

the Boats of the Royal Domain to which Maestre was attached, were withdrawn to St. Augustine. He therefore was taken away from his new home and lost his crop. Maestre never returned to the St. Johns.<sup>a</sup>

John Brady arrived at the Cow Ford in the summer or fall of 1818, and occupied Maestre's cabin, probably under some sort of rental contract, until June 21, 1820, when he obtained title to the grant by conveyance from Maestre. Brady fixed the cabin up, built an addition to it and erected a shed for a stable. He bought a dugout for the purpose of sculling passengers across the river, as he no doubt saw the need of a ferry and figured that it would increase his income.<sup>a</sup> The cabin was on the side of the road near the ferry and travelers usually rested here and fed their horses, furnishing another means of revenue for the pioneer.<sup>b</sup>

\*John Brady moved to Alabama in February, 1823.

### The First Store

Among the early travelers to the St. Johns country were two men from Georgia, William G. Dawson and Stephen E. Buckles, who foresaw that some day a town might be built at this point. They decided to remain and open a store; this was probably in 1819. They built a log house near the King's Road (south side of Adams Street, about 150 feet from the southwest corner of Market); brought down a stock of goods by sailing vessel from New York, and opened a mercantile establishment.<sup>a</sup> This was the first store in this section of the country, and Dawson & Buckles worked up a good business. It was not what we usually picture as a general country store carrying all kinds of small articles; the stock comprised such goods as blankets, saddles and bridles, farming implements, buckets, and the like. Sometimes the proprietors sold out of goods entirely, for transportation by sailing vessel was slow and uncertain, prohibiting the regulation of supply and demand.<sup>b</sup>

\*Stephen E. Buckles returned to Georgia probably in 1822.

William G. Dawson died in Jacksonville October 19, 1826; he was prominent as a man of affairs, and at his death owned the 640 acres now known as Springfield and other property of considerable value.