

# The Amazing Story of Ethel, Anthony Frazier, and William S. Delk



By Don Philpott, Wekiva Wilderness Trust & Shirley Meade, East Lake Historical Society

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# 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 high 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 had toppled to the ground but amazingly it too 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 an amazing amount 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 thanks also to Bob Grenier for his assistance and encouragement, and Robert Brooks, manager of the Wekiva River Basin State Parks.

All 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 and the National Archives in Washington D. C. Many of the photographs used came from local libraries and museums and we are grateful for their permission to publish.

Many early documents were hand written in a very florid style and it has sometimes been difficult to decipher 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.

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.

The story of Ethel is inextricably interwoven with two equally fascinating stories. They concern William S. Delk, a plantation owner at Rock Springs, and Anthony Frazier, a freed slave who became an Orange County Commissioner of Roads.

William S. Delks was one of the first settlers in the area. He arrived in the late 1840s and established a 3,000-acre plantation at Rock Springs. A Union sympathizer, 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 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 as a free man, 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 north west of the old Delk plantation and about 3.5 miles west north west of Ethel.

These are their stores.

# William Shelton Delk

The first settler at the springs was William S. Delk, descended from Roger Delk who was born in Surrey, England in 1610 and landed at Jamestown in 1623. His wife Alice Davenport died in Virginia in 1635. He was granted 1,000 acres of land on Lawne's Creek. Even though he died in his thirties, he had served a term in the House of Burgesses, the first legislative assembly in the new world.

William S. Delk's father was David Delk who was born in 1761 in Johnston County, North Carolina. 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, his mother and four of her children were massacred by a Creek Indian raiding party. When they left, they took with them Delk's fourteen-year-old daughter. After several days, she managed to escape and was taken in by a family near Augusta. The family's son fell in love with her, and they married, and it wasn't until 1798 that David and his sister were reunited.

David married in 1783 but his wife's name is unknown. After her death, David married Elizabeth Terrell. Their children were daughters Annie and Nancy and sons William Shelton, born about 1815, and Fleming. 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.

William S. Delk moved to Florida in the late 1840s and in 1851 he was living in Marion County, aged 35, and looking for land to settle on. In 1854, he bought 3,000 acres of pine and palmetto woodland around Rock Springs, in Orange County, of which 400 acres was cleared for farming. His address in 1857, according to county records, was listed as Rock Springs.

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 were listed as:

William P. Delk, aged 20, son,

L. H. Green, aged 24

Michael Ohara, aged 27

Jackson See, aged 48

Susan See, aged 29

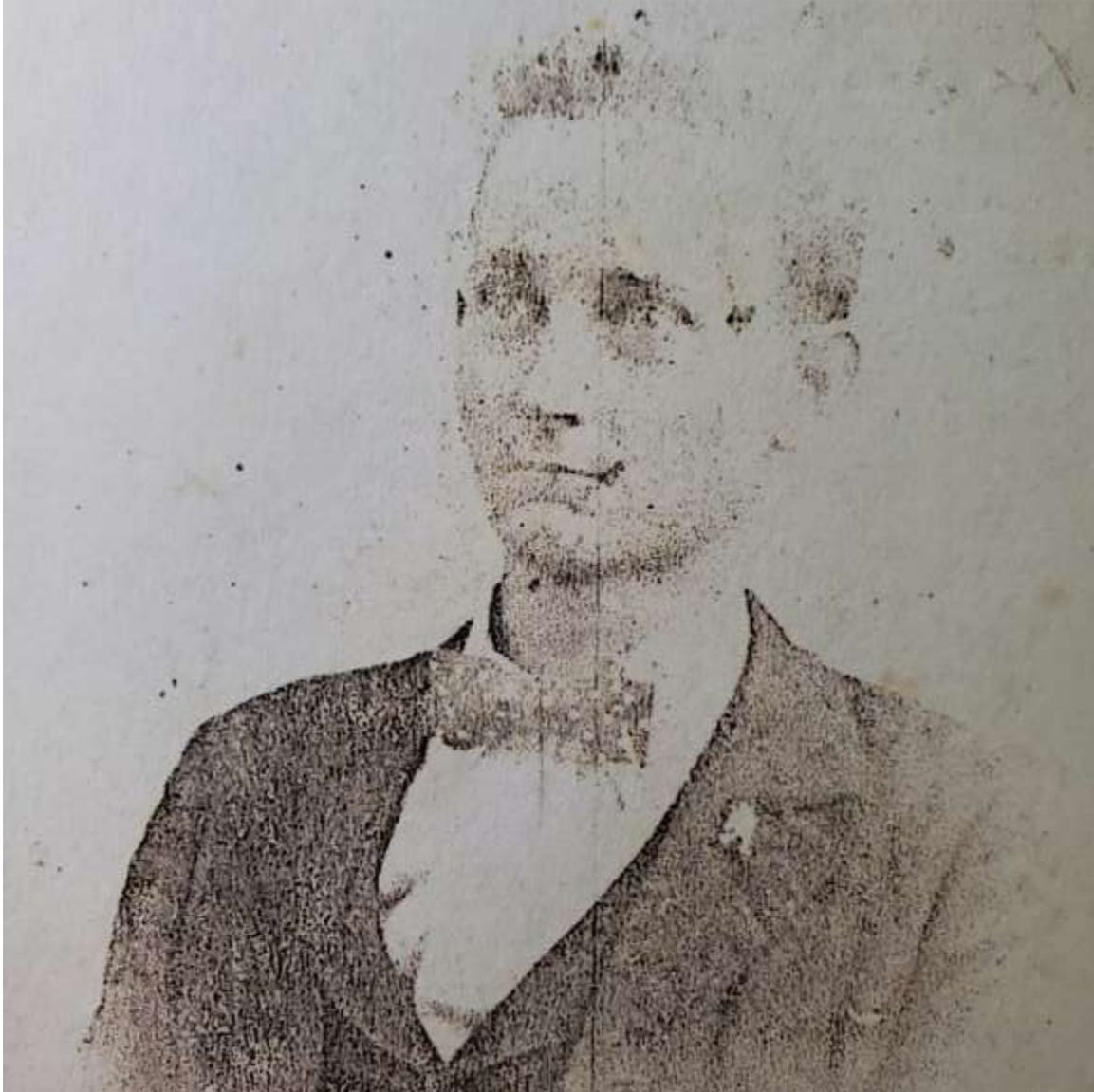
Nancy Ann See, aged 9

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, 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, although they are not recorded in the Census.



The only known picture of William S. Delk, as a young man.

Rock Springs is unusual in that the water does not bubble up under pressure out of the ground, but rather 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 from Hawkinsville on the St. Johns River, eighteen miles away. He cleared 400 acres to become the area's largest plantation and grew cotton, rice, sugar cane, and corn.

He worked the land with his son William, two white laborers, and 19 slaves valued at \$12,700. These included a young slave called Joseph G. Robards, who later claimed he was Delk's son.

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 not known if the mention of Roberts in the interview above was a hearing mistake made by the reporter.

Another of Delk's slaves was Anthony Frazier, Robard's half-brother – they shared the same mother.



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

The first house was a log cabin just north of the springs. The house burned down when Delk tried to burn out the fleas from underneath it. The next house was built on the hill on the south side. There was also a ramshackle multi-roomed wooden structure in which all the slaves lived.

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 look 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 saw mill 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 1861, the year Florida seceded from the Union, Delk's son William P. Delk rode off to war. He joined a unit led by Captain Jonathan Stewart, that would later become Company G, Eighth Florida Infantry.

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.

Delk senior was an old-line Whig and supported the Union while most of his neighbors supported the Confederacy. Despite the Confederacy's demand, he refused to buy bonds to support their war effort and in 1863, a Confederate cavalry unit from Lake City was sent to seize him and his land. (The 1863 date was given by Robards in an interview published in the Apopka Chief in 1926 but it may 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. At Sorrento they camped for the night and Delk made his escape, 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 Springs 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 by a federal gunboat and started north. Near St. Augustine we were turned over the Fifth Ohio Cavalry and taken into camp. Here Delk joined the party," he said.

(Note: The Wekiva mentioned above was a small community east of Rock Springs on the Wekiva River where Wekiva Falls now stands. It was not Wekiwa Springs which was then called Clay Springs.)

"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, both signed up at Hilton Head, North 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. On 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.

However, in a deposition he gave dated December 20, 1910, we get a 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 labour. 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 than 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.”



Tombstone of William P. Delk. (Source. AHS)

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

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 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 on 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.

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 goes 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 Mitchell 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. *William S Delk*

*Wilson French*  
Capt & PROVOST MARSHAL

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*

This work included providing federal forces with provisions especially cattle which Delk would round up and drive to St. Augustine and then submit papers 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 fussy where they got the animals as long as they were 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 – united made up of veterans, ranchers and cowboys who mostly stayed in their communities where they could provide for their families. They were combined into a battalion commanded by Colonel Charles I. Munnerlyn. One unit was assigned to Mellonville (Sanford) with instructions to clear the counties of Orange and Volusia of "torries" who were driving "rebel-beef" to the Federals at St. Augustine. 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 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 30<sup>th</sup> 1864

Bric. Genl. E. J. Scammon,  
1 Month's Dist of Florida,  
General.

In relation to the application of W<sup>m</sup> S. DELK, for payment for collecting and driving a lot of Cattle to St Augustine Fla. I have the honor to state that I have seen your 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. Morehouse 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 DELK'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 Lord  
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 <sup>5</sup> months  
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 the 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.

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 1869. She was 31 years younger than him.

1870

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300	257	Morris	Ida	5	F	W					
300	257	Morris	Julia	1	F	W				Mississippi	
300	257	Morris	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				Florida	Rock Springs
302	259	Bacon	Betty	40	F	B	Keeping House		50	Georgia	
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	16	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	B	Farm Laborer			S. Carolina	

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

HR	FB	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	AGE	SEX	RACE	OCCUP.	REAL VAL.	PER.S VAL.	BIRTHPLACE	FOREIGN FATHER
306	263	Bisbee	Hariett	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	Esther	3	F	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.

Later, Delk became an active and prominent member of the community, and in 1880, he and two other men – his freed slave Anthony Frazier and James Madison - were appointed Orange County Road Commissioners to supervise the building of a public road from Orlando to Rock Springs and another from Rock Springs to the Hawkinsville Road intersection.

Delk died at home in 1885 aged 70, leaving his estate to his second wife Samantha. He 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.”

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."

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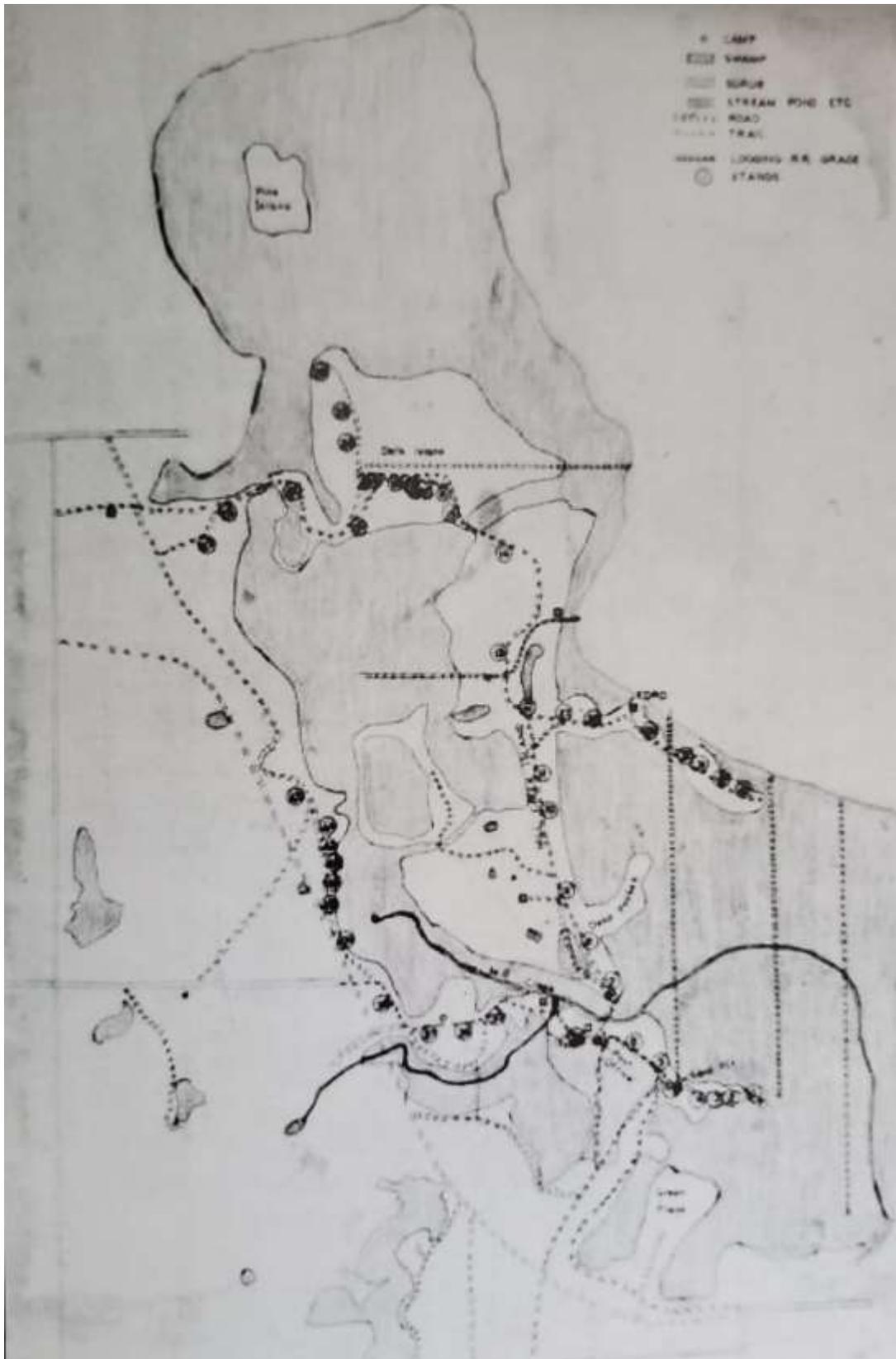
The higher ground that Delk Island and Pine Island afforded at the north end of the spring run, were popular spots with hunters.



## **Delk Island**

Deer hunters, from left to right, Winfred Harris, Mark Ryan Sr., and Lee Lovell are shown on **Delk** Island, within the U-shaped bend of Rock Springs Run.

(Source. Orlando Sentinel)



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

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 an 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 sides of the track 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, close to Apopka and Longwood, and at 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

Ethel was established in the 1860s by people who obtained their land through the Homestead Act. These land deeds were known as patents or grants. The 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 in 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."

The first 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 although there is no official record of any transfer of property although the 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.

Others were farm laborers according to early census's working for large landowners, especially in the citrus groves. 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 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. Newton was buried in 1889 at Ethel but his grave site is unknown.

Newton 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 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 Ranger 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 is believed to have been given that name when the Sanford-Lake Eustis Railway arrived in the township 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.

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, with 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

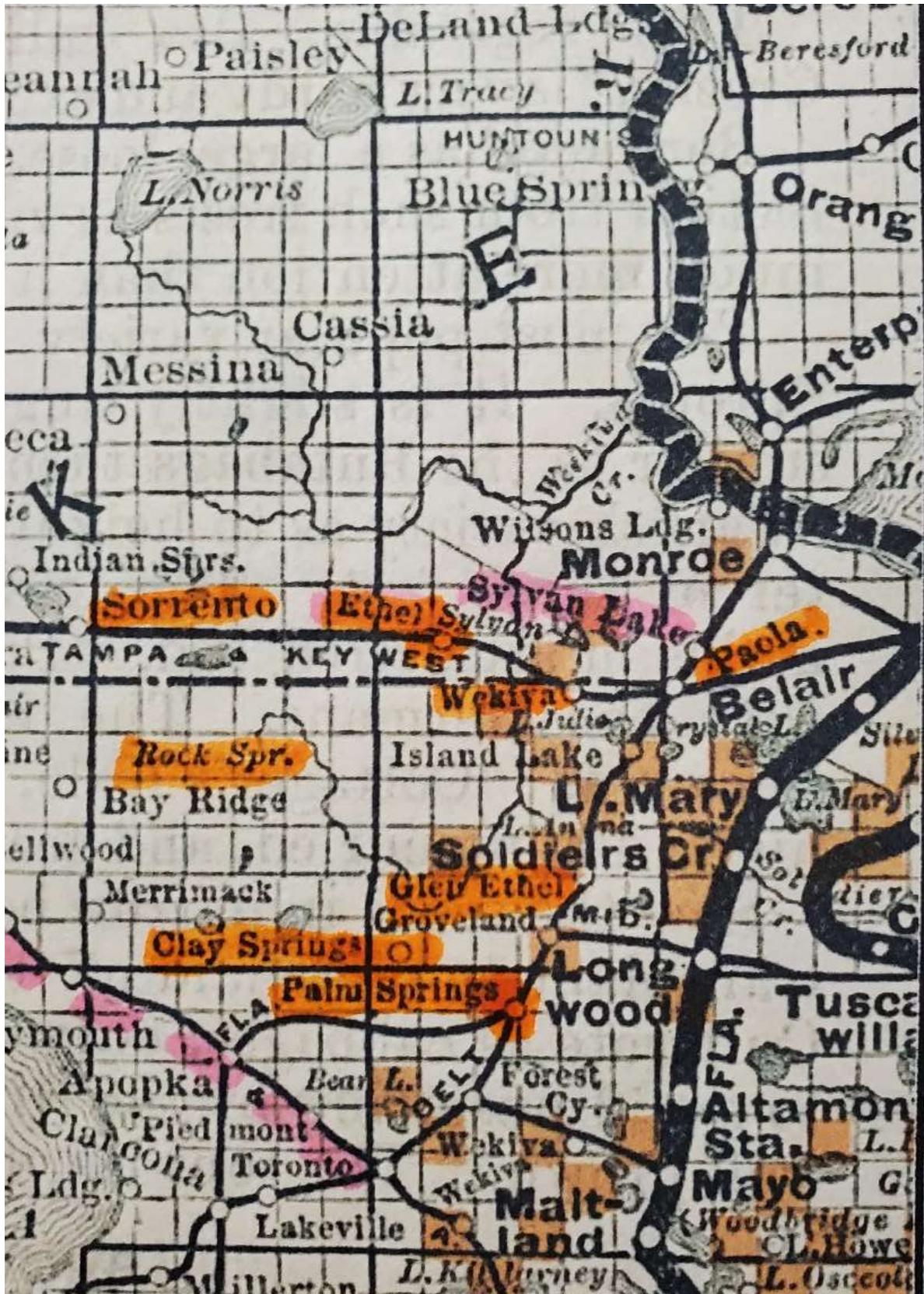
By S. A. Goldway  
Postmaster of Sparraco, who will please forward to him.

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.



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

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 Chixxco, (undecipherable) but crossed this out and replaced it with Moody, and that is how Moody became the name of the post office.

The railroad arrived in 1886 and the township was given the name of Ethel. In 1887 Ethel became part of the new Lake County and 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.

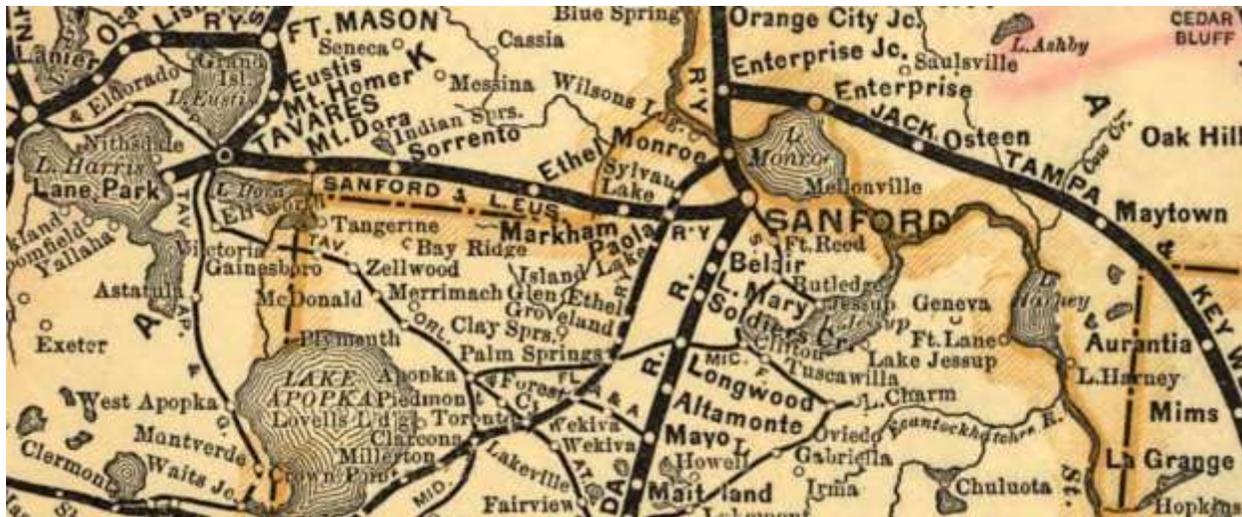
There were postal services at Wekiva between September 1913 and February 1920 when George M. Coates applied to locate the post office, to a site 600 feet from the Wekiva River and on the west side of it. It would also be on the side of the Atlantic Coastline Railroad and half a mile from the track. The application noted that the railroad station was named Wekiva and that the post office at Paola had closed.

Ethel railroad platform was on the south side of the track, and it was called a 'flag' stop because passengers simply stepped on to the rails and flagged the train down. The railway eventually became part of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad System and was in use until the 1960s.

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.

The scattered community grew up around a commissary, or general store, that had belonged to a timber company. The post office would 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 cart to Sanford which would mean getting up at 4am and not returning home until the late evening. People would stop for lunch at Catfish Springs and then go on to 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 railroad showing stops between Tavares and Sanford.

People who had bought property under the Homestead Act were required to farm the land and build their own home on it. Most of these homes were primitive affairs, often one room cabins built from felled trees and just 16 feet by 16 feet.

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 on the end of each log so that logs from adjoining walls interlocked into one another in each of the corners. Gaps between logs were filled with mud and leaves.

The roof was covered with large cedar tiles laid on cedar trusses. Sometimes flat wooden boards were nailed to the interior walls, but this was an additional cost because the wood would have to come from a local mill.

Once the walls were built, openings for a door and window had to be sawed out. If there was only one window, it would face south for warmth and light from the sun. It would be covered with greased paper to provide some sort of weather proofing. Quilts were often used to cover doorways in early cabins. Later, doors made with boards would be used hung with leather hinges.

Settlers would often fashion their own furniture from wood – bed, tables, and chairs. Once built, the settlers would continue to make improvements to their cabins.

Early settlers would cook outside because of the danger of fire inside the wooden structures. Later cabins would have brick chimneys to vent smoke from either an open fire or a wood burning stove.

Close to the cabin would be an enclosure for livestock with hollowed logs used for feed and water troughs.

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.

The log cabins were scattered among the trees. Each cabin stood on its own land which had been cleared for crops and a vegetable garden. Sweet potatoes and pumpkins were popular as they only had to be planted once. A plot was cleared, seeds were sown, and the two vegetables would continue to produce year after year if they got water and manure.

The township was laid out in plots recorded in a plat. Ethel Drive was the main street and led to the commissary, but it is not known if there were other streets other than dirt tracks between homesteads.

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 typhoid and malaria killed men and women.

When a son married, he would often buy a 40-acre plot next to the family homestead. 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.

### Ethel School

There was a schoolhouse on a half-acre plot, where church services were conducted every other Sunday by the Reverend Bartlett who travelled from Enterprise by horse and buggy and then the ferry at Wekiva. 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 was a Senior branch and a Junior branch. 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 about a mile east called Wekiva.



Ethel School C.917

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.

Ethel’s school teacher in 1905 was Miss Maggie Hunter from Sanford. At that time the school teacher received one dollar a month for each pupil and the term was three months long. 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 site less than 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.

On November 10, 1949, 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 School, teacher in 1912 was Lelia Royal, who was paid \$40 - \$20 from Lake Co and \$20 from Orange. 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 schoolchildren 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 school house painted. T. J. Boyd was paid \$45 for sealing the school house 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, 1919, 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 18 R.

Dec 6 1919 RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 291 PAGE 605

LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA. RECORD VERIFIED

*Geo. D. Jones* CLERK CIRCUIT COURT



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 Miss Theresa Dawson in her place. 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.

By September 1919, Mrs. E. O. Von Herbulis had become 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 school teacher in 1920, earning \$65. 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 had been transported to another school.

In 1924 the Ethel and Sorrento school districts were consolidated

By 1927, Ethel School had closed, and 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 4<sup>th</sup>. 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 Wekiva and Ethel which will be a great help and convenience to the people.

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 Wekiva, yet 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 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 Bresco 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 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 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 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. 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 bros., 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 motor boat, 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 Fillman 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 Fillman. 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.

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

A. Newcomb 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.

.....



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



Finley B. Click and his wife Maggie, outside his second cabin, Ethel, 1912. The airway through the cabin probably separated the parent's bedroom from the main room where the children would have slept. Behind the cabin is a fenced area for the animals and to the right of the cabin an outside shed or animal coop.



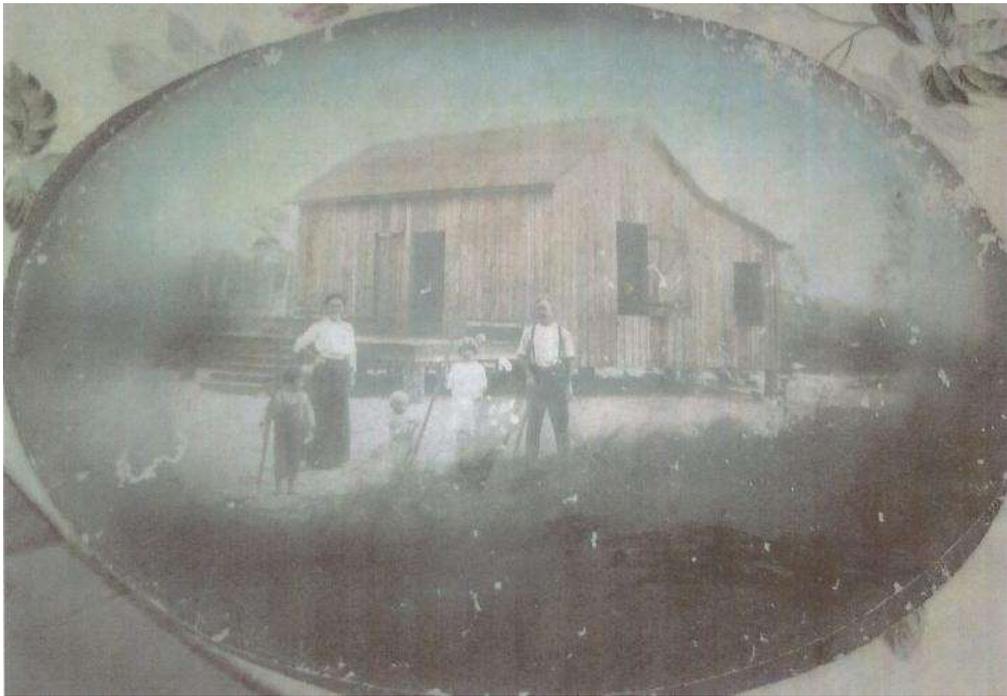
A turpentine still, one of many in the Ethel-Wekiva area

### Life in Ethel

Every fall, the cattle would be penned for the winter, and the accumulated manure would then be used in the spring to grow corn, velvet beans, black-eyed peas, and sweet potatoes.



Wekiva Post Office (Wekiva township was about 1 mile east of Ethel and is now Wekiva Falls)



Ethel resident William Darlington Fillmon, his wife Etta Jane Goings Fillmon, with sons Robert and Wesley standing in front of their home c. 1920. The girl in the white dress and bonnet is 'Aunt' Creasy.

William was a carpenter, and the cabin was built from local logs and there was no electricity or running water. Etta Jane died in 1924.



Gunn's Cabin at Ethel

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. A major freeze in 1895 destroyed the citrus trees and caused most 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 abandoned livestock and continued to farm.

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

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. 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

[Ethel and Wekiva residents and neighbors, and how they acquired their land](#)

### **Adams**

George W. Adams, Land Grant 1937

### **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.

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

## **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 Boyd, Grant 1913

Raymond R. Boyd, Grant 1920

Thomas I. Boyd, Government land purchase 1913

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, on 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.

### **Brown**

David H. Brown, Grant 1883

Eugene Brown, Grant 1917

James M. Brown, Grant 1913

Ulysses S. Brown, Grant 1917

### **Click**

Finley B. 1863-1932 Grant 1915

Finley Belshazar Click, born November 28, 1863, in Jerusalem, Davie, North Carolina.

Father was John Nicholas Click and mother was Amelia Elvira Eaton.

He married Margaret Ann Mills (born October 5, 1852, in Iredell, N.C.) on September 29, 1887, in Statesville, North Carolina. She died on November 12, 1913.

They had three sons:

Clyde Francis, born September 15, 1888, in Iredell, N.C. Died April 21, 1917 in Duval, Florida.

Clifford Mills, born October 2, 1892, in Iredell, N. C. Died December 17, 1962 in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Carl Lee, born September 15, 1895 in Iredell, N. C. Died September 6, 1949, in Orlando, Florida.

Finley was a member of the Carpenter's Union and the Oddfellows.

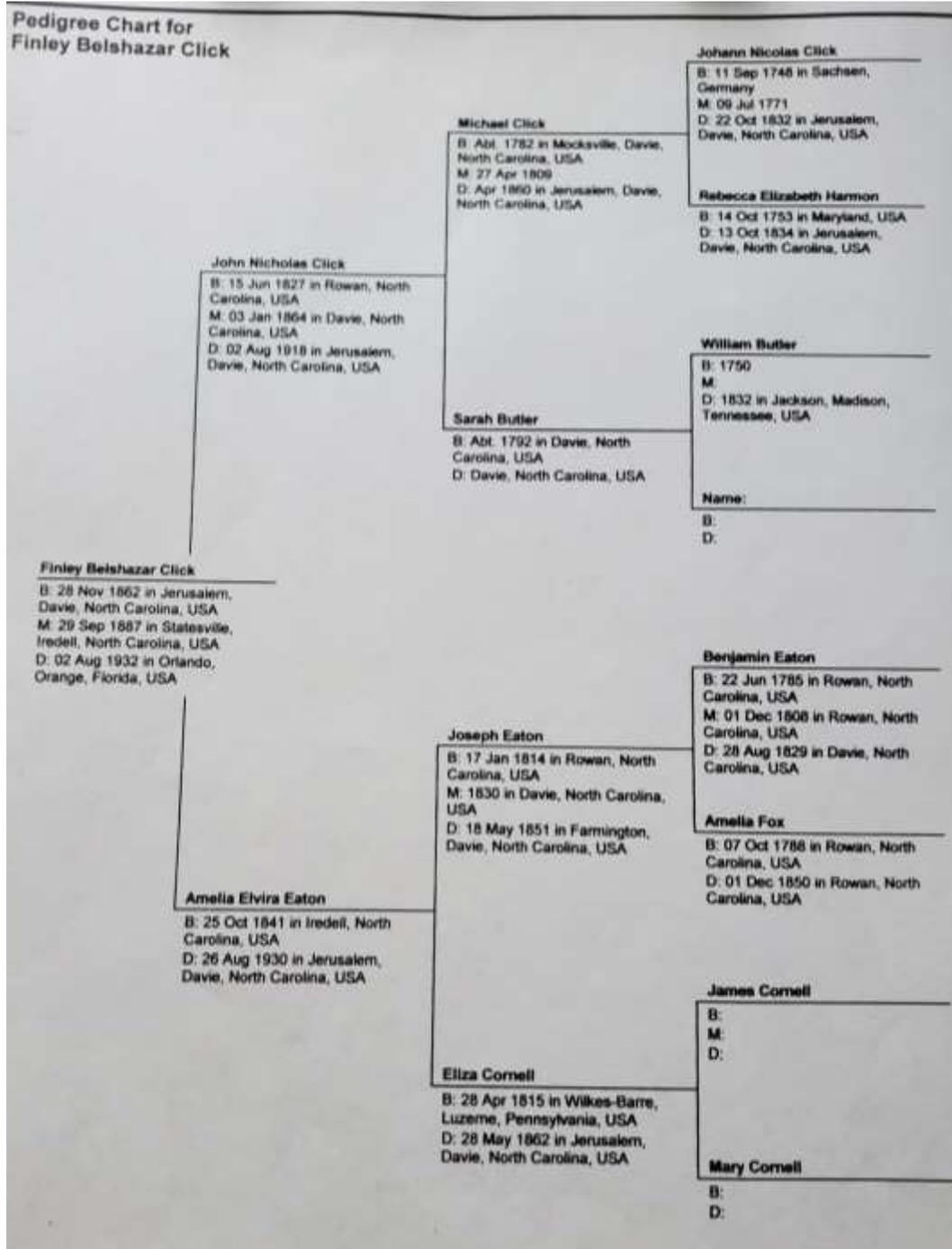
He obtained his land grant in Ethel in 1915.

At some point he married Emily J. Hull, who was born on January 20, 1863.

Died August 2, 1932, and buried in Greenwood Cemetery Orlando.

One of Finley's sisters Sarah Eliza Click was married to William Roland Koontz. In 1926 they purchased 80 acres on Old McDonald Road in Sorrento where they built their home. Sarah died on July 20, 1943, and her husband died on September 4, 1944.

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



## **Coates**

John H. Coates, Grant 1916

Mr. P. J. Coates had no trouble proving up his homestead last Thursday, the 16<sup>th</sup>. 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 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 (great, great grandson of William S. Delk) 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 Training and Conscription Act of the President of the United States.

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

has been duly registered this 27 day of APRIL 1942

*Mrs J. W. Rosenthal*  
 (Signature of registrar)

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

**THE SELECTIVE TRAINING AND CONSCRIPTION ACT REQUIRES YOU TO HAVE THIS CARD  
 IN YOUR PERSONAL POSSESSION AT ALL TIMES**

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

**DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT**

AGE	HAIR (Approx.)	COMPLEXION
	160	low
Blue	Blonde	Dark
Gray	Red	Freckled
Hazel	Brown	Light brown
Brown	Black	Dark brown
Black	Gray	Black
	Bald	

Obvious 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 Tax 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

Had 160 acres at Ethel.

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 Carely 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. Artha Gray of Wekiva.

## **Griffin**

Mrs. H. Griffin was buried at Ethel and her residence was listed as Ethel Station in Lake County – which 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 27<sup>th</sup>. She was 60 years old.

## **Hardy**

Elizabeth Hardy, Government land purchase 1883

## **Hawkins**

Jane C. Hawkins, Grant 1895

## **Hicks**

Henry Hicks, Government land purchase 1892

## **Holiday**

William C. Holiday, Grant 1918

## **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 F. Johnson was born in 1837. Farmer. Grant 1898

## **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) thee place was thrown into excitement by a quarrel between R. T. Wynne of this place, and J. S. Koons, of Ethel. A law suit 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, 28<sup>th</sup>, 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, 168 in Davie, N.C. 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.

Died. September 4, 1944, in Sorrento, Florida.

## **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.

## **Lewis**

Charles H. Lewis, known to everyone as Charley, was born on March 21, 1917, on the Isle of Pines in Cuba, where his parents were missionaries. His mother came from Liverpool, England, and his father was from New York. He was nine or 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 108<sup>th</sup> 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, 204<sup>th</sup> 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.

Charley had 30 acres of land and he established the Lewis Range which for many years, was one of the few target -shooting facilities in Central Florida. He eventually handed over the landscaping business to son Ray, but he continued to manage the range. His son Norman married the former Janice Bronson and both worked for the Methodist Childrens Home near Enterprise. They had a son and daughter.

Ray married Elinore Slicer and she joined the landscaping firm as bookkeeper.

### **Libby**

George A. Libby, Government land purchase 1895

## **Lipford**

Albert T. Lipford, Grant 1916

## **Martin**

Alexander Martin, Grant 1878

## **Meadows**

James Meadows, Government land purchase 1925

## **Metts**

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

## **Moody**

Jacob, Government land purchase of 160.58 acres on April 5, 1876. He sold 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 Anguson 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 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. 18476). Living in Effingham Co, Georgia according to the 1860 census.

1870 census (Orange Co) William is listed aged 70, farmer, Charlotte 50 Keeping House, Alonzo 30, Angus 28, and Norton 24, all listed as farmers.

Angus married Mazelia A. Tullis around 1879 (she died in 1893). In 1880 Angus was farming in the 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

1980 census, Orange Co.

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. 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 died on July 6, 1901, by suicide aged 40. He was buried the next day.

### **Palleo (Pattilo).**

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 (1863 sold an unknown acreage?)  
all 200 acres sold 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

### **Vermillion**

Charles J. Vermillion, Grant 1919

### **Von Herbulis**

Albert O. Von Herbulis, Government land purchase 1914, Grant 1923

Edward O. Von Herbulis, Government land purchase 1920

### **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 son Edward who was born in 1890.

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 and wife of Elbert White.

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.

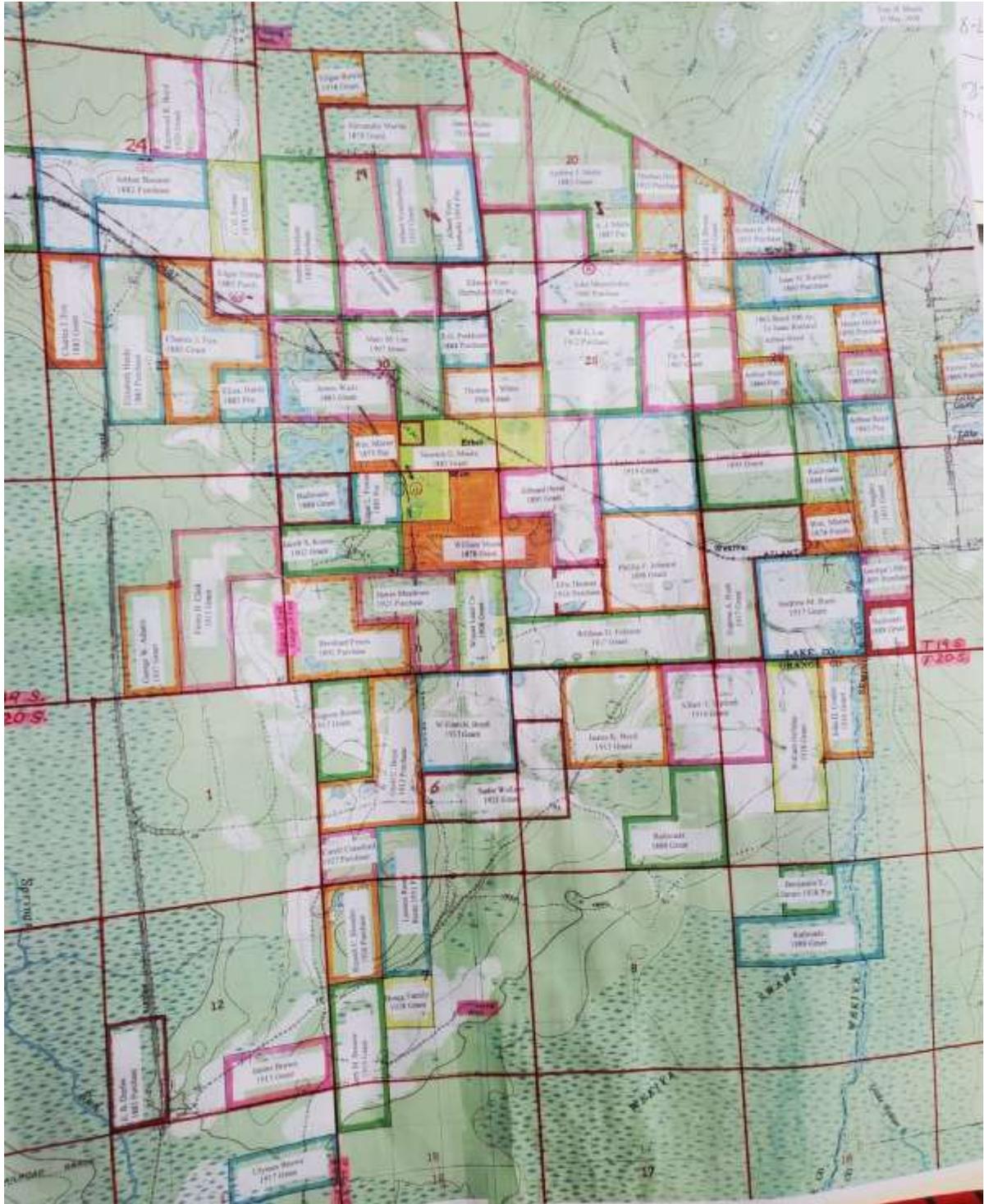
### **Wildman**

Emma A. Wildman, Government land purchase 1887

### **Wynne**

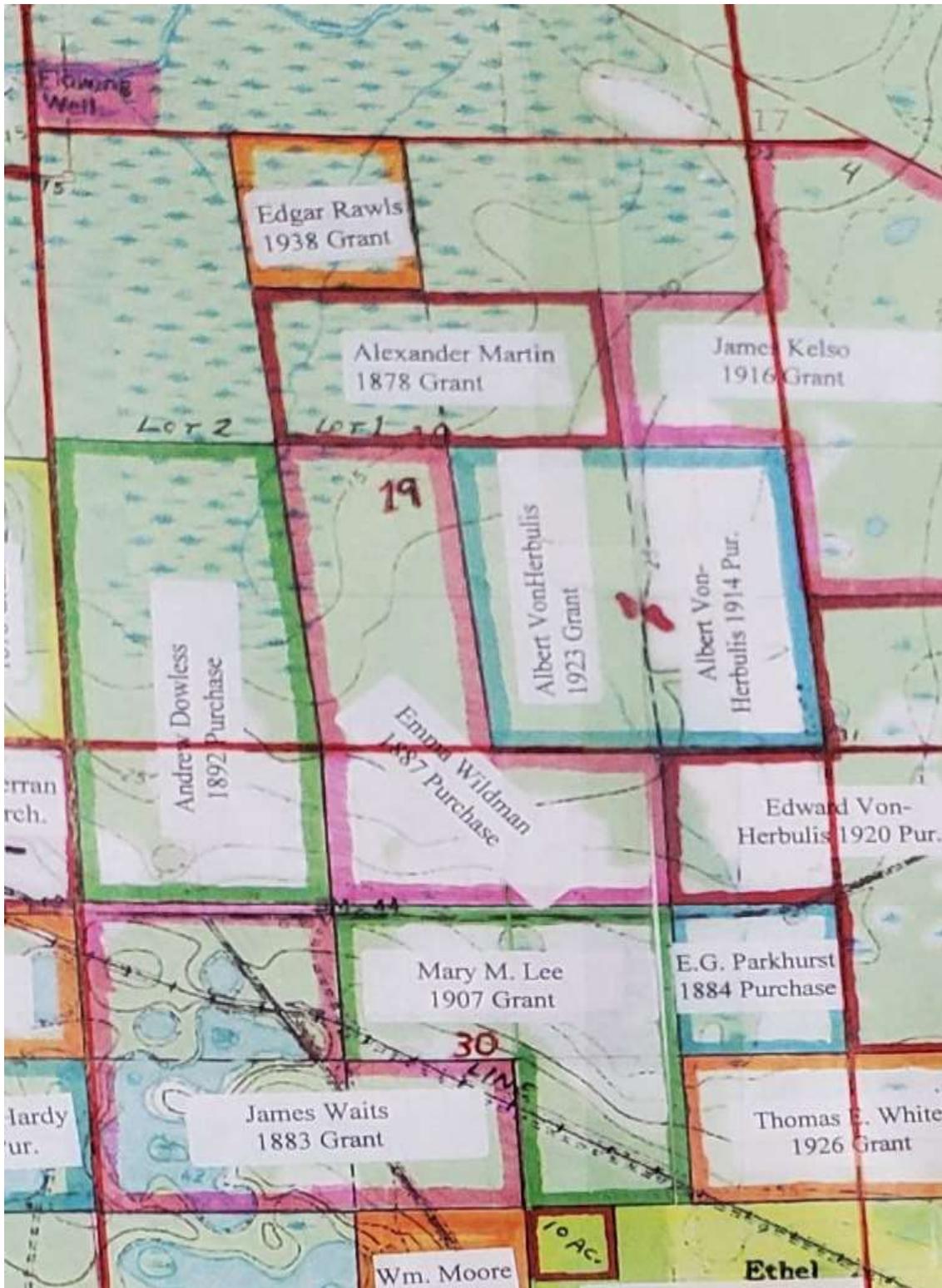
R. T. Wynne, born 1850, carpenter.

At its heyday in the late 1880s and early 1890s, Ethel had a population of around 200.



Thanks to Tony's research we now know who owned what land in and around Ethel in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

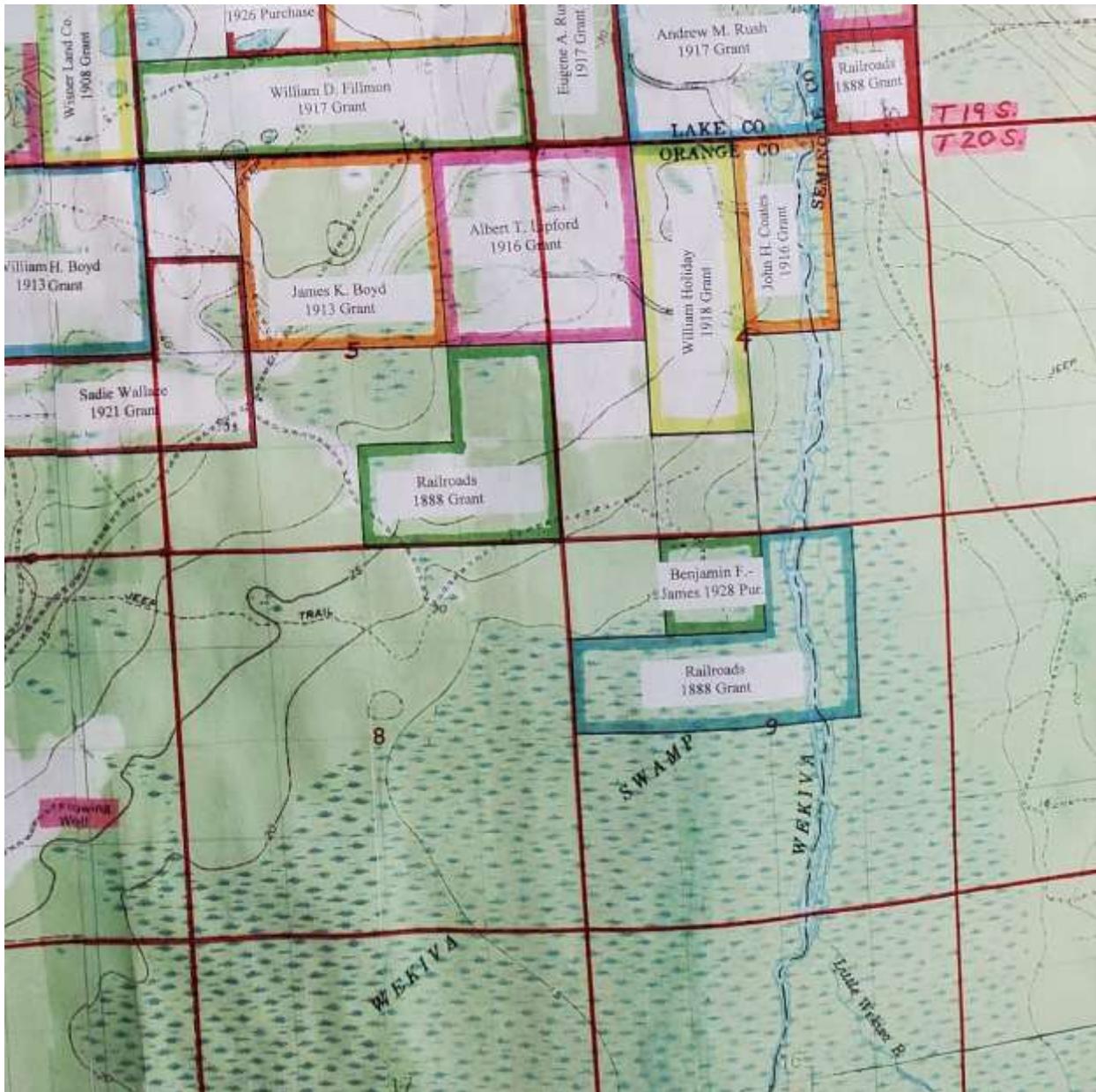




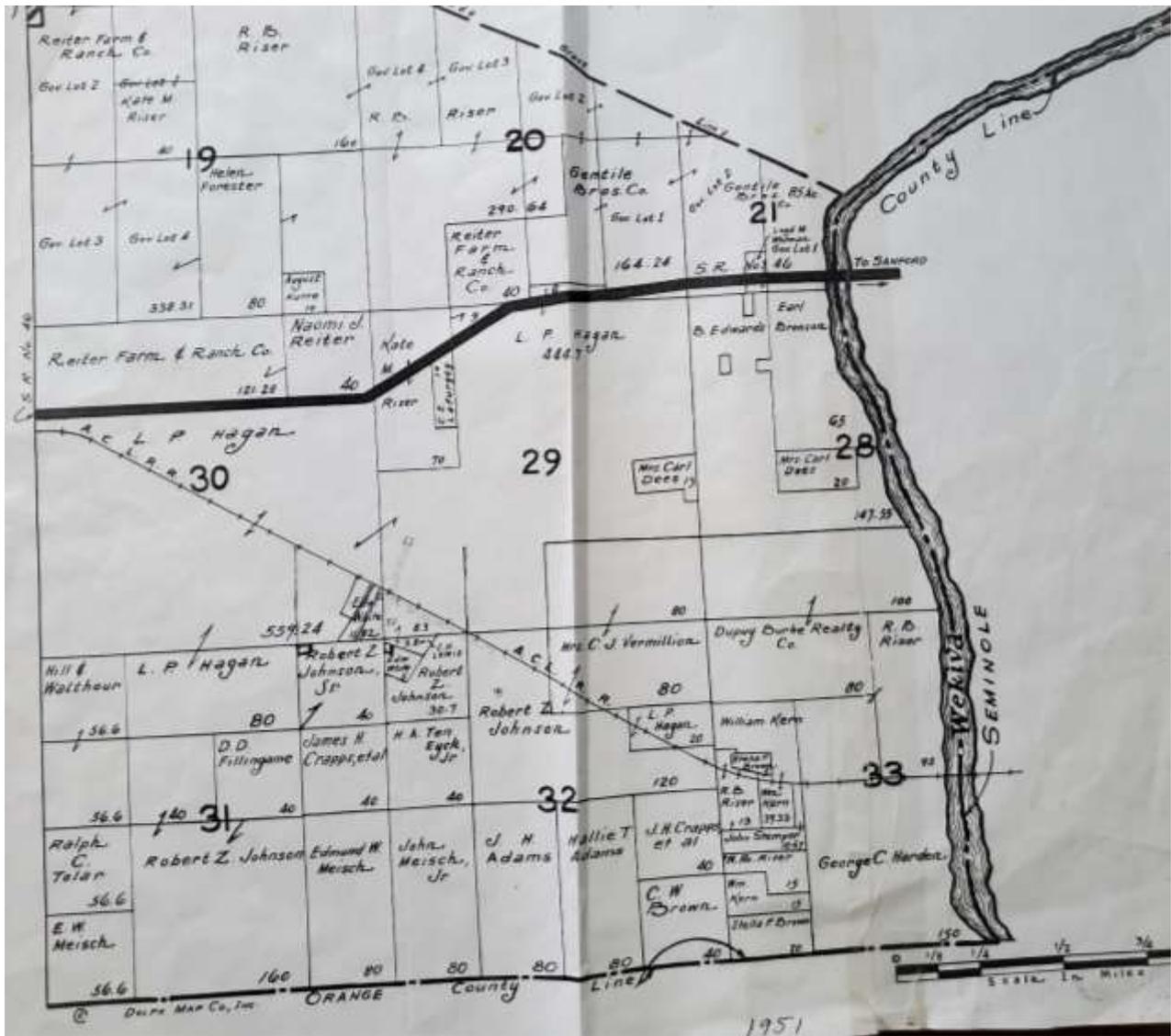
Northeast quadrant



Southwest quadrant



Southeast quadrant



1951 Lake Co. Tax map

By the 1920 Census of Ethel, there were only ten homes with families listed 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.

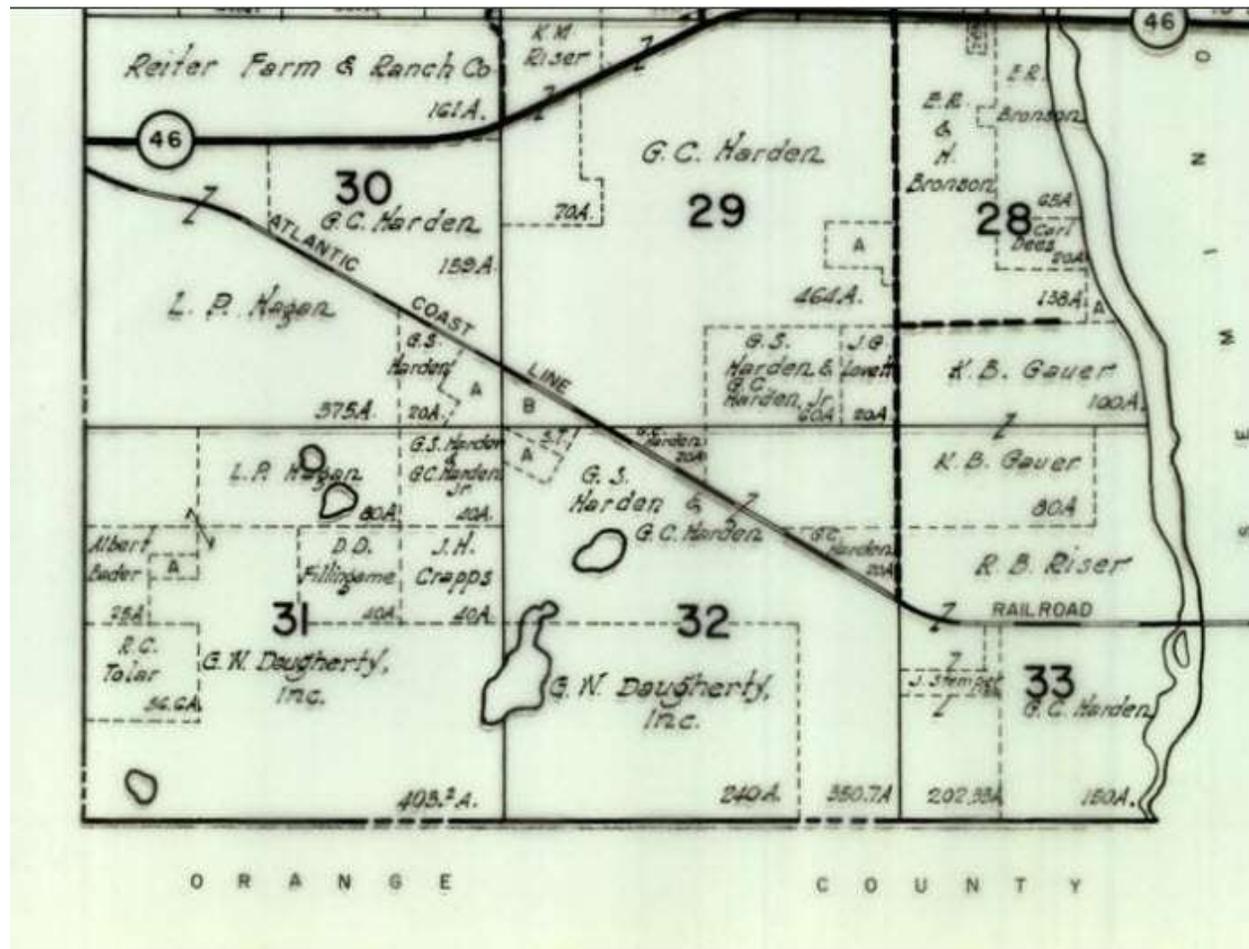
In the 1920 Lake County Census (Enumeration District 94, Precinct #24, Precinct Name: Ethel)

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.  
 Fillman, William  
 White, Edward  
 White, Thomas E  
 Von Herbulis, Edward O.  
 Ball, Benjamin J

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.



Rock Springs land owners in the 1960s.

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.







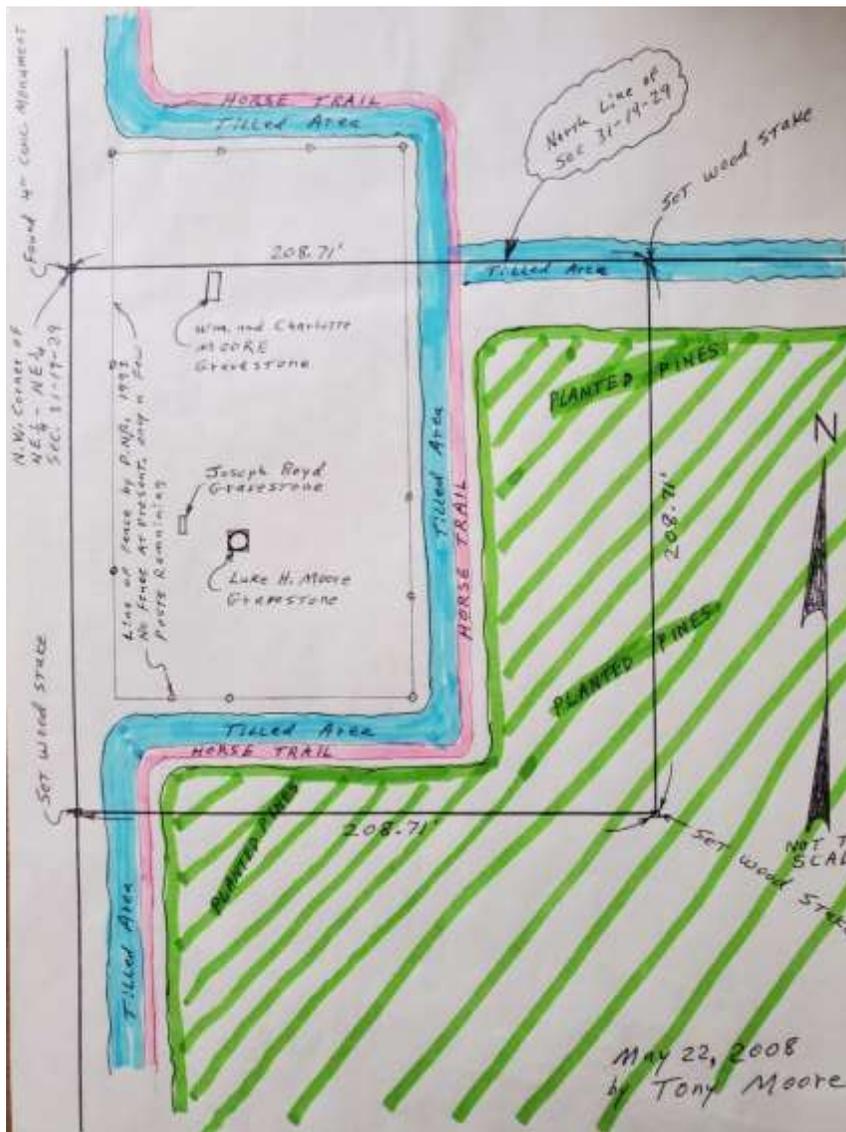
Ethel Windmill c. 1951

Ed White's windmill. 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,

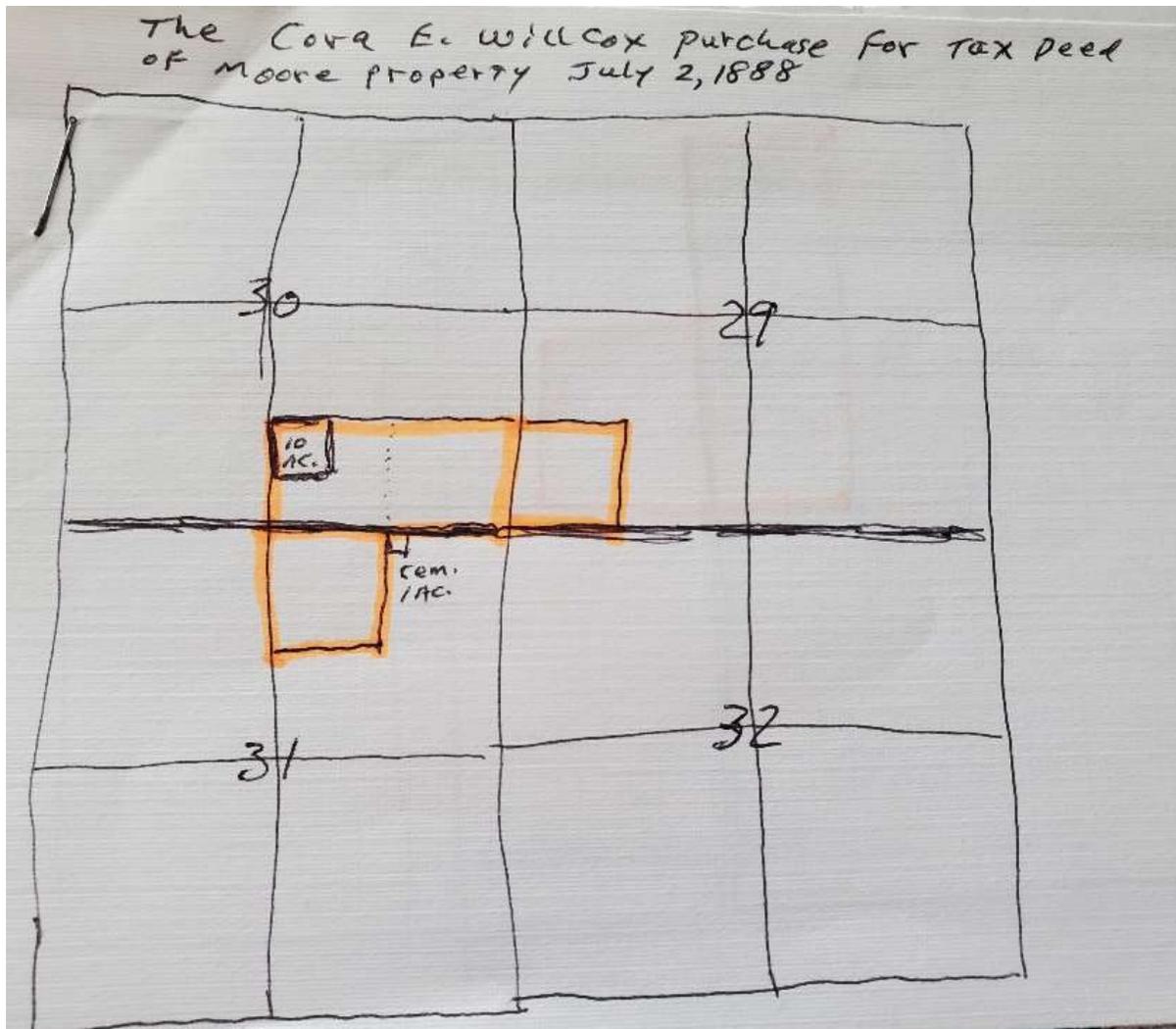
Mr. Hagen, who owned a turpentine still at Markham, bought much of the rest of the land under the Murphy Act.

## 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 and 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



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.



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. It is thought his burial was arranged by railway workers and that the elaborate headstone came later and 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 elaborate in the shape of a tree stump. The sawed-off limbs represent a life cut short. The headstones were used across the United States and Canada until about 1930.

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 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 on June 65, 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 first found in 1908.





The grave of James Boyd, who died in 1918 aged 2 months. His parents 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.  
Boyd, Baby, born April 16, 1915, died April 16, 1915.  
Boyd, Benjamin K "Ben", born 1867, died December 18, 1915.  
Boyd, Ella, born 1896, died December 5, 1912.  
Boyd, Ida, born 1891, died April 16, 1916.  
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.  
Bresow, Jerry, birth date unknown, died September 27, 1915.  
Fillmon, William Arthur "Will", born 1913, died May 13, 1916.  
Glass, Richard "Dick", born 1884, died January 17, 1893.  
Goins/Goines, Earl, born 1920, died February 11, 1936. Died of pneumonia.  
Gray, Baby, born December 1895, died May 15, 1896.  
Griffin, Mrs. A. H. born July 1827, died October 25, 1887.  
Lee, Charles C. born 1884, died November 4, 1918.  
Lee, Robert E. "Rob", born 1916, died July 20, 1919.  
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, died date 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 here. It is not known where he had come from or where he was travelling to. He was a member of Woodmen of the World, and they are believed to have 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.

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.  
Rush, Clyde, born September 1911, died January 7, 1913.  
Thompson, Mrs. Nathaniel, born 1849, died January 22, 1894.  
White, James Oscar, born May 7, 1895, died October 2, 1918.  
White, Mrs. Nora, born 1868, died January 30, 1904.

# **Anthony Frazier – The Slave who became a County Commissioner of Roads**

Anthony Frazier was born 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. Delks are the same person (see also Delks section above). In a deposition given in 1910, Robards said that he and Frazier had the same mother but that his father was Delk, while Anthony's father was a black man also called Anthony Frazier.

Frazier "saw milled and 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 ceded 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 as 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 in the citrus groves of the Delk Plantation when war broke out. Delk, who was a Union sympathizer, freed his slaves and they all fled the plantation knowing that Confederate troops would come to confiscate his land.

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.

Frazier and Robards had been freed in 1863 and made their way to Jacksonville. There is no timeline available of what happened to them between then and when they enlisted in South Carolina in September 1864. We do know though that Delk during this time 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 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.

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 began signing up in their tens of thousands. 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 second hand 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. After the war ended, the two were honorably discharged early on April 25, 1866, and returned to Florida as free men, not slaves.

Anthony Frazier served in Company K that was commanded by a Lt. Davis.

*F* | 21 | U.S.C.T.

*Anthony Frazier,*  
Co. K., 21 Reg't U.S. Col'd Inf.

Appears on  
**Company Descriptive Book**  
of the organization named above.

**DESCRIPTION.**  
Age *28* years; height *5* feet *9* inches.  
Complexion *Lk.*  
Eyes *Bk.*; hair *Bk.*  
Where born *Liberty, Ga.*  
Occupation *Farmer,*

**ENLISTMENT.**  
When *Sept. 14*, 186*4*.  
Where *Milton Road, S.C.*  
By whom *Lt. Davis*; term *3* yrs.  
Remarks: *Intell. Frazier.*  
*St. Augustine, Fla.*

*Panton*

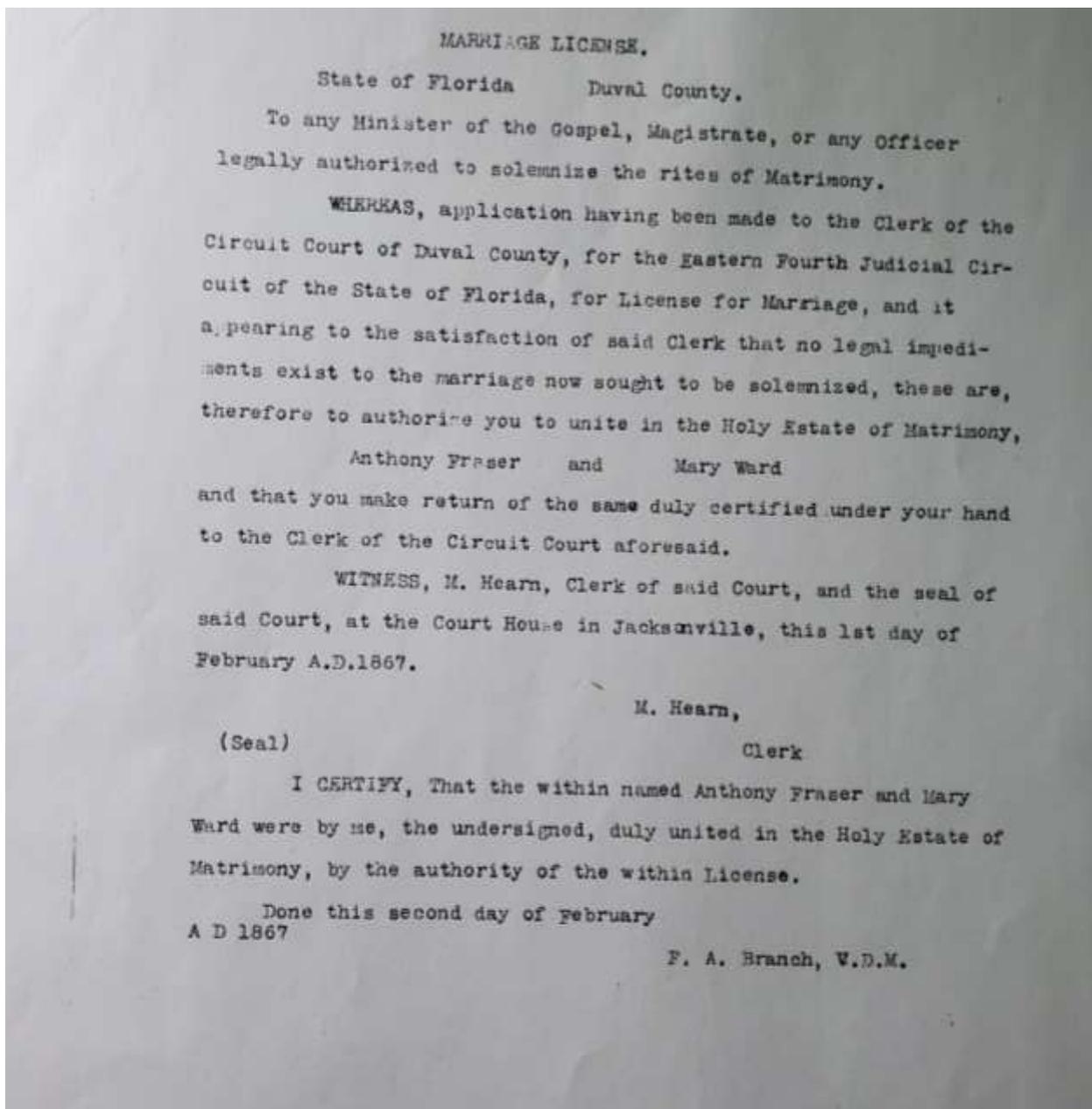
Anthony Frazier's Enlistment Record 1864

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 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.

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 children.



“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).

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, had to build a home (minimum dimensions 12 feet by 14 feet, farm the land and make improvements. 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 instrumental in establishing the Rock Springs colored school, 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 undeveloped ('raw') land from the U.S. Government for \$1.50 an acre. When Mary Frazier died in Sorrento in 1924, the 120 acres 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 grow 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 Road Commissioners and 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 St. Johns River, a half mile south of the Whitehair Bridge (also called the Crows Bluff Bridge) on the river's west side.

(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. Today, the land that was once Hawkinsville is owned by rancher Len Holt, who keeps his 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



Dan Frazier (both photographs)





Dan Frazier with mules



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

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) - this could be Joseph. R,

Frances 9 (born 1871),

Jacksonville 7 (born 1873),

Lula 5 (born 1875), and

Robert 1 (born 1878).

Arthur was born in 1882 and Morton in 1890.

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, and 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).

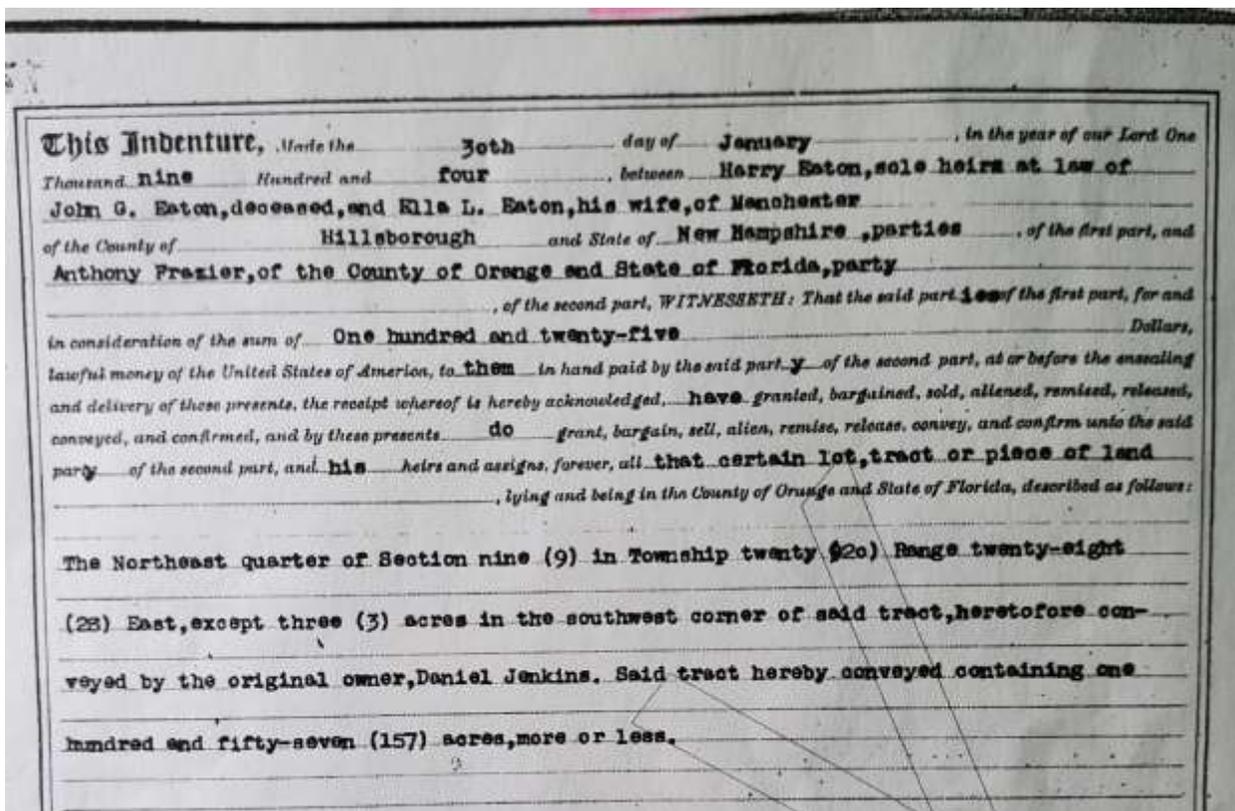
Both Morton and Bula were literate.

Charlie's nickname was 'Hand', and he is believed to have married Martha Field (born 1910) in Sorrento. She died soon after their marriage.

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.



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 year's 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:*  
e  
Anthony's  
April 16, 1905  
By [unclear] [unclear]  
[unclear] [unclear]  
[unclear] [unclear]  
[unclear] [unclear]  
[unclear] [unclear]

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. 23, 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,

*A. Heckethorn*



A letter written on Anthony Frazier's behalf, sent to the Pensions Office on April 16 1905.

After Anthony died, a number of 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.

Act of September 8, 1916.  
Increase Section.  
Wid. Cert. 714676.

D. M.  
abd!

State of Florida }  
County of Lake }

Personally appeared before  
me on this 24<sup>th</sup> day of July 1917, Mary  
Frazier who being duly sworn,  
deposes and says, to wit: That <sup>during</sup> the  
year 1870 she resided in Section  
35 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. M. Lee }  
A. M. Matlack }

her  
Mary Frazier  
mark

Sworn to and subscribed before  
me this 24<sup>th</sup> day of July 1917

A. M. Matlack 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 in order 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 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 714676-1  
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 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 }  
Mary X Frazier  
mark

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 13th December 1916  
A. Mattack Notary Public  
Notary Public, State of Florida  
My commission expires October 13, 1917.

RECEIVED  
JUN 6 1917

PENSION  
JUN 5  
U. S. OFFICE

In another deposition taken earlier she said, "I cannot tell my age, but I was 16 years old when I married my husband directly after his discharge."

Southern Division  
U.S. Dep. of Pensions  
Mary Frazier, Widow  
Anthony Frazier  
Cot. 21st U.S. E. Vol. Inf.

State of Florida  
County of Lake  
Personally appeared before me  
a Notary Public in and for the County  
and State of Florida, Joseph Robards aged 65  
years, of Lake County and State of Florida, and  
residing at Dorcenlo, 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 Soldier's death April 4th 1918.  
or for 44 years and 43 years re-  
spectively, and know that they have  
lived together as man and wife dur-  
ing entire times.

Joseph Robards  
James Madison

Sworn to and subscribed before me  
this 11th day Feb. 1917, I hereby certify  
the above affidavit before signing same  
and that no additions or alterations have

34

U. S. OFFICE  
JUL 14 1910

Joseph Robards's affidavit in support of Mary's pension transfer request.

On February 21, 1917, A. Matlock, a notary public, wrote to the Commissioner of Pensions, 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.).

Following her death Robert Frazier petitioned the county to pay the accrued pension to cover Mary Frazier’s medical and burial bills amounting to \$142.21. Her casket cost \$60.

Rejecting the petition, Acting Commissioner Hays Haymaker wrote:

Widow Division  
W.C. 714,676  
Anthony Frazier  
E- 21 U.S.C. Inf.

Mr. Robert H. Frazier,  
Sorrento, Fla.

Sir:

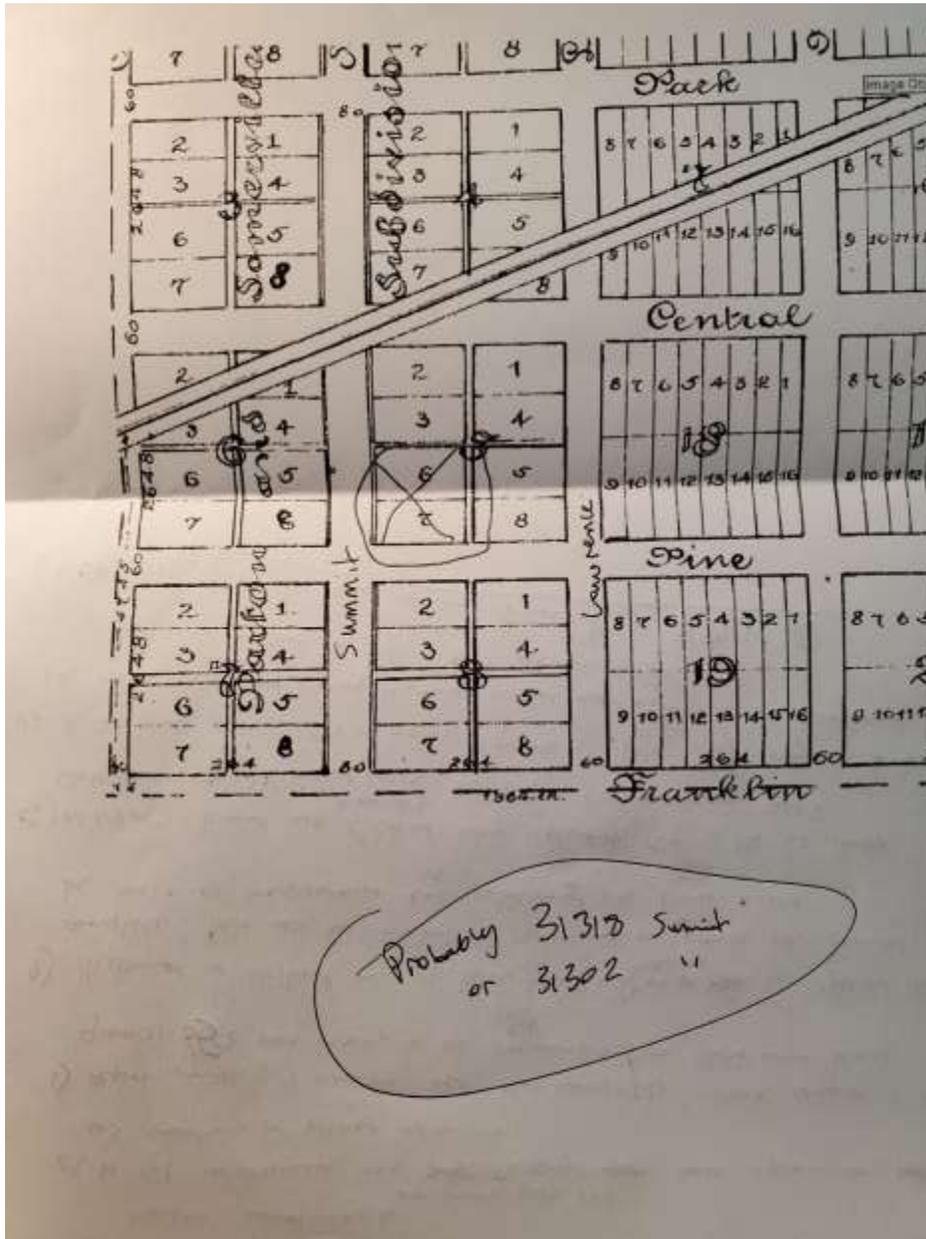
I have to advise you that your claim for reimbursement in the case of Mary Frazier is rejected on the ground that the pensioner left assets consisting of real estate valued at \$600.00, sufficient to meet the expenses of her last sickness and burial alleged to have been \$142.21. Under such circumstances the accrued pension cannot be paid to anyone for any purpose.

Respectfully,

HAYS HAYMAKER  
Acting Commissioner.

HH-eg

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.



Mary's home in Sorrento at the time of her death



It is not know where Frazier’s children moved to although a black graveyard 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.

Shirley Meade, of the East Lake Historical Society, said the graveyard established in 1890, does not hold anyone named Frazier. But, she said, she has heard through the years that there was at least one black cemetery in the middle of the old Delk orange plantation.

There are four Frazier's buried at a cemetery for blacks near Eustis but whether they were related to Anthony Frazier is unknown.

### Frazier's Headstone

Frazier's headstone was found on land once owned by him but sold in 1885. 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. Further investigation utilizing ground penetrating radar or other modern equipment would be necessary before moving the gravestone from its current location underneath a stand of trees where it is protected from the elements.

The headstone bears the inscription:

Anthony Frazier  
Co. K  
21 U.S. C. I.

This indicates that he 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.

The 21<sup>st</sup> U.S. Colored Infantry were the first troops to march into Charleston after the mayor surrendered the town on February 18, 1865.

It 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. It took part in the Occupation of Charleston on February 18 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. The 21<sup>st</sup> Colored Infantry was mustered out (disbanded) on October 7, 1866.

### **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 granite.

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 Soldiers tombstone

A Union Soldiers tombstone

A Mr. Lev 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 commanding officer of the 21<sup>st</sup> was Milton Smith Littlefield (July 19, 1830–March 7, 1899), an American businessman 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 4<sup>th</sup> South Carolina Infantry and when the United States Colored Troops were organized, his regiment became the 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

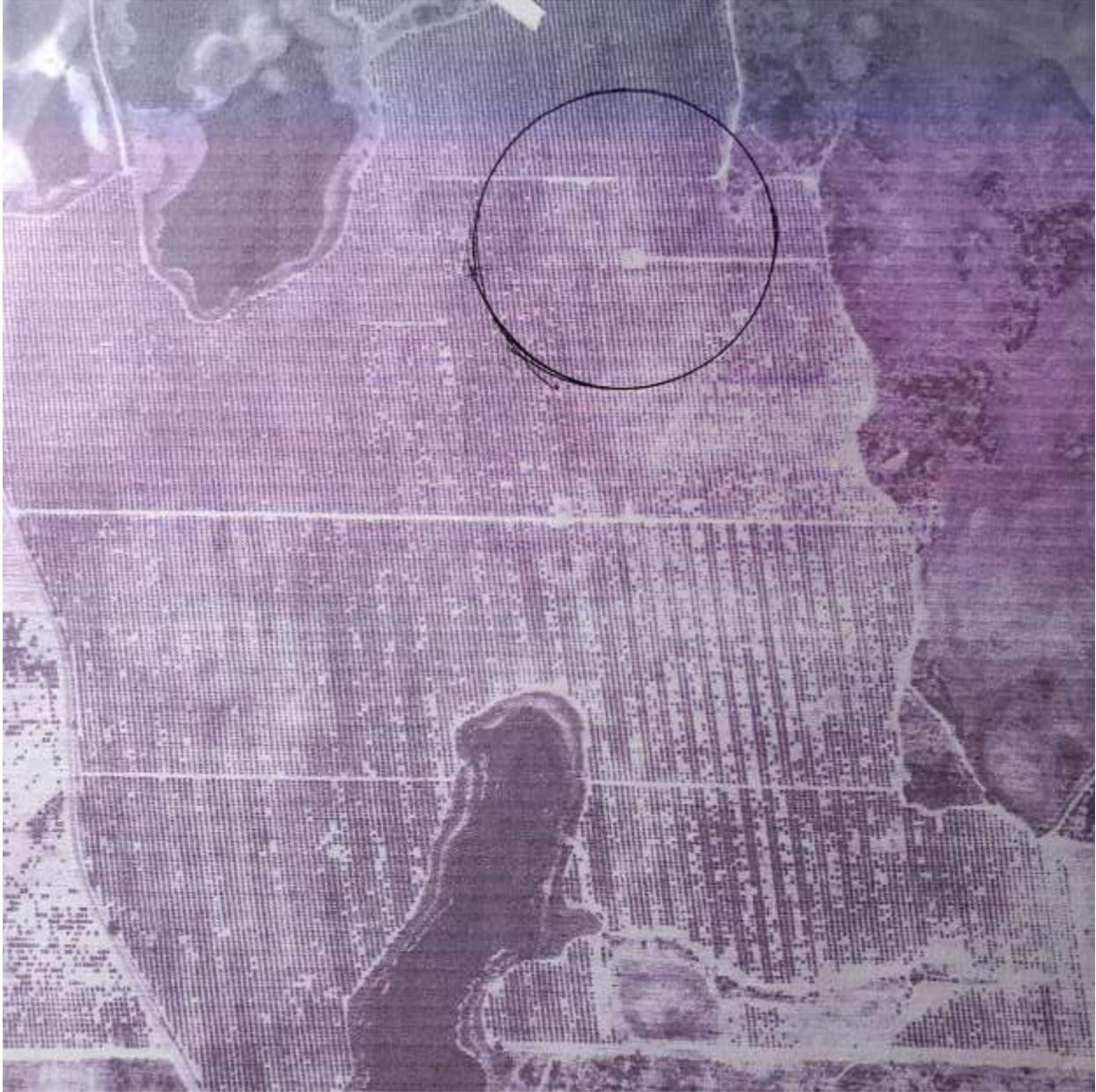
.....

The Frazier headstone was found in the Neighborhood Lakes area which in the 1960s and 1970s was mostly orange groves. Several people who worked the area 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.

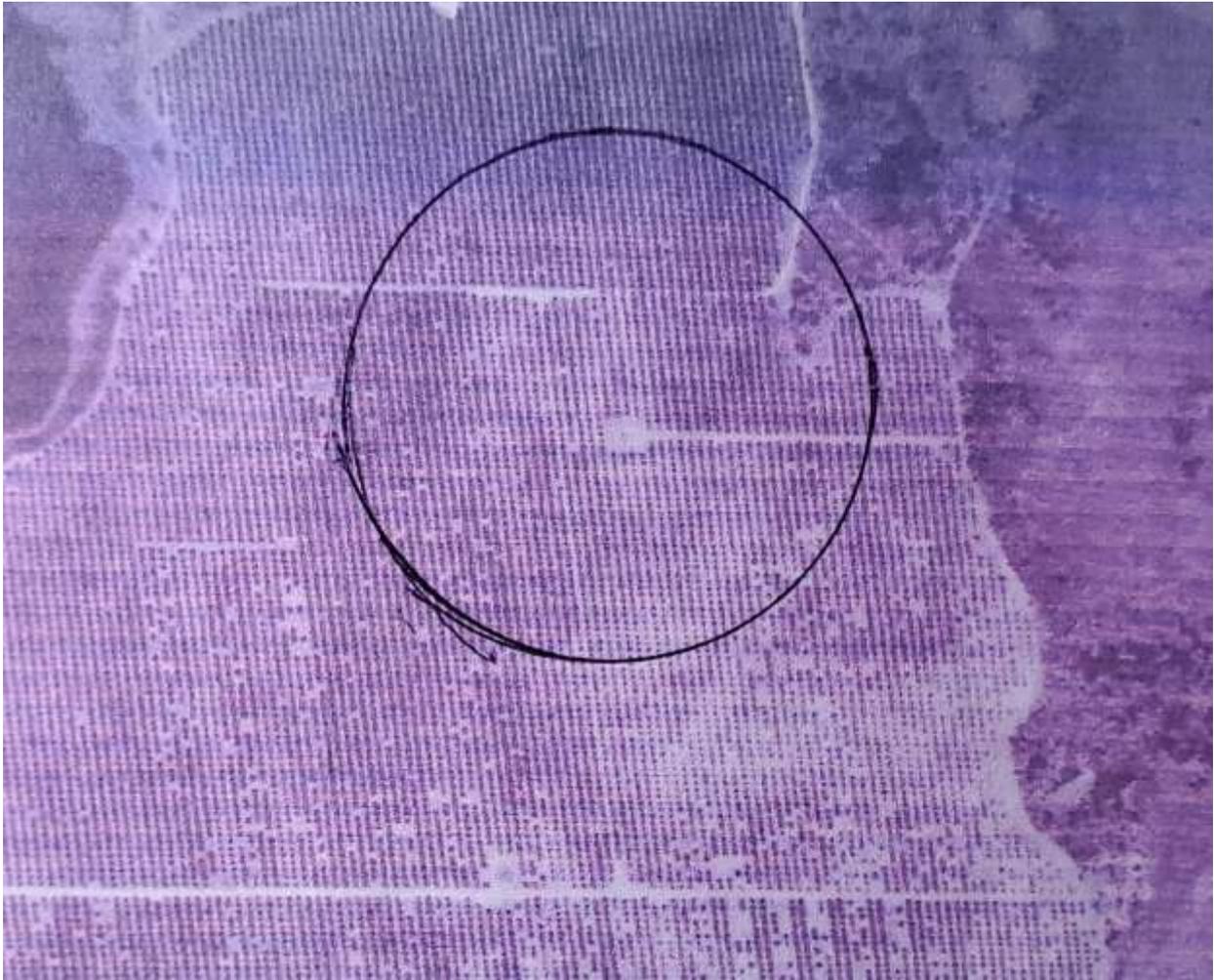
This cemetery may been the one referred to a ‘Calvary’ which is where plantation slaves were buried. It was supposed to be in the middle of an orange grove with about 20 headstones.

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 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.”

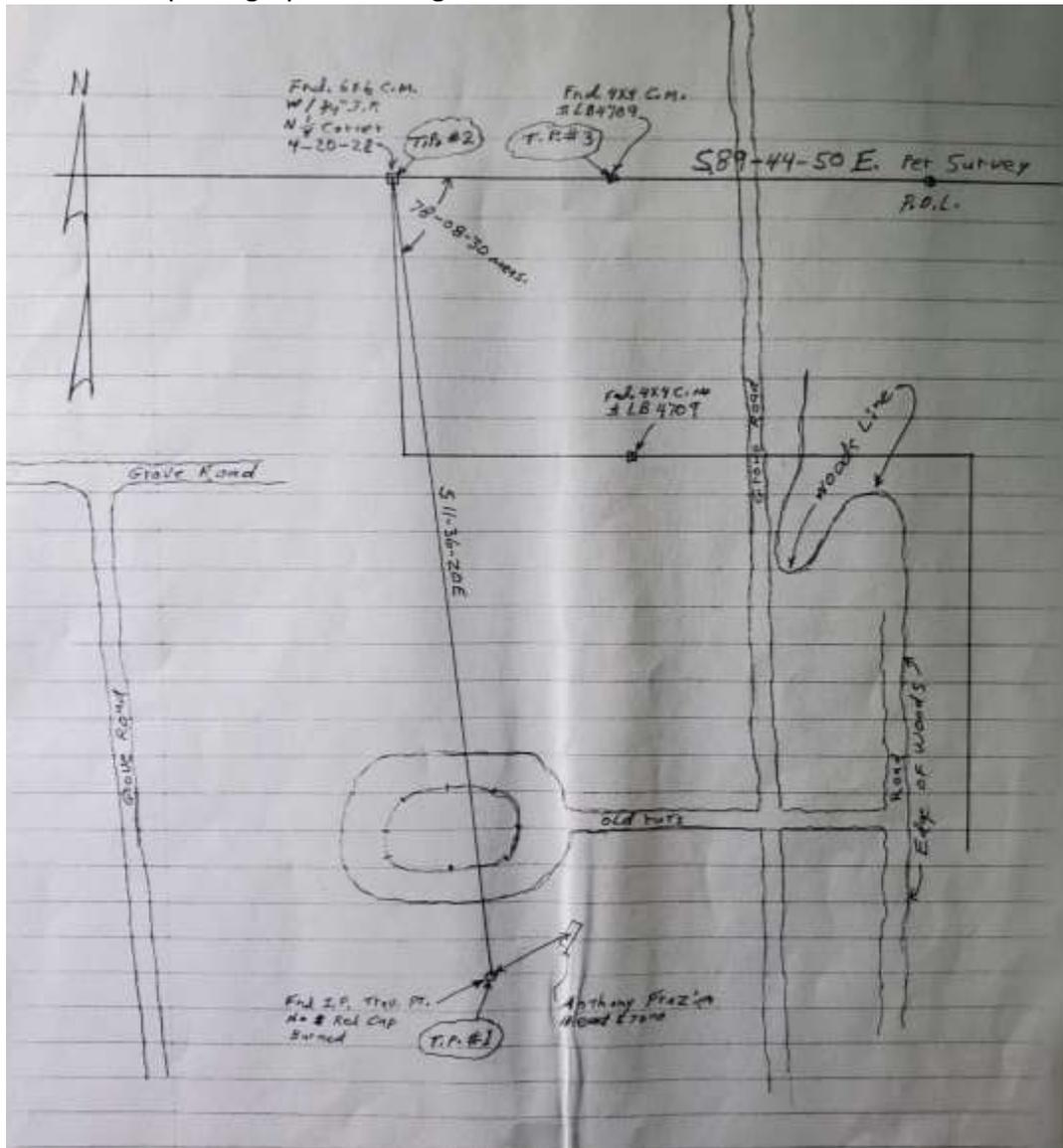
When they visited the site, “the only tree we could see that was not on the horizon was a tree that had three trunks. At the base of the tree laid flat on the ground was the tombstone of Anthony Frazier. About 20 yards northeast of the tree, Tony and I discussed the area we saw, and it looked like a 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. In 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 the land at the time.



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  
Commission EE190616  
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 Bronson 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 MT, Plymouth, 71 South of Hwy 46 and East of Louker Spring Road. Near neighborhood Lakes in township 19 South Range 28 East in Section ? 28, 33 or 34.

Dennis Bronson  
11150 Bronson Rd.  
Clermont, 34711  
352-267-5325

Dennis Bronson  
Signature of affiant

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me this 21st day of November, 2014, by Dennis Bronson who  is personally known to me or  produced a \_\_\_\_\_ as identification.



CHARLOTTE REEVES  
MY COMMISSION # EE 083179  
EXPIRES: April 12, 2015  
Bonded Thru 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.

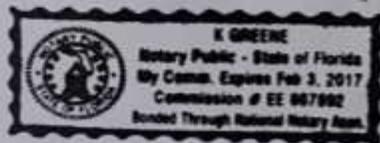
It looks like all of that area has been cleared and planted, perhaps more than once since then. Back then that was unimproved cattle range and that area was blackjack and turkey oaks and a few palmettos and not much else.

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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 the common name – golden trumpets.



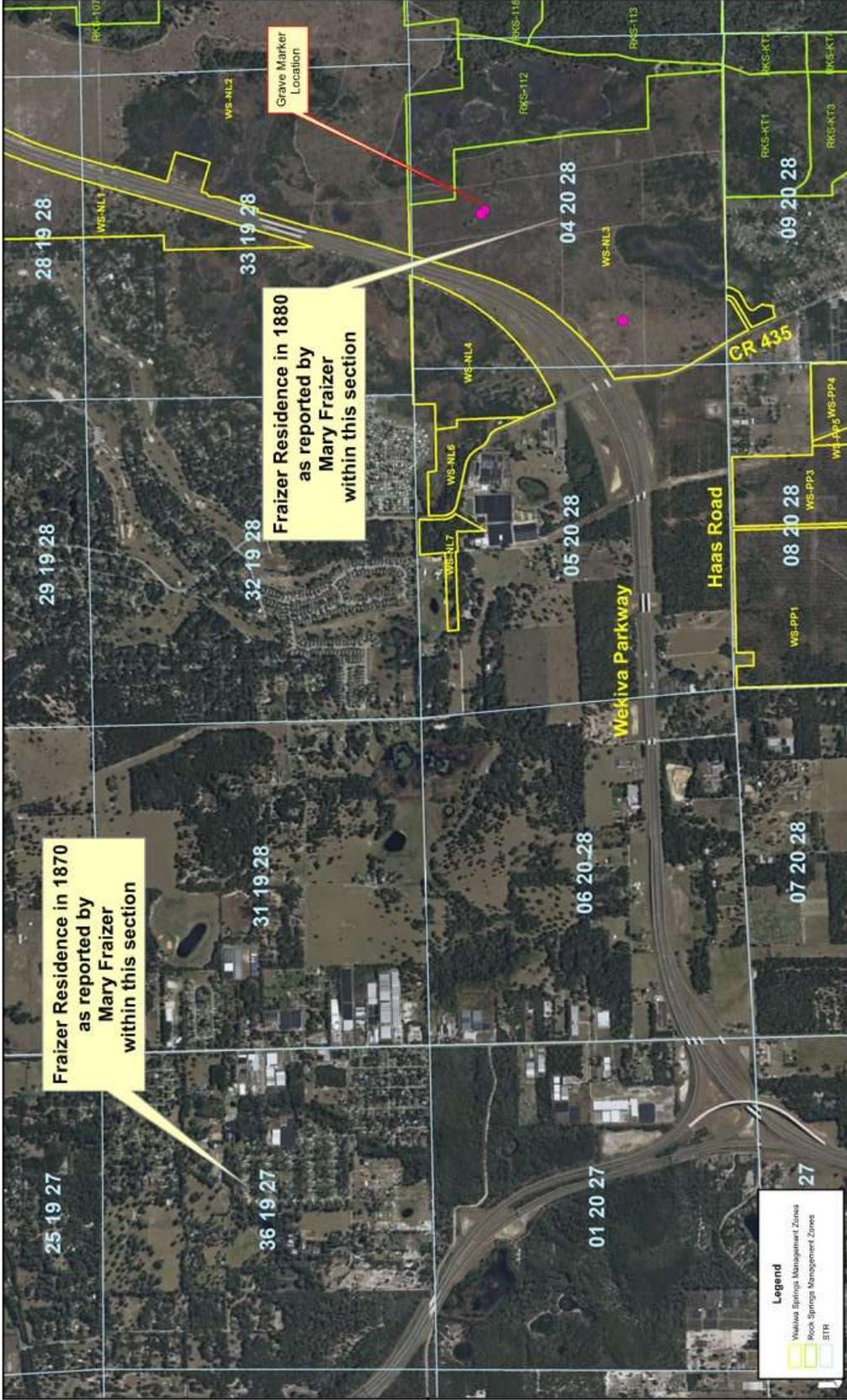
Location of headstone on June 19, 2010. The headstone is 37 inches in overall length. It would be set 12 inches into the ground with 27 inches above ground.







Allamandas



Anthony Frazier  
Gravestone Site  
Vicinity

Miles  
0 0.5 1 1.5

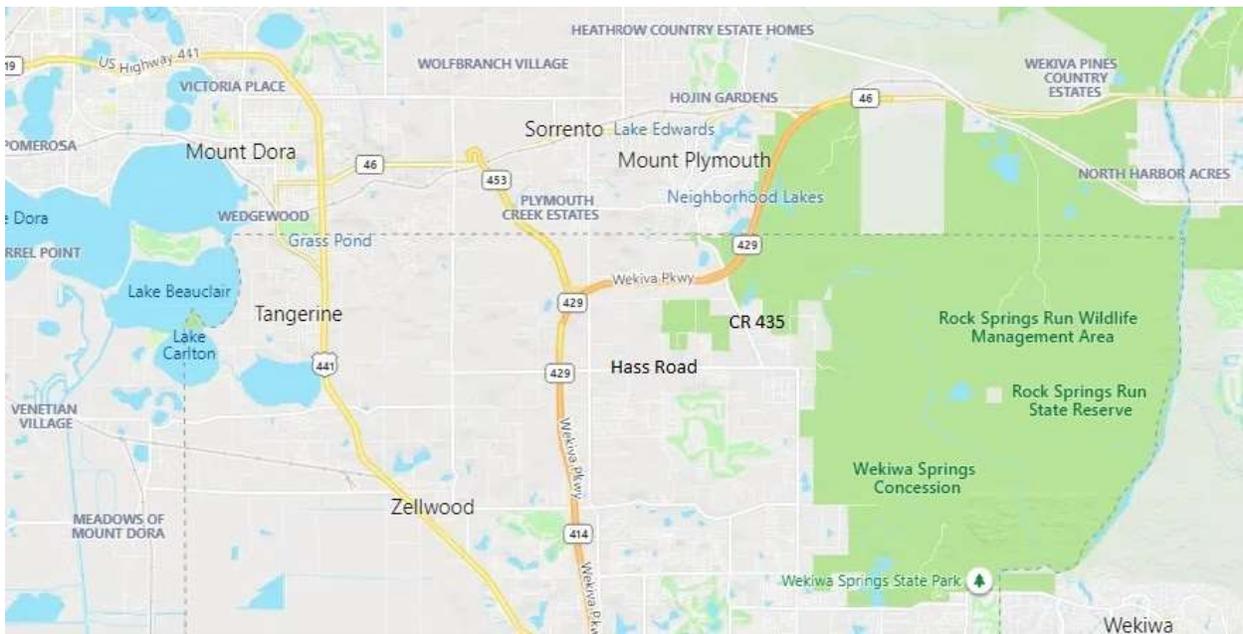
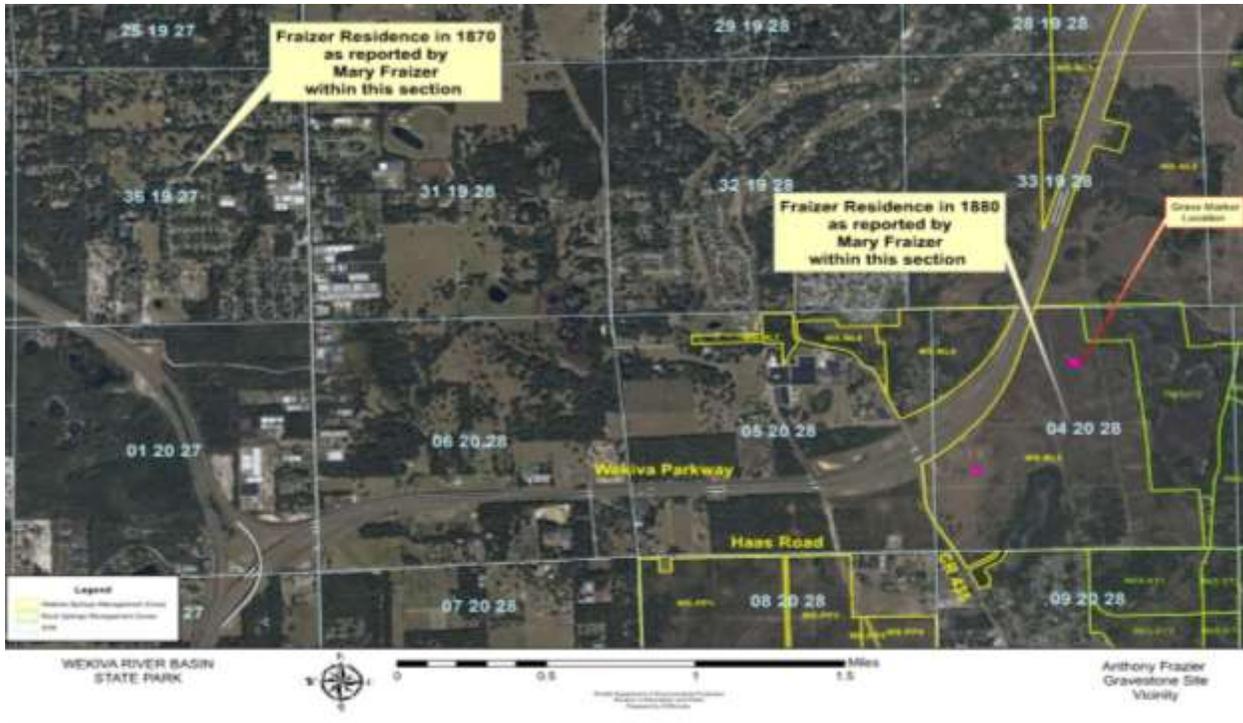
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Recreation and Parks  
Prepared by FIC Systems



WEKIVA RIVER BASIN  
STATE PARK

**Legend**

- ▬ Wekiva Springs Management Zones
- ▬ Rock Springs Management Zones
- STR



Following are several Indentures and Deeds involving Frazier's land purchases

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183

And the said part 4 of the first part, for himself and his heirs, 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 persons or persons whomsoever, lawfully claiming, or to claim the same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said part 4 of the first part hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and Delivered in presence of us:  
G. W. Stiles [Seal]  
O. C. Adams [Seal]  
A. G. Halloran [Seal]

STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_ )  
COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_ ) ss.  
Know all Men by these Presents, That I, \_\_\_\_\_ wife  
of the above named \_\_\_\_\_ do, by these presents, make  
and created by me separate and apart from my said husband, and in the presence of \_\_\_\_\_  
a \_\_\_\_\_ of the State of \_\_\_\_\_ acknowledge and declare that I did make myself  
a party to, and executed the foregoing Deed of Conveyance for the purpose of \_\_\_\_\_  
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 set my name and affix my seal, this \_\_\_\_\_  
day of \_\_\_\_\_ A. D. 18\_\_  
In Presence of \_\_\_\_\_ [Seal]

STATE OF \_\_\_\_\_ )  
COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_ ) ss.  
To all whom it may Concern: Be it known that on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A. D.  
18\_\_ personally appeared before me, a \_\_\_\_\_ of the State of \_\_\_\_\_  
the above named \_\_\_\_\_ 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 )  
COUNTY OF Orange ) ss.  
On this day personally appeared before me \_\_\_\_\_ Alexander G. Halloran )  
the 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 proper that the same may  
be recorded.  
In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_  
A. D. 18\_\_ [Seal]

STATE OF FLORIDA )  
COUNTY OF Orange )  
To all whom it may Concern: Be it known that on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ A. D.  
18\_\_ I, \_\_\_\_\_ 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.  
[Seal]  
By \_\_\_\_\_ 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

Anthony Francis of the County of Orange and 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

thirty five 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

executing 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 do give, bargain, sell, alien, remise, release, convey and confirm unto the said part 2 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 fourth East quarter of the sixth West quarter of section five in Township Eighteen north of Range South, Eight East Meridian West to the fourth East Corner of land belonging to John P. Thomson thence North parallel to section line five chains and thirty one link thence East three chains and sixty eight links thence South six chains and thirty one link to place of beginning containing two acres more or less

TOGETHER with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments, and appurtenances therunto 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 1 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 2 of the second part, his heirs and assigns, to the said part 2 of the second part, his heirs and assigns, forever.

And the said part 1 of the first part, viz: Alexander G. Halloran for himself, his heirs, executors and administrators, do covenant, promise and agree to and with

the said part 2 of the second part, his heirs and assigns, that the said part 2 of the first part, at the time of the sealing and delivery of these presents, was 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 therunto belonging, and had 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 2 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 1 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.

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This Indenture, made the 11th day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty seven BETWEEN Melvin Stapler his wife and State of Florida

of Orange County State of Florida of the second part, WITNESSETH, that the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of Dollars, lawful money

of the United States of America, to ~~have~~ in hand paid by the said party of the second part, at or before the executing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, ~~has~~ granted, bargained, sold, aliened, released, conveyed and confirmed, and by these presents ~~has~~ grant, bargain, sell, alien, remise, release, 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:

The north east and south 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 therunto 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 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, his heirs and assigns, to his own proper use, benefit and behoof forever

And the said party of the first, viz: Melvin Stapler and his wife

do hereby 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 described premises, with the appurtenances therunto 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 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 party 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.

Grant the agents the d of ST of th and a pe Au and or fi day In ST 18 to per for an my ST me the be

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And the said parties of the first part, husbands and wives, the above described and hereby granted, and release of 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 party of the first part and his heirs, and against all and every person or persons whomsoever, lawfully claiming, or to claim the same, shall and will warrant, and by their agents forever defend.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said parties of the first part, has hereunto set their hand and seal the day and year first above written.  
Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of us:  
J. A. Hinkle Allen Hapler (Seal)  
E. B. Hinkle Willy Hapler (Seal)

STATE OF Florida }  
COUNTY OF Orange } ss. Willy Hapler, wife  
Know all Men by these presents, That I, Allen Hapler, do, by these presents, make and execute by me separate and apart from my said husband, and in the presence of Asa M. Black a Notary Public 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 dower and right of dower 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 22 day of March, A. D. 1884  
In Presence of E. B. Hinkle Willy Hapler (Seal)

STATE OF Florida }  
COUNTY OF Orange } ss. March day of March, A. D. 1884  
I, Asa M. Black of the State of Florida the above signed Willy Hapler 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 Fortuito New the day and year above written.  
Asa M. Black (Seal)  
Notary Public

STATE OF Florida }  
COUNTY OF Orange } ss. Allen Hapler Willy Hapler to  
On this day personally appeared before me, Asa M. Black, a Notary Public, 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  
Asa M. Black (Seal)  
Notary Public

STATE OF FLORIDA. }  
COUNTY OF Orange } ss. 20th day of May, A. D. 1884, I, A. J. Shaw (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.  
A. J. Shaw (Seal)  
Deputy Clerk

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This Indenture made the fifth day of August in the  
year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and  
eighty five Between Hattie Wau. Isaac Wau. Sarah  
Benjamin Alexander Benjamin Abraham Johnson  
Rebecca Johnson, Cynthia Williams Milton Williams  
Harrison Rawls, Francis E Rawls, Joseph Roberts  
Delia Roberts, Stephen Rawls, Charlotte Rawls and  
of Orange County Florida of the first part and Geo  
thony Frazier, of Orange County Florida, of the sec  
ond part; Witnesses that said parties of the  
first part for and in consideration of the sum of  
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 acknow  
ledged, have revised, released and quit claimed,  
and by these presents do remise, release, renounce and  
forever quitclaim 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, Con  
taining Forty (40) acres more or less. —  
Together with all and singular the tenements, heri  
ditaments and appurtenances thereto belonging or  
in any wise appertaining, and the reversion and  
reversions remainders and remainders, rents, issues  
and profits thereof and also the estate right title  
interest, dower, right of dower, separate estate, prop  
erty, 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 men  
tioned and described premises together with the appur  
tenances unto the said party of the second part





me well known as the persons described  
in and who executed the foregoing deed,  
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.

Book of Records of Col of  
S. C. No. 19<sup>th</sup> 1881  
# 28  
J. P. F. No. 1  
State of Georgia

H. B. Patton's  
A. P. F. No. 1  
State of Georgia

✓ The Grantors John T. Eddy and Emily W. Eddy  
jointly of Allegheny County State of Iowa and Albert  
E. Erick and Bertha Erick his wife of the County of Du  
Quoin in the County of Dubuque and State of Io  
wa for and in consideration of Two hundred dollars  
in hand paid, Cash and Warrant to Henry  
T. Daniels 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 one (21) West, containing ten (10)  
acres more or less, mapping and surveying for a  
highway a strip of land sixteen and one half  
X (16½) 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, across the said strip of land  
said survey being intended for one half of  
said highway, situated in the County of Orange  
in the State of Florida; hereby allowing and  
reserving all rights made and by virtue of the  
General Exemption Laws of this State.  
Dated this twentieth day of September A.D.  
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 S. 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 Praxier, of the County of Orange and State of Florida, party of the second part, WITNESSETH: That the said party 1st 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 2d of the second part, at or before the executing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have granted, bargained, sold, allowed, released, 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 therunto 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 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 his heirs and assigns, to his own proper use, benefit, and behoof, forever.

And the said party 1st of the first part, viz.: Harry Eaton and Ella L. Eaton, his wife for their heirs, executors, and administrators, do assent, promise, and agree to and with the party of the second part his heirs and assigns, that the said party 1st 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 therunto 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, vexatious, extortion, or disturbance of the said party 1st 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, suits, judgments, taxes, assessments, and incumbrances of what nature and kind soever.

And the said president, and against the same or to claim the same shall and will be in Witness hereof, sealed, and

David  
Frank

STATE OF

New of F  
Harry

and in the presence of the

John

in and to the execution,

In Witness hereof

Frank

STATE OF

To all who see, &

Ella

and as one of her husband, man, her man

Witness's

STATE OF

On this day to me well in the same for

In Witness

STATE OF

Be it Rem

Clerk of the

In Witness

Small Record 20.

And the said part 1st 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 1st of the first part and their heirs, and against all and every person or persons whatsoever 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 1st of the first part, have hereunto set their hand and seal on the day and year first above written. Signed, sealed, 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, make and execute by me separate and apart from my said husband,

and in the presence of Frank C. Livingston 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 acknowledged

ment, her name being with her own hand subscribed, and her seal affixed in my presence.

In Witness my hand and seal at Manchester, N.H., the day and year above written. (Notarial seal) Frank C. Livingston (Seal.)

STATE OF New Hampshire COUNTY OF Hillsborough ss. Notary Public 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. By J. M. Steward D. C.