

**The Amazing Story of the
Lost Town of Ethel**

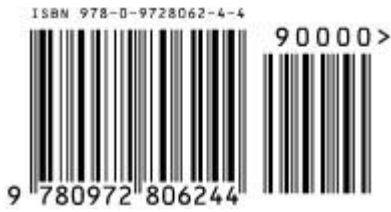
**A Chronicle of the Forgotten Settlement in the Florida Wilderness
and Its Foremost Pioneers**

William Delk and Anthony Frazier

Don Philpott and Shirley Meade

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Second Edition

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Artist Gary Schermerhorn's illustration of some of the structures at Ethel compressed into a single sketch. It is an artistic interpretation as we have no way of knowing what Ethel really looked like, but it is based on images that we do have.

In memory of Tony Moore who started us on this fascinating voyage of discovery.



Forward

After more than 10 years of research and collaboration with local historians, we now know that Rock Springs was the site of the first large plantation in Central Florida before the Civil War and after the war, was home to a bustling township called Ethel.

It was also the home of Anthony Frazier, a former plantation slave at Rock Springs who fought in the Union Army during the Civil War, returned to the area afterward, bought and sold land and became a respected member of the community.

In 1880, he was appointed an Orange County Commissioner for Roads, a remarkable achievement at that time for a former slave. His wife Mary was the local midwife and over three decades delivered many of the babies born in Ethel, Wekiva and nearby Sorrento.

This history of Ethel brings to life the amazing but largely forgotten history of Rock Springs, the Delk Plantation, Ethel, and Anthony Frazier.

It is a remarkable story that can finally be told.

Senator Dennis Baxley
Florida State Senate

Introduction

Ethel is now a ghost town within the boundaries of the 14,000-acre Rock Springs Run State Reserve, part of the Wekiva River Basin State Parks (which also includes Lower Wekiva and Wekiwa Springs).

Much of what we know today is thanks to the work of Tony Moore, a retired land surveyor and a volunteer with the Wekiva Wilderness Trust, the nonprofit group that supports the work of the Wekiva River Basin State Parks.

While hiking in Rock Springs one day in 2008, Tony came across a grave marker close to an old fence line and almost hidden among the chest tall grass. Incredibly, when he explored further, he discovered that the marker bore the same last name as his. Intrigued he searched among the grass and nearby he found a second gravestone that amazingly also had the same last name as his.



Tony Moore

Tony was born in Thomaston, Georgia, but was a longtime resident of Orlando. He set out to discover why the gravestones were there and whether there was a connection between them and his own family.

While he never established a family connection, he did unearth a treasure trove of information about the once thriving but long forgotten township of Ethel. Tony passed away on May 23, 2012, at the age of 74, but his invaluable research on Ethel lives on.

Shirley Meade of the East Lake Historical Society collaborated with Tony and then followed up on his work. This book would not have been possible without her own research and her encyclopedic knowledge of this area.

Our special thanks also to Bob Grenier, friend, historian, author and Executive Director of the Tavares History Research Center for his boundless enthusiasm, knowledge, and encouragement, and for designing the book cover, and Robert Brooks, Manager of the Wekiva River Basin State Parks, for his support and amazing mapping skills.

Most of the information in this book comes from resources that are in the public domain – from property records in Orange and Lake Counties to the Florida State Archives, the National Archives in Washington D. C., and many more. Other information comes from families who have traced their relatives back to Ethel and who kindly gave us permission to use their photographs and documents. Special thanks to Frankie “Maxwell” Goebel, Porter Click and Janice Jernigan.

Other photographs used came from local libraries and museums and the Florida Memory archive, and we are grateful for their permission to publish.

We are also indebted to artist Gary Schermerhorn for his visualizing sketches on how William Delk and Anthony Frazier might have looked as adults as no such photographs have been found and for his sketch on how Ethel might have looked in the 1890s.

Early documents were often handwritten in a very florid style, and it has sometimes been difficult to decipher exactly what has been written. This is especially the case with names.

Where there is doubt about the exact name of the person, a question mark in brackets has been added after the name.

We have also included copies of many old documents which corroborate our research even though they might be difficult to read. The originals are all in the public domain.

The aim of this book is to tell as accurately as possible the story of Ethel and Rock Springs and the many people associated with it. It is a history that might otherwise have gone untold forever.

If you have any connections with the families mentioned in this book, we would love to hear from you, especially if you have documents or photographs that would provide additional information.

Please contact us at info@wwt-cso.com. A copy of this edition is available as a free downloadable e-book from our website, and we will keep this online version updated as we gather more information until such time that a third edition becomes necessary.

The history of Ethel is inextricably interwoven with two equally fascinating stories. They concern William S. Delk, a pre-Civil War plantation owner at Rock Springs, and Anthony Frazier, a freed Delk slave who fought as a Union soldier and became an Orange County Special Commissioner of Roads.

William S. Delk was one of the first and largest settlers in the area. He arrived in Florida in the late 1840s and established a 3,000-acre plantation at Rock Springs in the 1850s. A Union sympathizer during the Civil War, he was arrested by Confederate troops but escaped, freed his slaves, and made his way to St. Augustine to join up with federal forces there.

He returned to his plantation after the Civil War and several of his relatives later settled in and around Ethel and one of them was the last to leave the dying township.

One of Delk's slaves, Anthony Frazier, also returned to the area after the Civil War where he served as a Union soldier. As a free man he became a landowner and eventually a Commissioner for Roads in Orange County. Almost nothing was known about Anthony Frazier until the discovery of a headstone on a remote piece of state park land about two miles northwest of the old Delk plantation and about 3.5 miles west northwest of Ethel.

These are their stories.

William Shelton Delk

The first settler at Rock Springs was William S. Delk, descended from Roger Delk who was born in Surrey, England in 1610. He married his first wife Sarah, and their daughter Elizabeth was born in Middlesex, in April 1622.

In 1624 he sailed for the Virginia Colony aboard the Southampton, one of the ships used by Sir Walter Raleigh on his last expedition to South America. He landed at Jamestown in 1624 and it is assumed that his wife died in England before she could follow him.

Not long after his arrival, he married Alice Davenport (born 1614), who had also been a passenger aboard the Southampton. Roger Delk was indentured to John Chew and worked on his plantation on Hog Island. He worked out his indentures in 1626 and by September that year had relocated to Jamestown.

Delk appeared in court in Jamestown on May 7, 1627, charged with being absent from his plantation “without the knowledge or leave of his commander contrary to an order of court for the space of 8 days complete”.

While the reason for his absence is not known, he admitted the charge and was ordered to pay 25 pounds of tobacco for every day he was absent – a total sum of 200 pounds of tobacco.

He must have had friends in high places because in 1628, Francis West, who was both the Governor and Captain General, granted him 1,000 acres on Lawne’s Creek, which flowed into the James River just south of Hog Island.

From February 1632 to February 1633, he served a one-year term in the House of Burgesses, the first legislative assembly in the New World, representing Stanley’s Hundred in Warwick.

Apparently, he lived above his means and in 1634 he was outlawed for debts and a warrant was issued for his arrest. He died in 1635 and his wife had his land transferred to her. He had two children, a daughter Alice, born in 1630, and a son Roger Jr., born in December 1634.

Roger married Rebecca Alice Reynolds about 1674 in Surrey, Virginia, and they had at least two sons and a daughter. Roger died on July 4, 1693, in Lawne's Creek Parish, aged 58, and was buried at Bacon's Castle, Surry, Virginia.

His children were John (1662-1699), Rebecca (1675-1738), and Joseph (1675-1761). Joseph married Hannah Thorpe who had three sons Jacob (1705-1788), John (died 1728), and Matthew (died 1732).

Jacob married Judith Mills Robertson and they had three sons Samuel (1735-1787), Jacob Jr. (1737-1788), and Kindred (1770-1818).

Samuel Delk married Anne Clyatt (1736-1777) and had at least six children although four were killed together with their mother in an Indian raid in 1777 (see below). There are records of two sons Samuel (born 1760) and David (born 1761), and a daughter whose name may have been Zelpha. There is one record of Zelpha, daughter of Samuel and Anne, born in 1763, although most records list only the two sons after the massacre. Son Samuel's date of death is recorded as 1808 which suggests he was also not at home when his family was attacked. At that time, he would have been 17 years old and so may have been away fighting in the militia with his father.

William S. Delk's father was David Delk who was born in 1761 in Johnston County, North Carolina, and died in 1843, aged 81 or 82. He is buried in Taylor's Creek Cemetery, Fort Stewart, Liberty County, Georgia, and his log home on the plantation built in 1835-37, was moved in 1979 to the Oatland Island Education Center, near Savannah (now the Oatland Island Wildlife Center).



The 1835 Delk cabin (above and below) at Oatland Island



On the night of July 31, 1777, aged about 16, David was sent by his mother to fetch water from the spring. David's father Samuel, the great-great-grandson of Roger, was in Georgia fighting as a Revolutionary soldier.

While David was away from the isolated homestead in Christ Church Parish, his mother and four of her children were massacred by a Creek Indian raiding party that had crossed the Ogeechee River, near Morgan's Creek. When they left, they took with them Delk's fourteen-year-old red-haired sister.

According to the book *Sweet Land of Liberty: A History of Liberty County, Georgia*, by Robert Long Groover, published by W. H. Wolfe Associates, 1987, "A detachment of regulars pursued the Indians for about forty miles and near the Oconee River found some hair that appeared to have been cut off the girl's head. Fortunately, the little red-headed lass eluded her captors and up near Augusta was taken in by a friendly family. Later when she grew up, the family's son fell in love and married her. They objected and the couple left and down near Louisville, then the State's capitol, they settled.

"Some years later, the representative from Bryan County, probably Capt. Luke Mann, heard the story while attending a session of the Senate, and may have related it to her brother, David, in November 1798 when he witnessed the deed to 100 acres on Taylor's Creek in Liberty County that David bought for a home. This intelligence enabled the brother and sister to be reunited."

After his family's massacre, David fought with the Revolutionary Army in Savannah until the city fell in 1778. He was taken prisoner and probably against his will, was enrolled in the King's Rangers until General Alured Clarke gave up the city in June 1782.

David raised cattle and in 1783 married Anne Clyatt (parents James and Sarah Clyatt), in Effingham County, and they had a son David who died about 1807 and a daughter Anna born in 1789 and who died in 1851.

The Delk and Clyatt families were very close and there were frequent marriages between them.

After his wife's death, David moved from North Carolina to Georgia and in 1798, bought one hundred acres on the waters of Taylor's Creek in Liberty County where he lived until his death.

About 1811, he married Elizabeth Terrell. Their children were daughters Elizabeth (born January 3, 1818), and Susan N. Delk (born 1820), and sons John, born 1812, David born 1814, William Shelton, born about 1815, and Fleming, born 1822.

Both William S. and Fleming were privates in Capt. David R. Bryant's company of Col. Robert Brown's Mounted Georgia Volunteers in the Seminole Indian Wars of 1838. For his service he was entitled to a bounty of 40 acres of land, but the deed was not recorded until June 11, 1885, after his death.

William S. Delk moved to Florida in the 1840s and in 1851 he was living in Marion County, aged 35, and looking for land to settle on. His slave Joseph was born in Marion County around 1846.

In 1854, he bought 3,000 acres of pine and palmetto woodland around Rock Springs, in Orange County, of which four hundred acres was cleared for farming.

In 1856 he is listed as a member of the Orange County Militia. The militia was organized in March of that year under the command of Captain Aaron Jernigan. His command lasted less than six months when he and his two sons were indicted for the murder of militiaman William H. Wright. Rather than answer the charges, he and his family left Florida and in September, Captain Isaac N. Rutland took command of the Regiment at Fort Gatlin.

Delk's address in 1857, according to county records, was listed as Rock Springs. While there were a few other settlers in Orange County, he was by far the largest single landowner and because of his acreage and the

number of slaves, he was considered the first plantation owner in the huge county.

Delk was a Representative for Orange County and on November 3, 1857, he and fourteen other Orange County citizens were sworn in for Orlando's first Grand Jury. Orange County was established in 1856 and Orlando was chosen as the county seat in 1857 although Representative Delk had opposed this.

In 1859, according to Orange County records, he purchased Linda, a six-year-old slave from N. F. Chapman for \$265 plus 8% interest due on January 1 the following year.



Rock Springs c. 1900 Source: Florida Memory

State of Florida,
County of Orange.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That I, N. F. Chapman of the above written state and county, hath bargained, sold and conveyed unto William S. Delk of the same county and state a certain negro girl slave, about six years old, named Linda, in and for the consideration of one hundred and thirty-two dollars and fifty cents to me in hand paid on and before the signing of this deed and in and for the above consideration to me in hand paid I do bargain sell and convey unto the said William S. Delk, his heirs and assigns forever, and by these presents I do warrant and defend the rights of said negro girl from myself, heirs, executors and administrators. Signed, sealed and delivered this 18th day of Oct. 1858. This grant is intended as a security for the payment of the said one hundred and thirty-two dollars and fifty-cents cents on the first of January A. D. 1859 with eight per cent interest from date, which payment if duly made by the said N. F. Chapman on the first day of January next 1859, will render this conveyance null and void, but if default is made by the said N. F. Chapman in the payment of the said one hundred and thirty-two dollars and fifty cents, with the interest above specified on the first day of January A. D. 1859, then the

The 1860 United States Federal Census records that William S. Delk, age 45, was residing in District 3 of Orange County. His nearest Post Office was Melonville, and other members of his household listed in the 1860 U. S. Census for Orange County, District 3, were:

William P. Delk, aged 20, son
L. H. Green, aged 24
Michael Ohara, aged 27
Jackson See, aged 48
Susan See, aged 29
Nancy Ann See, aged 9
Sarah Ann See, aged 7
Joseph A. See, aged 5, and
James K. See, aged 2.

There is no record of a wife and apart from his son and two indentured whites, all the others listed are believed to have been slaves. He did have 19 or 20 slaves, including Anthony Frazier and Joseph Robards, and their mother Mary, although they are not recorded by name in the Census.

On August 31, 1860, he sold five cows and their calves to Mary Ann Newton for \$50 cash. The cattle bore the OK brand.

N. Florida, Orlando, Orange County 31 August, 1860.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That I, Wm. S. Delk have this day bargained, sold and do by these presents bargain, sell and convey to Mary Ann Newton five cows and their calves, said cows has various marks and brands, the calves of which is to be marked crop in one ear and crop and split in the other, branded O K the said cows and calves to be her own right and property for the consideration of fifty dollars to me in hand paid at and before the signing of this

Wm. S. Delk

Witness J. G. Spear

Jas. P. Hughey

State of Florida,

Orange County.

On this 31st day of August 1860 before me personally came William D. Delk and acknowledged that he executed the foregoing instrument of writing on the day and for the purposes therein expressed, whereupon it is prayed that the same may be recorded.

Witness my hand and seal of office this the day and year above written.

State of Florida,

Orange County.

Be it known that I have on this the fifth day of September, 1860, recorded the foregoing instrument of writing in Book D page 411 Records of Orange County, Florida.

James P. Hughey Clk O.C.C.

Rock Springs is unusual in that the water flows out from a rock cave. From there it runs into a lagoon and then into Rock Springs Run, which

meanders for about nine miles until it joins the Wekiva River. Delk must have thought it an ideal spot to locate his plantation.

He hauled his supplies by ox cart from Hawkinsville on the St. Johns River, eighteen miles away. He cleared four hundred acres to become the area's largest plantation and grew cotton, rice, sugar cane, and corn.



The only known image of William S. Delk as a young man c. 1835.

Delk worked the land with his son William, two indentured white laborers, and 19 slaves, valued, according to the 1860 U.S. Census, at \$12,700. These included a young slave called Joseph G. Robards, who later claimed he was Delk's son, and his half-brother Anthony Frazier.

In an interview in 1929, with the Apopka Chief, Robards said that as a very small boy he was called "Joseph Delke" (sic), after his father and

master “but I took the name of Joseph G. Roberts wishing to get away from the name of my unnatural father.”

Over the years, Joseph G. Robards is also referred to as Joseph G. Roberts, but in affidavits and other legal documents, he signed himself as Robards. It is likely that the mention of Roberts in the interview above was a hearing mistake made by the reporter.

Another of Delk’s slaves was Anthony Frazier, Robards’s half-brother – they shared the same mother, Judy Henry.



The slave quarters at the Delk Plantation c. 1905 (Source. Florida Memory).

The first house was a log cabin just north of the springs with a narrow crawlway below. The cabin burned down when Delk lit a fire beneath it to try to smoke out an infestation of fleas.

The next house was built on the hill on the south side of the springs. There was also a ramshackle multi-roomed wooden structure in which all

the slaves lived (see picture above). This building survived until the early 20th century.

At that time according to Robards, Orlando was a cotton patch with a small trading post, the only one between Jacksonville and Tampa.

Around 1861, Delk built a dam across the stream about 50 yards from the spring and a flume (a deep narrow channel) to funnel the water to a water wheel with a large bucket. The dam was on the right-hand side as you looked down the stream. The spillway was on the left and next to the waterwheel was a grist mill that ground corn from his fields.

The grist mill and cotton gin were on the second floor and the sawmill was on the ground floor. The lumber yard was on the right bank of the stream.

Other farmers paid him a part of their crop to grind their corn. He also milled timber from trees felled on his property. The cotton gin was one of the largest in the area.

In 1862, the year after Florida seceded from the Union, Delk's son William P. Delk rode off to war. Even though his father was a Union supporter, his son supported the Confederacy. He enlisted as a private on May 17, 1862, and joined a unit led by Captain Jonathan Stewart, that would later become Company G, Eighth Florida Infantry.

Just weeks later, however, without seeing action, Delk died from pneumonia on July 15, 1862, in Tallahassee, aged 22, where he is buried although he has a memorial in the Apopka Church Cemetery.

The memorial reads "In Memory of Pvt William P. Delk, Co G, 8 Fla Inf, CSA, July 15, 1862" and the stone was placed by the United Daughters of the Confederacy as his body was buried in Tallahassee. His father would later be buried beside his son's memorial stone in the Apopka Church Cemetery.



Also on January 8, 1862, Delk bought 280 acres of land from the State of Florida for 27 cents an acre through the Internal Improvement Fund.

In 1855, the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund was created as an agency of the Florida government. In 1841, the U.S. government had granted each state in the union 500,000 acres. Combined with the land received through the Swamp and Overflowed Lands Act of 1850, the Trustees had more than 21 million acres under its control.

Land was offered at a nominal price to those willing to build infrastructure such as roads and railways and to drain, clear and reclaim land for agriculture.

Delk senior was an old-line Whig and supported the Union while most of his neighbors supported the Confederacy.

On January 20, 1864, Delk attended the Florida Unionist Convention in Jacksonville. Unionists from around the state attended. They had all opposed secession and wanted Florida back in the Union.

C. L. Robinson, esq. of Fernandina, was chosen President. Vice-Presidents: Paran Moody of Jacksonville, W. Rogers of Baldwin, the Hon. W. S. Delk of Orange County, H. S. Joiner of Duval County, Charles Slager of Silver Springs, Marion County.

Robinson stated that the object of the Convention was the election of delegates to the Baltimore National Union National Convention, June 7-8, 1864, to nominate the party's candidate for the upcoming U. S. Presidential election.

The Republican Party had changed its name to the National Union party in the hope of appealing to a wider audience. Six delegates were elected as delegates: Buckingham Smith, of St. Augustine, John W. Price, of Jacksonville, D. L. Robinson of Fernandina, John S. Sammis of Jacksonville, Phillip Frazer of St. Augustine, Paran Moody, of Jacksonville.

According to a newspaper report at the time, "The Hon. Isaac N. Rutland of Orange County, formerly a member of the State Senate, and a delegate to the State Convention in 1861, which passed the Ordinance of Secession, against which he steadily voted to the last", was also nominated.

"Being nominated as a delegate, he declined, in a pointed speech, in which he emphatically declared he would not leave the State until he had assisted in driving the last Rebel from Orange County."

Delk was appointed to a committee tasked with formulating Resolutions. The committee came up with several resolutions including the following.

“Whereas, A call has been signed by the National Union Committee for the assembling of a National Union Convention at Baltimore on the 7th day of June next for the purpose of putting in nomination candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States; and, Whereas, An area of country in extent exceeding any of the New-England States is now within the military lines of the forces of the United States, and within which reside and have taken the oath of allegiance to the United States, more than the number required by the Proclamation of the President for the formation of a State Government; and, Whereas, It is our purpose to at once take steps for the reestablishment of a State Government, under which we can again enjoy the happiness and prosperity so long denied us; therefore,

“Resolved, That we, as loyal citizens of the State of Florida, are entitled to a voice in the councils of the nation of which we are a part; and that if it is hold that our State has forfeited its sovereignty as one of the States of the Union, that we, as citizens of the United States, are none the less entitled to a voice in the National Convention.

“Resolved, That we are unswerving in our loyalty to the United States, subject to no condition, and unchangeable in our determination; and that, come weal or come woe, our attachment to and confidence in the Government shall remain unalterable.

“Resolved, That we most earnestly solicit the protection of the Government of the United States, in reestablishing our State Government and authority not only over the territory within the Federal lines, but throughout the whole State.

“A resolution was also adopted endorsing Mr. Lincoln for renomination.

The following gentlemen were appointed a Union Executive Committee of the State of Florida, with full power to take all necessary action and measures to organize a State Government, for the said State of Florida:

John W. Price. Isaac N. Rutland, Jr., J.M. Latta C.L. Robinson. D.R. Dunham.”

Despite the Confederacy’s demand, Delk refused to buy bonds to support their war effort and later in 1864, a Confederate cavalry unit from Lake City was sent to seize him and his land.

Note. Robards in an interview published in the Apopka Chief in 1926 gave the date as 1863 but it would have been 1864.

Delk invited the troops into his home and provided them with supper, but they still arrested him that evening and they all headed out as night fell. At Sorrento they made camp and Delk was able to escape. He took to the swamps to avoid the troops and then returned to his home.

According to Robards, “Delk told us slaves – there were 19 of us - that we were free and to take care of ourselves”. Delk then set out for St. Augustine where there were Federal forces.

“The rest of us killed a beef and taking what provisions we could carry, set out for Wekiwa by ox team. We left four or five bales of cotton and everything else,” said Robards.

“At Wekiva we found an old boat and started down the river. Reaching the St. Johns without mishap, we were picked up by a federal gunboat and started north. Near St. Augustine we were turned over to the Fifth Ohio Cavalry and taken into camp. Here Delk joined the party,” he said.

Note: The Wekiva mentioned above was a small community one mile east of Rock Springs on the Wekiva River where Wekiva Falls now stands. It had a sawmill and ferry. It was not Wekiwa Springs, the state park in Apopka, which was then called Clay Springs. Wekiva Falls used to be called Ford Springs and at some point, the area was hit by a hurricane which blew earth from the nearby railroad bed into the springs plugging the boil.

In St. Augustine on August 26, 1864, Delk gave his consent for Joseph, a minor aged 18, to volunteer as a soldier in the Army of the United States for two years. Joseph was then sent to Hilton Head, South Carolina, where he enlisted in the Union Army on September 14, 1864.

CONSENT IN CASE OF MINOR.

I, William I Delk Do CERTIFY, That I am
the Owner and Guardian of Joseph Delk; that the
said Joseph Delk is Eighteen years of age; and I
do hereby freely give my CONSENT to his volunteering as a SOLDIER in the ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES
for the period of ^{Two} ~~THREE~~ YEARS.

GIVEN at St. Augustine Florida
the 26th day of August 1864

Witness: So R Goumes
28 U.S.C.
Recruiting Officer William I Delk

(A. G. O. No. 74 & 76.)

“I enlisted in the Union army and was sent to South Carolina, where the whole muss started, and there I did service to the close of the war.

“The year 1868 found me back at Rock Springs again, and that year I homesteaded a piece of land near Sorrento and lived there many years.

“Later I was able to acquire ten acres of land near Mount Dora and I am living my last days there with my niece,” he said.

Interestingly in these recollections, Robards does not mention Anthony Frazier although they were both slaves at Delk’s plantation, half-brothers and both signed up at Hilton Head, South Carolina, and served in the Union Army. Both were honorably discharged on the same day – April 25, 1866, and they stayed in touch after the war.

Many of Delk's other freed slaves settled around Island Pond, a lake just north of SR 44 and north of Sorrento. At least one of Frazier's descendants is buried in nearby Eustis.

However, in a deposition he gave dated December 20, 1910, we get a more detailed look at who Anthony Frazier was and their relationship.

"I well knew Anthony Frazier. That is the only name he ever had except before the war some people called him Delk. Anthony Frazier was my half-brother, seven years, or nine years older than I. He was 73 or 75 years old last March just before he died.

"He and I had the same owner – Mr. Delk. My mother and Anthony Frazier's mother was the same, her name was Judy Henry, but my father was a white man and Anthony's father was a black man named Anthony Frazier.

"Anthony was born somewhere in Georgia in Liberty County I believe. I was born in Marion County, Florida. I was raised in Marian County until I was four or five years old, and I then went to Mississippi for a little while and then back to Florida. Anthony and I worked at the Delk Place near Rock Springs until he and I went away to the army together.

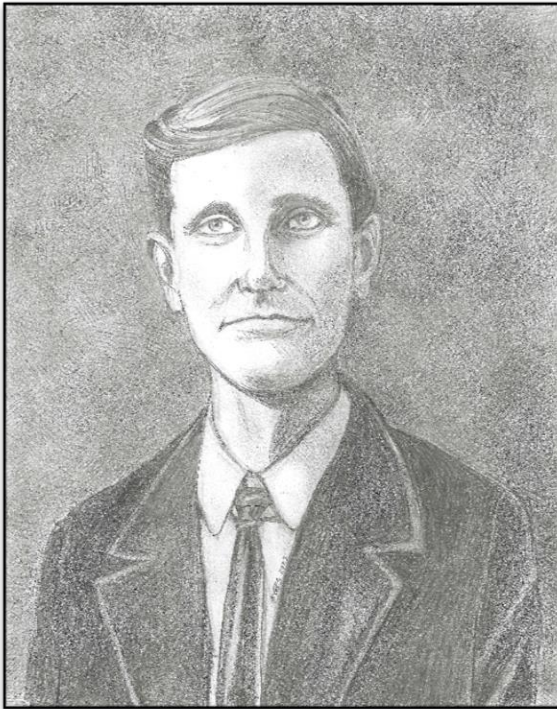
Note. Robards mentions going to Mississippi for a while. There were reports that Delk got into trouble over the purchase of some cattle and had to disappear for a while until things quietened down. He is said to have stayed in Mississippi for about a year before returning to Rock Springs.

Robards continued: "Before the war Anthony Frazier sawmilled and carpentered and farmed and after the war he farmed and did general hard labor.

"He came back here in January or February after he was discharged. He lived close to here till he died. I saw him dead. He died on April 4. The first and only wife he ever had was this claimant, Mary Frazier.

“She was from Charleston, South Carolina, and my brother Anthony got acquainted with her while we were camped there as soldiers.

“She was a very young woman then and I knew her then as Mary Chambers. I don’t know that I ever heard her called Mary Ward. My brother was to marry her at once on discharge and they was to have been married that night but we got word that the transport that was to bring us to Savannah on our way home, was to leave at once, so Mary and Anthony had to leave.”



An artist’s visualization of what Delk would have looked like c.1860. Courtesy of artist Gary Schermerhorn.

While Delk planned to join the federal forces there is no record of this. There are, however, records of a William S. Delk, civilian, who was supplying cattle to the Union troops in Jacksonville and St. Augustine.

On at least two occasions after Anthony's death, Robards petitioned on Mary Frazier's behalf for Anthony's \$15 a month war pension to be transferred to her.

On September 10, 1864, Delk appeared at the Office of the Provost Marshall in St. Augustine to register a horse that he had bought one month earlier for \$100 from a Mr. William Simmons. In that registration document Delk said that he was "in the government's employ" and that he needed the horse for his work.

It appears that there was a dispute over the horse's ownership and Delk was arrested and placed in detention.

On December 7, Headquarters District of Florida 8 in Jacksonville directed that he be released from arrest. He was ordered to report to the Provost Marshall's office each morning until further notice, but otherwise was told to go about and do his work.

This work included providing federal forces with provisions especially cattle which Delk would round up and drive to St. Augustine and then submit paperwork for payment.

Florida was an important source of cattle and salt during the war. Salt was needed to preserve the meat and for tanning the hides. At its height, the Florida salt industry employed over 5,000 men.

Florida became a major supplier of cattle for the Confederate Army, but many ranchers sold their herds to the Union Army who offered payment in money or gold.

The Union also recruited civilians to ride out and round up cattle and drive them back to Jacksonville and these civilians were often not too picky where they got the animals as long as they got paid. As a result, skirmishes were common between cattle ranchers and drovers working for both sides.

This led in 1864 to the organization of the Confederate's Cow Cavalry – units made up of veterans, ranchers and cowmen who mostly stayed in their communities where they could provide for their families and protect the livestock.

They were combined into a battalion commanded by Colonel Charles I. Munneryn. One unit was assigned to Melonville (Sanford) with instructions to clear the counties of Orange and Volusia of "torries" who were driving "rebel-beef" to the Federals at St. Augustine.

In Florida, cowboys were known as cowmen. They argued that the work was too tough for boys and was a man's job, thus the name which stuck.

PROVOST MARSHAL'S OFFICE,

St. Augustine, Sept. 10. 1864.

Mr. *Wm S Delk*

Presenting a horse for

Register, answers as follows :

How long have you owned the animal? *1 month*
 From whom did you obtain it? *Wm O Simmons*
 What price did you pay for it? *\$100,*
 Have you a bill of sale, if so produce it? *Yes*
 In *William O Simmons* in the service of the Government, or has he been,
 if so in what capacity? *he was on the rail to Baldwin in*
the month of July with our force
 Do you know how and where he obtained the horse, if so state the circumstances? *he bought it*
of Morgan Milled in Orange County Fla
 Are you in Government employ, if so in what capacity? *Yes*
 Where do you procure food for the animal? *he has been hired out for*
his keeping until to day
 For what purpose do you use the animal? *intend to use him for working*

William S Delk being duly sworn states that the answers recorded are correct to the best of his knowledge and belief

Wilson French
PROVOST MARSHAL

William S Delk

Register of horse presented by *Wm S Delk*

Age, *8 yrs* Height, *5 ft* Color, *Bay* Brand, *None* Marks, *two white hind feet*
 Estimated value, *\$75, fit for Cavalry use*
Wilson French
Capt & Provost-Marshal

The cow cavalry was disbanded on April 9, 1865, following the surrender of the Confederate armies.

Delk must have been ranging far and wide to round up cattle. Sometimes he would be on the trail for 28 days driving cattle back to Jacksonville or St. Augustine. And it seems he was not too particular where he got the

cattle. In December 1864, he was in trouble with the authorities again over ownership of the cattle that he was supplying.

A letter written on December 30, 1864, to Brigadier General Eliakim Parker Scammon, the general commanding the District of Florida, recommends that Delk's "application for payment" be rejected because of doubts about the ownership of the cattle he had delivered.

The letter was written by an officer (R. L. Holloway – rank unknown), in the Union's Provost Marshall's office in Jacksonville. He said Delk had been paid \$300 for delivering a herd after a cattle drive of 28 days but that another delivery was in dispute.

Holloway said that at least four other men were claiming ownership of the cattle. He said that cattle being received, all bore the brands of "rebels" and that Delk and others knew they would not be paid for "driving loyal men's stock".

"Since it is impossible to ascertain what part of the lot in question he should receive pay for, I would most respectfully submit that his application be disapproved," concluded Holloway.

Jacksonville Fla
December 30th 1864

Bric. Genl. E. J. Scammon,
1st Mendg Dist of Florida,
General.

In relation to the application of W^m S. DELL, for payment for collecting and driving a lot of Cattle to St Augustine Fla, I have the honor to state that I have seen four papers made by as many different parties, each purporting to give the number and marks & brands of said Cattle. No two of these agreed either as to the number or marks.

St Horsehouse certifies that one of them is correct, See accompanying paper marked "A" also one marked "B" which are two of those above referred to.

It is Mr DELL's interest to have as many of these Cattle rendered bearing the marks & Brands of Rebels, knowing that

he would not be paid for driving Loyal
men's stock. In this I am satisfied
he succeeded, both in regard to the lot
in question and one previously driven by
him.

Mr Delk was engaged about Twenty
eight days in driving Cattle, for which he
has already received Three Hundred
Dollars, and since it is impossible,
now, to ascertain what part of the lot in
question he should receive pay for, I would
most respectfully submit that his applica-
tion be disapproved.

I have the honor to be, General,
Very respectfully
Your obedient servant
R. L. Holloway.

Other than the above, little is known about Delk's activities for the remainder of the war.

After the war, Delk returned to Rock Springs and reclaimed his property. Delk continued to farm, while Robards and Frazier, who were now free men, bought their own land nearby under the Homestead Act and using the bounty money.

On June 9, 1868. Delk bought 120 acres for \$1.25 an acre through the Internal Improvement Fund but this sale was not recorded until after his death.

Delk, still clashing with his neighbors, was involved in bitter litigation to recover debts owed to him from James S. Hackney. Because of his Unionist sympathies, he did not think he could get a fair trial locally, so his case was moved to Putnam County where a jury awarded him \$884.60 damages.

Orange County Sheriff John Ivey was ordered to seize and sell 176 acres of Hackney's land to pay the judgment.

Delk likely married his wife Samantha in 1868/9. She was 31 years younger than him. They had two daughters, Nora born in 1869 and Martha in 1870.

1870 Page 6 of 7

300	257	Norris	Ida	5	F	W				
300	257	Norris	Julia	3	F	W				Mississippi
300	257	Norris	Andrew	4 mo.	M	W				Mississippi
301	258	Delk	William S.	56	M	W	Farmer	2000	1000	Florida
301	258	Delk	Samantha	25	F	W	Keeping House			Georgia
301	258	Delk	No name	10 mo.	F	W				Georgia
302	259	Bacon	Betty	40	F	B	Keeping House		50	Florida
302	259	Bacon	Nancy	16	F	B				Florida
303	260	Jenkins	Daniel	34	M	B	Farm Laborer		75	S. Carolina
303	260	Jenkins	Nealy	16	F	B				Florida
304	261	Smith	Judy	60	F	B	Keeping House		50	Georgia
305	262	Williams	Sarah	36	F	B	Keeping House		75	Georgia
305	262	Williams	Daniel	19	M	B				Florida
305	262	Williams	Samuel	13	M	B				Florida
305	262	Williams	William	10	M	B				Florida
305	262	Williams	Dink	5	M	B				Florida
306	263	Bisbee	Romeo	35	M	R	Farm Laborer			S. Carolina

YR: 1870 STATE: Florida COUNTY: Orange DIVISION: No. 17 PAGE: 447B
 ENCE: 4 Jul 1870 by: William B. Watson PO: Clay Spring

HN	FN	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	AGE	SEX	RACE	OCCUP.	REAL VAL.	PERS VAL.	BIRTHPLACE	FOREIGN FATHER
306	263	Bisbee	Harriett	30	F	B	Keeping House	200	50	Georgia	
306	263	Bisbee	Stepany	15	M	B				Florida	
306	263	Bisbee	Tobey	12	M	B				Florida	
306	263	Bisbee	Edith	9	M	B				Florida	

Extract from the 1870 Federal Census of Orange County listing William S. Delk, 56, wife Samantha, 25, and unnamed baby, 10 months old.

In October 1880, Delk and two other men – his freed slave Anthony Frazier and James Madison - were also appointed Orange County Road Commissioners to supervise the building of a public road from Rock Springs to the Hawkinsville Road intersection.

James Madison

James Madison was born in Mississippi in 1845, the son of Isaac Ware (born in 1830 in South Carolina), and presumably born a slave. Little is known of his early life but by the early 1850s, James was living in Florida. His half-sisters Nancy, born 1854, and Neily (or Nealy), born about 1854 were both born in Florida. Their mother was Hettie Bacon, black, who was born in Georgia about 1828. According to the 1870 U. S. Census, Isaac Ware, a farmer, was living in Enterprise and Jincy Ware, aged 30, is listed as his “supposed” wife. She was too young to have been James’ mother. At that time, Hetty was living near Clay Springs as was James, and they both list their address as the Post Office, Clay Springs. James is listed as a farm laborer although subsequent Censuses list him as self-employed trading in wood.

Hetty married Isaac Ware on Christmas Day, 1876. His date of death is not known while Hetty died in Sorrento, Lake County in 1915.

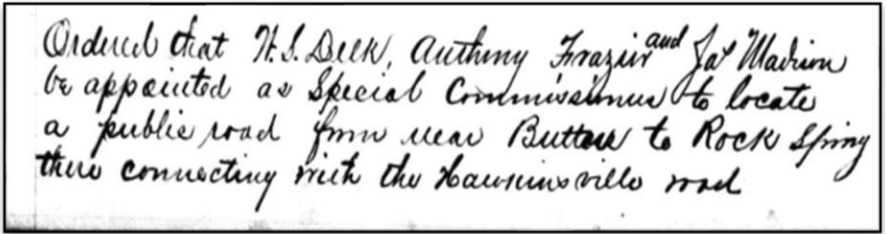
On May 16, 1880, James married Annie born in North Carolina in 1856, and the 1880 U.S. Census lists him as ‘mulatto’. Their address, according to the 1890 U.S. Census is given as St. Claire Avenue, Sorrento, Lake County.

James and Annie had six children: Naomi, born in 1883, Robert Lucius born 1885, James L. born 1888, Elwood, born 1888, Johnnie W. born 1892, and Joseph, born 1895.

In 1880 James, along with William Delk and Anthony Frazier, was appointed a Special Commissioner for Roads in Orange County.

From 1882 James and Annie bought and sold many parcels of land. There are 31 deeds of sale recorded in the Orange County archives, most of them in the 1880s. Two are of special interest because on November 9, 1885, he bought 120 acres of land from Anthony Frazier, and on March 13, 1887, he sold a plot to Samantha Delk, widow of William (the acreage and price is not listed). One of his last transactions was on September 14, 1918, when he sold land to the Wilson Cypress Company.

James died in Eustis, Lake County, in 1931.



Ordered that N.S. Deek, Anthony Frazier and J.A. Madrim be appointed as Special Commissioners to locate a public road from near Buttons to Rock Spring thus connecting with the Hainsville road

From the handwritten minutes of the Orange County Commissioners Meeting, October 4, 1880

Roads in the 1880s were a far cry from those of today but it was the duty of the appointed Road Commissioners to “locate and prepare the roads”, and then to keep these public highways in good repair.

If there were complaints about the state of the road, the Commissioners responsible could be reported to the State Attorney and prosecuted for not maintaining them.

In rural areas, road building usually involved cutting down trees and filling holes with sand to create a route that horses and ox carts could pass through.

Until 1896, the specifications for work on public roads read: “Keep clear palmetto and other roots, trees, bushes, etc., for a width of eight feet. Low ways to be causewayed, poles 16 ft long, well covered with dirt. Sand kept off bridges.”

Delk died at home in 1885 aged 70, leaving his estate to his second wife Samantha. She settled the estate on June 11, 1885, recording the Marion County warrant property for the first time and the sale of Rock Springs to Josiah C. Phillips for \$14,000 cash.

The deed of sale to Josiah Phillips was the first known official record of the Rock Springs property and it describes in detail the location of his estate. Although Delk bought and sold land, he rarely recorded it and there was no record of his Rock Springs purchase until after his death.

His widow had to sort out his affairs and record his property transactions for probate purposes.

This Indenture, made in Orlando on the 15th day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty three BETWEEN Josiah Phillips of Orange and Phillips his wife of the County of Orange and State of Florida William S Delk of the first part, and Samuel County of the State of Florida of the second part, WITNESSETH that the said part 1 of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of fourteen thousand dollars Dollars, lawful money of the United States of America, to him in hand paid by the said part 2 of the second part, at or before the unsealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have granted, bargained, sold, aliened, remised, released, conveyed and confirmed, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, alien, remise, release, convey and confirm unto the said part 2 of the second part, and their heirs and assigns, forever, all and singular the certain piece parcel or lot of land situate and lying and being in the County of Orange and State of Florida described as follows: To wit

the South East Quarter of South East Quarter of Section Ten (10) of Township Fourteen (14) and South East Quarter of the North East Quarter of the North East Quarter of Section Fifteen (15) in Township Twenty (20) South of Range Twenty Eight (28) East, the South West Quarter of South East Quarter of Section Ten (10) and North half of North East Quarter of Section 15 Township Twenty (20) South of Range Eight (8) East and all of the North East Quarter of North West Quarter of Section Fifteen (15) Township Twenty (20) South of Range Eight (8) East (with except the square of Ten (10) acres in the South East corner corner of said last mentioned Quarter and the South East Quarter of South West Quarter of Section Ten (10) Township Twenty (20) South of Range Eight (8) East

The indenture recording the sale of Rock Springs to Josiah Phillips for \$14,000.

From records, it seems that Delk sold his Rock Springs property to Phillips in 1881 but retained ten acres on which he lived for the remaining years of his life.

This Indenture made this Third day of August
in the year of our Lord One thousand Eight hundred and Eighty
one between William S. Delk and Samantha Delk his
wife of the County of Craighead State of Florida parties of the
first part and Jacob P. Phillips party of the second part
resident of the same County and State Witnesseth that the said
party of the first part for and in consideration of the sum
of twelve thousand Five hundred dollars To him in hand
paid by the said party of the second part at and before the executing
and delivery of these presents the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged has bargained sold aliened granted conveyed and
confirmed and by these presents does bargain sell alien grant
convey and confirm unto the said party of the second part his
heirs and assigns forever all that certain parcel of Land
located situate and being in the County of Craighead and State
of Florida known as Rock Spring and described as follows
to wit the

SE 1/4 of SE 1/4 Sec 10 of the SW 1/4 of Sec 14 and
SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Sec 15 in T 20 S of
R 28 E. The SW 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Sec 10 of N 1/2 of the NE 1/4
Sec 15 T 20 S of R 28 E. The SE 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Sec 10 T 20
S of R 28 E. The NE 1/4 of NW 1/4 of Sec 15 T 20 S of R
28 E

Together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments
and appurtenances thereto belonging or in anywise appertaining
unto and all the estate right title interest property, possession
claim and demand whatsoever as well in law as in equity of the
said party of the first part and to that to be described premises and
every part and parcel thereof to have and to hold the above granted
bargained and described premises with the appurtenances unto
the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns forever and his
own premises benefit and to have forever and the said party of
the first part for his heirs, executors and administrators do hereby
covenant with the said party of the second part his heirs
and assigns that at the time of the delivery hereof the said party of
the first part was and is the lawful owner of the premises above
granted and signs thereof in full simple absolute that they are

free from all Encumbrances that the said party of the first part
 has good right to sell and convey the same to the said party of
 the second part as aforesaid and that the said party of the
 first part his Executors and administrators the above described
 and assented promised and conveyed and parcel thereof
 with the appurtenances unto the said party of the second part
 his heirs and assigns against the said party of the first part
 and his heirs and against all and every person or persons whom
 it may lawfully claim or to claim the same shall and
 will warrant and by them presents forever defend. In Witness
 Whereof the said party of the first part has hereunto set their
 hands and affixed their seals the day and year first above written

Witness my hand
 and seal
 this 3rd day of August
 1881

William S Deek
 Sawaantha Deek
 State of Florida
 County of Orange

Local
 Seal

I know all men by their presents
 that I Sawaantha Deek wife of W S Deek Grantor in the foregoing
 deed conveying real estate for and in consideration of the sum
 in said deed mentioned and of One dollar to me in hand paid by
 Josiah C Phillips Trustee and said deed mentioned
 the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged have since released
 relinquished renounced and by their presents do remise release
 relinquish waive and forever quit claim unto the said
 Josiah C Phillips all my down and right of dower in and
 to the lands in the foregoing deed mentioned and conveyed
 to have and to hold the same unto the said Josiah C Phillips
 his heirs and assigns forever and I do hereby acknowledge
 that I do the same freely and voluntarily and with
 out any compulsion constraint or apprehension or fear
 of or from my said husband In Witness Whereof I have
 hereunto set my hand and seal this 3rd day of August

Witness my hand
 and seal
 this 3rd day of August
 1881

Jos R Miles
 Sawaantha Deek
 State of Florida
 County of Orange

that on this 3rd day of August AD 1881 personally
 came before me an acting Notary Public Sawaantha
 Deek wife of William S Deek and upon an

Delk was buried in Apopka, next to the memorial for his son. Years later, Robards recounted that “it was a miserable death and a pathetic funeral. I was living in Sorrento where I had homesteaded a piece of land.”

He said when he heard of Delk’s death “I came here and put the old man in a rough box, the best we could do, and the body was taken to Apopka and buried in a small cemetery there.”

It is not known why Delk’s funeral was such a pathetic and miserable affair. He had sold his land shortly before and should have been in receipt of significant funds. The payment, however, might have been delayed until after the deeds were filed and that was after Delk’s death.



Delk’s headstone which mistakenly lists his age as 72

At least two of Delk's freed slaves also became landowners. Frazier bought 160 acres of land in what is now Neighborhood Lakes and over the next forty years bought and sold many parcels of land in the area (see Anthony Frazier below).

Robards settled in Sorrento and then farmed 10 acres near Mount Dora. He visited Rock Springs in 1926 with Mr. Wm. Edwards and Mr. A. M. Hall, editor of the Apopka Chief, to whom he related his life story. It was published in the Apopka Chief of May 13, 1926.

Mr. Hall relates that Robards "stood by the spring with bared head and chanted this greeting and farewell: Best greetings, Mr. Rock, Howdedo Mr. Spring! From whence you come, I do not know, from whence you came in the beginning. And whence do you flow, we do not know. Blessing for years you have continued to bring. Wherefore you are known as Old Rock Spring. For, lo, many years did I here remain. This you may know, it is old friend Joe, who worked here so long, midst sorrow and woe. Good night, old spring, forever."

Aunt Betty

On November 2, 1909, the Jacksonville Times-Union newspaper reported on the death of "Aunt Betty" Reese, at the age of 109. In the Sorrento news section and under the headline "Old Slavery Woman Dead", the paper reported: "Aunt Betty Reese is dead at the ripe old age of 109".

"The colored people with their little ones will gather today at the funeral from many miles around, for the descendants of Aunt Betty, to the fourth and fifth generations were very thickly scattered over the four counties of Orange, Lake, Marion, and Sumter.

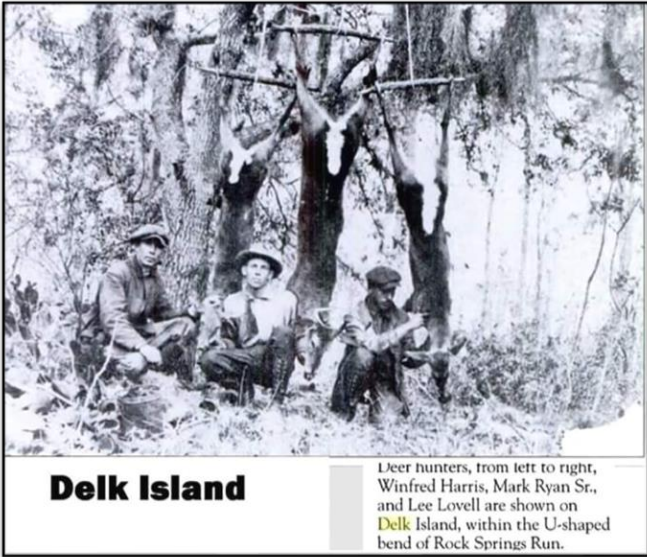
“A famous mother in the colored Israel was Aunt Betty. Despite her advanced years, she was wonderfully active till within a week of her death. Her hearing and eyesight never seemed to be out of repair in the least. Aunt Betty was born on a plantation in Southern Georgia about the time Thomas Jefferson entered into his first time as president.

“When a young married slave with five children she and her whole family were sold to the notorious planter, Delk, whose large Florida estate rambled for many leagues around Rock Springs, five miles from one of the two sources for the Wekiva River.

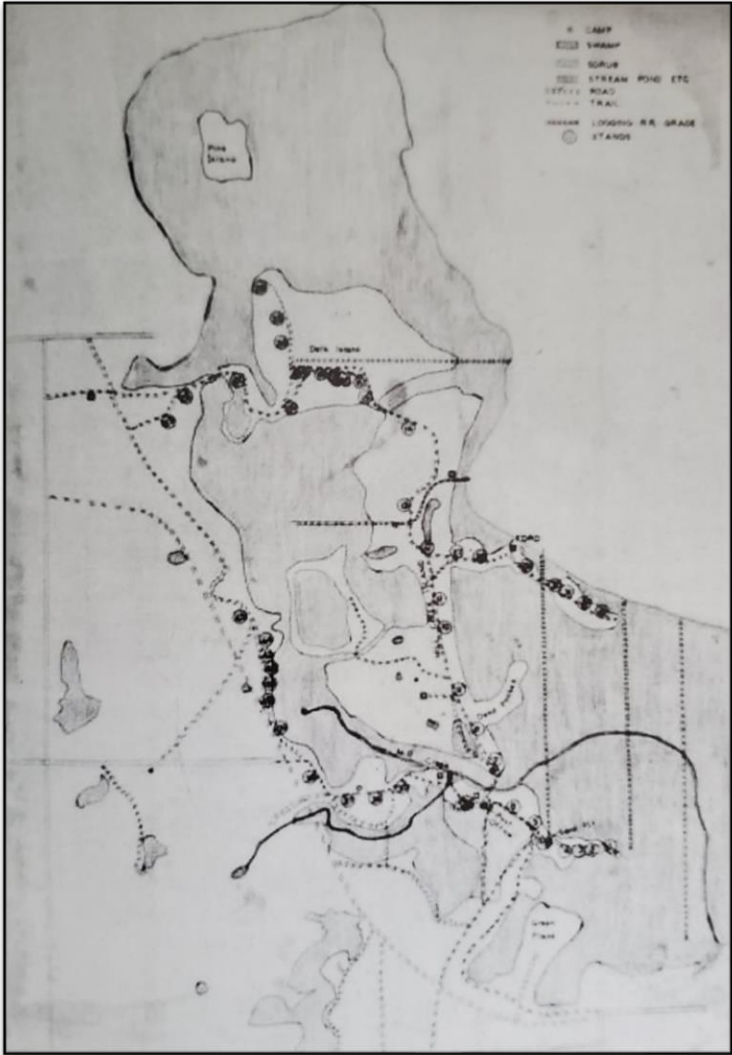
“When slavery days were over, Betty and her brood moved to a secluded spot about three miles northwest of Sorrento and named it Island Pond, where they formed a settlement and where the old woman lived out the balance of her days. Two of her grandsons are nearly 70. As to her great and great-great grandchildren they quit trying to count them long ago.”

Delk Island

The higher ground that Delk Island and Pine Island afforded at the north end of the spring run, were popular spots with hunters.



(Source. Orlando Sentinel)



Hunter's map of Delk Island showing best positions for blinds. (Source. WSSP Archives)

Delk Island is across from King's Landing, named after landowner Elmer Stanton King, who was a member of the Apopka Sportsmen's Club. His grandfather, Murray S. King, designed the 1927 Orange County

Courthouse which is now home to the Orange County Regional History Center.

In the 1960s, realtor Gabrielle “Gaby” Gardener, bought the Landing site for a canoe rental business. When she became too ill to run the business (she died in 2007), she sold it to Bob and Steven Loomis in the early 2000s and they pledged to preserve King’s Landing for future generations.

The Landings was closed following the 2004 hurricane season when four major storms hit central Florida and destroyed the canoe launch area with much of the Run impassable because of fallen trees.

However, the landing area was restored and the debris in the river was finally removed and King’s Landing and Rock Springs Run today is one of the premier paddles in Florida.

Few people paddling down this quiet and beautiful scenic river today, however, have any idea that this was once a historic and prosperous plantation site.

Ethel

Ethel cemetery is all that remains of the once thriving farming township of Ethel in what is now Rock Springs Run State Reserve. The railroad arrived in 1886 with a 'flag' stop, so called because people would stand on the tracks and flag the train down if they wanted to board.

The railroad later built a platform on the southern side of the tracks to make it easier for people to get on and off. Local produce, especially citrus, was taken by cart to local markets or by train to further afield.

From combing through property deeds and records, we know that there were several sawmills in the area with a rail spur line from Ethel to at least one of the mills on what is now Cypress Mill Road which runs parallel and just north of SR 46.

Located east of County Road 433 (which is the road running through Rock Springs), Ethel cemetery is currently the oldest known cemetery in Lake County. Three grave markers, bearing four names, remain intact.

Just over a mile to the east was the small township of Wekiva, close to the river of the same name and not to be confused with Wekiwa Springs which at that time was called Clay Springs (until 1906), close to Apopka and Longwood, and the source of the Wekiva River.

Wekiva did not have either a school or cemetery and some of the people who lived there were buried at Ethel. Wekiva did have a ferry which was essential for travel in the area even after the arrival of the railway.



Wekiva ferry (Source. Florida Memory)

1890 ferry rates (before automobiles) were:

Three or four horses or oxen and team	\$1.00
Two horses or oxen and team	.75¢
One horse or ox and team	.40 ¢
Saddle horse and rider	.25 ¢
Foot passenger	.25 ¢
Cow, calf, sheep, goat, or hog	.10 ¢

Ethel was established in the 1860s mostly by people who obtained their land through the Homestead Act.

These land deeds were known as patents or grants. This area was then in Orange County but became part of the new Lake County which was created in 1887.

A June 1, 1887, article in the Jacksonville Times-Union newspaper, which was then the state newspaper, reported on a meeting in Sorrento on May 28. "The people in this vicinity are much agitated over the proposed division of Orange County.

"As it stands now, Sorrento will be in the new county of Lake. We are not at all pleased at the prospect of separating from old Orange but suppose we must submit to the inevitable.

"It will undoubtedly be a pull where to locate the county seat, Leesburg, Eustis, and Tavares all being the points to select from."

Population Growth

In 1840, Mosquito County, which included the present-day counties of Orange, Lake, Polk, Palm Beach, Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, Seminole and Osceola, had a population of 78. In 1844 it changed its name to Orange County and by 1850, the population had grown to 466. By 1860, it was 987, by 1870, 2195 and by 1880 it had reached 6,618. It almost doubled by 1890 to 12,584 but declined by 1900 to 11,374 following disastrous freezes which wiped out the citrus industry forcing many families to leave.

On December 29th, 1894, a massive cold front moved through the state. Temperatures logged in Orlando reached an all-time low of 18F. The freeze accompanied by icy winds lasted for three days. The bitter cold turned oranges black on the trees and destroyed most of the crop for the year. Many young trees died but mature ones survived.

There was a warm, wet spell the next January and the trees started to recover and put out new growth. Then, on February 7 another front moved through the state and temperatures fell to 17 degrees in some

areas. Orange, grapefruit, lemon and lime trees were frozen solid. In a single day, almost the entire orange and citrus industry in Florida was wiped out. Only trees in the southernmost part of the state survived.

Farmers were unable to pay their debts, packing houses closed and tens of thousands of farm workers lost their jobs. Land prices crashed and many families simply packed a few belongings and left their homes and livestock and traveled north to start a new life. In 1894 the orange industry was producing around six million boxes of fruit a year. After the Great Freeze, as it became known, production was down to about 100,000 boxes a year and it took the industry years to recover.

In 1890 the population of Lake County which included Ethel was 8,034 but again this had declined by 1900 to 7,467. At that time, the population of Sorrento, the nearest township was 383 and may have included those living in Ethel and Wekiva.

Homesteading

People who bought property under the Homestead Act were required to farm the land for five years (unless they were a Civil War veteran, and if so, they had to only work it for three years) and build their own home on it.

Most of these homes were primitive affairs, often one room cabins built from felled trees and some as small as ten feet by 12 feet. A condition of the Homestead Act was that the cabin must be at least 12 feet by 14 feet.

When the settlers arrived on their land with their few belongings, they would set up camp. They would make a small A-frame shelter from cypress saplings or pine branches covered with palm fronds or erect a

tent among the pines. Snakes, lizards, and roaches would also make their homes in the thatch of the shelter. At night they would have to contend with wolves, panthers, bears, bobcats, and other wild animals.



A palm frond thatched shelter. Source. Florida Memory

Then, they would choose the best location for their cabin and start to clear the land. Large oak trees would be spared to provide shade for the cabin. Pine trees had to be felled and hauled to the site and then shaped by hand. Cabins were usually built facing east to take advantage of early morning sunlight and warmth, and easterly breezes. This orientation also helped keep the logs dry and prevent the wood rotting so fast.

Cabins were built using an axe, crosscut saw, and an adze. The axe felled the trees and hacked off the branches, the saw was used to cut the logs to size, and the adz was used to make the notches in the logs.

Sand from the river was used to make large bricks on which the log walls would rest to prevent them from rotting by keeping them off the ground.

Sand and clay from the river would be mixed with water, tightly pressed into molds, and left in the sun for two or three days to dry. The brick would shrink in the mold, so more mixture was added, tightly packed down and then left in the sun to dry for up to a week. The bricks would then be soaked in water to absorb as much moisture as possible and

then left in the sun to dry from within. This ensured a brick that would last a long time.

The trees were hand-hewn into logs which were used for walls and floors, although early cabins floors were bare earth. The walls were often 15 logs high, alternating large logs with smaller ones. Notches were carved near the end of each log so that logs from adjoining walls interlocked into one another in each of the corners - like Lincoln logs. Gaps between logs were filled with mud and leaves. This made for a very rigid structure which would have withstood very high winds.

The roof was covered with large cedar tiles loosely laid on cedar trusses to allow ventilation. Sometimes flat wooden boards were nailed to the interior walls, but this was an additional cost because the prepared wood would have to be bought from a local sawmill.

Once the walls were built, openings for a door and window had to be sawed out. If there was a window, it would face south for morning warmth and light from the sun.

It would be covered with greased paper or burlap to provide some sort of weather proofing and to keep insects out. Glass was too expensive and broke too easily, Quilts were often used to cover doorways in early cabins. Later, doors made with boards would be used, hung with leather hinges.



Finley Belshazar Click outside his first cabin, Ethel c. late 1880s.

The first homes at Ethel were one-room log cabins but as families grew, cabins were extended, or new ones built nearby. Around the end of the 19th century, cabins had two or more rooms, one used as a kitchen with a cooking area and for eating and the other as a bedroom, although in large families, the children would sleep on rugs on the kitchen floor. At the beginning of the 20th century, two-story homes were being constructed.

Building techniques also changed, and instead of horizontal logs, new cabins were built using vertical boards from timber cut at a nearby sawmill. If the settler could haul his felled trees to the mill, he could get them cut for a reduced price. In the first decade of the 20th century, Ethel also saw the construction of two-story homes.



Cabin construction using notched log. Source: Florida Memory



Click's second cabin built around c. 1910 with the old cabin behind



Margaret and Finley Click outside their second cabin c. 1912

The early cabin construction, using notched logs that locked them all in position, meant extremely solid structures. There were numerous hurricanes throughout the 19th century, but homestead cabins were built to withstand them.

The worst two hurricanes of the century both passed across central Florida. The first was on September 7, 1844, when there was almost no settlement in central Florida. The second was on August 29, 1880, when a Category 2 hurricane made landfall just south of Cocoa Beach. It crossed over central Florida and exited land near Cedar Key. It was responsible for at least 68 deaths and many shipwrecks.

While the cabin construction was not complicated it took time. Apart from building a home, settlers had to clear an area for a garden, and plant crops because they needed food.

Cedar trees were plentiful, but it took time to fashion shingles and a cabin's roof may need 500 or more. While the shingles were being made, the roof might have been thatched with palmetto fronds. It could take up to a year or more before the family was able to move into their new home, and after that, it was then a constant round of repairs and improvements.



Finley B. Click and his wife Maggie, outside his second cabin, Ethel, 1912. Source for all Click photographs. Frankie "Maxwell" Goebel, his great granddaughter, and Porter Click, her cousin, whose great, great father was Finley's brother.



A different view of Click's second cabin with the old cabin in the foreground to the left. He has a rifle over his shoulder and is obviously doing some repairs. There are several hides hanging over the fence of the closure to dry.



The breezeway or airway through the cabin funneled any wind through the middle of the house, and separated the parent's bedroom from the main room where the children would have slept or separated the main

living area from the kitchen. Behind the cabin above is a fenced area for the animals and to the right of the cabin an outside shed or animal coop.



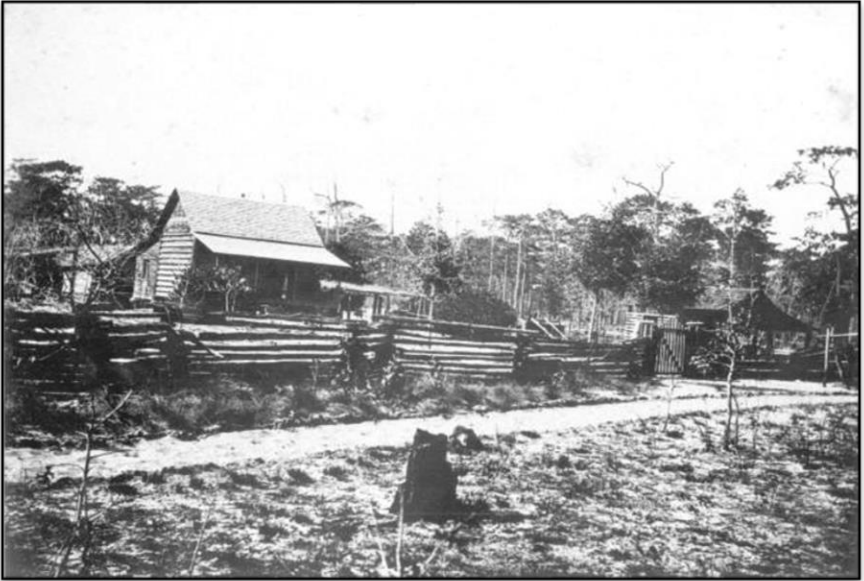
Finley Click clearing his land at Ethel.



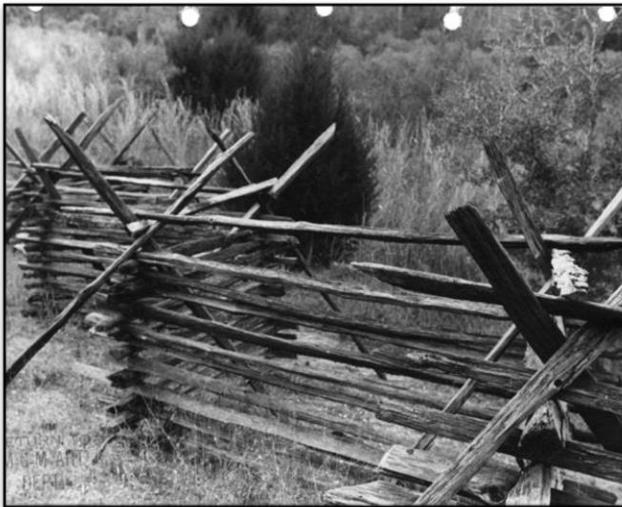
A typical homesteaders cabin c.1890. This photo (courtesy of Florida Memory) shows a cabin built in south Florida.



A typical rural settlement in the late 19th century. Source: Florida Memory



A typical homestead cabin and outbuildings with animal enclosure. Source: Florida Memory



Typical fence for animal enclosure. Source: Florida Memory

Settlers would often fashion their own furniture from wood – beds, tables, and chairs. Oak was used for the chair frames and the seat would be made of woven cane.

Once the cabin was built, the settlers would continue to make improvements, and as their families grew, the cabins would be extended or replaced by a bigger structure. The original cabin would then be used as a storehouse or given to a son on their marriage.

If rope was not available, they would use natural materials to make cordage. Strips of palm fronds braided together make a strong rope.

Early settlers would cook outside because of the danger of fire inside the small wooden structures. Later cabins would have brick chimneys to vent smoke from either an open fire or a wood burning stove. Cast iron wood burning stoves were available but too expensive for most early homesteaders.

Close to the cabin would be an enclosure for livestock with hollowed-out logs used for feed and water troughs. The animals would be allowed to graze freely during the day but would be rounded up at night and corralled for protection against predators.

Trees around the cabin would be felled. This cleared the ground for farming, allowed more sun to penetrate the cabin which helped warm it and made it less damp, and it also reduced the risk to the cabin from wildfires caused by lightning strikes, a constant hazard.

The log cabins were scattered among clearings in the trees. Each cabin stood on its own land which had been cleared for crops and a vegetable garden. Corn, squashes (mostly pumpkins) and beans were popular as they only had to be planted once. Sweet potatoes were also a staple.

A plot was cleared, seeds were sown, and the corn, beans and squash would continue to produce year after year if they got enough water and manure.

Later, the more adventurous homesteaders would plant orange groves with peach trees planted between the orange trees for added income. When the railroad arrived, more fruit was planted – lemons, grapefruit, pears, plums, and guavas - because it was able to get to markets further afield before rotting. Pineapples, strawberries, grapes and even olives were also grown as cash crops.

The first post-Civil War settlers at Ethel were the Moore family - William and Charlotte and their three sons, who arrived from eastern Georgia in the late 1860s. They had acquired 360 acres which they planned to farm.

The life did not suit the two eldest sons who soon returned to Georgia and raised families there, but Newton, the youngest son, stayed with his parents, and they all spent the rest of their lives at Ethel.

The family continued to acquire nearby land. William expanded his holdings with land grants in 1875 and 1878, and Newton acquired a large adjacent tract with an 1882 land grant.

William donated a site in the northwest corner of his 1878 land grant for the cemetery in 1880. No official record of any transfer of property has been found although the donated site is mentioned in later deeds.

The exact size of the cemetery is not known but it is thought to have been one acre with the western side following the section line.

In the 1920's there were said to be so many graves, according to reports from residents at the time, that it was difficult to dig a new grave without coming across an old one.

The Moore's quickly acquired neighbors, and most became farmers, raising row crops, citrus, grapes, melons, peaches, and farm animals such as cattle, goats, sheep, chickens, and hogs.

Two breeds of cows were preferred – Florida cracker cattle and the smaller Guinea cows. They were descended from the first cattle brought over by the Spanish in 1565, and wild herds used to roam Florida.

Both breeds could withstand Florida's heat and could survive on low quality grazing. They were raised for meat, milk, and draft work.

Others were farm laborers according to early census's working for large landowners, especially in the citrus groves. The local timber mills and cattle farms also provided employment. The township also had its craftsmen – carpenters, machinists, and wood cutters.

The population grew again after the railroad was built with people working for the railroad company and in the logging, timber, and turpentine industries and in the booming citrus market. The railroad allowed fruit to be shipped quickly to much bigger and more distant markets.

William and Charlotte were buried in the same plot in Ethel cemetery and their headstone remains. William was buried in 1882 and his wife Charlotte was buried alongside him in 1883 when his headstone was replaced with a new double headstone. Newton was buried in 1889 at Ethel but his grave site is unknown although it is assumed that it would have been close to his parents.

As Ethel was a relatively isolated community it was common for the young adults of one family to marry the young adults of a neighboring family and there are many instances of this.

Newton Moore married Laura Emma Kirkland and they had two daughters, both of whom died before 1900 and both of whom were buried at Ethel. So far twenty-nine confirmed burials have been documented at Ethel.

On June 13, 1884, a legal transcription was recorded between Newton G. Moore and Laura E. Moore, his wife, and Mrs. M. A. Bull, a widow, concerning property where Ethel Cemetery is located.

The indenture recorded the sale of 159 acres of land for \$8,000 and specifically excepted one acre, which is the site of the cemetery.

The area was described as “the SW quarter of the NW quarter of Section 32, the East one half of the NE quarter and the SW quarter of the NE quarter of Section 31 in Township 19 South of Range 29 East, with the exception of one acre lying in the Northwest corner of the NE quarter of the NE quarter of said Section 31.”

The agreement was recorded in Book 15, pages 147 and 148 of Orange County, Florida, records.

This suggested that the cemetery covered one acre.

The source of the name Ethel is not known but the township is believed to have been given that name when the Sanford-Lake Eustis Railway arrived in 1886. The first map to show the name of Ethel was published in 1888 by the Land Department of the South Florida R.R. Co. and the Plant Investment Co. Locals would often refer to the township as Ethel Station.

Two years earlier, on January 29, 1884, a post office opened in the settlement with the official name of Moody Post Office, according to the Post Office Department in Washington D.C.

The application to open the post office was approved on January 16, 1884.

The application was submitted by A. Thompson. (A Mrs. Nathaniel Thompson, born 1849 and died January 22, 1894, was buried in Ethel Cemetery).

his Department, addressed to me. The contractor should be informed of this application; and if the proposed office be off the mail route, you will forward his certificate as to the practicability of supplying it, in the event of the increase of distance. If the proposed office is not on any route now under contract, it can only be established as a "Special Office," to be supplied without expense to the Department other than net proceeds. Be careful to designate the post offices by their true official names; and answer the subjoined queries fully: or the case will not be acted upon.

Very respectfully,

FRANK HATTON,
First Assistant Postmaster General

Postmaster of Sorrento, who will please forward to him.

STATEMENT.

Proposed office to be called Chippie Moody

Select a short name for the proposed office, which, when written, will not resemble the name of any other post office in the United States.

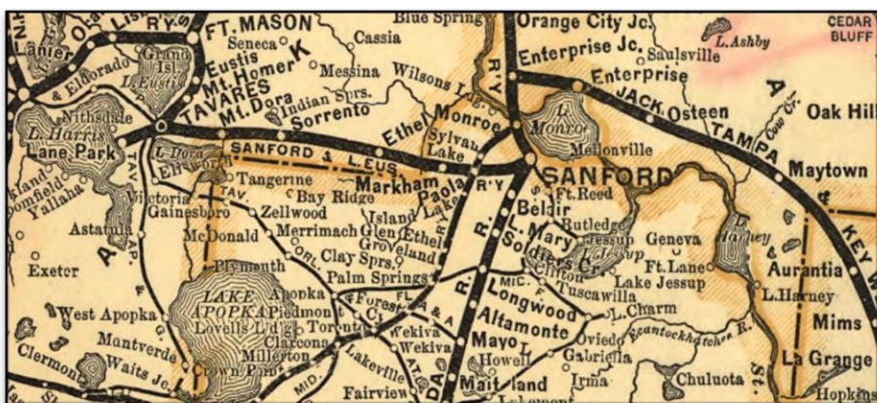
Post Office Records, Washington D.C.

The post office application was probably submitted knowing that the railroad was coming. The post office’s proposed location was described as NW Section 30, Township 19 south and Range 29 in the county of Orange on the route between Sanford and Eustis which carried mail three times a week.

The nearest post offices, according to the filing, were Sorrento, six miles to the west, and Sylvan Lakes, six miles to the east. Bent was listed as the nearest flag station, 10 miles away. The new post office would provide service for “about 68 people”, Thompson wrote.

The applicant was also required to provide a name for the new post office. The instruction on the application read: “Select a short name for the proposed office which, when written, will not resemble the name of any other post office in the United States.

In response to this question Thompson first wrote in the name Chi--co, (undecipherable middle letter) but crossed this out and replaced it with Moody, and that is how Moody became the name of the post office. It operated from January 29, 1884, to August 25, 1889, when services were transferred to Sorrento.



The first map to show Ethel, printed in 1888. (Source. South Florida Railroad Co.)

The railroad arrived in 1886 and the line was completed in February 1887. The township was given the name of Ethel and in 1887 Ethel became part of the new Lake County. The post office closed on August 25, 1889, when service transferred to Sorrento.

A second post office was established on May 17, 1890, and operated until September 7, 1900, when services were discontinued and transferred to Paola.



Post Office Department,

OFFICE OF THE FIRST ASSISTANT P. M. GENERAL,

WASHINGTON, D. C., Apr 28 1890

Sir: Before the Postmaster General decides upon the application for the establishment of a post office at Ethel, Florida, County of Osceola, it will be necessary for you to carefully answer the subjoined questions, get a neighboring postmaster to certify to the correctness of the answers, and return the location paper to the Department, addressed to me. If the site selected for the proposed office should not be on any mail route now under contract, only a "Special Office" can be established there, to be supplied with mail from some convenient point on the nearest mail route by a special carrier, for which service a sum equal to two-thirds of the amount of the salary of the postmaster at such office will be paid by the Department.

You should inform the contractor, or person performing service for him, of this application, and require him to execute the inclosed certificate as to the practicability of supplying the proposed office with mail, and return the same to the Department.

Very respectfully,

J. S. Clarkson, First Ass't Postmaster General.

To Mr. E. A. Thompson, care of the Postmaster of Markham, who will please forward to him.

STATEMENT.

The proposed office to be called Ethel

Select a short name for the proposed office, which, when written, will not resemble the name of any other post office in the State.

It will be situated in the S.E. quarter of Section 30, Township 19, Range 22, in the County of Lake, State of Florida. It will be on or near route No. 1, being the route from Lake to Markham, on which the mail is now carried 2 times per week. Will it be directly on this route? Yes. If not, how far from it? 1/2 mi. If not on any route, is a "Special Office" wanted? Yes. To be supplied from Markham. The name of the nearest office to the proposed one, on one side, is Markham, 3 miles in a E. direction from the proposed office. The name of the nearest office, on the other side, is Barriere, 2 1/2 miles in a W. direction from the proposed office. The name of the other nearest office to the proposed one is Lake Park, 4 1/2 miles in a N. direction from the proposed office. The name of the most prominent river near it is Markham. The name of the nearest creek is Black Water. The proposed office will be 1/2 mi. from said river, on the West side of it, and will be 3 miles from said nearest creek, on the South side. The name of the nearest railroad is S. F. & W. R. R. If on the line of or near a railroad, on which side will the office be located? how far from the track? and what is, or will be, name of the station? South side, 300 feet, Ethel. If it be a village, state the number of inhabitants. 25. Also, the population to be supplied by the proposed office. 40.

A diagram, or sketch from a map, showing the position of the proposed new office, with neighboring river or creek, roads, and post offices, towns, or villages near it, will be useful, and is therefore desired. A correct map of the locality might be furnished by the county surveyor, but this must be without expense to the Post Office Department.

ALL WHICH I CERTIFY to be correct and true, according to the best of my knowledge and belief, this 28th day of May, 1890. Ezequiel A. Thompson Proposed P.

I CERTIFY that I have examined the foregoing statement, and that it is correct and true, to the best of my knowledge and belief. Geo. Arthur Lyman, Postmaster of Markham.

(OVER.)

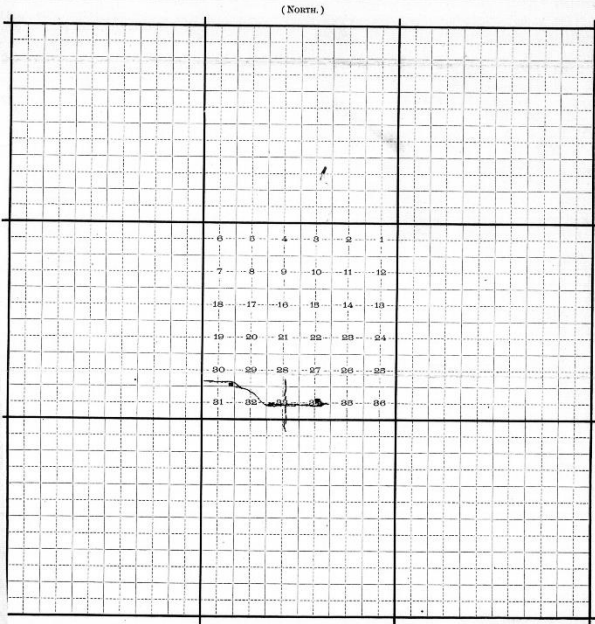
Be careful to answer the inquiries fully and accurately, or the case will not be acted upon.

Post Office application submitted April 28, 1890. Source: U.S.P.S.

Diagram showing the site of the Ethel Post Office,
 in Township 19 (N. or S.), Range (E. or W.) of _____ Principal
 Meridian, County of Lake State
 of Florida, with the adjacent Townships and Post Offices.

Ethel, Florida

It is requested that the exact site of the proposed or existing Post Office, as also the roads to the adjoining offices, and the larger streams or rivers, be marked on this diagram, to be returned as soon as possible to the Post Office Department.



Scale 4 inch to the mile.

(SOUTH)

3-529

The Markham P. O. is in the S.W. corner of the N. E. 1/4, Sec 34, T. 19, S. R. 39 E

The new P. O. is in the S.E. corner of the S. E. 1/4, Sec 30, T. 19, S. R. 39, E.

East, & West line. Stamford, & Lake Eustis Div of J. T. & K. W. R.R.

North, & South line. Nechee River,

A very basic map showing the location of the Post Office that was submitted with the application, Source: U.S.P.S.

There were postal services at Wekiva between March 28, 1856, and March 29, 1867, from October 5, 1870, to June 6, 1876. And from August 11, 1887, to June 23, 1898, when services were transferred to Orlando. The last Wekiva Post Office operated from September 11, 1913, to February 15, 1920, when George M. Coates applied to locate the post office, to a site 600 feet from the Wekiva River and on the west side of it.

It would also be close to the Railroad, now part of the Atlantic Coast Line, and half a mile from the track. The application noted that the railroad station was named Wekiva and that the post office at Paola had closed.

The Sanford and Lake Eustis Railway ran from the station in Jasmine Avenue, Sanford west through Paola, Markham, Ethel, Wayland, Sorrento and Mount Dora to the town of Tavares on Lake Eustis, a distance of 28 miles. Construction began in Sanford in 1885 and was constructed to 4 ft 9 in gauge. It was the inspiration of Dr. J. N. Bishop, a physician and surgeon of Paola and Sanford. He was president of the railroad. The company didn't have its own rolling stock but charged others to use the line. It was originally operated by the Jacksonville, Tampa and Key West Railway Company and they bought the line in 1890.

In 1902 the railroad was sold to the Atlantic Coast Line and in 1976 it merged with the Seaboard Airline to form the Seaboard Coast Line. In 1915 there were two round trip passenger trains a day and in 1922 this was increased to four round trips daily and included freight cars. By 1949 the service was reduced to one round trip daily with no service on Sunday. The company abandoned the line between Paola and Sorrento in 1980 and abandoned the line between Paola and Sanford in 1983.

Tavares, Orlando and Atlantic Railroad.

(LAID WITH SIXTY POUND STEEL RAIL).

*Running through the most thickly settled and beautiful section of
Orange County.*

SOLID THROUGH TRAINS,

IN CONNECTION WITH THE F. R. & N. COMPANY.

SLEEPERS ON ALL NIGHT TRAINS

Connecting at **TAVARES** with the

Sanford and Lake Eustis Division of J., T. & K. W., and St. Johns
and Lake Eustis Division of Florida Southern, Connect-
ing at Orlando with the South Florida R. R. for

TAMPA AND HAVANA,

SANFORD, BARTOW AND CHARLOTTE HARBOR,

And all Intermediate Stations.

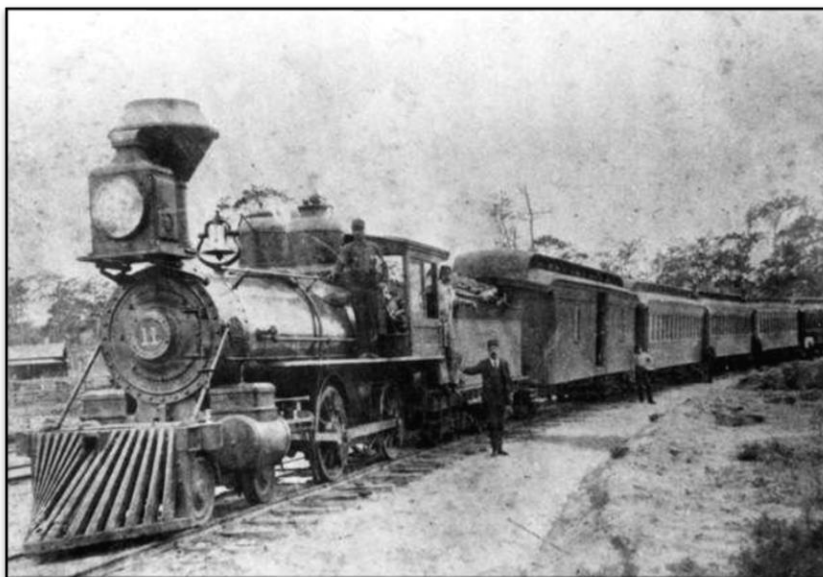
T. M. T. McKENNAN, Supt., - - ORLANDO, FLA.

For Schedule see Time Tables.

30

Ethel station was called a 'flag' stop because passengers simply stepped on to the rails and flagged the train down. Later a short platform was built on the south side of the track.

The early train engines were wood burning, and they would pick up cut wood at Ethel. At some point, the railroad switched from narrow gauge to standard gauge. The tracks were taken out in 1980, and the raised rail bed is all that remains along the north side of Ethel Drive.



Traveling by train was not for the fainthearted. Trains frequently derailed or their boilers exploded. They were very noisy, and they belched out black smoke which contained hot ashes and cinders which rained down on passengers leaving them with sooty faces and burn holes in their clothes. Trains were also responsible for killing large numbers of cattle and wild animals that had wandered onto the tracks.

Trains could, however, travel at 20 miles an hour or more, twice the speed of a horse and buggy. They were also able to carry freight and produce, and by the end of the 19th century there was a network of railroads throughout the region. By 1890, there was more than 200,00 miles of track across the country.

The scattered Ethel community grew up around a commissary, or general store, that had belonged to a timber company. The post office would likely have been located inside the store. It burned down prior to 1916.

For bigger shopping expeditions before the arrival of the railroad, people would go by horse and ox cart to Sanford which would mean getting up

at 4 am and not returning home until the late evening. People would stop for lunch at Catfish Springs (believed to have been on the outskirts of Sanford and close to Lake Monroe) and then go into town to do their shopping.

Later they could also go by rail, but the trains did not run often, and the service was not always reliable.

The township was laid out in plots recorded in a plat. Ethel Drive was the main street with the railway running parallel with it and to the north. Ethel Drive ran past the commissary and there was a track leading from it to the cemetery. The school was just off Ethel Road to the east of the station.

It is not known if there were other 'streets' other than sand tracks between the homesteads. The Historic Ethel Trail does follow two trails which would have been in use back then, one runs from Ethel Road about half a mile east of the station and leads to the cemetery and the other runs from the cemetery back to Ethel Road, about half a mile west of the station. These three trails form a triangle around what would have been the center of Ethel taking in the store, post office, school and station.

Families were large because there was no birth control and the larger the family, the more people there were to help with household chores, growing crops, tending livestock, foraging, fishing, and hunting.

Life expectancy, however, was not good, especially for children. There was little access to local doctors and medicine. Many women died in childbirth, babies succumbed to ailments and diseases such as yellow fever, measles, chicken pox, whooping cough, trench mouth, milk fever, smallpox, typhoid, influenza, diphtheria, tetanus, worms, and malaria killed many.

When a son married and if he was able to, he would buy a plot next to the family homestead or receive some land from his family. Family and

neighbors would help the new landowner build his cabin once he had cut the logs for it.

If the families could afford it, the son would on his wedding receive a horse, saddle, and a cow, while the bride's family would provide bedding and kitchen items.

As soon as they could shoot, boys would be given a rifle as game hunting was an important way of putting food on the table.

Ethel Drive was originally going to be named McDonald Road, after a New York businessman who had bought a lot of land in the area and ran a small newspaper, however, the locals successfully petitioned for it to be called Ethel Drive. Just north of SDR 46, however, this is a road called Old McDonald Road.



A typical sand road through the pines. Source: Florida Memory.



Another sand road through the pines. Source: Florida Memory

Life in Ethel

Life in Ethel was hard, and the people had to be very resilient. They were hardworking, versatile pioneers and they had to quickly learn to live off the land and use what it provided. Country people worked from dawn to dusk and even in towns, people with jobs worked 10-12 hours a day, six days a week.

A trip into town was a full day's journey and money was always in short supply. Families would often club together to make shopping lists so that supplies could be bought for all when someone had to go into town.



Homesteader returning with supplies. Source: Florida Memory

Each family member had a specific role to play as part of everyday life.

The mother's job was to make sure that everything ran smoothly. She oversaw household chores and cooking. When she was not cooking meals, she might be canning fruit or vegetables, or sewing clothes for the family. For work clothes they might make aprons out of cloth sacks, dresses out of cotton sacks, and use the thick skins of gourds for buttons. Nothing was wasted.

Clothes were washed in large cast iron pots suspended above a wood fire.

She would make brooms from straw, candles and soap from animal fat and lye, spin yarn and weave, take care of the vegetable garden and look after the chickens. She would also act as a teacher instructing the

younger children who were not attending school. Moreover, the mother would likely either be pregnant or nursing a newborn.

The father's job was to clear the land and build a home and then keep it in good repair. While the mother and children would weed the vegetable garden, it was the father's job to plow the land and sow crops. With his eldest boys he would also hunt, trap and fish for food.

The nearest water sources were the Wekiva River to the east and Rock Springs Run to the west, both too far for convenience so the homesteaders would dig artesian wells and tap into the water table. They would also dig out hollows to create ponds to trap rainwater.

Children would all be assigned chores and be expected to perform them. The older children would attend the local one-room school and be expected to do all their chores before or after. What little free time they had would be spent swimming in the river or playing together outside. Boys and girls didn't play together. The girls would jump rope or play with home-made rag dolls.

Most clothing was homemade. Cotton and flax would be planted and harvested and then spun or woven into threads and cloth. Clothes would be dyed blue using indigo, brown from the bark of the blackjack and yellow from the cotton bloom. Aster blooms, gathered in the fall, produced a yellow dye, bayberry berries made a blue dye, red cedar root and cherry produced red dyes, dog fennel was used for a greenish-yellow color, and sumac for gray.

This cloth would also be used to make tablecloths, sheets, pillowcases, quilts, suits and shirts, socks, gloves, and sunbonnets.

Hats were woven from palmetto fronds and grasses, and pine needles were woven into thick floor rugs.

Shoes were a luxury, and most young children would go barefoot unless they were going to school or church.

Girls would learn to sew and practice by making their own dolls to play with. They would also assist their mother by looking after younger children.

Boys would spend time with their father learning how to hunt, fish and trap to provide for the family. They would also learn how to use an axe and saw and how to care for livestock.

They would hollow logs to make beehives, they would carve and fashion wood to make spinning wheels, looms, and chairs, tables, bedsteads, and other articles of furniture were usually hand made. Household implements were fashioned out of gourds, pieces of wood, and cow horns into spoons and dippers or hollowed into containers to store food. Cow horns would be boiled until soft and then shaped and cut into spoons and bowls. They would then be left to harden again.

Coal oil burning lanterns and candles were used indoors, dead cabbage palm fronds made excellent torches for moving around outside at night. They would be held by the stem and then lit and just before they burned out, another would be picked up from the ground and lit from the dying torch.

Hogs and cattle foraged in the woods. In the fall, the hogs would be fed on sweet potatoes and then slaughtered and smoked. The lard would be stored in large gourds for use during the winter months.

Most cabins would have a brine barrel in which meat could be preserved. The dead critter would be placed in the barrel and a large stone placed on it to submerge it under the brine. Brining kept the meat moister than drying and the solution prevented the growth of harmful organisms.

Some cattle would also be killed in the fall and their hides cleaned by using lye made from the ashes of oak and then tanned by being steeped in 'tan ooze' made from oak bark and water. The leather was then used to make homemade boots and shoes, using lasts made from black gum. Deer skins were used for shoes and belts.

Most settlers also had dogs which were used for hunting and protecting livestock at night. Their barking would alert homesteaders of predators or approaching people.

The more prosperous might have a marshtackie, a small saddle horse favored by crackers, and known for its speed and agility. Florida designated the marshtackie (or marsh tacky) as the official state horse in 2008.



A boy on a mule with fly protector c. 1900. Florida Memory

Every fall, cattle would be penned for the winter. This form of ‘cracker farming’ was known as cow-penning. The cows would be herded into a fenced pen made of split rails.

When there was enough manure on the ground, a new pen was made for the cattle and the first pen was planted with sweet potatoes. Corn and

other crops like black-eyed peas and velvet beans would be planted after the sweet potatoes had been harvested. As the pens were regularly moved, the entire plot was enriched by manure.

Beans were planted beside corn to allow the bean vines to intertwine with the corn stalks. The more fragile squash plants were grown between the beans and corn. Every member of the family would help weed the crops.



A young boy with his hoe c.1900. Source: Florida Memory.



Two elderly men gardening c. 1900. Florida Memory.

Sugar cane was grown to make sugar and syrup, some of which might have been sold. Syrup sold for fifty cents a gallon, dripping for twenty-five cents, and sugar at ten cents a pound.

People could buy sugar from the local store. There were many grades – from A (white and refined) to X (brown and not necessarily 100% sugar) – and it was usually sold by the sack but customers shopping at local stores

could buy it for around 7 to 10 cents a pound but would be reliant on the one or two grades the shopkeeper was stocking.

Sugar was important because apart from cooking and baking, it was used to preserve fresh seasonal produce. This was necessary in the days before refrigeration because fruit and fresh produce had to be preserved quickly or would quickly go bad because of Florida's high temperatures.

The settlers would also search for wild bee hives and collect honey from them.

They drank 'coffee' made from sweet potatoes, cut into cubes, dried in the sun until parched and then ground.

Tea would also have been sold in the local store and it also came in a wide variety of grades and types. In the late 19th century, most tea came from China. Blended black tea was the cheapest while green teas were too expensive for most rural families. The store, however, was only used for essentials, mostly lamp oil, sugar, and salt and for flour and coffee when they could afford it. Settlers made tea from sassafras and tea-like drinks from many wild plants.

Pone was made by macerating coontie roots in a hollow fallen tree and then put into a sack and soaked in water. The soaked roots would then be poured into a container, the water drained off and pone made from the 'flour' that was left. Pone could also be made using corn or sweet potato.

Flour was also made from dried, ground acorns and the dried roots of many plants.

There was great reliance on hunting and fishing and deer, bear and game birds were plentiful. Turtles and tortoises were a staple part of their diet as were crawdaddies, rabbits, snakes, squirrels, and frogs' legs. The gopher tortoise was referred to as "scrub chicken" and armadillos were called "swamp pork". Alligators were caught for their skins not meat and it wasn't until the beginning of the 20th century that people started to eat

gator tail on a regular basis. When the Mount Plymouth Hotel opened in 1926, curious guests from up north would be offered frogs legs and gator tail. Keeping the hotel supplied with these delicacies provided additional income for some folks in Ethel.

Jack McDonald recalls catching frogs in the early 1950s and said the legs back then were huge, more like chicken thighs.

Wild pigs were a menace for digging up planted crops and bringing down fence lines, but they provide good meat, and every part of the animal could be used.

The surrounding woods and land provided hickory and other nuts, fruit, berries, and edibles such as coontie, cabbage palm, prickly pear, and many others. Wild honey would be harvested rather than paying for expensive sugar in the store. Cattail roots would be roasted and then ground into flour.

Biden's Alba was used to treat sore throats; feverfew for headaches and fever, Hercules club leaves for relieving toothache, mimosa leaves for depression and anxiety, passionflower for insomnia, plantain to relieve itching and usnia as a natural antiseptic. There were literally hundreds of plants that had medicinal properties and settlers learned how to recognize them and passed this knowledge on to their children. (For more on medicinal plants see Appendix 2.)

There were also wild plants that could be used as herbs and flavorings like lemon grass, red bay, wild garlic, and wild mint.

Deer tongue was gathered from the woods and added to tobacco to make it go further and it was common for both men and women to smoke. It would not be unusual to see an old woman sitting in her chair smoking a clay pipe.

Cornbread, made from home ground cornmeal, was the most common food served at mealtimes and if times were hard, it was the only food on the table. It would be served with a thick gravy made from frying fatback

bacon. There would always be a jar of gravy in the meagre pantry. Pone and grits were other mealtime staples.

Settlers learned from Native Americans how to make sofkee, a type of corn soup, by soaking crushed corn in wood ash lye, and then boiling in water.

Coontie has long been used as a substitute for wheat flour, but it needs careful and time-consuming preparation because many parts of the plant are toxic. The root of the plant must be soaked in water and then strained through a cloth several times to extract the starch which is then dried in the sun. Cattail roots also produce starch.

Women would generally rise well before dawn to start the day's cooking. They would bake biscuits, bread and any other ingredients needed for the three meals of the day. This was not only to get this chore out of the way but also because it was simply too hot to be cooking later in the day. If they could afford it, they would have a Dutch oven. Cooking points were large - sometimes with a three-gallon capacity – needed to feed large families.

The food was set in the middle of the table and after everyone had eaten breakfast, the corners of the tablecloth would be raised and folded over the food. It was then a simple job to reheat what was needed for the other meals.

Breakfast was usually a hot meal of pone, fat back and coffee. Dinner, served in the middle of the day was the main meal, with a light supper before going to bed.



Coontie



Swamp cabbage ready to be cooked. Source: Florida Memory

The women were skilled at home canning and bottling using Mason jars, and fruit and vegetables would be preserved this way to provide a year-round supply.

Other methods of preserving food included drying, salting and pickling and little food was allowed to go to waste. It was the mother's duty to

pass down all these culinary skills to her daughters so that they would know how to run their own households later.

The diet consisted largely of pork, beef, fish, game, grits, sweet potatoes, butter, a little milk, and syrup. The main meal of the day – dinner - was eaten in the early afternoon and a lighter meal – supper – would be eaten in the evening.

Moonshine was plentiful and there would have been many stills in the area. Settlers also made home-made wines from the local Muscadine grapes and a host of fruits, berries and even fungi. Sassafras was used to make homemade root beer.

Refreshing, fragrant teas were made by boiling the young twigs of spicebush. The leaves of goldenrod were boiled to make a tea with an anise-like fragrance, while two or three leaves of yaupon holly soaked in hot water made an invigorating drink often called cassena or ‘the black drink’. The red berries of sumac soaked in two or three changes of water made an acidic, refreshing drink that was called Indian lemonade.

Beer could also be made from blue porterweed, dandelions, nettles, yarrow and mugwort. The flowers of Elderberry made a refreshing low alcohol sparkling drink.

Many of these plant-based drinks also had medicinal properties. They were known to aid digestion, strengthen the immune system and fight off colds and other ailments.

Virginia Buras, the granddaughter of Edward O. Von Herbulis, remembers her mother talking about some of the remedies used. In her own words:

“Kerosene - For cuts. I remember going one time to visit Donald and Doris (Lewis) McDonald at their place on McDonald Road. From Mt. Plymouth going East on SR46, we turn right on the sandy road. During the visit one of the boys cut his foot on a piece of glass or something around the house. They were barefooted. They got a pan to soak his foot

in kerosene. Guess it killed any bacteria that got in the cut. This seemed very strange to me as a city girl.

Aloe Vera - For burns. One took a "leaf" off the plant and squeezed the gel on the burn. My grandfather Von grew aloe vera plants to sell when they lived in Mt. Plymouth.

Tobacco - For wasp stings. One took smoking tobacco and mixed it with a little water. The mixture was put on the bite. The palmetto palm was a favorite place for wasps to nest.

Black tea - For eye styes. Put tea leaves in a soft cloth and steep in hot water. Place the hot cloth with tea leaves over the styte to draw the pus out.

Fat back (A piece of bacon fat) - For boils. Put the fat on the boil to draw the pus and head out. A bandage is put over the fat on the boil.

Lye soap - For poison ivy contact and blisters. The area of contact with the leaves is washed with lye soap. The soap removes the poison ivy oil. If blisters form, wash again as it helps dry the skin. Apply baking soda to help soothe the itching. On a test when she was going to school in Mt. Dora, there was a question. How do you make soap? Mother said that was easy. They made their own soap."

Each day, the cow would be milked, and the fresh milk would be strained through a sieve and then left in a cool place for about an hour to allow the cream to rise to the top. This would be removed and churned into butter. In Florida's heat, the milk would quickly turn.

In the fall, it was customary to slaughter some of the pigs. Because there was no refrigeration, the meat would often be shared with neighbors, or it was salted or dried. The old Southern saying "the only thing left was the squeal' is true as nothing was ever wasted.

This was a time when the homesteaders enjoyed lots of fresh meat, but some was set aside for drying and producing bacon and ham. It could take up to a month to cure the hams by repeatedly soaking them in strong brines. The hams might then be smoked to extend their shelf life.

The two main items which had to be purchased were salt and flour and the use of the latter would often be extended by mixing it with ground roots or acorn flour as mentioned above.

Flour sold for \$3 a barrel or 4 cents a pound around 1890. Other store purchases might have been corn – 40 cents a bushel, molasses – 15 cents a gallon, lard – 6 cents a pound and butter – 15 cents a pound.

Agricultural prices were of great concern to Ethel homesteaders. Land was about \$5 an acre, a stable and well \$150 each. An average workhorse was \$150, and a good saddle horse \$200, and a harness \$50. A yoke of two oxen cost \$150, a heifer \$18.75, a cow \$26, a bull \$90 and calves \$2.50. A buggy sold for \$75 and a wagon \$64. A single shot muzzle loader rifle was \$8, while a Sharps seven-shot repeater rifle cost \$50.

To furnish the home, chairs could be purchased for \$1.25 each, a bed for \$15 (which came with commode), blankets \$3 each, and a lantern \$1 and kerosene 15 cents a gallon.

For clothing, 2 colored undershirts cost \$1.25 (plain white were \$1), 6 pairs of wool socks cost \$1, 7 yards of blue denim \$1, 3 yards of plain cassimere (cashmere) \$1, 1 hoop skirt withy bustle \$1, and 1 heavy plaid shawl \$3.

Those homesteaders who sold produce or plied a trade like carpenters, might have a few dollars, but they generally lived hand to mouth with little or no cash for luxuries, let alone emergencies.

In the 1880s and 1890s land consolidation took place in the area with landowners expanding their holdings to plant large orange groves or raise cattle. Large tracts of forest were also acquired and harvested for timber and turpentine. They needed people to work on the land, in the

sawmills, fruit packing stations and so on, so some Ethel folk would have become farm workers and laborers earning in the early 1890s about \$1 day for a long, six-day week.

Hygiene and health

Personal hygiene was not a major priority and body odor was a fact of life. Most people had long hair and cooties and head lice were a constant problem, especially among the children.

Water was brought in a bucket from a well or stream and members of the family would rinse their fingers from the same bowl before eating. That same bowl would also be used to wash their faces in the morning before being replenished.

Oral hygiene was virtually nonexistent and there was little access to dentists. If someone had a toothache, the remedy was to pull out the tooth.

There was a great reliance on herbal medicines (see Appendix Two), but diseases were common, and the mortality rate was high, especially for children and newborns. In the 1870s, 1880s, and 1890s, half of all children died before the age of one. The area suffered a yellow fever epidemic in 1887.

Dysentery, measles, scarlet fever, typhoid, and malaria then killed half of all surviving children before the age of five. Even a bad cut could quickly get infected and cause sepsis and gangrene leading to amputation or death.

Settlers rapidly got dark tans from working in the sun all day, but young children would get sunburn until they developed resistance to it. Those that did get sunburn would have the affected areas covered with lard.

Outdoor toilets were unsanitary and attracted insects and there was no toilet paper, so people relied on corn cobs, leaves, rags, and grass.

Homesteaders did not change their clothes frequently because they had nothing else to put on. The mother would usually have a 'good' dress for church, weddings, and funerals, and a second dress for all other times. The father would also have a "Sunday best" shirt and pants, and one other outfit for all other times.

Washday was a major undertaking. Dirty clothes had to be boiled for long periods in hot water and lye to remove ground-in dirt and stains. The clothes would then be removed using long sticks and rinsed in clean water. Few homes had a ringer to squeeze out the water, so this would be done manually, often with two people twisting the garment until it was almost dry. The clothes would then be hung out to dry and air on a line or draped over a fence. The dirty water would be used to water crops in the garden.



A man, presumably a bachelor or widower, washing his clothes. Source: Florida Memory



An older lady in her Sunday best

Children relied on hand-me-downs. Clothes would be handed down, altered, or remade as needed and when they could no longer be worn, they would be torn into strips for rags.



Young barefoot girl c. 1900. Source. Florida Memory

Most cabins would have two beds – one for mother, father, and baby, and the other for the rest of the family. Beds would have mattresses stuffed with grass, corn husks or Spanish moss, and multiple children would share the same bed.

There would be pillows at the top and bottom of the bed with half the children sleeping with their heads at the head of the bed, and the other

half with their heads on pillows at the foot of the bed. If there wasn't a second bed, the children would sleep on rugs on the floor.



A family cooking out c. 1900. Florida Memory.

Kitchens continued to be built some distance from the cabin to reduce the risk of fire but by the 1890s, smoke houses were becoming popular. Each day, the area around the cabin and cooking areas would be swept clean with a broom to prevent stray sparks from spreading.

Because everyone knew everyone else there was little crime, although boys would often get up to mischief. Ethel and the surrounding area did not have a police presence so justice, when necessary, was often carried out by the settlers on the perpetrator. Most arguments were settled by fist fights if an amicable resolution could not be reached first.

Social life

Life was hard but early settlers still found time for “frolics” as social gatherings were called. The local schoolroom, which also doubled as the church, would be the location for picnics, town meetings and dances. The building itself would be too small for a large gathering so people would congregate, cook, and eat outside.

If a dance was organized, everyone in the area would be invited and families would turn up in ox carts, two-wheel carts and on mules and horseback from far and wide. Some of these dances or ‘breakdowns’ lasted two or three days with dancing all night. People would dance, sleep a while, and then get up and dance some more.



A family arriving by ox cart for a frolic. Source: Florida Memory.

Social gatherings were most common in the fall when families would get together to help each other bring in the harvest or when it was time to slaughter livestock and prepare the meat. Each family would contribute to the meal, which would be cooked outside. They would bring large pots of chicken which would be boiled over open fires until nearly done

and then wild rice would be added. The meal would be served with biscuits and coffee.

After dinner there would be dancing with a fiddler providing the music. Sometimes there would be a second musician using fiddle sticks or fiddle straws. The sticks could be knitting needles or pieces of wood and were used like drumsticks. As the fiddler used his bow, the second person would use the sticks on the neck strings of the violin to drum out the beat. This practice gives us the expressions fiddlesticks and second fiddle.

As there was no dance floor and limited space, sometimes one couple would dance at a time showing off their best moves.

According to one account published in the Florida Historical Quarterly (Vol 72, Issue 04), "two only danced at a time, as fast and as long as they could stand, when two more take it up. The older female dancers were chewing tobacco, dipping snuff, and drinking water out of a tin dipper."

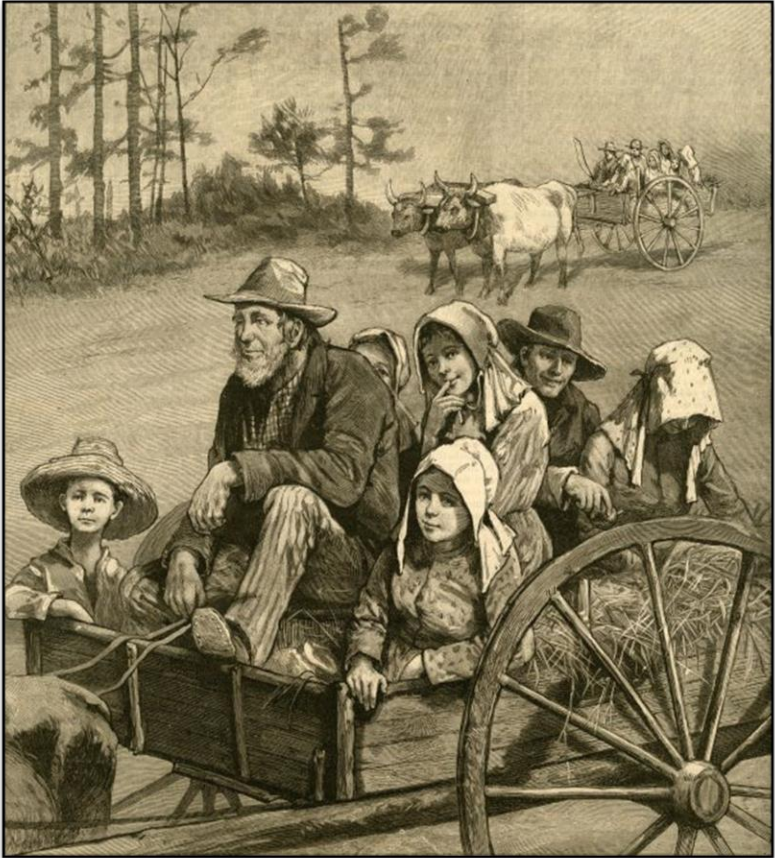
When there was space, dancing might be barn-style with a caller shouting out the moves. Clog dancing and jigging were also popular.

People had to rely on each other so they would assist each other in building a new cabin or barn and afterwards they would celebrate with a gathering with food and music.

Births, weddings, and funerals were also occasions to gather and either celebrate or commiserate.

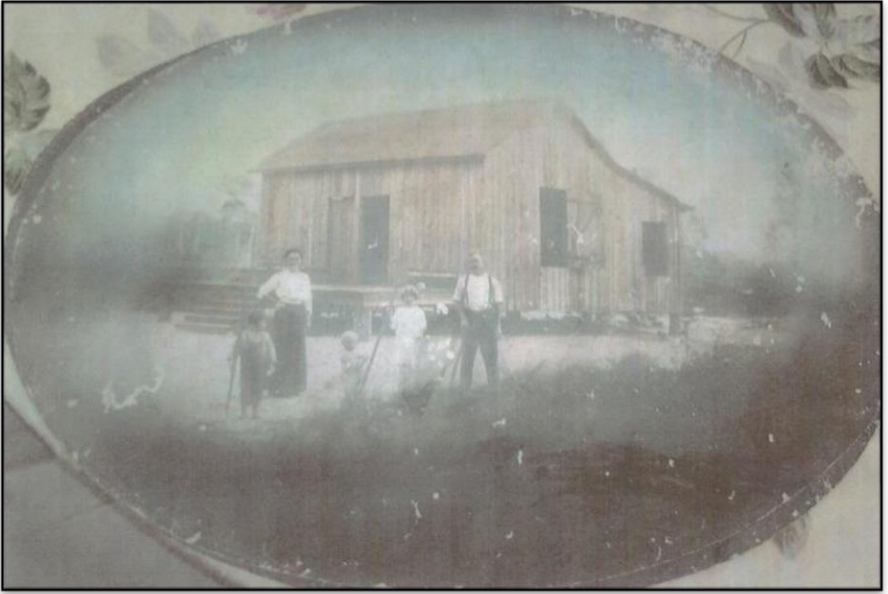
Occasionally, a longer outing might be planned like a day trip to Clay Springs for swimming and a picnic. On such occasions, the men would take their rifles as wild pigs were a constant problem.

There are also records that at the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century, Ethel families would get together for bear hunts and then share the meat. A successful hunt was always another reason for a celebration.



Homesteaders heading to a social event. Illustration. Source. Florida Memory

Ethel resident William Darlington Fillmon, his wife Etta Jane Goings Fillmon, with sons Robert and Wesley standing in front of their home c. 1920 (below). The girl in the white dress and bonnet is 'Aunt' Creasy. The extension on the back was probably for livestock. Etta Jane died in 1924.



William was a carpenter, and the cabin was built from local logs and there was no electricity or running water. The cabin reflected the new construction style that emerged at the end of the 19th century. Instead of timber logs being used horizontally, wooden boards were used vertically. The settler would still have to chop the trees down, but they would then be sent to a local sawmill to be cut into boards.



Wekiva Post Office. Source. Florida Memory.

Wekiva Post Office (Wekiva township was about 1 mile east of Ethel at what is now known as Wekiva Falls.



Gunn's Cabin at Ethel. Source. WSSP Archive.

Ethel was a rural community. Most residents were farmers or worked in the orange groves, but census records show carpenters, machinists, wood craftsman, a photographer, ferry operators and schoolteachers also lived in the community at various times.

Southeast of the cemetery was a large orange grove known as the Egypt Grove. The Great Freeze of 1984-5 (see above) destroyed the citrus trees and caused many of the residents to abandon their homes and livestock, taking with them just their clothing and a few personal items. Those who remained took over the abandoned livestock and continued to farm as best they could. After the freeze, however, life was even tougher. Food was scarce and there was little hunting because the freeze had killed most animals and wild birds.

Many of them became truck farmers, so called because they grew produce needed by the local shops, hotels and restaurants and would 'truck' it into town to sell it.

One development that benefited rural communities occurred in 1902 with the launch of rural free delivery by the United States Post Office in Florida. Before that, packages had to be picked up at a general post office which could be many miles away or they had to pay a private carrier for delivery. Only letters and small packages would be delivered to rural post offices like Ethel.

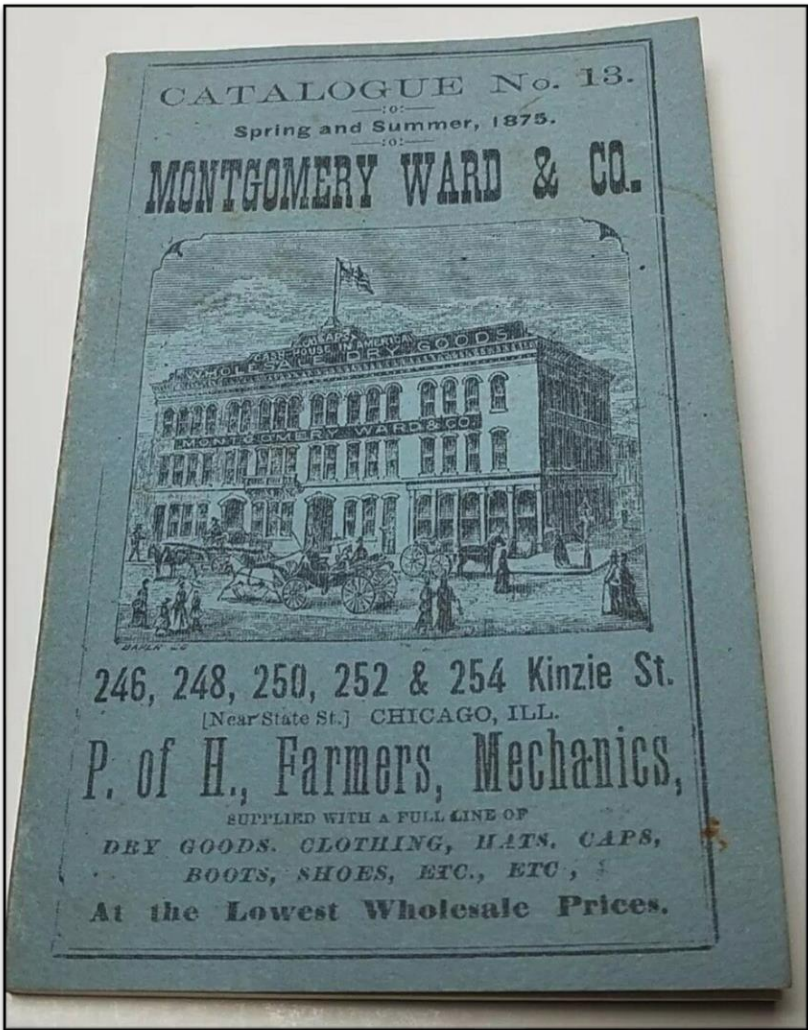
People were now able to get goods delivered free of charge and this saw a boom for mail order catalog companies like Sears & Roebuck and Montgomery Ward. Products in the catalogs were much cheaper than those in the rural stores.

The Sears & Roebuck catalog of 1901 offered a 10lb tin cannister of tea for \$3.75 while their cheapest tea – Best Grade Japan Dust – sold for 19c a pound.

A gentleman's pocket watch was 84c, a pair of reading spectacles 35c, a violin and case \$3.25, banjo \$1.75 and a double-barreled shotgun \$6.45. A Remington 6 rifle was \$3.98.

You could even order a headstone for \$5.10 with engraving costing an extra 6 cents per letter.

The cost of 1st Class freight via rail from Chicago to Florida was \$1.70 per 100 lbs.



One of the first mail order catalogs, published in 1875.

OUR ACME ROYAL RANGE,

WITH PORCELAIN LINED RESERVOIR AND HIGH CLOSET.
FOR HARD COAL, SOFT COAL, WOOD
OR ANYTHING USED FOR FUEL.

\$17.25 TO \$22.14

How we Trim it.

BEAUTIFULLY NICKEL PLATED MOUNTINGS THROUGHOUT.

Including large handsome nickel plated oven door joint, large nickel plated panel on draft door, very large nickel oven shelf, large handsome, nicely polished nickel handle on main top, hearth and high closet, nickel hinges, nickel iron shelves, nickel plated, patent, heavy always ready knob on all doors.

FANCY NICKEL ORNAMENTATION THROUGHOUT...

Highly polished, nicely ornamented and decorated, glass, porcelain design, and we believe

THE HANDSOMEST 1902 RANGE ON THE MARKET.



OUR BINDING GUARANTEE.

With every Acme Royal we issue a written, binding guarantee, by the terms of which if any piece or part goes out, by reason of defect in material or workmanship, we will replace it free of charge; further, that it must be received by you in perfect condition, found exactly as represented and perfectly satisfactory, or your money will be refunded immediately.

\$17.25 to \$22.14 is our price for this Acme Royal Range, completely finished, Acme Royal Range, delivered on the cars at our Foundry in Central Ohio.

This \$17.25 Stove is the equal of any range on the market, regardless of price; embodies every improvement of very high grade range made, with the duty, in all cases.

Our 20th Century Production. Full square front, large grate, hot tops and casters, porcelain lined reservoir, oven door hickey, large fire box, large fire, halled ash pan, nickel hearth plate, casted and handsome broom design.

Our Gem Grate furnished FREE, makes it a perfect burner for all kinds of fuel, Coal, Wood or Coke.

Our Binding Guarantee makes you perfectly safe and sure for you made a stove as you could not buy elsewhere.

Most Stove Dealers would say this oven is three or four inches wider than the also we give.

We furnish this Range just as it is shown in the various sizes at prices as listed below.

OVEN MEASUREMENTS DO NOT INCLUDE SWELL OF OVEN DOOR. IF YOU DO NOT USE COAL AT ALL, ORDER THE SAME RANGE FOR WOOD ONLY FROM CATALOGUE Nos. 22316 TO 22321. PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE PIPE OR COOKING UTENSILS. SEE PAGES 580 TO 593.

CASH WITH ORDER PRICES. DELIVERED ON THE CARS AT OUR CENTRAL OHIO FOUNDRY.

CATALOGUE NUMBER	RANGE STUBS	SIZE OF KIDS	SIZE OF OVEN	SIZE OF TOP RELAYING RESERVOIR	SIZE OF FIRE BOX WHEN USED FOR WOOD	HEIGHT TO MAIN TOP	WEIGHT	PRICE
22316	7-10	No. 7	27 1/2 x 16 1/2	42 x 25	17 x 9 x 9	25 inches	450 lbs.	\$17.25
22317	8-18	No. 8	27 1/2 x 19 1/2	42 x 25	17 x 9 x 9	30 inches	495 lbs.	19.25
22318	7-20	No. 7	19 1/2 x 19 1/2	42 x 27	19 x 9 x 9	30 inches	477 lbs.	19.25
22319	8-20	No. 8	19 1/2 x 19 1/2	42 x 27	19 x 9 x 9	31 inches	500 lbs.	19.99
22320	8-20	No. 8	21 1/2 x 19 1/2	45 x 28	21 x 9 x 9	31 inches	540 lbs.	22.14
22321	8-20	No. 9	21 1/2 x 20 1/2	45 x 28	21 x 9 x 9	31 inches	540 lbs.	22.14

SEE PRECEDING PAGE FOR ILLUSTRATIONS AND PRICES OF THE OTHER STYLES OF THIS ELEGANT RANGE.

An elaborate stove offered in the Sears 1900 mail order catalog.

Mrs. Rowena Lewis, who was born in Ethel in 1917, remembered in an interview in 1992, that she would go fishing with other children in "Rock Creek and that on the way home they would throw small fish out and

watch the panthers go and get them. You could watch the panthers they were that plentiful.”

She lived with her parents on a 40-acre plot and there were about nine families strung out to the west of them.

In 1945 or 1946 her parents bought the neighboring five acres of land which included the half-acre lot on which the former schoolhouse sat. In 1951 Charles and Rowena Lewis moved into their new home in Ethel alongside Ethel Drive. It is the only Ethel building that remains.

Electricity didn't come to the area until the early 1950's so everyone used kerosene lamps or candles for lighting.



*A moonshine still – one of many in the Ethel-Sorrento area at that time.
(Source. Tavares Library)*

Turpentine

The turpentine industry moved into the Wekiva area in a big way in the 1880s and 1890s to provide rosin and oil (or spirit) of turpentine, otherwise known as “naval stores”. The industry started in Georgia and Alabama and steadily moved south as the pine trees in those states were tapped out. The trees were then usually felled for timber and after that, the land was sold and cleared for agriculture or for building on.

Rosin was used to caulk the ship’s timbers to make them watertight. Ships ropes were also coated with turpentine to make them last longer and protect them from sea water.

Turpentine was carried out throughout the area and there were many stills around Ethel. Homesteaders would tap pines for the rosin for their own use and sell any surplus to the turpentine farmers who ran their operations like plantations with large workforces,

These turpentine farmers would typically have about 10,000 trees. They needed workers to “crop” them, quarters for them to live in and a still to convert the gum.

During the winter, the trees were “boxed” which involved attaching a box or clay pot (known as a ‘herty’ pot), to a tree about 10 inches from its base. A V- shaped deep cut was made above the pot and strips of metal were hammered into the tree beneath the cuts to funnel the sap into the pot. In the spring the sap started to rise and would flow from the cut into the pot.

Every few days, a worker called a ‘turpentine dipper’, would return to make another cut just above the old one to keep the sap running. This continued for eight or nine months. The series of cuts was called a “catface” because it resembled cat whiskers. Every few weeks, the pot of sap would be emptied into buckets which would then be emptied into barrels and taken by cart to the still.



Tree showing catface and pot

The huge copper stills were heated until the sap boiled. The liquid was passed through a coil and collected in a tank. As it cooled the oil of turpentine rose to the surface and was drained off into barrels. The

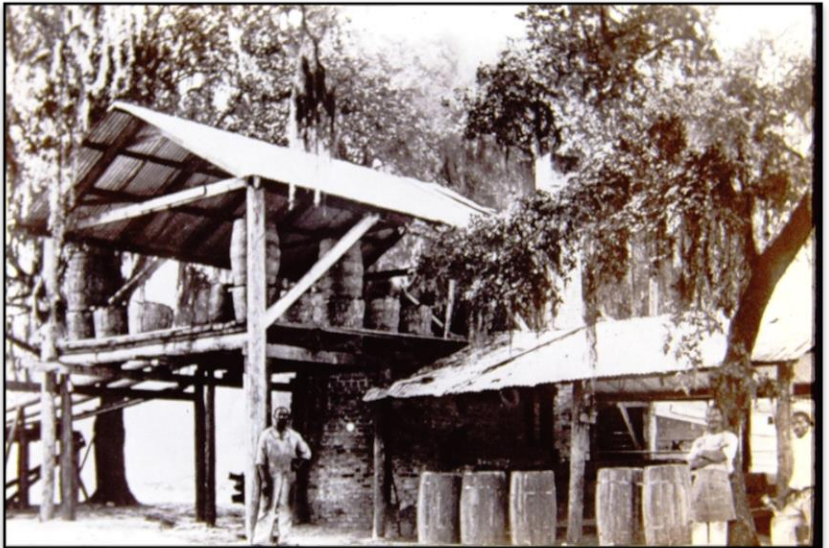
rosin left in the still was filtered and then packed into barrels or seven-gallon pots where it congealed before being sent to market.



Loading the barrels of sap (top) and loading the sap in the mill prior to boiling (below). Source: Florida Memory



A turpentine dipper (above and below). Source: Florida Memory



Turpentine still. One of many in the Rock Springs area (Source: WSSP)



Turpentine still (Source: WSSP)

The best crop was always in the first year that trees were tapped. The yield dropped off each successive year. A good crop would be about 50 barrels of turpentine and 160 barrels of rosin. Turpentine trees could be tapped for between three and five years and then be allowed to rest for a year or two before the cycle started again on the other side of the tree. They could only be tapped a few times because once faces had been cut around the tree no more sap could be drawn.

On old pines you may still spot the cuts in the tree to extract the turpentine.

Conditions in the turpentine camps were often brutal. Local prisoners would be 'leased out to work' for no pay and laborers earned about \$1 dollar a day but it was paid in the form of a weekly scrip that could only be redeemed in the company store where prices were usually inflated. As a result, laborers quickly ran into debt and could not leave until they had paid off what they owed. Workers and their families lived in huts that were little more than shanties and they were frequently beaten and worse. They had little access to medical attention. In 1922, after a convict died at a turpentine camp, the state outlawed the practice and convict leasing was outlawed.

Ethel Church and School

There was a schoolhouse on a half-acre plot, where church services were conducted every other Sunday. One of the preachers was the Reverend Bartlett. He travelled from Enterprise by horse and buggy and then used the ferry at Wekiva to get to Ethel.

The first mention of a school is in the Orange County records for 1880 which lists a school at Rock Springs. The township didn't receive the name Ethel until later in the decade when the railroad arrived and by then the school was in Lake County.

The church catered for all denominations, but many people were Methodists and Ethel had an Epworth League, which was a Methodist youth league.

The Epworth League

The Epworth League was a youth order of the Methodist Episcopal Church (now the United Methodist Church), founded in 1889 in Cleveland, Ohio.

For over half a century, the Methodist youth organization was especially strong. The group was authorized by the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, into North and South chapters, and local churches soon began organizing their youth in Epworth Leagues.

The purpose of the leagues was to develop young church members in their religious life and to provide training in churchmanship – “the promotion of intelligent and vital piety among the young people of the church”.

It was parallel to the Sunday school and typically met on Sunday nights. The name came from the boyhood home in England of John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement. There were Senior and Junior branches.

In 1913, the League had 593,465 Senior members and 218,509 Junior members in the North. The South had 3,846 chapters with 133,797 members. The Southern branch published its own monthly, the Epworth Era.

Ethel's school, church and cemetery were shared with their neighbors in the little town of Wekiva, about one mile east on the Wekiva River at what is now Wekiva Falls.

Most rural schools at that time consisted of a single classroom with a single teacher who taught grades first to eighth. The youngest children would sit at the front with the oldest at the back. The youngest children were called Abecedarians because their job was to learn their ABCs. The teacher would sit on a raised platform at the front – which was also used by the preacher for Sunday services.

The children would walk to school – as much as three miles each way – and they would often be barefooted as shoes were expensive. Because children were often needed to do chores at home or look after animals,

attendance was poor and, on any day, a third or more of the students might be absent. There were no school attendance laws at this time.

There were few school supplies and children would use a slate and chalk and the older students would often be called on to help teach the younger ones. At the front of the classroom, the teacher would use a blackboard – literally several wooden boards nailed together and painted black so that chalk could be used on it.

Students would learn – at their own pace - reading, writing, arithmetic, history, grammar, rhetoric and grammar and lessons would have to be learned by heart. The children would be called to the front of the class the day after a lesson to recite what they had learned.

With a lot of children in a single room it was important to maintain discipline so corporal punishment was common. The most common punishment would be having palms or knuckles rapped with a ruler, but there was also spanking and being paddled. Bad students would also be made to wear the cone-shaped Dunce's cap. And, if the teacher sent a student home with a letter about the child's behavior, the child would likely get a beating at home as well.

The school day would start at 9am and finish at 2pm or 4pm depending on the time of year. There would be a 15-minute break in the morning, an hour for lunch, usually from noon to 1 pm and a 15-minute break in the afternoon if the lessons were going on to 4pm. Children living close to school would go home for lunch while others would bring their lunch in metal pails.

The school had no electricity or plumbing so students would have to use an outhouse behind the building. If there was not enough light, kerosene lamps would be used. One of the older students would also be tasked each day to bring a bucket of water which the children would share to drink.

As Ethel was a relatively remote township, it is likely that young single female teachers would board with one of the local families. Boarding was

quite common in rural areas. Most teachers in the late 1800s and early 1900s were young, unmarried females and they might board with one family for two or three weeks and then move on to another family.

The school year consisted of one term of three consecutive months with the teacher choosing which months to teach. Later, the school year was extended to six months.

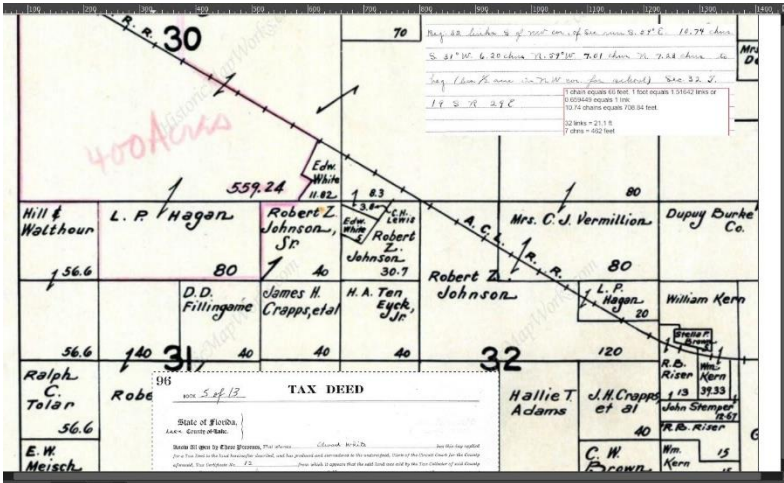
On the last day of the school year, the children would enjoy a picnic and the teacher would organize a program with parents invited, so that the students could show off what they had learned.



Ethel School c. 1917. Source. Florida Memory.

The earliest mention of Ethel School is November 22, 1893, in a deed of sale between Edward J. Duval and Ford B. Priester, which records the sale of 5 ½ acres “less the ½ acre heretofore sold to the School Board of Lake County.” The school was described as “being near the old mud hole”.

Edward Duval received 160.2 acres on December 21, 1891, as a U.S. land grant which included this school site but there was no mention of a school building. So, the school site must have been sold to the School Board between December 21, 1891, and November 22, 1893.



Calculations to determine location of school. Source: Lake County Archives

Ethel’s schoolteacher in 1905 was Miss Maggie Hunter from Sanford. At that time the schoolteacher received one dollar a month for each pupil for the three-month semester. This term could be taught at any time during the year, at the convenience of the teacher and school trustees.

On June 2, 1913, Edward White acquired the land less the ½ acre school site, by paying the unpaid taxes. The land was owned by John T. Pirie, but

Edward White paid the \$18.08 outstanding tax bill for 1912 to gain ownership of the property.

96

BOOK 5 of 13

TAX DEED

State of Florida, }
L.A.K. County of Lake.

Know All Men by These Presents, That whereas Edward White has this day applied for a Tax Deed to the land hereinafter described, and has produced and surrendered to the undersigned, Clerk of the Circuit Court for the County aforesaid, Tax Certificate No. 12 from which it appears that the said land was sold by the Tax Collector of said County on the 2nd day of June A. D. 1912, for unpaid taxes for the year A. D. 1912, as the property of Jesse J. Brady; and whereas said applicant has redeemed, or purchased and surrendered, all other outstanding Tax Certificates covering said land, and proper notice having been given as required by law of his application for the issue of this deed, and no owner, claimant, or other person entitled to redeem said land, has appeared to redeem the same;

NOW, therefore, the State of Florida, in consideration of the premises and the sum of (18.08) eighteen 08/100 Dollars, the amount paid upon the certificates and for costs and charges, and in pursuance of the statute in such cases provided, has given, granted, bargained and sold, and does hereby give, grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said Edward White and his heirs and assigns forever, and to his and their own proper use, benefit and behoof, the following land, situated and being in the County and State aforesaid and described as

Reg. 32 links S of NW cor. of Sec 33 S. 27 E. 16.74 chrs
S. 31 W. 6.20 chrs N. 27 W. 7.01 chrs N. 7.22 chrs to
Reg. (last to acre in NW cor. for school) Sec. 32 J.
19 S R 29 E

containing 3 acres, more or less;

PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That said land shall continue subject and liable for any unpaid taxes thereon. IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, by virtue of the authority in me vested by law, and for and on behalf of the State of Florida, I, the undersigned, as Clerk of the Circuit Court for the County and State aforesaid, have executed this deed and have hereunto set my official signature and seal at Tallahassee, in the County of Lake, State of Florida, on this 20th day of December A. D. 1916.

Signed, sealed and delivered in my presence: C. J. Ford E. M. Tully H. H. Duncan Clerk Circuit Court, Lake County, Fla.

State of Florida, }
County of Lake.

On this 20th day of December A. D. 1916, before me E. M. Tully County Judge Lake Co. Fla. personally appeared H. H. Duncan Clerk of the Circuit Court in and for the State and County aforesaid, to me known to be the person described in, and who executed, the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged the execution thereof to be his own free act and deed for the use and purposes therein mentioned.

WITNESS my hand and official seal and the date aforesaid. (Official Seal) E. M. Tully County Judge Lake County Fla. H. H. Duncan Clerk Circuit Court in and for Lake County, State of Florida, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full and true transcript of the original, which was filed for record in my office the 20th day of January A. D. 1917. H. H. Duncan Clerk Circuit Court.

Tax Deed Record No. 6, Lake County, Florida, Deeds, Jacksonville. 163261.

Tax deed: Source: Lake County Archive

On November 10, 1919, Edward White bought the school half acre site from the state of Florida through the Trustees of the Internal

Improvement Fund for \$5. The deed (below) described the exact location of the half-acre site.

The Ethel Schoolteacher in 1912 was Lelia Royal, who was paid \$40 - \$20 from Lake Co and \$20 from Orange (which implied that some children were coming from Orange County, east of the Wekiva River). The following year W. C. Halliday was appointed teacher at the same salary. On Oct 6, 1913, the School Board instructed the superintendent to order twelve desks for Ethel school. They were delivered on January 5, 1914, by the American Seating Co. at a cost of \$48.75.

On June 1, 1914, T. J. Boyd, one of the Ethel school trustees asked that the teacher's salary be raised to \$45 and paid from county funds as district funds were needed for completing the school building. On September 7, 1914, T. J. Boyd allowed the expenditure of \$5 to work on the well by the school.

On March 1, 1915, T. J. Boyd approved the expenditure of \$6 for travel expenses so that the Ethel school children could attend the school fair in Tavares. The railroad was offering discounted fares so that they could attend.

On July 6, 1915, it was agreed to spend \$14 to have the schoolhouse painted. T. J. Boyd was paid \$45 for sealing the schoolhouse and building a porch and C. J. Vermillion, a new school trustee, was paid \$5.79 in cash for cedar shingles for the school roof.

On September 6, 1915, C. J. Vermillion was paid \$50 as half the cost of digging a new well and on October 4 he received the remaining \$50.

On December 6, 1915, a new teacher's desk was delivered. C. J. Vermillion paid the cost of freight, which was \$2.75.

In January 1916, the Geoff Fernald Hardware Co. was paid \$1.60 for installing a heater in the school and C. J. Vermillion received \$12 for hauling the bricks to make the chimney.

On May 1, 1916, Ethel school trustees were announced as W. E. Lee, E.A. Rush, and T. J. Boyd.

DEED BOOK **291** PAGE **605**

COUNTY OF LAKE DEED NO. 2529

STATE OF FLORIDA THROUGH THE 6022

TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT FUND OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, GRANTOR

(1) TO Edward White

of the City of Sorrento, County of Lake, State of Florida GRANTEE

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, in pursuance of provisions of Section 9 of Chapter 18296, Laws of Florida, Acts of 1937, title to the lands hereinafter described vested in the State of Florida, and the said State by said Section of said Chapter is authorized and empowered to sell said lands through the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund of the State of Florida; and



(2) WHEREAS, pursuant to NOTICE duly given by said Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund, the land referred to by the Certificates hereinafter described was offered for sale on the 10 day of Oct, 1916, in the County of LAKE, and bids were received, and the said Trustees having accepted the highest and best bid for said land, and having awarded the sale of the said land to the person making such bid, said person being the GRANTEE herein named; Therefore,

(3) KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: That the State of Florida, through the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund of the State of Florida, under authority of Section 9 of Chapter 18296, Laws of Florida, Acts of 1937, for and in consideration of the amount of Five and No/100 DOLLARS (\$ 5.00) to them in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, have granted, bargained and sold, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell and convey all of the right, title and interest of the State of Florida arising out of said Section 9 of Chapter 18296, unto the said GRANTEE, his heirs, successors and assigns, in and to the following described land, situate, lying and being in the County of LAKE, State of Florida, as referred to, identified and described by State and County tax sale certificates to-wit:

(4) No.	Date	DESCRIPTION	Sec.	Tp.	Rg.	Ac.	Amount Rec'd
1380 of 1931 9065 of 1933		$\frac{1}{2}$ acre in NW cor of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 32, Tp. 19 S. R. 29 E. Otherwise described as: $\frac{1}{2}$ acre in NW cor of Beg 21.12 ft S of NW cor of Sec, run S 59° E 720.06 ft, S 31° W 409.2 ft, N 59° W 462.66 ft, N 477.18 ft to P. O. B. Sec. 32, Tp. 19 S. R. 29 E. .5 acre.					

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT, LAKE CO., FLA. 18 M. Dec 6, 1916. RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 291 PAGE 605. LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA. RECORD VERIFIED

Wm J. Sykes CLERK CIRCUIT COURT

Land Deed. Source. Lake County Archives.

On August 9, 1916, Eva Shores was named Ethel's new teacher, but the pay had dropped back to \$40 a month. She resigned on January 1, 1917, and the district superintendent appointed 18-year-old Miss Theresa

Catherine Dawson in her place. Miss Dawson was born in Altoona, a few miles northwest of Wekiva, on January 16, 1899.

She went to school in Altoona and took her teaching exam before she had finished high school. She was qualified to teach reading, writing, arithmetic and geography.

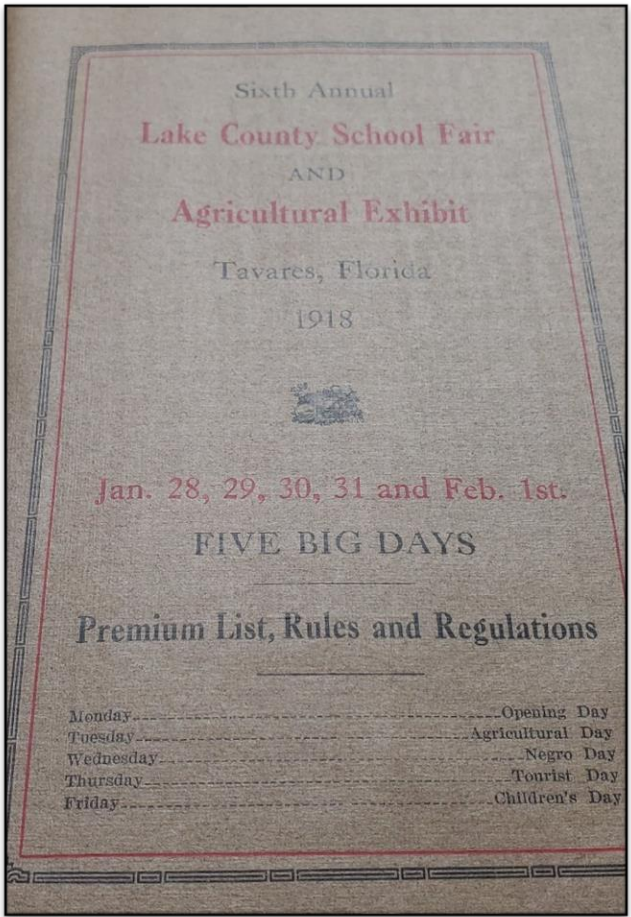


Theresa raising the flag at Ethel school. Date unknown. Source: Virginia Buras.

On April 1, 1918, Theresa Dawson was still the Ethel school teacher, but her pay had dropped to \$30. She threatened to resign and on July 22, 1918, her pay was raised to \$50. The following month on August 22, she married Edward O. Von Herbulis, who homesteaded in Ethel.



One of the major events of the year was the annual Lake County School Fair, a five-day showcase highlighting agriculture, arts and crafts and academic achievements. Ethel students and their teacher would almost certainly have attended one or more days.



The Fair was segregated, and a special day was set aside for students from black schools in the area. Below is an example of some of the categories and the prizes awarded for them.

Lake County School Fair

NEGRO SCHOOL WORK

Provision has been made for a small exhibit from the Negro schools. Suitable room and tables will be provided for these. The contest entries must be made according to the rules for the White schools. Exhibits of any work done by the pupils at school or at home should be displayed. Handwork done by the teachers may be exhibited if plainly marked as teacher's work.

The following may be entered for contest. They must be the work of the pupils, done during the school term preceding the School Fair:

	1st Prize	2nd Prize
Best exhibit of general school work from one school. (To include handwork, canned goods, and literary work)	\$3.00	\$1.50
Best collection of specimens of writing from one school . . . . .	.50	.25
Best collection of spelling papers for one month, from one school . . . . .	.50	.25
Best collection of arithmetic papers from one school . . . . .	.50	.25
Best map of United States, showing state boundaries, locating 25 important cities, five railroads, and ten educational institutions . . . . .	.50	.25
Best map of Florida, showing county boundaries, ten cities, three railroads, five educational institutions . . . . .	.50	.25
Best collection of pressed Florida flowers . . . . .	.50	.25
Best collection paper folding from one school . . . . .	.50	.25
Best collection free cutting from one school . . . . .	.50	.25
Best collection palmetto braids . . . . .	.50	.25
Best rag rug . . . . .	.50	.25
Best piece woodwork made by a boy . . . . .	.50	.25
Best article (not listed) made by a boy . . . . .	.50	.25
Best kitchen apron . . . . .	.50	.25
Best girls' dress . . . . .	.50	.25
Best corset cover . . . . .	.50	.25
Best quilt top . . . . .	.50	.25
Best collection buttonholes . . . . .	.50	.25
Best collection patches . . . . .	.50	.25
Best collection darning . . . . .	.50	.25
Best doll's dress . . . . .	.50	.25
Best nightgown . . . . .	.50	.25

In September 1919, Theresa, now Mrs. E. O. Von Herbulis, continued as the schoolteacher with a salary of \$20 which was raised to \$45 in October. Her husband was one of the school trustees. She was still the schoolteacher in 1920, earning \$65.



Theresa and class at Ethel School. Date unknown. Source: Virginia Buras.

On July 19, 1920, Mr. E. O. Von Herbulis agreed to transport the older children from Ethel to Wayland school for \$150 a month. This was the first year that children traveled to another school and Mr. O. Von Herbulis became the first school bus driver in Lake County.

In 1924 the Ethel and Sorrento school districts were consolidated, and in 1927, Ethel School closed, and all the children went to Sorrento by school bus.

Interesting fact

The 1880 Orange County Census records that there were many people 'camping out' in the area around Ethel. These people were crews building the railroad. There would usually be one white foreman and several blacks in a crew. As they neared the end of the day, they would set up a new camp and then move on again the next day to lay more track.

Sanford Herald – Ethel news

For several years the Sanford Herald ran a column called Ethel Items (later Wekiva and Ethel Items) which gave an insight into life in the small township – and all the many hardships. The column covered family dinners, social events, sightings and shootings of bears and rattlesnakes, school calendars as well as illnesses and burials.

These are some of the items. We are indebted to the Sandford Herald for allowing us to use them.

December 13, 1912

Mr. and Mrs. Hardy Boyd hosted a delightful Thanksgiving dance at their home with everyone reporting "a jolly time".

A sad death occurred in our neighborhood on the 4th. Miss Ella May Boyd, daughter of Mr. Ben Boyd, after a brief illness of three days, passed away at the home of her uncle Mr. T. I. Boyd. Her many friends and relatives will miss her smiling face as she was beloved by all who knew her. The remains were laid to rest Saturday morning at 11 o'clock in the Ethel Cemetery

January 10, 1913

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Rush lost their little son Clyde, Tuesday night. Little Clyde was taken ill and died after two days. He was 15 months old. The baby was buried at Ethel and the little grave was beautifully decorated with roses and other fragrant flowers.

March 24, 1914

Mr. Kerley is laying the foundation to set a sawmill near Wekiwa Station, which will be a great help in several ways to the community. It will give several men employment besides being such a help in getting the timber worked up on different homesteads. There can be so much stove wood shipped besides the lumber.

There is also talk of the railroad company putting in a side-track between Wekiwa and Ethel which will be a great help and convenience to the people.

The Woods Bros are doing quite a business cutting buds up the river. You can hear the launch boat late and early up and down. They also give work to several men. They are very energetic, industrious young men and are making quite a success of the business.

Mr. James Boyd returned Saturday to his home after being away for quite a while, working in the packing house at Kissimmee.

Mr. P. J. Coates had no trouble in proving his homestead last Thursday, the 16th. He took up a homestead three years ago and has done quite a lot of hard work and improvements on it and in the near future he hopes to have a lovely home. He has a nice orange grove set out, besides other nice fruit, such as peaches, pears, figs, grapes and grapefruit.

There was a lecture last night at Ethel school house. The Ethel school will be out Friday, and Mr. Archie Woods has kindly offered to take the school up to Wekiwa Springs for a picnic in his flat boat on which he hauls buds.

Mr. Eugene Rush has a very pretty garden, notwithstanding the dry weather. He has been selling real nice onions and cabbage and is very kind to divide up with his neighbors.

On the same page in the newspaper there was an advertisement for The Longwood Hotel, announcing it was under the new management of D. A. Midgley, with room rates from \$2 and up and 'special rates by the week.'

October 5, 1915

“The community was thrown into sorrow when the news reached here from Sorrento last Monday evening that Mr. Jerry Bresco had breathed his last at 3:00 o’clock. He was taken from his home on his homestead by the kind neighbors to Sorrento where he could be under the care of a doctor daily. He was only sick two weeks from typhoid malarial fever.

“Mr. Bresco was a lovely Christian gentleman and was beloved and respected by all who came in contact with him. Oh, how we will miss him in our Sunday School, or Epworth League and prayer meetings. He was the Bible teacher in the Sunday school, the first vice president in the League and the leader in the prayer meeting. But his work was finished on earth.

“God said: “It is enough, come up higher.” It was sad to see him laid away by strangers entirely not one relative to follow him to the grave.”

Johnnie Boyd, 17 years old son of Mr. James Boyd, who lives at Ethel, died at Lakeland last week and was buried there. He was also a member of our Sunday school and will be missed very much. His mother is very ill with consumption and not expected to live, but she stood his death much better than her friends expected she would.

Mr. Ben Boyd, who has been under the care of Drs. Miller and Denton, is very ill at his brother Hardy’s at Ethel.

Rev. Bartlett of Enterprise came over to Ethel last Tuesday when he was called to preach at the funeral of our dear brother Bresco. Bro. Bartlett is the preacher in charge of Ethel church, and we are always glad to see him. He spent the night with friends in Wekiwa and returned to his home on Wednesday.

October 8, 1915

School started this week at Ethel with 23 scholars enrolled. Miss Annie Shepard being the teacher. While it is quite a walk for the little children of Wekiwa, they are very much pleased with their teacher, and are taking

quite an interest in their school. Miss Annie Shepard boards with Mrs. Andrew Rush.

There were several hunters came from Sanford yesterday searching the woods for game. We do not know what success they had but they seemed to be pretty well loaded when they passed making for the four o'clock train.

October 15, 1915

The latest news has announced the arrival of a baby boy via the Stork Limited, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Rush Friday morning. Mother and babe are both doing well.

Mr. P. J. Coates has been out this week sketching photographs of different homesteads in the neighborhood, namely Mr. Crippen's, Mr. Eugene Brown's, and others.

Frank Powell moved into his homestead this week.

We had our regular monthly preaching last Sunday at Ethel by Rev. Bartlett morning and night. The evening service was a memorial service for Mr. Jerry Bresow and Johnnie Boyd, both members of our Sunday school. Bro. Bartlett preached an excellent sermon. There were a great many flowers brought by the scholars and friends expressing their love for both. After the service Mrs. Powell, president of the League, appointed a committee to take them to the cemetery and place them on their graves. Oh, how we do miss them both from our midst. But they have only gone on before to await the coming of their loved ones.

Mrs. James Boyd is still very low. No hope is entertained for her recovery.

Mr. Ben Boyd is still very sick.

Mr. Newman has taken charge of his homestead at Ethel since Mr. Frank Boyd has moved off.

October 26, 1915

There was no Sunday school or prayer meeting at Ethel last Sunday week on account of the heavy rains on Friday and Saturday the roads were completely flooded. There was a full attendance at Sunday school this last Sunday although quite a lot of water fell again Saturday night.

James Boyd Jr. while out hunting last week ran across a mother bear and two little cubs, which would have made nice little pets could they have been captured.

Mr. P. J. Coates is kept quite busy taking pictures in and around Wekiwa. He went up to Ethel and took the school last week and of course, they all wanted one.

December 24, 1915

Died – last Saturday evening at 5:30 Mr. Ben Boyd passed away at the home of his brother Mr. Hardy Boyd, after a long illness. Mr. Boyd's death has been expected for two months and when the end came, it was certainly a blessed exchange for no tongue can tell what suffering he went through with having two cancers, one on his right eye and one on his back.

The funeral and burial were at Ethel burying ground at 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon. There were several beautiful hymns sung by friends. Mr. A. N. Rush conducted the services at the grave.

Mr. Alin Boyd returned to his home in Bartreas on Monday morning, being called here to the bedside of his brother Ben and faithfully nursed him to the end.

Mrs. Hardy Boyd leaves today to spend Christmas with her mother, after being confined to the house for the past month with sickness of her brother. She certainly needs and deserves a rest, and we wish her an enjoyable and happy Christmas.

There will be a Christmas tree for the Sunday School at Ethel school house Friday night. All are cordially invited as Santy will be there and the children will have a good program. There was to have been a box supper at Ethel Saturday night, but on account of Mr. Ben Boyd's death it was postponed. Also, there was no Sunday School Sunday morning. A prayer meeting was held at Mr. Henry Boyd's home Sunday night.

Frank Coates came in on the train from Sanford to spend a day or two with home folks.

March 24, 1916

Mr. Sluter, who has been making his home with Mr. Wallace is now with the Van Hurbulis brothers, as Mr. Wallace and wife have moved to Sanford.

Mrs. Charles Vermillion has recovered from her spell of sickness, we are glad to note.

Mrs. Eugene Brown is slowly recovering from her long spell of illness of over four months.

Mr. Seral Boyd and wife have returned to their home. Mr. Boyd had a position in the packing house in Kissimmee for the past several months.

Mr. P. J. Coates place is alive with pigs, there being twenty in one gang and all near one size. If nothing happens, he won't lack for meat another year. They also have quite a lot of young chickens and more hatching.

May 3, 1916

There was a crowd of young boys went over to Enterprise yesterday in their motorboat, having quite a nice time. They returned in time for prayer meeting at Ethel. Those who were in the crowd were Carl Deas, Frank Powell, Earl Holaday, Mr. Archie Woods, and Henry Deas.

Little C. W. Rush, little son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Rush, who has been at the Mute School for the past eight months (wherever the State Mute

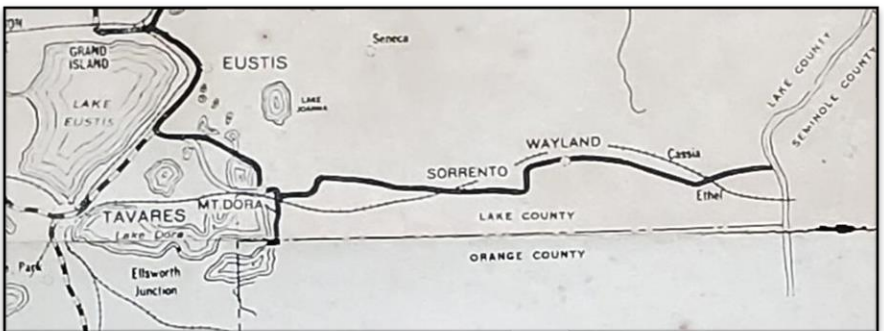
School is in Florida) returned home last Thursday very much improved in health we understand. He is a bright child and learns fast.

The community was shocked last week when the news came from Sanford that little Arthur Fillmon was dead, where he was taken to be under the care of Dr. Denton. Little Arthur was in his third year and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Will Fillmon. He was a member of the Cradle Roll of Ethel Sunday school, and his name was the first on the roll and the first to be called to the arms of Jesus. He was taken sick on Friday and died on Saturday.

His funeral was preached by Rev. Bartlett last Sunday and his little body was laid to rest in Ethel Cemetery. His little grave was covered with lovely flowers by sympathizing friends and little Sunday school children.



Lake County Map, 1916



Close up of part of the above map with Ethel marked on it.

February 12, 1918.

Grandma Boyd has been quite sick at the home of her son J. K. Boyd.

Mr. and Mrs. James Boyd Jr. have very much sympathy from friends in the death of their baby Joseph. Burial last Sunday afternoon in Ethel cemetery.

P. J. Coates has been doing some work on his farm. Mrs. Coates and daughter spent one night and day seeing Wekiwa and friends.

Wekiwa was a quiet place last Friday, most all of us going to the school fair at Tavares, and it is said to have been the best fair they ever had.

The young folks have had some good times at their candy parties and on the river lately.

Some work is going on out here these days, cutting cord wood, crating vegetables, plowing, and fencing.

A. Newcome and E. O. Von Herbulis are suffering from lame backs.

July 26, 1918

Mrs. A. Newcome, who has been visiting relatives in New Jersey for some two months, returned home last week. She was accompanied by friend Mr. Newell Bateman, who was in very poor health and who hoped to be benefited by this climate, but the trip was too hard for one in his condition. He grew worse and passed away Monday night. If he had any relatives, they could not be found. He was buried in Ethel cemetery Tuesday afternoon.

Ethel and Wekiva residents and Rock Springs neighbors and how they acquired their land.

Most of what we know today about Ethel comes from the archives of Orange and Lake Counties where land transactions were recorded. Unfortunately, as we know from our research into William Delk, people were often remiss in filing the official paperwork. To do so meant taking time off from work, traveling to the nearest courthouse and then paying a fee to have deeds recorded and notarized. In Delk's case, the Rock Springs property, as large as it was, wasn't recorded until after his death. There must have been many other settlers and homesteaders who waited many years before getting their properties deeded. In these cases, the date the property was recorded is given but not the date when the land was acquired.

Below are the names of those that we were able to find.

Adams

George W. Adams, Land Grant 1937

Allman

Laura Allman died aged 4, on December 2, 1903, from an enlargement of the spleen. She was buried the same day at Ethel.

Autman

John Autman was born in 1857 and was married to Martha, born in 1870. According to the 1890 Census, their children were listed as Mary, aged 12, Claudia, aged 10, Lula, aged 8, and Laura aged 1.

In the Lake County Poll Tax book for 1888, a Jim Autman is listed as a resident of Ethel. His occupation was given as ferryman. He was 5 ft 6 inches tall.

Ball Brothers

The Ball brothers are reported to have lived in an abandoned house in the woods. One of them worked building bridges and according to local lore, the law was looking for them. When the law was getting close, one of the Balls is said to have given the railroad foreman \$70,000 saying “that was small change” and that his brother had the “big money”.

Legend has it that the ‘big money’ was buried out in the woods but has never been found.

Bassnet

Arthur D. Bassnet, Government land purchase 1882

Bateman

Newell Bateman died at Ethel on July 22, 1918, while visiting from New Jersey. He was 67. He was buried at Ethel the following day. He was staying with Mrs. A. Newcome and had been in poor health for some time. He hoped the warm weather would aid his recuperation. He had a daughter in New Jersey, but she was unable to get his body back for burial, so his friends buried him in Ethel.

Bernhard

Peters Bernhard, Government land purchase 1891

Boyd.

Cyril C. Boyd, Government land purchase 1912

James K. Boyd, Grant 1913. In the 1920 U.S. Census of Ethel residents, James was 46 years and gave his occupation as farmer. He was married to Lora, aged 20, so probably his second wife. Living in the household were daughter Lizzie, aged 16, and sons David A, aged 13, Willie, aged 3, and J. D. aged 5 months.

Raymond R. Boyd, Grant 1920

Thomas I. Boyd, Government land purchase 1913. He was still farming in Ethel in 1920 aged 42. His wife was Dora, aged 34, and he had a daughter Eva, aged 15, and two sons, Loy, aged 13, and Chester A. aged 11.

William H. Boyd Grant 1913

Ella May Boyd, died at the age of 16 on December 5, 1912, from inflammation of the brain. She was buried at Ethel on December 7, 1912. She was the daughter of Ben Boyd and niece of Thomas I. Boyd.

Joseph A. Boyd's headstone is the third that survives in Ethel cemetery. He was the infant son of James and Minnie Boyd. He was born on December 22, 1917, and died on February 2, 1918, aged one month and 14 days. Cause of death was spinal meningitis. He was buried the following day.

His gravestone carried the inscription: "Gone but not forgotten." When the headstone was discovered in 2008, it was sinking into the ground and old bricks had been used underneath to prevent it from falling over.

Ida Boyd, a resident of Wekiva, died during childbirth on April 16, 1915. She was 24. She was buried in Ethel the following day with her unnamed child. She was the wife of Ben Boyd.

Johnnie Boyd, the son of James Boyd, died at the age of 17 between September 26 and October 4, 1915. He was buried the week of his death. A memorial service was held for him and Jerry Bresow (see below) on October 10 by the Rev. Bartlett.

Ben Boyd, a resident of Wekiva, died aged 48, from cancer on December 18, 1915, and was buried the following day in Ethel. He had buried his wife and unborn child six months earlier.

Bragg

Grant 1928

Bresow

Jerry M. Bresow received his land grant in 1915. He died on September 27, 1915, and was buried the following day at Ethel. The Sanford Herald gave his cause of death as typhoid malarial fever.

Brockway

Nathan A. Brockway was living in Ethel in 1920 according to the U.S. Census. He was a truck farmer. His wife Lucy, was aged 50, and they had a daughter Flora, aged 17, and a son Allan, aged 12.

Brown

David H. Brown, Grant 1883

Eugene Brown, Grant 1917

James M. Brown, Grant 1913

Ulysses S. Brown, Grant 1917

Click

The authors are hugely appreciative of the support given by members of the Click Family, particularly Frankie "Maxwell" Goebel and Porter Click, in writing this history of Ethel. They have spent years researching their

family history and it gives us a detailed insight into the lives of the Clicks at Ethel backed up by some amazing photographs which they have allowed us to use.

Finley B. 1863-1932 Grant recorded in 1915.

Finley Belshazzar Click was born on November 28, 1863, in Jerusalem, Davie County, North Carolina. His father was John Nicholas Click and his mother was Amelia Elvira Eaton.

The family originally came from Saxony, Germany, and their last name of Kluck or Gluck gradually changed to Click once in the U.S.

Nickalaus Kluck, born September 11, 1748, was a member of a ranking family and an officer in the German Army.

According to family records, while in military service as a young man, he was “grievously insulted” by a superior officer and immediately challenged him to a duel on “the field of honor”. It was arranged that they would, stripped to the waist, fight with short swords”. Just as the duel was about to begin, the police arrived and as dueling was punishable by death, both men fled the scene. Young Kluck dared not return home, so he made his way to the Atlantic coast and boarded a ship bound for America.

He arrived in the Americas in Pennsylvania in 1767. He was a farmer and Lutheran. He married Rebecca Harmon on July 9, 1771, in Pennsylvania, and they had a son Michael, born about 1782, in Davie, North Carolina, and his son John Nichols Click, born June 15, 1827, in Rowan, North Carolina, was Finley Belshazzar’s father.

Finley married Margaret Ann Mills (born October 5, 1852, in Iredell, N.C.) on September 29, 1887, in Statesville, North Carolina.



Margaret Ann Mills as a young woman (date unknown)

They had three sons: Clyde Francis, born September 15, 1888, in Iredell County, N.C., who died on April 21, 1917, in Duval, Florida; Clifford Mills, born October 2, 1892, in Iredell, N. C., who died on December 17, 1962, in Daytona Beach, Florida; and Carl Lee, born September 15, 1895, in Iredell, N. C., who died on September 6, 1949, in Orlando, Florida.

Carl Lee Click, who died September 6, 1949, aged 54, was the former police chief in Pine Castle and Ocoee. Earlier he was a constable in West Orange County and a game warden in the Everglades. At the time of his

death, he was a special deputy and a special warden for the Apopka Hunting Club.



Carl Lee Click, aged four.



A studio photograph of Finley and Margaret with Clyde Eaton and Clifford Mills.

Finley was a member of the Carpenter's Union and the Oddfellows and according to his obituary in the Orlando Sentinel, he moved to Florida in 1894 although he did not file his land deed until 1915.

Writing on the back of a photograph of Finley and Margaret states that Finley came to Florida around 1886 and it was eight years before his family, who had remained in Davie Co. North Carolina, joined him.

During this time and thanks to the railroad, he made periodic visits back to his family as he and his wife continued to have children during this period. However, by 1894 his Ethel home was ready, and the family finally moved to Florida.

Maggie Click died on November 12, 1913, from cancer aged 61. She was buried the same day at Lake View, Sanford.



Finley and Margaret in their Sunday best.

On March 8, 1914, he married Emily J. Hull (born on January 20, 1863) at her parents' home in south Orlando, and after the ceremony they returned to Ethel.

His land grant was recorded on May 27, 1915, but it is not known when he acquired the land although it must have been after 1886. One of the conditions of the Homestead Act was that you must live on your land, and this is maybe why Finley is not recorded in the 1890 U. S. Census of Davie County, North Carolina. In fact, in some records from this time, Margaret lists herself as a widow.

Gainesville 06511

4-1000-R.

The United States of America,

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS, a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Gainesville, Florida, has been deposited in the General Land Office, whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress of May 20, 1862, "To Secure Homesteads to Actual Settlers on the Public Domain," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of Finley B. Click has been established and duly consummated, in conformity to law, for the south half of the northeast quarter and the west half of the southeast quarter of Section thirty-six in Township nineteen south of Range twenty-eight east of the Tallahassee Meridian, Florida, containing one hundred sixty and twenty-six-hundredths acres,

according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land, returned to the GENERAL LAND OFFICE by the Surveyor-General:

NOW KNOW YE, That there is, therefore, granted by the UNITED STATES unto the said claimant the tract of Land above described; TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said claimant and to his heirs and assigns of the said claimant forever.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, Woodrow Wilson

President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, at the City of Washington, the TWENTY-SEVENTH

(SEAL)

day of MAY in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and FIFTEEN and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and THIRTY-NINTH.

By the President:

By

Woodrow Wilson
M. P. Le Roy Secretary,
L. B. Lamar
Register of the General Land Office.

RECORD OF PATENTS: Patent Number
4-216

475412

CARTER—CLICK

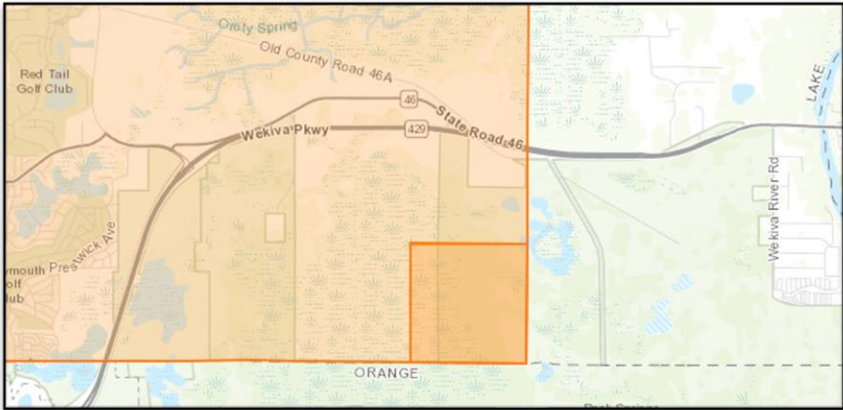
Mrs. Emily Jane Carter and Mr. Finley B. Click were united in marriage Sunday morning at 9 o'clock, Rev. Dr. Edw. T. Poulson of the First Baptist church being the officiating minister. The couple left shortly after the ceremony for Mr. Click's home, near Sanford. The ceremony took place at the home of the bride in the southern suburbs of Orlando.

The wedding announcement in the Orlando Sentinel, Tuesday, March 10, 1914

Finley died on August 2, 1932, and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery Orlando.

His death notice in the Orlando Sentinel on August 3, 1932, stated that he was survived by his wife, Emily, sons, Clyde Francis, Clifford Mills and Carl Lee, brother Sidney M. Click of Laredo, Tx, and his three sisters, Mrs. Susan Langston, of Knoxville, North Carolina, Mrs. Edith Grubb, of Ashville, and Mrs. Sallie Koontze, of Longwood.

Emily died on January 2, 1942, in Orange County, Florida.

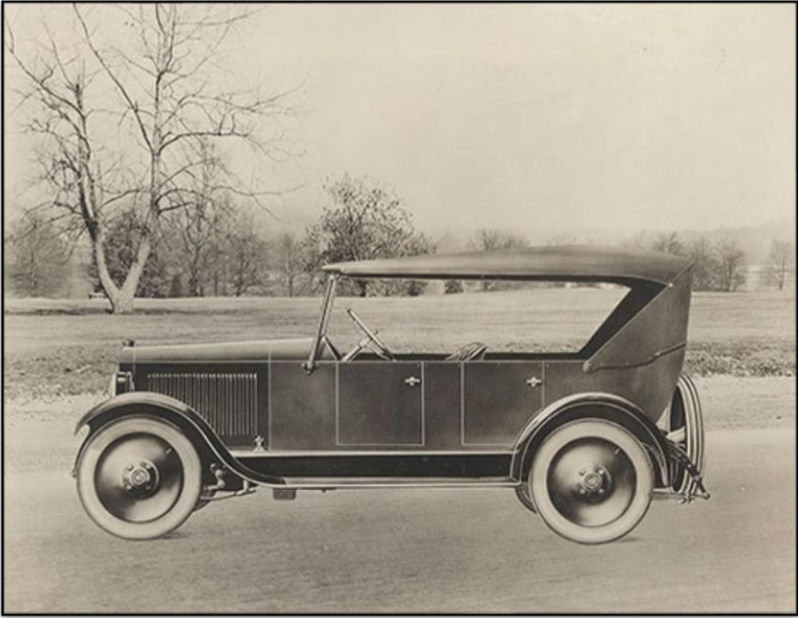


U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land management map of section location of Click's Homestead Land Grant of 160.26 acres.

His son Clyde was a car salesman for the Hansen Automobile Company and he must have created a stir when he visited the family in Ethel.



Clyde is in the rear with the suit and tie. Note the cabins in the background.



Hansen automobile.



The Clicks outside their cabin. Emily is in the front center with Finley behind her to the right.



Finley and Emily

Finley had several siblings. Charles 1865-1877, Sarah 'Sallie' Eliza 1868-1943, Albert A. 1871-1920, Susie 'Sudie' Mae 1874-1952, Edith Anita 1877-1948, and Sidney M. 1886-1963. In 1882 twins were born (a boy and a girl) but they did not survive and were not named.

Sidney M. Click bought 40 acres of land just east of what is now Wekiwa Springs State Park – recorded on September 18, 1928 - but by 1950 according to the U.S. Census had he moved to Texas.

Sarah 'Sallie' Eliza Click (born April 19, 1868, in Davie County, NC), was married to William Roland Koontze (born February 8, 1863), also of Ethel. They married on May 22, 1887. In 1926, they purchased 80 acres on Old McDonald Road in Sorrento where they built their home. Sarah died on

July 20, 1943, in Sorrento, and her husband died on September 4, 1944, in Eustis.



Finley, Emily and three of his grandchildren.



This picture taken near Finley's cabin shows Sidney Marvin Click standing, Nonnie Belle White Click seated with banjo, and William Roland Koontz, kneeling. William is the husband of Sarah "Sallie" Eliza Click.

**Pedigree Chart for
Finley Belshazar Click**

Johann Nicolas Click

B: 11 Sep 1748 in Sachsen,
Germany
M: 09 Jul 1771
D: 22 Oct 1832 in Jerusalem,
Davie, North Carolina, USA

Rebecca Elizabeth Harmon

B: 14 Oct 1753 in Maryland, USA
D: 13 Oct 1834 in Jerusalem,
Davie, North Carolina, USA

Michael Click

B: Abt. 1782 in Mocksville, Davie,
North Carolina, USA
M: 27 Apr 1809
D: Apr 1860 in Jerusalem, Davie,
North Carolina, USA

John Nicholas Click

B: 15 Jun 1827 in Rowan, North
Carolina, USA
M: 03 Jan 1864 in Davie, North
Carolina, USA
D: 02 Aug 1918 in Jerusalem,
Davie, North Carolina, USA

William Butler

B: 1750
M:
D: 1832 in Jackson, Madison,
Tennessee, USA

Sarah Butler

B: Abt. 1792 in Davie, North
Carolina, USA
D: Davie, North Carolina, USA

Name:

B:
D:

Finley Belshazar Click

B: 28 Nov 1862 in Jerusalem,
Davie, North Carolina, USA
M: 29 Sep 1887 in Statesville,
Iredell, North Carolina, USA
D: 02 Aug 1932 in Orlando,
Orange, Florida, USA

Benjamin Eaton

B: 22 Jun 1785 in Rowan, North
Carolina, USA
M: 01 Dec 1808 in Rowan, North
Carolina, USA
D: 28 Aug 1829 in Davie, North
Carolina, USA

Joseph Eaton

B: 17 Jan 1814 in Rowan, North
Carolina, USA
M: 1830 in Davie, North Carolina,
USA
D: 18 May 1851 in Farmington,
Davie, North Carolina, USA

Amelia Fox

B: 07 Oct 1788 in Rowan, North
Carolina, USA
D: 01 Dec 1850 in Rowan, North
Carolina, USA

Amelia Elvira Eaton

B: 25 Oct 1841 in Iredell, North
Carolina, USA
D: 26 Aug 1930 in Jerusalem,
Davie, North Carolina, USA

James Cornell

B:
M:
D:

Eliza Cornell

B: 28 Apr 1815 in Wilkes-Barre,
Luzerne, Pennsylvania, USA
D: 28 May 1862 in Jerusalem,
Davie, North Carolina, USA

Mary Cornell

B:
D:

Coates

John H. Coates, Grant 1916

A report in the Sanford Herald newspaper read, "Mr. P. J. Coates had no trouble proving up his homestead last Thursday, the 16th. He took up a homestead three years ago and has done quite a lot of hard work and improvements on it and in the near future, he hopes to have a lovely home. He has a nice orange grove set out, besides other nice fruit such as peaches, pears, figs, grapes, and grapefruit."

Crawford

Carroll Crawford, Government land purchase 1927.

Delk

Major William S. Delk was born in 1810. While he was not a resident of Ethel several of his relatives were. In the 1860 Orange County Slave Schedule, Delk is listed as owning 17 slaves – seven women and 10 men - aged between one year and 50 years old.

He married Samantha and had a daughter Nora. Mary Frazier, wife of Anthony, was the midwife who delivered Nora.

According to the Orange County Census in 1880, William was 70, Samantha was 30, Nora was 12, and a second daughter is listed – Martha aged 10. After William's death Samantha remarried on October 16, 1890, to James. C. McDonald in Orlando.

Nora married Thomas Elbert White, and they had a son Edward White. Edward White married Lena Hubble of Virginia and they had a daughter Rowena Pearl.

Rowena married Charles Henry Lewis and they had two sons, Norman, and Charles Ray. (See Lewis below)

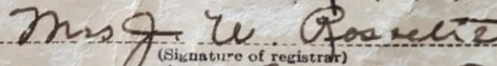
Nora was buried at Ethel.

REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that in accordance with the
Selective Service Proclamation of the President of the United States

WILLIAM "NONE" DELK
(First name) (Middle name) (Last name)
 GRANT FIA
(Place of residence)
(This will be identical with that on the Registration Card)

has been duly registered this 27 day of APRIL 1942


(Signature of registrar)
 Registrar for Local Board 1 BREVARD 5
(Number) (City or county)

**THE REGISTRAR REQUIRES YOU TO HAVE THIS CARD
PERSONAL POSSESSION AT ALL TIMES**

U. S. S. Form 2
(Revised 6/9/41)

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

HAIR	WEIGHT (Approx)	COMPLEXION
	160	Low
Blue		Dark
Gray		Freckled
Hazel		Light brown
Brown		Dark brown
Black		Black
		Bald

Other physical characteristics that will aid in identification:

SCAR ON TOE of LEFT FOOT
NEAR LEFT EYE

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-1631

The Registration Certificate pictured above was issued to William Delk in April 1942 as proof of his U. S. residency. He was required to have the card in his personal possession at all times in case he had to prove his identity. It lists his home in Grant, Brevard County.

On the back of the card, it also lists identifying features – a scar on the toe of his left foot, and a scar near his left eye.

The card was found in the Lewis House in Ethel. The relationship of this William Delk to the Lewis family is not known.

Donaldson

Henry Donaldson was born in 1847 and was a black woodcutter. He is believed to have died in October 1891.

Dowless

Andrew Dowless, Government land purchase 1892

Durfee

E. B. Durfee Government land purchase 1883

Duval

Edward F. Duval, born 1862, Grant of 160 acres December 21, 1891. The Lake County Poll Tx book for 1888 also lists an A. T. Duval, aged 41, occupation farmer.

Evans

C. G. Evans Grant 1878

Ferran

Edgar Ferran, Government land purchase 1885

Fillmon

William Darlington Fillmon, Grant 1917. He had 160 acres of land in Ethel but in the 1920 U.S. Census, he was listed as 38 years old and gave his occupation as carpenter. His wife Etta J. was 31, and they had a daughter Consey, aged 14, and two sons, Lesley aged 8 and Robert D. aged 2.

William A. Fillmon, son of William D. Fillmon, died on May 13, 1916, from diphtheria. He was buried the next day at Ethel.

Fox

Charles J. Fox Grant 1883

Glass

Dick Glass lived at Wekiva and died on January 17, 1893, aged 9, after being run over by train cars.

An account of the accident said that he was being encouraged by railroad men to jump onto the moving rail car but fell underneath. He was buried at Ethel.

Goines/Goins

Earl Goins died in Ethel of bronchial pneumonia on February 11, 1936, while visiting from Jacksonville. He was aged 16. He was listed a single and white, and his occupation was given as schoolboy. He was buried at Ethel on February 14 at 3.30 pm.

His father was Earl Jackson Goines who was born in Lake County on November 7, 1899, and married Bertha White who ordered the funeral.

Gray

The Carey Hand Funeral Home has a record (Book 2 # 247) of the burial of a six-month-old child at Ethel in May 1896. The unnamed child died on May 15, 1896, and was the child of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Gray of Wekiva.

Griffin

Mrs. H. Griffin was buried at Ethel and her residence was listed as Ethel Station in Lake County – which is how the township was referred to in many official documents. Cause of death on October 25, 1887, was given as dysentery. She was buried on October 27th. She was 60 years old.

Halliday

William C. Halliday, Grant 1918

Hardy

Elizabeth Hardy, Government land purchase 1883

Hawkins

Jane C. Hawkins, Grant 1895

Hicks

Henry Hicks, Government land purchase 1892

Hughey

John Hughey, Grant 1851

Jammes

Benjamin F. Jammes, Government land purchase 1928

Jernigan

Mrs. Frank Jernigan, a resident of Ethel, died on December 2, 1909, from "obstruction of bowels". She was 56 and was buried the following day at Fort Christmas.

Johnson

Philip Fox Johnson was born in Essex, Essex County, Ontario, Canada on December 15, 1839. He was a farmer and a Quaker. He had a son, George Isaac Alderton (1864-1938) through his first marriage but the name of his wife, date and location of the marriage is unknown. He married Mary Ann Gibson (1841-1902) in March 1871 in Sanilac County, Michigan, and they moved to Ethel around 1888 with their four sons and a daughter – George, Arthur W. (1877-1934), Owen Manson (1880-1957), Norman, and Mary Helen. They homesteaded but their land grant

of 106.2 acres was not recorded until June 1, 1898. Their daughter, Mary Helen Johnson (1875-1957) married Hezekiah Nathaniel Vickrey (1865-1944) on January 23, 1894. Their marriage certificate (see below) recorded in Tavares, shows that he was from Markham, about four miles away and east of the Wekiva River, and she was from Ethel. After the Orange freeze of 1895-5, Philip and Mary moved to Sorrento.

of the State of Florida, for a License for Marriage, and it appearing to the satisfaction of said County Judge that no legal impediments exist to the Marriage now sought to be solemnized,
THESE ARE, THEREFORE, To authorize you to unite in the HOLY ESTATE OF MATRIMONY,
Mr. H. N. Vickrey of Markham Fla
and Mary H. Johnson of Ethel Lake Co Fla
and that you make return of the same, duly certified under your hand, to the County Judge aforesaid.
WITNESS, My name as _____ *County Judge, and the Seal of said Court, at*
the Court House in Tavares, this 23rd day of _____

In the 1900 U.S. Census, Philip and Mary are recorded as living in Sorrento with their 20-year-old son Norman. R. Johnson.

In November 1903, Philip married Mrs. Mercy Phisard, according to an announcement in the Talladega, Alabama, newspaper. Philip died on May 26, 1906, aged 66, and was buried in Providence Baptist Church Cemetery, Gunthertown, Clay County, Alabama.

Kelso

James C. Kelso Grant 1916

Killebrew

J. A. Killebrew, was born in 1861, and was a carpenter.

Kirkland

Robert Kirkland, born 1830, wife Martha, born 1832, daughter Laura, born 1856.

Koons/Kuhns

Jacob S. Koons, was born in 1844 and was a machinist. Grant 1902

The Jacksonville Times-Union newspaper reported on September 24, 1895, about “a serious affray between Messrs. Koons and Wynne at Sorrento.”

“Last Saturday morning (September 23) the place was thrown into excitement by a quarrel between R. T. Wynne of this place, and J. S. Koons, of Ethel. A lawsuit was pending between the two involving a sack of oats.

“J.S. Koons was quietly seated on the porch of the post office when his enemy approached, shaking a fist in his face. Koons rose and retreated. Wynne followed striking and kicking him. Both were soon floored when Koons drew a dirk knife and plunged it into the right side of Wynne, below the ribs. Drs Thomas and Russell sewed and stripped the gash with plaster. Up to date the patient is doing well. The case will be tried on Saturday, 28th, by Justice of the Peace Needham.”

The newspaper did not report on the outcome of the case but did report on October 10, 1895, that Justice Warren Needham had been confined to his room for 10 days suffering from a bilious attack.

Koontz

William Roland Koontz, born February 8, 1863, Davidson N.C. (Father was Andrew Koontz and mother was America E. Hodrick)

Married on May 22, 1887, in Davidson, N. C. to Sarah Eliza Click (born. April 19, 1868, in Davie, N.C. She was the sister of Finley Click and at the time of her marriage was living in Ethel. She died July 20, 1943, in Sorrento, Florida).

Children:

Thurman Ebenezer. Born July 4, 1887, in Yadkin, N.C. died about 1950 in California.

Willie Grace. Born April 3, 1890, in North Carolina. Died some time before 1900.

Albert. Born April 25, 1891, in North Carolina. Died before 1900.

Ossie Pearl. Born August 24, 1893, in North Carolina. Died February 27,

1919, in Lebanon, PA.

Clarice Tabitha. Born August 8, 1895, in North Carolina. Date and place of death unknown.

William Roland. Born December 14, 1897, in North Carolina. Died before 1900.

Gladys Amelia. Born November 10, 1899, in North Carolina. Died before 1910.

Charlotte Mae. Born March 2, 1902, in Salisbury N.C. Married in Pennsylvania. Date and place of death unknown.

Lee

Ely A. Lee, Grant 1907

Mary M. Lee (White) Grant 1907

Will. E. Lee Government land purchase 1912

Charles C. Lee, a resident of Sanford, died at the age of 34 from pneumonia on November 14, 1918, while staying with family at Ethel. He was buried the same day at Ethel.

Rob E. Lee, died on July 20, 1919, from unknown causes, at the age of three. Although a resident of Sanford, he was buried at Ethel on the same day.

Clara May Lee Jernigan was born on March 5, 1888, in Ethel so there must have been a Lee family living there then. Her father was John Noah Lee, a carpenter (1866-1954) and his father was Joshua Josiah Lee (1838-1933). Clara's mother was Vallian Jane Thompson (1869-1908) who married John in 1887. They had at least three sons and five daughters.

Vallian's birthplace is listed as Sanford. This was the nearest town to register births in the area, and as they were being recorded in Sanford, this was often listed erroneously as the birthplace especially as many rural communities did not have official names at that time, i.e. Ethel

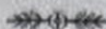
which was not given that name until the railway arrived almost 20 years later.

Clara May married Arthur Wilburn Jernigan on January 9, 1909. He was born on April 20, 1882, in Fort Christmas, Orange County, and was described as a trader. His father was Frank W. Jernigan and his mother Caroline Carrie Hodges, who might also have been buried at Ethel. The marriage certificate lists Clara May's address as Ethel and Arthur's as Paola, a predominantly Swedish settlement about three miles east of Ethel with its own rail stop. They later moved to Putnam County and she, Arthur and their six children are buried in Peniel Cemetery in Palatka. Their descendants still live in the Palatka area.



Arthur Jernigan, holding the cow whip, with his two sons, Hillary Elmer in the middle and Paul Warren on the right.

Marriage License.



State of Florida, County of Orange.

To Any Minister of the Gospel, or any Officer Legally Authorized to Solemnize the Rite of Matrimony:

Whereas Application having been made to the County Judge of Orange County, of the State of Florida, for a License for Marriage, and it appearing to the satisfaction of said County Judge that no legal impediments exist to the marriage now sought to be solemnized.

These are, Therefore, To authorize you to unite in the

Holy Estate of Matrimony

Mr. Arthur W. Jernigan of Paula Fila
and Miss Clara Lee of Ethel Fila

and that you make return of the same, duly attested under your hand, to the County Judge aforesaid.

Witness, WM. MARTIN, County Judge, and the seal of said County
at the Court-House in Orlando, this 5th day of January

A. D. 1909

Wm. Martin

County Judge

I Certify that the within-named

Arthur W. Jernigan
and Clara Lee

were by me, the undersigned, duly united in the Holy Estate of Matrimony, by the authority of the
within License.

Date this 8th day of January A. D. 1909

Witness in Company

Etis S. Tamm

Ethel Clayton Markie

Richard H. Markie

Notary Public

Filed for Record this 9th day of January

A. D. 1909, and recorded in Marriage

Record, page 342

Information

to be returned within ten days
if not returned, it is void.

Wm. Martin

County Judge



This picture taken about 1960 shows Clara May Lee and Arthur Wilburn Jernigan with their four children. Left to right: Ruth (1924-1984), Clara May Lee (1888-1977), Vera (1920-1967), Arthur (1882-1963), Paul Warren (1917-2003), and Hillary Elmer (1909-1977). They had two other children: Blondie who died aged 6 months, and Leicester, who died aged 22.

Lewis

Charles H. Lewis, known to everyone as Charley, was born on March 21, 1917, on the Isle of Pines in Cuba. His mother Violet came from Liverpool, England, and his father James was from New York. The family moved to Cuba after James was advised to move to a warmer climate for his health.

They returned to the United States in 1926 after a devastating hurricane hit the island. A family anecdote is that the winds were so strong that it lifted Violet into the air, but James rescued her by hanging on to her feet.

Charles had a brother Arthur Dean Lewis (1933-1975), and two sisters, Mary E. Lewis, and Doris Bernice Lewis (1919-2010).

Doris married Donald McDonald on July 11, 1939, in Lake County FL. and Donald was the brother of Mary Elizabeth McDonald, who married Wekiva resident Albert O. Von Herbulis on May 22, 1921. (see Von Herbulis section below).

Charles was ten when the family moved back to the United States and settled in Ethel. His mother died not long after and he had to go to work to help support the family.

He married Rowena White, on December 6, 1942. She was born in Ethel on June 2, 1922, and was related to the Delk family. Her father Edward White was born at Rock Springs on July 14, 1871, and was affectionately known as Grandpa White by all that knew him. He died one month short of his 108th birthday on June 27, 1979. He credited his long life to staying busy and eating no white bread.

He was the grandson of Major Delk, the plantation owner. Edward married Lena Hubble, from Virginia. White worked on the railroads, orange groves and shipyards. He cut wood for the wood burning railway engines and remembered that teachers at Ethel were paid \$35 a month but never stayed for a second term. He had his tonsils taken out when he was 10 by Dr. Smith, the sawmill doctor, and it cost his parents \$5. He said he was never the same after the surgery,

He also said that Captain Delk was breaking a horse which threw him, which broke his back, and it was that that killed him.

Nora Delk White was Grandpa White's mother, born 1868 and died 1904. She was 11 when the school opened in Sorrento and walked to and from school each day.



Charles and Rowena Lewis c.1942

Charley served in World War 11 with Battery A, 204th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion. He was the operator of the power plant that provided the electricity for the 40mm guns. When he enlisted, he was among three busloads of recruits leaving Tavares.

He trained at Cape Cod and served in France and England and received his Honorable Discharge on December 10, 1945, at Camp Blanding, Florida.

After the war, he tried his hands at many jobs. He became a farmer, rancher, mechanic, and a railroad section hand before becoming a landscape gardener. They had two sons, Norman, born on January 20, 1951, and Ray, born June 18, 1955, and known as Bigfoot, who died in 2023.

Charley had 30 acres of land and he established the Lewis Range which for many years, was one of the few shooting range facilities in Central Florida. He eventually handed over the landscaping business to son Ray, but he continued to manage the range. Charley died in 1998.

His son Norman married the former Janice Bronson, and both worked for the Methodist Children's Home near Enterprise. They had a son and daughter.

Ray married Maureen Slicer and she joined the landscaping firm as bookkeeper. He died on October 11, 1923, and was one of the last residents of Ethel. The Lewis House, built by Charles in 1951, was the last to be built in Ethel and is the only structure remaining.

Libby

George A. Libby, Government land purchase 1895

Lipford

Albert T. Lipford, Grant recorded in 1916. Born in December 1869 and worked as a foreman on the railroad. He wife Emma, was born in June 1868 and they had five children: Willa A. born June 1888, Alberta June, born June 1890, May, born July 1892, Sallie, born February 1897, and Taylor, born October 1899.

Martin

Alexander Martin, Grant 1878

Meadows

James Meadows, Government land purchase 1925

Metts

Andrew J. Metts, Grant 1883, Government land purchase 1887

Moody

Jacob Moody, Government land purchase of 160.58 acres recorded on April 5, 1876. He sold it to Andrew Owens on December 12, 1875.

Moore

Land holdings

Alonzo D. Moore, Government land purchase March 5, 1869. He paid \$1.25 an acre for 39.65 acres but did not file in Orange County until January 23, 1885. He sold it to Angusson on June 3, 1878, who filed it in Orange County on June 5, 1878.

William Moore, December 11, 1875, purchase of land from Internal Improvement Fund for \$1 an acre. The land was not filed with Orange County until May 23, 1882, after his death. Grant November 30, 1878.

The family:

The Moore's came from South Carolina where they owned land. They had 1,000 acres on Mountain Creek, 96 District, in 1793, and 903 acres in Tilly Branch, All Saints parish in 1850.

William Moore senior married Margaret DuBose and they had two sons – William and Thomas – and three daughters – Maria, Matilda, and Margaret. Matilda married William D. Bryan in July 1825.

Son William was born in Barnwell District South Carolina, on June 8, 1800, and married Charlotte B. Newton (born January 23, 1813).

Children. Alonzo Dewees Moore (b. 1840), Angus Patterson Moore (b. August 22, 1842, d. May 7, 1902), Newton Gammon Moore (b. 1847). Living in Effingham Co, Georgia according to the 1860 census.

1870 census (Orange Co) William is listed aged 70, farmer, Charlotte 50 Keeping House, Alonza 30, Angus 48, and Newton 24, all listed as farmers.

Angus married Mazelia A. Tullis around 1879 (she died in 1893). In 1880 Angus was farming in the 12th District of Effingham County, with their child Leo, 3 months. Also in the household was Mazelia's brother Elihu, 31, who worked on the railroad and his bride Maggie Newton, 22, with their child Vivian, six months. By 1900, Angus, aged 57, was a policeman in Savannah, boarding with Elihu and Maggie.

Newton G. Moore received his land grant on September 20, 1882. Originally from South Carolina, he died in Ethel aged about 42 and was buried near his parents. He died between September 22, 1888, and April 9, 1889.

Newton Moore married Laura E. Kirkland (whose father was Robert L. Kirkland of Orange Co.). Their children were Lottie O. (born 1876), Willie Angus (born 1878), Irin Cecil (born 1880), Ila (born 1883), Newton Judson (born 1886 and died May 13, 1897), Charles Cleveland (born 1888)

They lost all their land at Ethel by foreclosure sale to Cora E. Willcox, of Pennsylvania. The case was heard in Orange County on June 21, 1887, but was then transferred to the newly formed Lake County jurisdiction. It was finalized by court decree on August 1, 1888, and recorded in Lake County's Clerk's Office on September 22, 1888.

On April 9, 1889, Cora Willcox deeded 10 acres by conveyance to Laura E. Moore being the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 30-19-29. This was part of Newton and Laura's land that Cora Willcox had foreclosed on and must have been the site of their homestead. By this time Laura was a widow with five children at home, so Cora in a very generous act gave her back the ten acres.

In those days, married women did not have land in their own name only unless they were widows or inherited it. By 1893, she had sold her 10 acres at Ethel and moved to St. Petersburg.

After Newton's death she married William S. Meeks in Hillsborough on March 10, 1895, and had two more daughters – Willie L. Meeks (born 1897), and Emmaie (sic) G. Meeks (born 1900). In the 1900 Census, Laura says that she had had 8 children of whom 5 are still alive. The deceased children were Lottie O, Ila, and Newton Judson. Lottie and Ila were buried at Ethel. Her second husband died some time before 1903.

1875 William Moore bought 40 acres (\$1 an acre) Section 13.19.29 (SE ¼ of SW ¼) Purchase approved by Governor Stearns 10.11.75, not filed until 5.23.82 after his death on 1.5.82.

Nov 13, 1878, bought 160 acres and five hundredths of an acre
(Homestead Act purchase)

SWNW 32.19S.29E

E ½ NE 31.19S.29E (location of cemetery)

SWNE 31.19s.29E

Cora E. Willcox purchased the Moore property July 2, 1888. The property was foreclosed June 21, 1887, for unpaid taxes.

Musselwhite

John Musselwhite, Government land purchase 1906

Ottman

John Ottman lived in Ethel and was a ferry operator. He died on July 6, 1901, by suicide aged 40. He was buried the next day.

Palleo (Pattillo).

Mary Jane Palleo was an Ethel resident and died on July 1, 1905. Cause of death was given as old age. She was aged 70. She was buried in Ethel on July 2, 1905. Her last name is given as Patillo in the Brisson Funeral Home burial records.

Parkhurst

E. G. Parkhurst, Government land purchase 1884

Peters

B. Peters, born 1843, cabinet maker.

Priester

Priester F. B. was born in 1861 and was a farmer.

Railroads

Government land purchase 1888

Rawls

Edgar C. Rawls Grant 1938

Reed

Arthur Reed, Government land purchase 1860. In 1863 he sold 200 acres to Isaac Rutland.

Reid

Robert R. Reid, Government land purchase 1855

Rents/Rentz

Lawson S. Rents Government land purchase 1951

Rhodes

Russell C. Rhodes Government land purchase 1926

Robuck

Robuck W. A. was born in 1857 and in the Lake County Poll Tax book of 1888 is listed as black and a farmer.

Rush

Andrew M. Rush, Grant 1917

Eugene A. Rush, Grant 1917

Clyde Rush, who died on January 7, 1913, aged 15 months, was buried at Ethel the following day. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Rush.

Rutland

Isaac N. Rutland (born 1825 in Tennessee). He listed his occupation as merchant and farmer. Government land purchase April 9, 1859, of 40.1 acres at \$1 an acre; Government land purchases on August 1, 1860, of 36.14 acres (not filed in Orange County until June 18, 1928.) and 40.1 acres. On February 17, 1863, he bought about 200 acres from Arthur M. Reid.

On July 1, 1882, Othman Rutland sold 12 acres to Miles McK. Stewart for \$800. The sale was filed in Orange County on August 25, 1882.

Isaac was married to Margaret M., born 1832, and they had four children – Louisa, born 1853, Cassins M. born 1856, Othman, born 1857, and a year-old son who in the 1860 Census was unnamed.

Thomas

Ella Thomas, Government land purchase 1926

Thompson

Nathaniel Thompson was born in April 1846 and lived in Ethel. His wife died on January 22, 1894. She was buried the next day. The cause of death is unknown, and she was 45 years old. It was noted that she was buried in a rosewood coffin. They had two children, Clifford, born July 1881, and William A. born January 1884. In 1900 Nathaniel was living in Tavares.

Ulrich

E. Ulrich, Government land purchase 1909

Vanderhoeck

John Vanderhoeck is listed in the 1920 U.S. Census as living in Ethel. He was renting his property, and his occupation was listed as blacksmith. He was born in Amsterdam, Holland on April 2, 1883, the son of Josef Vanderhoek and Johnanna Vanderhovene Vanderhoek. He emigrated to the United States in 1902 and became a naturalized citizen.

He married Mary Pauline Snow on November 2, 1913, in Bibb County, Georgia. He had four children, John S., born on December 27, 1914, in Georgia; Johanna Mary, born on October 23, 1916, in Sanford, Seminole County, Florida; Paul Cornelius, born on January 15, 1919, in Sanford, and Jesse Perry, born on July 21, 1922, in Oxford, Marion County, Florida.

According to the 1920 U.S. Census of Ethel residents, James Snow, his brother-in-law, and a farmer, was living with them.

In the 1930 Census, he and his family were living in rented accommodation in Ocala, and his occupation was still listed as blacksmith.

He died in Sumter County on October 19, 1950, at the age of 67. He was buried in the Pine Level Cemetery in Oxford, Sumter County. His wife died on December 14, 1985, in Marion County, Florida, and was buried in Pine Level Cemetery, as were her parents, Paul and Cora Bertha Perry Snow.

Vermillion

Charles J. Vermillion, Grant 1919. In the 1920 U.S. Census of Ethel residents, he gave his age as 44 and his occupation as lumbering. His wife, Nettie was 38, and they had a daughter Daphne, aged 23.

Von Herbulis

Albert Olszewski von Herbulis and his brother Edward (below) had adjacent properties in Wekiva north of the railroad stop. Albert made his first Government land purchase in 1914 and acquired more land through a grant in 1923.



Albert O. Von Herbulis. Source: Virginia Buras

Albert was born in Pittston, on January 24, 1888. His father was Adalbert Olszewski Von Herbulis, who was born in Budapest, on April 23, 1861, and came to America in 1880. He was a nationally recognized architect

having designed many cathedrals, university buildings and hospitals in the U.S. and Canada, including the Cathedral of St. Helena, in Helena, Montana. He married his wife Amelia Anna Wittke (1854-1945) in 1884, and they had five sons (Edward, Albert, Otto, Walter, and John), and one daughter (Melania).

Albert came to Florida on a hunting trip prior to 1910, and liked it so much, he stayed. In the U.S. Census of 1910, he is recorded as living in Sorrento and his occupation is given as architect.

		Mattie	Wife	Y	W	39	m	0	7	6
		- Henrietta M.	Daughter	Y	W	5	S			
39	39	Van Herkule Albert	Heath - X	m	r	21	S			
40	40	Ball B.	Heath - X	m	r	64	S			
		John B.	Brother	m	r	62	S'			
41	41	Mahley B.	Heath - X	m	B	23	md			
		Rayton Will	Postner	m	B	30	md			
42	42	Id	Heath - X	m	B	50	md			

Page from the Thirteenth Census of the United States: 1910 Population. Source: Virginia Buras.

He bought his first plot of land in Wekiva in 1914 and with the help of his older brother Edward, built a two-story home which he designed.

The home was built in the second half of 1915 from timber purchased from the Zachary Lumber Company in Sanford. A quote of \$174.50 dated June 24, 1915, was for materials for siding, flooring, shingles, and windows to be delivered to Ethel. There is also a receipt for \$54.31 dated July 7, 1915, for lumber purchased with a list of board sizes and lengths.

Later, he added a front porch extension on the back and sides of the house, added two bedrooms on the right side, a large room with kitchen and dining room, and a dirt-covered carport.

Albert received his Draft Registration card on June 5, 1917, and his physical description was given as “tall and slender”, unlike his brother Edward, who was “short and stout.

C. No. 194

Form 1 **REGISTRATION CARD** No. 5

1	Name last <i>Albert C. Von Herbulis Jr.</i> <small>(Given name)</small> <small>(Family name)</small>	Age, in yrs <i>29</i>
2	Home address <i>Wekiwa Fla.</i> <small>(No.)</small> <small>(Street)</small> <small>(City)</small> <small>(State)</small>	
3	Date of birth <i>January 24th 1888</i> <small>(Month)</small> <small>(Day)</small> <small>(Year)</small>	
4	Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? <i>Natural Born</i>	
5	Where were you born? <i>Pittston Penn. U.S.A.</i> <small>(Town)</small> <small>(State)</small> <small>(Nation)</small>	
6	If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?	
7	What is your present trade, occupation, or office? <i>Farmer</i>	
8	By whom employed? <i>For self</i>	
	Where employed? <i>at Wekiwa Fla.</i>	
9	Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? <i>No</i>	
10	Married or single (which)? <i>Single</i> Race (specify which)? <i>Caucasian</i>	
11	What military service have you had? Rank <i>None</i> ; branch years; Nation or State	
12	Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)?	

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

A.H.
Albert C. Von Herbulis Jr.
(Signature or mark)

If person is of African descent, race of this person

Albert's Draft Registration Card. Source: Virginia Buras.

By 1918 Albert was in the army, although it is not known whether he volunteered or was drafted. He was stationed in South Carolina.

The 1920 U.S. Census shows that Albert was back in Ethel and living with his brother Edward, who was recorded as the head of household. Albert's occupation is listed as engineer.

Albert married Mary Elizabeth McDonald on May 22, 1921, in Lake County, Florida. Wheeler and Selina Cooper McDonald were her parents and Mary was born March 16, 1902, in Mascotte, Lake County.

Albert and Mary had at least four sons and three daughters – James, born 1924, Robert, born 1925, Carl, born 1927, Paul, born 1929, Mary Alberta, born 1922, Dorothy, born 1928, and Margaret, born 1931. Mary Alberta was born on March 13, 1922, in Ethel.

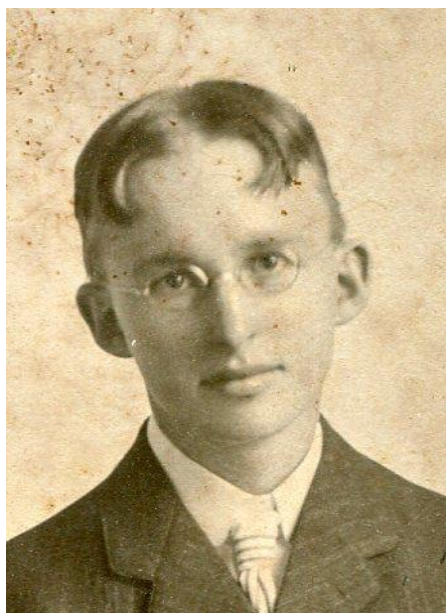
The family moved to Sorrento in 1923 where the rest of their children were born, and then to Myrtle Avenue, Sanford, where he died on September 12, 1972, at the age of 84. He was buried in Sanford.

State Florida Incorporated place _____ Ward of city _____ Unincorporated place _____
 County Lake Township or other division of county Pinnet 5 Block Nos. _____ Institution _____
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF POSTAL OFFICE 16-11278

Line No.	LOCATION		HOUSEHOLD DATA			NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	EDUCATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	CITIZENSHIP	For a Civilian							
	Street, avenue, road, etc.	Room number (in cities and towns)	Block or number of household in order of mailing	Household (0) or rented (R)	Value of home, personal, or monthly rental, if rented								How this household fits into a family (See 16-11278)	Relationship of this person to the head of the household, as wife, daughter, father, mother-in-law, grand-son, widow, mother, sister, brother, etc.	Color or race	Height (in inches)	Weight (in pounds)	Age at last birthday	Married (M) or single (S)	Married (M) or single (S) since March 1, 1941 (Year or day)	Highest grade of school completed	Place in United States, give State, Territory, or Possession	Foreign born, give country in which birthplace was granted on January 1, 1907	Original Country of Birth (Give State, Territory, or Possession)	For a Civilian
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
1			120	0	1000	90	York Herbulis - O - Albert	Head	M	W	52	M	90	8		Pennsylvania	58		8
2							- - - Mary	Wife	F	W	38	M	90	8		Florida	77		8
3							- - - M - Alberta	Daughter	F	W	18	S	90	74	20	Florida	77		8
4							- - - L - James	Son	M	W	16	S	90	8		Florida	77		8
5							- - - W - Robert	Son	M	W	15	S	90	71		Florida	74		8
6							- - - L - Carl	Son	M	W	14	S	90	7		Florida	74		8
7							- - - O - Dorothy AB	Daughter	F	W	12	S	90	5		Florida	77		8
8							- - - M - Margaret	Daughter	F	W	9	S	90	3		Florida	74		8
9			120	R	4	90	Front - L - James	Head	M	W	31	M	90	4		Florida	77		8
10							- - - L - Beanie	Wife	F	W	24	M	90	8		Florida	74		8
11							- - - M - Gloria	Daughter	F	W	4	S	90	0		Florida	77		8
12							- - - L - Luie	Daughter	F	W	2	S	90	0		Florida	74		8
13							Herbulis - O - James	Son	M	W	17	W	90	5		McDonalia	76		8

Edward "Ed" Olszewski von Herbulis, homesteaded at Wekiva having acquired 160 acres of Government land along the Wekiva River, recorded in 1920, although he purchased it in 1915.

Edward was born on May 20, 1886, in Pittston, Pennsylvania, and then owned a dairy farm in West Falls Church, Virginia. In 1915, he relocated to Florida.



Edward as a young man. Source: Virginia Buras

Edward also built a two-story house similar to Albert's.

He married Theresa Catherine Dawson (1899-1974), the Ethel schoolteacher who was born in Altoona, Florida on August 22, 1918 (see Ethel School section above). He was 32 years old, and she was 19.

On August 23, she posted a postcard to her mother who lived in Altoona.

The postcard read: Wekiwa, Fla. Aug 23, 1918. Dear Mama, I arrived at home safely last night. Missed all serenades so far. Went over to meet the train this morning and got my trunk. We sure had a good supper in Sanford last night. It is 5 pm now and we are getting ready to go to the P.O. Will write a letter soon. Bye-bye Theresa."

The postmark reads Wekiwa, Aug 28 PM 1918 and has a two cents stamp.

On September 12, 1918, Edward received his World War 1 Draft Registration Card on which he listed his address as Wekiva.



Edward and Theresa outside their home shortly after they were married. They were standing in the cabbage patch. Source: Virginia Buras.

They raised chickens and had a vegetable plot, but no money so Theresa went back to teaching. She taught at the Sorrento school with four other teachers, in a series of frame buildings erected by the owner of the town's sawmill.

They had one daughter Eveline Amelia who was born in Wekiva on December 15, 1921. She graduated in the Mount Dora High School class of 1939 as the Valedictorian. She married Virgil Ferguson Sr. on March 15, 1941, and they had a daughter Carolyn Virginia (born 1944), who kindly provided much of this family information, documents, and

photographs. Eveline died on May 3, 1980, in Fort Worth, Texas, shortly after moving there to be near to her daughter.



Edward, Theresa, and two-year old Eveline. Source: Virginia Buras.

When Eveline was two years old, Theresa stopped teaching and became a stay-at-home mom in their Wekiva home. This was the time of the Florida real estate boom, so Edward became a real estate salesman.

However, times were tough, and Theresa went back to teaching a year later.

4-270

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE

Gainesville, Florida
(Place)

May 17, 1915
(Date)

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE.

Edward G. Von Herbulis
Wekiva, Florida

Sir:

Your Homestead Entry _____, SERIAL No. 013354
(Kind of application or entry.)
Receipt No. 1548905
1543327, for SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 20;
W $\frac{1}{2}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 29, and NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 30
Township 19 S., Range 29 E., Tallahassee Meridian,
containing 163.57 acres, has been this day allowed, subject to
your further compliance with law and regulations applicable thereto.
In correspondence relating to this entry, always refer to the
serial number.

Very respectfully,

Robt. M. Davis, Register.
Perry M. Colson, Receiver.

4-100

Notice of Allowance recording Edward's homestead. Source: Virginia Buras.

4-1020.

Gainesville 013854.

The United States of America,

To all to whom these presents shall come. Greeting:

WHEREAS, a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Gainesville, Florida,

has been deposited in the General Land Office, whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the claimant Edward O. Von Herbulis

according to the provisions of the Act of Congress of April 24, 1820, entitled "An Act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," and the acts supplemental thereto, for the Lot six of Section twenty, the west half of the northwest quarter of Section twenty-nine, and the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section thirty in Township nineteen south of Range twenty-nine east of the Tallahassee Meridian, Florida, containing one hundred sixty-one and seventy-four-hundredths acres,

according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land, returned to the GENERAL LAND OFFICE by the Surveyor-General:

NOW KNOW YE, That the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in consideration of the premises, and in conformity with the several Acts of Congress in such case made and provided, HAS GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DOES GIVE AND GRANT, unto the said claimant and to the heirs of the said claimant the Tract above described; TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances, of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said claimant and to the heirs and assigns of the said claimant forever.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, Woodrow Wilson,

President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, in the District of Columbia, the TWELFTH

day of JULY in the year of our Lord one thousand

nine hundred and TWENTY and of the Independence of the

United States the one hundred and FORTY-FIFTH.

By the President: *Woodrow Wilson*

By *M. O. LeRoy* Secretary,

F. D. Sauer
Recorder of the General Land Office.

RECORDED: Patent Number 761328
6-2164

Certified deed of Edward O. Von Herbulis' s Ethel land purchase. Source: Virginia Buras.

In 1924, a school was built in Altamonte Springs to serve students in that city as well as Longwood and Forest City. It was named after Howard Lyman, a school board member who died that year. Its faculty was listed as Herbert J. Shaffer, principal, and Mrs. Theresa Von Herbulis, Miss Vida K. Smith, Mrs. J. T. Jacobs and Mrs. S. H. Buchanon

In July 1926, Theresa signed a contract with Seminole County to teach 5th and 6th grades at Lake Monroe at a wage of \$90 a month. At some point she left that position and became a Wekiva housewife again.

Theresa loved making preserves and, in the afternoons, before preparing dinner, she would experiment with different flavors and fruits. At first, she gave her preserves away and received high praise. Meanwhile Edward would also have jars of her preserves with him to give to clients.

They quickly realized there was a demand for Theresa's preserves, and they soon had a list of regular paying customers.

They also sold peanut brittle, made by Mary, their sister-in-law. In the 1940 U.S. Census, Mary's occupation is listed as Merchant, candy.

In May 2016, Carl Von Herbulis, Mary's son, was interviewed on his 90th birthday and talked about his mother's peanut brittle recipe.

"It was as simple as 1,2,3. It is made from 1 pound of corn syrup, 2 pounds of sugar and 3 pounds of raw Spanish peanuts. You cook the corn syrup and sugar with a small amount of water, and you have to cook it until the water evaporates, then add the raw peanuts. When it is all mixed and done then add a little baking soda to make it fluff up and then it spreads easier."

Mary would spread the mixture out on a big stainless-steel table in their Sanford home, then it was cut into small squares before it set for packing. The remaining crumbs were put into small bags and handed out to anyone watching.

As the business grew, it was obvious that Edward and Theresa needed a larger property where they could make and bottle the preserves and have living quarters separate from the business.



Eveline, aged about 3, sitting on the steps of their Wekiva home. Source: Virginia Buras.

REGISTRATION CARD

SERIAL NUMBER **320** OTHER NUMBER **A-530**

1 **Edward Olegewski Von Herbulis**
(First name) (Middle name) (Last name)

2 PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS: **Melissa Lake Fla.**
(No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (County) (State)

Age in Years **32** Date of Birth **May 20th 1886**
(Month) (Day) (Year)

RACE

White	Negro	Oriental	Indian	
			Citizen	Noncitizen
5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>	8 <input type="checkbox"/>	9 <input type="checkbox"/>

U. S. CITIZEN

ALIEN

Native Born	Naturalized	Citizen by Father's Naturalization By Act of Congress	Declarant	Non-declarant
10 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11 <input type="checkbox"/>	12 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	13 <input type="checkbox"/>	14 <input type="checkbox"/>

15 If not a citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject?

16 PRESENT OCCUPATION: **Farming** 17 EMPLOYER'S NAME: **For myself**

18 PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS: **Melissa Lake Fla.**
(No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (County) (State)

NEAREST RELATIVE: Name **Theresa Catharine Von Herbulis (wife)**
 Address: **Melissa Lake Fla.**
(No.) (Street or R. F. D. No.) (City or town) (County) (State)

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE
 P. M. G. O. **Edward Olegewski Von Herbulis**
Form No. 1 (revised) (Registrant's signature or mark)

Edward O. Von Herbulis World War 1 Draft Registration Card. Source: National Archive.

Edward and his wife Theresa leased a vacant property in Mount Plymouth about five miles away and opened their jelly store on the northwest corner of State Road 46 and County Road 435.

They installed the latest equipment and expanded their product range and in 1929 named their business the Lake County Preserving Company.

They lived at the back of the store and made their own citrus, guava, grapefruit, kumquat, calamondin, and watermelon marmalades, and jellies in an assortment of colors and flavors. They also sold guava butter, peanut brittle, and honey to grocers throughout Central Florida, as well as customers out of state.

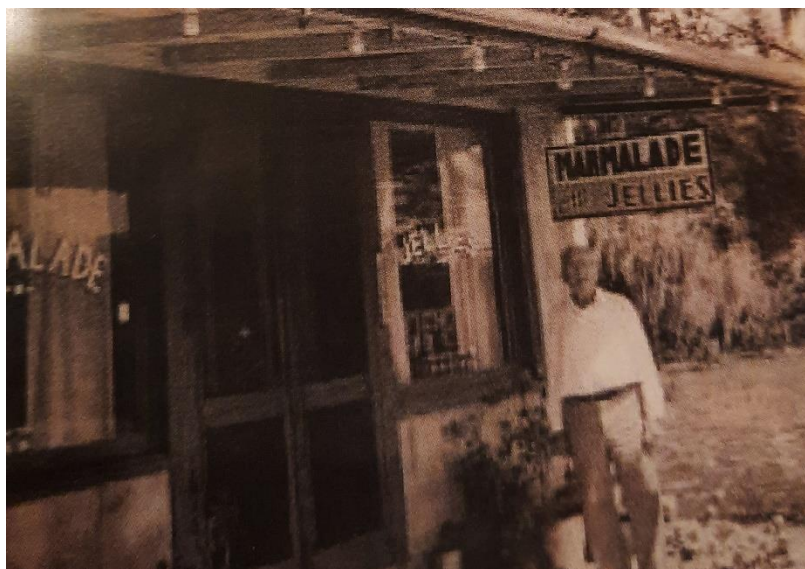
They sold their products in globe jars with a distinctive label bedecked with orange blossoms. They also sold 5lb cans for those who wanted to buy in bulk.

Ed picked the guava from a grove in Sorrento and Theresa cooked the various fruits in large copper kettles and would then strain the juices out through cheese cloth.

His brother Albert and his wife Mary made the peanut brittle, according to an account in *East Lake Reflections* written by Jack McDonald, who recalls visiting the store as a child. Edward and Theresa were the brother and sister-in-law to his uncle Albert O. Von Herbulis. He also remembered Ed sitting on a bench in front of the store shouting at motorists speeding past. At busy times there could be 5 or 6 cars an hour, he said.

Their Ford Model A truck, used to make deliveries, was a familiar sight in the area.

At that time anyone could drive a vehicle in Florida. In 1939, legislation was passed requiring all drivers to have a license although there was no requirement to take a driving test.



Ed outside his store. Source: East Lake Historical Society/Judy Llamas.

Edward's granddaughter Virginia Buras recalls riding in the old Ford truck driven by her grandfather. They would go from Mount Plymouth to Sorrento to check their post office mailbox and sometimes to mail packages of their jelly.

"One time I went with my grandfather to pick guavas in Mt. Dora. We did not go very fast, but we made it there and back. The old truck did not have many of its original parts. After my grandfather died, my brothers took the truck to my parent's house in Leesburg. They later sold it to a man that wanted it for parts."

The business was started around the time of the depression and became the breadwinner for both families.



Edward O. Von Herbulis and his wife Theresa outside their jelly shop.

Source: East Lake Historical Society

They never returned to their Wekiva home and at some point, stopped paying the taxes due on it. As a result, the house was seized by the court, and put up for auction. On May 8, 1944, the property was bought by Kate M. Riser, of Sanford, who paid the delinquent taxes amounting to \$133.90.

In 1955 they received a letter from Florida Governor LeRoy Collins, thanking them for a case of preserves that they had supplied for a Council of States Government meeting in Miami Beach.



STATE OF FLORIDA
EXECUTIVE OFFICE
TALLAHASSEE

LEROY COLLINS
GOVERNOR

December 19, 1955

Mrs. Von Herbelits
Lake County Preserves, Inc.
Sorrento, Florida

Dear Mrs. Von Herbelits:

I want you to know how much we appreciated having the very fine preserves which you provided for the Governors attending the recent meeting of the Council of State Governments in Miami Beach. They were received with much delight and helped me tremendously in my campaign to sell our visitors on the excellence of Florida products.

Mary Call and I were so pleased with the preserves that we would like at this time to order one package like the one given to us at the meeting to be sent to the following address:

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Plack
1625 K Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

I am enclosing a card to be enclosed in the package and will appreciate it so much if you will take care of this for me and send me the bill.

With warmest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

LeRoy Collins
Governor

LC/m
Enclosure

Letter to Theresa Von Herbulis from Florida Governor LeRoy Collins:
Source: Jack McDonald.



The Von Herbulis house around 1923. The Ford Model T belonged to a Mr. John Vanderhoeck. John Vanderhoeck is listed in the Lake County 1920 census as living in Ethel/Wekiva (see above). Source: Virginia Buras.



Unfortunately, their story does not have a happy ending. Just after midnight on June 13, 1968, an intruder broke into their home and stabbed the couple multiple times.

Edward died from his injuries and Theresa, who was stabbed a dozen times, was critically injured but survived.

According to a front-page report in the Mount Dora Topic of June 20, 1968, "Authorities said it was believed to have been a planned premeditated crime by a lone operator, rather than a spur of the moment murder."

Sheriff Willis McCall said robbery did not appear to be a motive. "The house was not ransacked or searched. The person apparently just did the stabbing and left."

The intruder was never caught, and the unsolved murder remains a Lake County cold case.

Intruder Kills Man, 82

By AL PALMER

Sentinel Staff

MOUNT PLYMOUTH — A gruesome night knife attack on an elderly couple left one dead and the other in serious condition with multiple stab wounds Thursday.

Murdered by more than eight stab wounds in the back and mid-section was E. O. Von Herbulis, 82, his wife, Theresa, 69, found him near the front door.

They were attacked as they lay in bed. The knife-wielding intruder gained entrance through a back window after ripping off a screen.

AS HE broke in, the assailant said only "I'm going to kill both of you," Mrs. Herbulis told the sheriff's department.

She said the attack came as "a train was going by" which was figured to be about 12:45 a.m.

Herbulis was going for help when he collapsed by the front door of the couple's home at State Road 46 and 435.

The attempted double murder, first in Lake County in a generation, was discovered Thursday by a neighbor who lives across the road from the Herbulis home. She said she heard cries for help from Mrs. Herbulis.

THE couple, living at that location for more than 30 years, operated a small jelly manufacturing business in the residence.

Nothing was believed stolen from the home. Sheriff's investigators are seeking clues to the motive for the slaying.

Mrs. Herbulis was listed in fair condition at Waterman Memorial Hospital, Eustis.

Cutting from the Orlando Sentinel, Friday, June 14, 1968

Edward was buried in Sorrento. Theresa died on November 25, 1975, in Leesburg, aged 75. She was buried alongside her husband.

Waits

James Waits, Grant 1883

Wallace

Sadie Wallace, Grant 1921

White

Thomas Elbert White, Grant 1926. He married Nora Delk on November 6, 1889. They had a daughter, born in 1903, and two sons, Albert born in 1901 and Edward, born in 1980.

According to the 1920 U.S. Census, Thomas was then aged 63 and Bertie and Albert were living with him.

Uin 1920, Edward had his own home in Ethel. His age was 31 and his occupation listed as wood chopper. His wife Lena was 31.

Nora White was buried at Ethel on Jan 31, 1904, the day after her death from unlisted causes. She was aged about 36 and lived in Ethel. She was the grandmother of Rowena Lewis.

James Oscar White, died on October 2, 1918, at the age of 23 from pneumonia, at Camp Upton, New York, a U.S. Army training camp. His body was transported back to Ethel, and he was buried there on October 12. His mother was Mary M. Koons White.

J. E. White, born 1866, carpenter.

Wildman

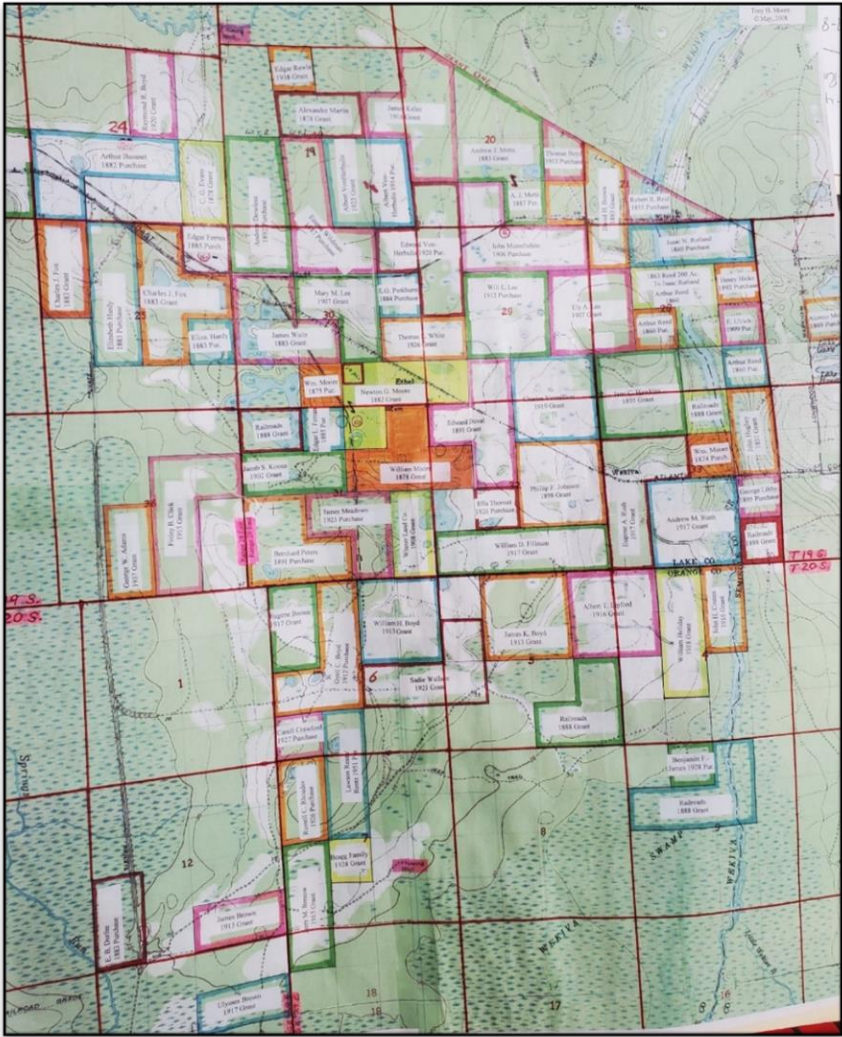
Emma A. Wildman, Government land purchase 1887

Wynne

R. T. Wynne, born 1850, carpenter.

At its heyday in the late 1880s and early 1890s, Ethel had a population of around 200.

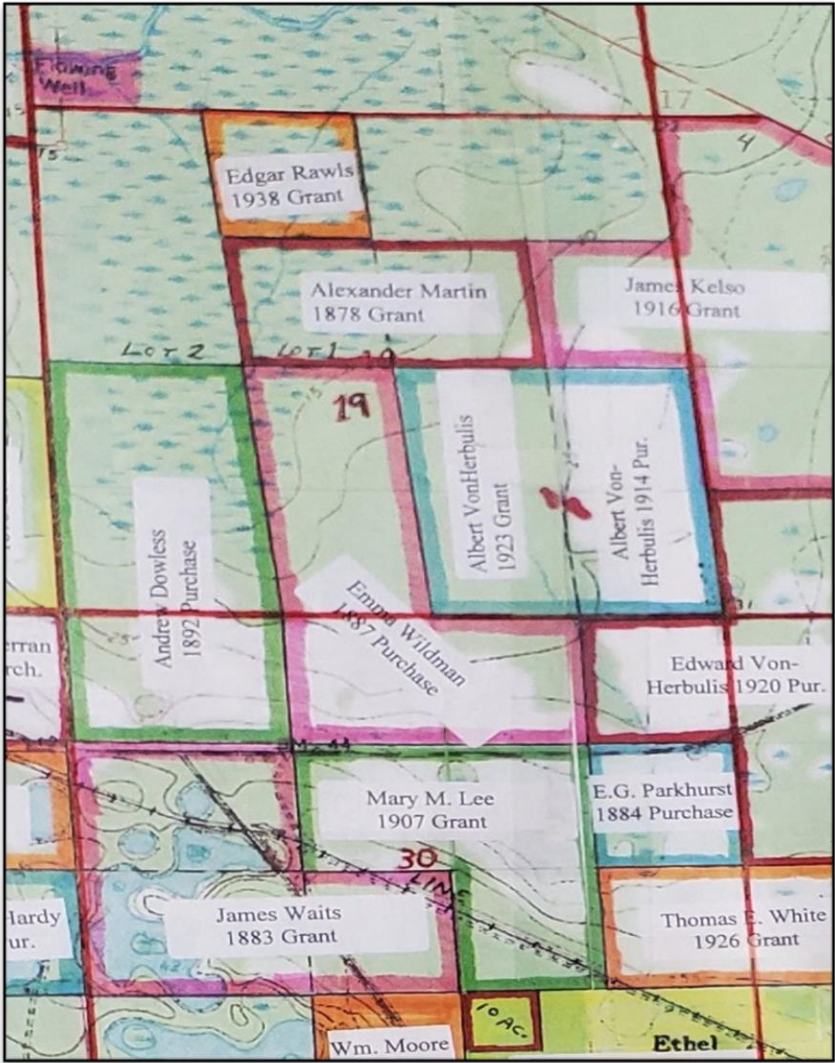
Families living in Ethel in 1920 according to the U.S. Census of that year.



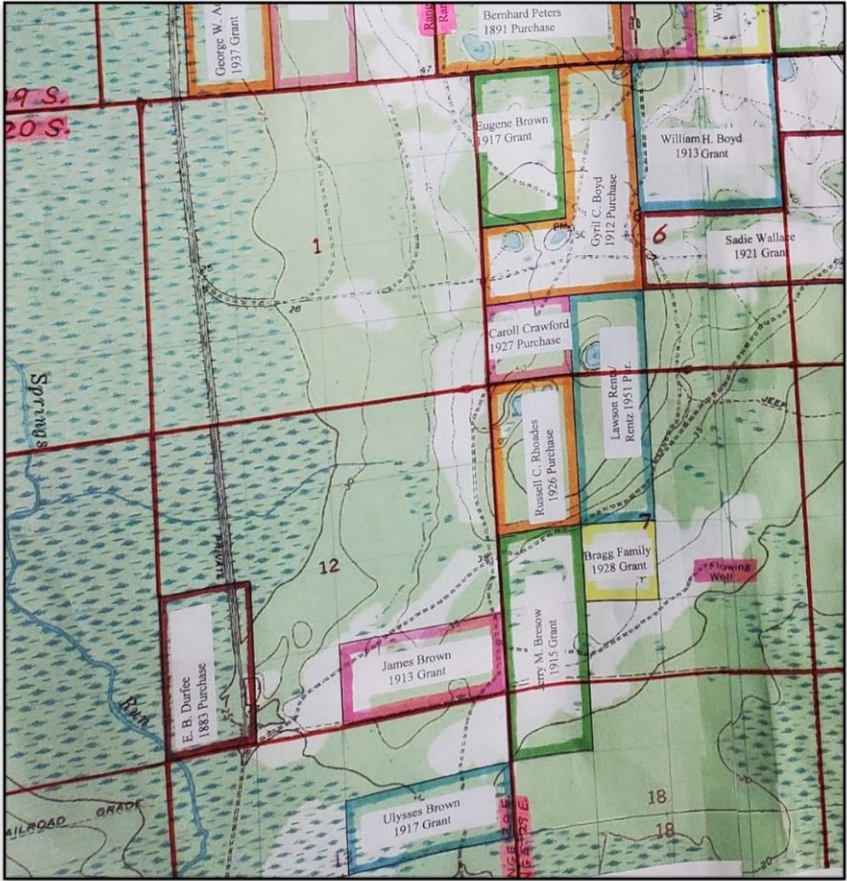
Thanks to Tony's research we now know who owned what land in and around Ethel in the 19th and 20th centuries. Below is the plat map broken down into four quadrants showing land acquired by Indentures, Grants and Property Transactions, the date for each and the names of the landowner.



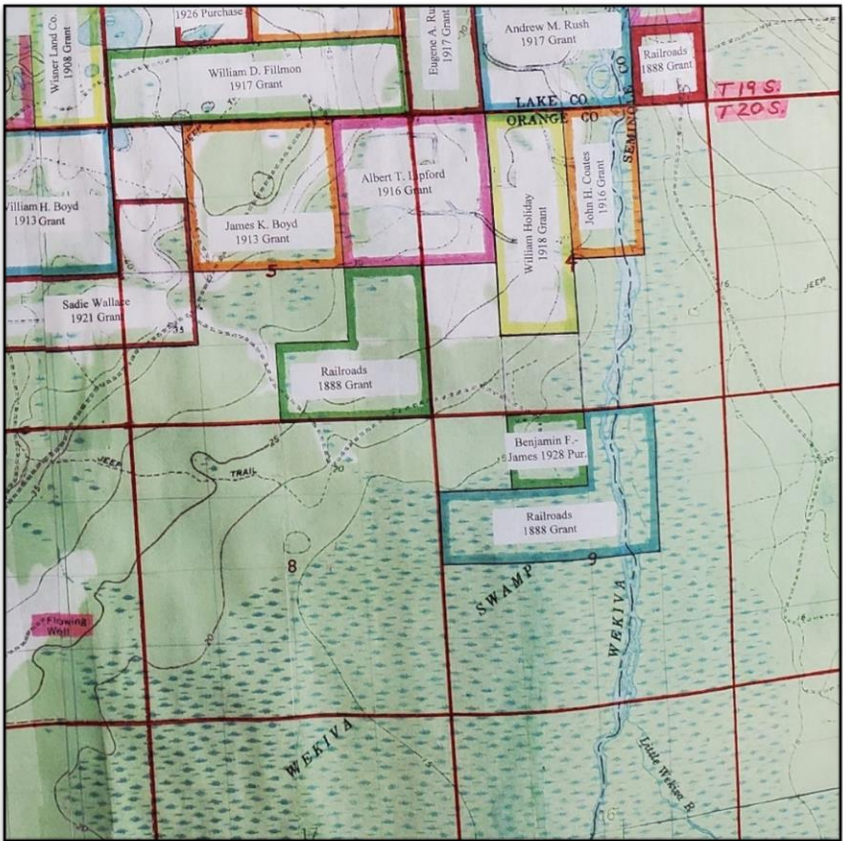
Northwest quadrant



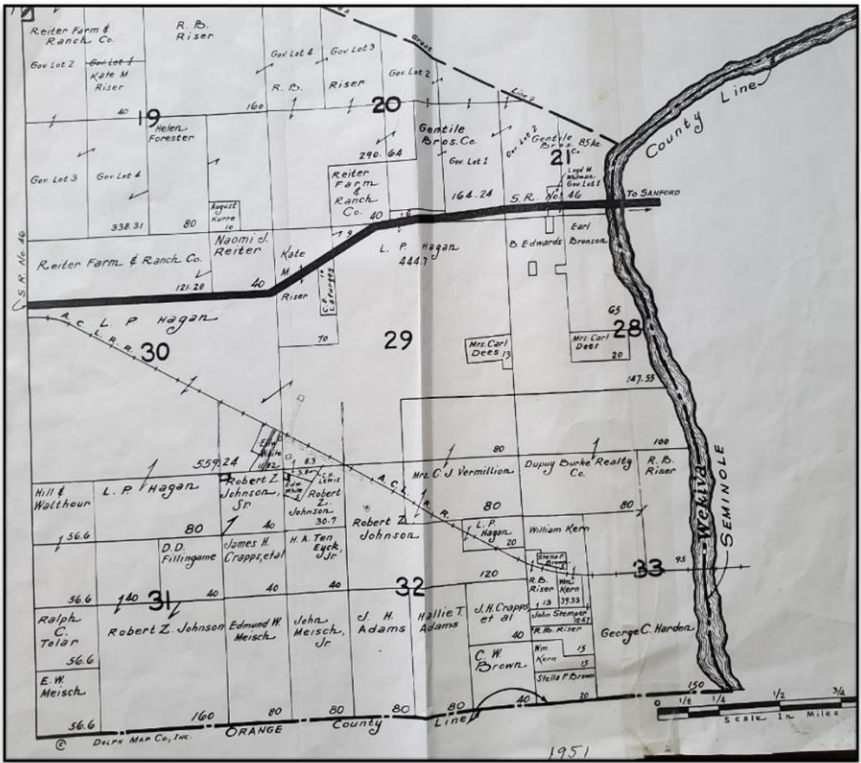
Northeast quadrant



Southwest quadrant



Southeast quadrant



1951 Lake Co. Tax map. Source. Lake County Archives.

By the 1920 U.S. Census, there were only ten homes with families listed in Ethel and that included the residents of the little adjacent town of Wekiva, now Wekiva Falls RV Resort. The school and the post office had long before moved to Sorrento. The last residents moved out in the 1980s.

In the 1920 Lake County Census (Enumeration District 94, Precinct #24, Precinct Name: Ethel)

The ten families listed as living in Ethel or nearby Wekiva were:

- Boyd, James K.

Vanderhock, John

Snow, James

Boyd, Tom I.

Brockway, Nathan A.

Vermillion, Charles J.

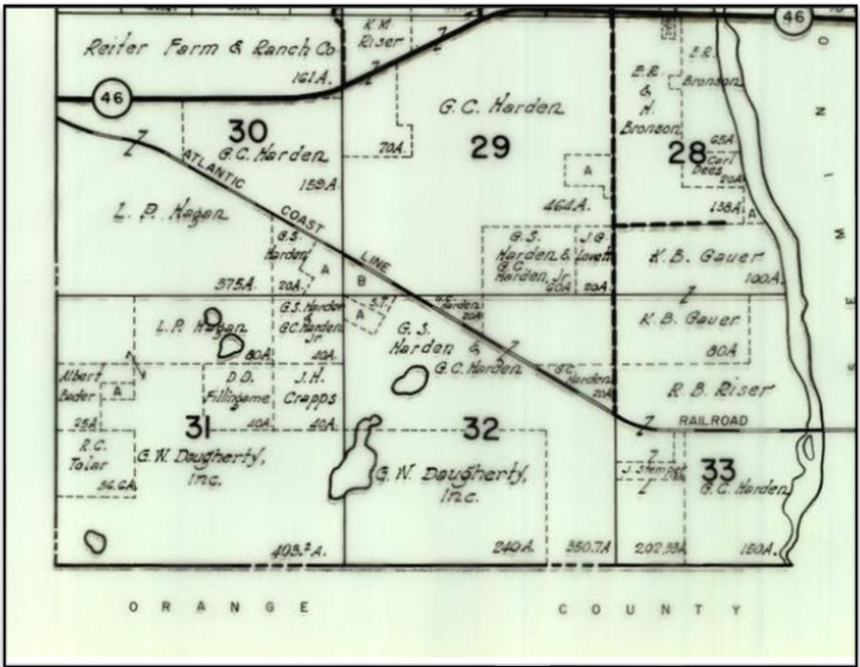
Fillmon, William

White, Edward

White, Thomas E

Von Herbulis, Edward O.

Ball, Benjamin J



Rock Springs landowners in the 1960s. Source. Lake County Archives.



A 1959 aerial view of what would have been the center of Ethel. Source: UCF

All that remains of the town of Ethel today is the Lewis House and remnants of Mrs. Rowena Lewis's birthplace, a few moss-covered bricks, and some colored bottles, which was on a five-acre lot, to the south of the Lewis House and alongside the Ethel school site.

The state started acquiring land for a state park in 1983 and opened in 1984.

The first purchases – on March 10, 1983 - were for two parcels of land - 7,593 acres and 351 acres from Delrando Inc. On March 21, 1990, an additional 1,526 acres were purchased from B.M.K. Ranches Inc, and

1,750 acres from M.K. Citrus Ltd Partnership, and in October 24, 1991, 1,826 acres were purchased from STS Associates L.P. During that time, an additional 550 acres was purchased from twelve different landowners. The total holding is now 14,164 acres.

The BMK Ranch was named after its owners – Bach, Marcher and Kupton. There were the ruins of a home on the BMK property, but these were cleared to make way for a road.



Ethel Point of Interest



Ethel Windmill c. 1951. Source. Author.

Ed White's windmill (above). He was born in 1870, worked the railroad and lived in the home he built until he passed away in 1979. When he was nine, he pulled the chain for the 1879 survey crew.

Mr. Hagen, who owned a turpentine still at Markham, bought much of the rest of the land under the Murphy Act.

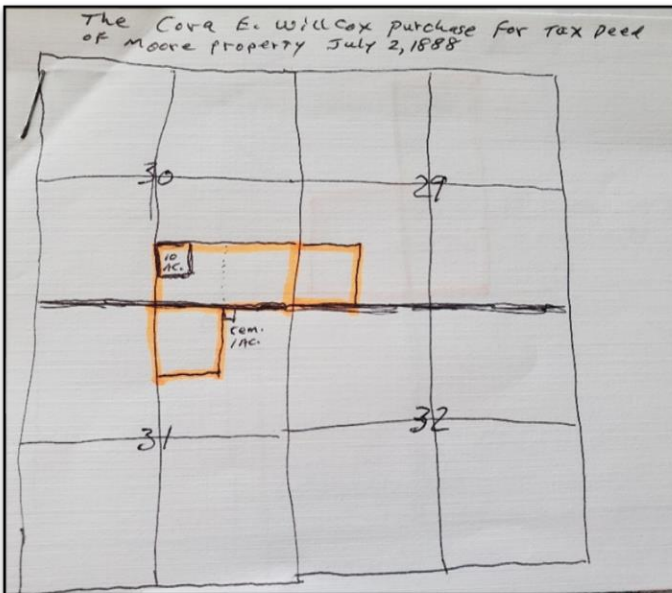
Ethel Cemetery

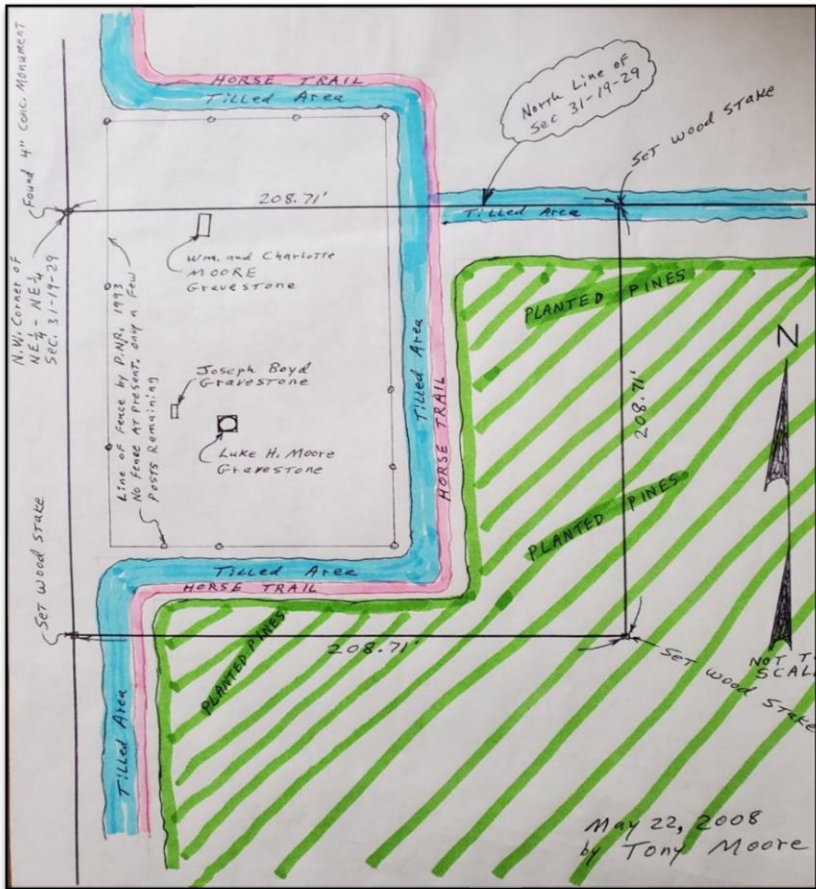
Ethel Cemetery today, is a one-acre fenced site, but research has identified a total of twenty-nine burials so far.

During World War 11, people started buying land under the Murphy Act for as little as 10 cents an acre and the cemetery is thought to have been included in one of those sales.

The new landowner was a man called Johnson, a conductor on the railroad who lived in Sanford. He bought the land to graze cattle. With the help of his grandsons, he is said to have removed the headstones, loaded them onto a truck and thrown them into a swamp along the Wekiva River.

Some of the land was also used for a hunting club called Buckhead.





Tony Moore's first mapping of Ethel Cemetery – May 22, 2008

Ethel burials

James Oscar White, May 7, 1895-Oct 2, 1918, is one of three World One 1 veterans believed to have been buried there.



The entrance of Ethel Cemetery at Rock Springs Run State Reserve

Below is the elaborate grave marker for Luke H. Moore, who died in 1914.

He was a member of the Woodsmen of the World, a fraternal and insurance society. His marker is known as a 'treestone' and would have been provided by the fraternal society.



Marli Wilkins Lopez, Reference Librarian with the City of Tavares Public Library, standing next to Luke Moore's headstone. It looks so new it is amazing to think that it was installed so long ago.



Ironically, Luke Moore did not live in Ethel. He was a rail passenger and died on the train. His body was discovered by the conductor when the train stopped at Ethel.

The conductor thought the passenger was sleeping but when it became obvious that he was dead, he was lowered onto the platform so that the train could continue its journey. His burial was probably arranged by railway workers and the Ethel folk, and the elaborate headstone came later when his family discovered what had become of him. The headstone was provided by the Woodmen of the World.

The organization was founded in 1890 in Omaha, Nebraska, by Joseph Cullen Root. He had founded Modern Woodmen of America (MWA) in Lyons, Iowa, in 1883, after hearing a sermon about "pioneer woodsmen clearing away the forest to provide for their families".

He wanted to start a society that "would clear away problems of financial security for its members". After much internal dissension, Root was asked to leave the organization and he started again with a group called the Modern Woodmen of the World.

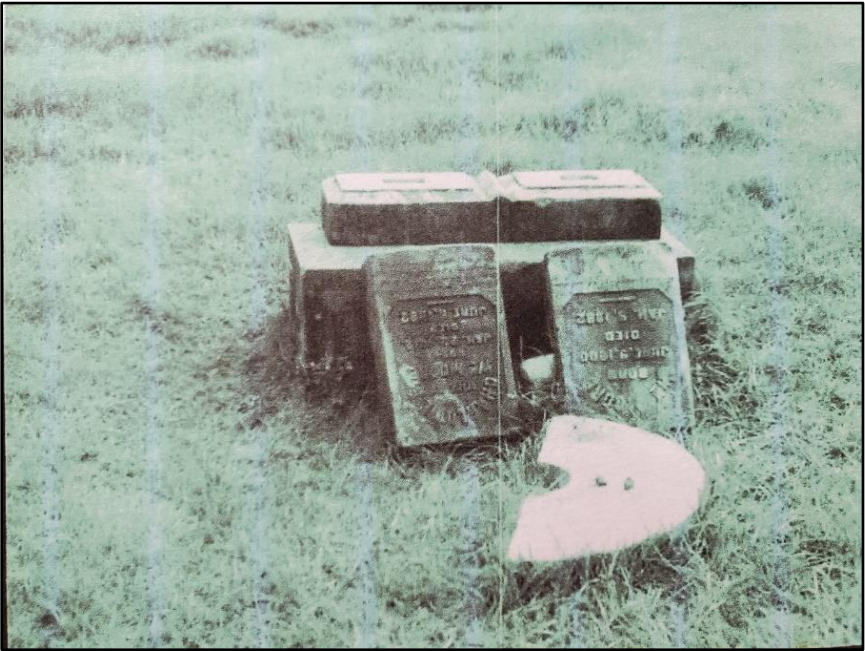
The "Modern", was later dropped and the organization became "Woodmen of the World". The first Boys of Woodcraft unit was founded in Jacksonville, Florida in 1903, by J.M. Taylor.

Lasting legacies of the organization are the large elaborate headstones in the shape of a tree stump. The sawed-off limbs represent a life cut short. The headstones were provided by the organization until the 1920s. Over 45,000 were installed nationally.

Luke Moore was not related to the Moore family that did live in Ethel, two of whose members – William and Charlotte are also buried in the cemetery.

William and Charlotte Moore

William was born on June 9, 1800, and died on January 5, 1882, aged 81. His wife Charlotte was born on January 23, 1813, and passed away on June 6, 1883, aged 70. Their combined headstone is made of marble, a sign that they were people of substance.



*The arched monument gravestone when it was rediscovered in 2008.
Source. Tony Moore.*





The grave of Joseph A. Boyd, who died in 1918 aged 2 months. His parent James and Minnie Boyd lived in the southern part of Ethel on land they purchased in 1913. When Tony Moore found the grave, it had started to sink into the ground, so he stabilized it.

Confirmed burials at Ethel are:

Allman/Autman Laura, born 1899, died Dec 2, 1903.

Autman/Ottman, John, born 1859, died July 6, 1901.

Bateman, Newall, born 1851, died July 22, 1918. He was visiting from New Jersey but his daughter was unable to have the body returned home so he was buried in Ethel.

Boyd, Baby, born April 16, 1915, died April 16, 1915.

Boyd, Benjamin K "Ben", born 1867, died December 18, 1915. Died of cancer and buried on the 19th.

Boyd, Ella, born 1896, died December 5, 1912.

Boyd, Ida, born 1891, died aged 24 on April 16, 1916. A resident of Wekiva who died in childbirth. She was buried the next day.

Boyd, Johnnie/John, born 1898, died September 1915.

Boyd, Joseph Alexander, born December 20, 1917, died February 2, 1918.

His funeral on February 3 cost \$231. He died from spinal meningitis. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Boyd.

Bresow, Jerry, birth date unknown, died September 27, 1915.

Fillmon (or Fillmore), William Arthur "Will", born 1913, died May 13, 1916. Cause of death was diphtheria. He was buried on the 14th.

Glass, Richard "Dick", born 1884, died January 17, 1893. He was buried on the 18th.

Goins/Goines, Earl, born 1920, died aged 16 on February 11, 1936. Died of pneumonia and was buried on February 14th.

Gray, Baby, born December 1895, died aged six months on May 15, 1896. She was the child of Mr. and Mrs. Gray who lived in Wekiva.

Griffin, Mrs. A. H. born July 1827, died October 25, 1887. She died from dysentery and was buried on the 27th.

Lee, Charles C. born 1884, died November 4, 1918.

Lee, Robert E. "Rob", born 1916, died aged three on July 20, 1919. He was buried the same day.

Moore, Charlotte, born January 23, 1813, died January 6, 1883.

She is buried alongside her husband and her headstone inscription reads:

Our mother's dust lies underground
In life, the dearest friend ever found
Through the Lord's unbounded love
We'll meet again in realms above.

Moore, Charlotte O. "Lottie", born 1876, died date unknown.

Moore, Ila, born 1883, date of death unknown.

Moore, Luke H. (see above), born Jan 3, 1876, died October 16, 1914. He was found dead on the train when it stopped at Ethel so was buried there. It is not known where he was traveling from or where he was going to. He was a member of Woodmen of the World, and they eventually supplied his elaborate tombstone. The only Luke H. Moore that Tony Moore was able to trace was listed in the 1910 Census of Hillsborough County, living with a wife and daughter. Someone must have ordered the tombstone, but Woodmen of the World has no record of it and it is not known when it was placed over the grave.

Moore, Newton Gammon, born 1847, died 1889.

Moore, William, born June 3, 1800, died January 5, 1882.

Palleo/Patilo Mrs. Mary Jane, born 1835, died July 1, 1905, buried on the 2nd.

Rush, Clyde, born September 1911, died aged 15 months on January 7, 1913. He was buried the next day. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs.

Andrew Rush

Thompson, Mrs. Nathaniel, born 1849, died January 22, 1894, and buried on the 23rd in a rosewood coffin.

White, James Oscar, born May 7, 1895, died aged 23 on October 2, 1918. He died from pneumonia while at the U.S. Army Training Camp at Camp Upton, New York. His body was returned to Ethel, and he was buried on the 12th.

White, Mrs. Nora (wife of Elbert), born 1868, died January 30, 1904.

Also, Mrs. F. Jernigan, a resident of Ethel, died aged 56 on December 2, 1909, from obstruction of the bowels, but was buried the following day in Fort Christmas.

Mrs. Maggie Click, of Ethel, died aged 61 from cancer on November 12, 1913, and was buried the same day at Lake View, Sanford.

Anthony Frazier – The Slave who became a County Commissioner of Roads

Anthony Frazier was born a slave in Liberty County, Georgia in 1836 or 1837 (although his military papers say Charleston NC), but he spent most of his life as a farmhand in and around north Orange and south Lake counties, according to a statement by his 'half-brother' and fellow slave Joseph Robards kept at the National Archives in Washington D.C.

It is almost certain that Joseph G. Robards and Joseph G. Roberts, a slave and son of Major William S. Delk, are the same person (see also Delk section above). In a deposition given in 1910, Robards said that he and Frazier had the same mother – Judy Henry, but that his father was Delk, while Anthony's father was a black man also called Anthony Frazier.

Frazier "saw milled, carpentered and farmed and did general hard labor," according to Robards who was testifying in 1910 on behalf of Frazier's widow, Mary, who was seeking to have the \$15 a-month military pension of her just-deceased husband transferred to her.

Anthony Frazier died on April 4, 1910. The official cause of death is not known but he did suffer from rheumatism, a condition he contracted while in the army, which got progressively worse as he aged. According to records, his death was recorded on April 7, 1910, in Orange County and his place of burial is listed as Calvary Cemetery.

As a slave in his late 20s, he was working as a laborer on the Delk Plantation when war broke out. In 1864, Delk, who was a Union sympathizer, was arrested for refusing to pay taxes to support the Confederacy. He managed to escape and returned to his plantation where he freed his slaves and they all fled.

Frazier and Robards went to the Wekiva River, found a boat, and made their way to the St. Johns where they were picked up by a federal gunboat. They both joined the Union Army on September 18, 1864.

They signed up in Hilton Head, S.C., and in return for a \$100 bounty, agreed to serve for three years.

DECLARATION OF RECRUIT.

I, *Anthony Frazer* desiring
 to VOLUNTEER as a Soldier in the Army of the United States, for the term of **THREE YEARS**,
 Do Declare, That I am years and months
 of age; that I have never been discharged from the United States service on account of disability or by
 sentence of a court-martial, or by order before the expiration of a term of enlistment; and I know of no
 impediment to my serving honestly and faithfully as a soldier for three years.

GIVEN at *Hilton Head S.C.*
 the *14* day of *Sept* 1864

Witness: *Robt W Davis 2nd Lt* *Anthony Frazer*

No.

Anthony Frazer

Volunteered at *Hilton Head*

14th day of September 1864,

By *Wm Rth Dravis*

33rd Lt

33rd Regiment of U.S.G.

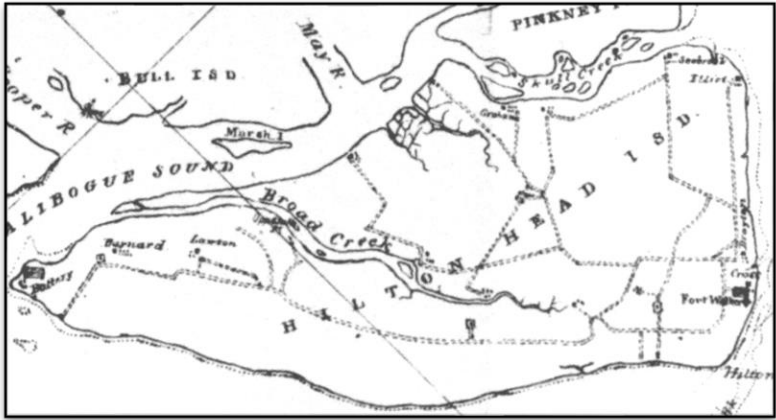
Enlistment; last served in Company ()

Reg't of

Discharged 18

Received From

Hilton Head was an important strategic location for the Union Army but also a restocking and refueling station for the ships of the Department of the South Blockading Squadron. Black troops were used to load and unload ships, transport goods, building and maintaining buildings and growing and harvesting food.



Coastal Survey map 1861

During this time, Delk had been working as a civilian for the Union Army providing them with cattle.

At the beginning of the Civil War, runaway slaves surrendering to Union forces were returned to their 'masters', often forcibly. This was done to avoid further alienating the breakaway states.

However, the Union soon realized that returned slaves were supporting the rebel's effort either by working on the plantations and providing food for the troops or being used as laborers to build Confederate fortifications.

After that, runaway slaves were recruited by the Union army as laborers, teamsters, cooks, and other menial jobs, but not as fighting soldiers.

It was not until the Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863, freeing all slaves, and an order from Secretary of War Stanton on January 13, that regiments of Negro troops were officially sanctioned.

The United States Department of War issued General Order #143 on May 22, 1863, establishing the Bureau of Colored Troops.

It was ordered that “Every enlisted colored man shall have the same uniform, clothing, arms, equipments, camp equipage, rations, medical and hospital treatment as are furnished to the United States soldiers of the service.”

While this was the intent, Black troops still faced enormous discrimination. Black soldiers, both those born free as well as those who gained their freedom, were eager to fight and tens of thousands signed up. They were paid \$10 a month. Whites, on the other hand, got \$13. Blacks alone were also charged \$3 a month for uniforms, reducing their take-home pay to \$7.

This injustice was remedied in June 1864, when Congress granted equal pay to the U.S. Colored Troops, abolished the clothing allowance, and made the action retroactive to the date they enlisted.

Colored Troops spent a lot of time in camp training. The following is a typical day in camp.

5:00 a.m.	Reveille -Roll call - Shake out blankets-clean tents, men wash in squads in river.
5:45 a.m.	Breakfast
6:45 a.m.	Surgeon's Call
6:50 a.m.	Sergeant's Call-Morning Reports
7:00 a.m.	Fatigue Call and Drill
8:00 a.m.	1st Call for Guard Mount
8:15 a.m.	Guard Mount
10:00 a.m.	Recall
12:00 p.m.	Dinner
3:00 p.m.	Fatigue and Drill
6:00 p.m.	Recall
6:20 p.m.	1st Call Dress Parade
6:30 p.m.	Adjutant's Call
7:00 p.m.	Supper
8:30 p.m.	Tattoo
9:00 p.m.	Taps

Standard issue was that each man had canteen and haversack, two pairs of shoes, two suits underclothing-ammunition plenty and in good order - and "that the men are in every way prepared for the field."

Colored troop regiments, however, were plagued with shortage of clothing, especially shoes, and the War Department usually chose to supply white regiments over black ones.

The Colored troops were often given secondhand weapons, usually Springfield, Enfield or Swivel Bore) and in many cases these were "more or less imperfect and hardly suitable for field service".

Having several types of firearms, each of which required different ammunition, caused logistical problems especially on the battlefield.

Because Colored Troops were often used mostly for heavy fatigue duties - manual labor - they had little time for military training. This coupled with inadequate supplies meant they were ill prepared to face the enemy on the battlefield and explains why they saw few major battles. Frazier and Robards fought as privates in several minor skirmishes, including a 'battle' in Jacksonville.

Frazier served in Company K of the 21st U.S Colored Infantry, which was organized from the 3rd and 4th Regiments, South Carolina Colored Infantry on March 14, 1864. It was attached to 3rd Brigade, Vogdes' Division, District of Florida, Dept. of the South, until April 1864; Morris Island, S. C., Northern District, Dept. of the South, to October 1864, 1st Separate Brigade, Dept. of the South, to February 1865; Garrison of Charleston, S. C., Dept. of the South, to August 1865; and Dept. of the South, to October 1866.

It is thought he developed rheumatism while stationed at Morris Island and that was to trouble him for the rest of his life. His Company commander was a Lt. Davis.

F | 21 | U.S.C.T.

Anthony Frazier

Appears with rank of *Priv.* on

Muster and Descriptive Roll of a Detachment of U. S. Vols. forwarded

for the *21* Reg't. *U. S. C. T.* Roll dated

Hilton Head, S. C., Sept. 18, 1864.

Where born *Charleston, S. C.*

Age *31* y'rs; occupation *Laborer*

When enlisted *Sept. 13*, 1864.

Where enlisted *Hilton Head, S. C.*

For what period enlisted *3* years.

Eyes *Black*; hair *Black*

Complexion *Black*; height *5* ft. *10* in.

When mustered in *Sept. 14*, 1864.

Where mustered in *Hilton Head*

Bounty paid \$ *100*; due \$ *100*

Where credited

Company to which assigned *K*

Remarks

Book mark

(339)

Sam'l J. Armstrong copyist.

Anthony Frazier's Enlistment Record 1864



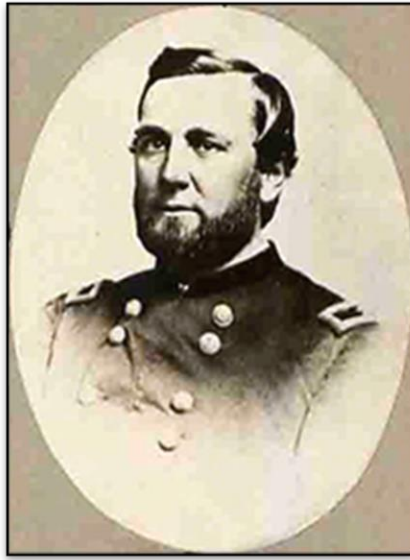
A Union Army recruiting poster targeting freed slaves



The Battle Flag of the 21st Regiment

The commanding officer of the 21st was Milton Smith Littlefield (July 19, 1830-March 7, 1899), who was known as the “Prince of

Carpetbaggers” during the Reconstruction Era because of his desire to make a profit which often landed him in legal trouble.



General Milton Littlefield

In 1861, he organized a company of infantry in Illinois and was elected its Captain. After serving at Shiloh and Corinth, he was made Lieutenant Colonel of the new 14th Illinois Cavalry and in 1863 he was sent south and ordered to recruit black troops.

He raised the 4th South Carolina Infantry and when the United States Colored Troops were organized, his regiment became the 21st USCT Infantry and on November 26, 1864, he was given a brevet promotion to Brigadier General of Volunteers. (A brevet promotion is a promotion to a higher rank as an honor but without the pay or full privileges of the higher rank.)

He served as brigade and district commander and was mustered out on April 25, 1866. It was claimed that while in charge of recruiting black troops for the Department of the South, he tried to get freedmen

pressed into service and then appropriated the enlistment bounty they were due. The misappropriations were then used to fund his many financial schemes.

In 1877 he was accused of defrauding the state of North Carolina of \$4 million after the legislature granted \$27.8 million in Railroad Bonds. Although indicted along with Railroad President George Swepson, he was never convicted.

The 21st served at Jacksonville, Fla., until April 1864 and moved to Hilton Head, S. C., thence to Folly Island, S. C., on April 18. It then saw duty on Folly Island, Morris Island and Coles Island operating against Charleston, S. C., until February 1865.

It took part in an Expedition to James Island, S. C., June 30-July 10 and saw action on James Island on July 2.

The 21st U.S. Colored Infantry were the first troops to march into Charleston after the mayor surrendered the town on February 18, 1865.



Colored troops entering Charleston after its surrender. Source: Library of Congress.

It took part in the Occupation of Charleston and was then engaged in garrison duty in Charleston and Mt. Pleasant, S. C., until August 1865, and at various points in South Carolina and Georgia until October 1866.

Little is known about the men of Company K, but we do know from records that the following served alongside Frazier at some time.

Private James Adams, a farmer from Jacksonville, was 19 when he enlisted.

Corporal Frank Jenkins, a 46-year-old stockman from Duval County.

Private Henry White, aged 17, a farmer from Jacksonville, and

Private February Francis, 25, a coachman from Jacksonville.

We do know a little about February Francis because of correspondence between him and the Office of the Pension Bureau after the war regarding his pension.

He was born a slave at Mayport, in Duval County, the property of William Christopher who farmed on Talbot Island. As a young man he was known as February Christopher but at some point, during the war, he changed his name to February Francis.

He served as a sailor and a soldier during the Civil War, enlisting first in the United States Navy, and, after being honorably discharged, enlisted in the United States Colored Infantry on September 14, 1864, at Fernandina, Florida. He was honorably discharged from the army on April 23, 1866, in Charleston, S.C.

After the war he returned to Duval County and lived in Jacksonville. Late in life, on March 4, 1914, he married M. Alena Diggs at St. Nicholas, Florida. By then, he was a deacon in a church in St. Nicholas and had changed his name again to February Shaw.

Records from the Pension Office show that he had an eventful time in the navy. It also indicates how long it took to resolve matters.

Received at the Office of the Pension Bureau on May 22, 1912:

"I am the identical February Francis who enlisted in Company "K" 21st Regiment U.S.C. Troops at Jacksonville Florida on the 14th day of September 1864 to serve 3 years and was discharged April 23, 1866, at Charleston S.C. by means of muster out of organization having served 1 year, 7 mos and 18 days. I am now 73 years of Age, having been born at Mayport February 1, 1839.

"I am 5 feet 8 in high, black, black eyes, black hair grey now. I have lived in Duval County Florida during the whole time since the war. I am now a Pensioner of the U.S. government under certificate No. 672763 I have the honor to ask the Hon. Commissioner of Pensions that I may be rated at \$20.00 per month under law of May 1912."

More than four years later, on November 4, 1916. F.D. Byington, Acting Commissioner, wrote to the Quartermaster General, War Department: "In the above-cited claim for pension it appears that Christopher

February, a colored man, was discharged from the U.S.S. "Wabash," then part of the blockading fleet off Charleston, S.C., on November 29, 1863, and he states that he was thereafter placed on the transport "General Hunter"; was on said vessel on April 16, 1864, when she was torpedoed on the way to Jacksonville, Fla.; was taken off by the "Harris Reed"? (Harriet A. Weed) and brought to Jacksonville, where he enlisted in the army."

"It is shown by a report from the War Department that he enlisted in Co. K, 21st U.S. Col. Inf., on September 7, 1864, under the name February Francis, and a report is desired showing whether said Christopher February or February Francis was serving as an employee of the Quartermaster's Department aboard the "General Hunter," and, if not, showing to what regiments the troops aboard said vessel were assigned."

On July 19, 1917, the Commissioner received another letter from Francis. "I was discharged from U.S.S. 'Wabash' and went right aboard the 'General Hunter' and served on her until she was torpedoed April 16, 1864, off Mandarin...joined the 'Wyoming' Cap. Jones. Left the 'Wyoming' and enlisted in the 21 U.S.C. Inf. Sept. 7, 1864, and served with until discharged."

The pension issue was never resolved, and Francis died in 1920. His wife decided not to apply for a widow's pension.

The 21st Colored Infantry was mustered out (disbanded) in Charleston on October 7, 1866, but Robards and Frazier had already been honorably discharged on April 25, 1866.

Mary Ward had met Frazier when he was encamped as a soldier in Charleston, S.C. She was younger, possibly by as much as 15 years, but they were smitten with each other, according to Robards.

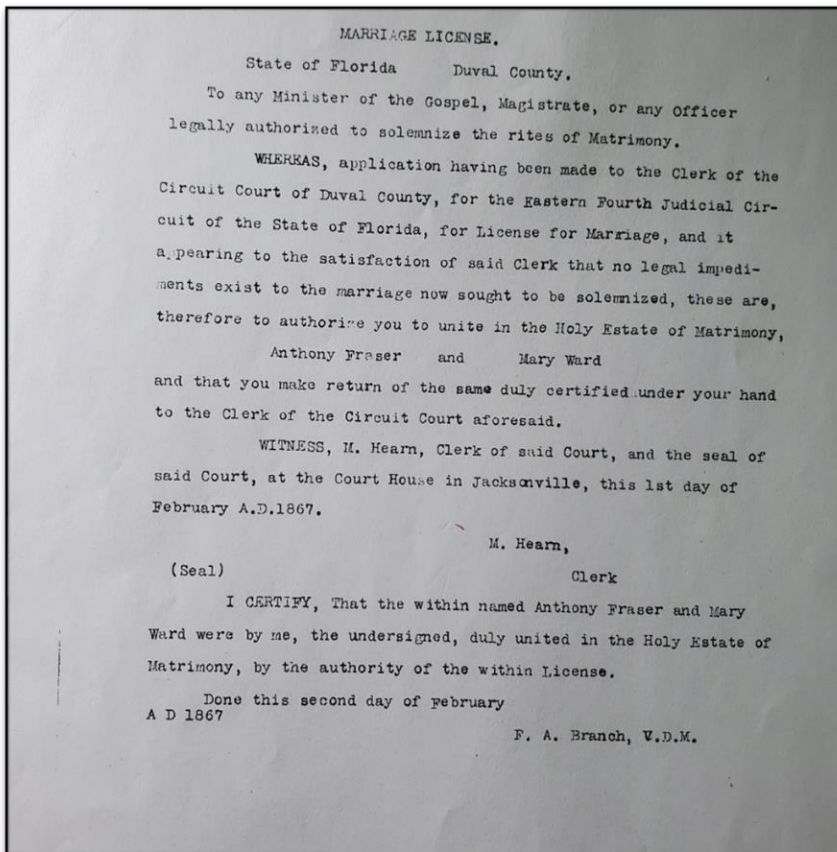
They were hoping to get married in Charleston as soon as he was discharged but on the day they were due to wed, he was ordered on to transport that was going to Savannah, the first leg on his journey home. It was to be several months before they were reunited.

<i>F</i>	21	U.S.C.T.
<i>Anthony Frazier</i>		
Pvt., Co. <i>H</i> , 21 Reg't U. S. Col'd Infantry.		
Appears on Co. Muster-out Roll , dated		
<i>Charleston S.C. Apr 25</i> , 1866.		
Muster-out to date		<i>Apr 25</i> , 1866.
Last paid to		<i>Decr. 21</i> , 1865.
Clothing account:		
Last settled <i>Sept. 14</i> , 1865; drawn since \$.....		100
Due soldier \$.....		100
due U. S. \$.....		2 ²⁴ / ₁₀₀
Am't for cloth'g in kind or money adv'd \$.....		100
Due U. S. for arms, equipments, &c., \$.....		100
Bounty paid \$ <i>100</i> 100; due \$ <i>100</i> 100		
Remarks: <i>Slave.</i>		

Anthony Frazier's Discharge Papers

They agreed to meet up again in Jacksonville, Florida, and there on February 2, 1867, they were married by the Rev. F. A. Branch V.D.M. (V.D.M. stands for Verbi dei minister which denoted a minister of the Lutheran or Reformed Church).

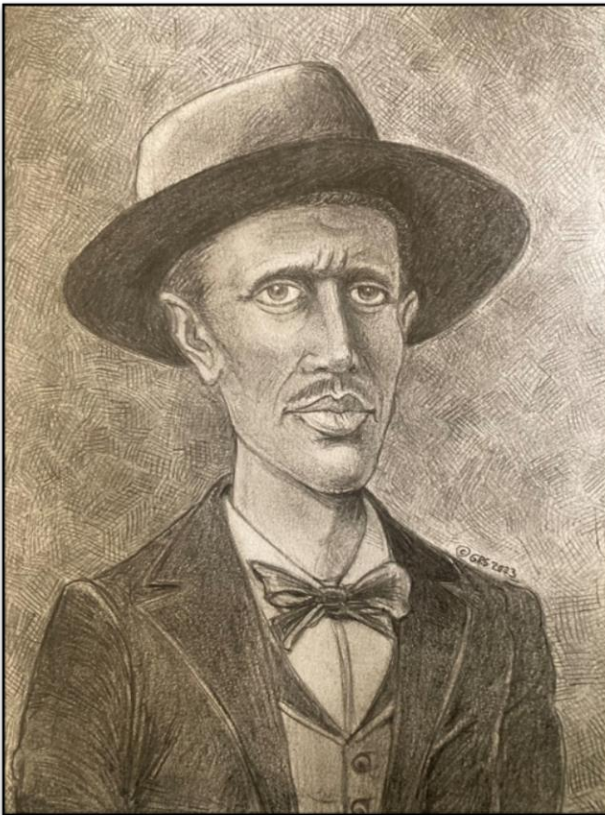
They settled near Lake Beauclair in the Tangerine area of Orange County. Records indicate they had at least six children.



A transcribed court copy of the wedding certificate of Anthony Frazier and Mary Ward

Despite exhaustive searches no pictures of Anthony Frazier have been found either while serving as a Union infantryman or later. Several photographs of Mary, however, have been found, and some of their adult children.

Photography was still in its infancy and cameras were an expensive luxury, so it is thought that the pictures of Mary and adult children were taken by Anthony Frazier and that he was always behind the camera and never in front of it.



An artist's visualization of Anthony Frazier based on the photographs of his adult sons Dan and Morton who looked remarkably similar. Courtesy of artist Gary Schermerhorn.



"Aunt" Mary in town (Sorrento).



Mary Frazier husking corn



“Aunt” Mary Frazier and granddaughter Mary

Anthony was granted 160 acres through the Homestead Act of 1862 with the papers signed by President Ulysses S. Grant (1869-77).

The land was virtually free to those over 21, but there was a small filing fee to register the land and obtain the deeds for it. There was an \$18 fee to file for the land - \$10 to make a temporary claim, \$2 commission to

the Land Agent and a \$6 final payment to receive an official patent on the land.

To qualify, you had to show proof of continuous residence on the land for five years, had to build a home (minimum dimensions 12 feet by 14 feet, farm the land and make improvements. In total, 28,096 homestead patents were issued in Florida, totaling 3.3 million acres which is 10 percent of the land in the state.

Union soldiers could shave off time served in the Civil War from the five-year residency requirement. Frazier applied for his land patent after three years in 1869 and sold the 160-acre parcel on April 1, 1876, to Lewis Ballard for \$400.

Frazier, who was credited with establishing the Rock Springs colored school towards the end of the 19th century, purchased land from the U.S. Government in 1876 and 1885, from the firm of Robards, Edwards and Williams also in 1885, and from the John Eaton (or Easton) Estate in 1904. (Source. History of Apopka, Jerrell H. Shofner).

In the 1870s and 1880s, Frazier was able to buy 'raw' (undeveloped) land from the U.S. Government for \$1.50 an acre. When Mary Frazier died in Sorrento in 1924, the 120 acres owned was valued at \$600, records indicate.

Vivian Owens, a Mount Dora author who has written about black history in Lake County, said Frazier likely came back to the area because "he knew the land and its resources, and he knew the nature of people populating the area."

Although he faced prejudice from many of the white people who had lost their source of free labor, he settled in an area where numerous former slaves had gathered.

"He could work directly for the white man, or he could create his own type of job. ... He could tend his own orange grove and sell to the white

and black communities. He could raise vegetables and peddle them from house to house.

He could fish in the nearby lakes and streams and sell his catch of the day," said Owens, who wrote "The Mount Dorans: African American History Notes of a Florida Town."

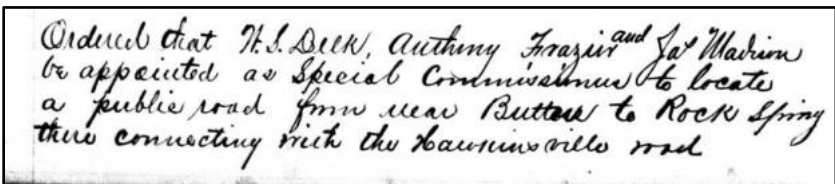
Frazier apparently got along with blacks and whites, said Angela Y. Walton-Raji, a genealogist who read numerous documents in Frazier's pension file at the National Archives.

She pointed out that his widow, Mary, submitted a pension request written on her behalf by A.S. Matlock, an area merchant who described himself as one of the first white settlers in the area. Both Mary and Anthony Frazier were illiterate and signed their names with an X.

An entry on the Ancestry.com website said Anthony and Mary Frazier were known in the region as 'Uncle Pete' and 'Aunt Mary', which were terms of respect and endearment back then, Walton-Raji said.

"They were sort of considered good citizens in the town," she said.

In 1880, Anthony Frazier, William S. Delk, and James Madison were appointed Orange County Special Commissioners of Roads.



Ordered that W.S. Delk, Anthony Frazier and J.M. Madison be appointed as Special Commissioners to locate a public road from near Butts to Rock Spring this connecting with the Hawkinsville road

Handwritten minutes of the Orange County Commissioners meeting in Orlando, October 4, 1880.

They were tasked to build a public road from Orlando to Rock Springs and another from Rock Springs to the Hawkinsville intersection, a cypress timber settlement and steamboat stop on the west side of the St. Johns River, a half mile south of the more recent Whitehair Bridge (also called the DeLand Bridge or Crows Bluff Bridge) near DeLand. The Rock Springs

to Hawkinsville Road probably followed the route of what is now State Road 44 travelling from Rock Springs and east of Mount Plymouth and then northeast to the St. Johns River.

Note. In the 1930s and '40s, the Wilson Cypress Co. unloaded cypress logs at Hawkinsville and towed them to their mill in Palatka.

At one stage it was the largest cypress mill in the world.

Earlier, Civil War gunboats had been repaired and retimbered at Hawkinsville. The Wilson Co. closed its operation in 1944 because of a labor shortage brought on by World War II. The land that was once Hawkinsville was then owned by rancher Len Holt, who kept cattle there. Only the town's old commissary remains on the property.

In the History of Sorrento, there is the following reference "Two other colored families lived on the Rock Springs Road – Uncle Pete and Aunt Mary Frazier and their children, and Joe Jenkins and his family. Their descendants still live in this section. (Sorrento, Lake Co., Fl USA (franmuse.com)



Dan Frazier with turkey. Source. The Rainey Family



Dan Frazier with horse. Source. The Rainey Family.



Dan Frazier with horse and cart. Source. The Rainey Family.



Dan Frazier with mules. *Source. The Rainey Family.*



Morton Frazier (left) and hunting friends. Fred Steenberg is in the middle. He was chauffeur to the Rainey family. On the right is Jimmy Hawkins.



Dan Frazier hauling oranges. Source. The Rainey Family.

After the Civil War, the Reconstruction Government required each county to record lists of all eligible voters by precinct. The lists were drawn up by three Registrars, one of whom was required to be a person of color.

In Orange County, James Chairs filled this requirement for the Voter List for 1867-8. The other two Registrars were L. C. Whitted and William H. Holden. Listed in Precinct 3 are William S. Delk and Anthony Frasier "colored".

The Orange County Census of 1880, listed the Frazier household as:

Pete (Anthony was affectionately known as Pete) aged 50,
Mary 30, and their children:

Sancho 13 (born 1867) - this may have been William,

Missouri 11 (born 1869) - daughter

Frances 9 (born 1871),

Jacksonville 7 (born 1873), who was generally called Dan.

Lula 5 (born 1875), and

Robert 1 (born 1878).

Arthur was born in 1882 and Morton in 1888.

Robert married Lula Leggs who was born March 6, 1881. They had a daughter Clara M, born in 1913. Lula died October 2, 1926, at the age of 45. She is buried in Mt. Olive Cemetery, Eustis.

Morton Frazier was born on May 25, 1888, at Bay Ridge, Orange County, and he married Beulah 'Bula' Cooper (born 1895) on October 1, 1911. They lived in Sorrento according to the 1920 Census and had three children – Mary (born 1915), Charlie (born 1917), and Evans (born 1918).

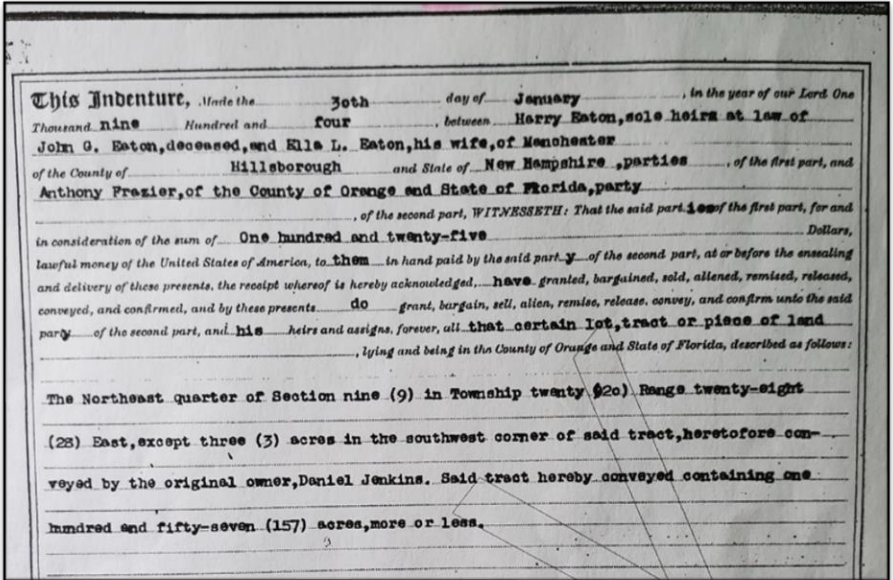
Both Morton and Bula were literate.

Charlie's nickname was 'Hand', and he married Martha Fields (born 1910) whose family came from Quincy (father was Tommy Fields and mother was Mary Jane, maiden name Spivey). She died soon after their marriage in Umatilla on March 11, 1938, at the age of 25. She was buried on March 13 in Winter Park and the cause of death was listed as homicide (a gunshot to the abdomen). Mary Jane is buried in Island Pond 1 cemetery.

The 1920 Census shows that Joseph R. Williams, aged 51 and his wife Charity, 38 (born 1882), were living in Sorrento. Also living in the household were Joseph R. Humphrey, aged 5, and born in 1915, and Mary Frazier, aged 70, "an aunt and widow".



*Morton Frazier with wild turkeys and hunting dog.
Source. The Rainey Family.*



Anthony Frazier's last purchase of land on January 30, 1904.

It was originally a 160-acre parcel although three acres had already been conveyed by the original owner Daniel Jenkins.

In his last years Anthony Frazier was in poor health and he, or people on his behalf, frequently wrote to the Commissioner of Pensions in Washington D. C. asking for his pension to be increased because of disability.

As a result, his pension over the years increased from \$8 a month to \$15 at the time of his death. When Mary was finally allowed to receive his pension as a widow, she received \$9 a month.

Handwritten notes:
C. L. M.
April 16, 1905
Bureau of Pensions
Washington, D. C.
June 27, 1890
C. L. M.

Sorrento, Fla., Apr. 16, 1905.

Commissioner of Pensions,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Anthony Frazier, colored, of this place, holds discharge papers as private of company K. 21 Regiment of U. S. C. T., given at Charleston, S. C. on Apr. 25, 1866 and he is now drawing \$8 per mo. pension under the provision of the act of June 27, 1890, on the age limit.

He now affirms that he is totally disabled from doing any work and it requires the constant nursing of his wife to attend to his needs and as the pension is his only income he desire to have the same increased to an amount sufficient to take care of himself and wife.

He can neither read or write and he asks me to write you to know what steps he must take to secure a raise of pension.

Respectfully yours,

J. Heckethorn

A letter written on Anthony Frazier's behalf, sent to the Pensions Office on April 16, 1905.

After Anthony died, several people wrote to the Bureau of Pension office on her behalf asking that Anthony's pension be transferred to her.

Two of these people were his half-brother, Joseph Robards and James Madison, who had served with Anthony as an Orange County Commissioner of Roads.

Southern Division

Wid. Orig. No. 942081

Mary Magier, Widow

Anthony Magier

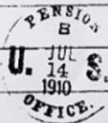
Co. K, 2nd U. S. C. Vol. Inf.

State of Florida

County of Lake

Personally appeared before me a Notary Public in and for the County and state aforesaid, Joseph Robards aged 65 years, of Lake County and State of Florida, and residing at Dorrento, Fla., and James Madison aged 63 years, of Lake County and State of Florida, and residing at Eustis, Fla. Who being duly sworn depose and say: That they have known the Soldier and the claimant, from or near the date of their marriage, to the date of the Soldiers death April 4th 1910, or for 44 years and 43 years respectively, and know that they have lived together as man and wife during ^{the} entire time.

Joseph Robards
James Madison



DIVISION

34

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 11th day of July, 1910, I hereby certify the above affidavit before signing same and that no additions or alterations have

Affidavit in support of Mary's pension transfer request signed by Joseph Robards and James Madison.

A. S. MATLOCK,

C. G. ADAMS,

A. R. ALLEN.

A. S. MATLOCK & CO.

DEALERS IN

FULL LINE OF GROCERIES

GENERAL MERCHANDISE

Dry Goods, Shoes, Hardware, Feed, Fertilizers, etc.

Sorrento, Fla. Apr 11th 1910

US Pension Agent

Dear Sir:

Anthony Frazier, who drew his pension through his own office, died a few days since, and his widow desires to make application for a widows pension. Please send me all of the necessary blanks including Physicians certificates,

Yours truly
A S Matlock & Co.

Anthony Frazier
Cert. No. 556921
Private Co K 2nd Reg US Colored Volunteer infantry. War of the rebellion
Discharge dated Charleston SC Apr 24-1866
A S M

A letter in support of Mary's pension request written in 1910 by A. S. Matlock, a Sorrento grocer.



A.S. Matlock & Co. Store, Sorrento. 1900. Source: Florida Memory

NAME OF SOLDIER:		Frazier Anthony			(2-11-5)
NAME OF DEPENDENT:		Widow,	Frazier, Mary		
		Minor,			
SERVICE:		K 21 USC Inf.			
DATE OF FILING.	CLASS.	APPLICATION NO.	CERTIFICATE NO.	STATE FROM WHICH FILED.	
1870 Apr 16	Invalid,	769 523	556 921	Fla.	
1910 May 12	Widow,	942.081	714.676	Fla	
	Minor,				
ATTORNEY:					
REMARKS:					

The record of Mary's filing request dated May 12, 1910

Act of September 8, 1916.
Increase Section.
Wid. Cert. 714676.

D. F. W.
adp!

State of Florida }
County of Lake }

Personally appeared before
me on this 24th day of July 1917, Mary
Frazier who being duly sworn
deposes and says, to-wit: That ^{during} the
year 1870 she resided in Section
25 Township 19 Range 27, and in
the year 1880 she resided in Section
4 Township 20 Range 28, both lo-
calities being at that date in the
County of Orange and State of Florida;
That she lived with her husband
Anthony Frazier, during the years
1870 and 1880.

Witnesses: W. W. W. }
A. D. Mattack }

her
Mary Frazier
mark

Sworn to and subscribed before
me this 24th day of July 1917

A. D. Mattack Notary Public

Notary Public, State of Florida.
My commission expires October 15, 1917.

Mary Frazier's affidavit signed on September 8, 1916, which attested to where she had lived in the 1870s and 1880s. The affidavit also gives the exact locations where she and Anthony lived.

One of the problems was that Mary could not prove her age and the rules said that she had either had to be married to Anthony while he was serving as a soldier or that she had to be aged 70 to receive the pension.

In an affidavit of December 13, 1916, she said that while “she was born in slavery and that there is no known date or record of her birth in existence,” she is able to fix the year of her birth “from the fact that she remembers seeing the great Comet of 1843, and that she believes herself to be over 73 years of age.”

(Note. The Great Comet of 1843 was first observed in early February 1843. It was so bright that it could be seen in broad daylight. It passed closest to Earth on March 6 1843, and was at its greatest brilliance the following day. It was last observed on April 19, 1843. At that time, the comet had passed closer to the Sun than any other known object.)

Widow Cert 714,676-1
Mary Frazier

Act September 8th 1916
Affidavit as to age.

State of Florida
County of Lake

On this 13th day of December 1916, personally appeared before me Mary Frazier, Widow of Anthony Frazier deceased, who being duly sworn, deposes and says, to wit: That she was born in slavery and that there is no known date ^{or record} of her birth in existence; That she is able to fix the year of her birth from the fact that she remembers seeing the great Comet of 1843, and that she believes herself to be over 73 years of age.

witnesses

A. Mattack
A. Mattack

Mary Frazier
mark

RECORDED
1916 JUN 6 AM 11
PENNISON

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 13th December 1916

A. Mattack Notary Public

Notary Public, State of Florida.
My commission expires October 15, 1917.

PENSION
U. S. OFFICE
JUN 7 1917

In an earlier deposition she said, "I cannot tell my age, but I was 16 years old when I married my husband directly after his discharge."

On February 21, 1917, A. Matlock, a notary public, wrote to the Commissioner of Pensions again, objecting to the delay in resolving Mary's case. He wrote:

"Several weeks since I sent you some testimony asked for, in the case of Mary Frazier's application for increase of pension from which nothing has been heard.

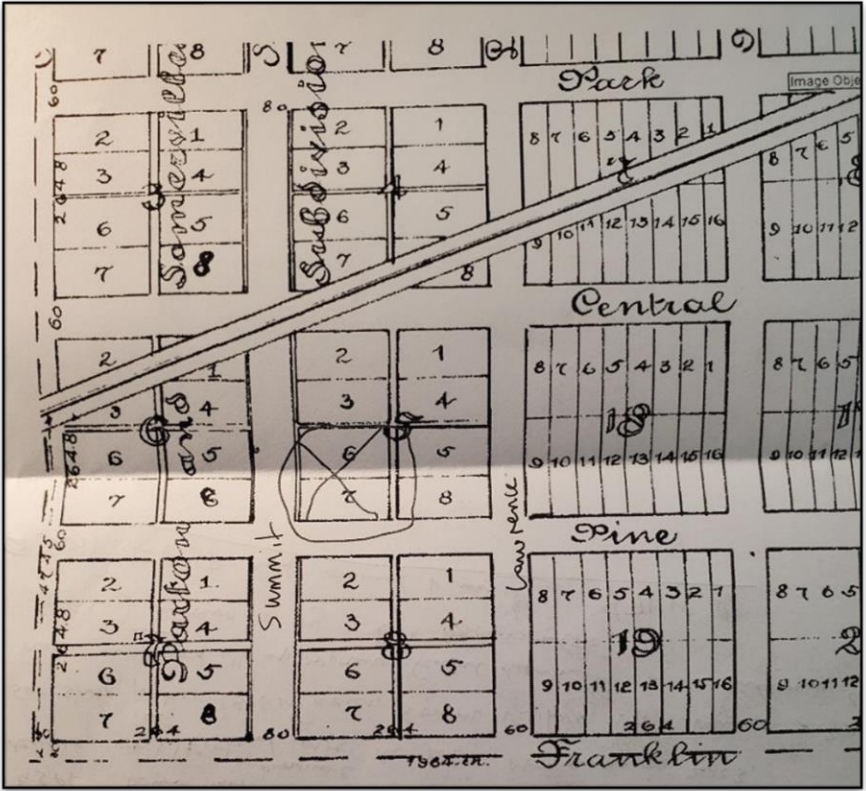
"Kindly look up the case and see if cannot be hurried up a little. The old woman is in a bad fix, has lost the use of one hand and is partly crippled in her right side, and having an almost helpless son to support. She is hard up and against it."

Her physicians were Drs. H. T. Fenn and Charles M. Roberts of Mount Dora.

Mary died of influenza on December 19, 1924, and according to her death certificate was buried the next day. Her occupation was given as midwife and the certificate said that she was born in Savannah, Georgie, in 1843 (with 'estimate' in brackets).

Questions asking about the name of her father and mother and their place of birth all have "Don't Know" written by them. Mary Frazier purchased property in Sorrento in 1921 for \$50.

Her address was given as Lot 6 & 7 in the Paxton and Somerville subdivision. (A William Summerville owned a sawmill on Wolfe Branch Road around 1880 and H.B. Paxton was one of the first settlers in Sorrento, arriving around 1875.).



Mary's home in Sorrento at the time of her death

At the time of Mary's death, she owned 120 acres of 'raw land' worth \$5 an acre.

She left it to her five sons jointly. They sold it very shortly after her death.

This instrument, made this 12 day of August, A. D. 1925,
BETWEEN Morton Frazier and Beulah Frazier, his wife,

of the County of Orange and State of Florida, part ies. of the first part, and
H. E. Martin
of the County of Orange and State of Florida, part y. of the second part,

WITNESSETH, That the said part ies. of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of
On dollar and other valuable considerations Dollars,
to them in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have yo. granted, bargained, sold and
transferred, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell and transfer unto the said part y. of the second part
and his heirs and assigns forever, all that certain parcel of land lying and being in the County of Orange and State
of Florida, more particularly described as follows:

All our undivided interest in and to the following described property, to wit: the Northwest
quarter of the Northeast quarter and the Northeast quarter of the Northwest quarter of
Section four, Township twenty, South Range twenty eight East, and also the North three
quarters of the Northeast quarter of Section nine, Township twenty South, Range twenty-
eight EAST.

TOGETHER with all the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances, with every privilege, right, title, interest and estate, donor and
right of donor, reversion, remainder and easement thereto belonging or in anywise appertaining: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same
in fee simple forever.

And the said part ies. of the first part do covenant with the said part y. of the second part that they have
lawful title of the said premises, that they are free from all incumbrances and that they have good right and lawful
authority to sell the same; and the said part ies. of the first part do hereby fully warrant the title to said land, and will de-
fend the same against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said part ies. of the first part have yo. hereunto set their hands and
seal the day and year above written.

Signed, sealed and delivered in our presence:

M. I. Hart
N. B. Barnum

his Attest: M. I. Hart
Morton Frazier (Seal)
mark
Beulah Frazier (Seal)

(60¢ IRS)

STATE OF FLORIDA,
COUNTY OF ORANGE,

I HEREBY CERTIFY, That on this 12 day of August, A. D. 1925,
before me personally appeared Morton Frazier & Beulah Frazier
to me known to be the person s. described in and who executed the foregoing conveyance to
H. E. Martin
and severally acknowledged the execution thereof to be their free act and deed for the use and purposes therein men-
tioned; and the said Beulah Frazier
the wife of the said Morton Frazier

on a separate and private examination taken and made by and before me, and separately and apart from her said husband, did ac-
knowledge that she made herself a party to the said Deed of Conveyance, for the purpose of renouncing, relinquishing and conveying all
her right, title and interest, whether of donor or of separate property, statutory or equitable, in and to the lands therein described, and
that she executed said deed freely and voluntarily and without any constraint, fear, apprehension or compulsion of or from her said
husband.

WITNESS my signature and official seal at Orlando in the County of
Orange and State of Florida, the day and year last aforesaid.

(NOTARIAL SEAL)

M. I. Hart (Seal)

Notary Public

My Commission expires 4/11/1929 (Seal)

(Seal)

Filed in office and recorded 13th day of August, A. D. 1925
at 8:25 o'clock A. M.

Wm. Robinson Clerk Circuit Court.
By F. W. Barnum D. C.

Deed Record No. 179, Orange County, Florida. Drew Jacksonville 4838

Deed of Morton's sale of land 1925

Following Mary's death Robert Frazier petitioned the county to use the accrued pension to cover her medical and burial bills amounting to \$142.21. Her casket cost \$60.

Rejecting the petition, Acting Commissioner Hays Haymaker wrote:

Mr. Robert N. Frazier,
Sorrento, Fla.

Sir:

I have to advise you that your claim for reimbursement in the case of Mary Frazier is rejected on the ground that the pensioner left assets consisting of real estate valued at \$600.00, sufficient to meet the expenses of her last sickness and burial alleged to have been \$142.21. Under such circumstances the accrued pension cannot be paid to anyone for any purpose.

Respectfully,

HAYS HAYMAKER

RH-eg

Acting Commissioner.

It is not known where Frazier's children moved to although a black cemetery just outside Eustis holds the remains of a Lula Frazier, who was born in 1881 and died in 1926. Lula may have been Frazier's second-youngest daughter, or the wife of his youngest son, Robert, who was born in 1879.

There are four other Frazier's buried at the cemetery but whether they were related to Anthony Frazier is unknown.

Shirley Meade of the East Lake Historical Society said she has heard through the years that there was at least one black cemetery in the middle of the old Delk orange plantation.

Frazier's Headstone

Frazier's headstone was found on land once owned by him but sold in 1885. It is under a stand of trees where it is protected from the elements. The state now owns the tract, which is known as the Neighborhood Lakes property, part of the Wekiva Basin State Parks. The grave marker was rediscovered during the construction of the Wekiva Parkway. Location is Plot NW1/4-NE1.4. Section 4, Township 20, Range 28, Orange County, close to county line with Lake County).

The gravestone may be in the vicinity of the actual grave. Although he sold the land in 1885 it is thought that he could have been buried there. There are also reports of a small black cemetery in this area "just over the hill" on land later owned by the BMK Ranch.

The headstone bears the inscription:

Anthony Frazier
Co. K
21 U.S. C. I.

Official Civil War headstones

On March 3, 1873, Congress granted burial rights in national military cemeteries to all honorably discharged veterans of the Civil War (17 Stat. 605). An act of Congress of February 3, 1879 (20 Stat. 281) extended the privilege of government-provided gravestones to soldiers buried in private cemeteries (20 Stat. 281).

This act provided:

... That the Secretary of War is hereby authorized to erect headstones over the graves of soldiers who served in the Regular or Volunteer Army of the United States during the war for the Union, and who have been buried in private village or city cemeteries, in the same manner as provided by the law of March third, eighteen hundred and seventy-three, for those interred in national military cemeteries....

The Secretary of War shall cause to be preserved in the records of his Department the names and places of burial of all soldiers for whom such headstones shall have been erected by authority of this or any former acts.

As of June 1873, the stone markers were either white marble or gray granite. Frazier's headstone is white marble which is also interesting because marble markers were normally reserved for officers while other ranks received granite markers.

Following World War I, the Cemetery Branch became the Cemetery Division when it was consolidated with the Graves Registration Service, which had supervised the burying, placing of headstones, and record-keeping of American war dead abroad during World War I.

The official headstones bore a recessed shield with raised lettering. The stones of Black Union Soldiers consisted of the following abbreviations:

U.S. Cld. Inf – United State Colored Infantry
U.S. Cld. HA – United States Colored Heavy Artillery
U.S. Cld. LA – United States Colored Light Infantry
U.S. Cld. Cav – United States Colored Cavalry
U.S. Cld. Troops – United States Colored Troops
U.S. C.T. – United States Colored Troops

Interestingly, tombstones for Union soldiers had rounded tops while those for Confederates had pointed tops.



A Confederate 'pointed' headstone

There is a saying in the south that claims that Confederate headstones are deliberately pointed “so that no damn Yankees could sit on them.”



Anthony Frazier's curved Union headstone

A Mr. Levi Risinger was living in Sorrento in 1910 and he is said to have petitioned to get a headstone for Anthony Frazier. As Sorrento was then a small town, it is almost certain that he and his wife Lizzie, would have been acquainted with the Frazier's especially Mary, as she was widely known in the area as a midwife.

Levi Risinger was in Preble, Ohio, in 1834 and married Lizzie A. on Oct 5, 1854. According to the 1880 Census they were still living in Ohio with their son Abel, 24, a law student.

The 1900 Census records them as living in Sorrento where they presumably knew the Frazier family.

But by 1920, Levi, now aged 86 and widowed, was back living in Preble with his son Abel, 64, and his wife Alice, 63.

The Frazier headstone was found in the Neighborhood Lakes area which in the 1960s and 1970s was mostly orange groves.

Several people who worked in the area at the time, signed affidavits about remembering seeing the headstone. Many people also remembered a cemetery for blacks in the area, but its exact location is unknown.

Some remembered it as being on the property owned by BMK Ranches, which was “right over the hill” but still adjoining the Neighborhood Lakes land.

This cemetery might have been the one referred to as ‘Calvary’ which is where plantation slaves were buried. It was supposed to be in the middle of an orange grove with about 20 headstones.

Scott Amey, said in an affidavit signed June 30, 2014, that he had visited the site with Tony Moore on June 19, 2010, and said, “Tony Moore whom (sic) also was a surveyor, a week prior to the trip showed me personally old aerial photographs of the cemetery from the 1920s depicting a cemetery with a circular drive around it in the middle of an orange grove approximately one acre in size.”

When they visited the site, “the only tree we could see that was not on the horizon was a tree that had three trunks. At the base of the tree laid flat on the ground, was the tombstone of Anthony Frazier.

About 20 yards northeast of the tree, Tony and I discussed the area we saw, and it looked like a large circular area sunken in the ground that went a length out in front of us that looked like it could have been the area we saw in the aerial photograph.

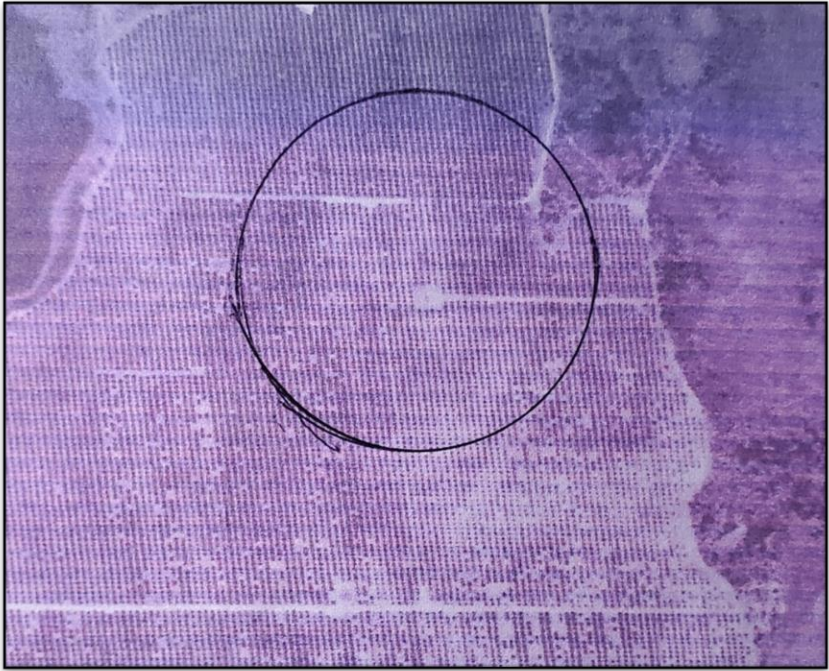
Inside this circular area the grass growing had tiny shrubbery that stood only about six inches tall that blended with the tall grass that had thorns

on it. Also, the grass in this area was patchy with what seemed different kinds of grass patched together.”



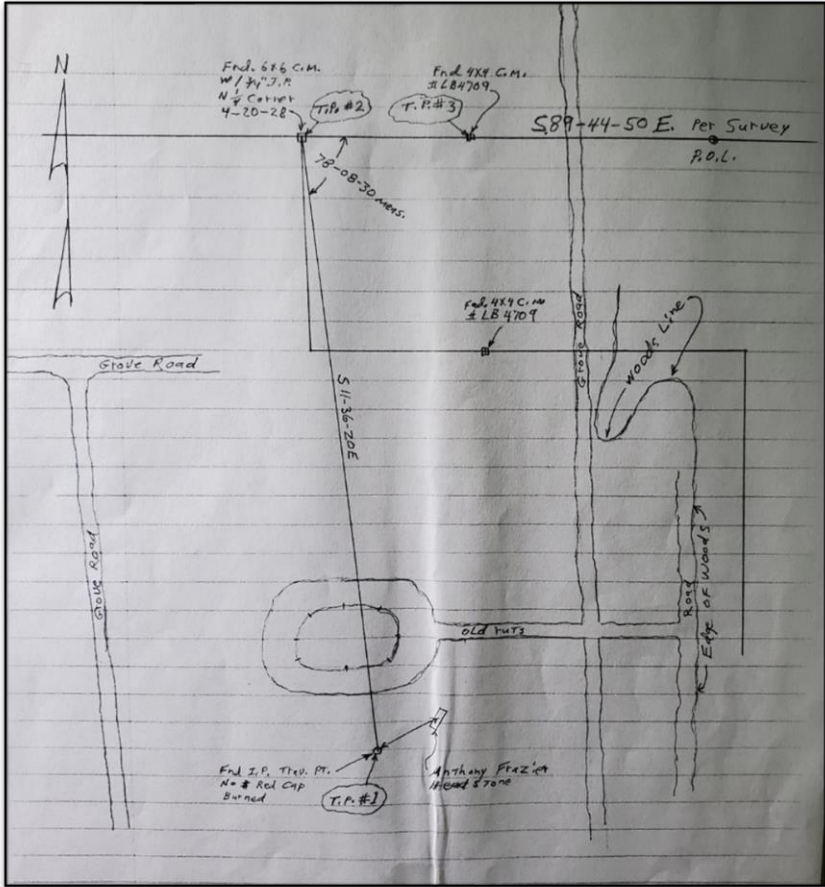
Aerial photograph taken in the 1920s.

On the center of the circled area is what Tony believed to be Calvary cemetery with a track coming in from the east. It is surrounded by orange groves, as described by people who worked on the land at the time.



A close up of the possible location

Below is the map that Tony Moore drew based on his observations and measurements of the 1920s aerial photographs showing the location of what he believed was the cemetery.



In 2014, James Wheeler McDonald signed an affidavit (see below) recalling his recollections about the headstone. He said that he was in the area in 1955, or 56 or maybe 57 but did not remember a cemetery.

"I did come upon a grave with a tombstone, and I think, an old fence around it.... The best I can recall, the tombstone that I saw had a domed top, but I cannot remember if it was standing or laying. The fence could have been 30 or more years old then.

“I have an impression that the fenced area was only large enough for a single grave. The tombstone was centered in the fence as if there only one grave”.

In another 2014 affidavit (see below), Emory Boyd said he was working for the Lake Region Packing Association in 1970. The property was owned by the Mackle Brothers out of Deltona, and “I was hired to live on the property and take care of the groves there.

“One of the workers was clearing trees from the property when he pushed up a skeleton. Work was stopped and the property fenced because they thought this might be a cemetery. Then one day while I was riding in my truck checking on the orange trees, I saw a headstone lying on the ground. I did not bother it but left it where it was.”

After members of the East Lake Historical Society visited the site with Tony Moore on June 19, 2010, member Nancy C. Williams phoned Edward Spann whose father, Henry Spann used to work in the orange grove where the headstone was located.

“Edward Spann said there used to be more headstones in that area when his Dad worked in the groves”, she said in an affidavit dated June 2, 2014.

When the Frazier gravestone was found by the landowner it was lying on the ground out in the open. He said he moved it a “short distance” so that it was under the three-trunk oak tree.

During Hurricane Irma in 2017, the tree toppled over, and the root ball rose out the ground eerily raising the gravestone to an almost vertical position as seen in the photographs below.

Dennis Bronson in an affidavit (see below) taken on November 26, 2014, said “I remember seeing the confederate soldier headstone many times between 1977 and 1983. The headstone was also upright position at that time. The headstone is located east of Mt. Plymouth and south of highway 46 and east of Rock Springs Road.”

GENERAL AFFIDAVIT

State of FLORIDA

County of Lake

Before me this day personally appeared Shirley Meade who, being duly sworn deposes and says:

I, Shirley Meade, witnessed Emory Boyd signing the attached General Affidavit

In 1970, I Emory Boyd, 31408 C.R. 437 S., Sorrento, Florida, was working for Lake Region Packing Association, who was taking care of the groves at Neighborhood Lakes. The property was owned by Mackle Brothers out of Deltona and I was hired to live on the property and take care of the groves there. One of the workers was clearing trees from the property when he pushed up a skeleton. Work was stopped and the property fenced, because they thought this might be a cemetery. Then one day while I was riding in my truck checking on the orange trees, I saw a headstone lying on the ground. I did not bother it, but left it where it was.

As a resident of this area, I feel that every effort should be made to locate the boundaries of the cemetery, fence it and re-locate Anthony's headstone back to it's proper place. Doing this would bring back honor and dignity to those who are buried there.

Shirley Meade
Signature of Affiant

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me this 14 day of June, 2014, by Shirley Meade who is personally known to me or produced a _____ as identification.



CATHERINE C. HANSON
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF FLORIDA
Comm# EE190816
Expires 7/2/2016

Catherine C. Hanson
NOTARY PUBLIC SIGNATURE
Catherine C. Hanson
notary public printed name

GENERAL AFFIDAVIT

State of FLORIDA
County of LAKE

Before me this day personally appeared Dennis Branson who, being duly sworn deposes and says:

I remember seeing the Confederate Soldier headstone many times between 1977 and 1983. The headstone was also upright position at that time. The headstone is located East of HTi Plymouth, 71 South of Hwy 46 and East of Rucker Spring Road. Near neighborhood Lakes in township 19 South Range 28 East in Section 28, 33 or 34.

Dennis Branson
11150 Branson Rd.
Clermont, FL 34711
352-267-5325

Dennis Branson
signature of affiant

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me this 21st day of November, 2014, by Dennis Branson who is personally known to me or produced a _____ as identification.



CHARLOTTE REEVES
MY COMMISSION # EE 083179
EXPIRES: April 12, 2015
Bonded Third Budget Notary Services

Charlotte Reeves
notary public signature

notary public printed name

GENERAL AFFIDAVIT

State of FLORIDA

County of DEKALB

Before me this day personally appeared JAMES WHEELER McDONALD who, being duly sworn deposes and says:

A couple of weeks ago, I got a phone call from someone who said he was a member of the Sons of the Civil War Union Veterans, I think. Anyhow, he started asking me questions about a black cemetery near Neighborhood Lake. I had to tell him that I was in that area in 1955 or 56 or maybe 57, but that I did not remember a cemetery. I did come upon a grave with a tombstone and, I think, an old fence around it. He told me the name he was interested in (Anthony Frazier), which I cannot recall being on the marker. But, I did remember being there and I do remember just about where it was. The latitude and longitude were 28degrees46'35.78"N and 81degrees31'24.15"W, plus or minus maybe 150 feet. I got those numbers off GoogleEarth, but I am pretty sure of the location. The best I can recall, the tombstone I saw had a domed top, but I cannot recall whether it was standing or laying. The fence could have been 30 or more years old, then. I have an impression that the fenced in area was only large enough for a single grave. The tombstone was centered in the fence as if there were only one grave.

It seems that Anthony was a freed slave who went to fight for the union and was eventually buried in the Neighborhood Lakes black cemetery, but I cannot confirm either the name or the writing on the marker. I do not recall what kind of mission I was on that day. I may have been looking for a caddying job at the Mt. Plymouth Hotel and Country Club or I may have been just wandering. I don't think I was hunting-I don't recall carrying a gun. But, it seems to me that I was coming back home from somewhere. After going by the grave, I did walk by one of those lakes they built those homes by (Lake Leria?) and just for the fun of it, caught a grasshopper and tossed him as far out as I could. A really nice sized bluegill came up and ate him, almost immediately, and I do remember entertaining-thoughts of going home and getting some fishing tackle, but I never did go back. I did go fishing in Neighborhood Lake a few times, back then, but never caught much.

It may be a bit surprising to think about it but we did a lot of walking in those days and wandered over a lot of territory. And, since we were walking, we were not restricted to roads. We could follow cow paths or game trails wherever they went.

And, now when I look at the GoogleEarth views, I am struck by the fact that those lakes, including Neighborhood Lake are almost dry. At that time, the lakes were full and there were a lot of grassy ponds that have since dried up. It looks like all of that area has been cleared and planted, perhaps more than once since then. Back then that was unimproved cattle range and that area was blackjack and turkey oaks and a few palmettos and not much else.

I think I can blame the phone call on Jack. It appears that he told Mr. Landry that I knew something about that cemetery. Well, perhaps I did, but it wasn't much.

Oh Well, it did make for an interesting phone call and I just thought I would tell all of you about it.

James W. McDonald
signature of affiant

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me this 15th day of MAY, 2014, by JAMES WHEELER McDONALD who is personally known to me or produced a FL DL as identification.



K. Greene
notary public signature
K. Greene
notary public printed name

Not far from the tree is a clump of allamanda plants with their distinctive yellow flowers. These plants are not native to Florida (they are from Central and South America) but they were often planted in cemeteries perhaps because of their common name – golden trumpets.

Originally there may have been a single plant but over the years they have spread and there is now a small group of them, and spectacular when in bloom.



Location of headstone on June 19, 2010. The headstone is 37 inches in overall length. It would have been set 12 inches into the ground with 27 inches above ground.





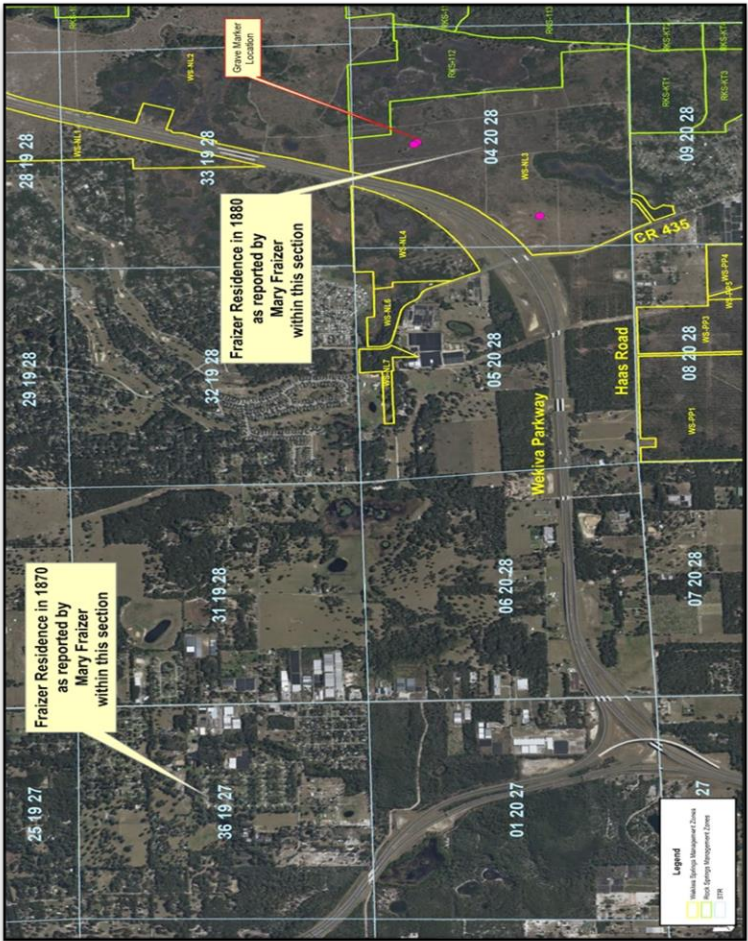


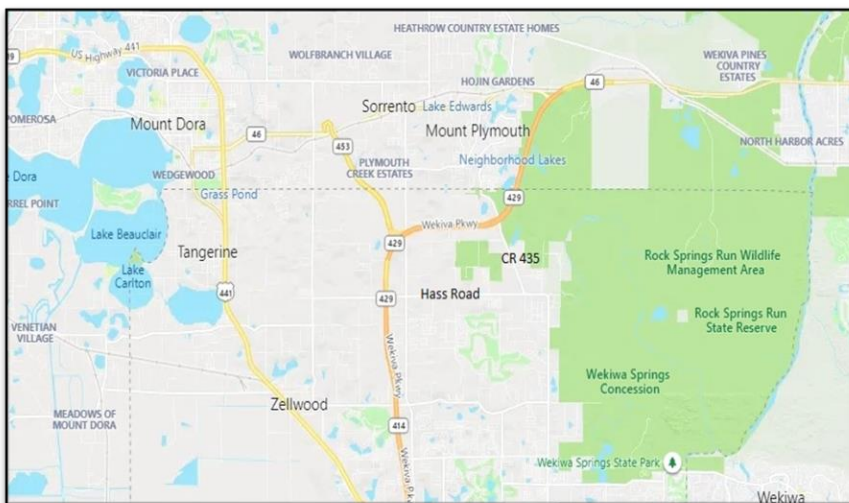
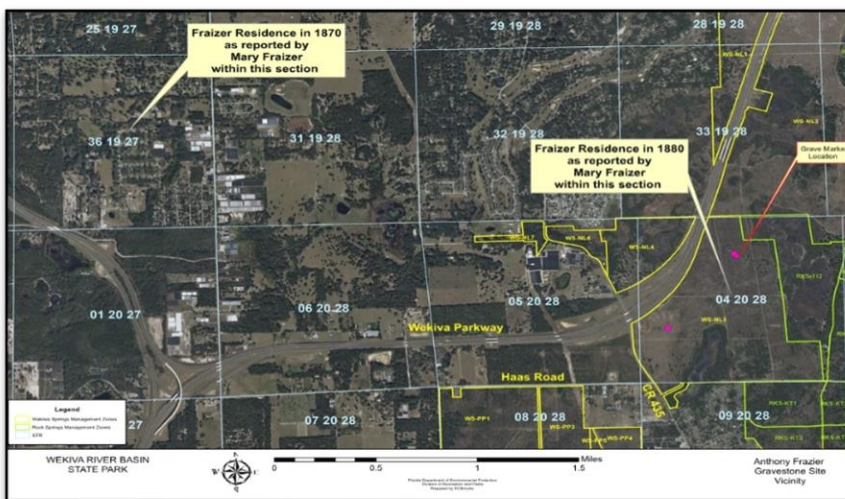


Allamanda bush



Allamanda - Golden Trumpet - flowers





The Ethel Project

In order to preserve the memory and the history of Ethel a Friends of Ethel group has been established as part of the Wekiva Wilderness Trust, the nonprofit Citizen Support Organization that supports the work of the Wekiva River Basin State Parks.

The Wekiva River Basin State parks extend to 42,000 acres and include Wekiwa Springs State Park, Lower Wekiva River Preserve State Park, and Rock Springs Run State Reserve which includes the land where Ethel once stood.

A two-mile Historic Ethel Trail has been created which follows a circular route through the area once occupied by homesteader's cabins, the school, cemetery, and railroad. Interpretive signs have been positioned along the trail telling the story of the Delk Plantation, the Ethel township and Anthony Frazier.

Historic markers have been placed on sites of special interest such as the school, the cemetery, and the railway station.

Guided walks are available and there is also a self-guiding brochure for those who want to explore by themselves. And, of course, there is the Ethel History book, copies of which have been made available to every school and library in Lake, Orange, and Seminole Counties.

We have constructed a pavilion close to the start of the walk to provide shade or shelter for those visiting Ethel and we hope to host many visits from local schoolchildren so they can learn about the area's fascinating history.

There are also plans to construct two cabins, replicas of what an 1880s homestead cabin would have looked like.

Fortunately, we have photos of Finlay Click's 1880s cabin at Ethel, so we have a historical record to work with. One of the cabins will house a small museum and the other will be furnished – sparsely – as it would have been back then.

Maybe in the future, we can build more cabins to showcase the arts and crafts of the time and cultivate small cottage gardens growing the sort of crops that would have been planted then.

Whatever does happen, however, we have already been able to bring back to life the remarkable story of the Delk Plantation, the long-forgotten Ethel township, and the amazing story of Anthony Frazier.

Following are several Indentures, Deeds and Patents involving some of Frazier's land purchases.

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And the said part 4 of the first part, hundred and two acres, the above described and hereby granted and released premises, and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances, unto the said part 4 of the second part, his heirs and assigns, against the said part 4 of the first part and his heirs, and against all and every person or persons whomsoever, lawfully claiming, or to claim the same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said part 4 of the first part do hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in presence of us:
Paul Steig (Seal.)
C. S. Davis (Seal.)
A. J. Halloran (Seal.)

STATE OF Florida } ss.
 COUNTY OF Orange

Know all Men by these Presents, That I, Paul Steig, do, by these presents, make and executed by me separate and apart from my said husband, and in the presence of A. J. Halloran a part of the State of Florida acknowledge and declare that I did make myself a party to, and executed the foregoing Deed of Conveyance for the purpose of conveying in and to the lands in said conveyance therein described and granted, and that I did the same freely and voluntarily, and without any compulsion, constraint, apprehension or fear, of, or from my said husband.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto subscribed my name and affix my seal, this 3rd day of March, A. D. 1888.
 In Presence of _____ [Seal.]

STATE OF Florida } ss.
 COUNTY OF Orange

To all whom it may Concern: Be it known that on this 3rd day of March, A. D. 1888, personally appeared before me, a Justice of the Peace of the State of Florida, the above named Paul Steig, the wife of Alexander Halloran, to me well known as the wife of _____ and as one of the persons described in, and who executed the foregoing Deed of Conveyance, who being at the time separate and apart from her husband, the said _____, did then and there make and execute the foregoing acknowledgment, her name being with her own hand subscribed, and her seal affixed in my presence.

Witness my hand and seal, at _____ the day and year above written. [Seal.]

STATE OF Florida } ss.
 COUNTY OF Orange

On this day personally appeared before me Alexander Halloran, to me well known as the person described in, and who executed the foregoing Deed of Conveyance, and acknowledged that he executed the same for the purpose therein expressed; whereupon it is prayed that the same may be recorded.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto affixed my hand and seal, this 3rd day of March, A. D. 1888.
C. C. Baggett (Seal.)
A. J. Halloran (Seal.)
Matthew J. ... (Seal.)

STATE OF FLORIDA, }
 COUNTY OF Orange } ss.

Be it remembered, that on this 3rd day of March, A. D. 1888, I, C. C. Baggett, Clerk of the Circuit Court, in and for said County, have duly recorded the foregoing Deed in the public records of said County.
 In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of said Court, the day and year above written.
C. C. Baggett (Seal.)
 Clerk Circuit Court.
C. C. Baggett Deputy Clerk.

This Indenture, made the 20th day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty Four BETWEEN Alexander G. Halloran

of the County of Orange and State of Florida of the first part, and

of the County of Orange and State of Florida of the second part, WITNESSETH, that the said part of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of Thirty Five Dollars, lawful money

of the United States of America, to ~~have~~ in hand paid by the said part of the second part, at or before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, ~~has~~ granted, bargained, sold, aliened, remised, released, conveyed and confirmed, and by these presents ~~has~~ granted, bargain, sell, alien, remise, release, convey and confirm unto the said part of the second part, and ~~his~~ heirs and assigns, forever, all the following parcel of land lying and being in the County of Orange and State of Florida described as follows:

Beginning at the point East Corner of the West half of the first East quarter of the first Mid quarter of section twenty five in Township Eighteen north of Range South, Eight East Range West to the East Corner of land belonging to John P. Oliver, thence North parallel to section line five chains and thirty one links thence East three chains and sixty eight links thence South six chains and thirty one links to place of beginning containing two acres more or less

TOGETHER with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments, and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining, and the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof. AND ALSO, all the estate, right, title, interest dower, and right of dower, separate estate, property, possession, claim and demand whatsoever, as well in law as in equity, of the said part of the first part, of in and to the same, and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above granted, bargained and described premises, with the appurtenances, unto the said part of the second part, ~~his~~ heirs and assigns, to the ~~best~~ proper use, benefit and behoof forever.

And the said part of the first, viz: Alexander G. Halloran for himself, his heirs, executors and administrators, do hereby covenant, promise and agree to and with the said part of the second part, ~~his~~ heirs and assigns, that the said part of the first part, at the time of the sealing and delivery of these presents, ~~has~~ lawfully seized in fee simple of a good, absolute and indefeasible estate of inheritance, of and in, all and singular, the above granted, bargained and described premises, with the appurtenances thereunto belonging, and ~~has~~ good right, full power and lawful authority to grant, bargain, sell and convey the same in manner and form aforesaid. And that the said part of the second part, ~~his~~ heirs and assigns, shall and may at all times hereafter, peaceably and quietly have, hold, use, occupy, possess and enjoy the above granted premises, and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances, without any let, suit, trouble, molestation, eviction, or disturbance of the said part of the first part, ~~his~~ heirs or assigns, or of any other person or persons lawfully claiming or to claim the same. And that the same are now free, clear, discharged and unincumbered of and from all former and other grants, titles, charges, estates, judgments, taxes, assessments and incumbrances of what nature and kind soever.

This Indenture, made the 11th day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty seven BETWEEN Allen Stapler and
Milly Stapler his wife
of the County of Orange

and State of Florida Anthony Brazier
of Orange County State of Florida
of the first part, and

of the second part, WITNESSETH, that the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of
eighty Dollars, lawful money
of the United States of America, to them in hand paid by the said party of the second part, at or before the
sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, had granted, bargained, sold,
aliened, remised, released, conveyed and confirmed, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, alien, remise,
repose, convey and confirm unto the said party of the second part, and his heirs and assigns, forever, all
the following lot or tract of land
lying and being in the County of Orange and State of Florida
described as follows:

Three tenths East and fourths of South west
and fourth of the fourth East Quarter of
Section Twenty nine (29) Township Eighteen
South of Range Twenty eight East
Containing ten acres more or less

TOGETHER with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments, and appurtenances thereto belonging or in any
wise appertaining, and the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof.
AND ALSO, all the estate, right, title, interest dower, and right of dower, separate estate, property, possession, claim
and demand whatsoever, as well in law as in equity, of the said party of the first part, of, in and to the same,
and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above granted, bargained
and described premises, with the appurtenances, unto the said party of the second part, and heirs and assigns,
to his own proper use, benefit and behoof forever.

And the said party of the first part, Allen Stapler and
Milly Stapler

for themselves their heirs, executors and administrators, do covenant, promise and agree to and with
the party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, that the said party of the first part, at the
time of the sealing and delivery of these presents, are lawfully seized in fee simple of a good,
absolute and indefeasible estate of inheritance, of and in, all and singular, the above granted, bargained and de-
scribed premises, with the appurtenances thereto belonging, and have good right, full power and lawful
authority to grant, to gain, sell and convey the same in manner and form aforesaid. And that the said party of
the second part, and heirs and assigns, shall and may at all times hereafter, peaceably and quietly have, hold,
use, occupy, possess and enjoy the above granted premises, and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances,
without any let, suit, trouble, molestation, eviction, or disturbance of the said party of the first part, and
heirs or assigns, or of any other person or persons lawfully claiming or to claim the same. And that the same are
now free, clear, discharged and unincumbered of and from all former and other grants, titles, charges, estates, judg-
ments, taxes, assessments and incumbrances of what nature and kind soever.

And the said part... of the first part, for her heirs and their heirs, the above described and hereby granted and released premises, and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances, unto the said party... of the second part, her heirs and assigns, against the said part... of the first part and her heirs, and against all and every person or persons whomsoever, lawfully claiming, or to claim the same... shall and will warrant, and by these presents forever defend.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said part... of the first part has hereunto set her hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in presence of us:
J. P. Hinkley [Seal.] Allen Hapler [Seal.]
W. H. Hapler [Seal.] Willy Hapler [Seal.]

STATE OF Florida } ss.
COUNTY OF Orange }
Know all Men by these presents, That I, Willy Hapler, wife

of the above named Allen Hapler, do, by these presents, make and execute by me separately and apart from my said husband, and in the presence of Allen Hapler and Mary Cutler of the State of Florida, acknowledge and declare that I did make myself a party to, and executed the foregoing Deed of Conveyance for the purpose of relinquishing my share in and to the lands in said conveyance herein described and granted and that I did the same freely and voluntarily, and without any compulsion, constraint, apprehension or fear, of or from my said husband.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto subscribe my name and affix my seal, this 22 day of March, A. D. 1884

In Presence of J. P. Hinkley [Seal.] Willy Hapler [Seal.]
mark

STATE OF Florida } ss.
COUNTY OF Orange }
To all whom it may concern: Do it know that on this 22 day of March, A. D. 1884 personally appeared before me, Mary Cutler of the State of Florida

to me well known as the wife of Allen Hapler and as one of the persons described in, and who executed the foregoing Deed of Conveyance, who being at the time separate and apart from her husband, the said Willy Hapler, did then and there make and execute the foregoing acknowledgment, her name being with her own hand subscribed, and her seal affixed in my presence.

Witness my hand and seal, at Goronto Fla the day and year above written. Mary Cutler [Seal.]

STATE OF Florida } ss.
COUNTY OF Orange }
On this day personally appeared before me Allen Hapler Willy Hapler, to me well known as the person described in, and who executed the foregoing Deed of Conveyance, and acknowledged that they executed the same for the purpose therein expressed; whereupon it is prayed that the same may be recorded.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto affixed my hand and seal, this 22 day of March, A. D. 1884

Allen Hapler [Seal.] Willy Hapler [Seal.]
Mary Cutler [Seal.]

STATE OF FLORIDA. } ss.
COUNTY OF Orange }
Do it hereby certified, That on this 22 day of March, A. D. 1884, I, J. P. Hinkley Clerk of the Circuit Court, in and for said County, have duly recorded the foregoing Deed in the public records of said County.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of said Court, the day and year above written.

J. P. Hinkley [Seal.] J. S. Clerk Circuit Court.
By W. H. Hapler Deputy Clerk.

This Indenture made the fifth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty five Between Hattie Ware, Isaac Ware, Sarah Benjamin, Alexander Benjamin, Abraham Johnson, Rebecca Johnson, Minthia Williams, Melon Williams, Harrison Rawls, Francis E. Rawls, Joseph Roberts, Delia Roberts, Stephen Rawls, Charlotte Rawls and of Orange County Florida of the first part and One Thomas Frazier, of Orange County Florida, of the second part, Witnesses that said parties of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of Two Dollars, lawful money of the United States of America to them in hand paid by the said party of the second part at or before the making and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have censed, released and quit claimed, and by these presents do remise, release, renounce and forever quit claim unto the said party of the second part and to his heirs and assigns forever all that certain tract or parcel of land lying and being in the County of Orange and State of Florida, described as follows to wit: The North East quarter of the North West quarter of Section four (4) in Township Twenty (20) North, Range Twenty eight (28) East, containing Forty (40) acres more or less, — together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereto belonging or in anywise appertaining, and the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof and also the estate right title interest, dower, right of dower, separate estate, property, possessions, claims and demands whatsoever as well in law as in equity of the said parties of the first part of, in and to the above described premises and every part and parcel thereof with the appurtenances to have and to hold all and singular the above mentioned and described premises together with the appurtenances unto the said party of the second part

his heirs and assigns forever. In witness
whereof the said parties of the first part have
respective set their hands and seals the day
and year first above written.

Signed sealed and delivered in presence of

Charlotte Rawls
M. E. Whitridge
H. B. Paston

Ruth ^{the} Ware ^{wife}
Seas ^{the} Ware ^{wife}
Edw. Benjamin ^{wife}
Sarah ^{the} Benjamin ^{wife}
Abraham ^{the} Johnson ^{wife}
Rebecca ^{the} Johnson ^{wife}
Cynthia Williams ^{wife}
Wilson Williams ^{wife}
Joseph G. Roberts ^{wife}
Delia Roberts ^{wife}
Harrison Rawls ^{wife}
Francis ^{the} Rawls ^{wife}
Stepney Rawls ^{wife}
Charlotte Rawls ^{wife}

State of Florida

Orange County } Know all men by these presents
that we, Ruth Ware, Sarah Benjamin, Rebecca Johnson,
Cynthia Williams and Francis E. Rawls, Delia Rob-
erts and Charlotte Rawls, wives of the above named
Seas Ware, Edward Benjamin, Abraham Johnson,
Wilson Williams, and Harrison Rawls, Joseph Rob-
erts and Stepney Rawls by these presents made
and executed by us, separate and apart from our
said husbands and in the presence of H. B. Paston,
a Notary Public of the State of Florida, acknowledge
and declare that we did make ourselves a party to
and executed the foregoing deed for the purpose of
relinquishing our dowers right of Dower, and
conveying our separate and to the lands
hereto described and granted, and that we
do the same freely and voluntarily and with-
out any compulsion, constraint, apprehension or
fear of or from our said husbands.

In witness whereof, we hereunto subscribe our

names and affix our seals this fifth day of August A.D. one thousand eight hundred and eighty five

Charlotte Rawls
 M. E. Whitridge
 H. B. Paston

Katie ^{the} ^{young} ^{maid} ^{Warr} ^(w)
 Sarah ^{the} ^{young} ^{maid} ^{Benjamin} ^(w)
 Rebecca ^{the} ^{young} ^{maid} ^{Johnson} ^(w)
 Cynthia ^{the} ^{young} ^{maid} ^{Williams} ^(w)
 Delia ^{the} ^{young} ^{maid} ^{Robards} ^(w)
 Francis ^{the} ^{young} ^{maid} ^{Rawls} ^(w)
 Charlotte ^{the} ^{young} ^{maid} ^{Rawls} ^(w)

State of Florida }
 Orange County } To all whom it may come Be
 it known that in this 5th day of August A.D. 1885
 personally appeared before me a Notary Public of the
 State of Florida the above named Katie Warr, Sarah
 Benjamin, Rebecca Johnson, Cynthia Williams, and
 Francis E. Rawls, Delia Robards and Charlotte Rawls,
 to me well known as the wives of Isaac Warr, Alexander
 Benjamin, Abraham Johnson, Nelson Williams, and Harri-
 son Rawls, Joseph Robards and Stephen Rawls and
 as persons described in and who executed the foregoing
 deed, who being at the time separate and apart from their
 husbands, did then and there make and execute the
 foregoing acknowledgment, their names being with their
 own hands subscribed, and their seals affixed in my
 presence. Witness my hand and seal at Somers
 Florida, the day and year above written.

H. B. Paston
 Notary Public (L.S.)
 Fla State at Large

State of Florida }
 Orange County } On this day personally ap-
 peared before me Katie Warr, Isaac Warr, Sarah
 Benjamin, Alexander Benjamin, Abraham John-
 son, Rebecca Johnson, Cynthia Williams,
 Nelson Williams, Harrison Rawls, Francis
 E. Rawls, Joseph M. Robards, Delia Robards,
 Stephen Rawls, Charlotte Rawls and to

me well known as the persons described
in and who executed the foregoing Oed,
and acknowledged that they executed the
same for the purposes therein expressed.
In witness whereof I have hereunto affix-
ed my hand and seal, this fifth day
of August A.D. one thousand eight hun-
dred and eighty first.

WITNESSE MY HAND AND SEAL OF
Said Court of Orange County, Flor-
ida this 5th day of August 1881.

#28

H. B. Patton's
A. P. F. No.
State at Large

EB

And Charles John A. Eddy and Emily A. Eddy,
wife of Charles John A. Eddy, State of Iowa, and Albert
Chick and Bertha Chick, his wife of the City of Du-
quoin in the County of Dubuque and State of Io-
wa, for and in consideration of Two hundred dollars
in hand paid, Comms and Warrant to Henry
H. Lavette of the City of Dubuque County of
Dubuque and State of Iowa the following described
real estate to wit: The southwest quarter of the
Southwest quarter of the Northwest quarter of
section three (3), in Township twenty three (23) S.
range twenty seven (27) East, containing ten (10)
acres more or less, excepting and reserving for a
highway a strip of land sixteen and one-half
(16 1/2) feet in width, extending entirely around
the above parcel of land; the intention being to
have a highway established on all of the lines
bordering said lot as here, the said strip of land
was reserved being intended for one half of
said highway. Situate in the County of Orange
in the State of Florida; here by clearing and
winning all rights under and by virtue of the
Heretofore Enacted Laws of this State.
Dated this twentieth day of September 1881.

This Indenture, made the 30th day of January, in the year of our Lord One Thousand nine Hundred and four, between Harry Eaton, sole heirs at law of John G. Eaton, deceased, and Ella L. Eaton, his wife, of Manchester of the County of Hillsborough and State of New Hampshire, parties of the first part, and Anthony Prezler, of the County of Orange and State of Florida, party of the second part, WITNESSETH: That the said parties of the first part, for and

in consideration of the sum of One hundred and twenty-five Dollars, lawful money of the United States of America, to them in hand paid by the said party of the second part, at or before the sealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have granted, bargained, sold, aliened, remised, released, conveyed, and confirmed, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, alien, remise, release, convey, and confirm unto the said party of the second part, and his heirs and assigns, forever, all that certain lot, tract or piece of land, lying and being in the County of Orange and State of Florida, described as follows:

The Northeast quarter of Section nine (9) in Township twenty (20) Range twenty-eight

(28) East, except three (3) acres in the southwest corner of said tract, heretofore conveyed by the original owner, Daniel Jenkins. Said tract hereby conveyed containing one hundred and fifty-seven (157) acres, more or less.

together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments, and appurtenances thereto belonging or in anywise appertaining, and the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders, rents, issues, and profits thereof. And also all the estate, right, title, interest, dower, and right of dower, separate estate, property, possession, claim, and demand whatsoever, as well in law as in equity, of the said part of the first part of, in, and to the same, and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above granted, bargained, and described premises, with the appurtenances unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, to his own proper use, benefit, and behoof, forever.

And the said parties of the first part, viz.: Harry Eaton and Ella L. Eaton, his wife

for their heirs, executors, and administrators, do covenant, promise, and agree to and with the party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, that the said parties of the first part, at the time of the sealing and delivery of these presents, are lawfully seized in fee simple of a good, absolute, and indefeasible estate of inheritance of and in all and singular the above granted, bargained, and described premises, with the appurtenances thereto belonging, and have good right, full power, and lawful authority to grant, bargain, sell, and convey the same in the manner and form aforesaid. And that the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, shall and may at all times hereafter peaceably and quietly have, hold, use, occupy, possess, and enjoy the above granted premises, and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances, without any let, suit, trouble, molestation, eviction, or disturbance of the said parties of the first part, their heirs or assigns, or of any other person or persons lawfully claiming or to claim the same. And that the same are now free, clear, discharged, and unincumbered of and from all former and other grants, titles, charges, estates, judgments, taxes, assessments, and incumbrances of what nature and kind soever.

And the said part 100 of the first part, for themselves and their heirs, the above described and hereby granted and released premises, and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances, unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, against the said part 100 of the first part and their heirs, and against all and every person or persons whomsoever lawfully claiming or to claim the same or any part thereof, shall and will warrant, and by these presents forever defend.

In Witness Whereof, The said part 100 of the first part have hereunto set their hand and seal on the day and year first above written. Signed, made, and delivered in the presence of us:

David B. Bartlett Harry Eaton (Seal.)
Frank C. Livingston Ella L. Eaton (Seal.)

STATE OF New Hampshire, COUNTY OF Hillsborough --SS.

Know all Men by these Presents, That I, Ella L. Eaton, wife of the above named Harry Eaton, do by these presents, made and executed by me separate and apart from my said husband, and in the presence of Frank C. Livingston a Notary Public of the State of New Hampshire acknowledge and declare that I did make myself a party to and executed the foregoing Deed of Conveyance for the purpose of conveying and relinquishing all my dower, right of dower and separate estate, or any other interest I may have in and to the lands in said Conveyance therein described and granted, and that I did the same freely and voluntarily, and without any compulsion, constraint, apprehension, or fear of or from my said husband.

In Witness Whereof, I hereunto subscribe my name and affix my seal, this 30th day of January, A.D. 1904.

In presence of Frank C. Livingston, David B. Bartlett, Ella L. Eaton (Seal.)

STATE OF New Hampshire, COUNTY OF Hillsborough --SS.

To all whom it may Concern: Be it known that on this 30th day of January, A.D. 1904, personally appeared before me, a Notary Public of the State of New Hampshire, the above named Ella L. Eaton, to me well known as the wife of Harry Eaton and as one of the persons described in and who executed the foregoing Deed of Conveyance, who being at the time separate and apart from her husband, the said Harry Eaton, did then and there make and execute the foregoing acknowledgment, her name being with her own hand subscribed, and her seal affixed in my presence.

Witness my hand and seal at Manchester, N.H., the day and year above written.

(Notarial seal) Frank C. Livingston
Notary Public (Seal.)

STATE OF New Hampshire, COUNTY OF Hillsborough --SS.
My Commission expires March 7, 1904

On this day personally appeared before me Harry Eaton to me well known as the person described in and who executed the foregoing Deed of Conveyance, and acknowledged that he executed the same for the purpose therein expressed; whereupon it is prayed that the same may be recorded.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto affixed my hand and seal, this 30th day of January, A.D. 1904

(Notarial seal) Frank C. Livingston (Seal.)
Notary Public.
My Commission expires March 7, 1904.

STATE OF FLORIDA, COUNTY OF ORANGE--SS.

Be it Remembered, That on this 9th day of March, A.D. 1904, I, J. N. Bradshaw, Clerk of the Circuit Court in and for said County, have duly recorded the foregoing Deed in the public records of said County.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of said Court, this day and year above written.

J. N. Bradshaw (Seal.)
Clerk Circuit Court.

Deed Record 121, Orange County, Fla.

By J. M. Howard D. G.

Appendix One

Food and cooking

For the first settlers at Ethel, their daily diet depended on what they could grow, hunt or forage. They had to be self-sufficient. When food was plentiful, some of it would be saved - smoked, dried, or salted. Later, canning and bottling was popular. When food was scarce, the families would have to rely on whatever edibles and game was available in the woods around them and what they had saved. Plentiful harvests also meant that some food could be sold or bartered.

The concepts of healthy eating and nutrition did not arrive until the 20th century and for the 19th century homesteaders, the main aim was to eat foods that “filled you up”. Cooking was just one of the many daily chores the wife had to do so there was no time for elaborate dishes, nor would they have been appreciated. Food was prepared simply and eaten quickly – a concept that Americans refined with the fast-food industry – get in and get out as fast as possible so you could get on with your day.

The first settlers who arrived after the Civil War built small cabins which were mostly used for sleeping and for shelter when the weather was bad, and to house their few belongings. Families would get up before dawn and go to sleep shortly after sundown. Cooking was done outside, either over an open fire or in a small kitchen outhouse. The first cast iron stove was made in Lynn, Massachusetts in 1642, and in 1744 Benjamin Franklin invented a more efficient version known as a Pennsylvania fireplace. For the first settlers at Ethel, however, these were a luxury they couldn't afford. In the 1890s, as families grew, the homesteaders built

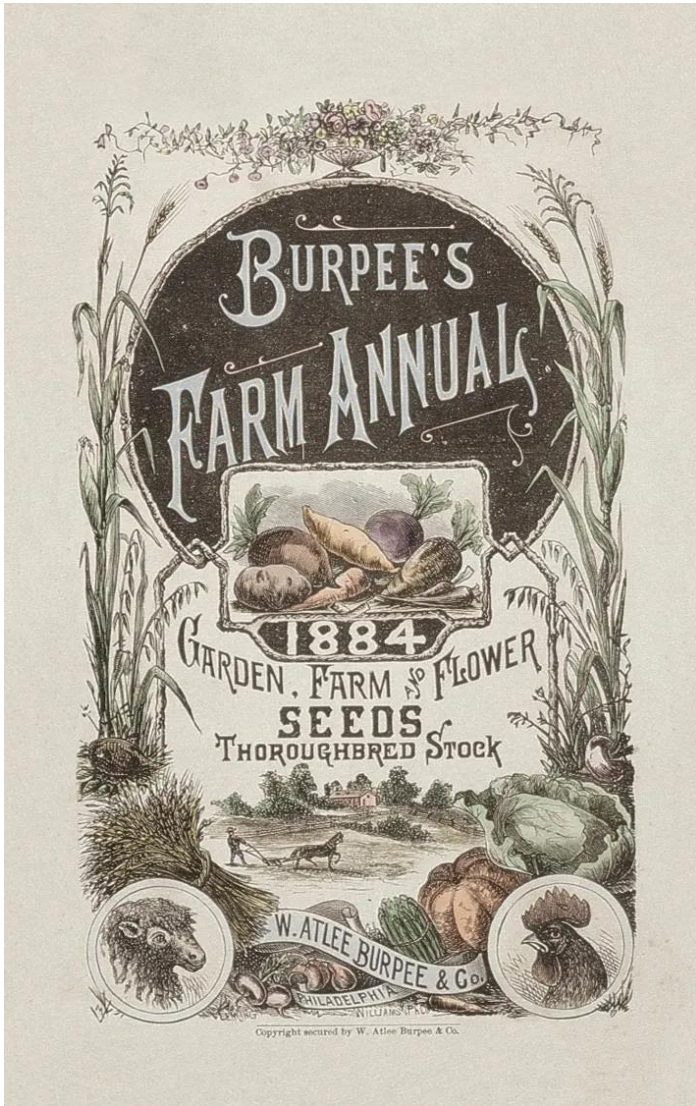
larger cabins and some of these included an inside kitchen and a chimney to vent the smoke and other combustible materials.

Every cabin had a vegetable garden, and it was usually just a few steps away from the home. The man would clear and prepare the land and then burn it to kill off any remaining vegetation and to enrich the soil with the ash. He would then fence the area and plant his crops. From that point on, the garden would be tended by the wife and children.

Seeds

When homesteaders first arrived on their land, they would bring the seeds with them for the crops they wanted to grow. These could be bought at stores and trading posts and even by mail order. The first seed catalog in the U.S. was published in January 1784, by David Landreth, an Englishman, who was one of the founders of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society in 1828. As homesteading boomed after the Civil War, so did the proliferation of seed catalogs. Seeds were light to ship and with a growing railroad network and postal service, they could be delivered to remote communities. At first, the companies publishing these catalogs imported most of their seeds from overseas, especially Europe, and not all were best suited to growing conditions in America. Burpee's claims to have been the first company to hybridize seeds making European varieties more suitable for growing in America. And, to stay ahead of the competition, companies introduced new and improved varieties every year.

Once a settler had harvested his first crop, he would also start gathering seeds to plant the following year. He would take seeds from the healthiest and most vigorous plants to produce bigger yields.



Burpee Seed Catalog 1884. Source:

Burpee

Water

Although Florida gets a lot of rain, it is not evenly distributed throughout the year. Homesteaders had to rely on barrels to catch rainwater runoff from the roofs of their cabins, local streams and rivers, wells, and man-made ponds. They learned that mulching round the plants helps retain moisture in the soil and inhibits weed growth. They also learned from the Seminoles that it was better to water early in the day to reduce evaporation. Water was a valuable commodity, especially if it had to be fetched from a stream a good distance from the homestead.

To have a year-round supply of water, homesteaders might dig out a pond to hold rainwater, or dig a well to tap into the Floridian Aquifer.

In “Life Stories Written by John Fleischhacker.” (St. Martin, 1981), Fleischhacker describes an open well used in about 1881 by his pioneer parents as “dangerous, time-consuming, and necessary”. He wrote:

“The well that furnished the drinking water for the family, also for two cows they had, was an open well without a pump to get the necessary water. They used a wooden piece of branch sticking out to form a hook to hold in the handle of the pail when they had to get some water out of the open well. As the well was only 8 feet deep it wasn’t hard to get water when needed. But it had to be carried about 500 feet uphill to the house. The 8-foot well was lined with rocks that formed a circle.”

“The buckets were heavy enough that when lowered rapidly, they sunk into the water with a gurgling sound,” he wrote.

Fleischhacker wrote that in 1901 the family dug a new closed well using hand labor. “It was 4x4 foot square by 42 feet deep. All the

labor for digging and putting in the side wall planking was \$15. ... Digging in the hard clay subsoil was very hard work as all the clay had to be dug with a pickax. It was very wet at that time, and it must have been a very disagreeable job to work in the wet and sticky clay soil all day.

“Every morning before they could begin to work, they had to take the water that had accumulated during the night out of the well and begin to dig in the mud that was sticking to the tools like glue and was very hard and heavy to work with. As the subsoil was what they call blue clay and very hard, it all had to be picked or chiseled loose before it could be put into the bucket that was used to take the wet clay out of the well. A hand-powered turning winch was used to remove the clay from the well. It was done using two buckets. When full, one had to be cranked out of the well and the empty one was on the way back for another refill.”

“The well pumped not only the water supply but also served as a refrigerator. Butter, milk, and cream could be lowered into the well for cooling. A good well yielded 40-degree water year-round.”

Crops

One of the benefits of homesteading in Florida was its climate with hot weather, plentiful rain and even two growing seasons if you planted correctly. Of course, the climate also had its downside – intense heat that withered crops, seasonal droughts, and storms with strong winds that would flatten plants.

Settlers learned to follow the farming practices of the Native Americanas and plant crops that could better withstand the heat and were drought tolerant. They also quickly realized that by careful planning they could stagger the sewing of seeds of different varieties to produce food year-round.

The most common crops planted were known as ‘the three sisters’ – climbing beans, maize (corn) and squash. Native Americans had been using this system of ‘companion growing’ for centuries.

The maize, which can grow in the poorest of soils, was planted first on mounds of heaped soil and when it had grown to about five feet tall, beans and squash were planted around it. The beans would use the maize stems to climb up. The beans helped support the maize in windy weather and its roots added nitrogen to the soil. The squash, with its large leaves, provided shade and prevented weeds growing while also reducing water loss from the soil. The prickly hairs on the squash leaves helped deter critters like deer and racoons.

However, the settlers still had to cope with insects, birds, and foraging critters, as well as the hot, humid weather which encouraged plant diseases.

Other vegetables and fruit grown included cucumbers, radish, onions, sweet potatoes, lettuces, collard greens, cabbages, melons, oranges, lemons, grapefruit, and guava. Herbs and medicinal plants would also have been planted. Hemp was also grown to produce linen for clothing.

If they could afford it, they would buy an ox which could be used to haul logs and pull a cart and plow. They were sturdier than a horse which needed a lot of attention. Other livestock would include cattle, pigs, and later, chickens.

Chickens were not kept initially because they were too vulnerable to predators, especially foxes, while their eggs would be taken by racoons and snakes.

Hunting

Hunting was important and in the early days the main protein source. The father would teach his sons at an early age how to

track, hunt and fish and prepare it for the table. Settlers spent what little money they had on essentials so there was little left to purchase a firearm, especially new ones. Instead, they would use squirrel rifles, shotguns, and old army muskets which were relatively cheap and plentiful after the Civil War. During the war, 1.3 million Springfield rifles were produced, and at the cessation of hostilities many of these were declared surplus by the U.S. Army. They were sold to dealers who offered them for \$1.50 each.

Hunted game included deer, bear, buffalo, wild fowl, and wild turkey. The larger muscles of the animals were roasted and sometimes served with currant sauce, while the other smaller portions went into soups, stews, sausages, pies, and pastries, or were salted, dried, or smoked.

The meat from deer would be dried over a fire and could then be kept for several months without spoiling. A smoky fire with green hickory wood gave the meat a smoked flavor. Small songbirds – robins, blackbirds and chickadees were trapped and baked in a pie – songbird pie.

Frogs' legs were cooked on a stick held over an open fire.

Gopher tortoises were killed for their meat and even today, in some rural parts of Florida, they are regarded as a free source of protein. Country folk refer to them simply as 'gophers' or "scrub chicken."

Fishing

Most settlements grew up around water and Ethel was no exception, with Rock Springs Run to the west and the Wekiva River to the east. Ethel's neighboring township of Wekiva grew up on the western side of the river that bears its name. Water was important not only for drinking but because it provided a means of transportation and a source of food – fish and shellfish, waterfowl, turtles, gators, and many edible aquatic plants. At Ethel, the

children would go fishing at Rock Springs Run and in letters they wrote later, they talked about the fish being so plentiful that they would throw the smaller fish out to lure panthers out of hiding. The fish were a welcome addition to the family's food supply, and those that were not eaten fresh, were dried.

Foraging

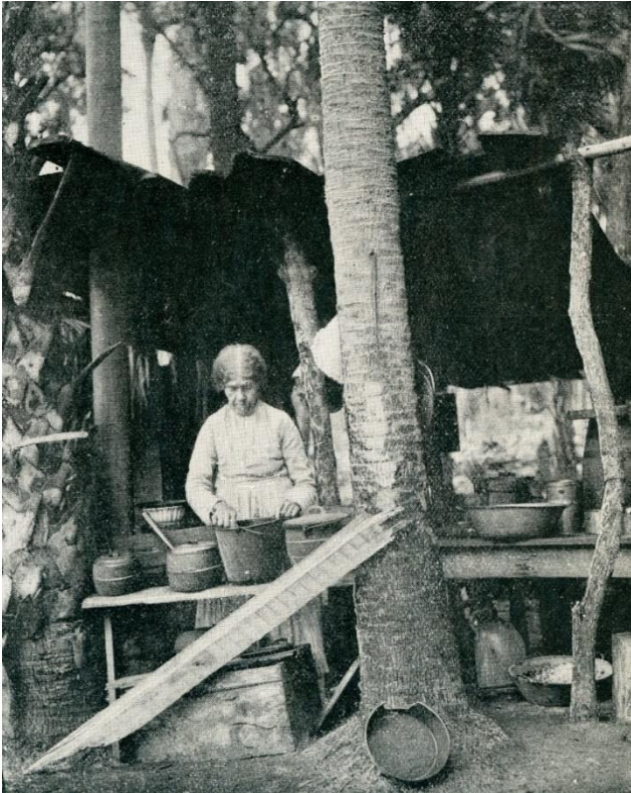
Foraging was mostly done by the wife and daughters. The mother would teach her children how to recognize the edible plants and take note of where they were so that they come back the following year and harvest them. The settlers practiced sustainable foraging which meant they just picked what they needed and left the plant to recover and produce again. Nature did provide bountiful harvest of nuts, berries, fruits, plants, roots, cacti, and fungi. The mother would also teach the children how to identify plants which had medicinal properties and which parts of the plants to pick. For more information on foraging for medicinal plants, see Appendix Two.

The Kitchen

Homestead cabins built after the Civil War usually had one room with an outside kitchen equipped with a wood burning fire and two or three metal pans, one for frying, another for boiling and if they were able to afford it, a cast iron Dutch oven with legs and a tight-fitting lid. It was almost indestructible and very versatile and could be used to boil, bake, fry, stew, and roast. It could be hung over a fire to produce biscuits and bread or stood in the ember for frying or casseroles. Dutch ovens were especially useful for slow cooking, and this was important for two reasons. It meant that the cook could get on with other chores while the meal was cooking, and not worry about it burning, and slow cooking was great for tenderizing tough cuts of meat. Some foods, like potatoes and corn, were cooked by burying them in the embers.



19th century Dutch oven



A typical outdoor kitchen c. 1892. Source: Florida Memory.

The family would probably have used tin or wooden plates, mugs and spoons as other materials were too fragile for this harsh environment and if broken, would be hard to replace. Spoons, bowls, cups, and stirrers could also be homemade and fashioned from wood, gourds, and horn. Hog grease was used for cooking and as soap.

Preserving fruit and vegetables: Drying

Fruit and vegetables could be kept for several months by drying them. Vegetables and fruit would be cut into strips and then hung out to dry. Some fruit needed only a day to dry in Florida's sun, but other fruits and vegetables might need two or three days. At night the fruit or vegetables would be taken indoors out of the way of critters.

Preserving Meat: Salting

Because of Florida's high temperatures, any animal that had been killed had to be eaten or quickly preserved before it went off. Salting was one method of preserving because salt draws all the water out of the meat and kills the organisms that decay food.

The meat would be cut up into meal-size chunks, rinsed, thoroughly dried and then have all fat removed. Salt would be rubbed all over the meat and then it would be placed in a crock or barrel and covered completely with salt. It had to be stored in a cool place and in this way, it would keep for a year or more.

Some settlers, if they had a well, would suspend the meat just above the water, to keep it cool.

Salt was a very expensive commodity after the Civil War, so salting would not have been used until a decade or so later when it was more affordable. The Seminole Indians were said to be able to extract salt from the roots of saw palmetto, although there are no records of settlers doing this.

Preserving Meat: Smoking

Most homesteaders would have a smokehouse. Meat would usually be salt cured then hung up in the smoke house over a wood fire and smoked for up to a month. Hickory was a favorite wood to burn but the settlers would use different woods to impart different flavors.



A 19th century Florida smokehouse. Source: Florida Memory

Foods and Meals

Most meals consisted of one-pot dishes like porridge, stews, and casseroles with bread to mop everything up. They were influenced by the season and what was available. It was quite usual for the
300

wife to get up well before dawn and prepare all the meals of the day. As meals were prepared over an open fire, no one wanted to be cooking during the hottest time of the day.

The settler's diet was built around maize - griddle cakes, biscuits and grits, beans, garden and foraged greens, salt pork and whatever game had been shot or trapped. Sweet potatoes were the most popular vegetables and while others were grown, they were not eaten so regularly. For most of the 19th century people were unaware of the nutritional value of vegetables and they were usually cooked for so long that most of their goodness was gone.

Even fresh, young greens were boiled as there was a widespread belief in the 19th century that eating raw greens was unsafe.

Fats and oils made from animals, especially pigs, were used to cook and fry many dishes. Some homes would have a jar filled with bear oil for cooking, while solidified bear fat resembled shortening. Bear oil could be kept for several weeks and did not go rancid as quickly as pork fat.

The store
Money was always in short supply so only essentials were bought at the store – salt, coffee, sugar, baking soda and flour (although this was usually supplemented with flour made from ground acorns or cattails)

The arrival of the railroad in 1887 meant that fresh produce and canned goods could be brought in, and it enabled them to sell their produce to markets further afield. Sawmills, ranches and large-scale orange groves sprang up around Ethel providing work for Ethel residents who were then able to enjoy a more varied diet throughout the year.

Alcohol

Early settlers in the United States, as the Native Americans before them, made alcoholic beverages – beer and wine - from a variety of sources. They used fruits such as blueberries and huckleberries, and elderberries, and vegetables such as carrots, beets, onions, and squash. They used flowers like dandelions, goldenrod, and blue porterweed. Alcohol in moderation was quite acceptable and even children and infants would drink beer on special occasions.

When the Pilgrim Fathers landed at Plymouth Rock, they had more beer than water aboard the Mayflower. They believed that alcohol was a normal part of life, that it was safer than polluted water, and that it provided the energy necessary for hard work.

Beer was drunk throughout the day and as it was considered a part of the diet, it fell to the women to make it.

Homesteaders would go looking for specific plants to brew and these beers were known as foraged beer. Plants used could include dandelions, chanterelle mushrooms, autumn-olive berries, sage brush, and sweet root. The bark of the birch tree could be used for birch beer. Most foraged beers had a low alcoholic content and were called small beers.

The elder provided berries that could be fermented into a red wine, while the elder flowers produced a low alcohol sparkling wine. There was dandelion wine, blueberry ale sumac sour ale and nettle beer.

In all, over 100 plants have been identified around Ethel that can be used to make an alcoholic beverage.

Of course, there was also ‘moonshine’, hard liquor distilled from crops, especially grain. Distilled spirits have been produced since the earliest Colonial times, but when taxes on alcohol were introduced in the mid-nineteenth century, many distillers went underground. In Ethel there was not a police presence, and it is

likely that there were stills operating in the wood catering to the needs of the locals.

Daily Meals

The first meal of the day, breakfast...was eaten immediately upon rising or after the earliest chores had been completed. Dinner was served around noon when the father would return home as well as the children if they were in school. (Lunch came into general usage in the 20th century term as more people left rural areas for jobs in the cities. They worked long shifts and didn't have time to go home to eat, so they took a light meal with them, often leftovers from the night before. Schools also started to provide a midday meal so when the family returned home, they all sat down together for the main meal of the day which was then called dinner).

We know from letters, that the women would get up before dawn to prepare all the food for the day. The food would be laid out on a table with a tablecloth and the family would have their breakfast. When they were finished, the four corners of the tablecloth would be gathered and knotted to protect the food from insects. At noon, the knot would be untied, and more food eaten and the same would be done when they had finished protecting the food until the evening meal.

Corn was a major part of their diet and would be eaten in one form or another at every meal. All the other ingredients depended on the time of year and what was available. It was not unusual for a family to skip the evening meal when food was scarce.

Breakfast

Breakfasts were hearty as people needed lots of calories for a hard day's work. The family might tuck into porridge, biscuits, johnny cakes, hasty pudding (cornmeal and molasses), or cornmeal mush,

as well as strips of pork or bacon. Hominy and cornbread were staples for those with access to corn.

Coffee was too expensive, so homesteaders made their own from blackened corn. It was very strong, and molasses, honey or syrup might be added. It was not uncommon for beer to be drunk at breakfast.

Dinner (midday)

This was the main meal of the day. Again, it was high in calories to provide enough energy for several more hours of toil outside. It was usually leftover breakfast foods that had been kept warm in the Florida sun.

Supper

Supper was served in the late afternoon but before it got dark when the family would retire for the night.

Cooking methods and Recipes

The first cookbook published in America was in 1742. It was *The Compleat Housewife* by E. Smith and was a reprint of a British cookbook published in 1726. The first all American cookbook – *American Cookery* - was published in 1796 by Amelia Simmons. It had recipes that used American staples like maize and squash and a noticeable element was the lack of spices. This reflected a change in American tastes to little or no spices, perhaps because many of these spices were not available and if they were, they were too expensive for impoverished homesteaders. There was also a belief that spices caused indigestion. Herbs, however, were used and could be grown in the garden or picked wild.

The main cooking methods were frying, boiling, roasting and baking. The early homesteaders used an open fire or outside kitchen maybe with a roof over for protection. Later, as larger cabins were built, kitchens were incorporated and had their own room with fireplace and chimney. Cooking would be done over a fire or wood burning stove.

Below is a list of some of the foods the homesteaders would have eaten, and where available, the recipes of the day that were used to prepare them for the table.

Armadillo

Armadillo meat was considered a delicacy and was widely eaten in the southern states. The animal would be gutted and then held over a fire to burn off all the hair on its body. It would then be laid, shell side down, on hot embers. It was important to keep turning it to ensure that the entire carcass was well cooked. The homesteaders knew that undercooked armadillo, like pork, could make you very sick. It is said to taste like pork.

Bean

bread

Made from cornmeal and beans. The beans were often used when flour was in short supply. It could be baked or fried.

Catfish,

Fried

Catfish were plentiful and were easy to catch in shallow running water. They were also known as polliwogs. They would be fried or cooked on a spit over the fire.

Chitlings

(Chitterlings

or

Chitlins)

Made from pig's intestines, they cannot be preserved and must be cooked immediately by boiling or stewing for several hours. They could be fried, made into a rich broth, or stuffed like sausages.

Collards

A perennial member of the cabbage family with thick edible leaves. The leaves could be harvested throughout the year and were often

boiled with other foraged greens. They could be used to make a nutrient-rich broth or served with salted pork or fatback. Cornbread would be used to sop up any remaining liquid.

One recipe calls for 2 lbs. of coarsely chopped collards and a chunk of salted pork. The meat is put into one gallon of boiling water and simmered for 15 minutes to produce a stock. The greens are then added, a few at a time to blanch them, and then simmered for 15 minutes.

Coon

The raccoon was another animal that provided a nutritious free meal. The meat was said to be very tender when cooked correctly and tasted like the dark meat of turkey. Once the animal was skinned, it had to be dressed (removing the internal organs and innards). It was important to remove all the scent glands because if you didn't, they would taint the taste of the meat. You also needed to trim off as much fat as possible. The carcass would then be quartered and seasoned and placed in a large pot of boiling water. It was then boiled for several hours until tender, or it was removed just before it was ready and either baked or roasted over the fire until fully cooked.

Coontie

Native Americans have used coontie for centuries to produce flour, but it must be prepared correctly as it contains the toxin cycasin. The root is ground and soaked overnight and then rinsed in running water for several hours to extract the toxin. The residue was then left to ferment before being rushed into flour. Homesteaders quickly learned this technique as coontie was plentiful and free. It could be used on its own or added to store-bought flour to make it go further.

Cornbread

It could be made thin like biscuits or pancakes, or thick like bread. When fried, you had fried pones which later were called hushpuppies.

Cornmeal Batter Cakes

Because corn was such a widely grown crop in Florida, it was used in many recipes. One popular breakfast recipe was cornmeal batter cakes.

1 cup cornmeal and a healthy pinch of salt.
½ teaspoon soda
1 ½ cups buttermilk |
2 eggs, beaten
2 teaspoons bacon dripping

Combine the corn, soda, and salt. Add the beaten eggs and then buttermilk and stir until smooth. Add bacon dripping and mix well. Drop a tablespoon of batter onto a hot greased skillet. Let brown on bottom, then turn and lightly brown on other side.

Corn Pone

The name pone is believed to have come from the native American language word for baked. It was traditionally made with corn, but sweet potatoes were also used as the main ingredient. It could be baked or fried, eaten hot or cold, and it fast became a staple food of the homesteaders, especially for breakfast. Corn pone was usually a small round loaf baked in a cast iron skillet or fried in bacon fat.

1 cup cornmeal
1 ¼ teaspoons of salt
½ cup of hot water
¼ cup of bacon fat.

Combine corn and salt in a bowl, add the water and stir to make a thick dough
Cover and let rest for 10 minutes
Divide the dough into four patties
Heat fat in a skillet then add the patties and cook for about four minutes, flip and cook for 3 minutes
Remove and place on plate with paper towel to absorb fat, then serve.

Cracklin' Bread

Cracklin' bread was a variation on cornbread by adding bits of fried pork and fat scraps (cracklings).

1 pint cracklings

1 quart cornmeal

1 pint buttermilk

1 teaspoon baking soda

Large pinch of salt

Combine corn, buttermilk, baking soda and salt and make a stiff dough.

Cook the cracklings until crisp and add to the dough and mix

Mold the dough into 3-4 inches long loaf shapes

Bake in a skillet for about 20 minutes.

Gator

There were lots of alligators in the rivers and swamps around Ethel and a large gator had enough meat in its tail to feed a family for several days.

½ lb. gator tail meat
Cooking oil
Batter (flour, eggs and milk)
Salt and pepper

Fill a pan halfway full of oil and heat to 350°F. Dip meat in batter to coat and fry for 2 to 3 minutes—until the meat floats in the oil. Remove and season with salt and pepper.

Alternatively, slice the meat into thin (1/4 inch) strips. Pound to tenderize. Dredge in cornmeal seasoned with salt and pepper. Fry in bacon fat in a hot skillet for about three minutes on each side.

Grits

Grits is an Old English word for coarse meal. They are made from coarsely ground dried maize and are a type of porridge. They can be savory or sweet. The Native Americans taught the early Colonial settlers how to make grits and that knowledge was passed down to generations of settlers, especially those in the south.

Add 1 cup of grits to 4 cups of salted water. Cook on slow simmer, stirring often to avoid lumps. Add salt, pepper, and butter and serve.

Often pieces of meat or bacon would be added to the dish and when available, the grits could be simmered in milk.

Hog and hominy (pork and boiled corn)

This was another dish that featured a lot in homestead cooking. Fresh pork would be used in the fall after the pigs had been slaughtered and salted pork would be used at other times.

Hoe cake

Hoe cakes are thin unleavened fried rounds made from cornmeal, water, and salt. They can make one large cake or several smaller ones like pancakes. It is a simple recipe that can be made quickly from ingredients that were at most times plentiful in Ethel.

Mix 1 cup of cornmeal with ½ tsp. salt and add hot water until you have a stiff batter (it should not be runny like a pancake batter). You can then shape your dough into one large cake or several smaller ones. Fry in bacon fat until brown, flip, and fry other side until done.

Hominy

Whole grains of corn soaked in lye. The kernels are soaked in water overnight then simmered on a low heat until tender. They can be cooked in broth to give more flavor. The soaking removes the hull and germ making the corn easier to grind and cook with. They can be eaten with meat, added to soups and stews, or mixed with other corn dishes like succotash. They can also be used to bake cornbread or pancakes.

Hushpuppies

Hushpuppies were part of the Seminole Indians cuisine which homesteaders adopted. They are small, savory, deep-fried balls made from cornmeal batter. The first recorded use of the word hushpuppy is in 1899, before that they were called fried ponies.

1		cup		cornmeal
1				egg
½		teaspoons	of	salt
¼			cup	water
2		teaspoons	of	baking powder
1		small onion chopped		

Combine cornmeal, baking powder, and salt. Add onion, beaten egg, and enough water to hold batter together.

Shape into small balls and fry in very hot fat or oil until golden brown.

Johnnycake (Journey Cake)

Johnnycakes are an unleavened cornmeal flatbread made of cornmeal, salt, and water. They are like hoe cakes, and they originally had different names because of the way they were prepared. Hoe cakes were fried and Johnnycakes were baked.

Poke Sallet (Salad), Fried

Pokeweed is a large, herbaceous, perennial plant that grows throughout Florida and is poisonous so should never be eaten raw. However, if prepared correctly it is a fine green. Both the leaves and stems of young plants are edible after cooking. The secret is to boil it twice. Boil once and throw the water away the poke is still poisonous), boil again and then drain and serve or prepare how you wish. The leaves tasted like spinach and the young stems like asparagus.

Porridge

A dish made with cornmeal and water. It could be runny like soup or served as a thick broth. It could be eaten as is or with the addition of vegetables or pieces of meat.

Seminole Squirrel Stew

This was another popular homesteader's meal and used only four main ingredients. Squirrels were plentiful and the boys would go out hunting for them. Squirrels were said to taste better in the cooler parts of the year.

The squirrels would be skinned and dressed and cut into pieces. The pieces would then be seasoned and dredged in corn flour and added to a skillet with hot bacon drippings or lard and fried until golden brown.

Remove the squirrels, pour off most of the fat and add water and

bring to a boil.

Add the squirrels, bring to a boil, cover, and simmer for about 1 ½ hours.

Serve with cornbread to mop up

Skunk

Skunk was another free source of protein although it was said that the meat had little flavor. The secret was in the skinning and dressing to ensure that the innards and scent (stink) sac was removed intact without infecting the meat.

The skunk would be cut into small pieces and then added to a pan with boiling water. Lower the heat and cook for about 40 minutes, then remove squirrel. Make a simple batter, dip the pieces of squirrel and then fry in lard until golden brown. The legs could also be braised and the other meat added to stews or casseroles.

Sofkee

The settlers learned how to make sofkee from the Seminole Indians. It is made by boiling corn flour in water. If a lot of water was used it could be drunk like soup. Less water made it thicker, and it would be eaten like porridge.

Succotash

Made from corn and beans and heavy on protein.

Swamp Cabbage

Swamp cabbage is the very nutritious edible heart (inner core) of the cabbage palm, also known as the Sabel palm, which grows in profusion in Central Florida. It is packed with vitamins and minerals. When harvesting, you need to find a tree that has a diameter of at least six inches (otherwise you will not get a very good yield). The best way to harvest is to cut down the tree then using a very sharp knife carefully peel away the outer layers of the trunk to reveal the elongated cone-shaped edible inner core.

It can be fried, boiled, grilled, roasted, and eaten raw. The taste and texture are like artichoke hearts.

Break heart into bite size chunks and soak in cold water until ready to cook.

Chop some onions. Fry a half pound piece of salt pork, cut into small pieces, in a skillet.

Add a handful of onions and some butter and cook until onions are soft.

Meanwhile, in a Dutch oven, melt a stick of butter.

Add a generous amount of swamp cabbage and a fourth of the onions from your skillet.

Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Add more cabbage and onions, in the same portion, until pot is half full.

Cook over low heat for about 30 minutes, stirring with a spoon to keep cabbage from burning.

Serve when swamp cabbage is tender.

Sweet corn in the husk

Homesteaders would cook sweet corn cobs in the husk in the embers of the fire. Cooking time depended on the heat of the fire but was usually about 10 minutes.

Tomatoes

Tomatoes were not popular until the 1880's – around the time the pizza was invented in Italy - before that people believed they were poisonous thus it's alternate name of poison apple. Seed merchants had by that time developed strains that could tolerate Florida's climate and from then on, they became a regular feature of homestead gardens. They kept well when bottled or canned.

Appendix 2

Nature's Medicine Cabinet

For centuries, wild plants and herbs have been used to treat ailments in the countryside and homesteaders at Ethel quickly learned how to recognize and use them.

Note: The herbal uses listed are ones that have been documented in literature, both medical and non-medical, around the world. Many of the uses have traditionally been used by Native Americans and others for centuries. The information provided below is for guidance only and is not meant to be used to treat any medical or other conditions. It is a list, however, of some of the plants that Ethel folks would have gathered to treat a wide range of illnesses and conditions.

The leaves of blackberries for instance were used to treat diarrhea, dandelion leaves were a natural diuretic and plantain leaves – chewed to soften them up – were rubbed on insect bites to relieve the swelling and pain. The resin from the pine tree when mixed with a little sand made an effective temporary tooth filling. Beautyberry leaves provided a natural insect repellent while dog fennel relieved the itching from bites and poison ivy rash.

The medicinal and health-giving properties of plants have been known for thousands of years and this knowledge was mostly passed down by word of mouth, usually from mother to daughter. This knowledge was rarely written down so many remedies and treatments are lost forever.

Medicinal Preparations

Tea: Steep in hot water

Infusion: Soaking leaves and/or flowers in either hot or cold water. Cold infusions may need several hours.

Tincture: Plant extracts combined with alcohol (often vodka) left to stand in a jar for 2-3 weeks, with frequent shaking, before being strained and bottled.

Decoction: Usually refers to root, bark or seeds and involves slow simmering

Poultice: An external moist application applied to a wound or affected area i.e. rash. The poultice is prepared by crushing plant material to release saps and juices. In some cases, the plant parts i.e. leaves can be chewed to soften and moisten them first.

Wash: A tea or infusion for external application.

Medicinal Plants

Adam's Needle or Yucca (*Yucca filamentosa*)

An infusion of crushed roots is said to treat headaches. Applied externally it treats head lice. Used as a poultice it treats sprains and sores. Soak roots and leaves in water to give a natural 'soap'.

Almond (tropical) (*Terminalia catappa*)

Leaves and bark are astringent and help to reduce bleeding from minor cuts. May have antioxidant properties.

Aloe (*Aloe vera*)

The sap is used to treat wounds, minor burns, and sunburn. The sap also acts as a purgative and laxative.

Amaranth (*Amaranthus viridis* or *Amaranthus australis* (Southern))

Leaves are astringent. Infusion of leaves can be drunk to treat diarrhea or gargled for mouth and throat problems.

American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*)

Squeeze the leaves to break the surface and then rub on skin to repel insects. Leaves have at least four chemicals that act as insect repellents. Berries also contain antioxidants. Infuse the roots to make a tea for stomach ailments and dysentery and simmer root bark to produce a diuretic.

American Burnweed (*Erechtites hieraciifolia*)

Also known as fireweed, pilewort and dog weed. One of the first plants to emerge after a burn.

An astringent. Whole plant infused to make a tea for mucous-coughs and colds, stomach ailments. Can be applied externally to relieve muscle pains.

Arrowhead, Broad-leaved (*Sagittaria latifolia*)

Other names: wapato, duck potato

A tea of young leaves was used to combat rheumatism pain and a tea from chopped tubers was used to combat indigestion. Root poultice for sores and wounds.

Bee Balm or Oswego tea (*Monarda didyma*)

Member of the mint family

An antiseptic, diuretic and stimulant. Infuse 3-5 fresh or dried crushed leaves (about one teaspoon) for a refreshing tea. The tea also treats colds, headaches and gastric disorders and flu by inducing sweating. A hanging bunch of leaves will make house/tent smell nice.

Beggarticks or Spanish Needles (*Bidens alba*)

As a tea can be used to treat colds, fevers, flu, and bacterial infections. Leaves were chewed for sore throats. Believed to have anti-inflammatory and antibacterial properties.

Blackberry (*Rubus pensilvanicus* (A member of Rose family))

Tea made from leaves or roots treats diarrhea. Fruit rich in vitamins C & K and manganese.

Blackroot (*Pterocaulon pycnostachyum*)

Plant contains antioxidant and anti-viral compounds which were used to treat colds and pulmonary illnesses. Fresh root is an emetic/laxative. A root tea was also used ease menstrual cramps.

Blueberry, Shiny (*Vaccinium myrsinites*)

An infusion of berries treats diarrhea. An infusion of dried, crushed leaves treats nausea.

Blue Porterweed (*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*)

Anti-oxidant. Tea from leaves used as a tonic and blood-cleanser.

Brazilian Pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*)

Introduced to Florida in the 1890s.

It has antiseptic, antibacterial and antifungal properties. Research has found that bark extract is toxic to staphylococcus so may have a role to play in fighting fungus and harmful organisms.

Broomweed, Common Wireweed or Sida (*Sida acuta*)

Decoction of sida roots and ginger is used to treat fever and malaria. Seeds are used to treat urinary infections. Its antimicrobial properties have been used to treat skin infections.

Buckthorn, Silvery Buckthorn or Silver Bully (*Sideroxylon alachuense*)

Anti-inflammatory. A tea from the bark acts as a laxative while infusing the twigs and fruit produces an emetic.

Cabbage Palm, or Sabal Palm, (*Sabal Palmetto*)

The Sabal Palm is the State Tree of Florida – even though palms are not trees but members of the grass family.

Heart of palm is packed with vitamins and minerals and was prepared as a soup to help people recover from an illness.

Caesar weed (*Urena lobata*)

Roots are used as a diuretic. Infusion of root applied for rheumatism and lumbago pains. Infusion of flowers used to gargle for sore throats and as an expectorant.

Camphor (*Cinnamomum camphora*)

Antimicrobial and analgesic. Oil from the bark used externally to treat fungal infections, and to relieve pain and itching. It is applied on the chest for coughs and an infusion of leaves and bark when added to water steam can be inhaled to relieve congestion and coughs. Internal use is not advised.

Camphor wood repels moths and many other insects.

Canadian Horseweed or Canada Fleabane (*Conyza canadensis*)

Antioxidant, antibacterial and antifungal. Tea from leaf used as a diuretic, astringent for diarrhea and to treat dysentery.

Catbriar, Common or Common Greenbrier (*Smilax rotundifolia*)

Anti-inflammatory. Root has been used to treat gout. Tea from the stem for rheumatism and stomach ailments. Leaf poultice for boils.

Poultice of leaves and stems used for rheumatism and muscle pains.

Cattails (*Typha latifolia* (wide leaf) and *Typha angustifolia* (thin leaf))

Dried cattails repel insects so a bunch would be hung near the cabin door. Crushed roots in water can be applied to soothe sunburn. The ashes from burned cattail can be used on wounds – they stop bleeding and are antimicrobial.

Cedar, Eastern Red (*Juniperus virginiana* (a juniper not a cedar))

Anti-viral, antibiotic, astringent and diuretic. Berry tea for colds, bronchitis and stomach upsets. Poultice of powdered leaves or oil used to treat warts and skin ailments. Tea from steeped leaves for sore throats and persistent coughs.

Chickweed (*Stellaria media*)

It has antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, expectorant and diuretic properties. The juice from crushed chickweed leaves can be applied as an antiseptic. Tea from leaves is used as an internal cleanser and expectorant. Can be applied externally to prevent itching.

Chinese Tallow (*Sapium sebiferum*)

Anti-viral. Poultice of leaves used for skin ailments and boils.

The waxy seed coating used to make soap and candles. The tree was introduced by Benjamin Franklin so that the wax coating the seeds could be used for candles. Wood cut into strips makes fragrant incense.

Coontie or Florida Arrowroot (*Zamia pumila*)

The Seminole tribe of Florida used the roots of the coontie plant to treat digestive problems, fever, and other illnesses.

Coral Bean, Eastern (*Erythrina herbacea*)

Rich in antioxidants. An infusion from the root was used for bowel pains and digestive problems. Decoction from leaves makes a reviving tonic.

Crabgrass (*Digitaria sanguinalis*)

Said to have emetic properties.

Creeping Charlie or Ground Ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*)

Infuse leaves raw or dried for an invigorating herbal tea.

Creeping Cucumber (*Melothria pendula*)

Laxative.

Creeping fig (*Ficus pumila*)

Antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. Decoction of leaves for gastrointestinal issues

Crowfoot Grass (*Dactyloctenium aegyptium*)

Stems and leaves were used as poultices to treat ulcers and wounds.

Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*)

Tea made from leaves can relieve constipation and tea from fresh roots aids digestion and is a diuretic. Root tea was used for liver, kidney, and bladder issues. The plant is a rich source of vitamins A, C, and calcium.

Dayflower or white mouth dayflower (*Commelina erecta*)

Diuretic. Tea from leaves was used for colds and sore throats. The sap is used on skin irritations.

Dock, Swamp (*Rumex verticillatus*)

The leaves are astringent and can be used as a bandage or you can press them into a poultice and apply them to sprains or stings -i.e. nettle rash. The juice from crushed dock leaves was used as an antiseptic, and the juice from crushed roots treats diarrhea. A concoction from all the plant parts detoxes the body acting as a purgative.

Dog Fennel (*Eupatorium capillifolium*)

It has anti-fungal properties and when green, can be rubbed on the skin to relieve itching or stinging from bites.

Dollarweed or Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle sibthoroides*. Also *H.umbellate* and *H. verticillate*)

Tea bitter but lowers blood pressure.

Ear Tree, Earpod Tree or Elephant Ear Tree (*Enterolobium cyclocarpum*)

Extracts from bark used to treat colds and bronchitis.

Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)

Tea from the inner bark is astringent. Bark infusion was used for fevers and diarrhea. Infusion of roots and inner bark for congestion and chest colds. Seeds contain antioxidants.

Elderberry (*Sambucus Canadensis*)

Antibacterial. Glycosides break down to hydrocyanic (prussic) acid. An infusion of flowers reduces fever and a tea from flowers and fruit treat colds, flu, asthma, and arthritis.

Epazote (*Chenopodium ambrosioides*)

A tea from leaves is a natural antiseptic and tonic and can help reduce fevers. Oil extracts are used to treat worms.

False Hawksbeard (*Crepis japonica* (also called *Youngia japonica*))

Antiviral, anti-inflammatory and may have anticancer properties. Infusion of crushed leaves can be applied to bites, stings and boils.

Fern, Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*)

Root tea was used for stomach cramps and diarrhea. Root poultice was applied to burns.

Fireweed or Pilewort, see American Burnweed

Florida Betony (Rattlesnake weed) (*Stachys floridana*)

Antioxidant. Leaves reduce headaches. Roots contain stachyose, a sugar substitute that promotes beneficial bacteria in the gut and inhibits growth of bad bacteria. American Indians and early settlers smoked leaves as tobacco-substitute.

Fragrant water lily (*Nymphaea odorata*)

Astringent, antiseptic and antispasmodic. Root tea for coughs and diarrhea and root poultice can be applied to swellings and sprains.

Gallberry, Inkberry and Appalachian Tea (*Ilex glabra*)

Infusion of roasted leaves used as diuretic and stimulant.

Garlic, wild (*Allium spp*)

Antibacterial, antibiotic. and antiviral. Used to improve heart health, digestion and reduce blood pressure.

Ginger, Wild (*Asarum canadense*)

Diuretic, expectorant and antiseptic. Root tea was used for coughs, colds, sore throats and indigestion and poor digestion.

Glasswort, Perennial (*Sarcocornia ambigua*)

Juice from crushed stems used as a diuretic. Oil from ashes of the plant used as a soap.

Goldenrod, Sweet (*Solidago odora*)

A tea from flowers acts as a mild diuretic and stimulant and was traditionally drunk to fight off colds. Poultice of dried leaves and flowers to stem bleeding.

Gopher Apple (*Licania michauxii*)

Infusion used for vomiting, stomach pains and diarrhea.

Grapes (*Vitis aestivalis* (summer grape), *Vitis rotundifolia* (muscadine), *Vitis labrusca* (fox grape))

Grapes are diuretic, detoxicant and laxative and rich source of vitamins and essential minerals. Leaf tea used to treat diarrhea and stomach upsets and a leaf poultice for fever, headaches, and rheumatism pains.

Greenbrier see Catbriar

Hackberry or Sugarberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)

Extract from wood used to treat jaundice. Decoction from bark used for sore throats.

Hercules Club (Toothache tree), Southern Prickly Ash or Pepperwood (*Zanthoxylum Clava-Herculis*)

Antibacterial and anti-inflammatory. Chewing leaves and bark or a tea from bark and leaves relieves toothache. It induces a numbing sensation in the mouth. Decoction from roots used to induce sweating. Fruit can be rubbed onto stings and itches for temporary relief.

Hickory, Pignut (*Carya glabra*)

The bark can be chewed for sore mouths. In large doses it acts as an emetic. The inner bark acts as an astringent and as a detergent i.e., as a dressing for cuts. Tea from steeped bark reduces colds. It is diaphoretic i.e.; it induces heavy sweating.

Holly, Yaupon (*Ilex vomitoria*)

The plant has been used in rituals by Native Americans for hundreds of years. A strong tea made from the leaves was used for purging before many rituals. A lighter infusion is said to help people sleep better. It also acts as a diuretic.

Hog Plum, also known as **Tallow Plum, Tallow wood plum** (*Ximenia Americana*)

Infusion of leaves and twigs is used to treat coughs and fevers and in more concentrated doses as a laxative. The bark is used to treat sore muscles.

Huckleberry, Dwarf (*Gaylussacia Dumosa*)

It has astringent, antioxidant, and antiseptic properties. Native Americans ate the berries to increase their night vision. Fruit is said to improve the circulatory system and lower blood sugars and has been used to treat urinary tract infections. A tea made from the leaves may lower blood sugars and ease inflammation.

Hydrilla(*Hydrilla verticillate*)

One of the richest plant sources of calcium known (10-13%), A powder of dried, crushed hydrilla is used to treat cuts, ulcers, and boils – it is said to speed healing.

Jack-in-the-Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)

Dried roots infusion is used to treat coughs and colds. Dried roots are also used as poultice for rheumatism and sores.

Kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*)

Tea from the roots for headaches and gastro-intestinal problems. Tea can be gargled for sore throats. Tea from flowers to reduce stomach acid. The seeds are used to treat dysentery.

Lantana (*Lantana camara*)

Antimicrobial and fungicidal. Tea from leaves was used for colds, flu, and fevers. Crushed leaves relieve itching. Leaves repel insects.

Lemon Grass (*Cymbopogon citratus*)

Antimicrobial and antifungal. Rub on skin as an insect repellent or hang bunches on back porch and at entrance to tent. Rub crushed grass on scalp to relieve headaches. Leaves yield citral, an aromatic, essential oil. Inhaling this essential oil is used in aromatherapy for muscle pains. Strong tea from leaves relieves anxiety and aids sleep.

Magnolia, Sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana*)

Bark is an astringent and stimulant. Use tea from bark as anti-inflammatory and stimulant. A wash from the bark can be used on skin ailments, sores, and itches. Use leaf tea for coughs, colds and as a tonic.

Maple, Red (*Acer rubrum*)

Bark is astringent. Infusion of inner bark was used externally to treat sore eyes. Infusion of outer bark was used to treat cramps.

Marsh Pennywort or Water Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle umbellata*)

Tea from leaves was used to reduce anxiety.

Mexican Clover (*Richardia brasiliensis*)

Antiemetic and antimicrobial. An infusion or decoction of root is used as an expectorant, antiemetic and diaphoretic (increases sweating).

Milkweed vine or white milkweed (*Morrenia odorata*)

Sap can be applied on warts to remove them.

Mulberry, White and Red (*Morus alba* (white) *morus rubra* (red))

Red mulberry root tea was used as a tonic. Berries lower fever. White mulberry leaf tea for coughs and headaches.

Muscadine see Grape

Nakedwood Twinberry or Simpson's Stopper (*Myricanthes fragrans*)

Was used to stop diarrhea.

Nettles (*Urtica spp*)

A nutritious tea from the leaves and stem can treat colds, flu and asthma. Dried leaves can be applied to wounds to stem bleeding. Research in Europe suggests that plant extracts might help people suffering from arthritis.

Nightshade, American Black nightshade or Glossy (*Solanum americanum*)

An analgesic and sedative. Crushed leaves were applied externally on burns, sprains and swellings.

Oaks (*Quercus spp.*)

Astringent and antiseptic. Infuse oak bark and acorns in boiling water to externally treat athlete's foot. Repeated applications may be necessary. The bark has a high tannin content and can be used to make a tea to treat mouth ulcers. A weak decoction of bark can

be drunk to treat diarrhea and dysentery or applied externally to treat aching muscles and joints.

Papaya (*Carica papaya*)

Tea or tincture, drink a tea made from the leaves and flowers for depression, anxiety, insomnia, and muscle pains. It is also a mild diuretic and sedative. Poultice from roots for boils, cuts, and swellings.

Pawpaw (*Asimina obovate*)

Leaves are diuretic. Native Americans used dried seeds to control head lice. Fruit can be used as a laxative.

Pennyroyal (*Piloblephis rigida*)

An emetic. Tea from leaves for treatment of colds and fevers. A stronger tea can induce vomiting.

Pepperweed (*Lepidium virginicum*)

Crushed leaves can be rubbed on poison ivy rashes. Poultice from root can be applied to reduce swelling of sprains. Leaf tea for coughs.

Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)

The inner bark is very astringent. Bark tea can be used for stomach aches.

Pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*)

An infusion was used by American Indians as a contraceptive.

Pine, Longleaf (*Pinus palustris*)

Inner bark is an expectorant. Infuse bark for herbal tea. Green pine needles provide a vitamin C rich tea. Pine resin applied to a wound will stop the bleeding. Young pinecones are high in testosterone.

Resin mixed with sand makes a temporary tooth filling. Resin can also be used on open wounds to speed healing. Pine needles contain shishimic acid (used in Tamiflu).

All pine trees in this region have the same medicinal parts as listed above.

Plantain, Southern (*Plantago virginica*)

An astringent, expectorant and antimicrobial. Rub leaves on insect bites and stings and nettle rashes to ease the pain. Use poultice of leaves on boils and ulcers. Tea from leaves used as tonic, to aid healing and for chest congestion. Scientific studies suggest it might be useful in reducing cancerous tumors.

Poison Ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*)

Sap was used to get rid of warts. American Indians used to and many country folk still do eat the first poison ivy leaves that appear at the beginning of the growing season. They eat young leaves every day for 21 days by which time they have acquired a year's immunity from the plant.

Pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*)

The root is used in a decoction that can be used to treat skin ailments such as eczema and fungal infections. Native Americans used a berry tea to fight dysentery, rheumatism, and arthritis. A poultice from the roots for rheumatism, sprains, and swellings. Research is ongoing into a leaf extract that might help fight cancers. All parts of the plant are toxic if eaten raw.

Prickly Pear (*Opuntia humifusa*)

Flowers have astringent properties and can be used as a poultice on open wounds. A tea from the flowers treats diarrhea and irritable bowel syndrome. Split raw pads used as a poultice on

burns, wounds and for rheumatism pain. Baked pads are used externally on ulcers.

Purslane or Pigweed (*Portulaca oleracea*)

Antioxidant, antibiotic and diuretic. Juices from squeezed plants make an invigorating tonic or can be used externally as a poultice to treat minor burns, bruises, and sores. Leaf tea for headaches and stomach aches.

Queen Palm, or Cocos Palm (*Syagrus Romanzoffiana*)

Antioxidant and astringent. Tea from fruit is used for sore throats, colds, and stomach pains. Crushed seeds are used to treat fevers.

Ragweed, Common (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*)

Astringent antibacterial and antiviral. Crushed leaves take sting out of insect bites. Mild tea from leaves for fevers and nausea. Mild root tea for menstrual pains.

Reindeer Moss (*Cladonia rangiferina*, also check out *C.evansii*)

Tea from boiled lichen was used for diarrhea.

Rose, Sweetbrier (*Rosa eglanteria*, *R. palustris* is another Florida rose)

Dried leaves can be infused for a tonic. Use hips & roots for a tea for treating colds, fever & stomach upsets. Use dried flowers for a tea for heartburn or gargle for sore throats. An infusion of roots, petals, leaves, and hips is good for bladder and kidney problems.

Sabal Palm, see Cabbage Palm

Saltwort or Pickleweed (*Batis maritima*)

Seeds contain antioxidants. Juice is a diuretic.

Sarsaparilla, Wild (*Aralia nudicaulis*)

Root tea is diuretic and a stimulant and used as a tonic. A poultice of roots for swelling, sprains, sores, minor burns, and itchiness.

Saw Palmetto (*Serenoa repens*)

Extracts from fruit are used to treat prostate disorders. Tincture from fruit is used to treat coughs, colds, headaches and chest congestion. Has mild sedative, diuretic, and expectorant properties.

Scarlet Rose mallow or swamp hibiscus (*Hibiscus coccineus*)

Antibacterial and astringent. Tea from dried flowers is used to improve digestion, lower fevers and for coughs and sore throats.

Seagrape (*Coccoloba uvifera*)

Antiviral and antibacterial. Wash of bark, roots and stem used externally on rashes and itches. Poultice of leaves can be applied to stings.

Sea Purslane (*Sesuvium portulacastrum*)

Antimicrobial. Crushed leaves are applied to cuts and wounds.

Sedges

Antibacterial. Dried root was chewed to ease stomach and gastric pains.

Skunk vine (*Paederia foetida*)

Antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and analgesic. Preparation from roots, stem and leaves used to treat skin complaints. Also used to treat rheumatism and gastro-intestinal problems, especially diarrhea.

Smartweed or Dotted Smartweed (*Polygonum punctatum*)

A tincture of all fresh aerial parts as a stimulant, diuretic and antiseptic. An infusion of leaves for coughs and colds.

Southern Dewberry (*Rubus trivialis*)

Astringent. Tea from leaves for diarrhea. Root tea as a mild stimulant. Root infusion for rheumatism and stomach complaints.

Southern Plantain or Dwarf Plantain, see Plantain

Sow Thistle (spiny and common) (*Sonchus oleraceus* (common sow thistle) and *Sonchus asper* (spiny))

Tea from leaves has a calming effect. Tea from roots for colds, coughs, and bronchitis. Leaves can be used as a poultice and act as an anti-inflammatory.

Spanish Bayonet (*Yucca aloifolia*)

Boiled fruit mixed with oil acts as a purgative.

Spanish Moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*)

Tea from leaves is used to treat fevers and chills. It has anti-bacterial properties.

Spanish Needles see Beggarticks

Spatterdock or Spadderdock (*Nuphar luteum*)

Leaves are astringent (they stop bleeding) and American Indians used them as bandages and poultices on wound and swellings. Tea from roots is used for chills with fever and stomach disorders.

Spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginiana*)

Tea from roots is a laxative. Tea from leaves and flowers treats stomachache. The crushed plant can be used as a poultice for bites and stings. Native Americans used the tough leaves as bandages.

Spotted Beebalm or Horsemint (*Monarda punctata*)

Anti-septic properties. A stronger tea can be used for colds, fevers, colic, and stomach aches.

Spring Beauty (*Claytonia caroliniana*)

A decoction of the roots was used to treat childhood convulsions.

Spurge Nettle, Tread Softly or Bull Nettle (*Cniduscolus stimulosus*)

The root is diuretic. American Indians used the milky sap for herbal remedies.

Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)

Fruit and seeds contain shishimic acid, a natural Tamiflu, used to treat flu. It has antiseptic, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory and expectorant properties. Resin can be chewed for colds, sore throats and diarrhea and used externally for sores, wounds, and skin problems. Inner bark was boiled and used to treat diarrhea and dysentery. Leaves are aromatic when crushed.

Switchcane, Giant Cane or Large Cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*)

Cathartic. A decoction of crushed roots is used to stimulate the kidneys and as a tonic.

Sword fern or Tuber Ladder Fern (*Nephrolepis cordifolia*)

Antibacterial and antifungal. Root tea for stomach upsets. Decoction of fresh fronds for fever and colds.

Turkey Tail (fungi) (*Trametes versicolor*)

Infuse in boiling water for a soothing tea. Anti-tumor, anti-microbial, immunomodulating, antioxidant, anti-malarial.

Usnea, Oak Moss or Old Man's Beard (*Usnea barbata*)

Strong natural antiseptic, antifungal, antibiotic and antiviral properties. Can be packed in wounds to speed healing and prevent

infection. As an antifungal poultice to treat athlete's foot. Tea is used as a tonic and for colds and sore throats. Can be used as a mouthwash for mouth infections and sores.

Violet, Common Blue or Woolly Blue Violet (*Viola sororia*)

Expectorant and laxative. Can be used as a soothing agent, for headaches and as a mild expectorant. Used to make tea or syrup. Leaf poultice is used for headaches. Root poultice used for boils and sores.

Wapato, Broad-Leaved Arrowhead or Duck Potatoes, see Arrowhead

Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)

Leaf petioles are eaten to treat diarrhea.

Water Hyssop (*Bacopa Monnieri*)

Antioxidant and highly astringent. Tisane from dried leaves good for memory function, cramming for exams, stress, and anxiety. A decoction of fresh or dried leaves for bronchitis. A decoction of leaves and petals used externally on scalp is said to encourage hair growth. It can also be used on skin irritations and minor cuts. A poultice of fresh leaves for wounds to aid healing and prevent infection. Lot of research currently underway to see if the plant can be used to treat patients with dementia.

Water Cress, Common (*Nasturtium officinale*)

Diuretic, expectorant, and mild stimulant. Soup from leaves is used for sore or swollen gums and mouth ulcers. Infusion of leaves used externally for dermatitis, eczema, arthritis, and rheumatism pains. Tea from fresh leaves is a diuretic.

Water Lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*)

Diuretic, antidiabetic, antifungal and antimicrobial. Poultice of crushed leaves for boils, wounds, swellings, and skin infections. Infusion of leaves has been used for diabetes.

Wax Myrtle, Miracle bush or Southern Bayberry (*Myrica cerifera*)

Astringent, anti-inflammatory, antibacterial and diuretic. Root tea used as an astringent and emetic. Leaf tea is used for fevers and applied externally to reduce itching. Juice from leaves and berries acts as insect repellent. Wood smoke has the same effect. Waxy fruit used to be used to produce candles.

White Clover (*Trifolium repens*)

Antioxidant. Tea from dried flowers for an invigorating tea and for rheumatic pains. Leaf tea for colds and fevers. Tincture of flowers and leaves applied externally for sores, cuts and abrasions.

Wild Balsam Pear or Balsam Melon, Bitter Melon or Bitter Gourd (*Momordica charantia*)

Scientific studies suggest it may benefit diabetics as it can have a hypoglycemic effect.

Wild Lettuce or Grassleaf lettuce (*Lactuca graminifolia*)

Mild sedative and diuretic. Tea from leaves used as a pain reliever, mild sedative and for insomnia.

Wild Mint (*Clinopodium brownie*)

An antioxidant and good for treating stomach and gastrointestinal problems, bad breath, nausea and indigestion.

Wild Radish or Jointed Charlock (*Raphanus raphanistrum*)

Antirheumatic. Tea from roots used for stomach upsets. Poultice from leaves for skin irritations.

Wild Rice (*Zizania aquatica*)

It is an antioxidant and has lipid-lowering properties.

Wild Taro, Dasheen or Elephant Ears (*Colocasia esculenta*)

Antirheumatic, diuretic and laxative. Juice from leaves is used as styptic.

Willow or Coastal Plain Willow (*Salix caroliniana*)

Chew young twigs to cure headaches. Contains Salicin, a natural aspirin-like compound. Tea made from infused bark combats fever, colds and sore throats and was used by American Indians to thin blood. Chewing young twigs relieves toothache. Stronger tea used to induce vomiting.

Winged Sumac or Dwarf Sumac (*Rhus copallinum*)

Wash from bark for blisters and skin irritations. Tea from roots was used to treat dysentery and berries can be chewed for sores and ulcers in the mouth.

Winged yam, Purple Yam and Water Yam (*Dioscorea alata*)

Diuretic and laxative. Root tea for fever.

Wood Ear or Tree Ear Mushroom (*Auricularia auricular-judae*)

Astringent and anticoagulant and may have cholesterol-lowering properties. Use as a tea or soup for sore throats, coughs, and colds. As a poultice for eye irritations.

Wood Sorrel (*Violet wood-sorrel Oxalis violaceae and Yellow wood sorrel oxalis stricta*)

Astringent, diuretic, tonic and mild stimulant. The leaves can be used as a poultice to stop bleeding which is why another name for this plant is woundwort. A tea made from the leaves and flowers is an anti-inflammatory and diuretic. A tea from the leaves alone overcomes insomnia. A wash made from the leaves can be used to

treat minor burns, stings, bites and rashes. Native Americans dried and crushed the leaves and snorted them like snuff to relieve headaches. They also chewed the leaves for toothache.

Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)

Leaves placed on wound as a poultice stop bleeding.

Yaupon Holly, see Holly

Yucca, see Adam's Needle

About the authors.



Don Philpott has over 50 years' experience as an award-winning writer, journalist, consultant, public relations practitioner and passionate campaigner for conservation and the environment. For 20 years he worked for the Press Association-Reuters, the international wire service traveling the world, as a senior correspondent, covering major events and news stories. In 1988 he founded Mediawise Communications, an international media and PR company, based in London and in 1994 he relocated to the U.S. as President of Mediawise Communication U.S., managing an international client list.

He has written more 250 books on a wide range of subjects. When not writing Don is a volunteer at the Wekiwa River Basin State Parks, which includes Ethel. He is a Florida Master Naturalist, Florida Master Gardener, and a Certified Interpretive Guide. He is President of the Wekiva Wilderness Trust, an Emeritus Board Member of the Florida State Parks Foundation and vice chair of the National Association of State Park Foundations.



Shirley Meade. Growing up in Lake County Florida, Shirley has always had a strong interest in its rich history. In her early years, Shirley, along with her parents Ruby and Alto Smith and her younger brother William lived on a cattle ranch on Highway 437 in Sorrento, Florida. Later in the 1950's she met and married her true love Frank L. Meade, a Korean War veteran and entrepreneur.

After raising their two children and a successful career as an educator with the Lake County School Board, Shirley along with other residents in the community established the East

Lake Historical Society and her historian journey began. Not only was she a Founding Member of the society, but she also held officers' positions and served on the Board of Directors. She presently holds the title of Historian of the Society.

Many of her historical journeys include a fascinating location and story about the Mt. Plymouth Hotel which Al Capone frequented. Nowadays Shirley continues her historical research but mostly enjoys sharing her findings with all who will listen. If you have a historical question about the area, it's almost guaranteed she'll have some information for you.