

## CHAPTER IX

## JACKSONVILLE IN THE EARLY FIFTIES

The built-up portion of the town was bounded by Washington Street on the east, Laura on the west, Duval on the north, and the river on the south.

**Bay Street, South Side**

There were neither wharves nor stores on the south side of Bay Street between Ocean and Laura, except a long one-story, wooden building near Laura, called the "government building", built by the United States government during the Seminole Indian war as a commissary for supplies. Just west of Pine (Main), on the river front stood a saw mill operated by J. B. Barbee. Fire destroyed it at an early date, consuming with it a human being, one of the sorrowful events of those early times.

Across Ocean Street on the south side of Bay, east, Thomas Ledwith had a store and a wharf; he was succeeded by Alsop & Bours. Several other stores occupied this block, among them Gunby & Fernandez, later Fernandez & Bisbee, and later still Bisbee & Canova. East of this store was that of S. N. Williams, and near the corner of Newnan was McRory's book store. The first brick building built in Jacksonville adjoined the Ledwith store and was occupied by C. D. Oak, jeweler and watchmaker; this was about 1850.

A building stood on the southeast corner of Newnan and Bay and was occupied from the earliest times, by different parties. Finegan & Belchasse are among the first recalled; later Dr. T. Hartridge. Next to this store was that of Bellows; then Santo. Next to Santo was Morris Keil, a small store, tailoring done by husband and the store kept by the wife. Captain Charles Willey had a dwelling on the corner of Market, and a wharf from which he ran a line of sailing vessels to Charleston and another to Key West. These names are remembered in connection with this dwelling: Mrs. Libby, mother of Mrs. Willey; Frances Yale, daughter of Captain Willey. Afterward Columbus Drew, Sr., occupied this house and issued from here a Whig paper called the "Republican".