CHAPTER XXIII

THE SCHOOLS

The first record of a school in Jacksonville was a notice in the Jacksonville Courier in 1835, that Alexander Graham was the conductor of a "Male and Female" school here at that time. Possibly Jacksonville's first-born white child attended it, for she was then ten years of age.

*A late biographer states that Ossian Hart, son of I. D. Hart, was born in Jacksonville, in January, 1821; convincing evidence points to this as an error. It was the general knowledge of the early residents, before the War Between the States, that the distinction of being the first white child born in the immediate vicinity of Jacksonville, belonged to Sarah Ann Hogans, daughter of L. Z. and Maria Hogans. She was born July 28, 1825, in the Hogans home situated near the present intersection of Hogan and Forsyth Streets. Sarah Ann Hogans married Uriah Bowden and lived and died in Jacksonville.

Maybe "Professor" Graham rodded "reading, writing and arithmetic" into the systems of a number of boys and girls who afterward became prominent in the business, professional and social life of the State. Unfortunately, there is not sufficient record to compile the complete history of this early school, but it seems to have been in existence for several years.

Fragmentary records of the system of local education begin again about 1845, following the ending of the first Seminole war. The Odd Fellows had built a two-story wooden structure at the southeast corner of Adams and Market Streets, hall below and lodge rooms above, reached by steps on the outside of the building. For years this hall was used as a school room, and there is much traditional history about it. It is said that the teacher took advantage of any noise up-stairs to remind the children that it was the Odd Fellows' goat, aroused by the racket they were making below, and this never failed to produce the desired quietude among the boisterous youngsters of early Jacksonville. The Presbyterian chapel, near the southeast corner of Monroe and Ocean Streets, was used for school purposes for a long time, and also a building that had been a ferry warehouse,