

Search For Yesterday

A History of Levy County, Florida



Chapter Six



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FROM THE OLD DOCUMENTS

BY S. E. GUNNELL

Over the years since its beginning in 1845, Levy County has been the scene of shouting matches, legal dust storms, shootouts, and various forms of what is known in the common vernacular as hanky-panky. This presentation is in no way intended to be a derogatory commentary since old Levy County was probably no different in this respect from other frontier counties in this state and other states.

A few of the old court cases will be referred to and the outcome of most of those is not recorded. Since our interest is historical rather than puerile, we are not publishing the hanky-panky. Some passages are included to show aspects of the dialects spoken at the time. Others may reveal some structures of the old social order that seem quaint to us today, but this should be viewed in the perspective that our own social order would appear extremely strange to those old timers if they could have looked ahead into time at us as we are looking back in time at them.

Some of the old pioneers left their places of origin at high speed with angry persons chasing them. Others were fugitives from justice, some were misfits, adventurers, restless spirits whose destiny was to always move on to see where the next trail would go. Some others left north Georgia, Virginia and the Carolinas simply because the family homestead had run out of land to support the ever growing clan. The younger ones had to move on. Some of them left with their families and never saw the older ones again.

Those early settlers were a curious mixture of the bizarre, the comical, the sad, and the tragic elements of life. The one recurring characteristic among them is that they were tough, hard, they survived, and only they could have powered their way through that harsh, cruel wilderness life and started a civilization.

Now, no frontiers are left, all the trails have ended, the last campfire is dead and cold and there is nowhere left for the restless ones to go.

1842:

In Wilkinson County, Mississippi, a judgment was issued against Peter A. Prester. Prester had migrated to the area which was to become Levy County, Florida.

1848:

David A. Morgan lived in Levy County at a place known as Alligator.

1852:

Elijah Hunter was charged with "pummeling one William Stephens." Witnesses were William J. Hart, Isaac Highsmith, Sebastian Tomlinson, and Enoch Daniels.

Personal property from the estate of John Sonce, Levyville blacksmith, was sold by James E. Thompson, administrator.

1853:

"One Hastings Johnson, on March 1, 1853, in the county aforesaid, one bull calf the property of one Gasper Seastrunk feloniously did steal, take, and carry away, to the evil example of the good people of Florida and against the dignity of the same."

Isaac Highsmith was indicted for assault and battery upon the person of Robert Waterson. William J. Hart was charged with assault and battery upon the person of one Enoch Daniels.

Nathaniel and James Turner were indicted for "keeping store open on a Sabbath." Witnesses were William J. Hart and Moses Cason. Foreman of the grand jury was James B. Thompson.

1854:

In the case of State Vs James F. Thompson, charged with employing servants on the Sabbath, the defense asked that the jury be instructed to find the defendant not guilty if the servants did a "work of necessity." The court refused, but gave instructions for a not guilty verdict if the work was done because of "some extraordinary operation of nature such as produced by a storm or fire or an inroad of the sea and not from common and usual operations such as are produced by heat or cold."

Walter C. Tresper was indicted for assault upon the person of William L. Moore. Witnesses were Dexter Simpson and James M. Janney.

1855:

Andrew J. Collins was sued by Thomas C. Love.

1857:

In spite of the testimony of witnesses, John

Wester and Edward Hogan, one Alexander Clarke was found not guilty of setting an evil example to the good people by carrying arms secretly.

1858:

Elias Turner was clerk. Horatio Thompson sued the Suwannee Lumber Company owned by Robert H. McIlvaine of Florida, Isaac Brown of Maryland, and Zephemiah Britt of North Carolina. The lumber company was on lot 4, block 2, Atsena Otie. Zep Britt lived in Lincoln County, North Carolina. Zep got the mill property in the lawsuit.

Edmund Kelsey sued the town of Atsena Otie which had been incorporated that same year in July. The town had a president, Augustus Steele. Trustees were Simeon A. Edwards, James S. F. Cottrell, Robert H. McIlvaine, William G. Figman, and James Tucker. Kelsey said some of the citizens of the town began a move toward incorporation under the pretext of suppressing vice and immorality, and of protecting the life and property of the citizens which it was pretended could be done at modest expense to the citizens. He further stated that the procedure used in obtaining the charter of incorporation was illegal. The town had levied a small municipal tax and built two plank sidewalks. One of the sidewalks ran "from near the wharf to the church, being the only church in town." Beyond that, the church in Atsena Otie in 1858 is not identified. Kelsey objected to paying the tax. The judge, Thomas J. King, issued an injunction against the town. Kelsey was required to post bond in the amount of \$1,000. He declined to do so and the injunction was dissolved. As far as is now known, this was the first incorporation of a town at Atsena Otie (Cedar Key) and the first in Levy County. The municipal government may have ceased to function during the confusion of the Civil War. Possibly, the sole surviving trace of it anywhere is this old court case in the Archives in Bronson.

James S. Turner was indicted for assault on Edmund D. Hogan. In Cedar Key, Samuel W. Johnson was indicted for assault on John Marion. From the deposition of R. H. McIlvaine: "... diffused peritoneal inflammation and his life is in great peril." From the deposition of J. W. Tooke: "Myself and the defendant were in company together about 12 o'clock when Mr. Marion came along, said, 'What are you doing here, you ?' I then said 'Gentlemen, let us not have difficulty,' and I left. Do not know what happened after that." William A. F. Jones was JP (Justice of the Peace). Johnson had shot Marion twice.

1859:

Edward Remington sued William Yearty,

default on a note. Suwannee Lumber Company was sued by William B. Ross.

"You are hereby required to summon one James Hearn to appear before me at Cedar Key on May 11, 1859, to testify and the truth to speak in regard to the murder of Simon Douglass and George Douglass and herein fail not." -Franklin Jordan, JP and acting Coroner. G. P. Thomas sued John Marcum.

1860:

John Tyre charged George E. Colson with trespass. William Hastie, Philo C. Calhoun, Rowland B. Lacey, partners doing business as Hastie, Calhoun & Co., sued William C. H. Rainey and Tillman Ingram, default on a promissory note.

Zephaniah Butts and John W. Benton were indicted for practicing medicine without a license. Witnesses were E. M. Graham and Simeon Edwards. W. M. Rodgers was city marshal at Atsena Otie.

In the case of William Majors, alias Jack Scott, charged with breaking and entering the house of Captain James Tucker, witnesses were E. M. Graham, Camilla Tucker, William Roberts, Reidester Bryant, Stephen Grant, and Daniel Steward. J. F. Cottrell was mayor at Atsena Otie.

1861:

Joseph R. Beltow, JP, was indicted for malpractice of justice.

1862:

The Civil War was going on and nothing was recorded that survives.

1863:

Solomon Rouse was indicted for the murder of James Mangin. Nicholas S. Cobb was charged with assault upon one James McGhee. Nicholas Cobb was indicted for challenging William R. Coulter to fight a duel. James S. Turner was indicted for putting his brand on "the said calf of one Julia Prevatt."

1864:

Joseph Phelps sued James S. Turner for \$50,000 as compensation for damages, the plaintiff being represented as "a good, true, honest, just, and faithful citizen of said county and state" (words of his attorney). The defendant was charged with "speaking and publishing several false, scandalous, malicious, and defamatory words, also lying and committing perjury." It seems that a certain hog had been killed on the premises of the defendant, which hog was claimed by one Stephen Johnson as being the property of

his minor son. Phelps had already been tried for "larceny of said hog" and found not guilty, and this suit for damages followed.

1865:

The case of Nicholas S. Cobb Vs James S. Turner was concerned with the settlement of a partnership retail mercantile business at Levyville. Cobb had previously organized a company of infantry for the Confederates and was addressed as "Captain Cobb." From Thomas Starling's testimony, the firm of Turner & Cobb was in business during 1860-1861. Starling had worked for the firm for four months as clerk and bookkeeper. The merchandise markup was from 50-100%.

John F. Jackson testified that he had been a merchant for twelve years and was of the opinion that the firm of Cobb & Turner had lost money. Thomas F. Prevatt, sheriff, acted as Master-in-Chancery to examine the firm's books.

According to Turner's testimony, he started in business with Cobb on March 12, 1860. He stated that Cobb was worth \$268 at that time. The first purchase for over \$4,000. During the two years, they sold about \$20,000 at retail, one-tenth of this as cash sales and the rest on credit. When Cobb left the inventory was down to \$800 cash, \$1755 in bank notes and Confederate money, \$232 in gold, and \$100 in railroad money. Asked about the partnership contract, Turner said, "I were to furnish the means and Captain Cobb were to do the service, and I were to have 8% on money invested and we were to divide the profits." When asked how much was lost by Cobb neglecting to collect for goods sold to his infantry company for which he was personally responsible, Turner replied, "\$6,800."

In his testimony, Nicholas Cobb stated that the average markup was 50% and that he was due \$15,975 from the firm at the time he left for CSA military service. Cobb had a memorandum of his claims prepared by Col. W. R. Coulter, said the store's stock was worth \$2,000 when he left. When asked about the amounts of money he owed Milton Smith and James E. Broome at the time he entered the partnership, he answered, "The books will show as regards to Broome; I don't recollect as regards Smith."

From the testimony of Daniel J. Davis:

Question: "Were you in Captain Cobb's Company?"

Answer: "I were."

Question: "Did Captain Cobb sell goods on his own responsibility?"

Answer: "He sold goods to the men, me for one, and they was to pay him when they col-

lected their money. A portion was sold that there was no account of, a big fine saddle and a overcoat and a great many other things. Mr. Turner made a fuss and went out to the company and rared. How Mr. Turner and Capt. Cobb settled it I do not know."

William Gause testified that he had heard Turner say that Cobb was worth about \$8,000. The outcome of this case is not recorded.

Also in 1865, James S. Turner was indicted for fatally shooting Joseph B. Haskew, "said gun being loaded with buckshot."

1866:

A warrant was issued for Moses Hall, freedman, for assault on one State Right Dixon. Louis Appel, constable, had a warrant to arrest Wiley Holensback for the murder of Anderson Philpot. Henry Honor was charged with breaking and entering the dwelling of John Chesser and stealing a dress coat.

"Whereas Sarah J. Allen has this day made affidavit before George S. Leavitt, clerk of Circuit Court, that one Joseph W. Allen on the 22nd day of September at night A. D. 1866, an assault with attempt to kill did make with one pistol and did shoot at the said Sarah J. Allen and swore that he would kill her and did further with a knife attempt to cut the said Sarah J. Allen's throat ..."

"We the jury find the prisoner, Joseph W. Allen, guilty; fine, one dollar and costs of court, so say we all." Signed, William L. Moore, foreman.

James S. Turner, Mary A. Tresper, and Sol Osteen were witnesses in the case of State Vs E. J. Lutterloh. "...one Edward J. Lutterloh, soldier, in 1864 with force and arms, one bag of silver coins to the value of \$115, cotton bagging to the value of \$10, one safe to the value of \$10, of the goods and chattels of one John Waterson and Mary A. Tresper feloniously did steal."

George S. Leavitt sued Jane R. Leavitt for divorce. Nathaniel Jameison, physician, was charged with "keeping shop open on the Sabbath Day." Florida Town Improvement Company sued N. B. Hill and J. F. Mitchell for default on promissory notes given to James T. Soutter and John McRae as trustees of the Florida Railroad Company. Robert Isaac, colored, was indicted for "betting at cards, did play and bet at a game of cards, to wit, the game of Seven-up, with one Lewellyn J. Hogans."

Westberry Hodge was charged with beating on Andrew J. Clyatt. Clyatt had challenged Hodge about telling around town that Clyatt had stolen a hog from him. Witnesses were B. F. Heath, Otto Yarimbo, Simeon Edwards, Seth Stevens, James

McQueen, James F. Thompson, Mrs. A. Odum, Dr. T. H. Signore. This probably occurred in Cedar Key.

1867:

Andrew E. Hodges was tried for the murder of Benjamin Leak. David Wilkinson charged that "one Frank Wilkinson on or about August 1, 1867, did feloniously steal, take and carry away one black sow with a streak on her face and did alter the mark of said sow and put it in a pen." Green Chaires, administrator for the estate of William G. Burgess, sued Louis C. Arlidge of Cedar Key.

From a declaration by David Higginbotham who was being sued by Teasdale and Reid: "I have paid Teasdale and Reid every dollar I ever owed them and more, and I never owed them \$700 in my life. I never bought any boots, I do not recollect buying any rice. I do not keep accounts, being an unlettered man. When we came to a settlement one time they said I owed \$272. I offered them the money but they wanted the cotton instead. I told Reid I would deliver the hides at Grey's Wharf according to contract."

Question: "Would you believe Teasdale and Reid on their oath?"

Answer: "I would in some cases."

Also in 1867, "Whereas Robert Watterson says he is lawfully entitled to the possession of a certain sugar boiler with a piece broke out of one side, and Arthur J. Hodge unlawfully detains said boiler ..."

1868:

The Cedar Key Hotel Company, offices at Fernandina, was incorporated by David L. Yulee, John Hodges, D. E. Maxwell, E. J. Lutterloh, and C. Wickliffe. Odell Johnson was summoned as a witness in JP Court of Franklin Jordan in Cedar Key, the case being State Vs James M. Farmer.

1869:

Henry Lewis was indicted for hitting Joseph Loggin over the head with a fence rail. If an assault victim was knocked unconscious for a specified length of time, the legal types said he was "killed" for that length of time.

In Cedar Key, Franklin Jordan, JP, issued a witness subpoena for Joseph Yearty in the murder of Simon Douglass and George Douglass.

One William Nelson was shot in the jaw with a pistol by E. D. Hogans in James S. Turner's store at Levyville. Witnesses were David Cannon, J. J. Bradford, John F. Fleming, and N. Carter.

"W. J. Jones, being duly sworn, says that J. J. Bradford has in his possession a certain sorrell horse about ten years old, blind in both eyes, to

which the said W. J. Jones is lawfully entitled.” Warrants were issued for Caesar Hearn and William Rawls, both Negro, charged with inciting a riot. “. . .that one James M. Hudson fired a pistol at him three times with the intent to kill him, thus said Davy Hall . . .”

1870:

James Tucker, as agent for Charles Tift of Monroe County, brought suit against the steamer Argo of Cedar Key, nonpayment of \$269.94 in supplies. A. E. Hodge sued J. Rickendorfer of New York for a default in payment for cedar timber. George Leavitt was still clerk.

1871:

Barnes & Co. of Cedar Key was being sued by a wholesale grocery company in New York.

In a deposition, David L. McGowan and Leroy Wood stated that Montgomery S. Clyatt assaulted and killed Hagin R. Cason with a “certain ax helve.” Helve is from an old Anglo-Saxon word for handle. Due to the ambiguous way the word “kill” was used in those days, it is not clear whether Cason was knocked unconscious or actually killed.

S. C. Barnes, Jack Condell, Abbie Condell, and J. A. Starkweather were all partners in the firm of

Barnes & Co. They built the steamer J. J. Philbrick of Cedar Key.

1872:

“Personally appeared before me, George Leavitt, Clerk, Mrs. Maria E. Jackson who being duly sworn deposes and says that on the night of February 10, 1872, that one Edward Smith did open the door of her kitchen and did feloniously steal, take and carry away one stone spider carving knife, one water bucket, two table dishes, one tin pan, one tin bucket, to the value of eight dollars.”

The Downie Mill in Cedar Key was owned by M. W. Downie. Also in Cedar Key, A. E. Willard, L. F. Roux, and George A. Hudson were in business as Willard Roux and Company. They advertised as dealers in fish, oysters, red cedar, sponges, pine lumber, white oak, live oak, and general merchandise. Also in 1872, M. W. Downie was sued by W. H. Hubbard and Co. The signature of the clerk of Cedar Key’s police court looks like H. V. Truitt. He wrote an account of Robert Johnson’s appeal to County Court of Johnson’s conviction of “using slanderous and abusive language, also for fighting and disturbing the peace.” Witnesses were A. E. Willis, Joshua White, L. P. Wiseford. The deciphering of these names is uncertain.



During the latter half of the 1800’s the sponge business thrived in the Cedar Key area, where these vessels are anchored. The spongers lowered glass-bottomed buckets to locate the sponges which were then snared by a hook on the end of a long pole. Naturally the boats were called Hookers. The sponge industry at Cedar Key existed before diving apparatus was invented and probably before any such activity began at Tarpon Springs.

OFFICE OF

IRA J. CARTER,

Judson, Fla., July 13th 1889

Remember my P. O., and Shipping Directions.

If you have not in stock the goods ordered, don't enter my order for goods to follow.

Custom House, Cedar Keys, Fla.,

DISTRICT OF ST. MARK'S,

Collector's Office, Nov. 2, 1878

Atlantic, Gulf and West India Transit Co.

Agents' Monthly Balance Sheet,

From Cedar Key Station,

Sept. 1878

*Received of Mr. [unclear]
One Hundred and [unclear] Dollars
at tax levied on [unclear]*

C. B. Rogers

E. A. Champlain

OFFICE OF

C. B. ROGERS & CO

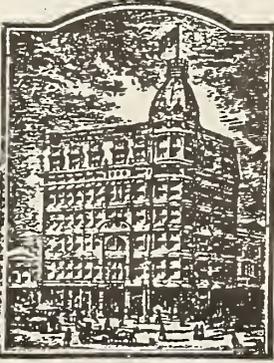
WHOLESALE & RETAIL DEALERS IN

GENERAL MERCHANDISE

Replying to yours
of

Cedar Keys, Fla. July 29th 1887

"IT STANDS AT THE HEAD. THE LIGHT-RUNNING DOMESTIC."



Richmond, July 20th 1885

Messrs J. O. Andrews & Co
Cedar Keys Fla

Bought of **Domestic Sewing Machine Co**

TERMS:



Montbrook School, Clifford Wyner and Bertha Wellman, teachers.

1873:

A. E. Willard was Mayor of Cedar Key. Edwin F. O'Neil had a general merchandise store there. A freight list for the Schooner Lucy M. is recorded. The Florida Town Improvement Company's resident manager was D. L. Yulee. Louis F. Roux had been station agent for three years at Cedar Key for the Gulf Atlantic and the West Indies Transit Company. This was the railroad from Fernandina. He was short in his accounts.

James A. Mason, Jr., was captain of the schooner Lucy M. which had hauled freight such as lumber along the Gulf Coast. In Cedar Key, Nettleton H. Payne, surviving partner of Starkweather and Payne, sued Samuel C. Reddick for nonpayment for 152,000 feet of pine lumber which had been processed in the Sand Spit Mill.

Edward J. Lutterloh sued the town of Cedar Key. The town had plans to build a public market and jail too close to his building. Town councilmen of Cedar Key in 1873 were H. P. Lovering, J. G. Williams, Arthur Simmons, H. E. Stickney, and Max Blumenthal. B. R. Goff & Co. (Cedar Key) was sued by William H. Hale for default on a note.

P. H. Davis brought a replevin suit against H. P. Perryman concerning a "certain mule". Davis was acting as agent for J. M. Anmon, the apparent owner of the mule. From Perryman's plea statement: "Anmon delivered the mule to me, himself, to make and gather a crop; no other conditions were mentioned. When Collier come to get the mule to hall Davis' corn, I was halling corn.

I said you can not get him. I do not wish to be accountable for Davis' treatment of the horse stock. The crop is not gathered. His affidavit for replevin is founded in malice. I had promise of the mule and cart to go on a visit South when ploughing was done provided I taken care of the mule and mended him up." Perryman did not write the statement; but he dictated it and signed it. The actual writer's identity is unknown. The handwriting is not that of George S. Leavitt, County Clerk at the time.

1874:

"Whereas Mike Young says that he is lawfully entitled to possession of a certain sugar mill and boiler now in the possession of one Allen Roberts ...". Moses Keen was being sued by G. W. Hodge. Hodge was administrator for the estate of Daniel A. Morgan. Wesley B. Hodge was a deputy sheriff, also constable and town marshall at Cedar Key.

In the case of Leneer (a version of Lanier?) Vs William Batty, Hodge deposed that he had attached "certain rafts of cedar said to be the property of Demry (probably Demory of Demere) and Bro." in connection with unpaid costs of cutting the cedar and rafting it to Cedar Key. In another entry the names, Barnett Demery and Raymond Demery are mentioned. John G. Williams was Justice of the Peace in Cedar Key at this time.

Eugene Batty, as agent for William Batty, filed an affidavit before J. M. Galphin, another J.P., saying that the "180 logs of cedar now on board the schooner M. D. Ireland is the property of William Batty."

Parrish Jackson was indicted for manslaughter in the fatal shooting of Marie Glover. Witnesses were Jeff McQueen, Bailey Scott, and Dr. G. A. Penny. Jackson was found not guilty. Thomas B. Faitoute was a J.P. at Cedar Key.

Samuel Bowers, charged with assault upon D. Rams (or Rains) was transferred to the Nassau County jail.

1875:

Henry C. Ferris sued Thomas A. Britt and George Blum over some furniture. This was probably in Cedar Key. Thomas A. Britt was also sued for nonpayment of account by Max Blumenthal, a Cedar Key merchant.

Adelaide A. Keen and William W. Keen were divorced and her maiden name restored, Maria Adelaide Tresper. Sarah J. Keen and Thomas Keen were divorced.

Allen Osteen sued David Altman for "unduly detaining from him a said horse."

In 1875, Cedar Key's mayor was Francis E. Hale; city aldermen were J. R. Wolf, A. B. Quin, Peter Hart, Morris Jordan, and James Harn. Charles Webster brought suit against the town at this time.

Wesley H. Hodge, Cedar Key, killed Parrish Jackson with two pistol shots. This happened in Bettilini's store. The coroner's jury was W. H. Batty, Frank Lems, H. Winter, G. Williams, J. Conner, O. Bettilini, B. Scott, Call Floyd, J. G. W. Edwards, Andrew Williams, J. H. Griffin, and Henry Hall. Isaac G. Westervelt was coroner. Hodge was moved to the Duval County jail for safekeeping.

Solomon B. Folks was J.P. at Black Dirt precinct. James W. Brown had been fatally shot and found. J. W. Robinson was constable. The coroner's jury was Stephen C. Barco, John C. Folks, Benjamin B. Davis, Samuel M. Niblack, Jonas T. Driggers, Jesse Smith, J. J. Smith, Haiston Johnson, S. C. Barco, and Ezekiel Johnson.

J. R. Wolfe and C. B. Rogers were dealers in merchandise at Cedar Key as Wolfe and Rogers. W. A. Jones lived at Atsena Otie in block 10, lot 1; Miss Ellen Kelsey in block 7, lot 9; Max Blumenthal owned lot 10, block 13, and lot 22, block 1 on Way Key; Mrs. S. A. Jones owned lot 3, block 7 in Cedar Key. D. L. Yulee still owned sec. 19 in TS 11, R 15.

1876:

"Whereas the said New Orleans, Florida and Havana Steamship Company was indebted to

George A. Penny, the said plaintiff, in the just and true sum of \$154 for services in boarding, examining and inspecting the steamships Margaret and William P. Clyde, the property of said company, in or near the port of Cedar Key as Port Inspector of said port during the period and existence of the quarantine, ordinance and regulations established and put into operation by the mayor and aldermen of the town of Cedar Key acting as a Board of Health . . ." Penny has sued for his fees. His lawyers were E. W. Perry and E. M. Hampton.

John J. Philbrick brought suit against E. J. and W. M. Shemwell, an action to recover possession of the Exchange Hotel in Cedar Key for failure to pay the rent. Defendants failed to show, so the court assessed them for costs and found for the plaintiff.

Abby H. Nutter and husband, George F. Nutter, of Cedar Key brought suit against W. G. O'Regan, Mattie Finlayson, Elizabeth N. Rogers and husband, Henry Rogers, and H. P. Jackson, sheriff, for nonpayment of promissory notes. The defendants had purchased the steamlaunch Little Sallie from Albert E. Willard and John B. Croft.

1877:

J. N. Ford had a store at Rosewood. Goodman and Myers of Savannah, Georgia, sued W. H. Hale of Cedar Key, delinquent account of wholesale purchases.

George F. Nutter, agent for the steamer D. L. Yulee, was being sued by W. B. McIlvaine for \$87.00. Verdict was for the plaintiff. This trial was in Cedar Key, and H. V. Snell was J.P. McIlvaine had worked on the steamer as Master (Captain). The jury awarded \$30.75 to the plaintiff. The wreck of that old steamer is now lying in shallow water on the Levy County side of the Suwannee River at the downstream end of the stretch known as Long Reach. It was torn loose from its mooring at Salt Creek by the hurricane of 1896 and blown aground at its present location.

Edwin Hamlin brought suit against the steamboat David L. Yulee for his work aboard as engineer.

1878:

E. J. Lutterloh of Cedar Key, in a letter to County Judge, Col. W. H. Sebring in Bronson, mentions that "Col. Cottrell lives on the other side of the river" and requests Sebring to telegraph him.

Also in Cedar Key during 1878, F. E. Hale was a Notary Public. Frank R. Moody was selling his interest in the steamer Little Sallie for \$10.00. Montholon Atkinson sued William Rogers. A man listed as Albritton Lewis could have been the same person as Britt Lewis. James Rawls was hung March 1st at 1:00 P.M. after being convicted of

first degree murder. Porter Jackson was sheriff, and George F. Drew was governor.

1879:

In Cedar Key, Parsons and Hale had a contract with George W. Moody concerning the steam powered sawmill located at the Sand Spit; the land was leased from the Florida Town Improvement Co.

Shatford C. Carson recorded a mechanic's lien on the steam powered sawmill at Rosewood owned by J. B. Dunn, successor to Dum, Oaks & Company. The Rosewood sawmill consisted of one single mill, one five-flue steam boiler, the mill building, lumber yard, one turning lathe.

"I, Enoch J. Geiger, of Levy County hereby file this notice that I shall claim the following personal property as my homestead exemption under the laws and constitution of the State of Florida: one gray horse, \$75; one cart, \$20; seven head of hogs, \$14; household and kitchen equipment, \$25." So, Florida did have some kind of homestead exemption back in 1879.

At Bronson, "Whereas a certain charge of malicious slander having been made against Mrs. Lizzie Stonemetz in the village of Albion by W. R. Hall . . . Now, I, W. R. Hall, the accused, retract the above charge of slander . . . I know of nothing whatever that can reflect upon the good name and character of Mrs. Lizzie Stonemetz . . . that the

statements said to be made by me by one George Williams that Mrs. Lizzie Stonemetz was a _____ were never uttered or made by me . . ."

In Cedar Key, Isaac Eppinger recorded a lien on lots 4 and 5, block 2, in the town of Atsena Otie on Depot Key, and on the steam sawmill known as Nutter's Mill situated on said lots.

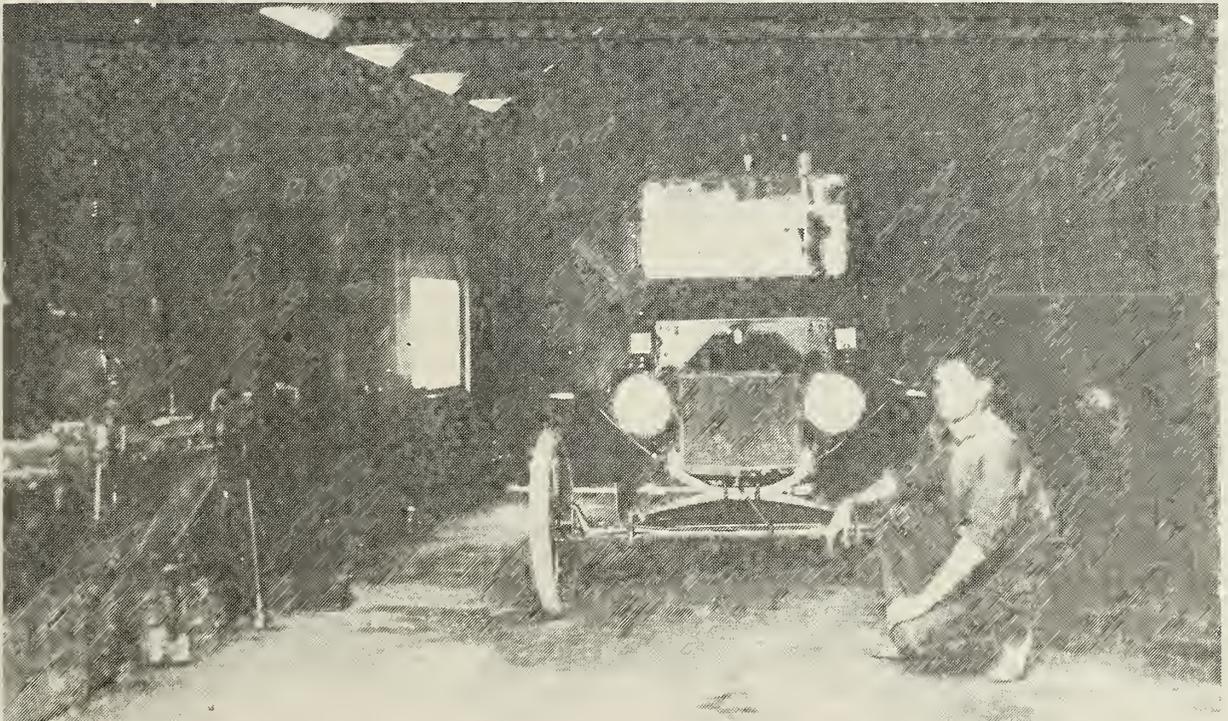
Daniel S. Marsh and wife, Adriana, lived on 80 acres between Bronson and Chunky Pond. They had orange groves and vineyards.

Jonathan B. Thomas was J.P. at Sumner, held court in the Sumner school house. In one case tried there, Benjamin H. Holland Vs Benjamin H. Holland, Sr., witnesses were Mrs. E. P. Holland and H. C. Mattier (an altered version of the name, Mattair). The jury found for the plaintiff.

Judge Farley was indicted for "keeping a certain house of ill fame." Witnesses were John R. Mitchell and C. W. Webster.

1880:

Willard Hall was charged with homicide. Peter Hansen's testimony: "I was attending meeting at the school house at Albion on Sunday, April 4, 1880. I heard the ladies scream and upon looking toward the door saw a shotgun. I did not see who had the gun. Instantly, I heard shooting upon looking saw Mr. Kline stagger and fall. I opened the door and went out and saw Mr. Kline laying on the ground. I took the shotgun and fired it off and



Mr. Shug Faircloth, service manager for the Ford agency in Bronson about 1918.

leaned Mr. Kline against the house. I saw the gun, heard the report and saw the smoke." During cross-examination by the state: "I was the first man at the door. The gun was laying out on the ground. I was the first to take up the gun and fired it off, shot off one barrel. The shotgun had a copper cap on it. I was the first to go to the man after the shooting. He was laying sideways by the church. When he was shot he rolled about. I set on the same seat in church with the defendant."

Testimony of Mrs. Christine Hansen in the above case: "I was present at a meeting Sunday afternoon. Mr. Kerr was reading his sermon. I heard Mrs. Gordon hollering very loud; she said 'Mr. Kerr, there is Mr. Klein with a shotgun.' I turned my face toward the door and saw Mr. Klein standing aiming the gun right into the middle of the house, saw the gun move toward the left. I jumped off the bench, heard the report, saw the smoke, turned my face toward the wall expecting to be shot, heard some shots afterward, looked around, saw my husband Mr. Hansen going toward the door, spoke to Mr. Kerr, asked him was he shot, saw him sitting on the bench. I went and opened the door, saw Mr. Frye, Mr. Hansen, and Mr. Klein on the steps, heard another gunshot before I opened the door."

According to Mrs. Juliette Byles: "Mr. Kerr was reading his sermon . . . saw a man standing on the steps pointing a shotgun into the schoolhouse . . . I did not know about the quarrel at the time . . . just a second before the shotgun went off I was looking right down both barrels . . . immediately afterwards I heard what sounded like two or three very fast pistol shots . . . I then came out from under the bench to see who was killed and saw Willie Hall standing by the front seat with a pistol in his hand and his arms by his sides . . . Willie Hall did not move from where he was standing until he started to go for the doctor."

Dr. J. M. Jackson: . . . "deceased died from wounds."

Alfred J. Townsend: . . . "deceased was shot in the right thigh, left side of the stomach, also in the right collar bone."

Other witnesses were Francis E. Gordon, William Gomm, Mrs. Mary Colson, Gilbert Lambert, Seigford Frei, Mary Goody, Mrs. Francis E. Gordon.

The victim was Allen Kline (also spelled Klein). Apparently, he appeared in the church door and fired off one barrel of his shotgun without hitting anyone and then was shot down by pistol fire from Willard Hall who must have been a very fast gunfighter. These people were residents of the village of Albion which disappeared many years ago. It was located on State Road 24 between Bronson and Archer about two miles inside the Levy County line.

In an earlier case that same year, a warrant was

out for the arrest of Willard R. Hall which may be related to the homicide affair. From the warrant: . . . "did say of this deponent in following malicious and untrue words, to wit: 'She is getting too big around her apron string.'" W. D. Finlayson was sheriff at this time.

In Cedar Key, H. W. Lutterloh contracted to build a brick house for N. Schlemmer, 35 feet deep, 25 feet front, and 25 feet high, two stories. F. M. McQueen was a JP at Cedar Key. Thomas E. Parsons and William H. Whitehead were in business in Bronson as Parsons and Whitehead.

The Cedar Key Working Man's Association was organized and their contributions recorded. Members were: C. Aulston, George H. Baker, Daniel Bird, Abraham Brown, Barry Brown, Charley Brown, J. Burkhiem, Thomas M. Coburn, Peter Dunn, J. G. W. Edwards, W. K. Flynn, Douglas Kemp, Louis Kolb, J. R. Mitchell, J. B. Moody, David Moore, C. M. Moseley, John F. Murrell, A. Odum, W. S. Rogers, Thomas Starling, Erving Tillis, Guss Wall, George W. Williams, and George M. Young.

From their constitution: "Any member introducing in any manner the discussion of religion or politics shall be forthwith be expelled from the hall and his name dropped permanently from the roll of members."

A warrant was issued from William E. Yearty's JP Court in Cedar Key for R. L. Holzendorf, charged with assaulting one Jack Lastinger. Witnesses were W. H. Lane, William Atcheson, Andrew Williams, Walter Williams, D. J. Hollister, James Gordon, James Hall, B. F. Bennett, E. J. Bell, and Sip Witaker. The Holzendorfs were not recent immigrants as the name might seem to indicate. They were living in North Georgia in the 1700's.

W. Norris sued the American Ice and Cold Storage Company (incorporated in Pennsylvania) for his pay for services as engineer at their manufacturing plant in Cedar Key. The company had another name, The American Refrigerating and Construction Company. Lutterloh and Davis were attorneys for the plaintiff. The suit was withdrawn, probably settled out of court.

W. R. Medlin sued the Atlantic, Gulf and West Indies Transit Company. They also sued him.

In Cedar Key, Charles W. Bradshaw gave a mortgage deed to Charles B. Rogers for lot 17, block 1, . . . "the said lot fronts on Second Street."

1881:

In Cedar Key, E. J. Lutterloh was indicted for practicing law without a license. Peter Lancaster, William Lancaster, and George Lancaster were indicted for the murder of Edward L. Drummond. Witnesses were J. A. Thomas, W. H. Thomas, Q. M. Bryan, Dr. E. O. Paschal. During the course of a fight, it seems that Drummond tumbled down a flight of stairs.



The old jail and courthouse in Bronson about 1925.

Frank W. Thomas was charged with the murder of Robert Towns "by shooting him in the neck with a pistol in front of a barroom kept by Jack Lastinger in the Streets of Cedar Key." Witnesses were Lawrence Finnegan, Giles Walls, B. A. Anderson, William McDonald, J. G. Ford, and J. J. Hall.

Some of the doctors in Cedar Key at that time were A. F. Woodward, J. H. Roberts, and Charles E. Owens. They examined the victim and said that he would die from the wound.

Some names listed as being residents of Rosewood in 1881 were C. M. Jacobs, S. J. Lane, Adam Dees, E. B. Dibble. In Cedar Key, H. W. Ludicke built a house on lot 5, block 34. Green Stephens and his daughter lived in a house on the Goose Cove beach. D. H. Sutton held a lien against the steamer Erie. J. H. Gary ran a general merchandise store in Bronson. He gave power-of-attorney to his lawyer, William J. Jones, also of Bronson.

1882:

Sarah M. Colvin lived in Bronson. In Cedar Key, W. H. Anderson, JP, issued witness summonses for T. P. Tillis and D. K. Kinsey in the case of State Vs A. K. Lawrence, aggravated assault. Papers were served by Larry Finnegan. Lawrence had shot at T. A. Darby with a pistol and missed. Thomas J. Yearty sued G. W. King of Cedar Key.

1883:

The Albion Phosphate Company was incorporated in the state of West Virginia. Benton and Upson sued the Karlinah Phosphate Company, also incorporated in West Virginia. West Virginia

must have had unusually lenient laws of incorporation. Benton and Upson sold machinery and mill supplies and were probably located in Jacksonville.

A man presenting a written declaration would refer to himself as "your orator", a woman as "your oratrix."

"Your oratrix, Dora Johnson, wife of Adam Johnson of said county, humbly complaining unto your honor that she is the owner of a certain separate estate, and that she is now and has been for some time past, conducting and carrying on an oyster business in the town of Cedar Key, Florida." She was applying for a court order declaring her to be a free agent, apparently a necessary prerequisite for a woman to manage her own business.

Robert Jones intended to "shoot one Albert Richardson with a double barreled shotgun." Witnesses were Phillip Burns and J. A. Wood. In Cedar Key G. A. Fairchild was proprietor of the Fenimore Mill.

R. A. Patterson and Company of Richmond, Virginia, sent a tobacco shipment to Chafer and Darby at Cedar Key via the Old Dominion Steamship Company. The shipment was via New York and included an item listed as Sailors Choice. Henry and Malinda Touchstone were divorced. She was a Meeks. They had been married in Lafayette County.

1884:

On March 27, 1884 ... "Mr. John Sache, a subject of the Republic of France, an alien, personally appeared in open court" ... His petition for citizenship was approved.

Fletcher J. McQueen and C. J. Bradshaw dissolved their business partnership of Bradshaw and McQueen, October 11, 1884, Cedar Key. Some of their business accounts were W. D. Finlayson, W. H. Zewadski, the Company of Cottrell, Finlayson and Scott, David Paul, F. Cottrell, G. S. Scott, W. S. Rogers, E. A. Willard, F. A. Wolfe, Dennis Winn, James S. Cottrell, J. H. Dees, W. C. Benson, and E. L. Cottrell.

The schooner Black Hawk operated out of Cedar Key. The schooner Victor would land at Cedar Key. Crewman, Thomas Moss, attempted to desert, the JP Court ordered him back.



Ben Friedman was Levy County Judge longer than anyone else has been. This picture is from an old tin type.

1885:

Master of the steamer Bertha Lee was B. F. Hall, Jr.; one of the owners was E. S. Douglass. They were being sued by Greenlief Andrews. David Graham, Jr., was charged with intent to kill one Michael Hughes with a pistol. John L. Coleman, C. B. Hall, and R. E. Edwards lived at Rosewood. They were witnesses in an adultery trial. J. O. Andrews and Company were in business in Cedar Key.

“Mr. Henry Garner, a subject of the Kingdom of Great Britain, an alien, personally appeared in open court” . . . His petition for citizenship was approved. Anton Blitsch sued the owners of the sloop Alexander for materials and labor. The vessel had been left unattended; owner Alexander Morriseau announced he was leaving for New York.

1886:

The appeal of H. B. Coulter, appellant, Vs the town of Bronson, appellee, was dismissed on motion of the appellee. The case of G. Andrews Vs Steamer Bertha Lee (attachment) was dismissed for want of jurisdiction. In Bronson, Rosa _____ was found guilty of “keeping a house of ill fame.” She got three months in jail.

H. E. Marshall, being duly sworn “deposeth and saith: I do not know Edmund Moore, never saw him before tonight, after he was dead. I heard a pistol shot and ran toward the shooting. I saw the deceased Edmund Moore lying on the wharf in front of Fred Emerson’s oyster house, and one Mitchell Johnson standing over him. Johnson said to someone, ‘This here damned boy has shot hisself and we had better go for a doctor.’ Then he and Adson Hall walked off.”

Mitchell Johnson: . . . “the deceased came to his death from a pistol shot fired by the hands of Adson Hall. The pistol with which the shooting was done belonged to me. The deceased drew an oyster knife on Adson Hall and Hall shot the deceased with the 38 caliber self-cocker killing him instantly.”

Addison Hall: . . . “just as the deceased reached the door walking backwards, Mitchell Johnson fired the pistol once and the deceased fell. Johnson picked the deceased up and carried him into the oyster house and says, ‘Let’s throw him overboard,’ but I disagreed. In the meantime, Mitchell offered me fifteen dollars not to tell that he did the killing.”

Johnson was found guilty of third degree murder and sentenced to one year in the penitentiary. James Lisen was the JP. Robert Kilpatrick was found guilty of hog theft and got the same sentence as did Mitchell Johnson, probably not in the same court.

J. M. Jackson was certified to practice medicine April 10, 1886, by R. Y. H. Thomas, M.

Cedar Key, Fla. 1872

Mustard of

Bought of **Willard, Roux & Co.**

DEALERS IN

FISH, OYSTERS, RED CEDAR, SPONGES,

1872 Pine Lumber, White Oak, Live Oak and General Merchandise.

C. A. FAIRCHILD, PROP'R.

Cedar Key, Fla.

August 31 1883

Mr. M. R. Lewis

Bought of **FENTMORE MILL.**

Planed Flooring, Dimension Lumber, Ceiling & Weather Boards, Mouldings.

LATH AND SHINGLES, BOAT-BOARDS.

ORANGE AND VEGETABLE BOXES, TURNED AND SCROLL WORK IN EVERY VARIETY.

BILLS SAWED TO ORDER.

Otter Creek, Fla.

Oct 2 1882

Mr. S. J. Lane

Bought of **J. S. TURNER,**

—DEALER IN—

DRY GOODS, CLOTHING, BOOTS.

SHOES, HATS, CAPS, GROCERIES, Etc.

ESTABLISHED 1861.

L. B. PARSONS,
F. E. HALE.

Cedar Key, Fla.

1886

Miss Luther & Birds

T. PARSONS & HALE, Dr.

SHIPPING AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS.

IRA J. & SYD L. CARTER

Attorneys at Law,

D., W. A. Shands, M. D., and James M. Jackson, M. D. The Jacksons were father and son and practiced in Bronson. After the population shrinkage following the 1896 freeze that permanently wiped out the citrus industry around Bronson, the younger Dr. Jackson moved to the village of Miami, Florida, (population less than 500) and was Miami's first physician. Today's Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami is named after him. As an aside, the Shands State Teaching Hospital is named after the late Senator Bill Shands who grew up in Bronson. His childhood home is still standing and is now known as the Wellman place.

Willis R. Medlin married Ellender Nobles, 18 July 1863, in Levy County.

John Chapman, age 12, was indentured by his mother, Jane James of Gulf Hammock, to work as a servant for Emma Wingate, wife of C. B. Wingate, until John reached 21.

1887:

"John Ricks, being duly sworn, deposeseth and says: 'I was home on Wednesday morning and was gone from home all day after breakfast. I was at the school house. We were building about one mile southwest of Sand Pond. The schoolhouse is about two miles from where Mr. Medlin was killed. I got home a little after dark that day. I found Mr. Nobles and Mr. Flemming at my house. They told me they had took dinner at Sand Pond and were there two or three hours. I do not know what time Mr. Nobles and Mr. Flemming got to my house. I did not see anyone near the school house that day except the men who were at work with me, Mr. Wren, Mr. Chester, and Mr. Jenkins. One of them, Mr. Jenkins, I think, made some remark about hearing a gunshot. I often hear gunfire out in the woods.'"

In Cedar Key, the case of Charles F. Wall and James E. Lipscomb as administrators for the estate of W. W. Wall Vs the steamship Emily was dismissed. Charles A. Hansen, subject of the Kingdom of Sweden and Norway was admitted as a United States citizen. F. A. Wolfe and Company of Cedar Key sued the American Lead Pencil Company.

1888:

Louise Hill lived at Ellzey. She was 45 that year and was a witness in the divorce case of Laura Field Vs Ephriam Field. Shelton Phillips became Levy County Superintendent of Education and served in that capacity until 1908. He had taught three years in Levy County. He was state director of vocational agriculture 1919-1923 and later became a legislator. He married Ida Helvenston, daughter of Simeon Helvenston. She died in 1955 at Gainesville.

1889:

"... came one David Dupree who ... says ... that one Charles Rawls did enter the boat of said deponent lying at a wharf in Cedar Key and did steal ... the sail of said boat, mast, and one pair of oil skin pants." R. Y. H. Thomas was JP.

One Squire Squire otherwise known as Anderson Squire was sentenced to six months in the penitentiary for breaking and entering a house in the daytime. W. H. Bigham plead guilty to a concealed weapon charge filed before he became sheriff, was fined \$100, later reduced to \$25. Alexander Hardee got twelve months in jail following a conviction of riot. Manuel Hall, Frank Burns, William Jackson, and Mack Hogan got six months in the same case.

O. Bettilini of Cedar Key was charged with illegal sale of intoxicating liquors, to wit, whiskey. The county had voted dry in September, 1899. Dr. G. Dottore Pietro Monti signed an affidavit to the effect that Bettilini was sick and unable to move. E. J. McCall and J. L. Cottrell were witnesses. Bettilini's attorneys, Lutterloh and Davis, presented a plea in abatement to the effect that the indicting grand jury was unlawfully constituted because John B. Epperson was on the jury list and as postmaster at Williston was a United States Official. Outcome of the case is not known except for a notation written by Sheriff W. H. Bigham and Deputy H. S. Sutton to the effect that they were unable to process the *capias* on Bettilini, ... "the within named is not to be found in Levy County this April 20, 1891." Mr. Bettilini apparently improved, became able to move, and took off.

Charlotte E. and Charles E. Galloway of Shelby County, Tennessee, conveyed power of attorney to William Gomm to manage their property at Bronson and specifically to eject one Benjamin R. Scudder. Newton Lummus was charged with carrying a concealed weapon. Witnesses were Oscar Jackson and John Parker. W. H. Bigham, sheriff, deposed that Frank Ferstnow aided and abetted the escape of a prisoner, L. C. Duer, while in his custody as guard.

1890:

Arch Wilson and Perry Luster "interrupted and disturbed the worship of God by fighting at the church door." Witnesses were S. D. Houston, Lew Demere, Richard Harris, and William Hall. Ellen M. Lindsey was postmaster at Bronson. Gustaf Hansen, subject of the Kingdom of Sweden and Norway was admitted to citizenship.

J. W. Turner of Winston, N. C., got a hold order issued against Thomas J. Yearly on some merchandise: 14 barrels of Hobby Flour; one barrel of Rogers Best Flour; one barrel of Dictator Flour, one barrel of Pearl Grits; one barrel of Scotch Snuff.



Unidentified resident of Cedar Key about 1910. Fence in background was the property of Will DeLaino who wrote an eyewitness account of the 1896 hurricane and tidal wave.

W. J. Epperson sued M. F. Bean, default on promissory note, \$116.40.

O. Bettilini and business partner, Thomas W. Davis, of Cedar Key brought suit against the Levy County Commission regarding denial of their request for a permit to sell spiritous liquors. They had duly advertised their intent to apply in the Cedar Key Commercial.

Lula C. Yearty applied for license as a free dealer.

1891:

Jim Beauchamp was indicted for having a weapon concealed on or about his person. Norvelle R. Carter was foreman of the grand jury. Tom Beck and Hiram Starling were state witnesses.

Nero Johnson was charged with attempting to sell fraudulently some cypress cross ties near Little's Mill, Sumner, to one C. M. Jacobs. Jacobs built the Cannon house at Rosewood.

J. F. Meredith was a phosphate miner in the county. D. G. Ambler, promoter and general business operator during this time, was from Jacksonville.

1892:

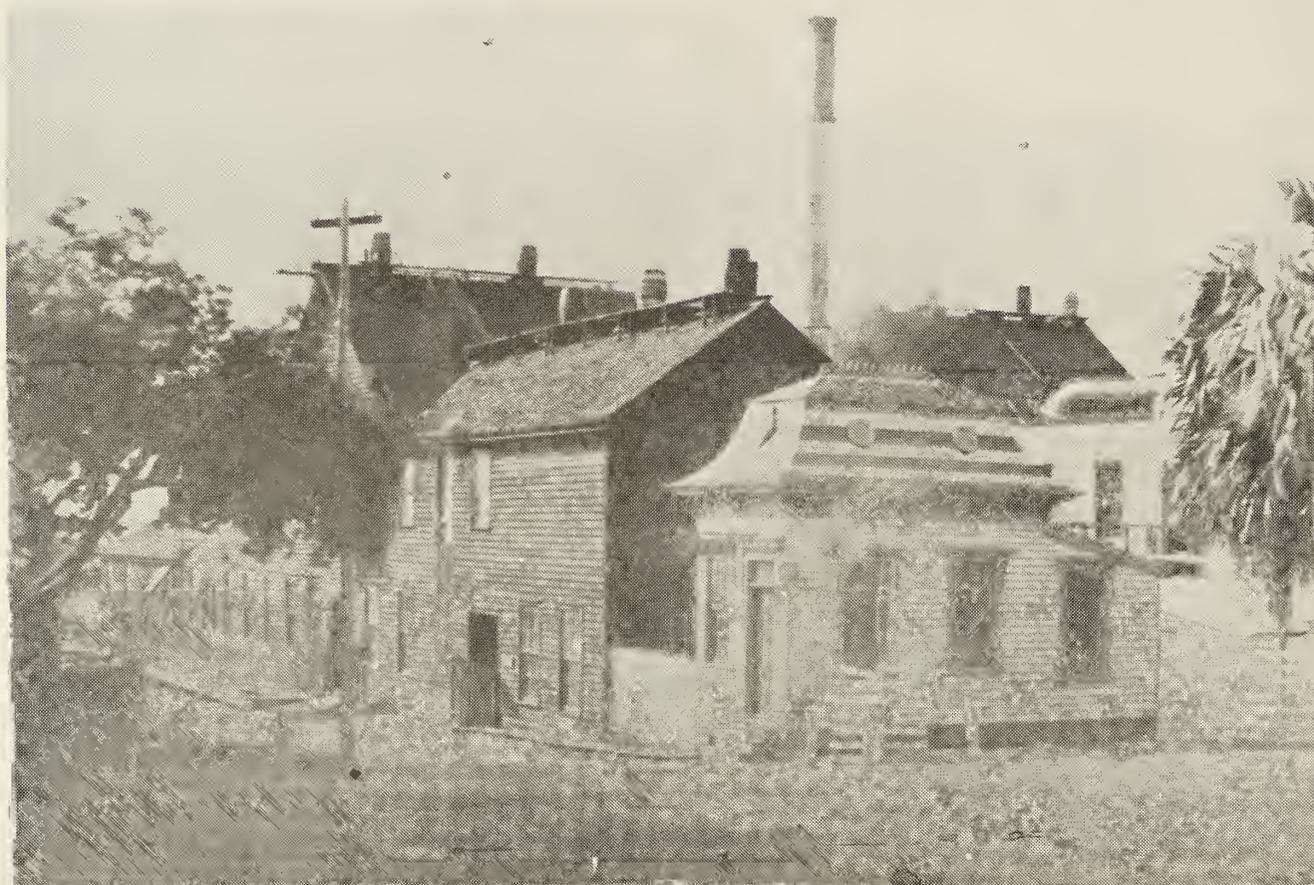
C. B. Rogers and Company got an injunction restraining Ivey Brothers and Company from selling the Fennimore Mill in Cedar Key, said property being bounded on the west by the main track of the Florida Central and Peninsular Railroad and on all other sides by the Gulf of Mexico. Business partner of C. B. Rogers was E. A. Champlain. Fennimore's Mill was owned at that time by Charles A. Fairchild.

William Higginbotham was sentenced to life for murder. Taylor's Spur was near Albion.

1893:

George Wrey of England formed a company with L. Q. Kermode, J. H. Jakobie, and Charles H. Hollingsworth known as the Gulf Hammock Tobacco Company. The Tyndall Mine was owned by the Phosphate Development and Finance Co., LTD of London, England.

In Bronson, the Levy County High School and Improvement Company was organized by W. J. Epperson, P. M. Colson, J. M. Jackson, Jr., J. E. Lummus, and O. J. Farmer.



The Eagle Pencil factory in Cedar Key, 1870's. The design of their little office building was widely noted.

Benjamin Friedman and Mary E. Friedman were divorced. This might be the same Ben Friedman who was county judge longer than anyone else has been and who legend says was a bachelor.

1894:

James L. Townsend et al sued for injunction to prohibit James V. Burke and Mont Brooks from digging up the soil for the purpose of mining in a parcel of section 10, TS 13, R 18E. That parcel is southwest of Orange Hill Cemetery, near Williston.

Polidone Jones was indicted for breaking and entering the house of one Polly Allen. Witnesses were Lee Allen and Joe Reddish. The Gulf Hammock Orange and Vegetable Company was organized by L. Q. Kermode, Phillip Burns, C. B. Wingate, George Wrey, J. H. Jakobie, and A. S. Anderson. J. C. Wright lived in Bronson. In Cedar Key, James W. Smith and Eberhard Faber defaulted on payment for six carloads of cedar.

1895:

The Eagle Pencil Company in Cedar Key was a New York Corporation.

In Bronson, there was an agreement between James M. Stewart and Epperson, Lummens, and Company that Stewart was to build a grist mill to accommodate the local demand for meal and grits at said mill. The Merchantile Company agreed not to stock foreign meal and grits.

Mr. William Gomm had a store at Albion; so did R. G. Coarsey. Gomm's store was east of Coarsey's store which faced south. The Albion Post Office was in Coarsey's store. R. G. Coarsey's brother, Wiley Coarsey, also lived at Albion. On May 4, 1895, Silas Goldwire was in Mr. Coarsey's store sitting on the counter eating oysters. Allen Brown shot Lige Butts. As a witness, Goldwire drew a diagram of Coarsey's store in the sawdust on the courtroom floor. Another witness, Alex McIntyre, lived at Gulf Hammock.

A man named Miller also had a store at Albion. Wade, Florida, was on the other side of Newberry from Albion. A warrant was issued for Frank Lathinghouse, ... "perjury during inquest over one kid Jack ..."

1896:

Isham Stephens resided on a part of the old Medlin place in Gulf Hammock near Ellzey. T. W. Shands got a ten year license to operate a ferry business at Fort Fannin across the Suwannee River. Hershel V. Coarsey and wife, Cora E., had a store in Bronson.

1897:

W. W. Colson bought a merchantile business at

Judson from G. H. Schofield, witnessed by J. R. Beauchamp and W. J. Epperson.

On June 2, 1897, the town of Williston was incorporated. The first election of town officials was held July 6, 1897. Those elected were: Mayor W. M. Barton; Councilmen J. Harvey, J. P. Reddick, D. E. Williams, J. B. Epperson, J. M. Willis; Clerk, J. N. Malphurs; Treasurer, F. F. Reddick; Tax Assessor and Collector, P. N. King; Marshall, no one elected.

Allen S. Osteen was appointed guardian for Precious Adeline Hurst and Ferraby Ann Hurst, minors.

1898:

Fred Cubberly applied for a license to practice law. Lou Becca Pinnell applied for a license to practice law. She was the first woman admitted to the Florida Bar Association. A native of Bronson, she lived past 90 and died in a Jacksonville Nursing Home about 1974.

1899:

In Morriston, J. W. Walston bought out S. W. Petteway's mercantile business.

1900:

The Cedar Key Lumber Company was owned by J. C. Kirkpatrick, S. Z. Ruff, and J. A. Haltiwanger.

1903:

H. Studstill and Lula C. Yearty were in business as H. Studstill and Company. They sued the Peninsula Phosphate Company. J. A. Philman and Leonard Smallwood were charged with armed robbery. They held up Jack Robinson, Sam Brown, William Thomas, and Lee Curry with shotguns, got money and commissary checks.

1906:

The Bank of Williston was chartered by J. B. Epperson, R. D. Medlin, W. M. Barton, J. N. Willis, and H. DeLand, capital of \$15,000. There was also a Citizens Bank of Williston but no further data on it is available at this time.

1908:

The town of Bronson was incorporated again. Its first incorporation seems to have been around 1883 but this has not been documented. E. A. Pinnell was the first mayor under the new incorporation. Aldermen were R. D. Proctor, S. L. Bean, G. A. Boyd, C. A. Lindsey, John R. Willis. B. L. Jones was elected marshal, and W. P. Pinnell was clerk. Some of the electors were: C. D. Colson, W. R. Coulter, W. J. Epperson, Bud Faircloth, Fletcher Faircloth, J. W. Faircloth, W. B. Faircloth, W. B. Fletcher, Ben Friedman, O. J.

W. R. HODGES,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALER IN

FANCY CEDAR KEY OYSTERS,

GREEN TURTLE ALL SEASONS.

Cedar Keys, Fla., Feb 21 1890

Angus Cameron, President.

Lawson Riggs, Vice-President.

Henry J. Bourlein, Secy. & Treas.

Allion Phosphate Mining Company

City of General Managers.

Allion, Fla. May 7th 1894

A. Hoen & Co. Baltimore.

Cedar Key Fla. x ~ 1886.

BOUGHT OF A. BETTELINI,

DEALER AND SHIPPER OF

FISH, OYSTERS AND FRUIT.

J. R. WOLFE

OFFICE OF

C. B. ROGERS.

WOLFE & ROGERS,

DEALERS IN GENERAL MERCHANDISE.

Cedar Keys, Fla. 1875

Farmer, A. P. Hardee, J. F. Jackson, O. F. Laney, E. A. Pinnell, J. M. Overstreet, R. C. Ricks, W. A. Smith, Q. D. Thornton, E. Walker, W. H. Whitehead, W. B. Whitten, F. W. Wilkerson.

1912:

The Cedar Key State Bank was chartered by W. R. Hodges, A. P. Schlemmer, D. Y. Read, W. C. Bryce, H. E. Charpia, Monroe Venable, W. R.

Thomas, W. H. Anderson, Jr.

So many citizens did not know how to read and write that the clerks and scribes grew so accustomed to signatures being made with an X that they even had some of the literate citizens to sign with an X. The signature designated with "his (X) Mark" does not necessarily mean that the deponent could not sign his or her name.



The old commissary in Otter Creek, John M. Hudson on left, other man unidentified.

• • • • •

As we stated at this chapter's beginning, we have omitted the hanky-panky cases and in a way, that is to be regretted. Some of them are excruciatingly funny and others are merely sordid. However, a certain propitious limit must be observed in a publication such as this one.

In the recording of depositions in direct words of the witnesses, the gutter language has changed very little in a hundred years. Perhaps that indicates that people who use gutter language are not very imaginative nor innovative, or that gutter language persons are ultra-conservatives.

This chapter alone would present a warped perspective of the people who lived in old Levy County. Most of those names listed were not violators of the law and some of those charged were innocent. The overall picture across the years is one of loud hostilities and altercations along with some more people who worked for their living rather quietly, all of it another manifestation of the inexplicable qualities of human nature.

S. E. GUNNELL

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA



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