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Colonel Sam Reid: The Founding of the Manatee Colony and Surveying the Manatee Country, 1841 - 1847

Joe Knetsch

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The life of Colonel Samuel Reid is virtually unknown in the Manatee country. Although he was the leader of the colony that led to the eventual settlement of the area, his past has been ignored in favor of those whose families still inhabit the area and who, along with Reid, bravely pioneered the Manatee frontier. This neglect is also the result of the poor image Reid has had as a surveyor of the area. Although vindicated by the Bradens and Robert Gamble at the time, the historical rumors of poor performance or fraud have persisted. His contributions to the growth of the area, therefore, have been clouded by the mist of the past. It is now time to take a deeper and clearer look into the life of this Manatee pioneer.

Reid entered Florida, from Gwinnett County, Georgia, in 1825 and settled in the frontier area near Tallahassee. In 1833, he purchased forty acres southeast of Tallahassee in Township I South, Range 2 East. It does not appear that he was too interested in farming for a lifetime, for in 1837, he purchased Lot 170, original plat of Tallahassee, on the corner of Jefferson and Monroe Streets, two blocks north of the capitol. On June 7, 1838, Reid entered into a partnership with James R. Gamble and began to sell "a general assortment of goods." The new firm operated under the name of "Gamble & Reid." The 1839 Tax Rolls show that the firm had one slave working in the store and an inventory of $18,000, large for the era. It also shows that the town lots on which the store sat were valued at $3,000, on which $32.50 was paid in Territorial taxes and $66.00 in County taxes. The firm lasted only a year and a half, being dissolved by mutual consent on January 1, 1840. The firm continued to do business under the name of James B. Gamble, until he was joined by J. Gratton Gamble, when the name was changed to James B. Gamble & Co. In the same issue of the Tallahassee Floridian, that announced the formation of the latter firm, it was advertised that Sam Reid was going into the "Storage and Commission" business at Port Leon, the new terminus of the Tallahassee Rail Road. In fact, Sam Reid was the first purchaser of lots in the new city. By mid-1840 he was doing an active business at Port Leon and owned "extensive Warehouses and Wharf" in that town. These facilities he leased to a J. Vail in early 1841.

In January of 1835, he must have been well enough settled to take as his bride Carolina J. Alston, on January 7th of that year. The Alston family was one of the more influential families in Middle Florida at this period and the marriage brought Reid into a wider circle of powerful people. His brothers-in-law included Dr. John Bacon and David S. Walker, later governor of Florida and one of Reid's closest confidants. The Alstons were the family involved in the famous duel and murder involving General Leigh Read. Indeed, Sam Reid attended a special meeting in honor of the late Augustus Alston, killed by Leigh
Read in the duel, in late December, 1839. Also attending the memorial meeting were James B. Gamble, Robert Gamble, D. S. Walker, R. B. Ker and Arthur M. Randolph, son-in-law of former governor William Pope Duval.\textsuperscript{12}

The 1840 census shows that Reid had three children under the ages of five, two daughters and one son, living with him and, in addition to his wife, one other adult between the ages of thirty and forty. The same document also demonstrates that he owned fifteen slaves, eleven males and four females. The household, therefore, totalled twenty-one persons according to these figures.\textsuperscript{13} To support such a large number of individuals means that Reid was somewhat successful in his business operations.

Reid’s other interests are very noteworthy. In 1834, for example, as a stockholder in the Tallahassee Rail Road, he signed a petition on behalf of the line asking for federal lands. The president of the railroad was Governor Richard Keith Call.\textsuperscript{14} He was one of the signers of a number of resolutions sent to Washington in 1838, along with William P. Duval, A. M. Randolph and R. B. Ker.\textsuperscript{15} Most importantly for the future of the Manatee area, on February 24, 1840, he signed a petition supporting the concept of law establishing military colonization of the Florida frontier, which had been proposed by Governor Call. Also signing this lengthy petition were six of the Gamble family, William H. Wyatt, John Addison of Gadsden County, and two members of the Grisset[h] family, also from Gadsden County.\textsuperscript{16}

However, this picture of success and political activity must be tempered by the fact that, by 1843, his operations in Port Leon had not been prospering for reasons unknown. In that year, Sam Reid was forced to convey title to William Bailey, of Jefferson County, to his property in Port Leon, in addition to five slaves [May and her four children]. The transfer of this property was through a default on payments on two notes totalling seven thousand dollars and backed by George K. Walker, brother of David S. Walker. If Walker met certain conditions, however, the transfer was null and void. As holder of Reid’s notes to Bailey, Walker stood to gain the Port Leon property if he would make the payments.\textsuperscript{17} This venture probably went sour when Port Leon was destroyed by a hurricane later in 1843.

About April 8, 1841, Reid leased his business interests in the Port Leon warehouses and wharf to J. Vail and headed south to Tampa Bay, having accepted the position as Deputy Collector of Customs for the Port of St. Marks. On July 1, 1841, he wrote to R. W. Alston, his brother-in-law, about the need to send a revenue cutter to the coast of Florida to prevent the Spanish fishing camps from selling arms and supplies to the Indians. Reid’s letter was passed on to former governor William P. Duval who sent it on to the Secretary of Treasury. Duval, an old acquaintance of Reid’s, noted: "Mr. Reid is an intelligent man, of high character, and a most vigilant officer." The fact that Reid’s views coincided with those of the ex-governor was an important factor in the transmission of this letter.\textsuperscript{18} The importance of the letter for our study is to, once again, demonstrate Reid’s close contacts with the politically powerful families and their recognition of his worth.
Manatee River, at time virtually unsettled wilderness.

His post and ownership of warehouses at Port Leon brought him into contact with the staff of General William Worth, then commanding in Florida. Through Worth's liaison, Lieutenant M. Patrick, Reid was recruited to lead a colonization effort on the Manatee River. The effort began on April 16, 1842, when the little hand of colonists, headed by "Colonel" Samuel Reid landed at Manatee. According to General Worth, the colony, "is composed entirely of persons from Middle Florida. The land is of Superior quality & from the character of the Gentlemen concerned, there is certainty of success." The General also noted that the colonists had been issued arms. [200 "Ball Buckshot & Cartridges," ten muskets and twenty musket flints, along with tents.]

The new settlement totalled fifteen white males, ten black males, two black females over fourteen and four black children, for a grand total of thirty-one individuals. Reid's scouting of the area, possibly in company with Josiah Gates and others, proved to be important in establishing the colony on the river and showed his keen sense of judgment.

The army posted at Tampa Bay's Fort Brooke, was to act as the guardian for the young colony. On May 18, 1842, Assistant Adjutant General T Cooper wrote to Major T Staniford, then commanding at Fort Brooke: "The Colonel Commanding desires you will consider the party under Col. Reid at Manatee river, in all respects on the footing with others the most favored, & to afford them every facility & encouragement. He desires you will furnish them Arms & c. as a loan, to be accounted for by Lt. Patrick, to whom report will be made in the case. The tents loaned the party are to be retained by them until they can convenitly house themselves, so as not to interfere with the planting of crops." This stewardship was to prove mutually useful to the settlers and the army in the coming months and years.

Reid's leadership role involved him with the military as the eyes and ears of the colony and adjacent frontier. He was frequently required to quell false rumors and assure the colony, and others, that the Indians posed no threat to their existence. In September of 1842, the truce with the Indians was concluded and Worth desired that the frontier settlements be notified that Indians would be on the move through their territories. Reid was informed by letter that Indians would be moved through the Manatee area, on their way to embarkation at Tampa. Lieutenant P.A. Barbour wrote, on behalf of Worth, to the Commander at Fort Brooke, Captain William Seawell: "Colonel Reid has been written to day and advised of the intentions of his southern neighbours to visit Tampa. His settlement need not be visited from your post." As the leader of the colony, Reid was informed of most of the moves of the military and their possible impact on his settlement.

Like many, but not all, of the colony, Reid received an Armed Occupation Permit [No. 316, Newnansville Land Office] to settle on the land he had already begun to clear and plant. The date of the founding of the colony, April 16, 1842, precedes by many months the passage of this landmark piece of legislation. Because of this, it is likely that some of the settlers who accompanied Reid left prior to the receiving or requesting such a permit. Some may have died, too, however, there has yet to be uncovered any record of this. It may also be that the success of the colony did encourage many of the Armed Occupation Act settlers to try their luck on the Manatee River. These speculations, however lack documentary
proof at the present time. The only sure thing we can note is that many of the settlers who came to Manatee with Reid, did receive their permits and patents under this act.

Reid continued in the leadership of the colony when an incident, typical of the frontier, occurred. In mid-1844 rumors were flying that another Indian war was looming and that Indians had been spotted near the settlements. Allegedly, one of the surveying party of Henry Washington had reported seeing many Indian signs in the vicinity of the Manatee River, where that crew was working. On August 5, 1844, General Worth wrote the following the Captain Montgomery, commanding at Tampa: "Sir: I desire you to cause the enclosed communication to be forwarded with the least avoidable delay to Colonel Reid, by the Star, if at Tampa, and not urgently employed, instruct the messenger to await for Colonel Reid's answers if he can be found at his residence.... Seal the letter to Colonel Reid before forwarding." The same letter noted that the affidavits requested by General Worth to the falseness of the Indian scare, must be done quietly and without arousing any undue suspicion on the part of the settlers.²³ The rumor started by a "drunken scoundrel" of Henry Washington's survey party, was quickly squelched and ended. Worth suspected that the entire story was a preplanned episode meant to arouse the settlers and the government to attack the Indians and drive them, finally, from Florida.²⁴ The point of interest in this correspondence is the continued importance of Sam Reid as the recognized leader of the colony, even though the Bradens, Gamble, Gates and others were already on the scene.

Shortly after the founding of the colony, it was recognized by the government that the Manatee area would soon have to be surveyed to assure proper title to the lands of the colonists. Sam Reid requested the appointment as U.S. Deputy Surveyor and called on friends to support his application. Richard Keith Call responded to the this request and wrote to the Surveyor General: "... my friend Col. Saml Reid, who is anxious to obtain a contract to survey a portion of the public lands in Florida. He is in every respect worthy and well qualified ... "²⁵ With the help of such friends, Sam Reid became the U.S. Deputy Surveyor when he signed his first contract on November 21, 1843. For his new duty, he received $3.75 per mile of survey line, $.25 lower than the average for the day.²⁶ Reid immediately requested an Army escort into the area of his survey because of the presumed Indian threat. The Army, however, refused to allow this, as the escort that accompanied Henry Washington's crew proved to be counterproductive, scaring Indians on the way to surrender back into the Big Cypress and out of the reach of the troops.²⁷ Reid's first survey was also delayed because of "incessant rains and high waters."²⁸ Reid described the conditions at that time: "I was repaired early in January to the field and have been constantly and labourously engaged ever since at it, but from the quantity of Rain which fell about that time, I find it impossible to commence at the Southern boundary of my district as the whole Country was overflowed. Before I ceased my party were frequently on the point of Starvation for water."²⁹ The situation on the frontier was wet and threatening for the new surveyor, but, undaunted by these temporary setbacks, he pushed on to complete his contract. What is important to note here is the fact that Reid did not head to the southern end of the contract area, but finished the number of required miles in the northern end of the district. Before the year was out, he was to
be accused of running false lines in the area he clearly did not survey.

Surveyors had numerous obstacles to completing contracts and making ends meet during the surveying season. Two of these have been noted above, however, added to them were the problems of recruiting a capable crew that could be counted upon to endure the hardships and competently fulfill the needs of the surveyor. The surveyor also had to purchase instruments, supplies, wagons, mules/horses, field books, etc. before embarking on the venture. This meant that most of the deputy surveyors had to have some money up front before taking on any contract. Additionally, each surveyor had to be bonded and have someone willing to underwrite the enterprise. This required having contacts willing and able to put up the bond money, or its equivalent, before the survey could be commenced. Added to these difficulties was the fact of a four to six month surveying season [done in "dry" season only] and the constant possibility of sickness, death, insects, injury, etc. All of these things made surveying a very speculative business, and some did lose their resources by not completing the contracts on time, if at all.

On August 22, 1843, Reid wrote that he had arrived home but reported that much had been done and that he had been becalmed four days on a small sloop. He then noted that he was beginning the chaining of sections in Township 34 South, Range 17 East, but the rainy season prevented much from being accomplished. He did tell Surveyor General Valentine Conway that he would send his notes via Colonel Braden as soon as that gentleman returned to Tallahassee. Indicative of his interest in the development of the colony, Reid also included samples of the first tobacco crop raised by the colonists. By November 15th, he had completed the survey and had sent in the notes for approval.

At this time, Reid notified the Surveyor General that there was a potential conflict in the Armed Occupation claims of Mr. "Ledsworth" and Mr. Price, both of whom were absent from the area at the time of the survey. Josiah Gates, the brother-in-law of Price, sent a note to Reid identifying his relative’s claim and that of Mr. "Ledsworth". Reid asked for the discretion to adjust the claims so that they did not fall in the same quarter section of land, but strictly asked for specific instructions on how to make the alteration so as not to take any of the improvements from either party. For the information of the Surveyor General, Reid also notified him of new settlers coming into the area, after the period for the Armed Occupation law, mostly, he noted, settling in the pine lands.

In late October of 1843, the Surveyor General had written Reid informing him of the charges of false surveys being levied against him. However, because he was in the woods surveying, he did not receive the information until January 8, 1844, a delay of over two months. Reid immediately informed Conway:

I regret exceedingly that I had not reed your letter earlier, as I could long since have satisfied you that the charges against me are entirely false. You will see by my returns that no Surveys now are reported to have been made at or near Charlotte Harbour. I saw Colo. Washington at Tampa last winter, just as I commenced work, who informed me that his line terminated in Town. No. 40 and the no. of miles, but I have forgotten the distance, but I am under the impression that the line
running West between Township 38 & 39 is not less than ten miles of any portion of Charlotte Harbour.... But Sir the whole statement of those Alabama gentlemen is false, I assert it and believe that the field notes of Col Washington will Sustain me, that after going South 2 112 miles in Town. 37 Range 22 that there is not five acres of land, that is not in ordinary wet season covered with water and that except some Cypress Swamp on Peas Creek, there is not one acre of hammock land in or about Charlotte Harbour.... He [Washington] told me of this when I saw him, and he advised me to throw up mounds, and to prepare myself with a spade to do so. I did as he directed. ... I have Sent up requesting Colo Braden and indeed the whole neighbourhood to come around and examine the work.33

Of course, Joseph Braden did come to the aid of his friend and neighbor, writing to Conway on January 17, 1844: "I have seen a letter from you to Col Reid that he is charge by some Gentlemen from Alabama with making sham’ surveys. I have been a resident on the River for a period commencing within a few days of his surveys until the present time, & am satisfied that the persons who made these charges, have never been on the River, & not have recd the information here, that they were 'sham’ surveys. Such is not the opinion of those living on the River, & who have had many opportunities of ascertaining whether the surveys were worth making or not.... I have no hesitation in saying that the charges are malicious & groundless."34

The alleged group of Alabama gentlemen was merely a hoax and the plot of a disappointed surveyor, who had been seeking employment with the Surveyor General and with Reid, but was rejected because of his lack of proper character and behavior. The letter accusing Reid is a good example of creative thinking. As Reid had written, the description offered by the "Alabama Gentlemen" was pure fiction. The land claimed to have been seen and marked by these people is described as "varied and picturesque scenery of rich hammocks, prairie, and pine lands interspersed with ponds and bayous, which enhanced it in our estimation as a first rate grazing range for cattle."35 Anyone, to this day, familiar with the area of Charlotte Harbor can see the falseness of this description. Yet, Reid was called upon to defend his surveys and his reputation against the slanderous attack.

In the October 26, 1843 letter to Reid, the Surveyor General advised him on how to handle the charges and prove the validity of his work. He recommended that he take some of the local, reputable people out to his work, let them examine the marks and lines and then furnish sworn affidavits to what they had seen. Conway concluded: "This course may have the tendancy to disabuse the minds of all interested and supersede for the present the necessity of commissioning another Deputy to go in and examine your work."36 Reid followed this good advice and got the cooperation of Judge Josiah Gates and Hector W. Braden who swore that: "We made a particular examination of these several lines, amounting to more than nine miles, including ten corner posts, and more than fifty bearing trees; these we found well marked and easy to delineate. We find no difficulty in following any of these lines or ascertaining which facility the Townships Ranges and Sections on the entire route."37 These were strong witnesses for the surveyor and their influence proved
important in finally ending the speculation regarding the correctness of his work.

The man behind the accusations was Robert B. Ker, a man known to Reid and many of the early settlers of the Manatee River region. Ker had been active in many of the social and political events in Tallahassee and served as Deputy Surveyor on many occasions, including the final survey of the boundary of the Forbes Purchase. However, the job of Deputy Surveyor was a political appointment, in most instances, and Ker was not in with the group around Valentine Conway. Conway, after some initial hesitation, saw the evidence Reid had referred to and the affidavits of Braden, Gates and others and was convinced that Reid's work was legitimate. It was soon suspected that the entire episode was being staged by Ker in revenge for being refused employment, especially since none of the seven signees on the petition from the "Alabama Gentlemen" were known to anyone, including those on the Manatee River supposedly interviewed by these men.38

In what appears to be a final desperate act by Ker, he wrote to David Levy Yulee, Florida Delegate to Congress, stating the same case alleged by the "Alabama Gentlemen." Ker even stated that he had confidence in one Charles D. Chesterfield of this group and believed Chesterfield had a basic knowledge of surveying and was able to correctly judge the work done by Reid. He concluded his tirade by, again, stating the impossibility of running 800 miles of lines in four months, which many surveyors claimed to have done in Florida.39

When Conway was sent a copy of Ker's letter to Yulee, he was quick to respond.

The author of this communication applied to me for a contract in the fall of 1842. On instituting an enquiry into his character & standing I soon learned enough to prevent me from complying with his wishes. Indeed, on one of those occasions he presented himself before me in a high state of intoxication and subsequently I have frequently observed him in a similar situation. Chagrined and disappointed in his application he has sought revenge by attempting to cast odium upon the work executed by my Deputies in the field.... Now Sir, after the most diligent enquiry I cannot ascertain the actual whereabouts or identity of an individual member of the company of disappointed & disaffected Explorers of Hammock Land & Marks & believe me when I assure you that it is and has long been my firm conviction that R.B. Ker, himself is the getter up & concoctor of this whole scheme of defamation & falsehood with design to injure Col. Reid and bring into disrepute the surveys generally...40

Reid too, found out the author of this cruel hoax and challenged Ker to come to Manatee and show where these "sham" surveys were. Reid went so far as to offer to pay Ker's travel expenses.41 Ker did not take up this challenge.

Commissioner of the General Land Office, Thomas H. Blake, effectively ended the controversy after obtaining other evidence on the character of Robert B. Ker. He had the correspondence of Reid and Ker before him when he made the decision and also had affidavits from Braden, Gates and others. Blake complimented Conway on the manner in which he had handled this small crisis and maintained the public confidence in the surveys. He informed Conway that he was
totally satisfied with the correctness of Reid’s surveys and had acted upon his accounts. Payment for which was already on the way to Reid.42

By mid-1844, Reid was again in the field trying to survey some of the coast near Teira Ceia Bay. This was difficult surveying because the land was so broken, judgment had to be used in determining what islands had enough land to pay for the cost of surveying and the nature of the tides complicated these judgments. He also noted that a previous surveyor in the area of Township 27 South, Range 18 East had not followed instructions correctly and had thrown excess lands onto the southeast or southwest. As the range lines had been run from north to south and he had started from the southeast corner and run north in sectioning, the two lines did not match, which, he correctly noted, made his surveys look bad.43 Reid was well aware that his surveys were under tight scrutiny and made every effort to run his lines correctly. Yet, diligent as he was, the taint of the Ker investigation, the lack of remaining monumentation within a decade and the fact that his contacts were politically powerful have clouded the judgment of some as the correct nature of the majority of his work. The majority of today’s surveyors believe that Reid’s work was relatively accurate, however, some still have doubts about his ability after all these years.44

Reid’s family moved to the Manatee area, probably in 1844, from the Tallahassee area, and remained until shortly after he died, in April of 1847. Evidence of this occupation of the land is found in the records of Leon County, where it is recorded that Carolina S. Reid, "of Hillsborough Co." bought the crops of Robert Alston, her brother, for a tidy sum of $15,000. The crop, the majority of which was cotton, was to be sold to pay off this debt, and any shortages would be made up from the next year’s crop.45 However, Carolina Reid left the Manatee area after Sam’s demise for we find her, again on the records of Leon County purchasing land and crops near Lake Miccosukee.46 It would appear from this evidence, none of Sam Reid’s family remained in Southern Florida after his death.

The next to last letter we have of Sam Reid, was penned on November 10, 1846. In this letter he clearly knows that he is dying. At the same time, he also passes the torch into the hands of the capable John Jackson.

This will be handed to you by Mr. John Jackson, who visits St. Augustine for the purpose of making my returns, my continued illness making it impossible for me to do it in person. Mr. Jackson has been with me through the survey, and can give you any and all information which you may require touching the survey. You will find Mr. Jackson a scientific, intelligent and honorable man, and every way worthy of any confidence you may place in him. I fear that I have run my last line, as my protracted illness gives me no room for hope for a speedy recovery, if I recover at all, and would therefore recommend Mr. Jackson to your favorable notice, as an accomplished surveyor. …47

Reid’s ability to pick capable people to do certain jobs or join in colonization efforts proved to be uncanny. Most of the early settlers, as we have seen, were collected together by Sam Reid and remained to found the prosperous Manatee colony. These hardy men and women were the backbone of the colony and the pioneers of the area.
Unfortunately, the name of the man who brought them here has remained forgotten until now. His choice of John Jackson, one of Florida's most accurate and dedicated surveyors, was a final note to his ability to see the true and necessary character of those he associated with on the frontier of southern Florida. Without his abilities, persuasiveness and tenacity, the Manatee colony may not have been as successful as it proved to be. Thus, we should now add the same of Sam Reid, the true founder, to the list of valiant pioneers who established one of Florida's premier settlements.

ENDNOTES

1 Armed Occupation Permit No. 316. Newriansville Land Office. Land Records and Title Section, Division of State Lands, Department of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee, Florida. A copy of this permit also exists in the National Archives, Suitland Research Center, Suitland, Maryland, in Record Group 49.

2 Deed Book C, 374. Leon County Property Records, Microfilm No. 10, Leon County Clerk of the Circuit Court. Microfilm in the Florida Department of State, Division of Archives and Records Management, Tallahassee, Florida. (The property was purchased from John Methina.) Hereafter, Deed Book Letter and page number.

3 Deed Book E, 706.

4 Tallahassee Floridian, February 9, 1839, 3. The advertisement was dated June 7, 1838, announcing the new firm.

5 Tax Rolls Leon County 1829-1855, (Incomplete file) Microfilmed by the Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1956. Copy at the State Library of Florida, Florida Room (Dodd Room), Florida Department of State, Tallahassee, Florida. Page number is unreadable.

6 Tallahassee Floridian, January 11, 1840, 3, and January 15, 1840. 3.

7 Ibid.

8 Deed Book E, 836. This shows Reid purchased Town Lots 6 and 7, Block 1, complete with water privileges. He purchased these lots for $5 each. Also see, Elizabeth Smith's special edition of the Magnolia Monthly for 1968, entitled "A Tale of Three Tombstones," Crawfordville, 1968, 27.

9 Tallahassee Florida Sentinel, May 28, 1841. The advertisement stating this information is dated April 8, 1841, and was run in successive editions of the paper.

10 Tallahassee Floridian, January 10, 1835. Found referenced In "Leon County Marriages," Florida Room, State Library of Florida, Tallahassee, Florida. This is a loose index taken from contemporary newspapers and bound for reference work. No date of publication is affixed in this work.

11 Walker married Philoclea Alston on May 24, 1842, while Bacon married the third sister, Clementina on May 24, 1837. "Leon County Marriages." Florida Room, State Library of Florida, Tallahassee, Florida. Later letters from Reid to the Surveyor General of Florida often asked that gentleman to forward his personal letters to his wife through Walker.

12 Tallahassee Floridian, December 21, 1839. 2.

13 1840 Census for Leon County, Florida, within the division allotted to George E. Dennis. 65. A Microfilm copy of this record is located in the Florida Department of State, Division of Archives and Records Management.


15 Territorial Papers, XXV, 464-66.

16 Territorial Papers, XXVI, 81-88.


18 Territorial Papers, XXVI, 363-64.


20 Ibid.

21 Letter of May 18, 1842, Cooper to Stamford, Letters received by the Office of the Adjutant General, 1822-1860 (Main Series). Record Group 94, Roll 262, W 217-405, National Archives Microcopy 567, 1842.


23 Letter of August 5, 1844, Worth to Montgomery, William Worth Belknap Papers, Box t, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.


25 Letters of Application, Volume 2. 1825-1847, Land Records and Title Section, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee, Florida. Hereafter DEP,

26 Contract File of Samuel Reid, Drawer: U.S. Deputy Surveyors O-Z, File: U.S. Deputy Surveyor Samuel Reid, Land Records and Title Section. DEP,

27 Letters and Reports to Surveyor General, Volume 1: 1825-46. 265-69. Land Records and Title Section. DEP, Hereafter, Letters and Reports, volume number and page number.

28 Territorial Papers, XXVI, 654.

29 Letters and Reports, Vol. 1, 277.

30 Letters and Reports, Vol. 1, 280 112.

31 Letter of November 15, 1843, Reid to Conway, Land Office Notices, Refusals, Acceptances and Sundry Letters ... (file) Armed Occupation Permits M-Z (drawer). Land Records and Title Section. DEP.

32 Ibid.

33 Letters and Reports, Vol. 1, 281-82.

34 Letters and Reports, Vol. 1, 285. A cleaner copy of this letter appears on page 293 of the same volume.

35 Letters of Commissioner, Volume 3, 1840-43, 600-702. Land Records and Title Section. DEP

36 Letters of Surveyor General, Volume 4, 1842-44, 102-03. Land Records and Title Section. DER

37 Letters and Reports, Vol. 1, 197.

38 Letters of Surveyor General, Vol. 4, 73-75.


41 Letters and Reports, Vol. 1, 303-04.

42 Territorial Papers, XXVI, 891-92.


44 Discussions in my seminars on the History of Surveys and Surveying, conducted for the Florida Society of Professional Land Surveyors, have given me valuable insight into today's opinions concerning Reid's work. Two seminars in Tampa and one in Sarasota have given me the opportunity to talk to the majority of surveyors who have attempted to follow his field notes. My colleagues in the Bureau of Survey and Mapping also have found Reid's work, by and large, fairly accurate. There are, however, one or two strong dissenters from this opinion.

45 Deed Book I-J, 2,59. (Dated May of 1847.)

46 Deed Book I-J, 381. (Dated April 28, 1848.)

47 Letters and Reports, Vol. 1, 313.