HISTORY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

Town Named

By unanimous agreement the town was named Jacksonville, in honor of General Andrew Jackson, popular idol of that day in Florida. The name was suggested by John Warren, a resident of the locality, but not of the town; he had served as a volunteer in the army of General Jackson during the Indian troubles in West Florida. General Jackson was not present when the town was surveyed, as some accounts have stated; in fact, there is no authentic record that he ever visited this part of Florida at all.

Street Names

The streets named by the commissioners in 1822 still bear their original names. Market and Bay cannot be definitely traced as to their meaning. Liberty and Washington indicate the patriotism of the commissioners. Newnan was named for Col. Daniel Newnan, here with the Patriots and who made the famous campaign against the Indian King Payne in central Florida; and afterward was Inspector-General of Georgia. Forsyth was named for General John Forsyth, U. S. Minister to Spain, who conducted the negotiations for the acquisition of Florida. Adams Street was named for John Quincy Adams, then Secretary of State in President Monroe’s cabinet, and who had a great deal to do with the cession of Florida; Monroe Street for President James Monroe; and Duval Street for Governor William P. Duval, first civil governor of Florida.

First Realty Transfer

At the time Jacksonville was platted and named the townsite was in St. Johns County. Duval County was not created until two months afterward, or on August 12, 1822. Consequently, the first deeds specify St. Johns County in their description.

The first transfer of a lot in the town of Jacksonville was from John Brady to Stephen Eubanks, conveying Lot 2, Square 1, including the margin to the river, for $12.00. The deed was dated July 1, 1822, and described the lot as follows:

One quarter acre of land lying in St. Johns County, in Jacksonville, on the St. Johns River, in the front street leading from the ferry, together with the margin below sd. lot on the river side, to Hart’s landing, 3d lot from sd. ferry.