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EDUCATION: FROM ITS BEGINNINGS IN THE TERRITORY TO PRESENT

By NORMA GOOLSBY FRAZIER

Educational opportunities available to children residing in Hillsborough County today are quite a contrast to the situation faced by central Florida’s earliest settling families whose youngest members’ first schoolmaster was most likely their mother, and their first textbook, the family Bible.

Today, the Hillsborough County Public School System is the third largest in the state and ranks twelfth in the nation with a total enrollment (K-12) in the Fall of 1992 of 127,958. The Hillsborough County Public School System, headed by Walter L. Sickles, Ph.D., Superintendent, strives for excellence and during the 1992-'93 school term operated 148 regular public schools for K-12, offered classes at educational centers to meet the specialized needs of students and also offered programs for adults.

Early pioneering families were so busy settling themselves, establishing government and dealing with hostile Indians, that few efforts were made to organize and establish schools.

Public education in Florida dates back to the territorial days. In 1822, although every sixteenth section of land in each township was reserved for the maintenance of primary schools, for ten years there would be no schools in Florida except for the few private schools which existed at that time. In 1823, one year after Florida became a territory, "seminary lands," for two institutions of higher education, were reserved by Congressional legislation; these were the “ancestors” of the University of Florida and Florida State University.¹

Private schools were established by churches and religious groups. In 1831, a public meeting was held at Key West for the purpose of securing a clergyman to minister to the residents of the town. It was agreed by those attending that in addition to being a preacher, the new minister should be a competent schoolmaster. In 1834, Rev. Alva Bennett arrived in Key West and immediately established a school which served the community for several years. By the close of the territorial period in 1845, a number of other private schools were in operation in East, West and Middle Florida.²

School readers including The McGuffey Reader, which began to appear in 1835, became a favorite of Floridians and remained in that status for some forty years. It contained such favorites as "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star," "Mary’s Little Lamb," and "The Hare and the Tortoise." In territorial Florida, the Bible was the most universal, followed by Robinson Crusoe by
DeFoe, Murray’s *English Reader* and St. Pierre’s *Paul and Virginia. The Sermons of Richard Flavel* were also popular.³

Attempts to establish a public school system were made in 1839 and again in 1844; however, until 1845, schools in Franklin and Monroe counties were the only true public schools in Florida. Finally, in 1849, the first real state school system was authorized but forty years would transpire before in 1889, the "New Law," the School Law of 1889, defined in detail the "powers and duties of school officials, providing uniformity among county school systems."⁴

In 1848, children of Tampa’s pioneering families attended the first community school in the Hillsborough County Courthouse constructed by James McKay. The grounds also contained the county's first jail which was built on the courthouse square by Simon Sikes at a cost of $345. In order to keep wandering cows and hogs at a distance, at no additional cost, Sikes built a fence around the early courthouse. School sessions were held in the courtroom with W. P. Wilson of Boston who had come to Tampa for his health and had been urged by town leaders to start the school as its teacher. The "class room" was provided by county commissioners with Wilson being paid through tuition fees which were paid by children attending the early school.⁵

School sessions would be violently interrupted only two weeks later when the West Coast of Florida was struck by the devastation of the history-making hurricane of 1848 which left tremendous damage in its wake and caused heavy loss of life in the Florida Keys and the lower East Coast of the state. The fourteen pupils attending were on hand for the first day's instruction on Monday, September 11, 1848. They were: Louis and Eliza Jane Bell, Joseph and Mary Ferris, William B. and John Alexander Henderson, Mary R. Jackson, John Thomas Lesley, George and Sarah McKay, and Eliza Jane, William James, John Howard and Caroline Elizabeth Spencer.⁶

In the Fall of 1853, a young Methodist minister, Jasper K. Glover, opened a "high class" private school in Tampa soon after his marriage to Lavonia Branch, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Franklin Branch. The first year was considered to be a successful one with forty-five pupils attending but the following year, Mrs. Emelia Porter of Charleston, South Carolina established an exclusive private school for girls which presented a problem to Rev. Glover. Being left with only the boys and unable to make a living as a schoolmaster, Rev. Glover soon left town.⁷
When the first public schools were opened in Hillsborough County in 1854, Mrs. Porter’s private school was faced with some serious competition; the school term was short-lived, lasting only a few weeks due to a lack of funds. Available resources amounted to only $307.04 with which to fund the operating costs of ten districts then existing in the county. The county had outgrown its first courthouse, built in 1848; which probably explained its lack of funds. In May 1853, a contract was awarded to Rev. J. A. Breaker with a two-story building consisting of offices on the first floor and court and jury rooms on the second, being constructed on the site of the original courthouse. The impressive structure which was decorated with four large columns at each end and entrances on Madison and Lafayette Streets, was completed on June 5, 1855, at a cost of $5,000.8

Shown as teachers of Tampa’s public schools which opened in late Fall of 1854 were: James Petty, Esther Hawks, E C. M. Boggess, Mrs. Otwayanna Roberts, H. L. Mitchell, W. P. Wilson, William N. Campbell, Jeremiah Newman and Thomas McCormick. Teachers at that time earned from $22 to $40 each school term.9

In Florida those citizens interested in education for their children and facilities for such were often planters who were educated to some degree themselves and who could afford to employ tutors to instruct their own children and those of their neighbors. In 1849, Jesse T. Bernard, a Virginian and student at William and Mary, was employed at Bradfordville in Leon County to teach the children of plantations in that vicinity. Young ladies were sent to female seminaries and young gentlemen were sent "off to college" with the children of poor whites and squatters often going without formal schooling.10

The general feeling held by many seemed to be that education was a private concern and not a public one with taming the wilderness and establishing government taking priority over public schools for which no funds were available. There was little desire to collect and appropriate local taxes for such an effort during that period in the state’s history. Florida held its own in private education during the antebellum period in the establishment of private and semiprivate schools but lagged far behind in its concern for public education for its children.

Within a year after the Civil War’s end, Mrs. Hawkins Private School for Girls and Samuel C. Craft’s Private School for Boys were opened in Tampa. Both charged tuition fees of $8 per term if paid in advance and $12 if paying in installments. Those attending Craft’s private school were compelled to adhere to strict rules with the warning that "those who make a practice of visiting any drinking or gambling place or other resorts of vice" would be promptly expelled; the school was not a financial success and closed after only one term. In addition to his position as proprietor of the school, Craft was pastor of the Baptist Church and editor of the Peninsular newspaper. On July 21, 1867, he reported that his income from all sources had been only $149 for the first six months of the year. "That’s not enough to live on," he moaned, "particularly now that we have to pay 10 cents a pound for beef."11

In The Story of Florida, W. T Cash said that in 1860, there were 5,341 illiterates over the age of twenty in the state with a total school population of 30,461 and an annual public income of $27,189. Many people then living in Florida lived in such isolated places that
establishing schools for their children was not only complicated by a lack of funds but was also hindered geographically. By 1850, however, Floridians were becoming a reading people with ten newspapers in the state and a total subscription list of 5,750; in 1860, with an increase to twenty-two papers, subscribers had increased to 15,750.\textsuperscript{12}

In addition to Mrs. Hawkins Private School for Girls and Samuel C. Craft’s Private School for Boys, another private school was opened by Mrs. Robert E Nunez. In 1862, shortly after their marriage, Robert Nunez, who had previously owned a general store, enlisted in the Confederate Army and served as captain in Co., B., 7th Florida Regiment. He saw service in Tennessee and Kentucky and not being accustomed to the colder climate, he contracted pneumonia. In 1868, Capt. Nunez died, leaving a widow and two children. Official minutes of the Hillsborough County Board of Public Instruction date back to 1871, at which time there were already several schools in existence in southeastern Hillsborough County. A Board of Public Instruction was elected in the fall of 1870 which included John T Givens, Thomas K. Spencer and Dr. Franklin Branch. Superintendent was A. Watrous. The city’s first public school building was constructed on Franklin, between Madison and Twiggs Streets in 1876.\textsuperscript{13}

The September 21, 1870 issue of the Florida Peninsular newspaper contained the following: "Pleasant Hill School will open in September for 10 months, two miles northeast from Tampa. Rev. D. P. J. Murphy, Principal; Trustees: James Morris, Joseph Robles, Thomas Jackson." This school probably became known as "Nebraska Avenue School." Enrollment in March 1872, was 147 pupils in School No. 1 with 39 pupils in School No. 2 (neither is identified by name or location). When these schools originated is not known. The following action took place at the School Board meeting of April 6, 1873: "The bill of John Williams for services as teacher of No. 2 for 1870 amounting to $50 was on motion allowed and ordered paid out of any moneys (sic) in the Treasury."

Rocky Creek was mentioned in School Board minutes of December 10, 1871. Sparkman School was also mentioned that same date and is believed to have been located between Dover and Cork, west of Plant City. Alafia School in the Alafia community, north of the Alafia River was one of the six schools shown in the earliest School Board minutes (August 28, 1871).

In his \textit{Story of Southwestern Florida}, James W. Covington relates an account given by a member of the pioneer Whidden family (many of whose members are listed in the
1850 census of Hillsborough County) which speaks of the young girl’s early school-days:

"There were not any free schools in those days. The neighbors lived close together and would join in and hire a teacher. My first teacher was an old man named Davis. He taught school in my grandfather, Howard’s barn. The men made benches and put them along the sides of the wall. They were split logs smoothed off with a plane, with wooden legs pegged into them. We didn’t have any blackboards nor any slates. A few had pencils and paper but paper was scarce. When a child got a sheet of writing paper, he thought he had something wonderful.

"At my school, the big boys and girls had slates. We little ones had the Blue Backed Speller. It had reading in it, and that is all we had to study out of. I went with my two older half-sisters, and besides us, there were my grandfather’s three boys and two girls, the Roberts children, Lizzie Tucker, two Hendry girls, and a boy by the name of Dan Pate. Yes, there was an Arno girl, too.

"My next school was taught by a young man named Buddie Payne. The schoolhouse was in a hammock this side of where the Zion Church is now. I did not learn much from him, for he put in all his time with the big boys and girls. We little ones had only one lesson a day. My third school was taught by Miss Lizzie Berry. It was called the Taylor school and was five miles from home. My two half-sisters, my little brother Naaman, and I went from our house. The other children were the Taylors, Knights, Wingates, Stevens, Harrisses, and Pitts. I studied the Blue Backed Speller and a reader. I had a pencil and paper. I don’t remember any blackboard in this school.

"We carried our dinner in tin buckets, if we could get buckets. Some of us had to use homemade baskets that some of the family had made out of strips of inner bark of certain trees. They were alright, but everybody had baskets of this kind of all sizes from little to big, while tin buckets had to be bought at the store, and that made us feel that they were more valuable. Our dinner consisted of corn bread, rice, and meat of some kind. Sometimes we had biscuits, but flour wasn’t as plentiful as corn meal. We didn’t always have flour, but we always had corn meal, grits, and rice. One of the best things we had was sweet potato pone. It was made of grated sweet potatoes, eggs, and spice, and was sweetened with some of our homemade sugar.

"We had to walk five miles to Miss Berry’s school. We took a path through the woods and we often saw wolves and wildcats, but they never bothered us and we were not afraid. A big girl named Adaline Pitts came home with us sometimes. Sometimes Adaline would carry Naaman part of the way on her back. She would talk and laugh with us and tell us stories, and we loved her to go home with us to stay all night. Then, of course, we would have her to go along with us back to school the next morning.

"At recess, we played ball and Three Old Cats. Sometimes the boys played
Bull Pen. Boys and girls did not play together. We girls played such games as Dare Base, Poison Stick, and Wood Tag. I was almost grown before we learned to play Handkerchief and Go In and Out the Windows. Singing games like "Skip to Me Lou," came in at about this same time. We had recitations on Friday afternoons. Some of the neighbors would sing songs, too.

"We never had a Christmas tree at school nor at home either, but we always hung LIP our stockings. Sometimes we would get a little toy made out of wood, but we never got any china dolls. Our dolls were all homemade. We always got candy and sometimes an apple."

Hyde Park School (today’s Gorrie Elementary School) was first mentioned in School Board minutes on September 3, 1889 "when Mrs. Florence Ray was appointed teacher at Hyde Park, No. 3."

Joseph J. Wilson, a native of Tampa who served as director of local news for radio station WPLA in Plant City and who was connected with the Tribune for half a century, inspired by the picture of an old school building, wrote of his own school experiences in the village of Tampa. The account appeared in D. B. McKay's Pioneer Florida:

"That little school was in walking distance of where I was born, and when I was a kid it was a kindergarten. I attended one term and "graduated" to the first grade in the first brick school built in Tampa, located on South Boulevard. I believe it is now called Gorrie School. The street car line to Port Tampa ran a little south of the brick school to make its way to what is now Bayshore Boulevard. The ornate home of Peter O. Knight was located behind the school and what I remember as Spanish Town Creek was also in that neighborhood.

"But to get back to that little building, I remember that my teacher was Miss Louise Morton. The 15 or 20 kids that attended the year I did thought so much of Miss Morton we used to walk up to her home on either Hyde Park or Plant Avenue and walk back to school with her every morning. I remember a few of the students attending the kindergarten the year I was there with my sisters. Kathleen McDermott was one, and others were Eloise Boyer, Harry Bomford, a boy named Homes, whose father had a livery stable in the vicinity of the city hall, Gillie Trezevant, Ena Sherril and her fat little brother, and others whose names I can’t recall at the moment.

"The next term I, along with two of my sisters, attended the new brick school, and my first teacher was..."
Miss Alice Warner, and I'll never forget her for one outstanding reason; Howard Parks sat behind me. He was full of mischief, and, as I remember, somewhat of a loudmouthed youngster. He was always talking to some girl while classes were in progress, and he did it in such a manner that Miss Warner thought I was the culprit. She admonished me several times to stop talking, and I tried to explain that I wasn't doing the talking.

"However, this must have been a hot, miserable day—she could stand it no longer, left her desk and hurried down the aisle in my direction. I paid no attention, thinking she was going after Parks, but the next thing I knew the teacher had given me a sounding slap on my cheek, and then gave me 'what-for' for talking. Parks was decent enough to admit his guilt, and Miss Warner apologized profusely.

"Miss Warner was my teacher through the fourth grade, and near the close of the term asked me to remain after classes. I thought I was going to catch it for something or other, but what she wanted was for me to skip the fifth grade and go into the sixth the next term. I never will know whether she thought I was smart enough to skip a grade, or whether she was trying to make up for that hefty slap she gave me. All I can remember about the principal of that school for several years is a short, stubby man, who wore glasses, and who used to skip up and down the walks with the girls, and whom we knew as 'Professor Ellis.' In those days the boys had to play on one side of the building and the girls on the other. We had no directed play, no football, and believe it or not, we had to brush our own teeth without any help from teacher, or without lectures about oral hygiene.

"Former Sheriff Hugh Culbreath was also a student at this school, and I can remember that Hugh, perhaps his sisters and brothers, and maybe some neighbor kids, came to school each morning in a two-mule wagon. The Culbreaths lived on the bay, west of Tampa, and the mules and wagons were parked in the shade of several pine trees across the street car tracks from the school building. It also seems to me that O. D. Wetherell and his sisters lived across the street from the school and were students.

"When I was a kid the only paving in town was oyster-shell surfacing from Tibbett's Corner to the North on Franklin Street to Harrison and I distinctly remember board sidewalks on both sides of Franklin. The first moving picture I ever saw was on the Hillsborough County's first school bus. It was driven by Mr. Porter of Durant.
side of the Ball grocery store building across the bandstand in the courthouse square. These pictures, plus a band concert, were shown every Saturday night, and the first picture I saw was a man swimming in a river, with a tramp coming along to steal his clothing. That much of it has stuck in my memory.

"I also remember the old wooden Lafayette Street bridge, the only span across the river in my young days, and I remember when Maas Brothers store was across the street from its present location in one room. The first knickerbocker pants I ever wore came from Wolf Brothers, and I carried a Tribune route in Hyde Park when the paper was printed on a flat-bed Duplex press upstairs at Polk and Franklin. In one way or another, I have been connected with the Tribune off and on for nigh on to 50 years.

"In those days there wasn't much money, but life was pleasant, no one was in a hurry, and schools taught kids how to read and write and do arithmetic problems.

D. B. McKay added: "I think the first school mentioned by Mr. Wilson was a private school on Cedar Avenue which was operated about the time he specifies next to the Hyde Park Methodist Church."

Several schools were already in existence in southeastern Hillsborough County when the first official minutes of the Board of Public Instruction for, Hillsborough County were recorded in 1871. The Alafia School (in the Alafia community north of the Alafia River), the Antioch School (east of Thonotosassa) and Alderman's (south of the Alafia River), were among the earliest. The Bryant School is mentioned in School Board minutes of September 2, 1879: "On motion, the school at Moody's Church be moved from said house to the school house near Bryant and to be called Bryant's school house" (probably located south of the Alafia River in the southeastern part of the county). Cork School was first mentioned in School Board minutes of August 3, 1872: "School No. 12, 'George W. Knight is listed as teacher.' " Fish Hawk, first mentioned November 6, 1875: "School near J. J. Pringle's was reorganized and called Fish Hawk and No. 34, with Nathan Boyett (sic) and Britton J. Burnett as trustees in the present-day Boyette vicinity."

In the peaceful and prosperous community of Trapnell near Plant City, parents residing in the surrounding communities of Hopewell, Springhead and Turkey Creek combined their efforts in establishing a school which was erected near the home of early settler, Marvin Sparkman. John Deshong was its first instructor with students including children of pioneering families such as the Hamiltons, Howells and Clemens of Springhead, Crum and Burts of Plant City, Waldons of Turkey Creek and Matchetts of Hopewell. In 1902, another school was established with R. W Trapnell, S. A. McDonald and Dave Clemons instrumental in its establishment.14

Not far distant, Cornelius English ran the first grist mill in what was then known as English Mill Creek. Customers came from as far away as Lakeland, walking the distance carrying their corn to the early mill and returning to their homes with their corn sacks upon their backs. The little one-room, log-house school erected at English Mill Creek had a Mr. Belton as its first teacher, followed by Mr. Hollingsworth. This school was supported by tuition fees paid by those
parents who could afford the required fees. A good flowing spring was found nearby with the schoolhouse later being moved about a quarter of a mile up the road to what later became the home-site of Pad English. In 1880, it was moved again and became a free school. In 1928, Ernest L. Robinson in his *History of Hillsborough County*, wrote that a brick building had been erected five years earlier and had recently been enlarged to a two-story brick structure, with the faculty having been increased to eleven teachers.

School Board minutes of October 15, 1875 show a "Moody’s and/or Moody’s Church-background somewhat muddy." Moody's school is shown to have been near W B. Moody’s home and was probably located in the early settlement of Peru on the south bank of the Alafia River. "Lesley's Ferry" was named for Rev. Leroy G. Lesley, a soldier and Methodist minister who settled on the Alafia river-banks soon after the end of the Civil War: "Only mention, September 2, 1883: G. W Kennedy, J. M. Boyett and G. H. Symmes were appointed trustees for Lesley's Ferry."

The Peru School (mentioned September 1, 1885) and the Pine Landing School (mentioned August 4, 1893) were consolidated: "Petition from a part of patrons of Peru School asking permission to patronize Riverview School (organized in 1885 on the north bank of the Alafia River was not granted."

Many students who are presently attending Brandon Schools, in the early 1880s would have attended an early school in Providence called Oakridge. This early school drew the children of pioneering families then living in Mill Point (Gibsonton), the Riverview area and the early Peru settlement. School No 38 had a teacher as per minutes of June 1, 1881; the Providence School is also mentioned in School Board minutes of December 8, 1888: "Petition of Providence No. 38 to use one month appropriation on building was granted." Minutes of August 4, 1893: "Petition from Providence settlement to establish school was granted. School building to be erected near Providence Church (established 1877). No number was listed for this school which was located between Brandon and Riverview and whether this is the same 'Providence' Area of School No. 38 earlier, is unknown."

Ellen Hendry McMillan, born in 1881 and a small child at the time, often told her young niece, Sarah Maxine Meeks Easton, colorful tales of the early days in Hillsborough County. Many of these were centered around events which occurred on the long walks from Mill Point to the school which was located near the Providence Baptist Church. The early school of Oakridge and the Bloomingdale School were later incorporated into the Brandon District School. This school housed twelve grades with as many as three grades in one room.

At Hendrix Chapel located between the communities of New Hope and Bloomingdale (south of the present Brooker Elementary School), parents paid for their children's education and boarded the teacher in their homes. Classes were from sun up to sundown. Hendrix Chapel was organized "September 27, 1883, when John Carlton and G. W. Smith were appointed trustees for Hendrix Chapel, better known as 'Roes Ford."

A little farther south in present day Riverview, school sessions were held on the old Bauming property with E S. Morrison serving as schoolmaster when the first known schoolhouse was built in 1878. As late as 1899, the Riverview DeSoto Masonic
Lodge Hall was erected to operate in conjunction with the Hillsborough County School system. This transaction was later declared to be illegal and the building was sold to the School Board by the Masons for one dollar. The School Board leased the top floor to the Masons with this arrangement continuing until 1929 when the school fronting present Highway 301 (Riverview Shopping Center) was erected.15

During those early years, family members brought dinner to the school for the entire family with the children of each individual family sharing their noon meal (often from a lunch bucket) under the shady oaks where neighboring children were gathered. Otha, Lulabelle and Rosalie Goolsby often shared their abundance of fresh citrus with their neighborhood friends and fellow students; the oldest child in each family normally served the cold food to their siblings.

Dorothy Hemrick Strock of Tampa recalled attending the old Riverview School on DeSoto Road. Dorothy fondly recalled a favorite teacher, Mrs. Littlejohn and the one armed principal who is remembered by many of present Riverview’s oldest residents who were students at school.

Dorothy vividly recalled school sessions held on the ground floor of the two story structure. She said that older students encouraged an old ghost story which supported the theory that a goat lived upstairs where the men held their meetings in the old Masonic Hall. The younger children were instructed by their older peers to be very quiet so they might hear the goat as he made his way down the creaky wooden stairs.

The early schoolhouse served as a place of learning for many members of Riverview’s pioneering families. "Miss Mary" Moody, born in Riverview in 1901, and who later taught at the school, recalled attending classes as a child. In 1906, at the age of five, on weekday mornings she often observed the "big girls" heading for the schoolhouse on their way to school and pleaded with her parents to allow her to go too. Mrs. Moody finally consented but Mary soon changed her mind about attending school early when the "big girls" put her up to "make faces" and was reprimanded by the teacher. She also remembered an early principal, Mr. Carlton, spanking her brother Sanford and a young lad named Thompson.

According to "Miss Mary," children in grades one through four were assembled in "the little room" with those in grades six, seven, and eight being confined to the "big room." Years later, she joined two other "school marm," Mrs. Bea Moody and Mrs. Hattie Thompson as a part of the school’s small faculty.

Hooker’s Landing, named for William B. Hooker, a prominent cattleman who settled in Hillsborough County in 1843, was mentioned in School Board minutes of November 6, 1886, and the location of the school could have been southwest of Ruskin where the river empties into the bay. Some of Manatee County’s children are believed to have attended this school: "The Board agreed to pay according to the average for all pupils from the county attending a school at Hooker’s Landing on Little Manatee River."

In 197, J. H. Reese in his Florida Flashlights, said that there were 2,916 public schools in Florida with the total school population (ages six to twenty-one) being 302,038. Florida at that time spent $2,818,675.13 for public education; the number of teachers employed at that time was 5,734, with their average pay being
$56.25 (based on twelve months, the average was $30.32).

The average number of days attended at that time was 130 with schools in many districts running for a period of eight months. In 1917, Florida had 104 high schools with the state’s local option compulsory school attendance law having been adopted in only a few counties at that time.16

Rollins College in Winter Park, a coeducational college incorporated and founded in 1885 (five miles north of Orlando), is the oldest institution of higher learning in Florida. Dr. Edward P Hooker was its first president.17

Florida’s pioneering forefathers and concerned citizens who desired a formal education for Hillsborough County’s earliest children, and who laid the groundwork for the educational system which exists today, could not have possibly envisioned the present Hillsborough County School System which on August 19, 1993, "opened its doors" to an expected 131,000 students housed in a total of 161 elementary, junior and senior high schools.

Students of today no longer share a cold meal with their siblings beneath the branches of a live oak tree; today’s students may expect a well-balanced meal at lunchtime provided by the county’s School Food Service Program which began serving hot lunches in Hillsborough County schools soon after the end of World War II.

The 1993-94 school term got underway with a fleet of 930 modern buses which are driven by well-trained personnel who transport students to schools throughout the county, quite a contrast to dusty walks through woodlands filled with wild animals, a daily experience for school students attending Hillsborough County’s first schools over one-hundred years ago.

ENDNOTES

2 Sidney W. Martin, Florida During the Territorial Days, (Athens, GA, 1944), 220, 221.
3 Florida Centennial Commission, Florida Becomes State, (Tallahassee, 1945), 9, 10.
4 Morris, Florida Handbook 278, 279.
5 Karl H. Grismer, Tampa: A History of the City of Tampa and the Tampa Bay Region of Florida (St. Petersburg, 1949); 109, 111, 112.
6 Ibid., 112
7 Ibid., 121-122. Records of Hillsborough County’s early public schools can be found in Office of Comptroller, Vouchers 1846-62, Common Schools, RG 350, Series 565, Box 8, Florida State Archives.
8 Ibid., 122.
9 Ibid.
11 Grismer, Tampa, 161.
13 Grismer, Tampa, 162.
14 Ernest L. Robinson, History of Hillsborough County, Florida (Tampa, 192806.
16 J. H. Reese, Florida Flashlights, 29.
17 Ibid.

OTHER SOURCES: Records of the School Board of Hillsborough County, The Neighborhood Origins of
Public Schools In Hillsborough County compiled by Paul B. Dinnis; Gorrie Elementary School photos furnished courtesy of Sadie Lobo, School Board of Hillsborough County.