Florida is the conceded patriarch of the States. Tampa and Hillsborough County have never been greatly conscious of their old age and lineage, yet more than a century before the landing of the pilgrims, factual history begins in this vicinity when Ponce de Leon touched these shores seeking the fountain of youth, and by the irony of fate received here his mortal wound.

DeSoto and his swashbucklers started from this point on his memorable tour. Diego Miruelo, who later served as pilot for De Narvaez, came in 1516. Pamphilo de Narvaez arrived in 1528, DeSoto in 1539.

De Barastro, and with him the friars, Louis Cancer and Peneola, came in 1549.

Bernal Diaz (see footnote) the historian of Cortez who had previously been to Tampa Bay with "one Juan Ponce de Leon" 14 years previously, entered for fresh water and had a brush with the Indians in which two sentries were overcome and killed. His account shows graphically the persistent blood-lust of the West coast Indians, their undying hatred of the white man and his works.

Footnote: Historia Verdadera de la Conquista de la Nueva Espana, by Bernal Diaz del Castillo, contains more than 1,300 closely written pages published by Espasa-Calpe, S. A. (Madrid, 1928). A copy of this book was loaned to Mr. Alvaro Torres, 2125 Fremont Ave., Tampa, by his brother, an official of the National Library of Spain. Mr. Torres spends his leisure time in translating historical documents and books relating to this expedition to Florida. A great deal of work has been done in making a translation of the report of Cabeza de Vaca. Mr. Torres is authority for the statement that there are no less than 10,000 documents and books relating to Florida reposing in the libraries of Spain.
"Oh, what a task it is to discover new lands and take the chances that we did," sighs Zornalo. On the east coast of Florida the natives seem not to have been so badly treated, and were therefore more amenable to reason.

Don Pedro Menendez d'Aviles, founder of St. Augustine, made an expedition through west Florida searching for a favorite son who had been shipwrecked with one of the treasure fleets. Menendez hoped that, like Juan Ortiz and Juan Munoz, his life had been spared, wandering along the coasts in his quest, making notes of landmarks that would lessen the danger of other wrecks. Menendez established block-houses at Tequesta, Calos, Tocobaya and Coava, and in each left garrisons and missionaries. (Footnote #1.) At Tocobayo he held a council with 29 chiefs and 1,500 Indians. Sartonriara, the bitter enemy of the Spaniards, harassed him and detachments were led against him with no results. This was between the years 1565 and 1567. Tocobayo and Calos are respectively identified with Tampa and Fort Myers, or the Caloosahatchee river section.

In the archives of Spain are references which indicate that on the shores of Tampa Bay there were important settlements of the Indians. A Doctor Pedro Santander in 1557 proposes to the Spanish king a plan to exterminate the idolatrous inhabitants and possess their lands, and mentions the Tampa Bay section as a site for a colony, adding that he "thinks many slaves can be had there." (Footnote #2)

#1. Fairbanks, History of Florida County.
#2. E. L. Robinson, History of Hillsborough County. Professor Robinson also quotes the memoirs of Hernando d'Escalanta Fontenado sometime after the year 1538, wherein he speaks of Tampa as one of the most important Indian villages of the Peninsula.
The story of the Spaniard in Florida forms one of the most intriguing pages of history. His religious fervor had been fanned to fever heat by victories over the Moors. His patriotism and sense of grandeur greatly enhanced by the new discoveries of his countrymen and by ships which no longer hugged the shore, but braved the open ocean. His cupidity had been greatly swollen by tales of limitless wealth.

Arrived in Florida, the land was taken possession of in a long and tedious ceremony wherein the absent natives were duly advised that God had given to one Saint Peter all the nations of the earth, to be ruled by him and his Papal successors. (see footnote)

Footnote: J. A. Frost (Tampa staff, Federal Writers' Project) gives this resume of the formula:

On Saturday, the captain, Panfilo de Narvaez, who had been appointed governor, landed with his official party. Here, before the venturesome pioneers, lay the land of their dreams. With ludicrous solemnity, these austere officials proceeded to establish a legal aspect to the transaction. After Cabeza de Vaca and the others had laid their commissions before the Governor and had them duly acknowledged by the notary, Don Panfilo read aloud the King's Summons to the Indians.

In this, the absent savages were duly advised that God had given to one Saint Peter all the nations of the earth, to be ruled by him and his Papal successors; that one of these successors had made a gift of these New World lands to the Emperor and Queen, who, in turn, had ceded it to the governor and his associates; that if the savages would recognize the Church, the High Pontiff and the king as their Lords, Superiors and Sovereigns, they would, in turn, be received in love and charity.

However, (and here the governor's voice assumed a sterner note) if they were slow to accept the Faith and the yoke of their majesties, the representatives of the king would promptly take possession of the offenders, their wives and children, holding them in slavery, and doing them all manner of injury, and that such deaths and damages would in no wise be the fault of His Majesty, but of the dilatory ones themselves.

Having thus given ample notice to the Timucuans, Don Panfilo had the Requirement certified by the notary and witnessed by the assembly. (Diary of Cabeza de Vaca.)
(This is not a quotation, but a brief resume of the complete text as quoted in the "Odyssey of Cabeza de Vaca")

But with the terrific difficulties encountered and hardships endured, the conceit of the Spaniard rapidly evaporated. The fair land proved a "green hell," like an orchid trapping flies, so it consumed the white man.

The narratives reported back to Spain are graphic documents of suffering and privation unequalled in the annals of all time.

The Tampa area lays claim to being the locale of two incidents, both historical, yet with appealing heart interest and romance. One is the story of Juan Ortiz, of Narvaes' band, and Ulelah, princess of the Timucuans, who risked her life to save him. Her heroism proved to be of cosmic importance. Then there is the story of the martyrdom of Fathers Luis Cancer and Penelosa. Both of these stories are given in full in separate chapters.

THE DADE MASSACRE
INDIAN WAR DAYS

"The Seminole Indians are a weak race, and nothing is to be feared from them," so wrote a descendant of John Alden, an officer of the Fort King garrison. Within the year, the Dade and Fort King massacres had occurred, and the United States was embroiled in its fiercest Indian war—a struggle to rage back and forth across a great area of the state.

The Indian had many sympathizers who deplored the strictures and perfidy of the whites, "on account of which the hardy pioneer's life is often sacrificed to savage vengeance and cruelty." So wrote
"The Scribe" in an early Tampa paper, solilquizing over the charred ruins, mute and tragic reminders of one of the numerous raids. "Here," he says, "blood and life and ashes were consecrated to the cause of early, and perhaps, indiscreet pioneering."

The full account of the negotiations between the Indians and those authorized by the Government to deal with them, does not perhaps belong in a county history. Slavery even played a part. the Indians holding that the agreement to recompense them for their property losses on moving to the Arkansas territory included slaves, of which there were many owners among the Indians. Micanopy, chief of chiefs, was said to have owned above eighty.

When the avarice of the white man led him to demur to this clause, the Seminole was ready for the war path. At any rate, the immediate cause of the war may be said to have arisen out of the objection of the Seminole to leaving Florida. Florida's climate was at this time steadily attracting people from other states, and the hunting grounds of the Indian were being gradually encroached on. Such a wild spirit as the Seminole could never adapt itself to white civilization and the clash was inevitable. Hatreds arose and retaliatory raids ensued. The friendship of a century or more between white and red came to an abrupt end.

Micanopy is credited with the first shot of the Dade massacre, the one that killed Major Dade. The narrative of the beginning of this struggle and the Dade Massacre from the Indian viewpoint is an interesting document.
Tampa, Florida
Copy of Field Notes for
Florida Encyclopedia.
E. F. Borchart
History of Hillsborough
County.

Says Halpatter-Tustenuggee (Chief Alligator) "We had been preparing for this more than a year. Though promises had been made to assemble on the 1st of January, it was not to leave the country, but to fight for it. In council, it was determined to strike a decided blow about this time. Our agent at Fort King had put irons on our men, and said we must go. Osceola said he was his friend, he would see to him. It was determined that he should attack Fort King in order to reach General Thompson, then return to the Wahoo Swamp and participate in the assault meditated upon the soldiers coming from Fort Brooke, as the negroes there had reported that two companies were preparing to march. He was detained longer than we anticipated. The troops were three days on their march and approaching the Swamp. Here we thought it best to assail them; and should we be defeated the Swamp would be a safe place of retreat. Our scouts were out from the time the soldiers left the post and reported each night their place of encampment. It was Osceola, the great Seminole leader, a man of character, determined to free the Indians from the white man's yoke. His hatred of the Americans was kept at white heat by the memory of stinging insult—the seizure of his half-breed (Indian-negro) wife by rapacious slave owners, who claimed her as their lawful property.

Learning of the proposed march of reinforcements from Fort Brooke (now Tampa) to Fort King (now Ocala), he planned what we know as the Dade Massacre.

Early in 1835, General Wiley had requested reinforcements for Fort King, which was meagrely defended, but it was not until late in December of that year that orders were directed to Major Belden at Fort Brooke to proceed to Fort King with a company of men.
Fort Brooke was then composed of two companies of soldiers, under Majors Belden and Dade. Major Belden's wife was an expectant mother, and Dade gallantly insisted upon taking Belden's place at the head of a company of 108 men, which left Fort Brooke on December 23, 1835.

On the night of December 27th, Dade's company had crossed the Withlacoochee River and camped at a small lake about six miles below where the Dade Park is now located. The spot is now known as "Dade's Breakfast Pond."

Believing that with the crossing of the Withlacoochee they had passed the danger line, Major Dade made an address to his men after they breakfasted, stating he believed they would reach their destination by nightfall. He evidently did not know that they had covered only half the distance, and that they were approaching the stronghold of the Indians. Daylight lent them a sense of security, however, as it was customary for the Indians to attack after nightfall, and in this confidence they buttoned up their overcoats over their accoutrements, and dispensing with the precaution of flank and rear guards, they set out for Fort King.

In this unprepared state, the Indians, led by Micanopy and Jumper, made the surprise attack in an open pine barren, and literally hewed down Dade's soldiers, while they hastily constructed a pine log fort. Micanopy is credited with the first shot of the massacre—the one that killed Major Dade.

The Indians made certain to leave all the men dead, and while the savages ruthlessly scalped some of the soldiers, they did not remove articles of value from their clothing.
When the heat of battle subsided, Privates John Thomas and Ransom Clark, though left with the others for dead, escaped from the field, and though severely wounded, made the painful journey back to Fort Brooke staggering in on December 31, and reported the tragedy.

On February 20, 1836, a body of soldiers went from Tampa and gathered up the bodies of Dade and his men and buried them within the little log fort which was their last stand.

In 1842 the bodies were removed to St. Augustine and laid to rest in the Federal Cemetery at the Barracks. The three pyramids in the cemetery mark their graves.

The Dade Massacre has gone down in history with that of the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas, and the Custer Massacre in the far west. It antedated the Alamo by three months, and Custer's last stand by 46 years.

Authentic accounts of the affair are accessible. A West Point memorial, erected in 1845, contains a synopsis of the events, and there is the Indian version as given by Chief Halpatter-Tustenugge (Chief Alligator), which reads, in part:

"We had been preparing for this for more than a year. Though promises had been made to assemble on the 1st of January, it was not to leave the country, but to fight for it. In council, it was determined to our intention to attack them on the third night, but the absence of Osceola and Micanopy prevented it. On the arrival of the latter it was agreed not to wait for Osceola, as the favorable moment would pass. Micanopy was timid, and urged delay. Jumper earnestly opposed it, and reproached the old chief for his indecision. He addressed the Indians, and requested those who had faint hearts to
remain behind; he was going, when Micanopy said he was ready. Just as day was breaking, we moved out of the swamp into the pine-barren. I counted, by direction of Jumper, one hundred and eighty warriors. Upon approaching the road, each man chose his position on the west side; opposite, on the east side, there was a pond. Every warrior was protected by a tree, or secreted in the high palmettos. In advance, some distance, was an officer on a horse, who, Micanopy said, was the captain; he knew him personally; had been his friend in Tampa. So soon as all the soldiers were opposite, between us and the pond, perhaps twenty yards off, Jumper gave the whoop.

Micanopy fired the first rifle, the signal agreed upon, when every Indian arose and fired, which laid upon the ground, dead, more than half the white men. The cannon was discharged several times, but the men who loaded it were shot down as soon as the smoke cleared away; the balls passed far over our heads. The soldiers shouted and whooped and the officers shook their swords and swore. There was a little man, a great brave, who shook his sword at the soldiers and said "God-dam" no rifle-ball could hit him. As we were returning to the swamp, supposing all were dead, and Indian came up and said the white men were building a fort of logs. Jumper and myself, with ten warriors, returned. As we approached, we saw six men behind two logs placed one above another, with the cannon a short distance off. This discharged at us several times, but we avoided it by dodging behind the trees just as they applied the fire.
We soon came near, as the balls went over us. They had guns, but no powder; we looked in the boxes afterwards and found they were empty. When I got inside the log-pen, there were three white men alive, whom the negroes put to death, after a conversation in English. There was a brave man in the pen; he would not give up he seized an Indian, Jumper's cousin, took away his rifle, and with one blow with it beat out his brains, then ran some distance up the road; but two Indians on horseback overtook him, who, afraid to approach, stood at a distance and shot him down. The firing had ceased and all was quiet when we returned to the swamp about noon. We left many negroes upon the ground looking at the dead men. Three warriors were killed and five wounded.

Osceola returned on the night of the 28th of December to the Wahoo Swamp. His party were loaded with all kinds of goods, and their bodies decorated with some trophy, to make known their atrocious acts. Scalps were suspended from their girdles, the warm blood still dripping; others hung them on their heads and necks besmeared their persons with blood, which, aided by their distorted and haggard countenances, gave the entire group a most hideous aspect. The night was spent in a boisterous and joyful manner. The scalps were given up to the great medicine-chief, Illis-higher-Hadjo, who arranged them upon a pole ten feet in height, around which they exultingly danced till daylight, accompanying their frantic mirth by songs, ridiculing and defying white men. Liquors of all kinds had been obtained, and many were beastly intoxicated. Speeches were addressed by the most humorous of the company to the scalp of
General Thompson, imitating his gestures and manner of talking to them incouncil." (See Footnote.)

In 1921 the Florida Legislature made a small appropriation to purchase 80 acres of land embracing the battlefield, and the Dade Memorial Park was established. The march of time had effaced the pine forest and the little log fort, but a reproduction of the fort has been reproduced of concrete logs so nearly resembling pine logs that visitors often think them real. A general monument for all of the men has been built of native rock, surmounted by the figure of a soldier in the uniform of that time. A winding brook has been rock-lined, an artificial like, many little bridges and two large ones for autos, some drives, fountains and other ornaments enhance the natural beauty of the setting of spreading oaks.

In the park is a "home-made" statue of Osceola, the outstanding character of all the Seminoles, who died of a broken heart in prison. Footnote 31. Quoted from Sprague's History of the Florida Indian Wars after the Seminole war. The face was fashioned from a copy of the death mask, obtained at Washington, and while it is the work of a novice, the features are correctly portrayed. The park is a fitting shrine commemorating the memory of the valor and patriotism of the men who lost their lives here. A touch of generosity is seen in the inclusion of Osceola's statue, for though vanquished, the red man was fighting for his home and country.
Fort Marion came into prominence with the opening of the Seminole war. $50,000 had been appropriated for its enlargement. With the arrival of Major-General Winfield Scott, in February, 1836, the main movements of war shifted far southward. The plan was devised to converge on the enemy with three wings—from right, left and center.

Many campaigns were futile, and the Indian definitely had the upper hand, until General Jesup started late in 1836 conducting a campaign against the Seminoles in the fastnesses along the Ocklawaha and Withlacoochee Rivers.

On March 6, 1837, at Fort Dade, a short distance northeast of the present city of Tampa (Fort Dade was a log fort about a mile north of the court house of the present city of Dade City, Pasco County, and fifty miles from Tampa. The name should not be confused with Fort Dade established about the time of the Spanish-American war on Egmont Key, at the mouth of Tampa Bay.), General Jesup entered into a convention with the Seminoles for the suspension of hostilities and the immediate removal of the whole nation west of the Mississippi. The Indians had demanded as a condition that they should be secure in their lives and property. This condition, designated to protect their negro slaves, ultimately caused the abrogation of the convention and the renewal of hostilities. The avarice of the white man could not be out-weighed by the dangers and suffering of warfare. Throughout the lake springs the white inhabitants of Florida protested against such an agreement, and took every opportunity to thwart its fulfillment.

Finally all the Indians who had assembled at Tampa Bay under the convention became so restless under the machinations of certain white
and Indian elements that they fled into the Everglades.

Hostilities began again in 1837. Worn out by the prolonged war, General Jesup used a ruthless expedient. He allowed Osceola and his warriors to assemble, and disregarding and violating their immunity under a flag of truce, seized Osceola, Coacoochee, and several other chiefs and 71 warriors, and incarcerated them at Fort Marion.

The story of the escape of Coacoochee from an aperture of the old fortress is extremely dramatic. Osceola refused to join the escaped chieftains, saying, "I have done nothing to be ashamed of. It is for those to feel shame who entrapped me."

In December, 1837, the entire number of 116 chiefs, including Osceola, Cloud, Micanopy and King Philip and 82 women and children were transported to Fort Moultrie, Charleston, S. C. (Fla. Hist. Quarterly, April, 1935, P. 193)

1845 to 1865

Florida was admitted to the Union in 1845, and two years later Hillsborough County was reorganized with reduced boundaries. On January 5, 1846, there was set up a Court of County Commissioners headed by Simon Turman, with William Hancock, M. C. Brown, and Benjamin Moody members. William S. Spencer was named sheriff, and John Park, collector of taxes. Out of this vast territory, a total of $148.69 in taxes was realized. One wonders what the Collector used for money in making his rounds. But public office was not evaluated entirely in terms of profit in those days. (See Palmer)

By this time quite a settlement had grown up around Fort Brooke
military reservation. In 1849 the General Government donated to
the county forty acres immediately north of it. It was at once sur-
veyed by Jno. Jackson and its bounds described as follows: It
commenced at Whiting St. on the south, bounded on the west by the
Hillsborough River, extended north a little beyond Cass St., and was
bounded on the east by a line running through a tier of blocks lying
immediately east of Morgan St.

In 1842, the armed occupation law was passed giving every settler
below the Withlacoochee one hundred sixty (160) acres of land which
had not been previously surveyed. This offer attracted many settlers
to this section.

Eliza Bird Sparkman came to Hillsborough County, Christmas Eve,
1845, finding his home site near Dover, eighteen miles east of Tampa,
and with him came several other families. This settlement was on the
edge of what was later known as Simmons Hammock, traversed by the Ft.
King Highway and the dark and bloody ground of Hillsborough County.
Some of the pioneer names of the Hammock, woven also into County
history, are Simmons, Burnett, Hooker, and Sparkman.

Simeon M. Sparkman, son of Eliza Bird Sparkman, born in 1851,
still resides at the home place. At eighty-five years, his memory
is good, and with a long career of public office, he is a source of
much excellent information regarding both pioneers and Indians of this
period.

It was in this Hammock that General Zachary Taylor, later presi-
dent of the United States, received the scar of his life when he and
200 men were ambushed by a handful of Indians. Not long after, Florida and Georgia Crackers were to actually save his life at Taylor's Creek, north of Lake Okeechobee (Reminiscences of S. M. Sparkman - FC)

Indian raids were still frequent and deadly. Cornelia Ann Tippens, Sim Sparkman's cousin, had been scalped and tomahawked as a mere baby, and left for dead. Her father, a surveyor by profession, was moving out of the danger region of Sumter County. He and his wife, and a large family of children, were in their wagon when the Indians attacked. The parents were killed instantly, the horses ran away, and all the children were killed and scalped, save Cornelia. She was taken to the Sparkman place and raised by them. Although lame, and with an arm useless as the result of injuries, she later taught school, married, and was the mother of eight children, and lived to the ripe age of eighty-four. Her married name was Mrs. William Mobley. Her hardihood and longevity serve to illustrate the stamina of the early Florida settlers who had come to carve a home out of the wilderness with bare hands, chopping down and hewing its timbers, clearing stubborn green land, fighting savages and wild animals, struggling with the pioneer spirit which has become a synonym for early America, to win and hold a place he might claim his own. The plainsman and frontiersman of the west has received due recognition, but the tale is yet to be written of the early Floridian.

His was not a soft lot in a land thought of as one of perpetual sunshine and gently rustling palms. In no section were Indians nor nature more relentless. The breezes not always gentle.
Travel to and through Florida was a perilous adventure. Tragic were the accounts of shipwreck and loss of life on reefs and keys while rounding the Florida Capes. Whole families were wiped out. The State Supreme Court in several cases has been called on to determine the succession in such cases of common disaster, and in one case (give citation) the details are given in evidentiary form, as etched on the minds of the witnesses.

A column of the Tampa "Herald" (Jan. 13, 1935) from the Key West correspondent bespeaks the hazards of the trip. Out of the fifteen arrivals in almost that many days, all but two had met with expensive and perilous mishap, and grave fears of the loss of two were expressed. This story also illustrates the proportions to which "wrecking" business had grown and gives some color to the story that false lights were put out in order to pile ships on the reefs to their gain. Key West especially thrived on this industry. In addition to the profits of the money made by the wreckers and marine ways, the passengers and sailors spent their money ashore during the long waits while repairs were being made. "It is an ill gale that blows no one good," must surely have been a familiar Key West quotation.

Some idea of the activity of the port of Tampa of the time, derived from the "Marine List - Port of Tampa" should be of interest to Tampans who have watched the growth of the port.

"ENTERED"

Nov. 30 (1854) Str Gordon, Brooks, Charls'n.
Dec. 3 - Sch Eliza Catherine, Alder Key West
Dec. 10 - Sch Emma, Gould, Ft. Myers
17 - Str Jasper, Tresca, St. Marks
17 - Str J. J. Taylor, Black, New Orleans
30 - Str Pampero, Cozzens, New Orleans
Jan. 2 - Sch Eliza Catherine, Alder, Key West
Tsnpa, Florida
Copy of Field Notes for
Florida Encyclopedia.
History of Hillsborough County.
B. F. Borcherdt.

Jan. 6 - Str Jasper, Tresca, Key West
8 - Str Pamero, Cozzensa, Key West
11 - Str Fashion, Baker, Fort Myers
12 - Sch J. J. Taylor, Black, Punta Rassa

"CLEARED"

Dec. 1 - Str Gordon, Brooks, St. Marks
16 - Sch Eliza Catherine, Alder, Key West
17 - Str Jasper, Tresca, Key West
23 - Sch J. J. Taylor, Black, Punta Rassa

Jan. 2 - Str Pamero, Cozzensa, Key West
5 - Str Fashion, Baker, Fort Myers
10 - Str Pamero, Cozzensa, New Orleans
11 - Str Jasper, Tresca, St. Marks

According to advertisement the Jasper and Pamero were Gulf Mail Steamers on a semi-monthly run between New Orleans and Key West, touching at Pensacola, Apalachicola, St. Marks, Cedar Keys and Tampa. Captain Tresca was a shipmaster of Tampa waters, his home being in the Manatee section. He was to aid Judah P. Benjamin, Cabinet officer of the defeated Confederacy, to escape to England.

Travel over land was quite as arduous as by sea. There was no stagecoach line until __________. Prior to that, the traveller made his way by ox team or horseback around never-ending swamps and bayheads, through quagmires and swollen rivers, over roads which were nothing more than dim trails -- a journey fraught with danger and appalling discomfort. The sea trip was preferable, but months might elapse before the opportunity of a voyage might offer itself.

Legislators and others having business at Tallahassee, were faced with an ordeal. The journey was often made from Florida to New York by sea and from there back to the State Capital, viz rail and stages -- a thousand mile journey, to net a bare three or four hundred miles.

Foot note: Search has been made to confirm the report that legislators were paid in mileage and per diem for their detour.
HISTORY OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
THE FIRST COMING OF THE SPANIARD
Period of Discovery and Exploration

All Floridians have a just pride in the land of their forefathers. Regardless of where they may be found, or in what country they live, speak of Florida and the eye brightens, the pulse quickens and the heart thrills with deep love of country. Her varied past, under five flags, her steadfast people, her lakes, springs, somnolent rivers and sunkist seashore capture both the heart and the imagination.

Florida is conceded to be the patriarch of the States. Although the inhabitants of Hillsborough County have never been greatly conscious of its old age and lineage, it is in this county that factual history of the United States begins.

The story of the Spaniard in Florida forms one of the most intriguing sections of history. The travels of Ponce de Leon in 1521 through the "Land of Flowers" had aroused the vivid Latin imagination. Even though the grey-haired old warrior, through the irony of fate, received his mortal wound on Tampa shores in his quest for the "Fountain of Youth," other Spanish explorers still clamored for royal permission to conquer and colonize Florida.

Foremost of these supplicants was Panfilo de Narvaez. Smarting from the staggering defeat that he had received from Cortez in Mexico, he begged the king for local authority to return to the new land.

The Emperor granted his plea in order to get rid of a discredited
officer and gave him the life-time title of Adelantado of all the lands he should discover and conquer.

Immediately the joyful de Narvaez set about gathering a crew to follow him into the new world. This was not a great task. The Spaniard was drunk with power, and the lure of the new world was making heavy levies on the young manhood of Castile and Leon. Victorious over the Moors, his religious fervor had been fanned to fever heat. Patriotism and a sense of grandeur had been stimulated by the discoveries in the new world, the greatest of all these urges was the blazing lust for gold.

De Narvaez sailed from San Lucar, Spain, June, 1527, with five vessels and 600 men. The expedition was cursed from the start. At the West Indies, nearly one-fourth of his men refused to go further. Then, two of his vessels, with 70 men on board, were lost in a hurricane and the expedition was further delayed through the incompetency of his pilot, Diego Miruelo. It was not until the following spring that he again set sail, and on April 15, 1528, he entered the bay just north of what is now Tampa Bay.

Some historians place this landing point at St. John's Pass, ten miles northwest of St. Petersburg, others at Clearwater Bay, but the weight of authority concedes that the harbor described by de Narvaez was located on Old Tampa Bay.

The memory of Ponce de Leon's exploration and cruel warfare, seven years before, was still fresh in the minds of the natives when the strange vessels of Narvaez' fleet sailed into the harbor. Instead of welcoming the white man as they had done in the case of Ponce de Leon, the Timucuans hastily scurried to places of concealment and abandoned their belongings to the avaricious invaders.
The newcomers were not long in landing, for before the anchors of the ships had grounded, men were aswarm on the rails and jumping over the side into the clear, shallow water.

On the shore ahead, the adventurers saw a village of small, round houses thatched with palmetto leaves. One massive beamed hut, surmounted with the figure of a fowl with gilded eyes, was the community house capable of housing three hundred persons. To this structure the crowd rushed, and it was only with difficulty that they were restrained by their cautious officers until it was decided that there was no ambush—then the troop broke order and raged through the village, ransacking the huts in search of loot. One soldier discovered a golden rattle hidden in a pile of fish nets, and excitedly showed it to his friends. Immediately they set up a great outcry "Gold!" and demanded that they start on a tour of conquest.

Officers and men were both eager to set on the quest, but desired first to be certain that they complied with edicts laid down by the Emperor and the Church of Rome. Accordingly, Narvaez proceeded to take possession of the new land in a long and tedious ceremony in which the absent natives were duly advised that God had given all land to St. Peter, who had in turn transferred the gift to his Papal successors.

After this farcical ceremony had been completed the troop prepared to set out, but one man of the company demurred. He was Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca, historian of the expedition, treasurer, and Florida's first author. De Vaca was a man with a passion for bare and unvarnished description, a master of clear and concise prose. With his narrative, the curtain may be said to rise on actual
scientific history in Florida. His memoirs of the hardships and privations endured by the Spanish explorers are a record unequalled in the annals of history.

Cabeza de Vaca argued that a safe harbor should be found for the ships where they could be securely moored awaiting the return of the exploring party. His objections were overruled and the party of 300 men and 40 horses prepared to march to the north, where it was hoped that gold would be found.

Just before the departure of the explorers, De Narváez had ordered the rigger of the fleet to sail in search of the opening to the great bay that had been observed on a previous voyage. Instructions were to find the bay and return with report, or if the opening could not be found, to sail direct to Havana for supplies. The pilot, Diego Miruelo, insisted that he could find the harbor by sailing a few miles to the southward, but the governor ordered a northern course and the ship departed.

As the ships sailed away, the land expedition prepared to march. Polished armor glistened in the Florida sun, blades of Toledo clanked as the grim foot-soldiers followed the prancing horses, beasts fearfully known by the Indians as "fire-breathing dragons." Malarial swamps, swarms of blood-sucking insects, fallen trees, lurking alligators, poisonous serpents, and a thousand other hazards beset the ardent explorers as they plunged through the uncharted section which is now included in Hillsborough County.

On Monday, April 13, the governor and forty men reached a point on Tampa Bay, somewhere near Safety Harbor, where they found a field of green corn. Proceeding to the next village, probably the site of Tampa, they were told by natives of a place to the northward
called "Apalachee" where they could find plenty of food and gold. So the party still continued north.

After fifteen days they arrived at a wide river, undoubtedly the Withlacoochee, where the Indians told them the sea was too far remote even to be considered.

The descriptions of the habits and customs of the aboriginal Indians are all that remain of them. They were extremely war-like and agile, familiar with forest warfare, whereas the Spaniards were not. The Indians used huge bows as weapons and their aim and strength were so deadly that even armor and mail shirts were not complete protection against the stout arrows.

Four months of adversity, warfare and hunger, and the invaders were depressed to the point of panic. The coast was finally reached at Apalachicola, and they fell to with desperate haste to construct boats with which to complete the journey by water. The little flotilla, unseaworthy and crowded to the gunwales, was the beginning of the end of the expedition as such. Off the mouth of the Mississippi the currents carried the little crafts to sea and scattered them. Later the beaches were strewn with drowned bodies. Of the 180 odd, only De Vaca and three others survived.

The Odyssey of De Vaca of his years of residence among the Indians, in turn slave, itinerant trader, revered medicine man, and his final escape into Mexico makes fascinating reading. His observations of the aborigines strike one as being sound anthropology.

With the exit of De Vaca and his companions the footprints of the white man disappeared from the continent known as Florida and for ten years longer the red man rested under the shade of magnolias and oaks, hunted his game, and kept his feasts with no white man to dispute his claim.
With no tidings of her husband or the expedition the anxious Madame de Narvaez dispatched a caraval from Cuba to search the coast. Aboard it was the impetuous Juan Ortiz, a youth who had chafed under the orders that had prevented him from going forward with the explorers. The story of his capture by the Indians, and his rescue by Ulelah, daughter of the mutilated and revengeful Ucita, is consumingly interesting and replete with romance.

For ten years, until the advent of DeSoto, he was locked in forest wilderness, a spiritless captive. No knowledge or hope existed that he still lived.

DeSoto was almost ready to lead his pretentious expedition to the New World when Cabeza de Vaca returned to Spain. The know-nothing, noncommittal attitude of the latter only served to heighten the curiosity of those who were selling their olive and wheat fields, their palaces and their estates, to join the adventurous Don.

Wealthy with the loot of Peru, high in the favor of the Emperor, DeSoto was a glamorous figure. He and his clique of conquistadores swaggered about the streets with their retinues, spending money lavishly and were the cynosure of all eyes. The Emperor had been favored with a loan of 600,000 reales and in recognition had created DeSoto Governor of Cuba and Adelantade of Florida, with the title of Marquis of the territory he should conquer.

In April of 1539, amid the blare of trumpets, volleys of artillery and scenes of great festivity, the expedition of seven ships and 600 men, equipped with arms, tools, horses, blood-hounds and livestock, passed over the bar of San Lucar.

Arrived at Santiago, Cuba, quite a stay was made there, and then the troop made an overland expedition to Havana. While in
Cuba, DeSoto met Vasco Porcallo de Figueroa, an influential planter of that country, who was interested in securing slaves for his plantation. He supplied DeSoto with hogs and cassava bread and in return for his services, DeSoto permitted him to accompany the expedition and promised to assist him in securing slaves from Florida. It is interesting to note in this connection that the hogs brought in by Figueroa were the forerunners of our present "razor-backs."

The expedition sailed in the spring for Florida, leaving the administration of Cuban affairs in the hands of DeSoto's fair wife, Donna Isabelle. On the 25th of May, 1539, they landed at Tampa Bay after a voyage of six days. As it was Whitsunday, DeSoto called the bay Espiritu Santo (Holy Spirit) and by this name it was known for many years.

Not far from the landing place of the explorers was an Indian town whose chief was called Ucita. DeSoto sent a detachment of soldiers to this village in hopes of capturing an Indian for a guide. As the soldiers were riding down some savages, they were surprised to see a man stop and cry out in Spanish to them. They called to him and he came forward explaining that he was Juan Ortiz, and a survivor of the Narvaez expedition of 1528.

THE STORY OF JUAN ORTIZ

The story of Juan Ortiz, as related by the anonymous "Gentleman of Elvas," is one of the most thrilling in American History. It rivals and antedates by more than 100 years that of Captain John Smith in Virginia.

"The name of the Christian was Juan Ortiz, a native of Seville,
and of noble parentage. He had been twelve years among the Indians, having gone into the country with Panfilo de Narváez, and returned in the ships to the island of Cuba, where the wife of the Governor remained; whence, by her command, he went back to Florida, with some twenty or thirty others, in a pinnace; and coming to the port in sight of the town, they saw a cane sticking upright in the ground, with a split in the top, holding a letter, which they supposed the Governor had left there, to give information of himself before marching into the interior. They asked it to be given to them, of four or five Indians walking along the beach who, by signs, bade them to come to land for it, which Ortiz and another did, though contrary to the wishes of others. No sooner had they got on shore, when many natives came out of the houses, and drawing near, held them in such way that they could not escape. One, who would have defended himself, they slew on the spot; the other they seized by the hands, and took him to Ucita, their Chief. The people in the pinnace, unwilling to land, kept along the coast and returned to Cuba.

"By command of Ucita, Juan Ortiz was bound hand and foot to four stakes, and laid upon scaffolding, beneath which a fire was kindled, that he might be burned; but a daughter of the chief entreated that he might be spared. Though one Christian, she said, might do no good, certainly he could do no harm, and it would be an honor to have one for a captive; to which the father acceded, directing the injuries to be healed. When Ortiz got well, he was put to watching a temple, that the wolves in the night time might not carry off the dead there, which charge he took in hand, having commended himself to God. One night they snatched away from him
the body of a little child, son of a principal man, and in going after them, he threw a dart at the wolf that was escaping, which, feeling itself wounded, let go its hold, and went off to die; and he returned not knowing what he had done in the dark. In the morning, finding the body of the little boy gone, he became very sober, and Ucita, when he heard what had happened, determined he should be killed. But having sent on the trail which Ortiz pointed out as that the wolves had made, the body of the child was found, and a little farther on a dead wolf; at which circumstance the Chief became well pleased with the Christian, and satisfied with the guard he had kept, ever after taking much notice of him.

"Three years having gone by since he had fallen into the hands of this chief, there came another, named "Hucoo," or "Hucoasa," living two days' journey distance from that port, and burnt the town, when Ucita fled to one he had in another seaport, whereby Ortiz lost his occupation, and with it the favor of his master. The Indians are worshippers of the Devil, and it is their custom to make sacrifices of the blood and bodies of their people, or of those of any other they can come by; and they affirm, too, that when he would have them make an offering, he speaks, telling them that he is athirst, and that they must sacrifice to him. The girl who had delivered Ortiz from the fire, told him how her father had the mind to sacrifice him the next day, and that he must flee to Hucoo, who she knew would receive him with regard, as she had heard that he had asked for him, and said he would like to see him. As he knew not the way, she went half a league out of town with him at dark, to put him on the road, returning early so as not to be missed.

"Ortiz travelled all night, and in the morning came to a
river, the boundary of the territory of Musoco, where he discovered two men fishing. As this people were at war with those of Ucita, and their languages different, he did not know how he should be able to tell them who he was, and why he came, or make other explanation that they might not kill him as one of the enemy. It was not, however, until he had come up to where their arms were placed that he was discovered, when they fled towards the town; and though he called out to them to wait, that he would do them no injury, they only ran the faster, for not understanding him. As they arrived, shouting, many Indians came out of the town, and began surrounding in order to shoot him with their arrows, when he, finding himself pressed, took shelter behind trees, crying aloud that he was a Christian fled from Ucita, come to visit and serve Musoco. At the moment, it pleased God that an Indian should come up, who, speaking the language, understood him and quieted the others, telling them what was said. Three or four ran to carry the news, when the cacique, much gratified, came a quarter of a league on the way to receive him. He caused the Christian immediately to swear to him, according to the custom of his country, that he would not leave him for any other master, and in return he promised to show him much honor, and if at any time Christians should come to that land, he would let him go freely, and give him his permission to return to them, pledging his oath to this after the Indian usage.

"Three years from that time, some people fishing out at sea, three leagues from land, brought news of having seen ships; when Musoco, calling Ortiz, gave him permission to depart, who, taking leave, made all haste to the shore, where, finding no vessels, he supposed the story to be only a device of the cacique to discover
his inclination. In this way he remained with him nine years, having little hope of ever seeing Christians more; but no sooner had the arrival of the Governor of Florida taken place, when it was known to Nuoco, who directly told Ortiz that Christians were in the town of Ucita. The captive, thinking himself jested with, as he had supposed himself to be before, said that his thought no longer dwelt on his people, and that his only wish now was to serve him, Nuoco. Still the cacique assured him that it was even as he stated, and gave him leave to go, telling him that if he did not, and the Christians should depart, he must not blame him, for he had fulfilled his promise.

"Great was the joy of Ortiz at this news, though still doubtful of its truth; he thanked Nuoco, and went his way. A dozen principal Indians were sent to accompany him, and on their way to the port, they met Baltasar de Gallegos, in the manner that has been related. Arrived at the camp, the Governor ordered that apparel be given him, good armor, and a fine horse. When asked if he knew of any country where there was either gold or silver, he said that he had not been ten leagues in any direction from where he lived; but that thirty leagues distant was a chief named Paracoxl, to whom Nuoco, Ucita, and all they that dwelt along the coast paid tribute, and that he perhaps had knowledge of some good country, as his land was better than theirs, being more fertile and abounding in maize. Hearing this, the Governor was well pleased, and said he only desired to find subsistence, that he might be enabled to go inland with safety; for that Florida was so wide, in some part of it there could not fail to be a rich country. The cacique of Nuoco came to the port, and calling on the Governor, he thus spoke:
"Most High and Powerful Chief:

Though less able, I believe, to serve you than the least of these under your control, but with the wish to do more than even the greatest of them can accomplish, I appear before you in the full confidence of receiving your favor, as much so as though I deserved it, not in requital of the trifling service I rendered in setting free the Christian while he was in my power, which I did, not for the sake of my honor or my promise, but because I hold that great men should be liberal. As much as in your bodily perfections you exceed all, and in your command over fine men you are superior to others, so in your nature are you equal to the full employment of earthly things. The favor I hope for, great lord, is that you will hold me to be your own, calling on me freely to do whatever may be your wish."

"The Governor answered him, that although it were true, in freeing him and sending the Christian, he had done no more than keep his word and preserve his honor, nevertheless he thanked him for an act so valuable, that there was no other for him that could be compared to it, and that, holding him henceforth to be a brother, he should in all, and through all, favor him. Then a shirt and some other articles of clothing were directed to be given to the chief, who thankfully received them, took leave, and went to his town."

The importance of Juan Ortiz to DeSoto was incalculable, and he had come as in answer to a devout prayer. The Adelantado was here furnished with a trusted guide and interpreter as Juan had lived among the Indians for twelve years—so long as to almost forget his native tongue. In addition to his linguistic accomplishments, Ortiz enjoyed the confidence of the powerful chief Mucoo..."
who furnished provisions and more guides for the expedition.

It was not until July that DeSoto, after sending one or more of his ships back to Cuba with news of his landing, began his march northward. From various accounts recorded, it appears that they left Tampa, traveled northwest, crossed the Withlacoochee River, passed through an Indian town called Ocali, and visited the Bay of Horses, the point at which the Narvaez party had built their rude rafts some ten years before. The natives were no better pleased to see him than they had been to see De Narvaez and there was one fight after another.

After roundabout wanderings, they crossed the Mississippi, pushed on westward as far as Oklahoma and turned back to the river, where DeSoto died and was buried in the waters of the river which he is credited with discovering. Juan Ortiz died on the journey westward, not long before the death of the Adelantado himself.

The beaten and impoverished remnant of his expedition constructed boats, sailed down the Mississippi and finally reached Panuco, Mexico, to tell the story of suffering and failure.

Several years after DeSoto’s expedition, a few earnest priests determined to try to teach the Christian religion to the Indians of Florida. Until now, all who had visited the strange land had come in the name of an earthly king, seeking wealth, glory and honor. These came in the name of a heavenly king to bring the knowledge of God to the natives.

Although all previous expeditions of the Spaniards had been accompanied by priests, the voyage in 1542 made by Fathers Louis Cancer, De Beleta, Garcia, Penalosa and Brother Fuentes was the first exploration party having a purely religious motive.
They sailed from Vera Cruz, Mexico, to Havana for supplies before attempting the exploration of Florida. While there, the Fathers became acquainted with Magdalena, a Florida Indian squaw who had been converted to Christianity. She agreed to accompany the priests to her native land and act as interpreter.

Father Cancer desired that the party should land on the eastern shore of Florida as there would be no native anti-Spanish prejudices to overcome in this section. The headstrong Captain John de Arana ignored the wishes of Father Cancer, however, and insisted upon landing on the West Coast where past deeds of the Spanish had aroused the undying animosity of the Indians.

Their first landing was on Ascension Day in 1542, but finding the natives unfriendly, the voyage was continued. A few days later Father Penalosa and Brother Fuentes accompanied by a sailor and Magdalena made a landing but were not allowed to return to the ship, which Cancer had insisted should not be armed on this mission of peace. The squaw insisted that the Friars would be safe and that the Indians would meet the ship further up the coast.

Meanwhile, Father Cancer and his associates aboard were making frantic efforts to contact the natives that held their friendprisoner, but met with no success. Although they feared that their companions were dead, Cancer, De Beleta and Garcia stood fast in the resolve to proceed with their missionary work. Reaching the vicinity of Tampa on June 22nd, they decided to make that their headquarters.

On landing they were met by a Spanish soldier, Juan Munoz, a servant to Captain Calderon of the DeSoto expedition. He had been captured and enslaved by the Indians ten years previous to the
coming of Father Cancer. Munez may be said to be the second white man to be a resident of Hillsborough County.

Munez confirmed the grave fears the Fathers had for their associates that had been captured. He informed Father Cancer that Father Penalosa and Brother Puentes had been murdered by the Indians shortly after they had been taken.

At this news, the surviving clergymen returned to the ship very much disheartened, but on June 26th Father Cancer decided to return to the shore, alone and unarmed. He was at once seized by the natives and butchered in sight of his colleagues.

Thus perished Father Louis Cancer, a martyr to his religion.

The present Sacred Heart Church in Tampa was formerly named in his honor.

OTHER EXPLORERS

Bernal Diaz, the historian of Cortez, started from Havana on the 8th of February, 1517. The expedition was defeated by the natives of Mexico, and they came to the Florida coast, with practically every man aboard grievously wounded or dying.

The exact date of the landing has not been determined, but it was "fourteen or fifteen years" after Juan Ponce's visit to Old Tampa Bay. The account relating to Old Tampa Bay is here outlined. Antonio de Alaminos, a pilot of the expedition who had been with Juan Ponce de Leon fourteen or fifteen years previously, came to the "same land that defeated and killed Juan Ponce," and recognized the same harbor. Twenty soldiers, the healthier of the wounded, were landed, taking with them vases, hoes, cross bows and muskets.
The Captain, Francisco Hernández, badly wounded and weak with thirst, pleaded for fresh water, saying that he was drying up, the water aboard being salted and not fit to drink.

Alaminos remembered Juan Ponce's experience with the Indians and enjoined everyone to be extremely wary.

Two soldiers were put out as sentinels on the beach, the rest of the party set out to dig wells. They found good water and quenched their thirst, fervently thanking God. They were washing bandages for the wounded when the sentinels came yelling at the top of their voices "To arms! To arms!" Indians and sentinels reached the party at the same time.

"They had big bows, good arrows and spears and some manner of swords. They were dressed with deer hides and were large of body. They came straight to us, shooting arrows and wounding six, including myself. We fought them so hard with knife and sword thrust and with our muskets and cross bows that they left us and went to the estuary to aid their companions who were in canoes fighting with the sailors."

The battle raged until twenty-two Indians were lying on the shore, and three prisoners were taken who were slightly hurt. "Those died in the ships," says Bernal Díaz, leaving much to the imagination.

One of the sentinels had been killed, the only one who had escaped without a wound in the battle of Potonchan (Mexico) "and it was fate that he came there to die." "One of the soldiers drank so much water on the journey home that he swelled up and died."

Between the years 1565 and 1567, Don Pedro Menéndez d'Aviles, founder of St. Augustine, made an expedition through West Florida,
searching for a favorite son who had been shipwrecked with one
of the treasure fleets. Menendez hoped that his life had been
spared. Wandering along the Gulf coast in this quest, making
notes of landmarks that would lessen the danger of other wrecks,
Menendez established block-houses at Taquesta, Calos, Tocobayo,
near Tampa, and Coave and in each left garrisons and missionaries.
At Tocobayo he held a council with twenty-nine chiefs and fifteen
hundred Indians. Satouriara, the bitter enemy of the Spaniards,
harrassed him and detachments were led against him with no results.

The village of Tocobayo existed and was known as such until
within the memory of the oldest citizen. Daniel C. Brinton refers
to it in his Notes on the Florida Peninsular, published in 1837,
as marked by the remains of an immense shell mound.
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History of Hillsborough County, E. L. Robinson, author and publisher, Copyright 1923, Tampa, Florida
"The Seminole Indians are a weak race, and nothing is to be feared from them," so wrote a descendant of John Alden, an officer of the Fort King garrison. Within the year, the Dade and Fort King massacres had occurred, and the United States was embroiled in its fiercest Indian war—a struggle to rage back and forth for seven years across a great area of the State.

The Indian had many sympathizers who deplored the strictures and perfidy of the whites, "on account of which the hardy pioneer's life is often sacrificed to savage vengeance and cruelty." So wrote "The Scribe" in an early Tampa paper, soliloquizing over the charred ruins, mute and tragic reminders of one of the numerous raids. "Here," he says, "blood and life and ashes were consecrated to the cause of early, and perhaps, indiscreet pioneering."

The full account of the negotiations between the Indians and those authorized by the government to deal with them, does not perhaps belong in a county history. Slavery even played a part, the Indians holding that the agreement to recompense them for their property losses on moving to the Arkansas territory included slaves, of which there were many owners among the Indians. Micamopy, chief of chiefs, was said to have owned above eighty.
When the avarice of the white man led him to demur to this clause, the Seminole was ready for the war path. At any rate, the immediate cause of the war may be said to have arisen out of the objection of the Seminole to leaving Florida. Florida's climate was at this time steadily attracting people from other states, and the hunting grounds of the Indian were being gradually encroached on. Such a wild spirit as the Seminole could never adapt itself to white civilization, and the clash was inevitable. Hatreds arose, and retaliatory raids ensued. The friendship of a century or more between white and red came to an abrupt end.

Osceola, the half-white Seminole leader, a man of character and a talented tactician, determined to free the Indians from the white man's yoke. His hatred of the Americans was kept at white heat by the memory of stinging insult—the seizure of his half-breed (Indian-Negro) wife by rapacious slave owners, who claimed her as their lawful property. Osceola has furnished the world with a portrait of the proud and scornful native. He had the courage of his convictions, never swerving from the terms he chose to lay down. He was a deadly marksman, and led a charmed life. Standing boldly in the open he disdained the hail of bullets aimed at him. The tree behind which he took occasional refuge at the Fort King affray, was virtually cut to pieces.

Learning of the proposed march of reinforcements from Fort Brooke (now Tampa) to Fort King (now Ocala), he planned what we know as the Dade Massacre.

Early in 1835, General Wiley Thompson had requested reinforcements for Fort King, which was meagerly defended, but
it was not until late in December of that year that orders were directed to Major Belden at Fort Brooke to proceed to Fort King with a company of men.

Fort Brooke was then composed of two companies of soldiers, under Majors Belden and Dade. Major Belden's wife was an expectant mother, and Dade gallantly insisted upon taking Belden's place at the head of a company of 107 men, which left Fort Brooke on December 23, 1835.

On the night of December 27th, Dade's company had crossed the Withlacoochee river and camped at a small lake about six miles below where the Dade Park is now located. The spot is now known as "Dade's Breakfast Pond."

Believing that with the crossing of the Withlacoochee they had passed the danger line, Major Dade made an address to his men after they breakfasted, stating he believed they would reach their destination by nightfall. He evidently did not know that they had covered only half the distance, and that they were approaching the stronghold of the Indians. Daylight lent them a sense of security, however, as it was customary for the Indians to attack after nightfall, and in this confidence they buttoned up their overcoats over their accoutrements, and dispensing with the precaution of flank and rear guards, they set out for Fort King.

In this unprepared state, the Indians, led by Micanopy and Jumper, made the surprise attack in an open pine barren, and literally hewed down Dade's soldiers, while they hastily constructed a pine log fort. Micanopy is credited with the first shot of the massacre—the one that killed Major Dade.
On the same day, General Thompson and ten of his guests were murdered as they sat at Christmas dinner, just outside of Fort King. Osceola was the leader of this band.

The Indians made certain to leave all the men dead, and while the savages ruthlessly scalped some of the soldiers, they did not remove articles of value from their clothing.

When the heat of battle subsided, Privates John Thomas and Ransom Clark, left with the others for dead, escaped from the field, and though severely wounded, made the painful journey back to Fort Brooke, staggered in on December 31, and reported the tragedy.

On February 20, 1836, a body of soldiers went from Tampa and gathered up the bodies of Dade and his men, and buried them within the little log fort which was their last stand.

In 1848 the bodies were removed to St. Augustine and laid to rest in the Federal Cemetery at the Barracks. The three pyramids in the cemetery mark their graves.

The Dade Massacre has gone down in history with that of the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas, and the Custer Massacre in the Far West. It antedated the Alamo by three months, and Custer's last stand by 46 years.

Authentic accounts of the affair are accessible. A West Point memorial contains a synopsis of the events, (see footnote), but most interesting is the Indian version as given by Chief Halpatter-

Footnote: A synopsis of the event is contained in a document placed in the memorial erected in the memory of the participants in 1845, at West Point Military Academy. The document reads as follows:

"This monument is erected by the officers and men of the
Second and Third regiments of artillery and the Fourth regiment of infantry, and by the medical staff, in memory of their comrades who fell in battle with the Seminole Indians of Florida on December 23, 1855. The detachment left Fort Brooke, Tampa Bay, for Fort King, Fla., distant one hundred miles, on the 25th of December. The force was small—107 men—and one six-pounder, the road abounding in thickets, hammocks and places of concealment, and the Indians, numbering above fourteen hundred warriors, war-like and well armed, had declared that they would allow no armed force to pass through their country without attempting to destroy it. Fully aware of the danger of the march and expecting a severe conflict, though with a hope that a portion of the command would get through, this little band departed in obedience to orders by those who knew not so well the strength and disposition of the enemy. The writer of this accompanied the detachment to their first encampment and received directions from two of the officers to settle up their affairs in case they did not survive. Thus forewarned and on their guard they advanced into the country.

"On the morning of the fifth day, December 28th, at about 8 o'clock, when the command had marched some four miles from its last encampment, seven miles north of the Withlacoochee, and was about sixty-five miles north by east of Fort Brooke, the Seminoles opened a murderous fire from the palmetto thickets and bushes. Major Dade, the commander, with the advanced guard two hundred yards in front of the main body, Captain Frazier and the leading files of the main body, all fell during the first fire. Part of the detachment then extended, the six-pounder field piece was brought into action and after a conflict of more than two hours, the Indians retired, leaving but thirty-odd of Dade’s command still alive.

"The survivors, many of them wounded, felled some trees and were forming a small triangular breastwork when the Indians, who had been withdrawn by their chief, Jumper, and were told by him they had killed enough for one day, received a large accession to their force under Alligator, who assumed command, renewed the conflict (about 11 a.m.) and in a little while all our men were killed or disabled. Two private soldiers escaped during the first engagement and reached Tampa on the 29th and 30th (Thomas and Sprague, of B Co., Third Artillery). Two others, Ransom Clark and Edward de Courcy, who were shockingly wounded and left on the ground as dead by the Indians, started to return the next morning. They were discovered and pursued by a mounted Indian and separating for safety, de Courcy was overtaken and killed and Clark escaped and on the afternoon of the 31st reached Tampa Bay. Clark recovered and gave a very connected account of the conflict and its termination.

"The ground was not visited by anyone until the 20th of February following, when the bodies were found as they had fallen.

"This event, succeeding a peace of thirty years, created a very strong excitement throughout the land and large bodies of volunteers marched into Florida to punish the Seminoles. Seven
years of war, with a great expenditure of life and treasure, followed and as the Indians surrendered or were caught, they were removed to the Arkansas. Peace was made in 1842 and about one hundred warriors with their families, yet remain in Florida south of Peas Creek (Peace River), Tatakik Chopko-hatchee, at this day, May, 1845."

Tustemuge (Chief Alligator), which reads, in part:

"We had been preparing for this for more than a year. Though promises had been made to assemble on the ist of January, it was not to leave the country, but to fight for it. In council, it was determined to strike a decided blow about this time. Our agent at Fort King had put irons on our men, and said we must go. Osceola said he was his friend, they would see to him. It was determined that he should attack Fort King in order to reach General Thompson, then return to the Wahoo Swamp and participate in the assault meditated upon the soldiers coming from Fort Brooke, as the negroes there had reported that two companies were preparing to march. He was detained longer than we anticipated. The troops were three days on their march and approaching the Swamp. Here we thought it best to assail them; and should we be defeated the Swamp would be a safe place of retreat. Our scouts were out from the time the soldiers left the post and reported each night their place of encampment. It was our intention to attack them on the third night, but the absence of Osceola and Micacopy prevented it. On the arrival of the latter it was agreed not to wait for Osceola, as the favorable moment would pass. Micacopy was timid, and urged delay. Jumper earnestly opposed it, and reproached the old chief for his indecision. He addressed the Indians, and requested those who had faint hearts to remain behind; he was going, when Micacopy said he was ready. Just as day was breaking, we moved out of the swamp into the pine-barren. I counted, by direction of Jumper, one hundred and eighty warriors. Upon approaching the road, each man chose his position on the west side; opposite, on the east side, there was a pond. Every warrior was protected by a tree, or secreted in the high palmettos. In advance, some distance, was an officer on a horse, who, Micacopy said, was the captain; he knew him personally; had been his friend in Tampa. So soon as all the soldiers were opposite, between us and the pond, perhaps twenty yards off, Jumper gave the whoop.

"Micacopy fired the first rifle, the signal agreed upon, when every Indian arose and fired, which laid upon the ground, dead, more than half the white men. The cannon was discharged several times, but the men who loaded it were shot down as soon as the smoke cleared away; the balls passed far over our heads. The soldiers shouted and whooped and the officers shook their swords and swore. There was a little man, a great brave, who shook his sword at the soldiers and said "God damn" no rifle-ball could hit him. As we were returning to the swamp, supposing all were dead, an Indian came up and said the white men were building a fort of logs. Jumper and myself, with ten warriors, returned. As we approached, we saw six men behind 10 logs placed one above another, with the cannon a short distance This discharged at us several times, but we avoided it by do1 behind the trees just as they applied the fire. We soon came as the balls went over us. They had guns, but no powder; we
in the boxes afterwards and found they were empty. When I got inside the log pen, there were three white men alive, whom the negroes put to death, after a conversation in English. Two were brave men in the pen; he would not give up; he seized an Indian and gave him a rifle, took away his gun, and with one blow struck his brains, then ran some distance up the road, but two Indians on horseback overtook him, who, afraid to approach, stood at a distance and shot him down. The firing had ceased and all was quiet when we returned to the swamp about noon. We left many negroes upon the ground looking at the dead men. Three warriors were killed and five wounded.

"Coccola returned on the night of December 23rd to the Wahoo Swamp. His party were loaded with all kinds of goods, and their bodies decorated with some trophy, to make known their atrocious acts. Scalps were suspended from their girdles, the warm blood still dripping; others hung from their legs and necks, besmeared with blood, which, aided by their distressed and haggard countenances, gave the entire group a most hideous aspect. The night was spent in a boisterous and joyful manner. The scalps were given up to the great medicine-chief, Tilla–higher-Hadjo, who arranged them upon a pole ten feet in height, around which they excitedly danced till daylight, accompanying their frantic mirth by songs, ridicule and defying white men. Liquors of all kinds had been obtained, and many were Beastly intoxicated. Speeches were addressed by the most humorous of the company to the scalp of General Thompson, imitating his gestures and manner of talking to them in council." (See footnote)

In 1921, the Florida Legislature made a small appropriation to purchase 30 acres of land embracing the battlefield, and the Dade Memorial Park was established. The march of time had effaced the pine forest and the little log fort, but a reproduction of the fort has been made of concrete logs, so nearly resembling pine logs that visitors often think them real. A general monument for all of the men has been built of native rock, surmounted by the figure of a soldier in the uniform of that time. A winding brook has been rocklined, an artificial lake, many little bridges and two large ones for autos, some drives, fountains and other ornaments enhance the natural beauty of the setting of spreading oaks.

In the park is a home-made statue of Coccola, the outstanding character of all the Seminoles, who died of a broken heart in prison after the Seminole war. The face was fashioned from a copy of

Footnote: Quoted from Sprague's History of the Florida Indian Wars.
the death mask, obtained at Washington, and while it is the work of a novice, the features are correctly portrayed. The park is a fitting shrine commemorating the memory of the valor and patriotism of the men, white and red, who lost their lives here. Generous acknowledgement is given the Seminole cause in the inclusion of the statue of Osceola and other braves, for though vanquished, the red man was fighting for his home and country.

With the arrival of Major-General Winfield Scott at Fort Marion in February, 1836, the main movements of war shifted far southward, and the enemy was attacked with three wings, from right, left and center.

Many campaigns were futile, the Indian definitely had the upper hand, until General Jesup started late in 1836 conducting a campaign against the Seminoles in the fastnesses along the Oklawaha and Withlacoochee rivers.

On March 6, 1837, General Jesup entered a convention with the Seminoles at Fort Dale for the suspension of hostilities and the immediate removal of the whole nation west of the Mississippi. The Indians had demanded a condition designated to protect their negro slaves, namely, that they should be secure in their lives and property. The whites had protested against the agreement, and sought every means of blocking it, not reeking, in their greed, the cost in blood to both himself and his neighbor. The Indians who had assembled at Tampa Bay under the convention chafed under the delay, duplicity and political maneuvering of both the white man and their own spokesman. One morning found them gone. Between suns they had disappeared. Far south into the Eversglades they had gone—the flight of a wild people. Looked
in fastnesses where they knew the white man dared not pursue, they have never to this day made official peace with him. They are the only unsubjugated aborigines in the United States today.

Hostilities began again in 1837. The outwitted whites prepared a trap which stands out as one of the blackest marks in military records. General Jesup allowed Osceola and his warriors to assemble outside of St. Augustine, and disregarding and violating their immunity under a flag of truce, he shamelessly seized Osceola, Coacoochee and several other chiefs and 71 warriors, and incarcerated them at Fort Marion.

The story of the escape of Coacoochee from an aperture of the old fortress is extremely dramatic. Osceola refused to join the escaped chiefstains, saying, "I have done nothing to be ashamed of. It is for those to feel shame who entrapped me."

In December, 1837, the entire number of 116 chiefs, including Osceola, Cloud, Micanopy and King Philip and 92 women and children were transferred to Fort Moultrie, Charleston, S. C.

General Zachary Taylor, afterwards president of the United States, became commander of Fort Brooke, in Tampa, in 1837.

The Dade Massacre sounded the alarm all over the South, and regiments of volunteers, mounted and infantry, were raised in several states to hasten to the assistance of the scattered settlers of Florida. It was in this manner that Fort Brooke was a number of the settled, the volunteers later moved their families to this section and built their homes around the fort.
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HISTORY OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
Beginnings of Tampa and Indian War Days

The early history of Tampa Bay territory is extremely meager until the United States purchased Florida from Spain in 1819. It must have been terra incognita, whetting the appetite of the research student even at this late date. Three centuries of silence and obscurity had accumulated between the days of the conquistadores and those of the first white settlers—a baffling and mystifying hiatus which some unfound records may still bridge. Undoubtedly its shores had been touched many times by traders with the Indians. The vessels of the great English trading house of Panton, Leslie and Company must have entered the port and tarried to exchange their gew-gaws and calicoes for peltries, and in turn, the chiefs of the region must have journeyed to Pensacola to confer with John Panton, whose record for fair dealing had earned him the name of "The White King." A study of the records of this house might afford a bit of information, but so far, none identified with Tampa have come to light. Ships seeking live oak timber, so essential for bows and ribs of wooden ships, must have dropped anchor. Pirates must have brought their quarry to bay, or divided their spoils here, but this also is speculative, and there is no tale of the penetration into the interior of this brooding wilderness. The easy inference is that those having dealings with the savages kept within easy reach of their ships.
The grandees of St. Augustine and Pensacola seem to have paid no attention to their subjects to the south of them. On the face of it, the line of the old discoverers was not in their bones. Further exploration or settlement involving hardships did not appeal to them as either exciting or profitable. In no section of this vast territory has a single authentic landmark been found to orientate either the landing place of the first Spaniards or any of their successors.

The Spaniards left no forts, cathedrals, or walls in the Tampa area, such as remain in St. Augustine and Cuba. A live oak, veteran of the centuries, and one of the finest specimens to be found anywhere, spreads grisled arms in all directions as though blessing its children. It stands in Plant Park (downtown recreation area, University of Tampa campus.) In its benignant shade co-eds study some and romance more of the days when DeSoto landed and conferred with savage chieftains. This legend, or history, dates back at least 75 years. Not far from the tree stood a shell mound, remembered by many, upon which the house of the Chief Uita may have stood. (See footnote)

A clue to the past—a bite of hope to the historian—is offered by the small Spanish colony existing at the mouth of Spanishtown Creek (on Hillsborough Bay, approximately one-half mile west of the Hillsborough River and DeSoto Oak) when the first American settler, Levi Cullar (or Collier) arrived. Spanishtown Creek is shown in the earliest records and maps, and the name has been

Footnote: Fairbanks, G. B. History of Florida. (Jacksonville, H. E. W. B. Drew, 1904) states that the mound on which the chief's house stood "still remains after more than 300 years, to awaken the interest of the antiquary." See map showing location of shell mound and DeSoto Oak.
handed down from time immemorial. There is considerable variance
in accounts as to the size or antecedents of this colony. They
were fish and oyster men, probably subsisting largely on their
catch. Some were old and decrepit, and these said they had lived
many years in the neighborhood. The record of these people has
been handed down from generation to generation. Efforts to identify
this group with the early explorers have failed in genealogical
sequence and the historian is thwarted.

Some of the names of this Spanish colony have been handed down.
Juan Gomez spoke good English and vouched for the antiquity of
the colony.

The arguments against the continuity of this colony from the
days of the discoverers are many and potent. Strays or captives
would have been absorbed by the Indian races. The more plausible
explanation is that they were fishermen from Cuba—a colony re-
plenished from time to time from the island. The fact that they
were pure-blood Spaniards seems to be undisputed, and their claim
to lineage with the explorers is intriguing, to say the least.

Of the early maps, the Cantino map of 1502 antedates the
arrival of Ponce de Leon by eleven years, and traces two bays
which are, without doubt, Tampa and Hillsborough Bays. The name
of Tampa was shown in its approximate position on the earliest
charts.

Velasco, a well-known Spanish geographer, in a work on Florida
and the West Indies, published in 1574, shows Tampa Bay and the
village of Tocobago, calling it the city of a powerful chief
whose people were only exceeded in fierceness by the Caloosas.

Gradually it grows on the student of this segment of American
history that the name Tampa was an outgrowth of the name by
which the resident tribe was known, namely, Timucuan.

The Seminoles were not aborigines. The name means "wild
runaway," or "deserter." They were offshoots, mainly, of the
Creeks of Georgia and had only moved into northern Florida in
1760, (See pamphlet by J. C. B. Koonce, Dade Massacre and Dade Park,
Bushnell, Fla., 1938) so they must have been newcomers in the Tampa
area at the time the little fortress was established.

Secofee had been the chief to lead the first Creeks into
Florida. He had been greatly attached to the British and fiercely
hated Spaniards and Americans. He died sometime after 1783, be-
queathing to his two sons, Payne and Bowlegs, his undying hatred.

As the white settlers moved into Florida the Seminoles began
to complain that their territory was being encroached on and began
their degradations, raiding plantations, stealing cattle and,
worst of all, enticing slaves from their masters. Payne and Bowlegs
became adepts in this practice. The negroes were welcomed into
the Indian camps and readily intermarried.

The recapture of Secofee's wife by slave owners claiming her
as their legitimate property, inasmuch as she was the daughter of
a fugitive slave, was later to fan the fire which resulted in
the great Seminole war.

In 1812, a force of Georgia troops made war on the Seminoles
in and about Gainesville and Newnan's Lake. In one of these battles
King Payne lost his life.

The Indians of both Georgia and Florida continued to be
hostile and aggressive. In 1814, General Andrew Jackson, in
charge of Indian affairs and a skilled and relentless fighter,
drove most of the natives into the swamps of Florida, or to take refuge with their English allies in Pensacola.

An American force under General Gaines attacked the Indians at Fowlton on the Apalachicola River, twenty miles above the Florida line, and thus was begun the first Seminole war.

Indian warfare in Florida was at the time and by later writers, severely criticized. It was the practice of the age-old principle of might making right, a spectacle seen in our days of a stronger race dispossessing a more primitive one.

For the ten years between 1822 and 1833 there was comparative peace. Then began the difficulty of moving the Indians to the reservations west of the Mississippi. The Seminole chiefs were dissatisfied, especially with the treaty of Payne's Landing, which they claimed was unauthorized, and numerous objections were raised to leaving Florida.

Thus the smouldering fire threatened to blaze forth at any moment.

When Mosquito County was formed in 1821 the "county town" was Timoka, and again one associates this with Timucua. Timoka might easily have been a corruption of the name Tocobayo, or Tocobago of DeSoto's day. The name "Tocobage" persisted down to 1837, or later. Daniel G. Brinton, also Williams, in books published that year, refer to it, but give no description of it.

Tampa was at that time a scattered village hovering close to Fort Brooke, its inhabitants ready to fly within its walls on the signal of Indian menace.

Fort Brooke was the acorn from which grew the city of Tampa, and which gave Hillsborough County its first impetus toward substantial growth. Its name and that of the gallant soldiers who
occupied its garrison, the Dade Massacre, and the Indian chief, Oseola and his contemporaries, deserve more than passing mention in a history of the Tampa area. They are figures and events which typify as vividly as any possibly could the carving of a nation out of a wilderness.

Now we are on solid historical ground. The centuries of the dolce far niente Spanish regime are over and the land is the possession of money-making Yankees pouring into the country with purely speculative motives, building up a land and bank boom which was to end as disastrously, or more so, as that of ninety years later. For this one wound up with a bloody war with the natives which seriously occupied the forces of the United States government for more than seven years and took a tremendous toll in treasure and blood.

The United States purchased Florida from Spain in 1819. From its geographical position, more than from any consideration of politics, it was destined to become a slave-holding state—the last one of the Federal territories. (See footnote)

When the territory was transferred to the United States, the entire civilized population was not more than 3,000, including free negroes and slaves, more than half of whom lived in East Florida—2,000 in St. Augustine alone. The two or three thousand living on the Gulf coast were confined mainly to Pensacola and St. Marks. The Census of 1834 showed a population of 34,739, an increase of almost 500% in thirteen years.

The great majority of these people lived in the newly created counties of the north and east, but settlers were also trickling

Footnote: Davis - The Civil War and Reconstruction in Florida. Columbia Univ. in 1913. Tampa Library, #975.5.
into the Tampa area—hardy pioneers who loved this slumbering wilderness no less than the redskin himself.

Florida had been divided into fifteen counties by 1832. Mosquito County had a population of 733 and Timoko was the county town—that being the name of the small white settlement which later became Tampa. Mosquito County was divided almost in half in 1834, the portion to the west and south becoming Hillsborough County. The name had previously been given the river and bay from Lord Hillsborough, a large grantee of Florida lands under the brief English regime. As far as can be learned, Lord Hillsborough never visited the United States, and was merely an English statesman whose lack of tact contributed to the loss of the colonies. Nevertheless, his name has been impressed not only on Hillsborough bay, river and county, but there is also a Hillsborough inlet and river on the east coast. (See footnote)

How thin the white population must have been spread is realized when it is considered that the territory embraced in the

Footnote: The New International Encyclopedia has the following concerning Lord Hillsboro (spelled Hillsborough):

"Hillsborough, Wills Hill, earl of (1713-95) A British statesman, first Marquis of Devonshire, a native of Fairford, Gloucestershire. He was elected to Parliament for Warwick in 1741 and the following year succeeded his father as Lord Lieutenant of Downshire. He became a peer of Ireland in 1751, but went from the Irish to the English Privy Council (1754), George II having made him comptroller of his household. After entering the English House of Lords (1756) as Baron Warwick, he held various political appointments. While Secretary of State for the Colonies (1763), his stubbornness and bad judgment contributed much to the ill feeling between then and the mother country, and he showed little tact in advocating a union of England and Ireland."

This is all the information the State Librarian has on Lord Hillsborough, our patron saint.
Hillsborough half of Mosquito County included twelve to fifteen counties, a territory roughly one-fifth of the state in extent.

All loyal Tampans therefore wish the world to know that Tampa did not begin as a fishing village, but with the establishment of an important military post. The Government, immediately upon acquiring the territory, recognized the strategic importance and the commercial possibilities of the port. Three centuries before, De Vaca had used superlatives in describing it. "The port of which we speak is the best in the world. It runs up into the land seven or eight leagues. The bottom is fine white sand. No sea breaks upon it, nor boisterous storm, and it can contain many vessels. Fish is in great plenty. There are a hundred leagues to Havana, a town of Christians in Cuba, with which it bears north and south. The northeast wind ever prevails and vessels go from one to the other, returning in a few days, for the reason that they sail either way with it on the quarter."

Many other explorers and writers had echoed these observations. In 1803, James Grant Forbes, in his "Sketches" had predicted that "Espiritu Santo, Tampa or Hillsborough Bay" would be of vital importance to the United States in event of possession, both for trade and as a naval base—"the key to the navigation of the British and Spanish islands."

"One hundred years on the high seas!" proudly advertises the Lykes Brothers Steamship Company (Tampa Times, December 23, 1935) a pioneer firm which grew from a line of sloops and schooners, with Tampa as the home port, to the picked freighters in the world trade today.

With Florida a member of the Federal Union, roads were proposed and undertaken as early as February, 1924. This was to be
principally an improvement or widening of the mythical Caminho Real, or Royal Road, from Pensacola to St. Augustine—a high-sounding title for what was little more than an Indian trail—but in the same Congressional bill "the President was authorized to cause to be surveyed and marked out, the direct and practicable route for a public road from Cape Sable, passing by Charlotte Harbor and the bay of Tampa" which was to intersect the main road further north.

Soldiers were to be used on these roads wherever possible. The business-like notes of Captain Burch, in charge of the survey, addressed to his superior, General Jesup, disclose the uselessness and dissatisfaction of the Indians over recent treaties, the sparsity of settlers in the north Gulf section, and the fact that the Tampa area is practically terra incognita. "As I have never met with any account of the country across Tampa Bay," he writes the General, "I thought perhaps the enclosed would not be uninteresting to you. It is a private letter from Colonel Brooks, which I will thank you to return to me after reading it—also the map."

Unfortunately, the contents of the letter are not given, but the inference is that the road projects were as much reconnoitering expeditions in anticipation of future Indian warfare as they were anything else. The influence of the "four fighter," Andrew Jackson, briefly Governor of Florida, and at that time in the United States Senate, is seen.

**GAY AND TRAGIC TIMES AT FORT BROOKS**

The virgin forest swept down to the very water's edge. Levi Collar (or Collier), Tampa's first known white settler, returned with his family in 1822 to find the beautiful site he
had selected under the centenarian live oaks the year before, preempted and Federal forces busy erecting a long wooden house for officers and troops, while at the water's edge a log fort was being laid out.

Undoubtedly, he was glad to relinquish any claim he might have had, for he was himself fugitive from hostile Indians, and the country he had come to was full of them. Few people dared to live outside the limits of the military reservation, although a small Spanish colony of obscure origin was said to have existed at this time on the banks of Spanishtown Creek (Hyde Park section) of Tampa.

The Indian, under brilliant leadership, was about to make a last savage resistance to the encroachment of the whites—a primitive people fighting for a home and a life in the wilds. The pathos of this struggle was recognized in other parts of the country, and the strictures laid on the Seminoles, as well as those who enforced them, were often censured from high places. But the enterprising settler saw in the Indian a bad neighbor, and his apprehension was not entirely baseless.

To them, the placid expanse of lake and river, the very soughing of the wind in the pine barrens, suggested danger. In every swamp, behind every palmetto clump, treacherous natives might be lurking.

They had learned Indian nature in the school of experience. The docile, good-natured native that came to trade at the post one day, might the next be hideously painted, with his scalping knife clenched between his teeth. A survivor of the Dade massacre recognized in his assailant the Indian for whom he had hewed an ax the week previous.
Fort Brooke gave comfort and encouraged the settler. It symbolized security, hope, progress. In addition, it came to represent the outside world of social gayety and manners.

A fine brass band was included in the personnel of the soldiery. Concerts were given daily and the musicians performed for military balls and functions of the post, wherein the young ladies for many miles around, from as far distant as the Manatee River, vied with each other for the thrill of a waltz or gavotte partnered by a gallant and gold-braided officer.

The pioneer daughters tittered, gossipped and intrigued. Over the slapping and dragging of a full century, the time that Mary Gates fell into the river is not entirely forgotten.

The vivacious Mary and Ellen Clark of the Manatee wilderness were frequent visitors, coming by sailboat. Distance and inconvenience of travel would not deter them, and it is highly probable that the importunities of these and other young ladies caused their parents to join the colony which was gravitating to the army camp.

The Indian menace became increasingly serious. Army camps were the nuclei of many other Florida cities. Just as Fort Brooke became Tampa, so Fort King became Ocala, Fort Gaines, Gainesville, while numerous cities and settlements retain the original military appellation—Fort Myers, Fort Meade, Fort Lauderdale—usually taking the names after their first commandants. These garrisons and block houses were a chain of outposts established to prevent the extermination of the few white settlers at the hands of Seminoles and runaway negroes, for which Florida had long been a haven of refuge. Of the two, the negro seems to have been first and most
vicious in atrocity. In the case of Fort Brooke, the commanding officer, Colonel George M. Brooke, was being honored.

The last vestiges of the old fort and soldiers' quarters are gone, disappearing gradually before the steady march of the city to the waterfront. Into the Twenties, the officers' building, known as the "Carew Homestead" stood under the shade of old oaks. One of the trees, badly dismembered, still stands, and there is a stone marker. This is all that remains of Fort Brooke. The first complement of soldiers were four companies of U. S. troops arriving from Pensacola on March 5, 1823.

People "forted up" when Indians were on the warpath, or stayed within easy range of protective musket fire. The reinforcements which arrived from Key West on Christmas 1835, found the inhabitants flying in from all quarters to camp. Four days later, privates John Thomas and Ransom Clark, severely wounded, staggered in to relate the story of the Dade catastrophe.

"We are at work, night and day," wrote one of Major Mountford's command at Fort Brooke, "entrenching ourselves in every possible manner. We expect every moment to be attacked, as the savages have sworn we should all be massacred before the 6th of January. We are only about 200 strong, with officers and men, and about 50 citizens, and 100 friendly Indians, under Chief Black Dirt. The savages are said to number 4,000."
After the close of the First Seminole War in 1842, Tampa had a period of growth that was only checked by the Second Seminole War, in 1856. By 1842 the Armed Occupation Act had been passed which gave every eligible settler 160 acres of land below the Withlacoochee River.

It was during this period that there came the sturdy pioneers whose story of courage and industry has played such a great part in the development of Hillsborough County.

Among the first newcomers to the new region were Henderson, McKay, Mitchell, Robles, Turman and Spencer.

Quite a romantic story centers around the coming of Captain James McKay to Tampa. He journeyed from Britain to American shores to visit his fiancee who had been taken to St. Louis by her mother in hopes of breaking the engagement. While in St. Louis the young couple were married and then moved to Mobile.

After several years of married life, Captain McKay decided that he wished to settled in Tampa. Accordingly, he bought a schooner and set sail. The ship was wrecked at Chassahowitzka Bay, near what is now Citrus County, and the brawny young captain carried ashore his wife, two sons, and mother-in-law.

Commencing in 1842, a railroad survey was projected for a line from Fernandina to Tampa Bay, with a branch to Cedar Keys.
But the original railroad, which later became one of the units in the Seaboard Air Line to Tampa, was constructed at Cedar Keys long before it reached the shores of the Bay. This was a keen disappointment to Tampa. Another great disappointment came to the little settlement at Fort Brooke when Florida failed to immediately benefit by the Internal Improvement Act of 1844, of which the brilliant United States Senator David L. Yulee was one of the leading promoters. Upon the admission of Florida as a state during the following year, five hundred thousand acres of land were granted by the National Government, within its borders, to encourage internal improvements; these were known as swamp and overflow lands. Not until 1855 did the state attempt to realize any benefits from the National Internal Improvement Act, when the legislature established the Internal Improvement Fund of the State of Florida. Among the various embryo railroads which were to be aided was the line from Fernandina to Tampa Bay and Cedar Keys. The line was completed to Cedar Keys in 1860, but Tampa was still shut away from all railroad communication, and the boon was not realized until 24 years afterwards, and then not through any connection with "Senator Yulee's road." In fact, for years the people of Tampa were bitter toward the distinguished statesman, feeling that he had kept them out of their own.

Florida was admitted to the Union in 1845, and two years later Hillsborough County was reorganized with reduced boundaries. On January 5, 1846, there was set up a Court of County Commissioners, headed by Simon Turman, with William Hancock, M. C. Brown, and Benjamin Moody, members. William S. Spencer was named sheriff,
and John Park, collector of taxes. Out of this vast territory a total of $148,39 in taxes was realized. One wonders what the Collector used for money in making his rounds. But public office was not evaluated entirely in terms of profit in those days.

By this time quite a settlement had grown up around Fort Brooke military reservation. In 1849 the General Government donated to the county 40 acres immediately north of it. It was at once surveyed by John Jackson, and its bounds described as follows: It commenced at Whiting St. on the south, bounded on the west by the Hillsborough River, extended north a little beyond Cass Street, and was bounded on the east by a line running through a tier of blocks lying immediately east of Morgan St.

Elijah Bird Sparkman came to Hillsborough County on Christmas Eve, 1845, finding his home site near Dover, eighteen miles east of Tampa, and with him came several other families. This settlement was on the edge of what was later known as Simmons Hammock, traversed by the Fort King Highway, and the dark and bloody ground of Hillsborough County. Some of the pioneer names of the Hammock, woven also into county history, are Simmons, Burnett, Hooker, and Sparkman.

Simeon M. Sparkman, son of Elijah Bird Sparkman, born in 1851, still resides at the home place. At eighty-five years, his memory is good, and with a long career of public office, he is a source of much excellent information regarding both pioneers and Indians of this period.

It was in this Hammock that General Zachary Taylor, later president of the United States, received the scare of his life when he and 200 men were ambushed by a handful of Indians. Not
long after, Florida and Georgia Crackers were to actually save his life at Taylor's Creek, north of Lake Okeechobee.

Indian raids were still frequent and deadly. Cornelia Ann Tippens, Jim Sparkman's cousin, had been scalped and tomahawked as a mere baby, and left for dead. Her father, a surveyor by profession, was moving out of the danger region of Sumter County. He and his wife, and a large family of children, were in their wagon when the Indians attacked. The parents were killed instantly, the horses ran away, and all the children were killed and scalped, save Cornelia. She was taken to the Sparkman place and raised by them. Although lame, and with an arm useless as the result of injuries, she later taught school, married, and was the mother of eight children, and lived to the ripe age of eighty-four. Her married name was Mrs. William Nobley. Her hardihood and longevity serve to illustrate the stamina of the early Florida settlers who had come to carve a home out of the wilderness with bare hands, chopping down and hewing its timbers, clearing stubborn green land, fighting savages and wild animals, struggling with the pioneer spirit which has become a synonym for early America, to win and hold a place he might claim his own. The plainsman and frontiersman of the west have received due recognition, but the tale is yet to be written of the early Floridian. His was not a soft lot in a land thought of as one of perpetual sunshine and gentle rustling palms. In no section were Indians nor nature more relentless. Hurricanes sometime came to spread disaster.

**THE BIG STORM OF 1848**

The turbulent weather preceding the great storm of 1848 commenced
on Saturday, September 23. The wind began to blow from the east accompanied by occasional showers of rain.

The next day, seeing that the wind was increasing in velocity, a party from Tampa went down the bay to Egmont Key to assist in bringing in the schooner "John T. Sprague." It was only through super human efforts that the crew managed to tow the vessel to the dock. It was well for the soldiers and settlers that the schooner was saved, for during the subsequent blow the settlers were almost entirely dependant upon the ship's cargo for their subsistence.

On the morning of the 25th the wind shifted to the south and finally to the southwest. A high tide came in and soon the water begun to creep over the banks, flooding the garrison. In a short while the commissary building blew down and crashed into the warehouse of W. G. Ferris, wrecking the entire structure and destroying $15,000 worth of goods and most of the food for the garrison.

The scene of the garrison was now appalling. Great waves came rolling in, and the bay, as far as the eye could reach, was lashed to a fury. All the islands in the bay were under water and a tidal wave rushed across the peninsula west of the river into Old Tampa Bay. Only tree tops were visible far north of the village. The "Sprague" was knocked loose from her moorings and floated, a derelict, into the pine woods, with Captain and crew aboard.

During Monday afternoon the wind died down and the settlers came from their hiding places to view the battered remains of the village. Probably the most anxious one of the survivors was
Colonel W. G. Ferris. At the time that his warehouse was wrecked
he had several thousands of dollars in silver money in the store
belonging to John Jackson, Government Surveyor. The remains of
the store were now scattered all over from Sulphur Springs to
Gadaden Point. The bulk of the store however, was lying in what
is now Plant Park.

Mr. Jackson was not in the neighborhood during the storm, but
he and his negro hurried to Tampa as soon as it was possible to
travel and began to inspect the ruins of the warehouse. He found
that the strong wooden box containing the heavy silver had broken
through the floor sometime during the storm, and he feared that
the money had been lost when the building was blown over the river.

Anxiously following the course which the runaway store had
taken, he eagerly looked under all wreckage floating and strew
about. To his great joy, he at last found the money embedded in
mud at the foot of Washington Street!

On Tuesday morning the men from the "Sprague" came down from
their piney woods harbor and brought some coffee, hard tack and
other needed supplies. When the commander of the garrison learned
that the cargo on the "Sprague" was intact, he despatched a detail
to commandeer the supplies and these were divided between the
storekeeper and the troops.

Among the flotsam and wreckage were found several barrels of
whiskey, as well as a number of cases of wine. For awhile it looked
as if Tampa was celebrating a great festival instead of a tremendo-
ous disaster, but the hard hearted commandant at last seized all
the spirits and put them in a safe place. History is silent con-
cerning the final disposition of these stores.
The lighthouse at Egmont Key was so badly damaged that a new one had to be built. No lives were lost in this hurricane, but great damage was done to property and thousands of cattle were drowned when the tidal wave swept the peninsula.

**FIRST PERIOD OF TAMPA AS A CITY**

In 1849 the first courthouse was erected near the eastern end of Lafayette Street. It was soon replaced by a larger structure which was moved to the corner of Zack and Franklin Streets, and afterwards occupied by J. H. Krause's store. The third courthouse was built on the site of the present structure, the entire square having been obtained by the county out of the tract ceded by the National Government. It was a rather imposing wooden structure with two main entrances from north and south, tall columns reaching from the first floor to the cornice, and surmounted by a large dome. It was erected in the early 1850's.

"Besides the court house and jail, there was a meat market and some three or four stores. There were five Spaniards in Tampa then who used to supply the city and the troops with fish—ten cents bought five mullet."

The 1850's added numbers of leading citizens to the struggling town. Among these were the Knight family, R. A. Clarke, Alexander Martin, G. L. Frieble, Henry Proseus, H. L. Crane, and J. T. Magbee. These and others pushed along the uncertain fortunes of the little village. Many of them now lie in Oaklawn cemetery. This burial ground was dedicated by the city fathers in 1850.

Washington Street was established as perhaps the chief business thoroughfare. Several new buildings were erected which have been
woven into local history. The First Methodist and First Baptist churches were completed in 1852. The former was attended by Lieut. C. O. Howard, then stationed at Fort Brooke, and afterward a distinguished general in the Union army. The first Masonic was erected in 1852 on the northeast corner of Franklin and Whiting streets. According to Judge H. L. Crane, a settler in 1852, who wrote an article for the Daily Times in December, 1931, at the age of 83 years, "Tampa was at that time a settlement of three hundred citizens. There was but one hotel in Tampa in those days. The Palmer House, situated on Waters Street, in the vicinity in which The Tampa Shipbuilding and Engineering Company is now located.

"The first attempt at incorporating Tampa as a town occurred in 1849, but there is no record that the corporation did anything or exerted any important influence on conditions in Tampa. On October 10, 1852, the Corporation of the Town of Tampa was dissolved by act of the County Commissioners and its assets ordered turned into cash with which to pay its debts.

"The assets were listed thus: 3 record books (small), 1 market house, 1/3 dozen chairs, 1 inkstand, 1 sand box, 1 table (small). So it can be seen that the young government was not very rich.

"September 10, 1853, less than a year later, a meeting was called for the purpose of voting on a plan to incorporate the town of Tampa. John Darling was elected president, and Henry Evans, clerk. This incorporation was finally made effective by an act of the State Legislature, December 15, 1856, which date is really the birthday of the City of Tampa."
The act provided that the city limits should include all territory within the radius of one mile from the Hillsborough County court house.

The book of minutes of the municipal body was begun on August 21, 1857, when D. A. Branch was mayor and S. Stringer, clerk. Most of the items entered are comparatively uninteresting, although some are culled which closely concern the progress of the new city. Madison Post was sworn in as mayor in February, 1858, and a couple of weeks afterward an ordinance was passed requiring all free Negro men to pay a city tax of $50 per year; also women, $25 per annum. Suggestive comment by a local writer: "This made it quite expensive for a negro not to be a slave."

John Darling was such a great factor in the early development of Tampa that a brief sketch of his life is herewith included.

Because of his qualities of mind and heart as well as his natural dignity of manner, John Darling became generally known as Judge Darling, though he never held such a position—was not even a lawyer. He came to Tampa as an Ordinance Sergeant in the U. S. Army and was stationed at Fort Brooke. He was honorably discharged about 1847. He then entered into partnership with Tom Kennedy. The firm was known as Kennedy and Darling, General Merchandise, and was situated at the corner of Tampa and Whiting. Tom Kennedy died in 1858, but the firm continued under the name of Kennedy & Darling until the middle 1860's, when the Kennedy interest was acquired by Henry Prucios. It then became known as Prucios & Darling.
Mr. Darling stood high among Masonic orders. He was first elected Grand Master of the Hillsborough Lodge in 1858 and served consecutively until 1867. He then resigned, but the next year was reelected to the position. He served fourteen years as Grand Master of the Hillsborough Lodge. In 1859 he built a masonic temple with a store below at the corner of Washington and Tampa streets. This building was removed to Ybor City about two years ago. Though every effort was made to preserve it, it was so infested by termites that it was necessarily demolished.

The store under his Masonic Temple was rented to Mr. Nunez and Mr. Darling guaranteed the payment of the stock of merchandise that stocked it. Though the goods were sold, the Civil War came on, and the goods were not paid for. After the Civil War the creditors came down from the north and demanded payment. Mr. Darling, being an honest man, gave up his Masonic temple, lot and building, to satisfy the debt.

Prucois & Darling was commissary for the Confederacy here in Tampa during the entire Civil War. It was in this store that the first guns used by Confederate soldiers were unpacked. These guns were used by Shannahan's Company. When the war ended, Prucio & Darling replenished their stock of general merchandise and continued in the business until the middle Eighties. Then both retired from business. Later Mr. Darling was induced by Miller & Henderson to become the agent for their boat line. He remained in this position until 1884, when the coming of the first railroad to Tampa put the boat line out of business. A few years later, about 1887, John Darling returned to New York, his native state, to visit his brother. There he died. He was never married.
It was at the suggestion of Captain John Thomas Lesley that the second Masonic lodge to be organized in Tampa, 1896, be named for John Darling. Captain Lesley had been a personal friend of John Darling and knew him to have been an old and revered citizen of Tampa as well as a true Mason.

PIONEER TRAVEL

Travel to and through Florida was a perilous adventure. Tragic are the accounts of shipwreck and loss of life on reefs and keys while rounding the Florida Capes. Whole families were wiped out. The State Supreme Court in several cases has been called on to determine the succession in such cases of common disaster, and in one case the details are given in evidentiary form, as etched on the minds of witnesses.

A column of the Tampa "Herald" (January 13, 1855) from Key West correspondent bespeaks the hazards of the trip. Out of the fifteen arrivals in almost that many days, all but two had met with expensive and perilous mishap, and grave fears of the loss of two were expressed. This story also illustrates the proportions to which the "wrecking" business had grown and gives some color to the story that false lights were put out in order to pile ships on the reefs, to their gain. Key West especially thrived on this "industry." In addition to the profits of the money made by the wreckers and marine ways, the passengers and sailors spent their money ashore during the long waits while repairs were being made. "It is an ill gale that blows no one good," must surely have been a familiar Key West quotation.

Some idea of the activity of the port of Tampa of the time derived from the "Marine List - Port of Tampa" should be of interest
to Tampans who have watched the growth of the port.

"ENTERED"

Nov. 30 (1854)  Str. Gordon, Brooks, Charls' n.
    Dec.  3    Sch. Eliza Catherine, Alder, Key West
    Dec. 10    Sch. Emma, Gould, Ft. Myers
    Dec. 17    Str. Jasper, Tresca, St. Marks
    Dec. 17    Sch. J. J. Taylor, Black, New Orleans
    Dec. 30    Str. Pampero, Cozzens, New Orleans
    Jan.  2    Sch. Eliza Catherine, Alder, Key West
    Jan.  6    Str. Jasper, Tresca, Key West
    Jan.  8    Str. Pampero, Cozzens, Key West
    Jan. 11    Str. Fashion, Baker, Fort Myers
    Jan. 12    Sch. J. J. Taylor, Black, Punta Rassa

"CLEARED"

Dec.  1    Str. Gordon, Brooks, St. Marks
16 Sch. Eliza Catherine, Alder, Key West
17 Str. Jasper, Tresca, Key West
23 Sch. J. J. Taylor, Black, Punta Rassa
Jan.  2    Str. Pampero, Cozzens, Key West
  5 Str. Fashion, Baker, Fort Myers
10 Str. Pampero, Cozzens, New Orleans
11 Str. Jasper, Tresca, St. Marks

According to advertisement, the Jasper and Pampero were
Gulf Mail Steamers on a semi-monthly run between New Orleans and
Key West, touching at Pensacola, Apalachicola, St. Marks, Cedar Keys,
and Tampa. Captain Tresca was a shipmaster of Tampa waters, his
home being in the Manatee section. He was to aid Judah P. Benjamin,
Cabinet officer of the defeated Confederacy, to escape to England.

PIONEER TRAVEL

The social and business life of the city proceeded along even
lines until 1856, when the Seminoles commenced three years of
outbreaks and deprivations. Progress and expansion were seriously
hindered although not entirely stopped.
The state raised troops which were later mustered into Federal service. At one time there were ten companies of mounted Florida infantry serving under the Federal government. There was one regiment of volunteers under Colonel St. George Rodgers and two boat companies called quartermaster's men, who did the scouting in the lakes and rivers, using metallic boats.

All government supplies were brought by steamer from New Orleans as often as needed. Due to the increased number of soldiers quartered around Tampa more supplies were necessary and this resulted in increased business and prosperity in the young city. However, in the county, the marauding bands of hostile Indians interfered most seriously with the safety and prosperity of the farmers and stock growers.

Records of 1856, 1857, and 1858 state that the road commissioners were not required to maintain roads and bridges because of the unsettled conditions which resulted from the Indian outbreaks.

In 1858, the second Seminole war came to a close and again there began a period of peace and security.

New settlers came to establish their homes, cutting down large tracts of timber and converting them into thriving farms, from which they derived a comfortable living and laid the foundations for generations of prosperity for their descendants.

The old roads that had been neglected during the years of Indian troubles were repaired and bridges were rebuilt. The schools which had been for the most part discontinued during the years 1857, 1858, and 1859 were reopened and the school money that had accumulated was distributed among the nine districts, each district receiving about one hundred dollars as its share.
The community was now allowed to grow unhindered until the outbreak of the Civil War.
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VOLUNTEER CONSULTANTS

Hon. D. B. McKay, Tampa, Florida

Col. Thomas Palmer, Tampa, Florida

Simeon M. Sparkman, Tampa, Florida
Hillsborough County was so far removed from the commercial centers and great agricultural regions of the southern states that very little degree of interest was manifested in the war clouds arising to the north.

When, however, the state of Florida seceded from the Union, January 10, 1861, and became one of the "Confederate States of America," the militia and every able-bodied man were called out and put to work throwing up breastworks and batteries at the mouth of the river to resist expected attacks of the United States Navy.

In September, 1861, the "Sunny South Guards," a local company, commanded by Captain John T. Lesley, was mustered into the Confederate service as a part of the Fourth Florida regiment. Besides Captain Lesley the officers of the company were Lieutenant Edward Badger, Quartermaster James McKay, Surgeon Dr. W. S. Weedon, Sergeant-major J. M. Kilpatrick and Quartermaster-sergeant J. P. McLauchlin.

During the war, six companies were formed by men of Hillsborough and were mustered into the service of the Confederacy in several Florida regiments. The captain of one of these companies was Henry L. Mitchell, afterwards governor of Florida. While many of these companies were stationed in Florida during the war, the
second Florida did their share in the Virginia campaign, the
Peninsula campaign, the battle of Seven Pines, the Seven Days' 
Fight, Second Manassas and the Maryland campaign.

John Jackson served as mayor of Tampa for the year of 1861
to 1862. After his term expired no city officers were elected
until 1866, as the city was under military control. No records
were kept but it is evident that Mr. Jackson was acting mayor
and John Darling served as deputy clerk during this period.

So far as actual battles were concerned, Hillsborough County
saw little of the war. As soon as secession was proclaimed and
the U.S. Navy began the blockade of the coast, gunboats were con-
stantly on duty in the gulf off the entrance to Tampa Bay, and
some of these gunboats at different times came up the bay and
on two or three occasions bombarded the town.

An interesting account of one of these Federal raids on
Tampa is given in the following communication of an anonymous
author entitled "Phoenix."

"Key West, October 23, 1863. On the twelfth instant the
United States gunboat, "Tahoma" Lieutenant-Commander Sorens,
after three months renovizing and preparation, left for Tampa
Bay, arriving on the evening of the thirteenth, where she found
the United States steamer, "Adela," Acting-Volunteer-Lieutenant
Stodder, and schooners, "Stonewall Jackson" and "Ariel" blockading.

"The next morning both steamers started up for Tampa, the
county seat of Hillsborough County, standing at the head of Tampa
Bay. The town is defended on the water side by a battery of five
guns placed near the end of the United States parade grounds, and
formerly called Fort Brooke, used during the war with the Indians."
To the right of these are the United States docks and warehouses, now occupied by the rebels as barracks. Behind these are some blacksmith and machine shops used by the rebel army and also for fitting out blockade-runners.

"The "Tahoma's" engine gave out several times and got aground off Cadasden Point. On the sixteenth the "Adela" being again in order, the "Tahoma" was lashed alongside and towed into position before Tampa, where she came to anchor as near the battery as she could get. The "Adela," being of much lighter draft, cast loose, ran up near the works and opened on them, throwing shell after shell into the battery, barracks and adjoining buildings. Captain Semmes, after going out in a small boat and planting stakes with flags attached, as if preparing to land on the left side of the Bay, returned to the ship and opened fire from his pivot and twenty pound parrots, the shells from both vessels making direct and splinters fly, driving the men from the works and people from the town.

In the evening forty picked men from the "Adela," fifteen men from the Engineers Division of rifle men, under Acting-Ensign Strandberg; ten from Second Division under Acting-Ensign Kaler, thirty from the Second Division under Acting-Ensign Randall; the whole under the command of Acting-Master Harris, Executive Officer of the "Tahoma." She then got under way, maneuvered about the bay, making feints of landing at several places, then ran some miles down the bay and at ten p.m. landed them at Cadasden's Point on the right-hand shore; the boats all returning with the exception of one, which the party carried with them.
"At three and one-half a.m. of the seventeenth they had made less than one-half the distance necessary to travel before sunrise and were much fatigued by dragging the heavy boat for some miles through the swamps and thick underbrush. The boat, becoming too much stove for use, was thrown into the bushes, the party pushing on and arriving near the bank of the Hillsborough River, six miles above Tampa at six a.m. There they divided into squads, each approaching the river by a different route to prevent communication with the troops below. Acting-Ensign Balch and men were the first to reach the river, where, near the opposite bank lay the steamer "Scottish Chief," loaded with one hundred and fifty six bales of cotton and also the sloop "Kate Dale" with eleven bales. He hailed some men moving about the steamer and ordered his men to cover them with their rifles, gave them three minutes to lower their boat and come over after him, which they immediately did. Turning them out, he left them prisoners under the guard ashore, he took possession of the boat taking six men with him, boarded the steamer, capturing all on board and informing the captain that he took possession in the name of the United States Government. When the rest of the party arrived, the vessel was ready for firing.

"The order having been given, he started a fire in the forehold. The sloop was served in the same way, and in a few minutes from the time of first seeing the vessels, the whole object of the expedition was accomplished and the party started on their way back by a more direct route to the bay, making their halts for rest and carrying some of their numbers who gave out on the route. One of the "Tahoma's" men became so exhausted that, by his own request, he
was left behind, after being carried some miles through swamp and bushes. When within a mile of the shore, small squads of rebel troops were seen dodging about under the scrub ahead at first in squads of five or six, then by eight, ten, fifteen, until when near the beach a sharp fire was opened on the advance scouts.

"The main body coming up scattered them in all directions, and, taking a number of prisoners, the line of march was continued to the beach, down the beach to nearly opposite where the "Adela" lay aground. Here they made signal for boats and came to a halt, first throwing out pickets to prevent a surprise. So exhausted were some of the men that they would sink down anywhere, and would rather die than go further. The "Adela" on seeing them, fired a lea gun, and made signals to the "Tahoma" which, with all the boats with her, lay aground on the opposite side of the bay, some miles from them. On seeing the "Adela's" signals, we sent the boats after them in charge of an Acting-Master's Mate.

In the meantime some horsemen had been seen flying about the woods, as if arranging matters, while others were seen dodging about behind trees and bushes, and apparently planting themselves in a half circle about them. Not appearing in any force or showing any disposition to make an attack, one of the men was sent out to half their depth in water. When the boats got to him they were turned about. Acting-Master Harris ordered all, except the "Tahoma's" First division, to embark. No sooner had they got into the water some distance than the concealed enemy began to close up from all sides, and opened a rapid fire on them. Acting-Ensign Strandberg's division had not yet left. These faced about with the "Tahoma's" First division, charged on the enemy, and compelled them to again
seek refuge in the bushes. Captain Harris ordered the remainder
to take to the boats, which were now some quarter of a mile out.
Before they had got half way out, a fire was opened on them from
the bushes along the beach for the space of a mile, and from some
light artillery masked among the bushes. A party of riflemen and
cavalry, before unseen, came around from behind a building below
them, charged up the beach with a yell, some of the horsemen riding
along into the water, to cut them to pieces as they got into the
boats. The "Adela" was the first to see this movement. Having but
one gun that would reach, we opened on the advancing column; Captain
Stodder himself sighting the gun, and making some splendid shots,
bursting shell among the horsemen, compelling most of them to put
back and go around through the woods. This with the fire from the
boats, and from those in the water, kept the rebels in check until
all the boats got off, bringing the prisoners with them. Orders
were given to turn back and capture the guns, and fight it out, when
it was discovered that in wading and swimming to the boats, nearly
all the arms and ammunition had become wet and useless; the project
was therefore abandoned, the boats returning to their ships. Shortly
after the "Adela" got off and ran over to the place of conflict, and
opened on the rebels, driving them up toward Tampa. On Sunday the
eighteenth, Captain Sennes sent in a flag of truce to ascertain
what had become of our missing men. From what we can gather, the
"Tahoma" lost one man, James World, killed. Acting-Ensign Randall,
and six men wounded, and two men, Collins and Hilton, taken prisoners.
The "Adela" lost two men, Roddy and O'Donald, killed, five men
wounded, one man, Donnelly, taken prisoner. The rebels lost six
killed, a number wounded, and seven taken prisoners.
"On the night of the sixteenth the citizens of Tampa held a crowded meeting in the courthouse, for the purpose of forming a military company, and electing a captain. Had Captain Semmes known it while they were balloting, he would have sent them several two hundred pound black-balls, which they would not have stopped to count.

"Some time after the boats had returned, a head was seen projecting above water at some distance from land, while a party of rebels were on the beach firing at it, and calling out for the man to come on shore. A boat was sent in charge of Acting-Ensign Carmine, to ascertain who the head belonged to, when it was found to belong to the pilot of the "Tahoma," who had waded out up to his neck in water, determined to drown rather than to be taken prisoner. He was nearly dead from exhaustion.

"Among the trophies were some cartridges. In place of balls there were twelve large buckshot or pistol-balls wrapped up in cloth. Some of our men were wounded with these. Doctor Gale, of the "Adela," took from one of the wounded a home-made lead ball weighing four ounces. The wounded were taken to a Government Building near the light-house, on Egmont Key, and left in charge of Doctor Gunning, of the "Tahoma." Captain Westcott, commander of the post (rebel) and formerly of the United States Army, and representative from Florida, said that as our men who died on shore fought so bravely, they intended to give them the best funeral they could get up. The "Adela" raised a purse of $108.00 and sent it to one of these men—Donoly, who is a prisoner. The "Tahoma" also sent money to these men to pay their way while traveling in
Dixie. Most of the rebels engaged in this fight were old Indian hunters, who bushwhacked with the Indians but a few years ago, and beat them at their own game.

"From the flag of truce and the prisoners taken, we learned many incidents connected with the fight. As the steamer approached the town, one of the garrison at the fort asked the others: "What are those two large steamers coming up here for?"
The others answered: "They are coming here after oysters; I think you will soon see them throwing their shells over this way."

"One of the "Tahoma's" mammoth shells entered a house, and burst; one of the pieces, weighing about forty pounds, swept the dinner-table, at which sat Miss Crane, daughter of former Colonel Crane, of the Army, now an Acting-Master's Mate on the "Tahoma."

"Our party were surprised on receiving a charge from so large a body of cavalry, not knowing that there were any in the place. The way in which this happened was this: A party of fifty cavalry had been sent about the country to pick up cattle and send them to Bragg's army; these by chance arrived at Tampa on the day of the bombardment, and (as they say) eagerly took a hand in the sport.

"The light field-pieces used in the woods were made in Tampa, by the rebels, by boring out an engine shaft. The ruse de guerre of Captain Semmes succeeded perfectly. The rebs watched him putting down the stakes near the southern entrance, guessed its meaning, and in the evening posted a strong body of men in the woods, ready to annihilate any party attempting to land there."
The smoke from the burning vessels gave them the first notice that we had landed on the opposite side and given them the slip."

Other raids were made by Federal gunboats upon the numerous salt works along the Gulf Coast. These were very numerous, for the duty of supplying salt to the Confederacy devolved upon Florida to a great extent.

Various methods were used in making the salt. One method was to drain the sea water into shall pits, depending upon the sun to evaporate it, but the majority of works consisted of batteries of huge kettles in which beach sand and sea water were evaporated over pine knot fires.

There are still some of the remains of the salt kettles at Frazier's Beach, west of Tampa. Most of them were operated during the civil war period by Captain James McKay, pioneer steamship man of Tampa.

They were put out of commission by Federal gunboats and were guarded to prevent the Confederates from resuming operations.

An amusing incident is told of a skirmish among the salt kettles: H. Robles was duck-hunting one morning when four sailors landed to inspect the ruins of the salt works. Robles, unseen by the sailors, took refuge in one of the overturned kettles and when the seamen approached, he cut loose with his fowling piece, took the sailor's prisoner and brought them into Tampa at the point of his gun.

Although Tampa was bombarded several times, no one was hurt and but very little property damage was done. During the early part of the war the fort was garrisoned by two companies of Confederate soldiers, but in 1864 they were withdrawn and a body of Federals,
about two hundred men from the gunboats in the bay, landed at Hooker’s Point and took possession of Fort Brooke and Tampa. They garrisoned the town until the end of the war.

The following paragraph from the newspaper article of Captain James McKay presents a clear picture of conditions at the close of the war in 1865:

"After the close of the war, we all returned to our homes which we found in most instances in a delapidated condition. Tampa was a hard looking place. Houses were in bad order. Streets and lots were grown up mostly with weeds and the outlook was certainly not very encouraging."
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HISTORY OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
Tampa's Part in the Spanish-American War

The interest of Tampa people in the Cuban struggle for independence in the years that preceded the Spanish-American War was something more than passive sympathy. By 1897 Hillsborough County had hundreds of Cubans employed in cigar factories and a consequent large Latin population. Their accounts of the suffering of their countrymen at home increased the interest felt in them, and soon a rising tide of sympathy for the Cubans engulfed the community.

Plans were soon laid for the release of the Islanders from the power of Spain. Tampans and Tampa business houses did not hesitate to aid and abet in violation of neutrality laws. Although Government officials were apparently watchful and revenue cutters were ready to give chase, many vessels laden with arms for the insurgents made their way from Tampa to the Cuban coast.

By the year 1897, the tugs "Dauntless" and "Three Friends" had become famous for their filibustering exploits. The "Three Friends" was captained by Napoleon Broward, later elected Governor in 1907. Emboldened by repeated success and encouraged by favorable treatment in the Courts, ship owners determined not to throw ammunitions overboard when captured by American authorities, relying on the decision of a Philadelphia court that to constitute an armed expedition the man must be armed "and the arms out of the original package." Even with American authorities tolerant, the filibusters
Tampa Staff
Tampa, Florida

were taking a great chance, for capture by Spain would mean either the firing squad or starvation in a Spanish dungeon.

Many thrilling stories are told of the dangers incurred by the filibusters. On one occasion the tug "Dauntless" had a narrow escape when she broke a boiler plate while attempting to land a cargo on the Cuban coast. Immediately the Captain ordered makeshift sails made and bent to improvised yards. He then put the disabled ship to sea and set his course for the Florida Keys, meanwhile keeping a vigilant lookout for Spanish gunboats known to be loafing up and down the coast. The "Dauntless" drifted, rather than sailed, to Florida waters, where the revenue cutter "McLane" took passengers and contraband cargo in custody.

"Fearless are the Filibusters!" glories the headlines of the Tampa Times, July 1, 1897. More and more cargoes were being loaded from secluded spots along the bay and as the filibusters grew more bold, arms were loaded at the city docks under the very noses of the customs officers. This, in spite of the fact that Pinkerton detectives in employ of the Spanish government, plus a force of United States agents, headquartered in Tampa to prevent shipments of arms.

The Cubans worked with such celerity, secrecy and team-work that they baffled the sleuths completely. War material was hauled through down-town streets within a few feet of the Custom House, and loaded on sailing vessels. The filibusters had their rendezvous further down the coast where the munitions and men would be transferred to faster vessels, such as the tugs "Childs" and "Biscayne," which had now joined the filibustering fleet.

A graphic account of the smuggling of men and arms is given in the Tampa Times, March 25, 1897. The article was written by
a reporter who had constantly shadowed two mysterious men registered under assumed names at a Tampa hotel.

"The Three Friends" had slunk into Hillsborough Bay after nightfall, where she lay quietly at anchor until early morning. At the subdued sigh of her whistle, shadowy figures appeared and began hastily to load the vessel with ammunition and guns. Soon the number increased, until there was a scene of activity that would have done credit to a city dock. There was no noise, no talking, nothing but work. Rifles, machetes, powder, dynamite, cartridges, and hospital supplies were quickly transferred into the hold and the tug weighed anchor and faded into the night, slipping past the revenue cutter "Forward" which had obligingly left in an opposite direction.

The reporter followed the two close-mouthed visitors at the hotel and discovered that they were Captain J. B. Lewis of the tug, and E. W. McCready, a special correspondent of the New York Herald. They left by rail the next day and at prearranged points picked up Cuban insurgents and together traveled to Charlotte Harbor, where the "Three Friends" were waiting for them at a secluded point. As near as could be ascertained, the cargo consisted of two million rounds of cartridges, 500 Mauser rifles and a large quantity of explosives.

It is generally unknown that the sinews of war for the Cuban insurrection were provided to a great extent by the Tampa cigar-maker. During the beginning of the war, each worker tithed himself one day's wages a week as a contribution to the cause of the Insurgents.

When these "hand-made" funds began to pour into Cuba, General
Weyler (nick-named "Butcher") became uneasy and set about to stop the flow of money from the Tampa cigar factories. He declared an embargo on tobacco export to the United States, hoping thereby to force the Tampa factories to close down.

His efforts failed, however, for influential men such as V. M. Ybor (founder of Ybor City) appealed to the Cuban courts and obtained a decision that tobacco contracts made previous to the embargo would not be subject to Weyler's order, but could be shipped to the States.

Even with this favorable decision the tobacco growers were at a loss for transportation as all ships had been commandeered by the Spanish government. In this dilemma Mr. Ybor made a hurried trip to Tampa to interview H. E. Plant, the railroad magnate. He persuaded Mr. Plant to furnish the manufacturers with two ships, the "Olivette" and the "Mascotte." These ships sailed to Havana and loaded not only all the holds with tobacco, but also every nook and cranny, from engine-room fiddley to chain-locker. Even the state-rooms were piled high with Havana Leaf.

These two tremendous cargoes kept the Tampa factories running and saved Hillsborough County's leading industry from stagnation.

Victory demanded its price, however, for the public-spirited Mr. Ybor collapsed under the strain of negotiations and soon after the success of his undertaking was assured, he passed away in Tampa in 1897.

As continued reports of Spanish cruelty to the Cubans circulated in Tampa, public opinion became more and more aroused. Fanned by the new vogue of lurid newspaper writing inaugurated by Hearst, and the activity of the Cuban Junta, all conservatism of the Nation was swept aside. President McKinley was under fire from all
directions for his refusal to plunge the United States into war with Spain. Such hotheads as Theodore Roosevelt, then assistant secretary of the Navy, added fuel to the flames. "We will have this war for the freedom of Cuba in spite of the timidity of commercial interests!" thundered the future Colonel of the "Rough Riders." "Cuba Libre!" was the insistent cry of the Nation.

Before the official declaration of war was signed, Tampa had mushroomed into an armed camp. The governments of the United States and Spain had come to an impasse and though war had not been declared the entire regular army—cavalry, infantry and artillery, were to be concentrated on the eastern seaboard.

Tampa was picked as concentration point for many reasons. It was chosen primarily because it was the nearest mainland city having both rail and water facilities and for its sub-tropical climate where the soldiers could become acclimated before venturing to Cuban shores. The efforts of Congressman S. M. Sparkman and the enterprise of Tampa business men gave added impetus to demands that Tampa should be selected as the point of military embarkation.

Big guns began moving in for the fortification at Egmont and Mullet Keys at the mouth of the Bay. Carloads of munitions, signal supplies and commissary equipment were arriving daily. The Secretary of the Navy announced that the country was well prepared for war. Two warships had been purchased from Brazil, the Holland submarine had made a successful dive off the Jersey coast and Dr. Gatling had finished the largest rapid-fire gun in the world.

Tampa boasted two military organizations, the Tampa Rifles and the Second Division, Florida Naval Militia. Both these organizations were spoiling for action. At one time during the month previous
to declaration of war, the entire naval militia resigned as a
protest to the indecision of the President but were persuaded by
their officers to bide their time.

March 28th saw the entire population of Tampa at Port Tampa-
docks awaiting the arrival of the "Olivette" bringing home the sur-
vivors of the Maine. The heroes were given a tremendous ovation
and escorted to the finest homes in the city.

Meanwhile refugees were pouring in from Havana. On April 7th
the steamer "Mascotte" brought over 900. The stories they told of
their persecutions kept Tampanis at the boiling point of indignation.
Colonel Fernando Figueroa, local representative of the Cuban Junta,
made frequent talks at churches and gatherings painting inflamma-
tory pictures of Spanish atrocities and bidding Americans "Remember
the Maine!"

On the 9th of April, Consul-General Fitz-Hugh Lee of Havana
and Minister Woodford of Spain were ordered to return home, which
meant that war was now a certainty. Fitz-Hugh Lee was perhaps
the most conspicuous figure in the county at that time. He reached
Tampa on April 11th, and was given an enthusiastic public reception.
Thousands of patriots met the boat-train cheering, waving Cuban and
American flags and shouting "Viva Lee!"

On April 11th, 1898, President McKinley sent a message to
Congress in response to the flood tide of indignation throughout
the United States at the sufferings of the insurgents. He requested
in this message that he be given authority to put a stop to the
Cuban war and secure proper government for the Island. Congress de-
clared the independence of Cuba and demanded that Spain should
withdraw from her much abused possession.

With the declaration of war, Florida was called upon for one
regiment, but more volunteers offered themselves than could be accepted. By April 16th, the entire United States regular army, consisting of twenty-four regiments, were mobilized and the 4, 5, 6, 9, 13, 17, and 21st regiments of infantry were enroute to Tampa under command of General Wade. The others under command of Generals Shafter and Coppinger were to be divided between New Orleans and Mobile.

The cavalry, six regiments under command of General Brooke, were headed for Chickamauga. Most of these regiments were later transferred to Tampa. At times during the war, there were from 23,000 to 30,000 troops and camp followers encamped in Tampa and its environs; strung out from Fort Tampa to Tampa Heights.

Clara Barton and her staff arrived in Tampa on the 16th from Havana to establish headquarters in the rear of the invading army. She selected the residence of J. Mack Towne on Plant Avenue for the central office of the organization. This building is still standing.

These were days of constant excitement in the city of Tampa, then about 15,000 in population. On the 16th of April the news came that the Senate had voted for the recognition of Cuba. The announcement was made from various platforms and in both English and Spanish press. Cannons boomed and preparations for a monster demonstration were made. The enthusiasm was heightened by the arrival of five companies from Fort McPherson, Georgia. The Second of Georgia troops arrived in Tampa wearing the Confederate Gray, and during their stay in DeSoto Park, where they were encamped with the Sixty-ninth of New York, they continued to wear the gray, until finally more fitting uniforms arrived—uniforms which did not remind the brothers-in-arms of the time when the Nation was divided against itself.
were ignorant of the reasons behind the order, but fear of typhoid, and more especially yellow fever—which was then raging in Santiago—undoubtedly actuated the move. The jealousy of other cities and sections also was a factor in causing the removal of the troops from Tampa; also the reputation of Tampa's hell-holes may have weighed against her.

The foundation of those sinks of iniquity had been laid long before the Spanish-American war. Gambling dens and houses of prostitution had flourished in the old Government reservation of Fort Brooke since the date of its founding, and it needed but the influx of the volunteer regiments to make things hum.

All that happened would have occurred at any other point where sixty or seventy thousand vigorous young men, in holiday mood and under mild discipline, were gathered. And when all is said and done, there were comparatively few disorderly incidents. Most of these occurred in the town of Fort Brooke over friction between negro and white troops.

Alliterative headlines such as "Rough Riders Raise a Row" and "Booze, Bullets and Blood" caption the newspaper accounts of pay-day rampages. Many soldiers did all their fighting in Tampa. Saloons and bawdy houses were wrecked periodically, and on one occasion soldiers presented their guns at the engineer of the brewery and "invited him to disburse."

Law-abiding citizens deplored the disorders and finally the hitherto lenient courts ceased to paper the scape-grace soldiers and began passing out genuine sentences. This had an immediate salutary effect upon conditions in Tampa's vice centers, and in a short time there was a vast improvement.
After the battle of Manila Bay, which was recorded in the papers May 2, the call went forth for 50,000 volunteers. Troops, mules by the thousand, wagons, supplies and ammunition were converging towards Tampa. The city and the nation at large were coming to the climax of emotion—the embarkation of troops from Port Tampa.

No zero hour, or slipping away in darkened ships. Instead, thousands were witnesses, bands played "Till We Meet Again," flags waved, wives fainted and sweethearts and mothers wept as the United States Armada shoved off into the glistening sunlight, completely surrounded by Navy Watchdogs with bones in teeth. Thirty-six transports left Tampa during the middle of June, among them were the Berkshire, Calma, Allegheny, Olivette, Arkansas, Decatur Miller, Comal, Alamo, Araboa, Whitney and Gussie. The Red Cross ship "State of Texas" was in port at the time, but remained behind awaiting orders from Miss Clara Barton, Chief of the Red Cross.

About 16,000 troops were aboard the transports with 4,000 more men following a few days later. General Shafter took the largest detachment of men with him when he left for San Juan, Porto Rico, to take part in one of the most important engagements of the Spanish American War. Not many of the Floridians got over-seas, but in the hot fighting about Santiago in the first days of July, Captain James MacKay, of the pioneer Tampa family, and 200 teamsters that had arrived to join Lawton's army fought with "single-trees and wagon-spokes, covering themselves with glory and the enemy with gore, and captured a piece of Spanish artillery which was turned upon the one-time owners with marked effect."

Orders to remove troops from Tampa were issued about July 21st, the war ended August 12th. Military and civil authorities in Tampa
But soon the glamorous war period was over. Troop-trains filled the railroad yards and rapidly carried away the soldiers to a multitude of destinations. The Tampa Bay Hotel closed for the season and the city settled down to hum-drum every-day activity, but with new blood and vigor. Soldier money had saved the city from bankruptcy and had given it a new lease on life.

Tampa had now emerged from the status of a fishing village, becoming the most flourishing city in the state and the leading deep-water port on the Gulf coast of Florida.
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HISTORY OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
Period of Reconstruction

The really great are great at all times. Prosperity does not make them careless, and misfortune does not crush them. The Confederate soldiers of Hillsborough returned home to find their slaves free, money of no value, plantations covered with weeds, and business ruined.

Hillsborough's treasury was so low that county commissioners repudiated all claims rising from the late war and stated that they could not help the returned soldiers. But the citizens faced their troubles bravely and set about gathering the few fragments left of a wrecked economic system.

The state was placed under military rule, and in July, 1865, William Marvin was appointed governor until there should be an election. A convention was called and Hillsborough sent her delegates, but the government at Washington declared Florida still out of the Union, and would not allow the elected representatives of the people to take their seats. However, the people were allowed to select a governor and they chose for that office David S. Walker. During his short term, the state was still under military rule. United States soldiers, some of them negroes, were stationed throughout the state. For a short time Fort Brooke was garrisoned by two companies of negro soldiers, but they soon became so overbearing that in response to the complaints of the white citizens the government moved them to another post.
In addition to the indignity of quartering negro troops among the whites, the government made the move of appointing seventeen negroes as "delegates" to the convention of 1868. As could be expected, the convention was a humiliating farce and did much to delay the process of reconstruction.

By the new constitution the negroes were allowed to vote, while few of their former masters were allowed to do so. In the first legislature that met after this constitution was formed there were many negroes who could neither read nor write. But Congress was satisfied with the laws passed by this mock legislature and Florida was readmitted to the Union.

Conditions became somewhat better in Hillsborough after a state government acceptable to Washington was established. Farmers began to increase their products, immigrants again were attracted by the rich lands of Tampa Bay and new places of business were opened in consequence.

There was little money in circulation but a brisk trade was carried on by barter. A considerable trade with Cuba was begun which was the beginning of the close and profitable friendship between Florida and the Queen of the Antilles.

From 1867 until 1873 the county was undergoing a period of reorganization. No funds were available for payment of county officers and in the city of Tampa no mayor or staff of city officers held office.

Harrison Reed was governor until 1873, being succeeded by Ossian B. Hart. Hart died in 1874 and the lieutenant-governor Stearns served the remainder of the term.
During the administrations of these governors, Hillsborough County may be taken as a fair cross-section of conditions prevailing throughout the state.

Taxes reached the highest level known and the dishonesty of many public officials was an additional burden. The white people grew poorer and poorer, losing their property and chattels in satisfaction of heavy taxation. The negroes were so excited by politics that few were willing to make a living by regular work. They were not satisfied to labor in the fields when they thought that they might go to the legislature or perhaps to Congress. The men who did prosper above all others were the "carpetbaggers." These were northern men, who did not, as a rule, hold property or pay taxes in the county, but who had control of the local and state governments. They held most of the offices, the rest being filled by negroes.

TAMPA LIFE IN THE SEVENTIES

During the years from 1866, even until the early eighties, Tampa was really nothing but a small village clustered about the mouth of the Hillsborough river.

That city life was at a low ebb during these years is evidenced by the failure to elect a mayor and other city officers and the action of the county commissioners at a meeting on October 4, 1869, when they ordered that as the city of Tampa had forfeited its charter, all property of the city be taken over by the county clerk.

In 1873, J. E. Lipscomb was elected mayor and during his four years of office considerable strides were made in municipal legislation. Records tell of attempts made to regulate the morals
of the community. Taxes were levied on drays, tippling houses, hotels, lotteries, peddlers and auctioneers.

At that time the best way for travelers to reach the county was by railroad to Cedar Keys, thence by the one boat owned by Captain James McKey running to Tampa. From Tampa the journey to other parts of the county was by slow-moving ox carts over roads deep in sand. When the demand increased, other boat lines were established and in the latter part of 1877 a stage coach line had been established. The railroad at this time was at Gainesville and the trip by stage took approximately 48 hours. The only settlement on the line of road was Brooksville, as this was designated a stop-over place for the coach.

The coach was a lumbering, heavily built, four-horse affair, constructed in Cincinnati especially for the rough roads of Florida. It had a complicated system of springs designed to compensate for the many bumps and side-swayings caused by passing over innumerable palmetto roots in the trail.

The doors opened from the sides of the vehicle, and were placed at the forward end. Often in fording streams the water would trickle in and necessitate the holding up of feet by the passengers.

A window in the rear was provided for passengers to keep a constant look-out, in order to see if any baggage had been shaken from the rack on top of the coach.

At one point in the road there was a section of pine logs, split in halves and laid crosswise on the trail to prevent the stage from bogging down during the rainy season. A mile or two of this "corduroy" road was enough to try both the springs and the dispositions of the occupants most thoroughly.
The driver of the coach, "Old Ben" Roper, was an artist in his way, handling the long "blacksnake" whip and his lines with consummate skill. He also had a well developed driver's vocabulary and was, in addition, able to expertly expectorate through the front wheel of the coach without touching a spoke. He oftentimes enlivened the monotony of the trip by "gopher (dry land tortoise) grabbing," which consisted in leaping from the coach and picking up a hapless gopher. Said gopher would be thrown on the baggage rack and sold or traded to negroes at the end of the trip.

Another driver of the stage coach was a Captain Jim Wickler, who also owned a small supply house and grocery combined with camping grounds about half way between Brooksville and Tampa.

The completion of the railroad to Tampa in 1884 marked the end of the picturesque and most useful stage coach era.

In those years, Christmas celebrations were the chief merry-making affairs of the country. Fireworks and "firewater" in abundance played very prominent parts in these celebrations.

The following article published in the "Tampa Daily Times" gives an interesting picture of the annual "Tournament," which was an established part of the Christmas festivities during the Seventies:

"In those days the tournament and ball following were the chief events in the social life of Hillsborough. The tournament track was in the Garrison, in front of the old Federal barracks, which were located a little south of where the Gulf Boiler Works stood for so many years, at the southeast corner of Washington and Tampa streets. Poles were erected about 50 yards apart on the right side of the straight track. At a convenient height an arm extended from each pole and from the end of the arms depended a
hinged slat. In a split on the lower end of the slat a small iron ring wrapped with red flamel was lightly inserted, the ring being about the height of the shoulders of a mounted man. The knights riding in the tournament were armed with long, slender lances, and the object was to catch the rings on the tip of the lance as the horse was running at this heat speed. The knight taking the highest number of rings won the right to crown the "queen of love and beauty," and those taking the next largest numbers crowned the various maids of honor.

The tournament was always a beautiful spectacle. The "quality" assembled here from all parts of south Florida to witness them. The knights were all in fancy costume and they rode spirited horses. Real skill and fine horsemanship were required to win."

**THE DISSON PURCHASE**

During the terms of Drew and Broxham, taxes were lowered, but the county stood stagnant, lacking transportation facilities and commercial credit. It seemed that all progress was at an end. It was then that the most important event in Florida's early economic history occurred. The famous "Dissom Purchase" of 1881 was consummated whereby the state received one million dollars for four million acres of Internal Improvement Fund lands sold to Hamilton Dissom (the saw manufacturer) and associates of Philadelphia. This freed the state from debt and marked the beginning of its industrial advancement.

At that time a burden of debt and litigation retarded the peninsula's progress. Dutch capitalists in Holland held the state's bonds for nearly one million dollars. Florida then had 35,000,000
acres of almost unoccupied land. The population was 269,493, an
average of only five inhabitants to the square mile. Not enough
of public lands could be sold to pay interest on the bonds. The
sale to Disston rehabilitated the finances of the state, attracted
national attention to its resources and paved the way for such
huge developments as those of the Plant System on the West and
Flagler enterprises on the East Coast.

The land transferred in the Disston purchase was chiefly
in the Lake Okeechobee section, but much of it was in Hillsborough
County, which at that period embraced also what is now Pinellas
County.

Judge Thomas Palmer, of Tampa, said that S. H. Sparkman,
who was Hillsborough County's first tax assessor after the "carpet
bag" period, bought 80 acres of the Disston tract for $72.00.
Charles W. Prescott, who was an associate of Henry B. Plant in
the "Plant System's" development of Tampa, bought 1,200 acres of
the land in 1885 for $3,000, sold some of it to Plant and refused
an offer of half a million dollars for the balance in 1925. Among
other pioneer buyers of Disston lands in this section in the
late '80's were John G. Robles, W. B. Henderson, James W. Fitz-
gerald, John T. Lesley, J. W. Trammell, James H. Watrous, and
trustees of Clearwater Methodist Church. The lands were sold
here by the Florida Land and Improvement Company, of which Hamilton
Disston was president.

TAMPA'S FIRST RAILROAD

In the ten years following the Disston Purchase came an
era of unprecedented prosperity. A part of Bisson’s plan was to establish sawmills on his holdings and to open its vast timber resources, thereby inducing railroad builders and immigrants to come in. This phase of his hopes was rapidly realized.

Capitalists were not slow to appreciate the possibilities of this huge expanse of virgin territory. Within a short time Henry Bradley Plant commenced railroad operations in Florida. Mr. Plant was a prominent railroad operator in Georgia and the Carolinas, and he desired to bring his lines in and open up the only isolated portion of the South. Accordingly, he purchased a 5,000 acre Federal land grant owned by Alfred H. Parslow. This territory extending from Kissimmee to Tampa had not been developed because Parslow lacked the necessary capital to construct a railroad as he had planned.

Floridians interested in the railroad were somewhat dubious of the success of Mr. Plant. A certain clause in the land grant stated that the charter would expire January 25, 1884, and it was June of 1883 when Plant and Parslow completed the transfer of the charter. It seemed that it would be impossible to construct the 75 miles of railroad within the given time, but Mr. Plant started operations at a fever heat.

The construction engineers were forced to build the roadway from both ends—west from Kissimmee over the old South Florida line. For the other end in Tampa, the material came by boat from Cedar Keys. The first locomotive in Tampa was brought in this manner.

The work was continuous and on the morning of the 23rd of January, 1884, near what is now known as Carter's Hill, the two
Locomotives not and the railroad was finished—just two days before the deadline. The railroad was called the "South Florida Railroad," with James E. Ingraham as president and B. R. Swope as superintendent.

The coming of the railroad revolutionized transportation facilities of Florida's future metropolis. Until this time, except for inadequate coastwise connections with Cedar Key, the only passenger and freight service was via the Lizzie Henderson, from New Orleans to Tampa, running weekly. Now, with good railroad facilities, travel over the new line became sufficiently heavy to warrant making the tracks standard gauge in 1886. A great building revival occurred in Tampa with the coming of cheap freight rates. During this period the famous Tampa Bay Hotel was financed and constructed by Henry B. Plant in 1889.

The hotel was to contain at least three hundred rooms and was to be placed on the other side of the Hillsborough River. Without exception, people declared that Plant was crazy. The more they heard about his plans, the wilder they believed him to have become. Even if he did build it, which few believed really would happen, nobody would patronize it and servants would never remain the whole season. At that time few, if any, besides Plant, could visualize Tampa as a city of ten thousand population within the next fifty years.

Plant paid no attention to these doubting Thomases. He went right on with his plans. He had acquired all the land he needed. It was originally settled by General Carter as a farm. Soon the huddle of wooden houses across the Hillsborough, calling itself a city was alive with workers brought in by both the railroad and
the steamships. Never had Tampa experienced such prosperity. The town hummed with gossip as well as the sound of the hammers on the immense building being erected across the river. Few were convinced, everybody questioned.

When it was reported that Architect Wood, brought all the way from New York, would order Harney Kendrick brought back from Texas to tear down whole sections of the new hotel immediately after its erection, the gossip of the small town became a hubbub. The money that was being wasted! Even the fabulously rich Mr. Plant could not stand that. The hotel would never be completed.

When the extravagance of his architect and builder was brought to his attention, Mr. Plant only laughed. "Wood will get it right," he replied confidently. "He knows what I want. He will get it right."

Before this there had been a Plant Hotel in Tampa on the east side of the river. It is described as having been a large, rambling wooden building of two stories. The only source of heating this structure was a wood stove in the center of the hall on the second floor. As primitive as this now sounds, at that time it was considered a great luxury. Because of this unusual comfort the second floor became a popular meeting place for the young folks of Tampa as well as for older gossips. Also he had already built a rambling hotel at Belleair, the nucleus of the present Bellevue Hotel.

The Tampa Bay Hotel was intended to be, and was, the jewel of the great Plant System of hotels and railroads. It arose like a palace of Aladdin. During the period of construction Mr. Plant and his wife spent much of the time in Europe collecting rare and
beautiful furnishings for the hotel, and unusual tropical and subtropical foliage for the park that was to surround it.

When finished, the great hotel was an unmatched setting for extravagant beauty. It attracted the socially prominent from all sections of this country, Europe, and several countries in South America. The opening was an event in the history of Tampa. Notables of Florida, New York, Boston, Washington, Philadelphia, Chicago, New Orleans, Savannah, Atlanta, England, France, Mexico, and Brazil made up the throng that enjoyed that first event. Special trains were run to Tampa to bring Mr. and Mrs. Plant's special guests. Henry W. Flagler, who was doing for the East Coast what Plant was doing for the Gulf section, was among the honor guests. The dinner that was served on that occasion is said to have surpassed in variety and sybaritic luxury any meal supplied at a public function in this country. A band, composed of many of the musicians enticed from the Boston Symphony for the season, played during that day and evening. After the feasting in the great circular dining room there was dancing in the ballroom that continued all night.

"It was too beautiful to be described," declared a Tampa lady who was present at the opening. "It was simply beyond words. Not only the building, inside and out, but the grounds. It was a perfect setting - tropical trees and gorgeous flowers. Mr. and Mrs. Plant had collected them from all over the world. They spent thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands, on flowers and shrubs.

"There was a high hedge surrounding the entire park with huge gates at the entrance leading to the hotel. Every Sunday, and on other special days, these gates were left open and the public was
free to enter and roam around. Other times the gates were left closed.

"Trains came in on the north side of the hotel and guests were met by rickshas. They wore such beautiful clothes and jewels; that was the period of long trains, diadems, tiaras and ropes of priceless pearls. The John Jacob Astors came to the Tampa Bay on their wedding trip. This was the first Mrs. John Jacob Astor, a beautiful Philadelphia girl. Her pearls were gorgeous, as well as her clothes. Mr. Astor was so pleased with the hunting around Tampa that instead of going to Havana as they had planned, they remained at the Tampa Bay.

"No, the public was not admitted to the entertainments in the hotel. That is, not what is generally known as the public. There was a carefully censored list of young men and young ladies to whom engraved invitations were sent at the beginning of each season. My brothers and I were of this fortunate group. To go to the great ball or other social entertainments one was required to have special invitations. The engraved card received at the beginning of the season was for the Saturday evening dances, the Sunday evening concerts, and other informal affairs.

"During the Spanish American War, General Shafter, General Joe Wheeler, Colonel Teddy Roosevelt and other celebrities stopped there. Richard Harding and Frederick Remington, I remember. I saw them all, though I can’t claim to have met them all. That was the gayest period of the old hotel, perhaps. Everybody was so excited about the war that we spoke and talked with any and everybody. The dignified formality of the first few years ceased to hold sway.
"The first Gasparilla Ball was held in Tampa Bay, in the
great circular ballroom. The young people did the decoration.
I recall there was a Maypole dance with ribbons and everything.
It was all very lovely. The Queen made her own dress, and she
also decorated the Ricksha in which she rode in the street parade.
Very different from now, though I am sure we had just as delight-
ful a time."

During this time, Mr. Plant’s activities were not confined
to the building and exploiting of his great hotel. At the Paris
exposition he personally represented the South Florida railroad.
The exhibit of Florida products which he assembled and displayed
there, it is said, never have been excelled by any made by the
State at an international exposition.

In spite of his other interests Mr. Plant continued to build
railroads in South Florida. He had gradually extended the old
Jacksonville, Tampa and Key West railroad to Palatka, then to
Sanford. There it connected with the South Florida Railroad.
Somewhat later he bought the South Florida Railroad’s line from
Palatka to Brooksville. Still later the Sanford and St. Peters burg
Railroad. In 1934 he extended the South Florida Railroad from
Pemberton Ferry via Lake City and Lakeland to Bartow. This road
connected with the old Florida Southern at Pemberton Ferry, now
known as Trilby.

The summer of 1886 saw a great change in all railroads south
of the Ohio river and east of the Mississippi River. They were
changed from the old 5 foot 2 inches gauge to the new standard gauge
of 4 feet and 8½ inches. The South Florida Railroad changed from
the three-foot narrow gauge to the new standard type. Pullman cars
were then run from New York to Tampa and to Port Tampa. This was
the first through service from New York. The arrival of the first
direct train from New York was another occasion of great rejoicing
in the city of Tampa.

It was a year later that Mr. Plant built the standard gauge
to Port Tampa, where he had established wharves with berthing
capacity for twenty-six steamships at once.

The death of Henry Bradley Plant occurred June 23, 1899. All
too soon. The will by which he tried to hold together his vast
holdings in South Florida was broken by his widow. The timberlands,
the mineral lands, town sites and farmlands that were among the
properties of the Plant Investment Company have slipped away, little
by little. Control of the Plant railroads and steamship lines
has passed into other hands, controlled by minds keener for the
immediate dollar.

Strangers have come into the State, bringing new energy and
new wealth. Tampa is a city well over a hundred thousand in popu-
lation. Its docks accommodate ships from all parts of the world.
Its name is familiar to millions. Of all those whose money, and
thought and labor have entered into the making of this great city,
none has done more than "Plant the builder, Plant the dreamer,
Plant, the man who knew how to turn vision into abiding fact."

SECOND COMING OF THE SPAWNIARD

While the Plant Railroad System was being constructed, prepa-
ations were being made to found the new town of Ybor City, adjacent
to Tampa on the eastern boundary. There were less than 300 people
in Tampa at that time and the section which is now Ybor was nothing
but a series of alligator holes, pastures and a dense growth of pine, oak, palmetto and underbrush.

In November, 1884, Cavino Gutierrez, a New York broker and an importer of Spanish and American goods, had come to Tampa prospecting for a place where guavas could be grown in commercial quantities. While preparing to return to New York he decided to visit some friends in Key West. There he met Ignacio Haya, Eduardo Manrara and Vicente Martinez Ybor, who were cigar manufacturers.

These manufacturers had been having trouble with the labor situation in Key West and were considering removal to Galveston, Pensacola or Mobile. Mr. Gutierrez persuaded them to visit Tampa before making a final decision, and the result was that they bought a tract of wild land for $5,000.00, and retained Cavino Gutierrez to make the surveys.

Ignacio Haya and his partner, Serafin Sanchez Sr., made ready to move from New York. V. M. Ybor returned to Key West to move his Principe de Galega factory from that island and Manrara began a development program on the new site.

At about the same time that Ybor made the decision to locate in Tampa, Mr. Haya's company, Sanchez and Haya, decided to join in the movement and locate here also. They purchased twenty acres of land and started on construction of a two and one-half story building.

In a year an enterprising city had taken the place of the pine trees of the Florida forest.

The first clear Havana cigar, the only type manufactured in Tampa, was turned out April 15, 1885. At the end of a year of manufacturing, the Ybor factory was turning out 300,000 cigars a
month, and the Sanchez and Haya factory were producing 500,000.

Though there was a slight difference in time between the opening of the two factories, they are so closely linked with the founding of the great Tampa industry that no great distinction is generally made as to the respective times of their beginning operations.

YELLOW FEVER EPIDEMIC

The money put into circulation by the Disston purchase, the Plant Investment Company, and the cigar industry, inaugurated an era of prosperity in Hillsborough County. Large sums of money were invested within her borders and taxable resources showed an increase of about eighty percent in four years.

Yet the summer of 1887 brought sad happenings. An epidemic of yellow fever occurred in Tampa and spread to all parts of the State. Sympathy and generous help from other states did much to relieve the suffering. From all over the country, physicians and nurses volunteered their services and nobly used their science and skill to save the lives of the fever-stricken. Clergymen also worked side by side with them, some giving their own lives in the work of saving others.

Dr. Weedon, practicing physician at that time, states that yellow fever burst upon Tampa like a West Indian hurricane. People stampeded and left their houses open without quenching the fires in their stoves. Some fled in wagons in the middle of the night, and some were drowned in attempting to escape in rowboats.

Since that time the sanitation of Havana has removed the origin of the disease, and no other epidemic has occurred.
Tampa was a long time in recovering from the economic and spiritual disaster of the epidemic, but in 1889 the discovery of phosphate in Marion County lent new hope to the citizens.

Tampa was the closest port to the phosphate mining operations and it seemed but logical that deep-water shipping should receive a vast impetus. This hope was soon realized, for with the coming of the second railroad and the development of the large docks at Seddon Island and Rocker's Point, the city became the greatest phosphate exporting center in the world and holds this position at the present time.

The story of the first railroad into Tampa has been told in a preceding chapter, and how it changed a fishing village to a city with railroad connections, but as yet Tampa had no real port. The Plant System terminated at Port Tampa and all deep-water ships handled cargoes there.

So there was still left the opportunity to make Tampa both a terminal for land transportation and a harbor for heavy tonnage ships. This opportunity was seized by the Florida Central and Peninsular Railroad Company (later the Seaboard), who finally decided to end their rails at the shore of Tampa Bay.

The authentic history of the Seaboard Air Line Railway has been obtained from the Hon. Peter O. Knight, who has been continuously connected with the property as its counsel since November, 1889. This is the account so far as it affects the city of Tampa, and Hillsborough County at large.

"The Florida Railway and Navigation Company, the predecessor of the Florida Central and Peninsular Railroad Company, which was
the predecessor of the Seaboard Air Line Railway Company, had extended its line of railway south as far as Plant City during the year 1889.

"There were two factions in the railway company, one insisting that the road should terminate at Tampa, the other insisting that it should terminate at Punta Rassa. The faction favoring Tampa won out, and during the winter of 1889 and 1890 the railway, which was then the Florida Central and Peninsular Railroad Company, extended its line to the government military reservation in Tampa, the business men of Tampa guaranteeing the right of way from Plant City to Tampa.

"The line of railway was built only to the military reservation because this tract had just before that time been thrown open to homestead settlement, and there were a number of claimants for the property. The F.C.& P. Railroad Company also claimed a right of way through the reservation to the waters of Tampa Bay by virtue of congressional grant given many years before. No amicable adjustment with the homestead claimants of the property could be made and the railroad was served with notice that an application would be made for an injunction to restrain the railroad from constructing and maintaining its line across the military reservation. Under my advice, the railroad company, before the hearing, commenced the construction of its line at midnight of Saturday and completed it to the waters of Tampa Bay before midnight of Sunday, so that when the application came before Judge Locke, there was nothing to enjoin, as the road had been constructed and cars had been operated over it."
"I made every effort then to have the Seaboard locate its southern terminus at Tampa, and they finally followed my advice and authorized me to purchase Seddon Island for its terminals.

"Subsequently the Tampa Northern Railroad Company built a line of railway from Brooksville to Tampa. I bought for the Tampa Northern, Hooker's Point and a forty-acre tract of land adjoining DeSoto Park for the purpose of erecting thereon shops for the Tampa Northern, and subsequently the Tampa Northern Railroad was acquired by the Seaboard Air Line Railway.

"By reason of the acquisition of these two properties, the Seaboard now has approximately five miles of water front and has enough terminal facilities to take care of its situation thirty years from today.

THE BIG FREEZE

Hillsborough County had felt no unusually cold weather for years previous to 1894. Then, on December 29th, the mercury in the thermometers plummeted with alarming rapidity from the seventies to 14 degrees above zero in many parts of the state. It was one of the lowest temperatures ever recorded in Florida, and was a great shock to citrus growers. It practically ruined the year's crop. Growers were discouraged, but there was more to come. The December cold spell, while frothing the fruit, did not greatly injure the trees, and Nature started to repair the damage by sprouting new foliage.

For a while it seemed as if little irreparable damage had been done, but an additional blizzard started on February 7th, with a terrific drop in temperature. This freeze lasted until February 11th
and thermometers reached an all-time low of 11 degrees above zero. Snow fell both in Hillsborough and Manatee.

With the new growth just starting, all the citrus trees were injured and most of them were killed. Where the state's citrus crop for 1893-94 had been valued at $4,500,000, the next year's crop, consisting of less than 150,000 boxes, was valued at about $300,000.

The total loss to the state was about $70,000,000 and is considered one of the greatest calamities in any state's history.

To add to the difficulties, a storm, which cost the state $10,000,000 in damage followed in September of 1896.

In spite of these combined disasters, very few planters acknowledged that they were beaten. Some replanted their groves, some moved further south in the state and started citrus planting there. Many dropped citrus growing altogether and went into other lines of agriculture, making such a great success that never again would Florida be known as a one crop state.

Many farmers from the hard-hit northern counties moved to Hillsborough and the county at large gained in population.
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Judge Thomas Palmer, Tampa, Florida

Colonel Peter O. Knight, Tampa, Florida

Raphael M. Ybor, Tampa, Florida
Fort Brooke, established in 1823, was a refuge for many an early settler driven from his home by the Indians, but as the last quarter of the century was reached, citizens of the growing city began to look for some method of controlling activities in that section. They realized, also, that the old Garrison was a barrier to the growth of the city, since it blocked the way to a deep harbor and prevented waterfront development.

With the reorganization of Hillsborough County, the name of Fort Brooke had been officially erased from the map. The soldiers had gone, but the inevitable vice centers remained. Gambling houses and dejected women deplored their loss, but made the most of the situation by settling down where they were, safely outside the city limits, yet near enough to attract patronage from Tampa's population.

The old Imperial Theatre was known for its daring exhibitions of demoralized shows. Criminals, bootleggers, degenerates and sundry representatives of the underworld made Fort Brooke their rendezvous, and the military campsite, having served gloriously in both the Indian and Civil wars, now, like a broken old roué, summoned its last potency for a final stand.

Since it was still the property of the War Department, officials began to plan methods of unwinding the red tape. It was suggested that if a transfer could be effected to the Department of Interior, it would then become eligible for the filing of Government homestead
claims, which, when deeded to individuals, could be subdivided and annexed to the city.

In 1883 this was accomplished, and Dr. E. S. Carew was the fortunate recipient of the first and most valuable tract. Several individuals filed other entries, and they claims were soon involved in troublesome litigation. A large number of squatters claimed titles by right of occupation, and they finally banded together under the leadership of a Russian nihilist emigre, Dr. F. W. Weighntovol, a surgeon of doubtful reputation. To strengthen their claims, they took steps to incorporate a town of their own, called Moscow, in memory of the home land of the radical doctor, who was appointed mayor.

At length the litigation was ended with the ousting of the squatters and the disorganization of the short-lived municipality. Clear title was awarded to the estate of Dr. Carew, and others who had originally filed claims, and the way was thus thrown open for development of the old Fort Brooke section.

But difficulties did not end here. The site of the Garrison was still not included in the city limits of Tampa. Proposals to annex Fort Brooke met with active opposition, but the goal was finally achieved through a peculiar circumstance.

When the matter finally reached the State Legislature in 1907, James E. Crane was senator from Hillsborough County. The senate had a gentleman's agreement to pass the bills which their colleagues had passed in the house, and vice versa. Since bills were usually read only by their titles, members voted without having heard the exact provisions of the measures, depending upon the approval of those immediately interested.
One day a bill came over from the Senate to amend the charter of the city of Tampa, and the house passed it in the usual "greased lightning" way, upon motion of a waiver of rules, proposed by Mr. Decker, Representative. Albert H. Roberts, clerk of the House Committee of city and county organization, went over to Mr. Decker's desk and asked: "Mr. Decker, do you know what you have just done?"

"No, what is it?" the representative replied.

"Well," said Mr. Roberts, "you have just annexed Fort Brooke to Tampa, after the long war on the subject."

"I didn't know what was in the bill," said Mr. Decker. "That is up to Senator Crane."

The historic old garrison at last had become a part of Tampa. One after another of the old landmarks disappeared as the waterfront was developed, until now little remains as evidence of the glory and notoriety that once was hers. On the corner of Platt and Franklin streets stands a marker, like an unobtrusive monument to a forgotten hero.
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Excerpt from a letter dated Tallahassee, April 9, 1936, to Professor A. J. Hanna from Albert H. Roberts, Treasurer of the Florida Historical Society.