

om Reference CCIV(c). (C. W. W. "History of the 10,000 Islands etc." 1927)

"Gordon's Pass, the opening into Naples Bay and the beginning of the Ten Thousand Islands, was named from Roger Gordon, who had a fishing camp there about 1874. The islands extend about 82 miles to Cape Sable and lie in Collier and Monroe Counties. Henderson Creek was named from John Henderson, the government surveyor who had a camp there about 1875-7, while he surveyed the country about, as well as down into the islands. One or two settlers lived at Little-Marco Pass near the high beach point and on Calhoun's Island. The extinct town of little Marco was quite a settlement at one time and had a school. Obie and Isaiah Hall, Charles Rawls and Walter Collier were among the early settlers. Christ Johnson came with the Roberts boys in 1872 and squatted in various locations, notably Blue Hill on Horr's Island; he finally located at Johnson's Island where he has gardened for years and has been quite skillful in budding and mango culture. Mrs. Johnson was one of the few women in the islands who made the home place pleasant by planting an interesting garden of flowers and trees about the house.

"Marco, at one time called Malco, was the most important port in the section. It was built up by the energetic Capt. Wm. D. Collier, locally known as 'Captain Bill,' and was one of family of twelve children. He arrived at Marco with his father in 1870 after wreck and adventures at sea that recall Robinson Crusoe's doings. He forged ahead and built up a town, a resort hotel, a general store and a shipyard, operated coastwise ships, induced a clam cannery to locate there, developed and operated a dredge to get clams, conducted the post office and influenced getting a road down the coast to his enterprises at a time when the county was a poor little affair of 5,000 people centered mostly at Fort Myers, 55 miles north. This town produced heavily from the raw materials of the county and was a real asset to the state's welfare. Capt. Collier relates his reminiscences in the Fort Myers Press on April 16, 17 and 18, 1926, very interestingly.

"Tom Roberts squatted at Caxambas and was succeeded by Capt. Chas. Johnson and in turn by J. M. Barfield and brother. Mr. Barfield built up a general store and a resort hotel on a hill known as the 'Heights.' This hotel, built in probably the most

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beautiful spot in Florida, entertained a host of sportsmen and nature lovers, and was closed three years ago by a developer. Mr. Barfield induced a clam cannery to locate in Caxambas, conducted the post office, etc., and will always be liked for his genial and kindly ways. The great red fish banks or Cape Romano shoals are nearest to Caxambas. The name Caximba was pronounced Kahamba in 1830 and is interpreted by some as 'the place of many wells,' for the Spanish ships got their fresh water there by digging shallow wells on the beach a few paces back from the salt water. The word is also interpreted by some as 'the torch' in ancient Spanish, possibly due to Indian's fires showing from the hill tops.

"Capt. John F. Horr, a genial character and man of considerable parts, homesteaded Horr's Island on the western end about 1876. He was a veteran of the Civil War from Ohio and served as United States marshall at Jacksonville and Tampa, and as collector at Key West during the Spanish-American War. He conducted a pineapple plantation on his island for years, also a fish cannery and a citrus grove. He was widely acquainted throughout Florida and the island country and highly esteemed.

"Johnny Roberts squatted at Goodland Point and named the place from its characteristics. He was later succeeded by the Pettit family who farmed the land for years.

"Cape Romano, the prominent projection below Caxambas, was named Punta Longa by the Spanish and the shoals were called Bagco shoals. The French called it Cape Acies or Asies. The British called it Cape Roman. Grocery and Sugar Bays at the entrance to Palm River were named by a mishap to the supplies of a hunting party under the influence of the juice that inebriates. In fact many of the names of islands, bays, rivers, etc., were fixed by little adventures or the name of a settler or from some physical characteristic or often by fancy. Pickiunehatchee is a fanciful conglomeration, indicating a small and unimportant stream south of the Pakahatchee. Morgan's Pass was named from the wreck of the schooner Morgan; Round Key from its shape; Coon, Rabbit, Tiger, Panther, White Horse Keys from being infested with the respective animals. Chatham Bend and river were likely named by some Englishman who saw a similarity to the bend at Chatham, England. Barnes River was named for Luther Barnes and Whitney River and Island from a settler by that name. A large collection of pumpkins were found growing in an old Indian field at Pumpkin Key. The Blackwater River has murky water and a dark colored bottom, and so on."

"Gallivan's River or the Delaware, as described in John Lee Williams exploration, is presumably the Royal Palm River of today, that can be reached by a south gate from Gallivan's Bay.

"Dave Roberts, who stuttered and was nicknamed 'She-Dave,' settled at Fakahatchee (Fork River) about 1870 along with his brothers, Peter, Tom and Bill Stickney Roberts. Numerous other settlers farmed and fished there at times and a little community with a school has carried on there for years, but never got to the point of having a store or post office. The Roberts brothers later settled at various places through the islands.

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"John Gomez, a Spaniard lived on Panther Key where he experimented with a goat ranch in partnership with Capt. Horr, but the panthers carried off all the goats. He was made a present of a house on Gomez Key by Puncher and Brown, two plume hunters. This picturesque character lived to the age of 118 years and died in his boots, figuratively speaking, for he had heavy calluses on his feet and could run across an oyster bed as comfortably as on a hardwood floor. He was uneducated, but spoke seven languages, and frankly admitted that he had been a member of Gasparilla's band of pirates in his youth. He was born in Madrid, Spain, and saw Napoleon twice when a child. He related how he was the only one of a pirate band to escape capture and hanging at Havana by secreting himself in a small boat on the beach and starting across to Florida after dark. In his anecdotes to the islanders he breathed mystery and romance. He frequently exclaimed 'In the Name of God,' and declared when his age was discussed, 'God has forgotten me; it is past my time to die.' He was a county charge for the last nine years of his life, but kept active to the end. He was out fishing and fell overboard and was drowned. In earlier days he worked for Spanish fisheries along the coast. He gave A. E. Phillips much of his data for 'The Romance of the Ten Thousand Islands.'

"Dismal Key has an extensive high shell area and was the scene of quite a farming settlement. Likewise on Pumpkin Key and several other minor points down the island's old cisterns and rusty hardware lying about show the sites of the homes that came and went in the years.

"John Weeks, the first of the present generation of settlers mentioned before in these pages, settled on the north of Allen's River, now known as the Brown place. He bought the improvements on the place from Bill Clay and his partner, Powell, two plume hunters who were only in the country for a short time and were regarded as improvement jockeys, as Capt. Collier also dealt with them when locating at Marco. Weeks was accompanied by a brother." (From p. 2 of reference.)

From Reference CCTV(a). (Citation "History of the 10,000 Acres, etc." 1921)

(a) "W. S. Allen, a former mayor of Key West, stopped a short time at Sanibel Island and then settled and built his house upon the present location of the Rod and Gun Club at Everglades in 1868. The river now called Barrons River was named after Mr. Allen. George Storter, Sr., and his son, George, Jr., now Judge Storter, settled on Allen River and farmed for a year in 1831, then left and returned in 1837. George, Sr., located at the present site of Dupont and George, Jr., upon the Allen site. They farmed industriously and George, Jr., started a store in 1892, selling to the settlers round about and trading with the Indians. He also operated a hunters' and fishermen's hotel where true southern hospitality and a lavish table with all the products of the country were much in evidence. The ornamental plantings which Mrs. Storter set out give Everglades much of its charm and beauty. Everglades was made the county seat of the new Collier County in 1923 and is the center of the Collier interests.

"Joe Wiggins conducted a store at Sandfly Pass and traded with the Indians. According to his nephew, Andrew Wiggins, himself an old settler, Joe's first location was at Surveyor's Creek or Wiggins Pass where he ran a bee farm as well as a store. The second location was a store at the shell mounds at the prairie on Allens River; then at Sandfly Pass which he sold out to a Mr. Porter from Michigan. He also had a store at Broad River

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(a) for a time, when he was asked for an article not in stock

he would always declare that it was coming on the boat, and would crane his neck to see if the boat was coming up the pass. This was a standing joke with the settlers who had numerous nicknames for each other, generally based upon some personal eccentricity or joke that had to be perpetually commemorated.

"Settlers first arrived at Chokoloskee (old house) about 1869. The Jenkinses, Carrolls, the Pfisters, and the Santinas were among the earliest. C.G. McKinney arrived in 1886 and opened a general store famous for selling things near cost. He was the 'Progress' who wrote the unique news items for Chokoloskee in The American Eagle. Ted Smallwood came later and now conducts a general store and the post office there. Mr. McKinney's billhead contained the following business policies: 'No Banking, No Mortgaging, No Insurance, No Borrowing, No Loaning. I must have cash to buy more hash.' Mr. McKinney related his reminiscences in the August and September issues of The American Eagle, 1926. He died a few days after the last installment of the story.

"Pavilion Key was named from a soldiers' camp of pavilion tents upon it at one time during the Seminole War. Mormon Key was named by a coast surveyor named Hergesheimer who was so impressed with the doings of a squatter reputed to have polygamous proclivities who lived upon the key that he gave it that name. Hujellos or Swallow River, called by the Indians Chittahatchee or Snake River was the southern boundary of the immense grant from the Spanish crown to Duke of Arragon.

"Lostman's River and Key were named from the escapade of a party of deserting English sailors who were enabled to escape from Key West by a fisherman who got their money and deserted them on the key telling them they would find a town on the other end of the island. They were found in a starving condition by Mr. W. S. Allen who took them to Funta Gorda.

"Turner's River was named after Dick Turner, a scout in the Seminole Wars who returned to the islands after the Civil War period. Harney's River was named from Col. Harney's expedition up it to seize Chikikia. Shark River was named Ecahlahatchee and Halchechopco by the Indians.

"Cape Sable or the French for sandy cape is the name that has persisted since the brief French occupation and cartography. It was called Punta Tanchia by the Spanish. The grass fields at the cape were called Caloosa Oldfields and about fifteen miles north was what was known as the Upper Comanche Fields. About the time of the Civil War the points of the cape were known as East Point, Palm Point and North Cape. They are now known as East, Middle and North Capes, respectively. When Ponce de Leon landed at Cape Sable he marched his party over the prairies until he got mired and stopped at Ponce de Leon Bay and was required to back track and take to his boats to progress northward. John Lee Williams found coconut trees growing on Cape Sable before 1837 and thought that they were growing wild. Two large Royal Palms were noted on the Middle Cape previous to 1850 by other observers." (From p. 3 of reference.)

From reference CLXIV. (*J.S. Hollaway "The Early Days of Naples, etc."*)

- (a) "The following information was given by Mr. John S. Holloway, grandson of General John S. Williams, founder of Naples-on-the-Gulf, Florida. Mr. Holloway is a nephew of Benjamin J. Harrison, former President of the United States, and a relative of William Henry Harrison, also a former President of the United States.

"Mrs. James H. Holloway, mother of John S. Holloway, was one of the richest women and largest slave-holders in the south at the time of the Civil War. She freed her slaves, however, before the end of the War. Her father, Gen. Williams, laid out and built the railroads in Mexico, and was known not only all over the United States, but in all Northern American and European countries. When Mr. Holloway visited in Mexico a year ago he was entertained by the President of Mexico and by the Governor of Texas. Gen. Williams' picture now hangs in the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas. He was the hero of the Battle of Cerro Gordo in the Mexican War, and was known thereafter by that soubriquet.

"Miscellaneous Information: Cajeput trees (now quite common in Naples) were first brought from Africa by the Koreshan Unity. The Australian Pine was brought from Australia by Mr. George M. Hendry, now a resident of Naples. The cajeput is now being used commercially because the bark can be used for the lining of modern refrigerators, and experiments are now being made in the building of airplanes to use this bark as a lining, as it deadens sound and keeps out moisture.



"J. M. Raleigh was a Yankee from Connecticut. He had weak lungs, and he heard of the climate in Florida and around Key West. He secured a position with the Coast and Geodetic Survey. At that time they were surveying the western coast of Florida - and, like most people, he was charmed with the beauty of Gordon's Pass. When he returned to Washington, after having marked certain spots on the coast, he secured them by purchase from the government.

"Subsequently, General John S. Williams, who was then a member of the Senate from Kentucky, was informed of the beauties of the western coast of Florida. On a visit to Louisville, Kentucky he suggested to his old friend, Walter N. Halderman, who had acquired the George B. Prentiss newspaper, that as they both were getting old they should go down to Florida and acquire lands while they were cheap, as a future place to spend their declining years.

General Williams has become acquainted with a Frenchman named Champney - an engineer. He employed him to come with him and together with Mr. Halderman, they chartered a schooner at what is now Tampa and sailed down the coast looking for a possible location. The high land of what is now Venice, Florida seemed to be what they were looking for. They sailed in and found that a native engaged in cattle raising had 5,000 acres of what they desired. They had the old fellow out to the schooner and naturally enjoyed some of Kentucky's best with him - and under the influence of good liquor and the charms of the two gentlemen, he was persuaded to sell the 5,000 acres of land to them. He was to report on shipboard the next morning at ten o'clock to draw the necessary papers. He failed to show up, however, so they got a boat and went ashore and found only the old fellow's wife there. She had told him to beware of the pair - that they got him drunk in an attempt to get his land for nothing. so he had mounted his mule and ridden off through the piney woods to avoid them.

"Then the two gentlemen sailed south looking at the shore line as they went, and finally about sunset one afternoon they came to Gordon's Pass. They anchored in the mouth of Gordon's Pass...fish were very plentiful, and they enjoyed a gorgeous sunset and also perhaps a couple of old Kentucky toddies - and the General said to Mr. Halderman, 'Walter, this is it! This is the ideal spot!'"

"They acquired 20,000 acres of land and Major Champney was directed to lay off a town site. A lawyer was engaged to look up the question of titles; the hotel was started and also a dock. This occurred in 1885.

"A year later Mr. J. M. Raleigh, who was then living in Orlando, Florida, heard of the new enterprise and came to Naples. He engaged Major Champney, after the boundary lines on the south side were settled, to plat certain subdivisions on his own. In doing that, Major Champney discovered the lake and the water-way now bearing his name.

"(The natives subsequently called this lake Grand-dad's Creek. Mr. Crayton and his company, the successor to the original company, called it Grand-dad's Creek until they were informed as to its proper name).

"The Naples Hotel was started in 1888. The lumber for the hotel and the dock was brought from Cedar Keys, Florida. Cedar Keys was the first resort city in Florida.

"A railroad was built from Jacksonville to Cedar Keys. Passengers came from New Orleans and Mobile to Cedar Keys; transshipped to the railroad at Cedar Keys, and thus crossed the state to the eastern coast at Jacksonville. Cedar Keys was a very fashionable resort.

"Punta Gorda was the next point opened. Railroad was built first from Jacksonville to Orlando. That was the Southern and Central Metropolis of the State of Florida. Subsequently, smaller corporations built the railroad lines from Orlando to Punta Gorda. From Jacksonville to Punta Gorda a passenger traveled over five different railroad systems. This was in 1889. It was a standard gauge line from Jacksonville to Bartow Junction. At Bartow Junction there were three rails laid. The cars coming that far were shunted out on a siding of three rails. Train crews jacked the coaches up, removed the old trucks, and put on smaller ones for change in the right of way from there to Punta Gorda. A Boston corporation had built in Punta Gorda the largest hotel in Florida at that time. It was a frame building - this was in the year 1887, finished in 1888. They brought all of their help with them - sixty odd in number. All white -- waitresses, laundresses, men, et cetera. Punta Gorda in those days, and Charlotte Harbor, were noted for their wonderful fishing. For years previous to this date many French and English sportsmen came in their yachts to fish.

"Mr. Holloway, his mother and his sister, and a Mexican (to whom his attention was called as a boy, especially by reason of the fact that he wore thumb rings and had a bell mouth fowling piece, or shotgun, all inlaid with silver) were the first guests in the hotel at Punta Gorda.

"The only stopping place after leaving Punta Gorda was the mouth of the Calloosahatchee River at Punta Rassa, which was a cable station as it is now. To reach there one had to charter a sailing boat. Mr. Holloway's mother, sister and he spent the night there. There were no partitions in the house - one coal oil lamp - and the insects past belief!

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