1-1-1960

James Ormond II - an "honest man"

Hampton Dunn
JAMES ORMOND II --- "AN HONEST MAN"

By HAMPTON DUNN

ORMOND BEACH --- In a remote, wooded area just off U.S. 1 north of this resort community is an attractive county park, built around a historic grave where lie the remains of a pioneer citizen.

The tomb has been built up with a concrete slab on top bearing this epitaph:

JAMES ORMOND

Died Sept. 30th
1829
An honest man

Ironically, the original tombstone which paid tribute to an honest man was stolen by vandals.

James Ormond was the son of Capt. James Ormond, a Scotsman sea captain who sailed out of Pensacola, bought a large plantation on the Halifax River here and called it Dameitta Mosquito. He was slain by a runaway slave in 1815.

The captain's widow went back to Scotland to live with her son, a grain dealer. James II was deeply in debt and decided to flee to Florida to escape imprisonment. He grew cotton, fared well and decided to send for his family. His wife Isabelle had contracted brain fever and became demented. She lived just a few years longer than James II.

Their son, James III, grew up and became a successful businessman. He returned to the old home place after serving in the Civil War and he found some Yankee soldiers living there, attempting to recover from "consumption." He befriended them. One member of the group, John Anderson, later settled here, became prominent, and was instrumental in having the town name changed from "New Britain" to Ormond.