

CHAPTER IV

JACKSONVILLE FOUNDED

First Settlers

Robert Pritchard, as has been noted, was the first white settler on the site of Jacksonville when he established himself here in 1791. Whether the overseers cultivating the land for the Pritchard heirs joined the Patriots in 1812 or were driven off by them is not known.

The grant made to Mrs. Maria Taylor in 1816 comprised a part of the land formerly occupied by Pritchard. Mrs. Taylor married Lewis Zachariah Hogans shortly after she procured the grant, and they at once began building a home. About Christmas time (1816) they moved across from the south side of the river and occupied their new home. The house was built of logs, but it was larger and more carefully constructed than the usual log cabins of that day. It stood near the northwest corner of Hogan and Forsyth Streets, partly in Forsyth Street, immediately west of the present Duval Hotel. Hogans cleared a field east of his house and fenced it; his eastern fence ran alongside a swamp, about where Laura Street is now. In the spring of 1817 he planted a crop from which he gathered in great abundance.^a The old Hogans well, situated where the U. S. Government building now stands, was a landmark remembered by citizens up to a few years ago. The log cabin gave way to a better house (frame) before the War Between the States.

*L. Z. Hogans laid down his life in the Spring of 1837 in the war with the Seminoles. He left practically no estate.

The grant made to Juan Maestre, also in 1816, joined the Maria Taylor grant at what is now Market Street. Maestre took possession of his land in 1817 and built his cabin at what is now the southwest corner of Forsyth and Liberty Streets.^a It was a typical one-room log cabin. Maestre cleared a field and put in a crop in the spring of 1817, but he never gathered it. The "Carthaginians" took possession of Fernandina about that time, and fearing a repetition of the Patriot troubles, the Spanish garrison at San Nicholas and