone and wife Joy, came.

1940-1, Hiram T. Burch of No. Dak. here during winter.

1942. Maynard J Martin.

Abstract.

In the ~~dead~~, John Bliss to L.R. Wheeler, this place was; "formerly known as the Parker Place, about one mile East of Moss Bluff, Marion County, Florida."

In 1938, LEVI BRUMBAUGH, qv., built a small summer-cabin near the south-west end of Long Lake.

HUGH MEADOWS, lived in an old house, 1923?, that stood ^{30?} 50? rods south of Mrs. Mae (H) Sellers; he rem. to Orlando. Next came JOHN WALTON from Oklawaha. Last came Thomas H. Griggs.

Old MACK MORRISON, lived, 1893-1924, in an old house, gone in 1939, that stood easterly from the above, Meadows-Griggs house.

The site of Mack's house can be seen--- a few timbers remain.

William P. Wallace; Roscoe Marlowe, & Mrs. Bessie Meadows, last.

-1933 when a wind storm wrecked this house.

Dwellings cont.:

AMBRUS MEADOWS, lived in a log house that stood 50? yards southerly of the present Thomas G. French house; his dau. m. Murdock O. Morrison in 18__, then they came here to live; all the Morrison ch. (4) were b. in said house, which stood until 1935. In 1901, Mr. M. O. Morrison built the present T. G. French house.

ITEM by L. R. WHEELER and Wm. E. Martin:

1939-40.

When the early settlers first arrived in M. B., all the land, in the open and in the woods was covered with a rank growth of wild-oats, that were as high as a mans head; and the ground was mulched ankle deep with a soft carpet of this decayed vegetation.

The range cattle revelled in this rank vegetation. But alas, the white settlers set fires to clear the land for tilling, until hardly a blade of oats can now be found, and the present day range cattle are usually as poor as sharks.

V. JACK WHITE also was Post Master about 1875.

(Data by Ollie Fort
(Mar. 24, 1939.

DWELLING HOUSES.

OLIVER FORT FARM: first settled by a Mr. (Wm.?) Driggers, he was followed by, - Ogden, James Driggers, J. Christopher Pillans, Mr. - Parker, the preacher, Mr. - Mason, and Oliver Fort who settled here, 1909; has 160 acres. Mr. Fort built present dwelling in 1909, which stands a few feet east of an old frame house which he tore down.

(Data by Ollie Fort

JAMES W. REYNOLDS, once lived in an old house that stood $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile southeast of Oliver Fort's dwelling house. Mr. Reynolds lived here several years before 1900; was followed by, Samuel A. McKinney, Mr. Berthea ?, and John P. Galloway, High Sheriff of Marion county lived here several years, then removed to Ocala.

LEMUEL GRIGGS HOMESTEAD: (Data by Thomas G-
(family, Mar. 1939.

LEMUEL GRIGGS, came from Ala., and settled on a large tract of land in 1835. His home was a few miles east of Sharpes Ferry, and here he erected a log house in which he spent his remaining days. The old dwelling stood about 575 feet east of the present house of Mrs. Thomas B. Griggs, and several rods north of the present highway. Thomas B. Griggs erected and moved into present house on July 11, 1902, he then tore the old log house down, using some of old logs to build a barn still standing on this place. In the yard at this place is an old iron kettle (80 Gal) that was used in Marshall Swamp, and other places during the Civil war to boil down cane syrup.

Lemuel Griggs was one of the first men to settle in the Moss Bluff section of Florida; his nearest neighbor, was Hugh Stanaland who lived several miles easterly.

LEMUEL A. GRIGGS Home Place, 1940: (Data from L.A.G.
Old man Driggers, lived in an old log house some, 15? rods n.e. of present L.A. Griggs house; several others also lived in that old dwelling, ~~then~~ including John B. Chalker. Mr. Driggers, in 18, built a new frame-house a few rods west of his log house which stood for about 40 years, when Mr. Griggs, built his present dwelling in 1927 ?, and sold the old house to Negro's who removed the material to Oklawaha. Lem. A. G- has 30A, came here in 1910.

JOHN WILEY, lived near where Sidney C. Fort now lives, about 1902.

JOHN S. MARTIN Farm; Joseph McCray lived on this place about 1891 his frame dwelling stood ~~in~~ several rods westerly of the present Martin buildings, of the latter's orange grove --- of 1940. That was the 1st dwelling on property.

Mr. Martin bought farm and built house in 1902, has since made several additions.

JOHN SMITH, said to have built first house, near n.e. corner of Long Lake, where James E. Sellers has been living for past few years. Others here, Samuel A. McKinney; Curtis Greer, & wife (who was a dau. of Bob Griggs); Ray Herndon, then came J. Ed. Sellers in 1932; rented.

Some $\frac{3}{4}$ mile n.e. from the John Smith house is site of house, now gone --- 1940, where Za. Fort lived prior to his d. in 1913.

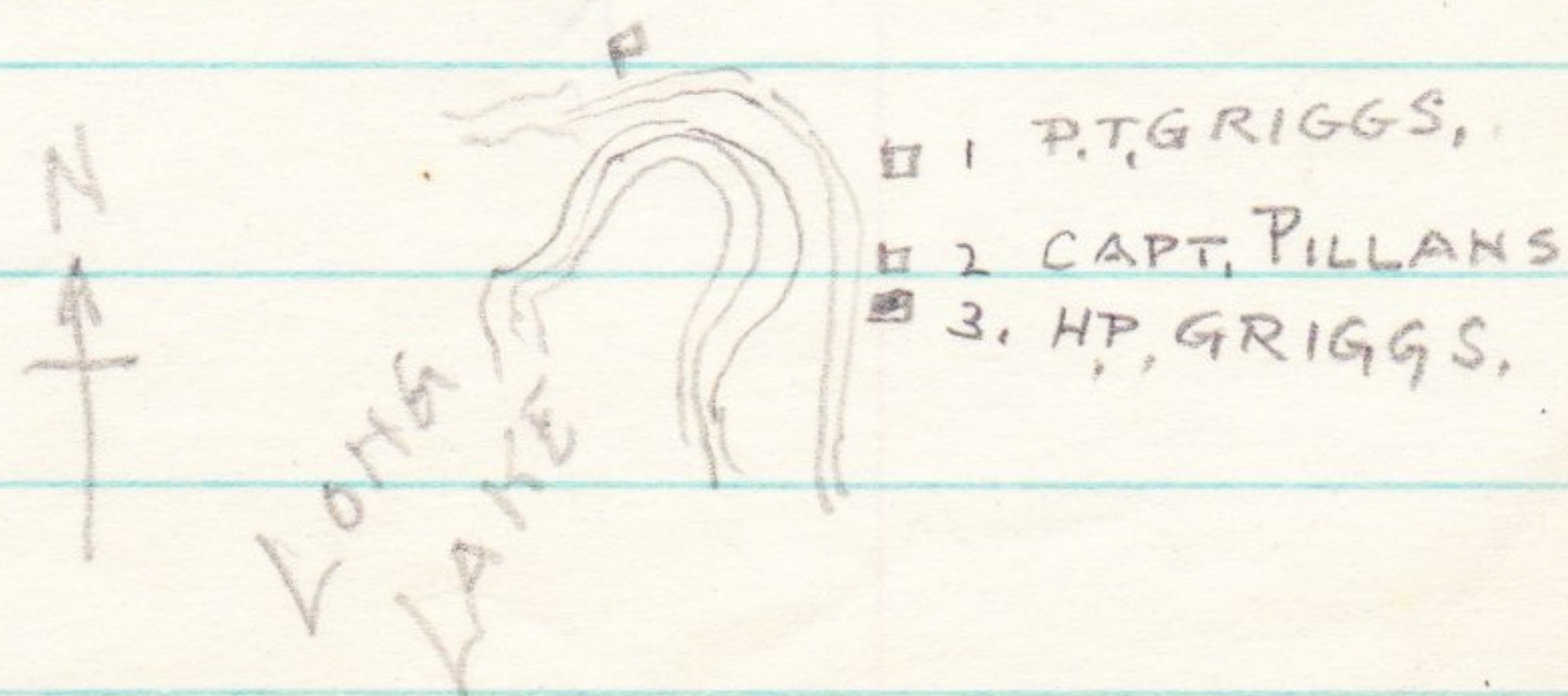
Some distance beyond Za Fort's house was where *Cotie* Chalker, lived within recent years. Buildings gone before, 1938.

WALLACE Farm: JOHN GARDNER, said, first settler; 2nd, W.W. Jackson; 3d. H.H. Harris of Miami; 4th. W.D.? LaVanie; 5th. Sam. A. McKinney; 6th. John E. Wallace. JOHN E. WALLACE Place north of Queen Lake, Wm. W. Jackson lived in an old house on this farm several rods northerly of present house in 1910 in the orange grove, and where his wife lost her life by a fire. The 2nd. dwelling was used first as a packing house, is still standing, then in 1938, Mr. Wallace built the present dwelling, just south of 2nd house.

ROBERT ³ FORT, after his service in Civil war, settled first near near the presten Harmon P. Griggs house where he built two log houses, living here two or 3 yrs., then moved to the present Thomas H. Griggs farm where he took up an 80 acre claim; later he bought 120 more acres; he was an ~~early~~ settler on this property (1868) at that time there was a log dwelling on the property that stood in the field a few hundred feet southerly of the present highway and near an old road that passed near the old M.B. cemetery, and not far from said Yard.

The HARMON P. GRIGGS farm; Mr. H.P. Griggs built present house 3rd on property, in 1928. Capt. William C. Pillans, said to have built 2nd house on this farm; it was a log dwelling and stood a short distance north of present H.P. Griggs home.

Philip T. Griggs, built 1st. house; a log house that stood several north of the Capt. Pillans house.



DWELLINGS - OCCUPANTS - POINTS OF INTEREST, etc.

DANIEL J.FORT farm: Joseph Fort moved from the L.R.Wheeler farm to this place after 1860, built house on north side of road in the orange grove, then in 1880?, built the present dwelling across the road, 100 ? feet south-west from his first home. Others living in the new house; Oliver Fort, - Ball, Thomas H.Griggs, Albert W.Fort and Daniel J.Fort.

SYDNEY C. FORT farm: This was part of Allen Fort, Jr. plantation that he purchased in 1853. John Reynolds is said to have erected the first buildings. *House burned 1940.*

Albert W. Fort, when fire burned house and he rebuilt, 1926?; then, Sydney C.Fort.

LEMUEL A. GRIGGS, old house stood in the edge of the Scrub, 30? rods s-e of the Sugar Hole pond. It stood on the south side of the road at the junction where the first road on right that leads southerly. It was built 1880? by Frank Pooser or his bro. Emerson Pooser and formerly stood across the highway.

Lemuel A. Griggs lived here for several years; his sister Mrs. Emmie F. (Griggs) Fort. Nickolas L.Fort also lived here.

Finally, Daniel J.Fort tore the frame house down in 1937, and has used the material in erecting a cabin-house for hired help 40 ? rods west of his present home.

On the road leading south from L.A.Griggs place, perhaps 50 rods there were two or more men, a Mr. Swan and a Mr. Ennis who built small cabins 1880? in which they lived for several months.

ALLEN FORT, Jr. came with his family and several slaves in 1853? and built a sizeable 3-room log dwelling that stood on the south side of the present road, some 200 feet easterly from the L.A. Griggs corner, a great live oak now stands across the road on the north side of the road; that large tract of land, now covered with small trees was all in a water-mellons, not over 12 years ago, by Sydney C.Fort. Nothing now marks the site where Allen built his house, but, location of his well was discernible since 1900 yet the log house, with its punching floor had practically rotted down around 1888? Formerly there were several negro log cabins that stood a few rods s-w of above house.

PHILIP T.GRIGGS built and moved his family into a log house, in Dec. 1869, that stood in the field east of the cross road that leads directly to the north shore of Lake Catharine. B

ROBERT E.GRIGGS lived in a frame house, 400 ? ft. n.w. of P.T. Griggs log house on the road to Lake Catherine; it was taken down by Harry Pratt 1937.

SEE OVER →

LAKE MARY
was named after Mary Fort.

LAKE
MARY

SKETCH MAP of the FORT - GRIGGS
section of the Scrub.

OK SKETCH
1944

KEY

1. Present Dan.J.Fort house.
2. Site of Albert W.Forts house.
3. Site of Lem.A.Griggs house?
4. Site of old Mr. Pooser house.
- 5 & 6. Site of Swan and Ennis cabins.
7. Site where Allen Fort built 1853.
8. Site of slave cabins of Allen Fort.
9. Site of Robert E.Griggs house.
10. A small, 10' X 12' tool house.
11. Location of old sugar mill; Griggs.
12. Site of P.T.Griggs log house, 1869.
13. Site where Bob Blackstone lived.
14. Boat on shore of Lake Catherine.
15. Sidney C.Forts water-mellon field.
16. The live-oak by the road is 4' in dia.

LAKE CATHERINE
was named after
Catherine Fort
wife of P.T.Griggs.

9. Robert E. Griggs (D) wife d. in this house, Apr. 20, 1928.

The Catherine Lake A new BOARD 1940 reads '2

"34 LAKE CATHERINE."

Board on a tree
in L.R. Wheelers pasture

50 LONG LAKE

ELECTRA

"The Dawn of Light"

Formerly this place contained two stores, a Baptist church and several dwellings. It was known at one time as, "Dogs Neck," and as Anson down to about 1885, when a few enterprising citizens decided to change the name to, Electra, which it still retains.

Some of the early settlers here were:

Dr. D.A. Thomaston, George W. Willcoxson, John J. Brown, Joseph Smith, W.R. Hardee, William R. Cobb Barclift, George W. Waters, the Pinkerton family and a Mr. Algers. At a later period came, George F. Manson, A.M. Higgins, Dr. M.D. Dwelly, James C. Pillans, the Driggs family, E. Bennett (Ben) Avery, now, (1941) living there, also J.B. Caldwell.

Isak aners

STORES and MERCHANTS

The farmers Union built, thenSee items2P. over, -

The Farmers Alliance built a store here and in 1892, and James C. Pillans was chosen as Manager, and here was the Electra postoffice, Mr. Pillans being postmaster. Nothing now marks the site of this store which stood on the west side of the road, about opposite where Mr. J. B. Caldwell was living, 1941.

Geo. W. Waters also was Proprietor of the F-A store.

Wm R.C. Bar-
cliff, probably
built the old

John J. Brown opened a store in his house which he conducted a few years. This building stood near the present E. Bennett Avery house, but nothing now marks its site.

J J Brown
Store.

Charles F. Harris built a cement store building about a mile northerly of the two above mentioned stores, in which he did business ~~for~~ six years. This building is standing, though unoccupied, 1941. He was postmaster of Electra.

In 1882 the citizens and members of Morning Star Lodge, F. & A.M. built a 2-story school-Masonic building, still standing, 1941 -- unpainted and in a dilapidated; outside dimensions, 26' 3" X 40' 3"

The lower story was used for a public school while the top story was the lodge room for the Masonic body. During recent years this building has been used as a voting place for citizens residing in the Moss Bluff region.

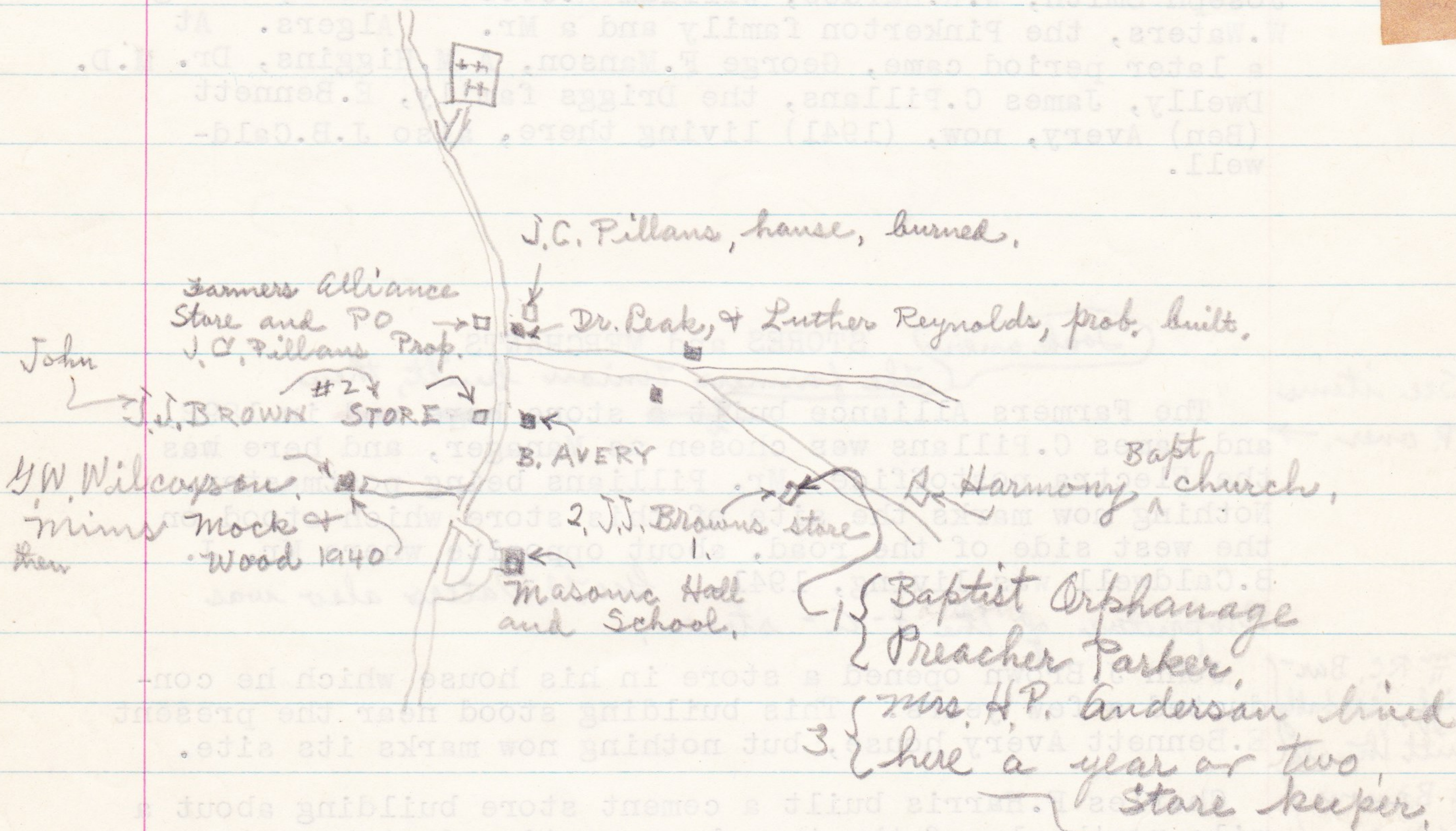
The old Harmony Baptist church, now removed, formerly stood $\frac{1}{2}$ mile easterly of the above school-Masonic building, on an old cross road leading south-easterly to Moss Bluff.

ELECTRA, from OVER:

There were three (3) merchants in Anson-Electra at an early date:

A Mr. ALGERS, was here about the first one. Then Mr. and Mrs. Pinkerton came.

Later, George F. Manson from, in or near, Boston, Mass. came and became a merchant. About the same time, J.A. Morse, a relative of Mr. Manson came from Lawrence ?, Mass.

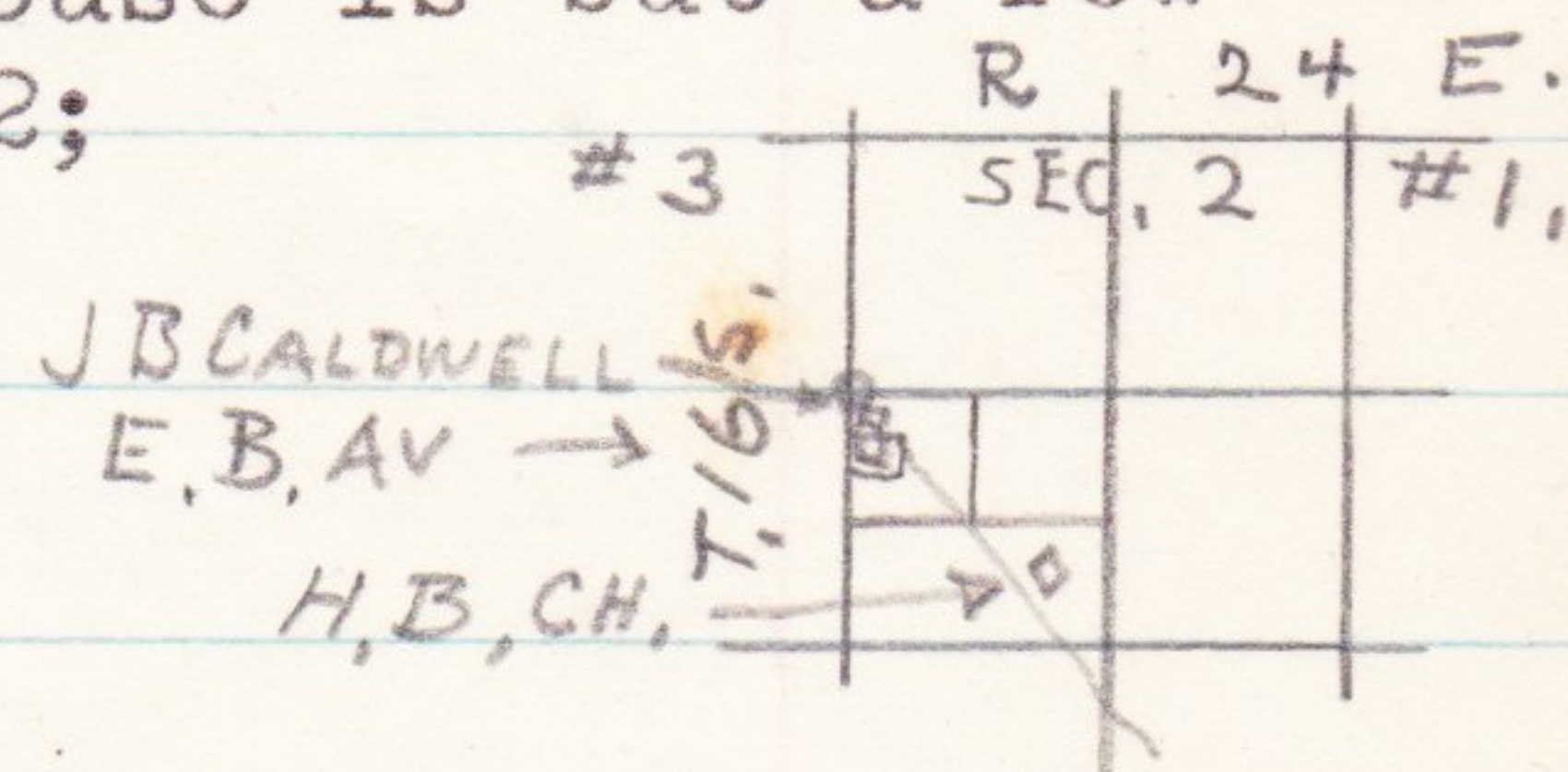


EDPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE-U.S.--
ENTERING OCALA NATIONAL FOREST.

corner was full of trees present highway from Davis' Cor-
ner east was full of trees and stumps
and stumps; teams
traffic was obliged to

DWELLINGS

E. BENNETT AVERY, now, 1941, owns one acre of land on which his house stands. It is in the N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$; Section 2; Range 24 East, and Township 16 South. His house is but a few rods east of the line between Section 3 and 2; as shown herein.



Old

Dwellings; [data by Mrs. Geo. W. Waters 1/13, 1941]

George W. Waters built his house ~~to~~ 1907/08,
Lemuel M. Turner, last one to live here
of ~~the~~ ^{Brooker} ~~old~~ ^{Waters} house, torn down, Summer 1940.
There was an old house on this farm
when Waters came here, Oct. 1882, & that
house was built by Wm H. Brooker, Jr.

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| □ | □ | □ | #1. Hamp Brooker lived here, then Henry Morris. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | #2. William H? Booker, then Geo. W. Waters till 1907/8, from Oct. 1882, when he had his new |
| | | | #3. house ready to move into. This house was occupied by Lem. M. TURNER, last man, and torn down summer of 1940. |

- # 1. Others living on Morris farm: William Fort, a son of Allen Fort. Thomas J. Sellers lived here a few years. He m. (1) Clara Heath --- he built a new house; he m. (2) (3) Z. Mae Halford C.H. Heath & wife also lived on the Morris Sellers farm a few years.

A Genealogical problem in our research:

" " Sis Griggs, dau of ~~Old~~ Lemuel m. Bill Wilson; her bro. Dick's dau. Jencie who d. from the bite of a rattlesnake, m. William H. Fore as his (2) wife. He m. (1) to Betty Wilson, dau. of "Sis", and he m. (3) Mrs. Minnie Barmer, widow of Booth Barmer who was a brother of John Barmer, who m. Julia Griggs, a sister to Jencie, a niece of Sis Griggs. Rat and Jo, sisters of Sis, m. Lo. and Frank Caldwell, brothers of Mary who m. Dick Griggs.

MARION COUNTY FLORIDA

MOSS BLUFF is an unincorporated section of Marion County. It is situated in the southeastern portion of the county and is roughly bounded: on the north by Lake Bryant, on the east by the Big Scrub, on the south and west by the Oklawaha River. Historically speaking Moss Bluff has been somewhat of a wanderer during the past seventy-five years. First, it was the location of a warehouse on the north bank of the Oklawaha River, and about one half mile southeast of the present United States Locks on said river. Second, location was as Moss Bluff Post Office in the home of Robert Fort who then lived on the road half a mile north of the old warehouse. Third, it appears to have moved east another half mile to what is now the "Davis Corner", and John T. Lewis and probably others served as Postmaster of Moss Bluff. Mrs. Joseph P. Davis' home was the Postoffice as late as 1920. Fourth, Otis Squires built a store building in 1921, a half mile farther east of Davis Corner and a little later Moss Bluff Post Office was moved into that new building where it remained 12 years, and until the office was discontinued and this section was placed on a R.F.D. route. Perhaps the store and gas station of L.R. Wheeler's may be considered the center of Moss Bluff in 1940/42. Tradition says that some of those early Moss Bluff Post Offices were nothing less than the Postmasters' coat pocket.

The location of L.R. Wheeler's store is as follows:

Longitude, $81^{\circ} 51' 8''$ west from Greenwich, and Latitude, $29^{\circ} 4' 50''$ north from the equator; this is according to U.S. survey of 1937. This point as given upon a Florida state map is near the west line of a 40 acre lot in Section 19, Township 16 south, Range 25 east, and is the $NW\frac{1}{4}$ of the $SW\frac{1}{4}$ of the section. The north line of this 40 acre lot is in the south end of Long Lake. An old deed states this 40 acre tract was formerly "called Long Lake, and was about one mile east from Moss Bluff."

As early as 1865, it was known as THE BIG SCRUB.--Tob Fort.
ROBERT & JOSEPH FORT, hunted together, and they shot several Panther,
bear, many of them. One big panther they killed near the present
HUMP Griggs present house, in 1868. Bear were common in the BIG SCRUB

Per. TOB FORT, 1940

THE BIG FREEZE:

The big Freeze came Dec. 29, 1894 and this was followed by
another one in Feb. Jan. 1895. Church Record item.

*The usual range cattle had a squalid
appearance and some of the inhabitants
too.*

TOB Fort says, Feb. 17, 1940---- OLD ROAD:

"The FORT MELLON road ran from Sharpes Ferry to
Eustis, and this was formerly called, Fort Mason.
This road ran directly past my father's old log
house and along the north side of the OLD Moss
Bluff cemetery, thence easterly, passing just north
of where James P. Martin present house, then on and
entered S. Jeff Martin's woodland, passing near where
the later school house was erected, thence on easterly,
and finally entered the present highway not far from
where Daniel J. Fort now lives."

*There was an
old log house
here when Robert
Fort killed here.*

The present travelled road, was called, or at
least a portion of it, as late as 1900, the,
MELVONVILLE PUBLIC ROAD, in the vicinity of
the NEW Moss Bluff Cemetery.

As per deed, Andrew J. Wood.

TOB FORT also says; But 4 settlers were in here in 1868;

1. Robert Fort (his father, west of Old M-B-Cemetery.
2. Wash. Harrison, near S. Jeff Martins; he insane & d. in asylum.
3. Joseph Fort, on L.R. Wheelers farm; all lived in LOG HOUSES.
4. Allen Fort lived in Big SCRUB. FUSSELL

1. JAMES FUSSELL was b. circa 1835. He m. about 1860 to
Catherine Elizabeth Fort, dau. of Allen Fort, Jr. He served
as a private in the C.V. from about Jan. 1, 1862 until his d.
which took place at Savannah, Ga., from the measles, and in Fla.
which place he was int. He b. and lived in Adamsville, Sumter Co./
His widow m. (2) to Philip Thurman Griggs, q v.

Ch. b.

Slave cabins

built

1. Sally

*Allen Fort, Jr.
lived + d.
here -*

1. Old Fort house.
2. Present Daniel J. Fort house.
3. Old Allen Fort log house, it
4. Emerson Pooser house, also
Nickolas L. Fort; Rem A. Griggs.
5. Frank Pooser, built here.
6. Phil T. Griggs built here ~ 1869?

*This log house
stood till 1900
occupied by several
families.*

Old Sugar Hole.

MERCHANTS in and near MOSS BLUFF.

ADIN WATERMAN kept store in a log building on north side of road and east of the Davis-Marsh road, in 1877. He was succeeded by Mill David Holland, then by Horace Thompson who came from Ga. The latter also lived in the log store; then Mrs. Mary Lewis and her three daus. lived in same building. Then about the log store-dwelling was torn down. After the log building ceased to be used as a store, it was used for a dance-hall for some few years.

OTIS SQUIRES, opened a store in 1921 at which time he was Post Master of Moss Bluff. He carried on business for 12 yrs. He was Postmaster in his M.B. store for 12 yrs.; 1921-33.

1928
Lester R. Wheeler built and opened a small grocery store and gasoline station in 1931, which is still in operation, 1939. 1940!

Jan. 10?
Harry H. Hart runs a store and gas station near the highway that leads from the Draw-bridge to Oklawaha.

After the Waterman log store closed, a new frame store was built at the Davis corner that was in operation several years. Horace I. Thompson ran this store, also J. Preston Nix later. He also was Post Master.

Site John T. Lewis old store.

U.S. Mail came from Ocala by stage, 1920-33? via Electra to M.B. and ceased in the latter year when this section was transferred to R.F.D. with P.O. at

Wm. R. C. Barclift owned and ran a store on west side of road, s.w. of Ben Averys'. The FARMERS ALLIANCE began business in Barclift's old store; then disposed of building and built a new one on same side of road and some distance farther north. Geo. W. Waters ran latter store a yr. then James C. Pillans became manager in 1892 then Mr. Pillans purchased the property and continued business.

The FARMERS ALLIANCE company, was composed of Geo. W. Waters, Dr. D. A. Thomason, J. Preston Holly, Joseph Stanaland, Norman A. Fort and possibly one or two other local men.

(Data from Otis Squires
(& wife, Jan.24,1940.

MOSS BLUFF POST OFFICE
and
Mail carriers to M.B.

About 1920 M.B. Post Office was in the home of Mrs. Joseph P. Davis, but has closed about that time. LATER--- Mrs. Jo. P. Davis was Postmistress of Moss Bluff, for 4 yrs, from 1914 until 1918, in the old John T. Lewis store, south of road.

About 1921 Otis Squires opened a store east of his house and he was appointed Postmaster, with Mrs. Squires as assistant P.M. They held this position 12 years, when M.B. was placed on the R.F.D., with office at Umatilla, then after about 3 years it was transferred to Oklawaha where it has since been.

One report states, MOSS BLUFF POST OFFICE once was in the present Robert E. Griggs house, and it was kept by Mrs. Emmie F. (Griggs) Fort, wife of John H. Fort, q.v. (CHECK!)

A PARTIAL LIST of MAIL CARRIERS: (By O. Squires).

Moss Bluff was on a Star Route from until about 1933, The stage started at Electra, went to Oklawaha, M.B. then returned to Electra. 1920? to '33?

1. Mock, of Electra was driver 1920.
2. Mrs. Samuel A. McKinney held the job a few yrs.
3. Andrew J. Holton, for 4 or 5 yrs. when the Star route was succeeded by the R.F.D., about 1933? and Mr. James ? Park covered the route, then in 1937? the office was transferred to Oklawaha and Raymond Gale became the carrier, to-date. (END, Jan. 24, 1940.

OTIS SQUIRES states; when he became post-master at Moss Bluff he received a salary of \$ 9.00 every quarter (3 months), and when he quit the pay was \$ 30.00 per quarter, which was when M.B. people were put on the R.F.D. route with postoffice at Umatilla, Fla.--20 miles away.

Mrs. Joseph P. Davis states she ran a store and post office on south side of road, in old John T. Lewis store building; 1914-1918, then she built a store on north side of road, still standing, 1940, and opened a gas-filling station, which she operated for six more years. Its now a farm store house.

MAIL CARRIERS: Back before the R.R. had entered Ocala, HENRY ANDERSON brought the U.S. mail from Grahamville to Moss Bluff on horseback, at which time the Post Office was at the Davis Corner, and Preston Nix was P. Master.

Then Horace I. Thompson brought in the U.S. mail; he m. Ellen Meadows, a dau. of James Meadows, q v. (% Mr. Wm. R. Freer; '41

Old JOSEPH FORT (father of Ollie) ran a store the Davis Corner before Pres. Nix came.

FLORIDA LAND IS LAID OUT IN
TOWNSHIPS & RANGES, OF SIX MILES SQUARE, STARTING WITH
ZERO AT TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA.

Each Township contain 36 square miles; each
square mile is called a Section and is num-
bered in the form shown below. Sections are
of 640 acres; they may be divided and sub-divided.

----- 0 ----- RANGE 24E ←
← A RANGE is SIX Linear miles. A TOWNSHIP is same
RANGES run EAST & WEST; TOWNSHIPS run NORTH & SOUTH.

Sect. #31	Sect. #32	Sect. #33	Sect. #34	Sect. #35	Section. #36
← 1 MILE →					
#1	#6	#5	#4	#3	#2
Each Sect. is a Sq. Mile.			$\frac{1}{4}$ Sect. 160 acres	$\frac{1}{2}$ Sect. 320 acres	Section 640 acres
			80 A. 40 40	160 A. Caldwell B. Avery	320 A.
#12	#7	#8	#9	#10	#11
1 Sqr. Mile.		1 Sqr. Mile.			
#13	#18	#17	#16	#15	#14
#24	#19	#20	#21	#22	#23
#25	#30	#29	#28	#27	#26
#36	#31	#32	#33	#34	#35
					#36

B.B. LRW W.W.
40A 40
J.E. MAR. 11 J.M.
80A.
U.S. POST
BOUND
1941

So far as discovered, when the men surveyed Florida and laid
out this State in Townships and Ranges, no deduction was made
in any of the numerous rivers, bays, lakes and ponds in Florida.

WHEN THE FIRST WHITE SETTLERS ARRIVED IN MOSS BLUFF.

Tradition says when the Martin family arrived in this Moss Bluff section all the land was covered with a rank growth of wild oats, standing from 6 to 8 feet high, and so thick and rich was that crop, a man on horseback had difficulty in travelling in many places, while the ground was covered ankle deep with a ~~mo~~ moist rich munch. This produced, when tilled, monster crops, but alas fires and long cultivation has now entirely destroyed that annual crop of oats, the sand-of-Florida can now be seen in every direction, while but very little of that wild-oat seed can now be found about M-B-.

Rank

luxuriant

3.18

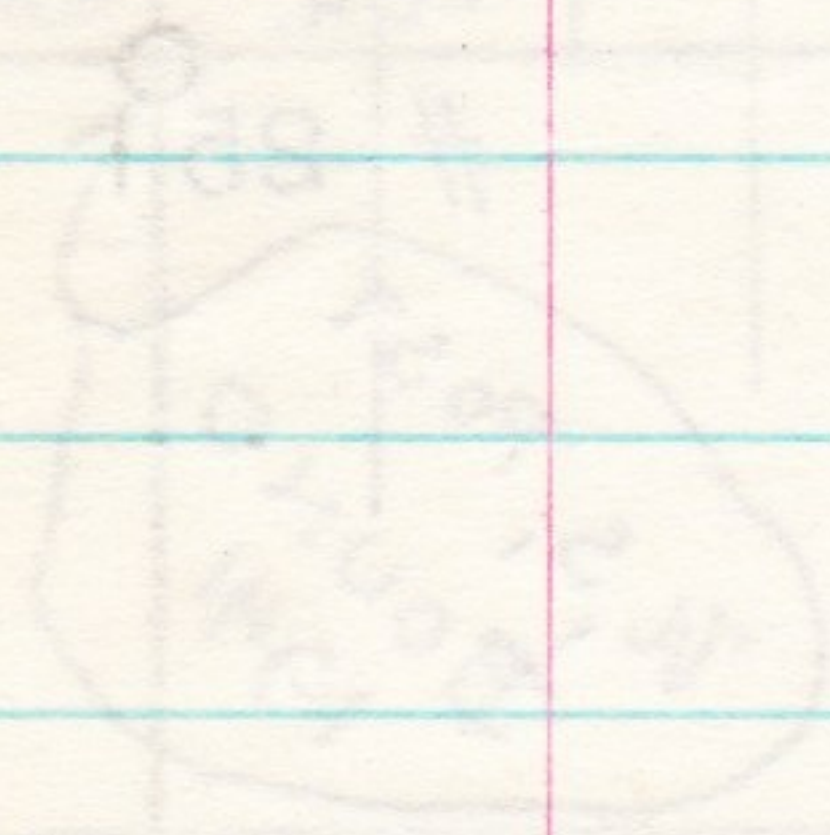
6.36

1908

954

1908

20.2248



So far as discovered, when the men surveyed Florida and laid out this State into Townships and Ranges, no deduction was made in any of the numerous rivers, bays, lakes and ponds in Florida.

MOSS BLUFF, FLA.

Range 24E.

R. 25E.

SECT. 23

1 MILE; 320 R.

Section 24

RANGE 24

SECT. 19

LOT 24.

40 A. LOT

40 A. LOT

80 R.

40 A

OTIS SQUIRES
HEIRS.

LEMA GRIGGS

40 acres

18 1/2 ac.

7 A

33 A

C.C.

J.P. MARTIN

J.S. MARTIN

A.J. WOOD

73 A

FARM

40 A.

40 A.

40 A.

40 A.

40 A.

BAKER

WILL
WALLACE

80 R.

80 R.

80 R.

80 R.

80 R.

80 R.

80 R.

1899,

Data from Abstract; Otis Squires' 58 1/2 acres: U.S.Gov. sold to Heirs, Mary Fort, Feb.13,1884. June 8,1889, Victoria Fort, Jane & Wm.Bowen, heirs of late Isaiah Fort, to James W.Reynolds & Robert Fort. Sept.14, 1899, Fort heirs to J.W.Reynolds. Jan.13,1904,James W.& Minnie Reynolds, to Daniel E.Driggers;58 1/2 A. Danl.E.Driggers to Emanuel L.Martin,Mar.29,'09 Apr.7,1914, E.L.& A.E.Martin to Arthur Davis. Dec.19,1919, F.H. Davis held interest, and W.A. & Etta Mae Davis held deed,Jan.21,1915, and they sold the 58 1/2 acres to F.H.Davis. Otis Squires bought of Maggie (Smith)Davis, widow of Fred H.Davis. Mr.Squires has given a deed of 1 1/2 acres for the cemetery, and has conveyed property to his children. All this 58 1/2 acres of land is on north side of the ^{Present} road; is the SE 1/4 of NW 1/4 (40A) and N 1/2 of NE 1/4 of SW 1/4 except a cemetery plot of 3.18 x 6.36 chains --- 1 1/2 acres. Situated in Section 24; Township 16 South; Range 24 East, "of the Tallahassee Meridian".

W. E. MARTIN, 1871
 Mrs. Mae Sellers
 Com. 24
 Rem. A. Griggs
 A. Ch.

DWELLINGS;

HUGH MEADOWS built 1880?, the house $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of Lemuel A. Griggs' John ? Walton came next and Thomas H. Griggs last one here. The house now, 1940, in ruins from a high wind.

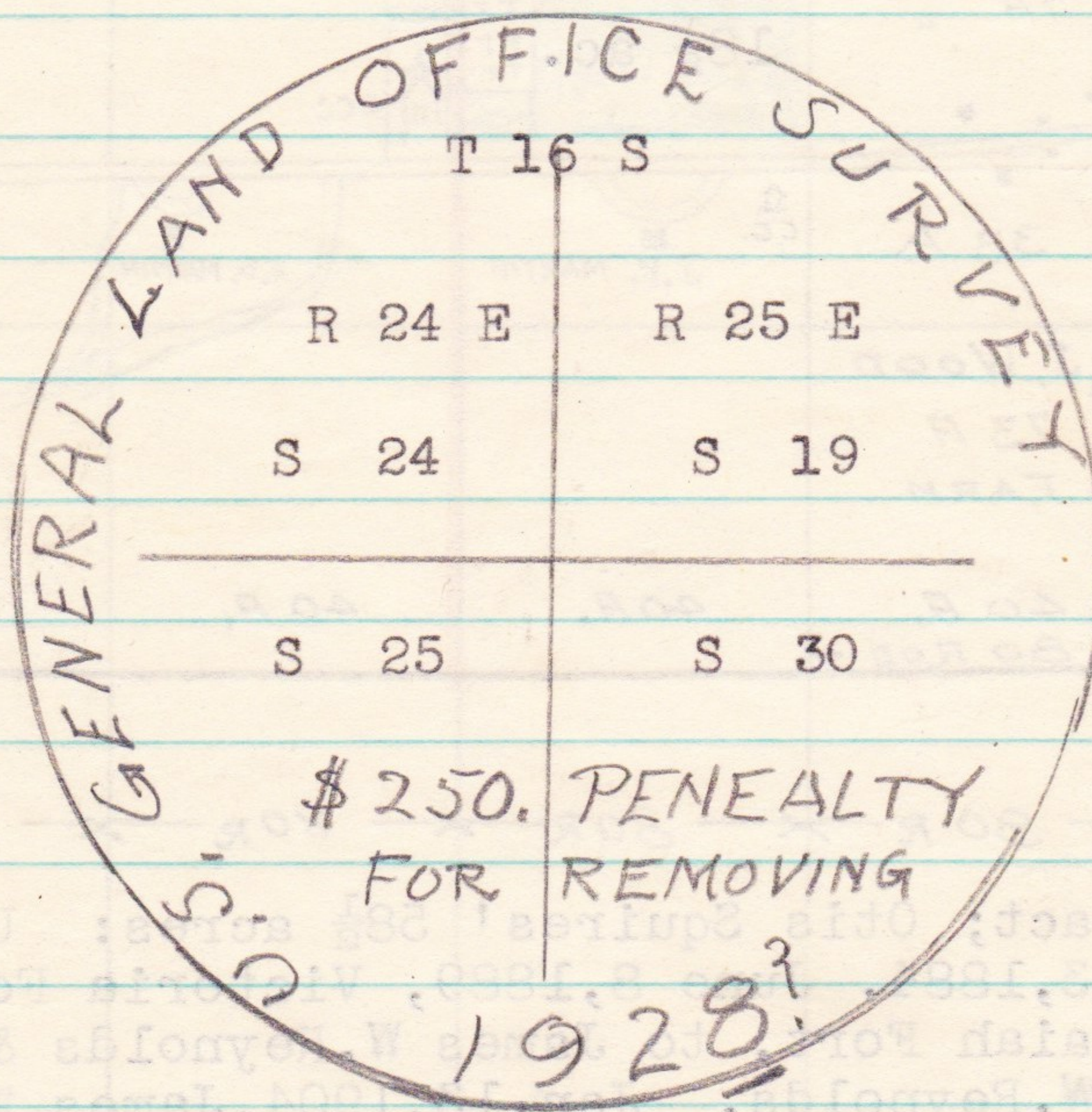
(MACK H. MORRISON lived near the Meadows-Griggs house, but on adjoining lot to east, House now, 1940, all gone,

WILLIAM E. MARTIN lived in a house, 1870/1, that stood 300? feet west of the present Mae Sellers house.

He moved to the present Jeff Martin farm 187 and built a log house where he lived for years.

JOHN E. WALLACE farm, was formerly the W.W. Jackson property.

On west side of road and a bit n.w. of John E. Wallaces' is an empty house built about 1928-30, by Ray Herndon, after his m. to Hettie M. Wallace.



CAP

The following is taken from the top of an iron-pin driven into the ground about 1 foot high. It is at the 4-corners of Sections 24-19-25- 30. Range 24 and 25 East; Township 16 South.

-- Feb. 11, 1941 FBK

Some Early Teachers in old Long Lake Log School-House:

HENRY SIMMONS. Mr. BOWEN. Minnie Fogg, old maid.
 a Mrs. Cunningham. Mrs. Wm. W. Jackson who later was burned to death in M-B-.

CENTER OF MOSS BLUFF
POSTOFFICES and POSTMASTERS.

The Center of Moss Bluff, historically speaking, has been somewhat of a wanderer during the past 75 years. A postoffice was in operation here for around 60 years, and until about 1933 when the R.F.D. was established.

First, it was at the warehouse on the bank of the Oklawaha River, as previously stated, and Robert Fort was in charge. He acted as postmaster, and for some time his pocket was the postoffice, and later the office was in his dwelling house which then stood in the field, some 15 or 20 rods west-ly of the Old cemetery in Moss Bluff. One party states that Capt. Adin Waterman, the village merchant, served as postmaster during the '70s and the office was in his old log store that stood on the north side of the road and about 15 rods east of what is now the Davis Corner. ^{side}

John T. Lewis kept store at the Davis Corner and he was postmaster. This building stood on south of present road. ^{Preston Nix P.M. then Horace I. Thompson,}

Joseph P. Davis and family came to Moss Bluff in 1913, and settled on the J.T. Lewis farm; Mrs. Davis was postmistress 1914 till 1918 and the office was in the old Lewis store. Then ~~she~~ several acted as postmaster until 1921. ^{merchant}

Otis Squires built a store near his present home and opened for business in 1921 and he and his wife served as Master and Mistress for 12 years, when the R.F.D. was established, with the office at Umatilla, then after around four years the office was transferred to Oklawaha.

Mr. Squires states, "When I took the office I received a salary of \$ 9.00 every quarter, and when I was relieved I was paid \$ 30.00 for the 3-month period."

The above list of postoffices and masters is far from complete --- most of it traditional. One party states, Mrs. John H. Fort kept postoffice while living in the present Robert E. Griggs house. Preston Nix also kept store in the old John T. Lewis store and was postmaster.

MAIL CARRIERS

After the River boats ceased to bring the mail, it came to Moss Bluff for some years by stage. Henry Anderson was an early mail carrier, he came on horse back from Grahamville. Then Horace I. Thompson took up the work. Mr. Mock was on the job in 1920, then Mrs. Samuel A. McKenney, and lastly Andrew J. Holton for four or five years up until 1933 ?

The last three, at least, also ran the stage. They then started at Electra, went to Moss Bluff and to Oklawaha, then returned the same route. The auto succeeded horses in 1920.

Mr. James ? Park was the first R.F.D. man, and he was succeeded by Raymond Gale who delivered the mail as late as 1942.

1934?

Starting from Umatilla, & later from Oklawaha, P.O.

1936?

See
Griggs
road

South
side of
road,
& later on
North side
also gave.

John Fort was mail carrier
1882, from Whites Corner to Silver
Springs, twice a week - horse back

List of Church Names:

1 Barber, Mrs.
2 Hester BARKER
3 BASS, Nancy

1 CAWTHON, James.
2 Chalker, Lizzie,
3 " Lulu
4 " Mollie,
5 ~~Chilton, A.E.~~
" R.L.

2 Davis, Mr. & Mrs. J.P.
1 DAUGHERTY, Mrs.

3 DRIGGERS, Charles,
4 " Christopher,

1 FAIL, J. H.
2 FORT, ~~Jos~~ Jos.

1 GROSS, Mrs. H.C.

1 HASOLD, Miss Nora,
2 HIGGANS, Mr. & Mrs. A.M.
3 HOYT, Mrs. G.H.

2 LEWIS, Mrs. J.T.

1 " John J.

1 PENDARVIS, Mrs. N?

2 Pillaris Charles
1. PILLANS, Meck Lillian,
4 " Mrs. J.C. ~~Lillie~~
3 " Dixie A.

1 SELLERS, Ira,
2 " Kate,
3 " Mr. & Mrs. Luther,

2 SMITH, John, ~~Katie~~
3 " J. G. & Mrs.
4 Stapleton, Miss Annie,

5 STRICKLAND, Mrs.

6 Squires, Mrs. Otis.

1 Reynolds, Mrs. J.W.

1 VAUGHN, Benjamin T.

2 " STATIE?
" T.S.

1 WATERMAN, Charles F.

2 " Julia
3 Wheeler, E.R.

4 WHITE, Mrs. A.J.

5 WHITE, Mr. & Mrs. W.C. Mrs. ~~Jettie~~

6 " LEONA, = EILLY,

1 WILEY, Mrs. Anna

2 " John

1 Wood, Mrs. A.J.

1 Mc KINNEY, A.

3 " Mrs. S.A.

2 " Beady, - Nora

4 " Walter,

1 MARTIN, Mrs. Nora,

2 " Mr. & Mrs. S. Jrff.

3 MARSH, Mrs. Mattie,

4 MEADOWS, A. H.

5 MORRISON, Addie,

7 " Mrs. M. A.

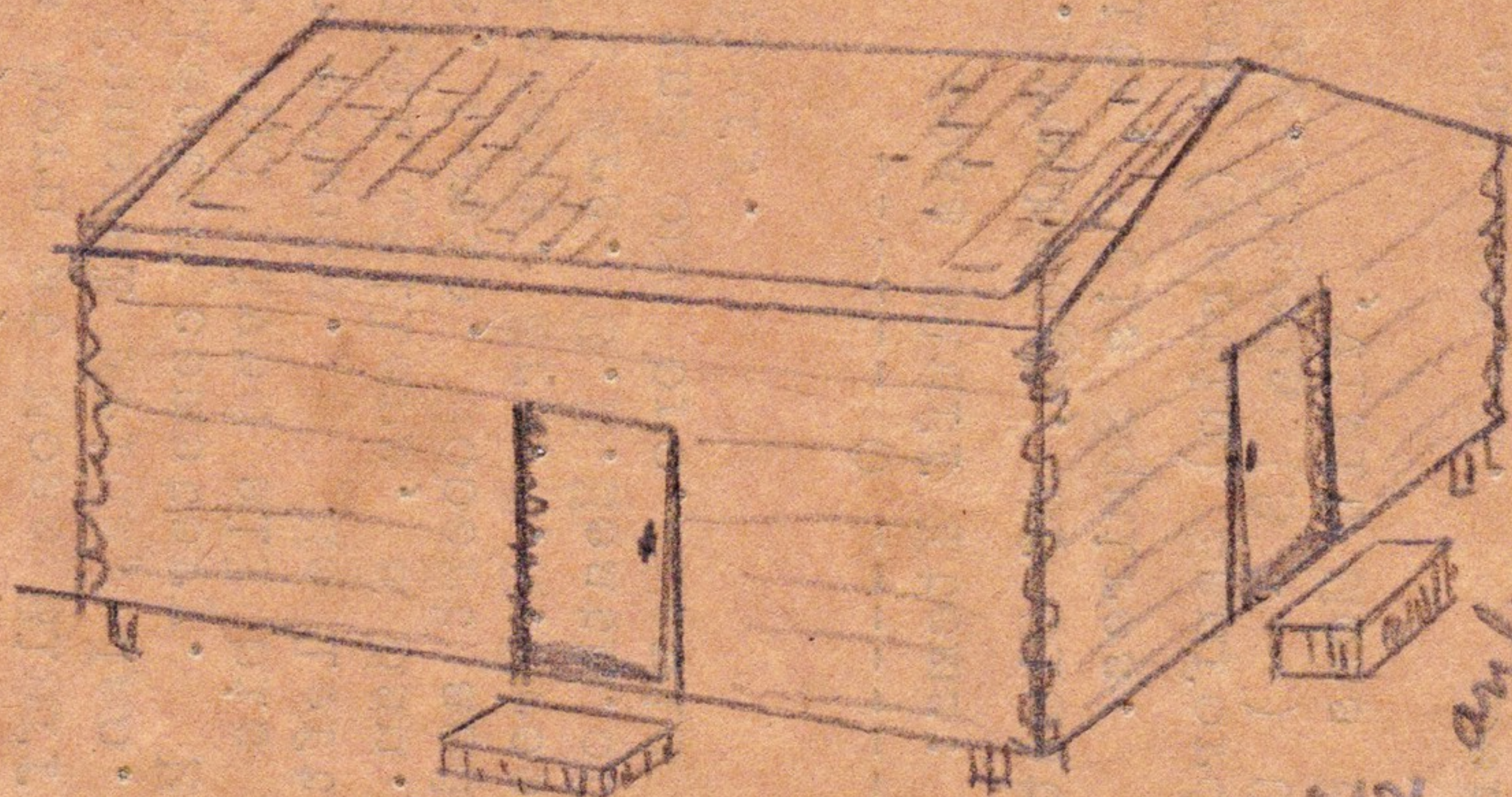
8 " Sallie,

6 " Ambrose M.

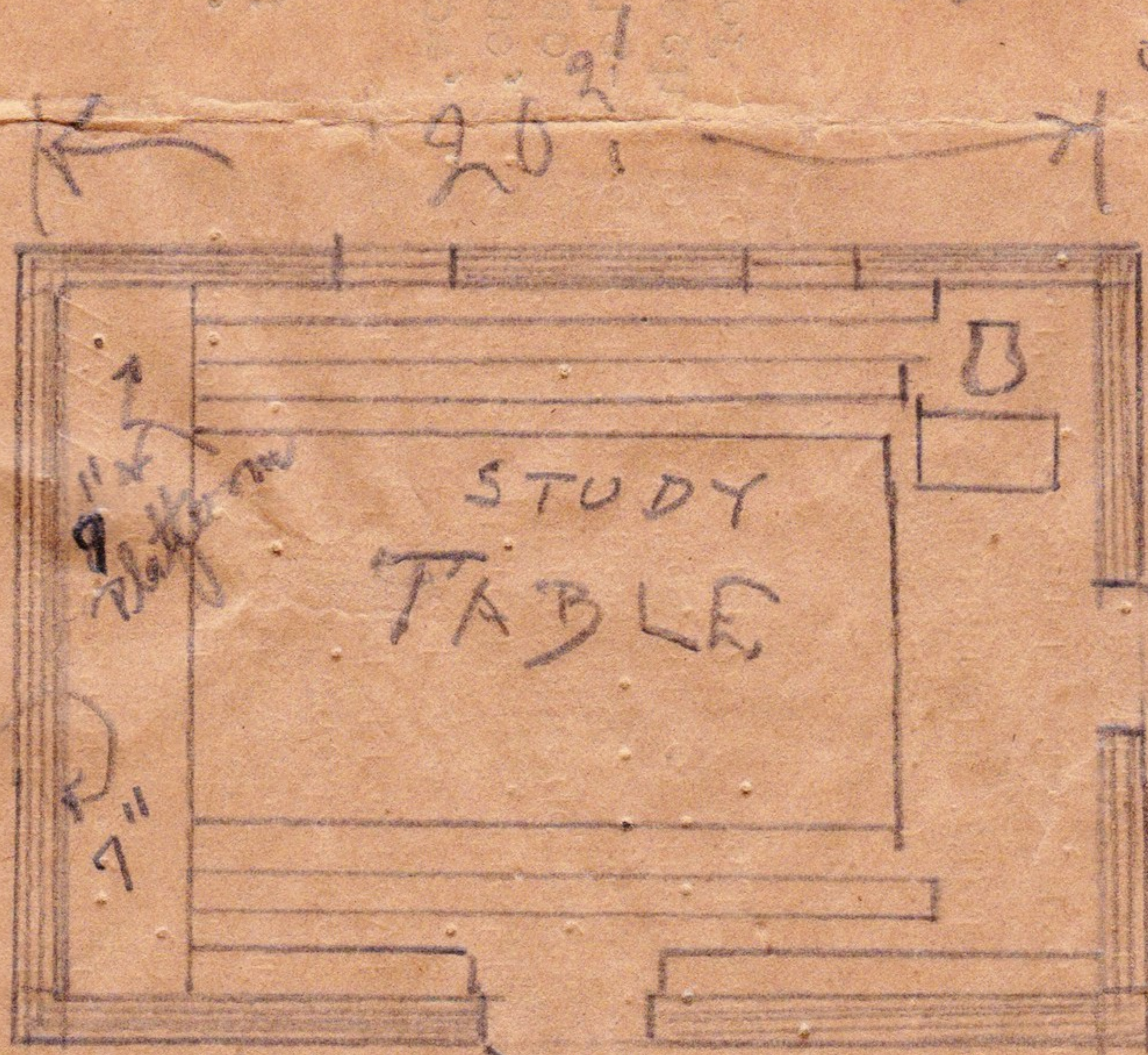
1. MOCK, Mrs. M.

60

Mrs. L.D. Marsh states the old road from Whites Corner to where Daniel J. Fort now lives was an old dirt road and ran practically in the same place as it is now, when she was young



LOG SCHOOL HOUSE



PLAN.

It was the only school house in this part of the county Catherine
 13 ft 34
 16' 0" 7' 0" Lagnier Lake
 About 16 x 25 ft.

OLD ROAD

cast iron

OLD LONG LAKE LOG SCHOOL HOUSE; by Mrs. L. D. MARSH

It stood facing south; was about 16 x 20 feet in size; the logs were split in order to give a fairly flat surface inside; a door in middle of south side, and one at east end. There were two small windows in north side. It was built before 1872 so she reports. There was a 7-inch high platform some 6 ft. wide at west end; on that wall was a blackboard about 5 ft high X 7 or 8 ft long. The teacher had a chair and desk in N.E. corner, where was also the stove, used in cool weather, with the stove-pipe extended out the north side near the roof. A large study table occupied all the center floor space, around this table were ~~plank/seats~~ long planks used as a seat to study. A plank shelf ran along the north wall with a long seat, used while the pupils writing. Also a seat along the south wall except at the door opening.

4 for the larger scholars which
The inside was in one large room.
One acre of land for this school, donated
by Joseph (B) Fart, & all fenced in.

MOSS BLUFF ITEMS; 1942:

Date from Marion Co. News; Jan. 2, '42:

DIED, suddenly at his home, near Belleview, Fla., Thursday, ~~Dec.~~ Jan. 1st, 1942, MOSEA MATILLA SELLERS. He was born at Moss Bluff, Dec. 16, 1884; funeral Friday Jan. 2nd, 1942; int. Electra cemetery. He was a farmer and lived all his life in Marion county. He left his widow, Mrs. Ethel Sellers, a dau. Miss Irene, 3 sons, Louie, Robert and Roy. Also two sisters, Mrs. W. R. Freer of Belleview, & Mrs. G. H. Heath, of Vero Beach Fla., and one bro. David Sellers of Moss Bluff.

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Moss Bluff Items:

Mr. L. O. Brumbaugh, of Olustee, Fla. visits, Otis Squires.

Mrs. Jane (Martin) Sanford, and her dau. Mrs. Almeda (S ---) Geiger, of , visit Moss Bluff.

Mr. and Mrs. M. DeForest, are living this winter in a house trailer on land of L. R. Wheeler, this winter.

Also H. T. Burch, his wife and kid, Marvin, came to Wheelers tenement Dec. 1941, from near Bismarck, No. Dak., for the winter.



MORRISON:

TOB FORT says, 1939:

MERDICK (or Murdock) MORRISON lived 1868 on the road from Davis Corner to Lawrence Marsh's, and above the Hornbeak place. This was known as the PENROD PLACE, & on East side of present road; this was a log house --- per Tob Fort. This Merdick MORRISON was a brother to Norman C. Morrison.

MERCHANTS

frame
As per TOB FORT --- 1939:

RICHARD C. Erwin lived in a log house in what is now A.J. Wood's orange grove, some rods west of their present dwelling, in 1868-70; he built a log store across the road which he appears to have run a few years. The next one here was old A. Waterman who operated in until about the time of his d. --- 1879. Then came Mill Holland who was in business a few yrs. He was probably the last merchant here. Later Mrs. Lewis & her 3 daughters lived here a year or two, ~~when they rem. to Ocala~~

About 1876, two Jews by the name of SWERINE (brothers) came here and built a log store at the Davis Corner. After a year or two they rem to Ocala, and hired Mr. Harrell who ran the store a few yrs.

Later, Frank Hill & his father ran the new log store. Preston NIX ran this log store; he built the present Mrs. Davis house, 1883.

JACK WHITE lived 1870? in a log house s.w. of Whites Corner, he & his bro. did merchant bus. near-by in a store building. Later, they rented the store to Wm. R. C. BARCLIFF who ran a general store, around 1880. Jack White also kept Post Office in his store. This was a frame building. In 1882, TOB FORT's father, bid off the job for TOB, as mail carrier from Whites Store to Silver Springs, twice a week, on horse-back. TOB says: Mill Holland was first Post Master in M-B- with P.O. in his log store, then JACK White was 2nd Post Master with Office in his ~~to~~ store at W-Corner.

--- 2 Stores and Merchants:

He name Jack White store, 1882, a renter & Jack was P.M.
William R.C. Barclift was an early merchant in Anson (now Electra). His store was on west side of present road, and several rods southwest from the dwelling of E. Bennett Avery.

About 1890 several of the local citizens formed the Farmers Alliance Company, viz: George W. Waters, Dr. D.A. Thomas, J. Preston Holly, Joseph Stanaland, Norman A. Fort and possibly one or two other men. They took over the Barclift store.

Mr. Waters managed the store for one year, *1891*. About that time the Company built a new store on same side of the road but several rods farther north of the Barclift building.

James C. Pillans was manager for several years and finally purchased the property and continued the same business.

MERCHANTS in MOSS BLUFF SECTION:

The following is not considered a complete list of ~~men~~ merchants in this section.

One of the first probably was Jack White and his brother, ~~in~~ Clifford who did business in a log store that stood across the present road several rods southwest of where W.C. White now lives. This was in operation about 1870, and was ran for several years.

At or near Davis Corner there has been several merchants in business. Capt. Adin Waterman was in business soon after he came from the war; his log store stood on north side of road, some 12 or 15 rods east of the Davis Corner; after he d. (1879) Mill Holland ran this stand in same store, he was followed by Horace Thompson, a man from Georgia --- he lived for a time in the building. Then came Mrs. Mary A. Lewis and her 3 girls, who came here in an ox-cart, and they took up living in the old Waterman log store. After which it was used to some extent as a dance and entertainment hall, until it finally went to decay and ruin.

Jahner T. Lewis ran store at Davis Cor., 1896? & later, also Post master. He said built J.P. Davis house 1896? - check.

*80
80
160) 6400 / 40
40*

MOSS BLUFF POEM

(By William A. Griggs, 1937, when 10 years of age:)

" MY OLD HOME TOWN

"Moss Bluff is a pleasant place,
Every one is happy and full of grace.
You can have picnics and parties
But we don't allow any smarties.
We have lakes, ponds and rivers,
You may (walk) or drive your flivver.
The oaks are green and full of moss,
But in autumn they have their greatest loss.

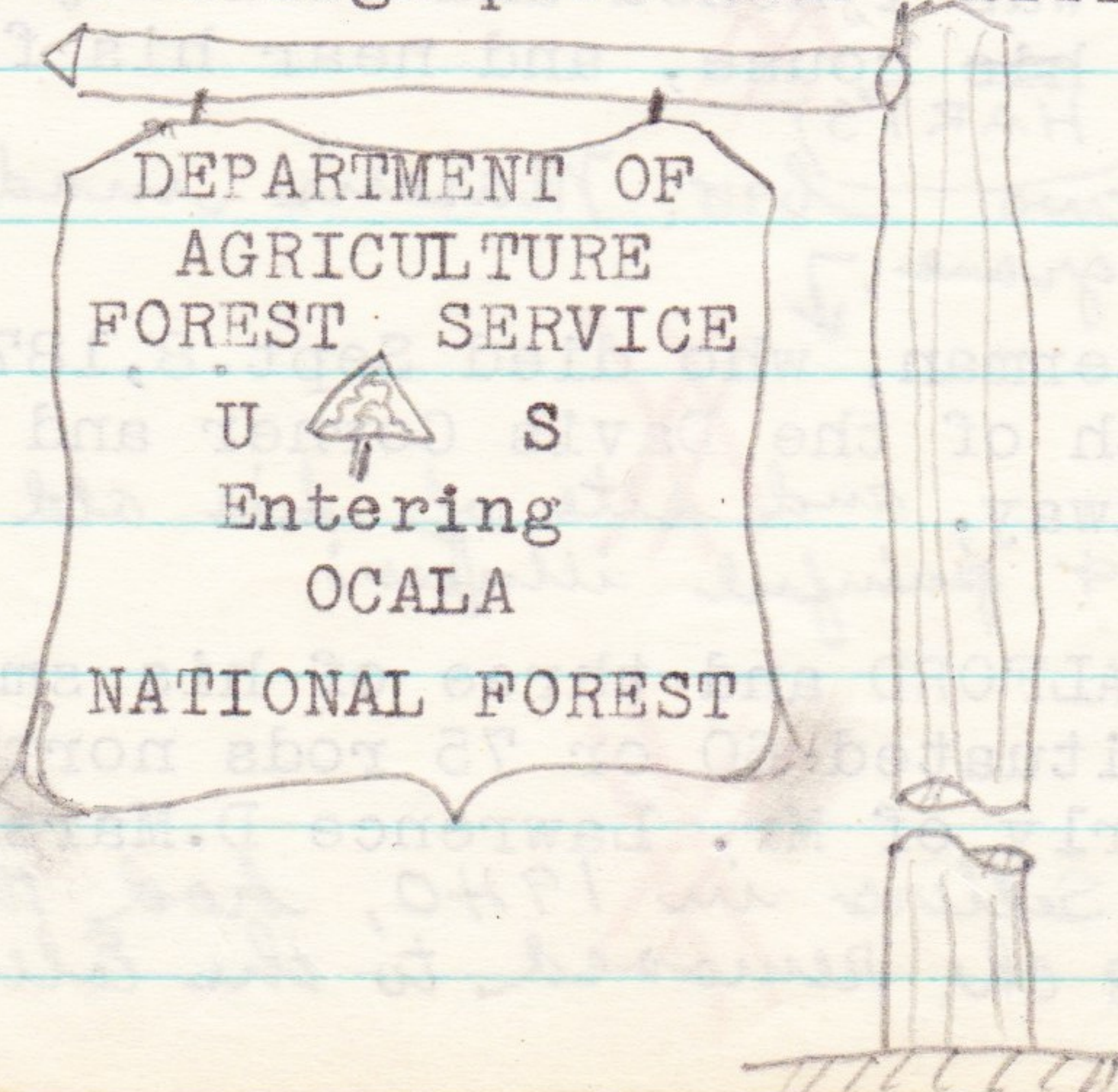
"The animals are wild and free,
Have been and always will be.
The fields are full of weeds and flowers,
They always bloom in the brightest hours.
The bees are fierce and have long stingers,
And the birds are wild and many good singers.

"The people are happy and well contented,
Although part of them haven't repented.
We love this place, we ever fear,
We always forget the bad things we hear.
Read this poem and never regret it,
And once you see Moss Bluff you'll never forget it."

OUR FLAG: (from Report by F. & A.M., 1918)

'It is only a small bit of bunting,
It is only an old colored rag
Yet thousands have died for its honor
And shed their best blood for the flag."

Copy of a sign post near WHITIES CORNER reads:



and other lone graves.

The earliest cemetery in this vicinity of which ^{we} have any knowledge is the OLD Yard, now, 1940, in the field some 50 rods s.w. from the Davis Corner, where tradition says that ^{1/4 acre} plot has from 75 to 100 burials, though, at present we can find only four-headstones, and ~~the~~ remains of two brick vaults.

The next, was the New Cemetery, of $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres just west of road and Congl. Community church; deeded by Otis Squires in recent years. This has been in use since about 1885; Mrs. Laura F. Hightower, who d. Mar. 8, 1886, is said to have been the first person buried in this Yard.

There is a sizeable Yard at Electra.

There are three graves in the wood-land, some 100 rods west of the Electra school-Masonic building. Here are two headstones; one a new marble, reads; "ISAIAH FORT Confederate Soldier." The other; "Sacred to the memory of I.E.M. FORT born Feb. 2nd, 1864; died Dec. 13th 1877." The 3rd grave is marked by two wood stakes.

On the ridge n.e. of Little Lake Bryant is the remains of a cemetery, where several people ^{are} buried. We find but one headstone which, though broken, we copied the following:

In memory of CYRUS LONG, b. Feb. 22, 1860; d. Sept. 15th 1880;

"How short the race our brother has run, (Data, Mar. 1, 1940.)
Cut down in all his blome,
His course on earth had just began,
Now ended in the tomb".

S. Andrew Smith reports that a man, and his two children were buried some 150 feet westerly of Harry H. Hart's house; see him.

Also, that a Negro was lynched and buried years ago, some 300 feet south-west of his house, and near his fence gate.

Robert Fort and "Jack" White, two bro. Masons made his coffin and buried in a lone grave. ^{HART'S}

Old Capt. Aden Waterman, who died Sept. 8, 1879 is buried in a lone-grave south of the Davis Corner and only a few rods from present highway, and ^{site of his old log store;} his d. came after a long & painful illness.

JAMES HENRY HALFORD and three of his small children are int. in a small yard situated 60 or 75 rods north of his old home and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile northerly of Mr. Lawrence D. Marsh's house.

Mrs. Mae (Halford) Sellers in 1940, had the remains of her father and his 3 ch. removed to the Electra cemetery.

This yard was on the old Valentin Road.

Per Job FORT.