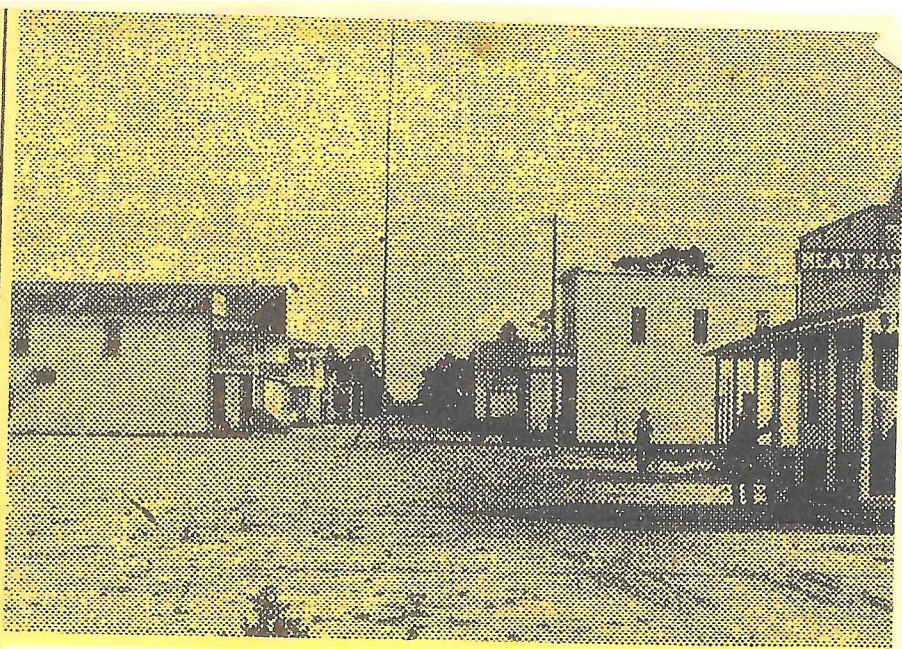
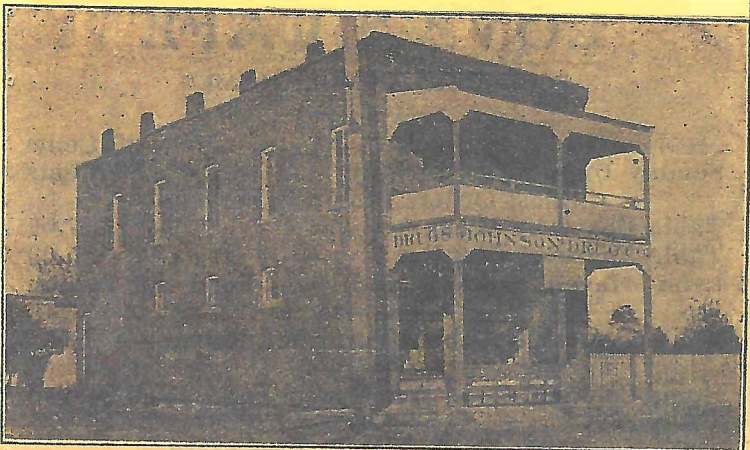
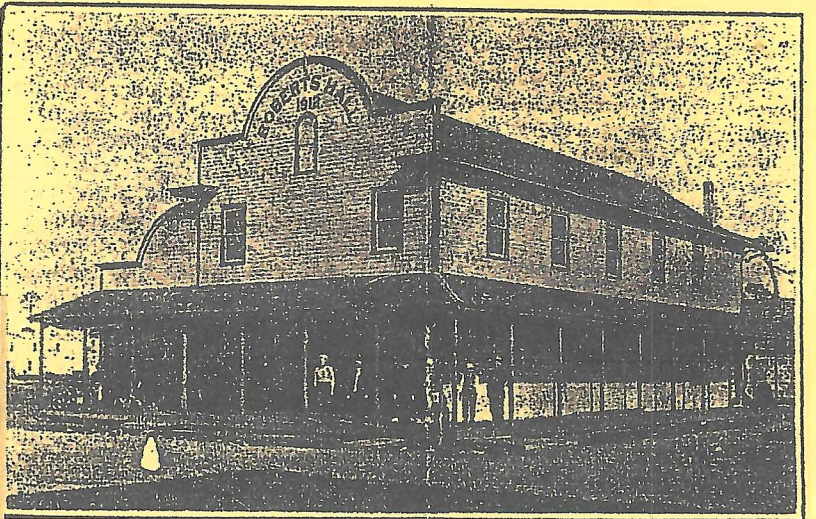


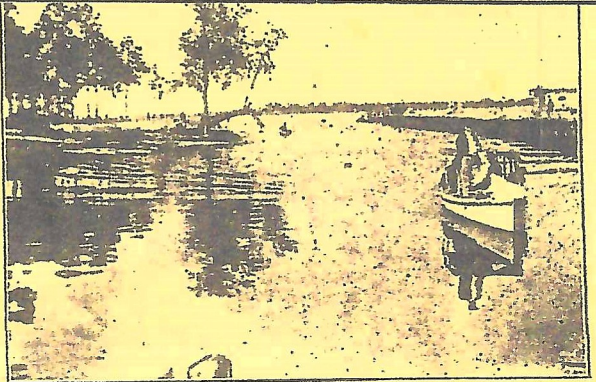
Veterans' Hall and Monument. Municipal Building.
Community Building. Public Library



Liberty Hall



Johnson Drug Company



Lyvna Haven, Florida—Entrance to Harbor

LYNN HAVEN

A Short Story

From the Archives of Jack O. Cutchens

A History of Lynn Haven on St. Andrew's Bay, Florida and A Story of St. Andrew's Bay, Florida

"On Beautiful North Bay"

During Spanish exploration of Florida an unknown navigator, explorer, sea captain, or priest named *La Bahia de San Andres*, of which the northern body of "St. Andrew's Bay" at the mouth of the "river of the natural bridge" (Econfina Creek) became known as North Bay. Over the next several hundred years those who wandered across West Florida observed relics of Aborigines, the earliest inhabitants, called "The Mound Builders." An earth mound four feet high and fifty feet in diameter at the confluence of the two streams flowing into Big Bayou (today Lynn Haven Bayou) between 16th and 17th Streets at Missouri Avenue, another along the Bayou's Cavanaugh Branch north of 12th Street and East of Tennessee Avenue, and one north of the basin west of Colorado Avenue on Oyster Bayou (today Anderson Bayou), betokened evidence of the "ancient builders." Clarence B. Moore of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, recorded burials and artifacts at two of the sites in 1902. The Missouri Avenue mound was recognizable in the 1970s.

William M. Loftin, born in 1785 at New Bern, North Carolina, came with wife Catherine Boyle and children from Putnam County, Georgia, in 1822 by way of Pensacola to the vicinity of the peninsula formed by Oyster Bayou and Betty Bayou (today Beatty Bayou), and, with F. Jose Massalina, a freeman, whose wife Elizabeth and their daughter, Marie, his slaves, living with the Loftin family, built a house. July 5, 1823, Loftin was appointed Sheriff of Jackson County established August 12, 1822, which included St. Andrew's Bay. When Washington County was created from Jackson County December 29, 1825, Loftin's home was designated the seat of government. About 1829 Loftin and Massalina moved to Bonavista (the area of West Beach Drive at Panama City) named by ex-Governor John Clark and wife Nancy Williamson of Baldwin County, Georgia, in July 1827, after their old Bonavista Plantation at Baldwin County.

In 1859, Thomas Anderson, born in 1817 at New Bern, North Carolina, located immediately west of the mouth of Oyster Bayou (somewhere between today's Leslie Porter Park and Wisconsin Avenue). He and wife Sarah West had first moved to Dale County, Alabama, then to Hillsborough County, Florida, but uprisings by the Seminoles during the final Indian War of 1856, forced them to leave and move their family to North Bay. Loftin's mother was Elizabeth West and his first wife Tearsey West. No relation between the West's of Loftin or Anderson has been established.

Their neighbor on the east side of Oyster Bayou (Panama Country Club) was Dr. William Pierce, wife Sarah McDowell, and Sarah's sister Isabella McDowell. They moved to the bay from Dale County in the early 1850s.

John D. Creamer, wife Louisa Shelley and their family, moved from Henry County, Alabama, in 1862, and settled about the site of today's Leslie Porter Park.

In the Spring of 1862 the first Federal gunboat, the *U.S.S. Pursuit*, came to watch for blockade runners. She arrived a few days after the 429 ton iron-hull, screw-driven Confederate merchant vessel *S.S. Florida* had steamed into North Bay and dropped anchor just west of Oyster Bayou (about the site of D. J. Bailey Bridge). The *Florida* had brought from Havana, Cuba, 1,880 rifles with bayonets, 274 revolvers, 90,000 pounds of powder and 55,000 cartridges for the Confederate government. Florida Governor John Milton sent word for every cart and wagon be assembled at Bay Head (head of North Bay) to transport the munitions to Marianna. In the predawn hours of April 6, Federal sailors from the *Pursuit* who had been informed by two area loyalist, slipped aboard the *Florida* and captured her crew. After promising payment to the Captain and crew, they got up steam about midday but ran onto an oyster bar in mid channel. After a second grounding, they threw most of the cotton lightered from George Howard's Bay Head warehouses, overboard to lighten the ship. The next day, Thomas, sons Stephen and William, and Reuben Creamer, a son of John, collected the water soaked cotton. The *Florida* would be condemned by a Prize Court, purchased by the U.S. Navy, commissioned *U.S.S. Hendrick Hudson*, and assigned to the East Gulf Blockading Squadron on station off St. George's Island.

In 1884, Andrew Jackson "Jack" Gay, born in 1849 at Quitman County, Georgia, saw the potential of the area where stood thousands of acres of towering virgin pines and acquired large tracts of timberland. In 1885, he, Stephen W. Anderson, the son of Thomas, and Dr. James E. Douglas, M.D., a cousin of Mary E. Collier, Jack's wife, completed a steam sawmill on Fanning Bayou (named for Alabama native James W. Fannin, 52, who drowned in May 1870) along a route for a planned railroad they named "North Bay Lumber Company" to supply lumber to the developing "Cincinnati Company" town of St. Andrew's organized in 1884 (the original "City of St. Andrew's" was organized in 1838; burned by the Federal Navy in 1863 and called "Old Town" after the war). The area became known as "Mill Point" (north end of D.J. Bailey Bridge). Upon their 300 acre farm, Jack and Mary built a two-story house on the west shore of Betty Bayou

(site of 2617 Country Club Drive). That was the beginning of the settlement of "Gay" named by the United States Post Office when Mary was appointed Postmistress September 13, 1885.

Along the east side of Oyster Bayou, now called "Anderson Bayou," lived Mary Jane Scott who had moved to North Bay from the Sand Mountain community northwest of Econfina Creek. She had purchased 40 acres from Stephen W. Anderson in 1888. The southeast prong of the bayou was called "Scott's Bayou" (crossing at Eighth Street).

William J. Cavanaugh of Weesaw County, Michigan, a steam mechanic, came to St. Andrew's in 1888 during the "Cincinnati Boom" after serving in the western Indian Wars. He purchased land at Bonavista Point and homesteaded 80 acres at the head of Big Bayou. The east prong became known as "Cavanaugh Branch." The orchard he and wife Hannah farmed at "Cavanaugh Plantation" became known for its excellent scuppernongs, oranges, pears and peaches. There home was on the point of land just north of "Cavanaugh Bridge" (where Tennessee Avenue crosses), navigable at the time.

Dr. Charles E. Booth, M.D., a Federal veteran of the war, the friend of George M. West who was planning a seaport and railroad to the town of Harrison (Mulberry Grove in the late 1850s, named Harrison in 1883) he and associates from Illinois were platting (today Panama City), came from Escanaba, Michigan, in 1901. May 11 he bought 17 acres at the mouth of Anderson Bayou where Thomas Anderson had settled, and 960 acres near the head of Betty Bayou (south of Highway 390 and west of Highway 389, known today as Mowat Dairy and Mowat Highlands). He first erected a barn, then built a beautiful house (east end of Second Street) and the first brick building in this part of the country, a smoke house. He lived with wife Belle D. Granger and their daughter Jewell. A drawbridge was constructed across the mouth of Anderson Bayou to access the Gay farm where Jack had built a turpentine still (1807 Country Club Drive). South of his home on the west bank of Betty Bayou, Gay had a rectangular frame building erected (at or near Lynn Haven Community Cemetery) for workers and their families. Rev. John Blunt was minister for "St. Luke's African Methodist Episcopal Church," the first church. He designated 1 acre at the "Anderson Cemetery" where Thomas who died February 27, 1875, son William, March 2, 1873, and Gay's mother-in-law, Mary E. Collier died November 8, 1899, were buried (today Gay Cemetery at Panama Country Club), for a Baptist Church. Gay had established a stage line between St. Andrew's and Chipley and was president of the St. Andrew's, Chipley & Vernon Telephone Company he organized. The switchboard for St. Andrew's Bay was at his Betty Bayou home. Poles were along a planned railroad route for the "Birmingham, Columbus & St. Andrews Railroad Company." Gay was a director of West's Gulf Coast Development Company chartered in 1903, and was organizing Bunkers Cove Land Company to develop his Bunker property at Watson Bayou.

William Harcourt Lynn, Sr., real estate broker, attorney, capitalists, state representative, insurance executive, railroad builder, publisher, and "founder of Lynn Haven," was born in 1854 at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Following the birth of William, his family moved to Ohio. After the war they moved to Goodhue County, Minnesota, where they established a prosperous agricultural business. In the early 1880s twenty-eight year old William was president of Minnesota & Wisconsin Abstract Company at Minnesota. In 1890, office at the *Minnesota Journal*, attorney Lynn was elected state representative. April 18, 1896, the Costa Rica-Pacific Railroad was incorporated in London, England. Lynn was president of the \$1,500,000 stock company. He contracted with John S. Casement, late Brigadier General in the Federal Army who had supervised building the length of the first Trans-Continental railroad from Fremont, Nebraska, west to Promontory Summit where he drove the golden spike, to build the railroad inland from the Pacific Ocean to San Jose. Lynn, whose first two wives had died in childbirth, married Ramoncita Yglesias y Castro Montealegre July 7, 1897, a widow, whose father, and deceased husband's father, were past presidents of Costa Rica. Her aunt, Christina Yglesias y Castro Keith, was the wife of Minor C. Keith. Her father was twice president of Costa Rica. Keith had built a railroad from the Atlantic Ocean to San Jose. He was vice-president of the United Fruit Company, the owner of banana plantations in Panama, Costa Rica, Columbia, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala, and several gold mines. For his investments in schools, roads, etc., he was known as the "Uncrowned King of Central America." In 1903 Lynn moved to New York City with his extended family. He was president of Liberty Life Insurance Company of New York, and the Globe Printing Company at Washington, D.C., publisher of the *National Tribune*, the newspaper for the Grand Army of the Republic, and *Stars & Stripes*, for United Spanish War Veterans. Lynn and associates at the *Tribune*, a newspaper created to promote the Grand Army of the Republic, a fraternity organized for Federal veterans of the American Civil War to preserve the "grand results of the war," realized that the veterans, with their ample pensions, were potential investors for developments planned for the former soldiers and their families. Lynn was called "Senator," a title used to address current or past legislative office holders, and "Colonel," a title often used to address a lawyer.

February 26, 1909, they organized the Seminole Land & Development Company to establish a veterans colony at

Osceola County, Florida, they called "St. Cloud" after the town organized there in 1888. Lynn was president.

State Representative Robert L. McKenzie, Mayor of Panama City, named March 23, 1906, by A. B. Steele, builder of the Atlanta & St. Andrew's Bay Railway Company railroad to the town, journeyed to Philadelphia in May to discuss with Mayor John E. Reyburn, holder of Birmingham, Columbus & St. Andrews bonds, the completion of the railroad from south of Wausau to St. Andrew's Bay. During the meeting Reyburn told McKenzie, partner with Gay who had built a house on Massalina Bayou and was a commissioner at Panama City, of Lynn who was looking for land in Florida to establish a second G.A.R. settlement. McKenzie told Lynn of the "most wonderful undeveloped section of Florida." Lynn promised to visit the area. McKenzie had married Belle Booth, the widow of Dr. Booth who died September 9, 1907. She had moved to Panama City and built her and Jewell a new home (the "McKenzie House," a historic site).

Gay and McKenzie traveled to New York and Washington, D.C. in January 1910 to discuss the thousands of acres available at St. Andrew's Bay. In May, Lynn announced in the *Tribune* that a large tract of land had been secured for a "New Florida Colony." Part of the purchase was the Cavanaugh Plantation and Gay's Bunker Cove property. The last day of the month, Lynn, and his general counsel, Hollins Nicholas Randolph of Atlanta, came to visit the site and to arrange for completion of the Birmingham, Columbus & St. Andrews to Southport, named June 15, 1907 (name changed from Anderson established May 6, 1893, after Anderson's and Creamer's moved to Fanning Bayou).

Lynn and associates organized the "St. Andrew's Bay Development Company," authorized in Florida August 16. Plans were prepared for town lots, 5 acre farm tracts and a railroad beginning at a planned harbor and 1,650 foot wharf (the inlet west of D.J. Bailey Bridge) then passing through the town site (Railroad Avenue) to a junction with the Atlanta & St. Andrew's Bay (east of the intersection of U.S. 231 and Highway 77). The *Tribune* announced that the newspaper was receiving subscriptions for town lots in the "Washington County Colony." In November Lynn purchased the Gulf Pavilion on Hurricane Island, the motor launch *Firefly* at Pensacola to transport passengers from the Southport Depot to "Lynn Haven Harbor," announced plans for a newspaper, and arranged to rent Belle's home on Anderson Bayou. He telegraphed Emory P. Truesdell, and wife "Mollie" Cottingham, offering them positions as resident sales managers, posts they accepted (built home on the bay at the end of New York Avenue-Truesdell Park at St. Andrew's named for Emory). Lynn proposed to West that if Panama City, St. Andrew's and Millville were consolidated and given a new name, he would establish the G.A.R. colony at the consolidated town and join in promoting the Gulf Coast Development Company. West responded that if the colony was centered at Panama City, it would become a large city and the towns surrounding it would broaden and grow together. Lynn told that unless his plan was followed, he would locate the colony on North Bay.

The development company announced in December that the name "Lynn Haven" had been given for the town being laid out on North Bay by local surveyor William H. Parker and Henry V. Roelofs of Philadelphia, chief engineer for the Birmingham, Columbus & St. Andrew's. Hundreds of veterans were registering with their families at Panama City and St. Andrew's hotels to "walk the grounds at the new colony." Plat No. 1 of Lynn Haven, 287 blocks, dated January 7, 1911, was filed January 11 by the development company at the Washington County Courthouse in Vernon. Work began immediately on the railroad right-of-way to be chartered as the "St. Andrews Bay Light, Power & Traction Company," an electric plant (site of waterworks on Ohio Avenue) and a terminal at the plant on Railroad Avenue for an electric trolley line to extend the length of 12th Street, then to St. Andrew's and beyond to Panama City and Millville.

Once their lots were located, colonists put up tents covering wooden floors and half-walls. Cooking was on wood-burning stoves. Water was obtained from fresh water springs flowing forth into broad bayous, or shallow pitcher-pump wells the company had drilled along the railroad right-of-way. Colonists acted as if they were on a camping-out vacation as a vacant palmetto and wiregrass lot gave rise to a new frame-building supported by brick or cement piers. The air was filled with the smell of fresh cut pine boards and the distinctive scent of paint and cement. Lumber was hauled from the German American Lumber Company at Millville, or bought at the Southport Lumber Company yard at the wharf. The first house was at 214 Carolina Avenue (torn-down in 2017) followed by the first commercial building, the "New York Store" completed March 11 on the east side of Ohio Avenue near the corner of 8th Street. During the first week in April the *Lynn Haven Tribune* building (on the north side of the New York Store) owned by Lynn, Gay, McKenzie and Randolph, was awaiting machinery. Over 40 houses were under construction. Colonists were removing fruit trees from the old Cavanaugh farm to plant on their lots. Under the shade of magnolias between Florida and New York Avenues near 3rd Street overlooking the bay, they arranged plank-seats in a semi-circle around an impromptu pulpit. They called the gathering place for public meetings and Union Sunday School, "Temple Grove." Nearby (southwest of today's Po-Folks Restaurant) they dubbed a spring gushing transparent cold water, "Magnolia Springs."

The first patriotic observance was the raising of a "Liberty Pole" at the southeast corner of Indiana Avenue and 8th Street to honor the memory of their hero, the Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, General Ulysses Simpson Grant, born April 27, 1822. A Union Sunday School was held May 14 at Temple Grove by Rev. Richard W. Burdeshaw of Kinsey, Alabama, Northern Branch Circuit Minister for St. Andrew's Methodist Episcopal Church. During the meeting a Methodist Church, northern branch, was organized at Lynn Haven.

Lynn negotiated with Gay, who built the first 10 miles of the Birmingham, Columbus & St. Andrews, to build the "Lynn Haven Railway." He announced plans for a two-story brick bank building and met with contractor William K. Hall of Panama City to begin construction at the southwest corner of 9th Street and Florida Avenue. The Atlanta & St. Andrew's Bay delivered a car for Lynn. It was the first automobile delivered to St. Andrew's Bay.

The first Memorial Day, called "Decoration Day" by veterans, was celebrated with a parade on Pennsylvania Avenue to the end of the "Lynn Haven Wharf" where flowers were cast on the waves as there was no cemetery at Lynn Haven. Captain J. Walter Mitchell, editor of the *Lynn Haven Tribune*, spoke of patriotism and veterans. He had organized the United Spanish War Veterans May 20, 1899, at Washington, D.C., where he worked for the Globe Printing Company, publishers of the *National Tribune*. The first issue of the *Lynn Haven Tribune* was published by Mitchell June 1.

Ladies Circle No. 7, Grand Army of the Republic, was organized in June. July Fourth, 25 veterans met in the two-story "Hughey Building," completed July 5 at the northeast corner of 8th Street and Ohio Avenue, to organized a Grand Army of the Republic Post. The post was named Stanton Post No. 2 for Elias J. Stanton, late Private of Company I, 16th Connecticut Infantry who died June 16 and was buried at a temporary burial plot near Temple Grove. July Fourth was celebrated with the raising of a flag to the top of a towering cypress pole placed at the center of Ohio Avenue and 8th Street by Roelofs. The flag was the property of Captain Mitchell. There were speeches, and fireworks into the night.

Two acres at a picturesque oak grove at the southeast corner of the town site were given by Lynn in August as a final resting place for "Lynn Haven citizens." It was christened "Oakland" September 4 (re-platted as "Mt. Hope Cemetery" by the Lynn Haven Cemetery Association December 12, 1932). The first death at Lynn Haven was the infant daughter of "Jack" VanHorn and wife "Kate" Miller. She was buried in the Millville Cemetery. The first veteran buried in the cemetery was Junius E. Wharton, late Sergeant of Company D, 2nd Iowa Cavalry who died September 25. Stanton was removed to Oakland in late September. Rev. Will S.R. Burnette, late Major, was president of the Lynn Haven Cemetery Association and cemetery Sexton. A plat of Oakland Cemetery was filed "by the association January 20, 1914."

The three-story "Old Reliable Furniture Store & Undertaking Parlor" was completed in September between 7th and 8th Streets on the west side of Ohio Avenue by James A. Gard, late Sergeant of Company M, 1st Ohio Heavy Artillery. The Woman's Literary Society was organized there November 8, 1911. The building was remodeled by Dr. William W. Krape in 1925 and donated to the people of Lynn Haven as a "Community Building" and imposing site for the "Lynn Haven Chautauqua" organized by Krape December 9, 1914. The cultural event would be held at "Chautauqua Park" extending west from Indiana Avenue to Ohio Avenue and south from the bay to 3rd Street, or at Lynn Park (Temple Grove) between Ohio and New York Avenues and south to 3rd Street into the 1930s. The Chautauqua Association gave Chautauqua Park to Lynn Haven in 1929 "as a lasting edifice for the Chautauqua" (site of the Lynn Haven Garden Club).

Dr. Henry L. Owen completed his two-story 24 foot by 40 foot "Owens Building"- "Furnished Rooms-store on the bottom and 8 rooms with screened porch over sidewalk," at the northwest corner of 9th Street and Florida Avenue September 2. Shed roofs and porches were permitted over avenue sidewalks to shield shoppers from sun and rain.

Construction of the Lynn Haven Bank & Trust Company building across 9th Street commenced July 28, 1911, was completed in December. The "schoolroom" on the second floor was the site for the first community Christmas Eve celebration at Lynn Haven. The first "Lynn Haven School" began January 2, 1912, when 65 students climbed the stairs. The bank opened for business February 12. Unity No. 218 F&AM, IOOF No. 75 and two Volunteer Fire Companies were organized in the room in March 1912. The left side of the building would be the site of several businesses. Two single-story frame offices at the rear of the building would house the St. Andrew's Bay Development Company, telephone exchange and U.S. Post Office moved from Gay February 1, 1912. The bank was closed July 3, 1915. "Bay County High School" grades 1st thru 10th, opened in the schoolroom Monday, October 5, 1915. The first Bay County High School "freshman class" began September 18, 1916. The first "Bay High" annual, the *Bayera*, was published by the *Lynn Haven Citizen*, the town's second newspaper, in May 1917. "Ole Bay High" was moved to Panama City High School in 1917.

The Lynn Haven Construction Office & Lumber Yard (site of Sharon Sheffield Park), was completed in January 1912 at the southeast corner of 9th Street and Ohio Avenue (across from City Hall) by Ervin V. Richards, Colonel, 51st

Pennsylvania Infantry. He was the first president of the Lynn Haven Business Men's League organized in August. The building would be the ticket office for the Lynn Haven Railway (first train to Panama City Depot for the July 1, 1913, celebration creating Bay County), Atlanta & St. Andrew's Bay Railway (first thru train Dothan to Panama City June 27, 1908) and the Birmingham, Columbus & St. Andrew's Railroad (first thru train Chipley to Southport December 16, 1912), Charles A. Sharpe, Agent. The building was deeded to the Woman's Literary Club January 24, 1922, for \$1 and the establishment of a "perpetual memorial" to Elizabeth King McMullin to be known as the McMullin Memorial Library as of September 22, by her daughters. The building was refurbished in 1935, part of a Works Progress Administration project to build a City Park on the block given by Minor C. Keith Properties, and banking of the "town fishing hole" (named Davis Lake when finished) which often flowed across Ohio Avenue. The McMullin Memorial Library building was moved south of the park's tennis court built in 1935, in 1970 for construction of the "North Bay Public Library" dedicated at the McMullin site November 1, 1970. In 2016 the McMullin building was moved south of Grand Army Park.

Roberts Hall was completed in June 1912 by contractor James R. Pittman of Sylacauga (born Brewton), Alabama, for Lee Jay Roberts. The building has been the site of continuous businesses and civic functions since July 1912. The second floor was a public hall for entertainment and city government. It is owned by Scarlet Lodge No. 75 IOOF Instituted July 5, 1912. Beginning in 2008 members of the Heritage Society of Lynn Haven began refurbishing the building to have a historic site for the 100th Anniversary of Lynn Haven. Society members led by Lieutenant Colonel Harry E. Warnberg, U.S. Army, Retired, made it the focal point for the January 11, 2011 celebration during which the society held a centennial event each month. In 1961 a week long 50th Anniversary had been held beginning Sunday, June 11.

Johnson Drug Store was completed by Dr. Thomas Johnson, Pharmacist, late Private, Company K, 104th Ohio Infantry in 1912. The two-story brick building at the northwest corner of 8th Street and Florida Avenue was a drug and mercantile store on the first floor and the office of Dr. Herman Perkins, M.D. on the second. June 1939, heirs of Dr. Johnson deeded the building to Camp No. 37 United Spanish War Veterans. Harry Jackson Lodge No. 314 F&AM was organized in the building April 22, 1953. The Lodge purchased the building from Trustees of Camp No. 37 in 1954.

The development company applied for a City Charter, approved by the Legislature May 16, 1913. Before June 1913, the Ladies Circle completed Stanton Hall facing Georgia Avenue between 8th and 9th Streets. Lynn had donated Lot 3, Block 136 May 9, 1912. Stanton Post No. 2, G.A.R., assembled in the hall as did the Ladies Circle and the Charles R. Merrill Camp No. 9 Sons of Veterans. The building was sold to the Bay County School Board in 1940 for a lunch room. In 1942 a room was attached and classes began to be held in the building. It was torn down for building material in 1948.

A stately two-story frame school building was built between Georgia and Alabama Avenues facing 9th Street in 1913 by the "Ladies Lynn Haven School Club." October 27, grades 1st thru 8th were opened to 95 students. It would become "Lynn Haven High School." Hazel Frame, Emma George and Annie Porter were the final graduating seniors during ceremonies at Stanton Hall May 16, 1924. As a Works Progress Administration project December 18, 1933, the second-story was removed and used to build a larger single-story building. When students returned in January, classes were held at Stanton Hall, Community Building, City Hall, McMullin Library and Methodist and Presbyterian Church (organized January 19, 1913, to meet in Stanton Hall) buildings. The remodeled building opened for 1934-35 classes, grades 1st thru 8th September 10. After many delays for "a new school building for Lynn Haven," a "fire was discovered about 5:45 P.M." the evening prior to the last day of school Thursday, May 14, 1944. All that remained of the 1913 building was the school bell. Friday, September 7, 1945, the current (center section) Lynn Haven Elementary School opened at 9:00 A.M.

Dr. William W. Krape, late Private of Company A, 46th Illinois Infantry, came to Lynn Haven in June 1913. As Stanton Post Commander 1919-1920, he proposed "a monument be built to honor those who gave their lives during the tragic war of 1861-1865." In 1920 a cornerstone was laid by Mayor Krape for a monument at the southeast corner of 8th Street and Georgia Avenue. The monument, the "first of its kind in the South and Florida," was dedicated February 12, 1921, the 112th anniversary of Lincoln's birthday. It became the site for "Decoration Day" observances until May 30, 1937, when there were only 3 veterans living at Lynn Haven. It was in need of repair until 1956 when "G.A.R. Park" was rededicated "Veterans Park." It was stipulated in the 1919 deed from the development company that "when Post shall cease to exist they (the lots) to become the property of Lynn Haven for park purposes to be known as 'Grand Army Park'." In 1976 the Lynn Haven Chamber of Commerce had the monument refurbished. Compatriots of 1st Lt Thomas H. Gainer Camp No. 1319 Sons of Confederate Veterans, had the monument, coping and walks sandblasted and painted in April 2002. Since May 30, 2002, Grand Army Park has again been the site for the observance of Memorial Day.

An economic depression in 1913 was the beginning of financial misfortune for speculators. The European war

erupting in 1914, caused sales of property at St. Andrew's Bay to virtually cease. In early 1916 Lynn spoke with his wife's uncle, Minor C. Keith, regarding investing at St. Andrew's Bay. In February 1917, in a friendly equity suit brought by Henry H. Hanson, secretary for the United Fruit Company, he was appointed receiver in Florida for assets of the development company. Land, a power plant, printing plant, and four-mile railroad were valued at over \$130,000. William L. Wilson, appointed by Hanson to sell assets at Bay County, sold all assets to William F. Look on the steps of the Bay County Court House September 17. All assets of the development company were deeded to Keith October 22.

Keith, and the determined men he employed, notably Wilson who had a "dream for St. Andrew's Bay," John B. Pruyn, Berry H. Collins, Alfred F. Tyler and Will D. Muse, along with his local representatives, Walter C. Sherman, Robert L. McKenzie and William F. Look, created the industry and recreation facilities that put Panama City, Lynn Haven and Bay County on the map as an important commercial center. Keith told, "I want to make the area the Riviera of Florida." They organized the St. Andrew's Bay Lumber Company (the largest manufacture of lumber in the southeast); modernize the Atlanta & St. Andrew's Bay Railway (new track, trestles, locomotives); consolidated Panama City, St. Andrew's and Millville to create a large important city (the measure passed so easily they wondered why they had failed to include Lynn Haven); and built three bridges crossing St. Andrew's Bay (Lynn Haven Bridge a 3,429 foot long timber bridge from Wisconsin Avenue to Grassy Point opened January 5, 1925; the 4,000 foot long Alfred I. DuPont Bridge opened in March 1929; and the 7,525 foot long Fons A. Hathaway Bridge opened in May). They built the three-story 36 room Hotel Lynn Haven (end of Ohio Avenue at Lynn Park called the "Hotel Grounds," opened December 29, 1919, burned November 30, 1929), the 8-story 120 room Hotel Dixie-Sherman (opened June 29, 1927), and remodeled the Pines Hotel in 1919 (u-shaped, 128 rooms). They built several downtown Panama City buildings to include the "Sherman Arcade."

Look, and A. Louis Kline, employed by Keith, modernized Lynn Haven, paving Ohio and Florida Avenues with concrete (that "forever" durable surface on Florida Avenue today), installed a water and sewer system (city septic tank at the end of 7th Street on Lynn Haven Bayou), and planned a modern city hall (opened second week of August 1928). All were completed in 1928. Mrs. Jeanette M. Collins presented a palm to be planted in front of the hall. Keith built the golf links (designed by Charles H. Alison, the most widely known golf course architect in the world; laid out by surveyor William H Parker; built by St. Andrew's Bay Lumber Company workmen, Walter C. Sherman, president) at Lynn Haven, and facilitated Rev. Dr. Robert R. "Bob" Jones' establishment of the first Bob Jones College at Lynn Haven (opened as a high school and college September 13, 1927, adjudged bankrupt January 10, 1933). But most of all, though his passing prevented him from seeing it to completion, Keith was responsible for the Southern Kraft Corporation's Panama City Mill carried to completion (produced first paper February 18, 1931) by Wilson and Pruyn. The single most important industry by which old and new businesses at Bay County profited and expanded during the Great Depression and beyond.

All of Bay County continues to benefit from the "dream" envisioned by William Lawrence Wilson that was built with the millions invested by Minor Cooper Keith. His health failing, Lynn returned to New Rochelle, New York. He died there June 10, 1924. Keith died at West Islip, Long Island, New York, June 14, 1929. "Daffin Park" was originally named "Minor C. Keith Park." Gay died April 28, 1922. He was initially buried at the Gay Cemetery; reburied at Greenwood.

In 1948 the City Manager form of government sweeping the nation, was proposed at Lynn Haven. After many months of debate, a new city charter, the third for Lynn Haven, was drafted for a City Manager-Clerk form of government. The new Charter was approved by the State Legislature effective January 1, 1950. Since 1950, "Lynn Haven, A Good Place To Live On Beautiful North Bay," has been a "lucrative haven."

"On Beautiful North Bay" was part of a sign you once saw as you approached D.J. Bailey Bridge dedicated November 16, 1946. In 1950 I often rode my bike down the middle of Ohio Avenue from our home near the bay as there was very little traffic. Shed roofs and porches continued to shade sidewalks along Ohio and Florida Avenues...

Historic sites at Lynn Haven: Earth Indian Mound at Carolina/Missouri Avenue; Capture of the *S.S. Florida* April 6, 1862 in front of Leslie Porter Park dedicated April 28, 1956; Owens Building completed September 2, 1911; The Old Reliable Furniture Store & Undertaking Parlor (716 Ohio Avenue-third floor removed) September 1911; Lynn Haven Bank & Trust Company December 1911; Roberts Hall June 1912; Johnson Drug Store-Harry Jackson Masonic Temple in 1912; The First Presbyterian Church February 1916, the second Presbyterian Church organized in the area (St. Andrew's first) and the oldest Presbyterian Church building at Bay County; Union Soldiers Monument at Grand Army Park dedicated February 12, 1921; McMullin Memorial Library established September 22, 1922 (building competed January 1912) the first organization of an area library November 1911; and the World War II 5-mile Military Railway and "Panama City Oil Farm" on 193 acres at the west end of 10th Street put into operation September 14, 1943.

CITY HALL

Lynn Haven "On Beautiful North Bay"
From The Archives of Jack O. Cutchens

The St. Andrews Bay Development Company, a New Jersey corporation authorized in Florida August 16, 1910, announced in December that the name "Lynn Haven" had been given for a "Veterans Colony" being "laid out at Washington County, Florida, in Section 4, U. S. Lot 1 in Section 5, East Half of the East Half of Section 8, Section 9, and the West Half of Section 10, all in Range 14 Township 3 South on North St. Andrew's Bay."

William H. Lynn, Sr., president of the company, appointed veteran Emory Parker "E.P." Truesdell, a retired salesman for Champion Harvester Company, and wife, Mary "Mollie" Cottingham, daughter of a veteran, resident managers to oversee the colony.

"Plat No. 1 of Lynn Haven" dated January 7, 1911, was filed January 11 by the development company at Vernon, the county seat for Washington County. The plat was recorded in Washington County Book No. 25, Page 101, and Plat Book No. 5, Pages 9 and 10.

Initial authority for the town was by Lynn from an office opened by Emory and Mollie in the Panama City Real Estate Company office located in the Gay Building at Panama City (southeast corner of Harrison Ave. and East Oak Ave.), owned by stockholder Andrew J. Gay.

Area Surveyor William H. Parker of Parker and Henry V. Roelofs of Philadelphia, Chief Engineer for the Birmingham, Columbus & St. Andrews Railroad Company building to the bay from Chipley, assisted colonists from a company tent under huge live oaks at the yellow sand bluff west of the spring at the head of Anderson Bayou between 12th and 13th Streets near the Gay to St. Andrew's road and Gay to Millville road intersection. Civil Engineer Edwin H. Wilbur of New York, a partner of "Roelofs & Wilbur," office at Parker, and Thomas E. Crawford, associated with Lynn at Costa Rica building railroads for stockholder Minor C. Keith, had men clearing road rights-of-way and establishing survey markers for lots within the 287 block plat. Each block contained at least 16 lots, sometimes 20, which measured 50 x 150 feet. Commercial blocks contained 32 lots which measured 25 x 125 feet from avenues to alleys. An alley between Ohio and Pennsylvania Avenues was named "Railroad Alley" for a planned route for the Birmingham, Columbus & St. Andrews and an electric trolley line.

Emory met colonists at the Panama City Depot to arrange a boat or carriage to the town. Mollie met them in her buggy at the "Lynn Haven Harbor" west of the 1,640 foot "Lynn Haven Wharf" at the end of Pennsylvania Avenue, to give them a tour of the business district and show them their lot selected by a "company lottery." In order to establish civic and sanitary control, they were assisted by colonists William C. Morris, James A. Gard, John L. McLaughlin, Dr. Orren E. Guiles and Will S. R. Burnette, veterans, and Captain J. Walter Mitchell, a veteran of the Spanish-American War, "the recognized Dean of Publishing at Washington, D.C.," sent by Lynn to publish the *Lynn Haven Tribune*, the town's newspaper.

During the first week in July, veteran Ervin V. Richards, building his construction company office at the southeast corner of Ohio Avenue and 9th Street, presided over a meeting of colonists at the *Tribune* building, completed in April near the southeast corner of Ohio Avenue and 8th Street, for the purpose of establishing civic and commercial organizations. They organized the "Lynn Haven Business League" July 18, adopted a constitution and by-laws, and made plans for future civic affairs. Richards was elected chairman, and veteran John M. Hughey, owner of the Hughey Building completed July 5 at the northeast corner of Ohio Avenue and 8th Street, vice-chairman. The league enacted regulations for establishing businesses at Lynn Haven, and organized committees for sanitation, education, building and grounds, transportation, publicity and manufacturing. Meetings were the second and fourth Saturday at 3:30 p.m. August 15 the name was changed to the "Business Men's League." One of the first subjects of concern was to make provisions for a school. Dr. Guiles, in charge of sanitation, established regulations for wells and outhouses. Shed roofs, awnings and permanent

porches were authorized at businesses to shelter windows, doors and pedestrians.

In December meetings were changed to the second floor of the Lynn Haven Bank & Trust Company building at the southwest corner of Florida Avenue and 9th Street, the "center of town." Lynn had authorized the League, in conjunction with ladies who were organizing a "School League," to establish a "Lynn Haven High School" in the room scheduled to open January 2.

In 1913 the development company presented a petition to Washington County Representatives Robert L. McKenzie and Louis H. Howell to incorporate the town known as Lynn Haven. The company's charter was approved and signed by the Governor May 16, 1913.

As required by the "Charter of Lynn Haven," an election was held on the second Monday in June 1913. June 9 two hundred twenty-nine citizens who met Florida voter regulations stood in the rain at the development company office at the rear of the bank building to cast ballots to elect the first city officials. There were 2,500 "winter" residents and 460 homes and businesses at the town.

John M. Hughey, 66, was elected "the first Mayor of Lynn Haven," defeating Dr. Guiles, 68, the first Commander of Stanton Post No. 2, Grand Army of the Republic, organized July 4, 1911. Elected aldermen were: Matthew Frank "Matt" McMullen, 33, operator of the Alvin Theatre south of the bank building owned by his father, veteran William McMullen; Jerry Van Kleeck, 56, owner of Van Kleeck Tent, Awning & Draying Company on the west side of Florida Avenue between (826) 8th and 9th Streets; J. Frank Dillingham, 41, owner of Dillingham's Oil & Ice Company off Alabama and 10th Street, the current Noble Grand of Scarlet Lodge No. 75 IOOF meeting at Roberts Hall; Henry P. Roush, 47, vice-president of Lynn Haven Grocery Company in the store room of the bank building; and veteran Calvin L. Macomber, 70, Quartermaster of Stanton Post. Paul A. Pomeroy, 31, owner of Pomeroy's Dry Goods & Notions in the "Ball Building" at the southwest corner of Ohio Avenue and 7th Street, was elected city clerk. Thomas F. Brayton, 41, recent constable for the Lynn Haven District at Washington County, was elected tax collector. Edwin H. Wilbur was hired as city engineer.

Wednesday evening, June 11, elected officials met in the storeroom of the Landes Building on the southeast corner of Florida Avenue and 9th Street. Entry to the first floor room at the rear of the building was through a side door facing the street. City Clerk Pomeroy placed wood-goods boxes for seats and, from others, erected a table on which Commissioner Roush placed an oil lamp borrowed from the Eureka Restaurant north of Van Kleecks.

The first matter brought to the commissioners' attention was a bill for \$15 to the Lynn Haven Publishing Company, printers of the *Tribune*, for printing the charter. As no taxes had been collected and there was no money, payment was deferred.

A municipal office was established across the street in the storeroom at the rear of Roberts Hall. Lee J. Roberts, landlord, placed windows in the room and a door opening onto 9th Street. Typewriters were purchased and in a short time were clicking away. Books for records and accounts were opened, and a fire-proof safe for the preservation of accumulated volumes was placed in the room. Veteran Robert W. Beach, Sr., who painted "City Office" on the door, assisted Pomeroy. Council meetings were held on the second floor of Roberts Hall, Stanton Hall or the school room.

For welcoming guests and organizations to the city, the Mayor or Vice-Mayor was authorized to present a three-foot by six-inch pine "Key to the City." "It will unlock the heart of the most timid maiden that her best young man may know her exact feeling, and to the fond and trusting wife, it will tell her whether her husband was really at Lodge last night. In its magical action it will unlock the door of any residence in our beautiful city, as well as that of the many business houses, in fact, everything here except the Government Post Office and the vault of the Lynn Haven Bank & Trust Company."

In 1914 Brayton was elected the "first State Representative for Bay County." He was

replaced as tax collector by realtor Charles A. Sharpe.

February 2, 1915, commissioners determined to divide the city into "Wards." Residents were told "to meet with their commissioner when they had a request of the city. The commissioner will address the request with the commission and clerk."

A new City Charter adopted by "residents December 12, 1916," was signed at Tallahassee May 7, 1923. The city council was reduced to three members. They elected from their number a mayor, vice-mayor and a member to serve as tax assessor-collector.

In July 1925 commissioners proposed purchasing "the only desirable corner property" for a city hall, Lots 13, 14, 15 and 16, Block 140, at the northeast corner of Ohio Avenue and 9th Street.

Monday, March 29, 1926, city offices were moved to a two-room building adjoining the rear of the bank building. A council chamber occupied one room equipped with a large table as a private place for commissioners and other city officials. Records, equipment and the clerical force occupied the second room. Commission meetings were held at Roberts or Stanton Halls.

The legislature and senate passed an act granting a new City Charter prepared by the firm of John Daniels at Chipley. It was signed by the Governor May 26, 1927.

Eligible voters approved a \$200,000 bond issue in 1927 to build a water and sanitary sewer system, pave Florida and Ohio Avenues, and build a city hall. Commissioners completed negotiations with Minor C. Keith Florida Properties, Inc. in May for the purchase of the vacated electric power plant and trolley station on Railroad Avenue between 11th and 12th Streets, to convert into a city water supply and pumping station. They also paid the corporation \$8,000 for the lots at Ohio Avenue and 9th Street to build a city hall.

Panama City architect Henry T. Hey, a native of Greenwood, Florida, was selected in August to prepare plans for a city hall. September 7 Hey presented preliminary plans. The hall was to be two-story, 21 x 39 feet. The clerk's office, vault and mayor's office were on the first floor with an auditorium for commissioners' meetings, courtroom, etc., on the second floor. At the southeast corner was a circular tower forming the entrance to the clerk's office and hallways leading to the mayor's office, stairway, fire department, jail, and to the living quarters of the caretaker or jailer. The fire department and jail were to be one-story. The vault in the clerk's office was to be reinforced concrete with fittings of the vestibule type of the Haring-Hall-Marvin Safe Company; and it was to be fire-proof. The jail would be equipped with three 7 x 8 foot double-deck steel cells with three toilets.

The council authorized ordering from the H. & W. B. Drew Company a city seal engraved with a "lion's head" and the words "City of Lynn Haven, Bay County, Florida" with the word "SEAL" in the center.

Prior to ground-breaking, Mrs. Jeanette McPhearson Collins, a widower who moved to Lynn Haven in 1921, gave the city a *Cocos Australis* palm to be planted at the site.

Monday morning, March 18, 1928, concrete paving began at Florida Avenue.

A contract for \$13,900 was awarded to Jacobs & Harrington Construction Company of Ashford, Alabama, April 1 to build the "Spanish-Style" hall. The contract was signed April 16.

During the third week in April, the concrete foundation was laid. Aided by a dryer than normal spring, construction proceeded at a rapid rate.

Friday afternoon, May 28, was a perfect day. Mayor A. Louis Kline, Commissioners Dr. William E. Brown and Vivian L. Roberts, Sr., and guest speakers Rev. Dr. Robert R. "Bob" Jones, Sr. and Dean William E. Patterson of Bob Jones College, along with Rev. Dr. William J. Hall of The First Presbyterian Church of Lynn Haven, seated themselves on folding wood chairs in the golden sunshine upon a temporary platform erected in front of the building for the purpose of laying the cornerstone. On the porch of the McMullen Library across 9th Street, a chorus of thirty singers led by Mrs. Cochran enjoyed the fragrance of azaleas, red roses, yellow jasmine, and the fallen blooms from the numerous dogwood across 10th Street at Pennsylvania

Avenue.

After the invocation by Rev. Dr. Hall and introductions by Dr. Brown, the chorus sang several songs. Mayor Kline then spoke of the progress of the city and the much-needed city hall. He was followed by Dean Patterson who spoke on civic righteousness and Dr. Jones who spoke of the progressive spirit of the people of Lynn Haven and the future of Bob Jones College.

While carpenters and masons paused to watch Henry D. Lindsay of Unity Lodge No. 218 Free & Accepted Masons prepare to lay the cornerstone, Mayor Kline explained the meaning of the day "and a hundred years in the future." In a box within the stone was placed "a copy of the *Lynn Haven Free Press*, United States coins, G.A.R. button, American Legion button, and articles contributed by Boy Scout Troop No. 26, the Girl Scouts, and the Woman's Literary Club." Assisted by Mayor Kline and commissioners, Mr. Lindsay sealed the stone in the wall with its date, "May 25, 1928." After several songs by the chorus, Rev. Dr. Hall closed with the benediction.

A steel water tank, 23 feet in diameter and 38 feet high with a capacity of 100,000 gallons, mounted on four rigid steel columns 100 feet tall, was completed at the water plant May 31 where a 20 inch diameter well 497 feet deep provided water to electric pumps capable of delivering 750 gallons of water a minute.

Monday, July 23, the city hall was nearing completion. The electrician and plumber were awaiting the painter's finishing touches before hanging lights and installing plumbing fixtures.

Concrete paving of Florida Avenue between 6th and 10th Streets and Ohio Avenue from 12th Street, location of the city water works, to 3rd Street at the entrance to the grounds of the thirty-six room, three-story Hotel Lynn Haven, was completed. Traffic was restricted between 9th and 12th Streets because concrete had not cured. Between Ohio and Florida Avenues, 7th, 8th and 9th Streets were paved. Citizens were thankful that the paving wasn't let to the parties who paved Harrison Avenue at Panama City, "for we have a far better job in every particular."

Water and sanitary sewer lines were installed along alleys east and west of Florida Avenue and east of Ohio Avenue at Railroad Avenue. Water lines extended from Alabama Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue. Orders for fire hydrants from M & H Valve Company of Anniston, Alabama, had to be placed with Corey hydrants from Troy, New York, because the M & H "Model No. 28" hydrant would not be available until later in the year.

A storm water sewer began at Florida Avenue and 8th Street. There was no storm water sewer at the intersection of Florida Avenue and 9th Street because that was the business districts highest elevation.

A municipal septic tank, capable of serving 1,200, was built at the end of 7th Street at Lynn Haven Bayou.

August 4 concrete walks and a driveway to the doors of the quarters for the fire department were poured by contractor Michael B. Hawkins. The grounds were made ready for the planting of lawn seeds and ornamentals from Cooley's Nursery at Alabama Avenue and 4th Street. The Collins' palm which had been moved several times during construction, was placed where it is seen today. It was about eighteen inches tall.

Without ceremony, the city hall opened to transact business during the second week of August 1928. The Lynn Haven Volunteer Fire Department vacated its 1916 building at 815 Florida Avenue. Volunteer firemen would become "the first custodians" for the new city hall.

In 1948 the city manager-clerk form of government was proposed. The plan would establish a position for a city manager, increase the commission from three to five members, make the mayor a candidate at large subject to election by voters rather than other commissioners, and place the heads of city departments under civil service.

During several public meetings at the new Lynn Haven Elementary School auditorium, the proposed changes were discussed. Most citizens were in favor of the mayor being elected at

large, the addition of commissioners, and civil service for employees; but many objected to the city manager form of government. The city already had a city clerk who prepared a budget, paid bills and supervised employees subject to approval of the council. They saw no necessity for a city manager...

After months of debate, a city manager-clerk form of government was drafted as a legislative bill for the Bay County delegation to present during the 1949 session of the state legislature. In the meantime, Leland P. "Lee" Curtis was appointed city manager-clerk by the council June 7. Curtis, born in 1898, had come to Lynn Haven in 1911 with his parents, veteran Elijah Curtis and Wealthie Morris. He had left in 1916 to take a job with an electric wire manufacturer at Anderson, Illinois, often returning, permanently in 1948 following the passing of his mother in 1944.

The new City of Lynn Haven Charter, the city's fourth, was approved at Tallahassee November 3, to become effective January 1, 1950. All citizens were required to re-register to be eligible to vote January 3. James R. "Jimmie" Floyd was elected mayor and A. C. Bryan and George M. Cooley, commissioners. James P. Hughes and James W. Youngblood were to serve out their term. Curtis was hired as city manager.

The first mayors were veterans: 1912 to 1915 John M. Hughey, Company I, 11th Ohio Cavalry Regiment, buried Mount Hope Cemetery; 1915 to 1917 Peter C. Dixon, Gunners Mate *U.S.S. Ironsides*, buried Rush Centre, Kansas; 1917 to 1919 James A. Gard, Company M, 1st Ohio Heavy Artillery, buried Mount Hope Cemetery; 1919 to 1921 Dr. William W. Krape, Company A, 46th Illinois Infantry Regiment - built monument at G.A.R. Park - buried Freeport, Illinois; 1921 to 1924 Richard R. Kiddle, Company K, 31st Illinois Infantry Regiment, buried Friend, Nebraska. During this period most Lynn Haven residents returned to their northern homes to avoid the hot, humid summer months. During the absence of a mayor, a commissioner was selected by his peers to serve as vice-mayor. Frank McMullen, Fred Upman and George Morton often served as vice-mayor.

Other early mayors: 1924 to 1926 Mosley Greene; 1926 to 1930 A. Louis Kline - employed by Minor C. Keith who modernized Bay County, responsible for the 1927 Charter and the many city improvements; 1930 to 1931 Dr. William Edwin Brown - told "No major expenditure should be made without consulting the taxpayers."; 1931 to 1940 Harry D. Jackson - Harry Jackson Lodge F&AM named in his honor; 1940 to 1941 Lt. Thomas J. Hurd USN Ret. - Spanish-American War - World War I - responsible for improvements to City Park 1935 to 1936, today's Sharon Sheffield Park - reassigned from *U.S.S. Maine* just before it was blown-up February 15, 1898; 1941 to 1943 Clarence M. Snell, 56th Coast Artillery Spanish-American War; 1943 to 1944 Ralph A. Gibson; 1944 to 1946 Richmond V. Porter; 1946 to 1948 Thomas H. Bell; 1948 to 1949 Alfred L. Kinsaul; 1949 to 1950 James P. Hughes.

Mayors since 1950 Charter: 1950 to 1954 James R. Floyd; 1954 to 1956 James R. Ross; 1956 to 1957 Harris J. McCormick - proposed extending sewer; 1957 to 1959 C. Howard Pennington - removed from office in recall election after city manager fired; 1959 to 1968 B. Harvey Liddon - resigned as Mayor; 1968 to 1970 Hugh W. Alexander; 1970 to 1972 John A. Moore; 1972 to 1975 James H. Petty; 1975 to 1985 Montel M. Johnson; 1985 to 1991 Ronald R. Barber; 1991 to 1992 Sharon M. Sheffield; 1992 to 1994 Montel M. Johnson; 1994 to 1998 Robert A. Gardner; 1998 to 2015 Walter T. Kelley; 2015 to 2020 Margo D. Anderson, resigned, Commissioner Daniel C. Russell Pro-Tem until 2021; 2021 - Jesse Lawrence Nelson.

Mayor Johnson was the first female mayor at Lynn Haven and Bay County.

Mayor Anderson and Deputy City Clerk Vickie Gainer, appointed acting city manager, led the city in 2019, while encumbered with monumental impediments, through the most difficult period in the "History of Lynn Haven," the recovery from Hurricane Michael October 10, 2018.

Note: Truesdell Park at St. Andrew's, was built by Mollie as a perpetual memorial to Emory.

Mayors For Lynn Haven, Florida Established January 11, 1911

From The Archives of Jack O. Cutchens

- 1913-1915 John Martin Hughey Co I, 11th Ohio Cavalry Regiment
b 16 Feb 1847 Highland Co, Ohio
d 26 May 1933 Lynn Haven, Florida bur Mount Hope Cem
- 1915-1917 Peter Campbell Dixon Landsman U.S.S. Old Ironsides U.S. Navy
b 29 May 1844 New Berlin, New York
d 02 Jul 1929 Lynn Haven, Florida bur Mount Hope Cem
- 1917-1919 James A. Gard Co M, 1st Ohio Heavy Artillery - Built Gard Building. Later Chautauqua by Mayor Krape.
b 23 May 1843 Preble, Co, Ohio
d 05 Feb 1920 Lynn Haven, Florida bur Mount Hope Cem
- 1919-1921 Dr. William W. Krape, D.D.S. Co A, 46th Illinois Infantry Regiment - Built Union Soldiers Monument at
b 11 Apr 1847 Oneco, Illinois Grand Army Park. Organized Chautauqua. Gave its building and park to City.
d 19 Mar 1926 Lynn Haven, Florida bur Oakland Cem, Freeport Illinois
- 1921-1924 Richard Robert Kiddle Co K, 31st Illinois Infantry Regiment - purchased and remodeled Roberts Hall.
b 19 Jun 1843 Cambridge, England
d 14 Sep 1927 Lynn Haven, Florida bur Andrew Cem, Friend Nebraska
- 1924-1926 Mosley Greene
b 20 Apr 1859 St. Louis, Missouri
d 03 Sep 1944 Bronx, New York
- 1926-1930 Abram "Louis" Kline WWI U.S. Marine Corps - City Hall, Ohio and Florida Avenues paved, water, sewer.
b 06 Jun 1881 Mississippi
d 28 Jun 1948 Winter Haven, Florida bur Hillsborough, Florida Myrtle Hill Memorial Cem
- 1930-1931 Dr. William Edwin Brown Pharmacist
b 04 Dec 1863 Bridgeville, Delaware
d 04 Mar 1958 Newark, Delaware bur Hillcrest Cem Federalsburg, Maryland
- 1931-1940 Harry Dennis Jackson - Harry Jackson Lodge No. 314 F&AM named to honor him. Instituted the building
b 30 Jun 1882 Lewiston, Maine of Center City Park by the Works Progress Administration.
d 22 Jul 1952 Gatlinburg, Tennessee (vacation because of poor health) bur Mount Hope Cem
- 1940-1941 Lt. Thomas Joseph Hurd Spanish-American War, WWI U.S. Navy (Ret.) - Oversaw building of Center City
b 16 Aug 1876 Brooklyn, New York Park at the "town fishing hole" during Great Depression.
d 17 Dec 1949 Lynn Haven, Florida bur Arlington National Cem
- 1941-1943 Clarence Matthew Snell Philippine Insurrection 1899-1902 56th Coast Artillery U.S. Army. Father, veteran
b 31 Dec 1882 Rhode Island Thomas H. Snell, settled at Lynn Haven in 1912. Died 1931.
d 21 Jun 1968 Lynn Haven, Florida bur Mount Hope Cem
- 1943-1944 Arlo Ralph Gibson
b 06 Oct 1910 Richmond, West Virginia
d 07 Mar 1982 Cantonment, Florida bur Squell Memorial Cem Escambia Co, Florida
- 1945-1946 Richmond Vance Porter, Sr.
b 30 Jul 1898 Lyons, Tatnall Co, Georgia
d 25 Dec 1990 Hillsborough, Florida
- 1946-1948 Thomas Henry Bell
b 30 Sep 1874 Potoka Mario, Illinois
d 14 Jun 1950 Lynn Haven, Florida bur Greenwood Cem, Hamilton Ohio
- 1948-1949 Alfred Lee Kinsaul - Kinsaul Park named for him.
b 21 Aug 1900 Hartford, Alabama
d 23 Jul 1965 Lynn Haven, Florida bur Mount Hope, Cem
- 1949-1950 James Perley Hughes Spanish-American War U.S.S. *Pensacola* - Cdr Panama City Camp No. 37 to meet at
b 19 Feb 1883 Stillwater, Minnesota Stanton Hall and Johnson Building, today F&AM No.314 Temple.
d 10 Aug 1969 Progreso, Yucatan, Mexico bur Cemetery General Yucatan, Mexico

- 1950-1954 James Rema "Jimmie" Floyd - First Mayor governed by 1950 Charter creating City Manager, Lee Curtis.
 b 25 Feb 1900 Thomas County, Georgia
 d 28 Aug 1966 Colquitt, Georgia, bur Lynn Haven, Florida Mount Hope Cem
- 1954-1956 James Robert "Bob" Ross WWI 123rd Infantry Regiment, 31st "Dixie" Division
 b 15 Apr 1897 Dale County, Alabama - lived Hartford, Alabama
 d 27 Sep 1980 Lynn Haven, FL bur Evergreen Memorial Cem
- 1956-1957 James Harris McCormick - Proposed expanding sewer.
 b 20 Jan 1907 Bay Head, Washington (Bay County) County, Florida
 d 06 Mar 1967 Lynn Haven, Florida bur Mount Hope
- 1957-1959 Charley Howard Pennington - He and two commissioners fired the City Manager for disobeying directives.
 b 25 Jul 1913 Newville, Alabama They were defeated in a recall election. City employees quit jobs.
 d 01 May 1996 Columbus, Georgia bur Double Churches Cem Columbus, Georgia
- 1959-1968 Benjamin Harvey Liddon Colonel, U.S. Air Force (Ret) - Sewer system expanded.
 b 25 Sep 1903 Marianna, Florida
 d 20 Feb 1984 Lynn Haven, Florida bur Harris Mill Cem Woodville, Texas
- 1968-1970 Hugh Wilfred Alexander WWII U.S. Army - Proposed expanding water system.
 b 24 Aug 1913 Daysboro, Kentucky
 d 18 Jan 1994 Lynn Haven, Florida bur Mount Hope Cem
- 1970-1972 John Henry Moore, Jr.
 b 09 Aug 1907 Thelma, Georgia
 d 18 Feb 1978 Duval County, Florida bur Dismore Community Cem
- 1972-1975 James Hoyt Petty
 b 09 Aug 1900 Spartanburg, South Carolina
 d 03 Jan 1978 Lynn Haven, Florida bur Evergreen Memorial Cem
- 1975-1985 Laura Montel Morris Johnson
 b 22 Oct 1922 Temple, Georgia
 d 06 Aug 2013 Lynn Haven, Florida bur Mount Hope Cem
- 1985-1991 Ronald Roy Barber Captain, U.S. Air Force
 b 21 Mar 1935 Patterson Pas, New Jersey
 d 11 Dec 1996 Lynn Haven, FL
- 1991-1992 Sharon Jane Marshall Sheffield - Center City Park renamed Sharon Sheffield Park for her. Her great great
 b 31 Jan 1942 Lynn Haven, Florida grandfather, Alfred Griffin, in the area during the American Civil War.
- 1992-1994 Laura Montel Morris Johnson
- 1994-1998 Robert Alley "Bob" Gardner - City Limits extended north of D. J. Bailey Bridge
 b 06 Mar 1938 Montgomery, Alabama
- 1998-2015 Walter Travis "Walt" Kelley Chief Master Sergeant U.S. Air Force (Ret)
 b 17 Sep 1934 Brannen (Elba), Coffee County, Alabama
- 2015-2020 Margo Deal Anderson - Sharon Sheffield Park redesigned. Mayor Anderson resigned. Commissioner Daniel
 b 09 Jan 1955 Lynn Haven, Florida Clyne Russell named Mayor Pro-Tem by the Commission.
- 2021- Rev. Dr. Jesse Lawrence Nelson D.D.
 b 03 Nov 1983 Eufaula, Alabama

Lynn Haven newspapers from June 1, 1911 were available for reading at McMullen Library. When the library became a branch of the Northwest Regional Library, 20 plus years of editions of four newspapers were moved to the Panama City Library where the *News Herald* reproduced issues of three on microfilm. Often written within the pages was about sitting Lynn Haven Mayors visiting old family homes, other areas of the country, or illness. Commissioners would select from their number an acting Mayor during an absence, often for several months.

Mayor Pennington moved to Lynn Haven from Phenix City, Alabama, where he had been president of the Russell County Betterment Association organized to clean up "racketeers." After Albert Patterson was murdered, he asked the Governor to declare martial law. The hoodlums, many elected city and county officials, relocated in Tennessee... and a couple at Bay County. Pennington built several buildings at Lynn Haven, one, the much remodeled Senior Center.

THE LYNN HAVEN FIRE DEPARTMENT

FROM THE ARCHIVES OF JACK O. CUTCHENS AND RETIRED CHIEF GARY KEEL
PREPARED AT THE REQUEST OF CAPTAIN DARRELL HERNANDEZ, ASSISTANT CHIEF

Spurred by Christmas holiday fires at Panama City, Lynn Haven men organized a Fire Brigade in the school room on the second floor of the Lynn Haven Bank & Trust Company building in March 1912. Carpenter Milton A. Eggleston, 45, of Eggleston, Michigan, was elected Chief. The volunteers ordered equipment and a hand-pulled spray apparatus equipped with two soda-acid chemical tanks and 300 feet of 1-inch hose. It was rigged to be pulled by Leslie C. Gay's horse stabled on Florida Avenue, or one of three automobiles at the town.

In January 1915 Contractor Harry L. McCullough, 27, of Miller Falls, Massachusetts, circulated a petition for a hook and ladder company. Two companies, No. 1 and No. 2, were organized. McCullough was elected Chief. Meetings were held Tuesday evenings at 7:30 in Roberts Hall. William H. Lynn, Sr., the town's developer, presented the volunteer companies a lot on Florida Avenue near 8th Street in April for an engine house and headquarters.

A 1915 20 H.P. Model T Ford worm-drive differential hook and ladder chassis, with bell, purchased at Atlanta for \$451 F.O.B., arrived in June. Three chemical tanks were mounted on the chassis. By July the fire engine experienced axle failure. The new axle, shipped from Prospect, Ohio, was installed by a machine shop at St. Andrew's.

City Commissioner Edward C. Miles, 65, was engaged to build a firehouse. McCullough, who helped build the firehouse, returned to Massachusetts before the end of the year. The \$300 firehouse was completed in January 1916.

The hand-crank fire engine was positioned on an angled ramp McCullough had built facing a double front door swinging open onto Florida Avenue. Ropes were fastened near the driver and passenger entrances to the fire engine (there were no doors) so as to easily pull chocks from in front of rear wheels for a "rolling crank." A bell was erected at the front of the building for sounding the fire alarm. However, it was easily confused with the several daily ringing of the school bell and it was replaced with a hand-turned siren. The volunteers "would gather at the station on Tuesday evenings for a game of cards." Carpenter Levi E. Bates, 48, of Barry, Michigan, was elected Captain, and Eggleston, Lieutenant. Realtor Charles A. Sharpe replaced Bates who moved in 1916. Carpenter David C. Jarvis, 27, of Malone, New York, who had served as a fireman in the U.S. Army Infantry, was elected Captain. He ordered the front of the building painted white, and "Lynn Haven Volunteer Fire Department," lettered in red.

In January 1921, Captain Jarvis, and his father, Comrade Francis O. Jarvis, used the hook and ladder truck to mount the bronze figure on the masonry pedestal of the G.A.R. Monument at Grand Army Park.

When continuous electricity was supplied to the town in 1921, an electric siren, purchased by Jennie McMullen Brandenburg, was mounted on the bank building where city hall, and Southern Bell Telephone switchboard, were located. The telephone operator would sound the alarm: 1 long, out of town fire; 2 long, house fire; 3 short, car fire; 4 short, grass fire; and 7 short, emergency. The location of the fire or emergency was marked on a chalkboard. Firemen drove to the site on personal vehicles.

In October 1923 firemen commissioned volunteer fireman Phillip B. West who managed the Lynn Haven Department for the *Panama City Pilot*, to paint a portrait of

Eggleston who had served since 1912.

After years of mechanical problems with the 1915 truck's differential, a fire engine was ordered from the La France Company of Atlanta, Georgia. Firemen paid \$500 down and the city was to pay the balance in installments. Company No. 1 received a new \$6,000 American LaFrance Hook & Ladder Pumper with siren and bells in July 1925, "capable of speeds reaching 60 miles per hour and throwing water at the rate of 300 gallons per minute." Water could be pumped from within 1000 feet of the bay or a bayou. There were no fire plugs within the city. The pumper's tanks could be refilled with bay water at the City Dock at Pennsylvania Avenue in four and a half minutes. A similar \$11,500 truck was available at the Panama City Fire Department. Panama City firemen could reach Lynn Haven within 20 minutes.

When the city failed to pay installments in 1927, several residents, Jennie Brandenburg, William McMullen and Lt. Thomas Hurd, USN Ret, paid the balance due. Jennie purchased a second siren, for Fire Chief Jarvis' automobile.

At the time of the purchase of the new fire engine, commissioners proposed purchasing the only desirable corner property available for a city hall and fire station, lots 13, 14, 15 and 16, Block 140 at Ohio Avenue and 9th Street. Henry T. Hey who designed the Panama City Hall and the Post Office at Marianna, was contracted to design a two-story "Spanish-Style" city hall with offices, a commission room, jail and two-bay fire station.

Water and sewer lines were installed in 1928 along alleys east and west of Florida Avenue and east of Ohio Avenue at Railroad Avenue. Corey Fire Hydrants manufactured at Troy, New York, (a collector item today) were placed from 12th Street to the 3-story, 36 room Hotel Lynn Haven at the end of Ohio Avenue at 3rd Street.

August 4 concrete walks and a driveway on 9th Street to the quarters for the fire department, Hook & Ladder Company No. 1, were poured. Without ceremony, the hall and station opened to transact the city's business during the second week of August, 1928. The city took over old "Fire Station No. 1" at 815 Florida Avenue to house the city's maintenance truck.

The worst fire in the history of Lynn Haven occurred Saturday, November 30, 1929 when a blaze was discovered in a flue at Hotel Lynn Haven. Captain Jarvis, now Fire and Police Chief, drove the LaFrance pumper from the new firehouse within minutes of receiving the 10:30 a.m. call and began pumping two steady flows of water from the bay. Inside half an hour the big Panama City pumper had backed onto the shore and was propelling three streams of water. About 4 o'clock that afternoon, an alarm was turned in to the Panama City Fire Department for a fire at Millville. When the call was received at Lynn Haven, the Panama City pumper was mired in sand on the beach. Before the pumper was pulled free, shops, a filling station, a café and a drug store had been consumed at Millville. Lynn Haven fire fighters continued to fight the fire through the night and into the next day. Most of the hotel's furnishings were saved, including a billiards table which today is on the second floor of Roberts Hall, the property of Scarlet Lodge No. 75, IOOF. The firemen had sponsored Saturday night dances at the hall to raise funds since 1915.

In 1934 the "rumble seat" of a Ford Model A Roadster was replaced with a chemical tank to fight "grass and bayou fires."

By the "Laws of Florida," the department was changed to "Lynn Haven Fire

Department” November 14, 1939.

The Lynn Haven School burned May 4, 1944, the day before the last day of school. At about 5:45 p.m., a fire of “unknown origin,” fanned by a brisk wind through “open front and rear doors,” swept through the hall. At the fire station, the LaFrance fire truck, capable of throwing 300 gallons a minute and going 60 miles per hour, wouldn’t crank, the “battery had died.” Richmond Porter and brother Leslie rushed from their garage at the corner of Ohio Avenue and 14th Street to start the 1925 pumper. The Panama City Fire Department was called to avoid damage to houses at the south end of the block (along 10th Street) and the Presbyterian Church across 9th Street (the remodeled 1913 school was in the center of the block facing 9th Street where the recreation area is today). Captain John A. Burkhart trucked soldiers from Tyndall Army Air Field. Fifth grader Delano Suggs saw the belfry disintegrate as the school bell disappeared into the mass of charred timbers and red coals. Jarvis, Fire and Police Chief, resigned.

Richmond would fill the chief vacancy in 1944. In 1945 the department purchased a 500 gallon Ford pumper. John A. Wright was elected chief in 1946. During the year the department became a city department managed by the city clerk. Until then, about 40 volunteers, “served without pay or any remuneration whatever.” A second 500 gallon pumper, a 750 gallon pumper and a new pickup for grass fires, were purchased over a period of several years.

William C. “Bill” Wright, John’s brother, was appointed chief in 1947; James “J.G.” Parker in 1951; Herman Griffith was Chief in 1953 when the Federal Government gave the department a 1953 Dodge Power Wagon equipped for firefighting and rescue; Parker again in 1954; Charles Van Horn in 1955; Charles Langford in 1957; Edward F. Steed and father, Harvey F. Steed, alternated between 1959 and 1964 until Parker returned.

About noon, January 3, 1961, the siren atop the fire station was heard. When volunteers reached the station they were told the Panama City Golf Course clubhouse was burning. Because the club’s water was supplied by an electric pump, the department had devised a plan to “pump water from the club’s swimming pool...” When firemen arrived on the department’s two pumpers, they learned the pool had been drained for the winter. When they rolled hoses to the shore, they discovered a severe outgoing winter tide had receded the water beyond the pumper’s several suction hoses. Water within the fire trucks was quickly exhausted. All that remained of the “L” shaped log building completed in February 1935 by International Paper Company employees, was the basement locker room.

Since 1915 firemen decorated the town’s parks for Christmas, repaired toys and visited the needy and sick. When aviation became popular, Santa would be flown over the town, waving to boys and girls crowding the tennis court at City Park and school on 14th Street. Firemen would pick St. Nick up at Panama Airways across Hwy 77 from today’s Haney Vocational School, drive him to the tennis court where, sitting on the fire engine, he would hand out oranges and candy, followed by a trip to the school building to greet children assembled there. The holiday event would continue into the 1950s. April 28, 1956 “Leslie Porter Wayside Park” was dedicated. July 4th, firemen began sponsoring their yearly fireworks display at the park, the conclusion to a day of activities and entertainment they planned each year. They had taken over the celebration of July 4th from Ladies Circle No. 9, G.A.R. in 1924. Feb 2020

Union Soldiers Monument at Grand Army Park

By

MAJ Jack O. Cutchens, U.S.A. Ret.

Dr. William W. Krape, who at the age of 16 enlisted as a Private in Company A, 46th Illinois Infantry, came to Lynn Haven in June 1913 and was mustered into Stanton Post No. 2, Department of Florida, Grand Army of the Republic.

Stanton Post was organized by twenty-five charter members July 4, 1911, and named in memory of Private Elias J. Stanton, Company I, 16th Connecticut Infantry, the first Union veteran to die at Lynn Haven June 11, 1911. G.A.R. By-Laws required that a Post be named for a deceased veteran. The first Post Commander was Dr. Oren E. Guiles, Private, Company B, 5th Michigan Cavalry, who was one of the guards on the porch of the McLean House April 9, 1865 while Generals U.S. Grant and Robert E. Lee discussed a cease-fire. The Post assembled at Stanton Hall facing Georgia Avenue between Eighth and Ninth Streets. Ladies Circle No. 7, Grand Army of the Republic organized in June 1911, had the two-story hall built on Lot 3, Block 136, donated May 9, 1912 by William H. Lynn, Sr., the town's developer. Trees had been planted around the hall in memory of deceased veterans and family members.

As Post Commander 1919-1920, Dr. Krape proposed that a monument be built to honor those who "gave their lives during the tragic war of 1861-1865." By a unanimous vote members of Stanton Post "fully empowered Comrade Commander William W. Krape to raise funds and erect said monument," and ordered its treasurer "to honor all bills having his okay."

December 31, 1919, at the request of Krape, Lynn, as "Trustee for the St. Andrews Bay Development Company," deeded Lots 1, 2 and 4, Block 136, to the "Commander of Stanton Post No. 2, Department of Florida, and his successors in office."

In order to finance the project, each Comrade pledged to contribute a percentage of his pension check. The Lynn Haven Ladies Circle, and the Charles R. Merrill Camp No. 9 Sons of Veterans organized in August 1911, contributed towards its cost from funds raised at sponsored projects. Liberal contributions were received from almost every State in the Union and from hundreds of visiting tourists.

A cornerstone was laid for the monument in 1920 by Dr. Krape. He stated "as Mayor of Lynn Haven, Florida, I lay this memorial cornerstone as a fitting tribute to the soldiers, living and dead, whether in the infantry, cavalry, artillery, or Navy, on land or sea, wherever found, Columbia's sons have always been found at the post of greatest danger. This monument records the achievements of Washington, the father of his country, the martyrdom of Lincoln, the savior of this nation, and the nation's patriotic men and women."

In less than one and a half years the monument was successfully completed and paid for through the "energetic activity and personal contributions of Dr. Krape."

Erected on raised ground surrounded by a masonry coping, the monument is ten feet square at the base and twenty-six and one-half feet high from the base to the crown of the sheet copper bronze finish figure of a uniformed Union soldier equipped and armed. The military figure was a standard catalog item sold by W. H. Mullins Company of Salem, Ohio. It was mounted on the masonry pedestal in January 1921 by Captain David C. Jarvis of the Lynn Haven Volunteer Fire Department, and his father, Francis O. Jarvis, late Private in Company I, 106th New York Infantry, using the Department's 1915 Model T Hook & Ladder Truck. A concrete pad adjoining the east side of the base was for a salute gun.

Previous to the dedication, Rev. Harry G. Vandervoot, late Private, Company B, 150th Illinois Infantry, of the Christian Church of Lynn Haven at the northeast corner of Twelfth Street and Florida Avenue, "delivered an exceedingly interesting address at Stanton Hall, a tribute to Lincoln, to Commander Krape, to the surviving Comrades of the Union forces, and to those whom *"The muffled drums' sad roll has beat The soldier's last tattoo; No more on life's parade shall meet The brave and fallen few. On Fame's eternal camping-ground Their silent tents are*

spread, And Glory guards, with solemn round The bivouac of the dead." After the address every member of Stanton Post who could attend assembled on parade.

Saturday afternoon, February 12, 1921, the one hundred and twelfth anniversary of Lincoln's birthday, the monument "in honor and memory of the Union Soldiers of the American Civil War was dedicated at Lynn Haven." The "ritual exercises of the G.A.R. were carried out perfectly by Post Officers led by Commander-In-Chief Krape." One commentator observed, "There it will stand silently preaching one hundred percent Americanism to those now living and to generations unborn for many years to come."

To be placed at a later date were four bronze plaques, and a 3-inch howitzer. The plaques were tributes to their Comrades and a history of the work to be affixed to the monument pedestal and inscribed: "Monument in Memory of the Union Soldiers of the Civil War 1861-1865"; The text of the "American Creed"; "Grand Army of the Republic"; and "A History of the Work". Three plaques were set and "A History of the Work" was to be prepared.

The unique monument to Union Soldiers located at the southeast corner of Georgia Avenue and Eighth Street was the first of its kind erected in Florida and the Southern States; a bronze figure of an armed Federal Infantryman standing at ease atop a towering white pedestal facing North, and a living memorial to Veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic who, in their late sixties and seventies, removed from their Northern homes to enjoy their final days among the friendly people and pleasant climate of the South.

Memorial Day ceremonies called "Decoration Day" by the veterans, were held at Stanton Hall and photographs made of veterans on the north side of the monument until 1937. Scarlet Lodge No. 75, Independent Order of Odd Fellows instituted July 5, 1912 at Roberts Hall, the owners of Roberts Hall at the northeast corner of Ninth Street and Florida Avenue since April 15, 1922, began maintaining the one hundred forty-six known Union veteran's graves at Mount Hope Cemetery in 1937. Sunday, May 30, 1937, Decoration Day was observed at Mount Hope. Guiles, a charter member of Scarlet Lodge, was the only veteran of three at Lynn Haven able to attend.

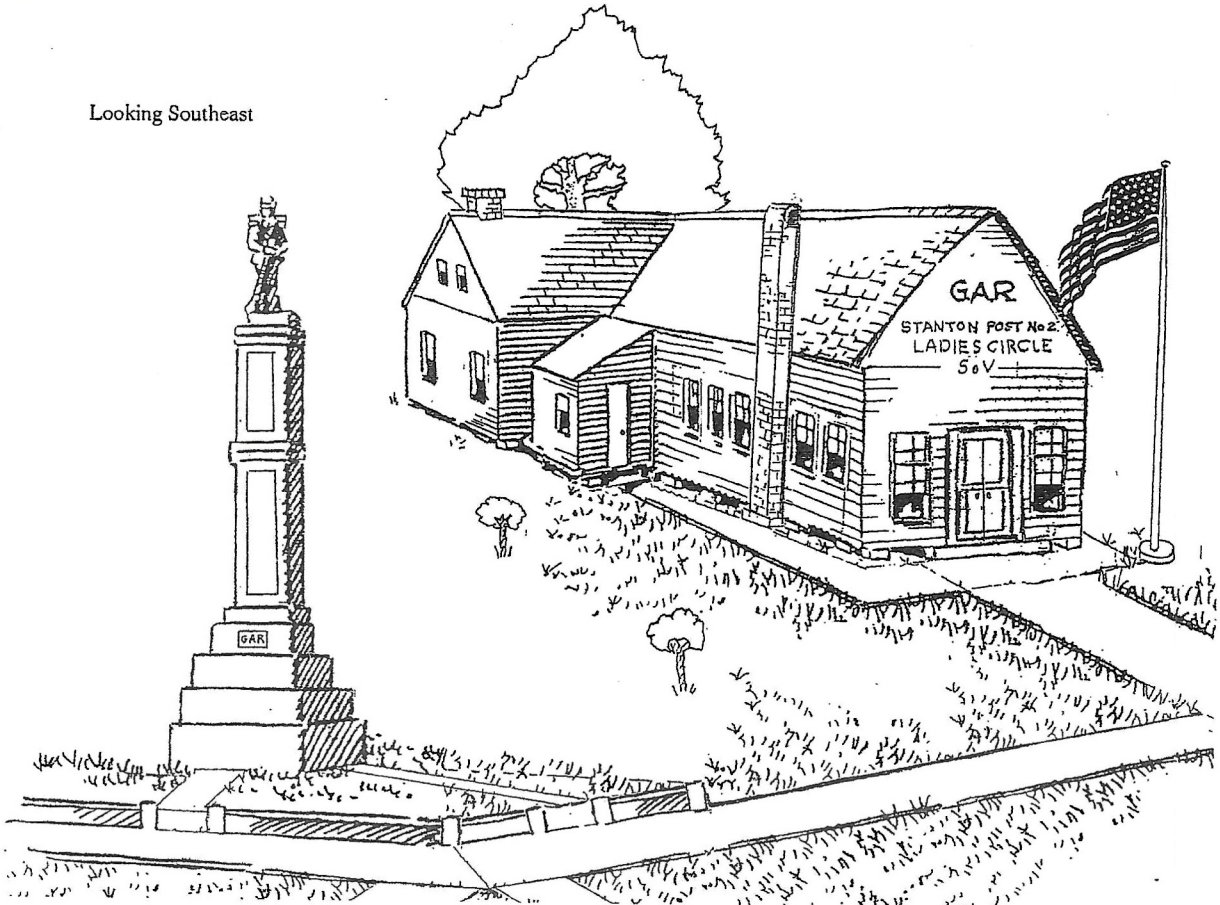
December 1, 1942, Major Lorne Wilkie, Quartermaster Corps, United States Army, 4th Service Command, Atlanta, Georgia, by approval of the Commander-In-Chief of the G.A.R. of Florida and the Lynn Haven City Commission, ordered the 3-inch howitzer removed to Tyndall Army Air Field. It was delivered to Lt. Harvey Jernigan, Base Quartermaster, December 9, to be sent to a U.S. Arsenal for return to military service.

There is no fourth plaque in photographs prior to 1928 when what may be a fourth plaque is visible through palm trees that were dug at Cedar Creek and planted along the avenue and street during the year. The three plaques may have been rearranged so a plaque was visible from Eighth Street, and Georgia Avenue. It was told that during World War II a plaque went missing and remaining plaques were removed. There are no visible plaques in 1940s and early 1950s photographs. Three plaques were replaced in 1956 when the Lynn Haven Garden Club had the monument painted for a rededication planned for Veterans Day.

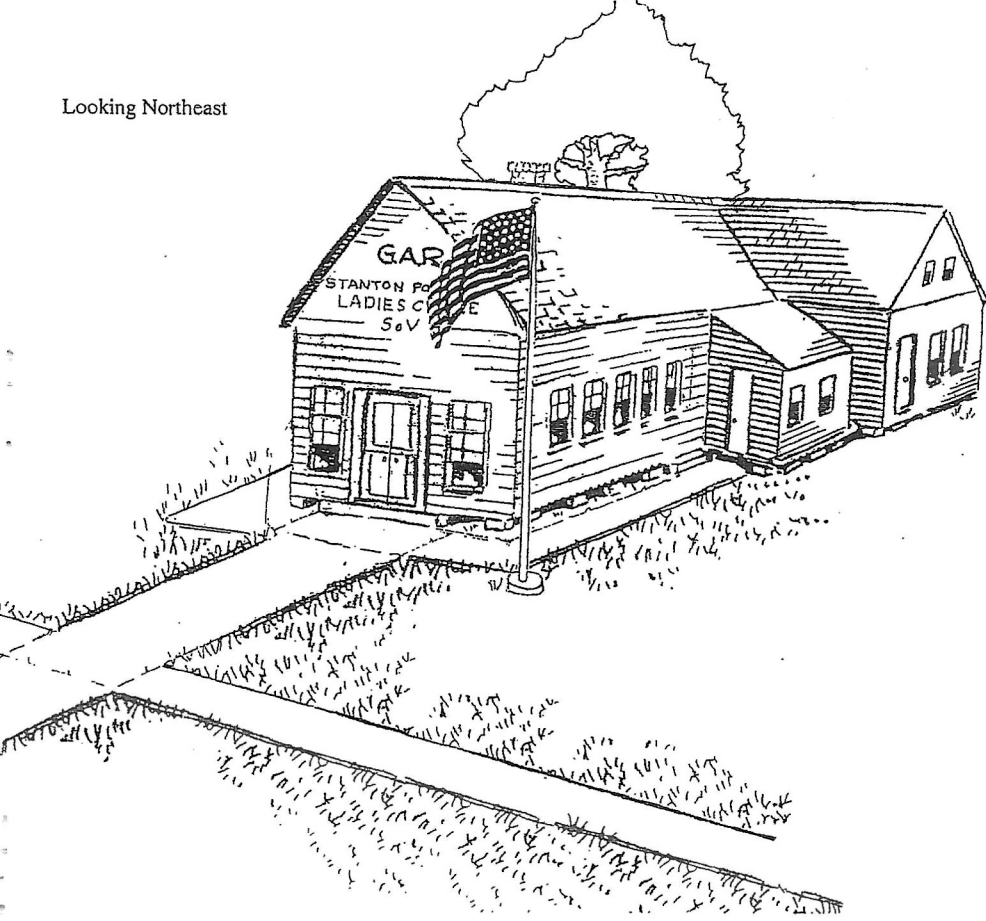
The ceremony for rededication commenced Saturday, November 10 at 3:15 P.M. A parade with veterans of the Spanish-American War and two World Wars, members of Company C, 1st Armored Infantry Battalion, 124th Infantry Florida Army National Guard, and Boy Scout Troop 49 and Girl Scout Troop 22, both in uniforms, began at City Park (today Sharon Sheffield Park), then proceeded to Grand Army Park. The marchers were followed by a local radio sound truck playing the Union War Hymn *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, *Tenting Tonight* and *Dixie*.

The invocation was pronounced by Rev. John R. Helms of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Lynn Haven. Johnnie Britt sang *America*, followed by the "Pledge to the Flag" recited by scouts. Commissioner Jerry Farrell spoke on "why the rededication" (there is no record of what he said). Mayor Harris J. McCormick, and Ward C. Cramer, Bay County's oldest Spanish War Veteran, then rededicated Grand Army Park as "Veterans Park" to all veterans. The benediction was pronounced by Rev. W. C. Brumbeloe of Lynn Haven Baptist Church.

Looking Southeast



Looking Northeast



G. A. R. Hall
Stanton Post No. 2
Lynn Haven, Florida

After the ceremony the sound truck played *Hot Town in the Old Town Tonight* for Spanish War Veterans, *Keep the Home Fires Burning* for World War I Veterans, and *When the Lights Go Out All Over the World* for World War II Veterans.

It was stipulated in the 1919 deed from Lynn that "when said Post shall cease to exist they (the lots) to become the property of Lynn Haven for park purposes to be known as 'Grand Army Park'." The Ladies Circle and Lynn Haven Garden Club became trustees of the park property.

Shortly after the passing of Dr. Guiles, 93, August 28, 1937, the part of the property south of the monument, Lot 4, less Lot 3, was deeded to the Bay County School Board by the Ladies Circle. Elizabeth O. Newton, Lizzie Stonebraker and Florence Lucile Drake, as trustees of the Ladies Circle, sold Lot 3, upon which was Stanton Hall, to Terrell C. Deal May 9, 1940. He and wife Curley E., sold Lot 3 and Stanton Hall to the Bay County School Board May 29, 1940.

Stanton Hall was used for the Lynn Haven Elementary School lunch room in 1940. In the fall of 1942 a room was attached, and classes began to be held in the building. In December 1947 the School Board sold the building for \$328. "It was in very good state of preservation, erected in the days when lumber was good and especially rich in keeping qualities." It was torn down for future building material in 1948.

There are photographs of the neglected monument taken in 1945, the 1950s and early 1960s. Miss Violet Hayward, teacher at Lynn Haven, regularly had her students photographed in front of the weathered monument in the 1950s.

I trimmed the palm trees in December 1963 and painted the weathered, vandalized, neglected monument. While cleaning, I noticed the manufacturer's label at the base of the figure and became curious about the history of the monument. No one seemed interested in the "Yankee statue" other than it was believed that it was "the only statue to a Yankee soldier in the South." City Manager William V. Kinsaul gave me newspaper clippings from his files.

The Lynn Haven Chamber of Commerce, Lee Kinard president, had the monument and bronze figure refurbished in 1976, restoring the tribute to Union soldiers and sailors of the Grand Army of the Republic to an honorable condition.

Compatriots of 1st Lieutenant Thomas H. Gainer Camp 1319, Sons of Confederate Veterans, paid to have the defaced monument, coping and walks sandblasted and painted in April 2002.

Since Memorial Day, May 30, 2002, Grand Army Park has again been the site for the community's observance "every May 30th" of Memorial Day.

A Bay County educator and historian of note who retired in 1960 told me that when he was a youngster he and two friends were caught painting a yellow stripe on the back of the monument. His father had him "remove the paint with solvent and a toothbrush." At Halloween the howitzer was often removed to the woods by tricksters, along with Stanton Hall's outhouses.

Corporal Rufus Wayne Roach, 94, late of Company F, 63rd Ohio Infantry, died May 22, 1938 at his home on the corner of Kentucky Avenue and Fifth Street. A winter visitor since 1911 and a permanent resident since 1922, he was the last Union veteran to die at Lynn Haven and Bay County. He was buried in West Union Street Cemetery, Athens, Ohio.

Dr. Guiles was the one hundred forty-seventh and last Union veteran buried at Mount Hope Cemetery.

An identical W. H. Mullins Company military figure stands over Dr. Krape's grave at Oakland Cemetery, Freeport, Illinois. He died at his Lynn Haven home March 19, 1926.

Nine palm trees along Eighth Street planted in 1928 were removed by the city during a "street upgrade." Five of the remaining palms along Georgia Avenue were broken during Hurricane Michael October 10, 2018. The bronze figure was tilted slightly during the hurricane.

In September 2019 the Lynn Haven Heritage Society proposed to reproduce a "History Plaque." Assisted by the city, a "History Plaque" was dedicated during a ceremony commencing at 9 a. m. July 10, 2020.

Note: Stanton Hall was located where the McMullin Library building is being restored.

The First Builders At St. Andrew's Bay, William M. Loftin And Jose F. Massalina

From The Archives Of Jack O. Cutchens

By 1822 settlers had begun to move from southeastern states to St. Andrew's Bay. Orange trees, fig trees, and pine trees bearing scars of having been turpented in the 1770s, were the sole evidence of earlier settlers around a settlement called Wells (Magnolia Beach) commenced about 1763, mostly deserted after 1785 but marked in 1818.

The first settler of record is William M. Loftin of Putnam County, Georgia, at Pensacola in 1821. He came to the vicinity of the peninsula formed by Oyster Bayou, today Anderson Bayou, and Betty Bayou, today Beatty Bayou, and, with Jose F. Massalina and wife Elizabeth who lived with the Loftin family, built a log house.

William was born in 1785 at New Bern, Craven County, North Carolina, to Joseph Loftin and Elizabeth West. He and Tearsey West were married there November 12, 1806. He enlisted May 17, 1814 as an Ensign in the United States Rifles during the War of 1812 and was assigned as a Recruiting Officer for North and South Carolina. He was promoted to 3rd Lieutenant in 1815. Shortly after the war he and his brother, Leonard, moved to Putnam County. Something must have befallen Tearsey, since in 1819 William and Catherine "Kitty" B. Boyle were living together. By 1821 they were living in Florida. December 27 he was a signer of a petition to Congress to give Pensacola possession of Fort St. Michael; and on the 29th he signed a petition requesting Congress to quell an attempt by Alabama to annex the Territory of West Florida.

In May 1823 *The Floridian* at Pensacola advertised a "Sheriff's Sale at the Big Spring of the Choctawatchie... W.M. Loftin, Shff. Jackson County, Sheriffs Office 10th June 1823." In June Territorial Governor William P. Duval at Pensacola appointed Colonel John L. Williams, a lawyer at Pensacola, Commissioner, to select a site for a Florida territorial capital. July 5 Duval commissioned Loftin Sheriff of Jackson County established August 12, 1822, which included St. Andrew's Bay. The county seat was at the Big Spring of the Choctawhatchee in today's Holmes County.

Williams, accompanied by Dr. Charles G. Foster, surveyed St. Andrew's Bay October 7. They saw Loftin's house east of Oyster Point (where power lines cross North St. Andrew's Bay) and west of East Creek (named Bayou George for William George before 1834; property owned by Elizabeth Allen before 1846, widow of Ebenezer died before 1830; 1856 George Howard of Early County, GA opened a store; renamed George's Bayou), about the site of today's Panama Country Club. Massalina, a freeman born about 1802 (for who Massalina Bayou was named in 1905) in Florida, who had traveled from St. Augustine to the vicinity of Stone's Store (later Webbville, northwest of today's Marianna and south of Campbellton), lived in the Loftin household with wife Elizabeth. They saw where Thomas Orman and Andrew Young, merchants residing at Webbville, were building a store, warehouses, hotel, and platting a town at Bay Head (north shore at mouth of East Creek), and the plantation of Silas Wood and wife Roda Chapman in the vicinity of today's Brown-McQuagge Cemetery (sites marked on Williams' 1827 Map of St. Andrew's Bay).

Because July Fourth fell on Sunday in 1824, Independence Day was observed on Monday at "Loftin's home on St. Andrew's Bay" with a dinner, followed by 24 toasts and singing of patriotic songs. December 27 he was commissioned surveyor and inspector of revenues, and authorized to establish a port of entry at St. Andrew's Bay.

Washington County, named for the nation's first President, was created from Jackson County December 29, 1825. Loftin's North Bay home was designated the seat of government.

Before the 1830 U.S. Census was enumerated for the county, Loftin and family, and Jose, Elizabeth (first or future second wife of record...) and their daughter Maria, born 1829, moved to "Bonavista" (West Beach Drive at Panama City), named in 1827 at East St. Andrew's Bay by ex-Governor of Georgia John Clark and wife, Nancy Williamson, after their Baldwin County, Georgia, plantation. Loftin and Jose built a house west of today's Lake Caroline (named Caroline Bayou in 1849 for noted author Caroline Lee Whiting Hentz) in the vicinity of today's Fairy Avenue.

Loftin, and James and Terry Watson, brothers, of Morgan County, Georgia, either built or improved a road south of Dry Creek in Jackson County, then to a junction with a trail south of Bear Creek (Cherokee Landing), to Riviere's Bluff (southeast end of Pitts Avenue in Parker), crossing East Bay on a 980-yard ferry (near the site where the power lines cross), to Military Point (Tyndall Air Force Base), then to a point east (a few miles west of today's Mexico Beach) toward the planned site for the town of St. Joseph. It was called "Loftin's & Watson's Road."

The Watsons erected a steam sawmill on the west bank of the bayou named for them on East Bay at the peninsula of land named "Town Point" (Bunkers Cove). Investors named the mill "The Washington Lumber Company." Jose was employed by the brothers, probably as an overseer, to cut and ship dressed oak timbers to the Pensacola Navy Yard.

Loftin sold 22 acres of his Bonavista property to James Watson and 20 acres to Amelia B. Blackwell of Blackwell, New York in 1835. She was a plantation owner east of Campbellton organized about 1829.

Loftin and Henry L. Riviere, a Jackson County planter who lived north of Marianna, secured investors in 1835 to join in developing a seaport on the Gulf of Mexico at East Bay. They and Territorial Representative Joseph M. White, a director of the Apalachicola Land Company developing the town of Apalachicola, received tracts of land between today's Martin Lake and Long Point to develop a port at Riviere's Bluff (near the site of power line crossing). They

platted and named it "Austerlitz" (area of Parker) after Riviere's son, Austerlitz, born 1821. Loftin and Jose built a house and stable northeast of the bluff. A railroad, the Brunswick & Florida, was authorized by the legislatures of Georgia and Florida to extend from Darien, Georgia, to a port on East Bay. It has been written that Austerlitz was named for the Riviere family home in France. There was no such place in France when the family settled in Virginia from Ricaud, France, in the 1670s. The only tie may have been if Henry, born 1774, supported the French Republic's effort in 1794 to seize Spanish territory in Florida and Louisiana with armies raised in the United States, or to observe Napoleon's 1805 victory at Austerlitz, Moravia. Governor Clark's father, Elijah, led a Georgia army to invade Florida.

January 17, 1836, the Legislative Council of Florida authorized Loftin to operate the 980-yard toll ferry he built to cross East Bay as a part of Public Road No. 64 nearing completion between Apalachicola, St. Joseph, Austerlitz and Marianna to connect with an established length to a county seat being organized near Old Richmond in Henry County, Alabama, at Wiggins Spring to be called Newton for a new county named Dale.

Loftin was granted sections of land at Bear Creek, Bayou George and Cedar Creek in 1837. He established a toll ferry at Bear Creek (Cherokee Landing) on Road No. 64 completed past Marianna in 1837. He owned Lots 10 and 11, Section 19 at today's Davis Point (named for Samuel Walter Davis) where he and Jose erected a building. All other lots on the peninsula were reserved to the United States Navy.

The Panic of 1837, and as written to associates by Representative White, "hostile efforts by those friendly to the St. Marks Railroad and the town of St. Joseph," undermined The Brunswick & Florida route to a seaport at Austerlitz. The Gulf port for the railroad was changed to the Pensacola Navy Yard to establish a direct line between the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf during time of war.

Loftin died at Austerlitz or St. Joseph prior to July 8, 1838, probably of yellow fever, or malaria which had swept the Territory of Florida since 1835. On that date, son Theophilus, was appointed to replace his father as Surveyor at St. Andrew's Bay. William M. Loftin was recorded as the first burial in Grove Park Cemetery platted at Austerlitz, today Parker Cemetery.

John Clark, 67, had died at Bonavista October 12, 1832 of yellow fever. Wife Nancy, 58, died October 26. Jose assisted with the burials. Terry Watson, 35, had died at Bonavista in February 1836, followed by his brother James, 39, in the fall of 1837, probably of malaria. Hundreds of Seminoles, to include Billy "Osceola" Powell, 34, son of William Powell and wife Polly Copinger, were infected in 1836. Osceola refused treatment by Army doctors and died January 30, 1838, while confined at Fort Moultrie, South Carolina.

Amelia B. Blackwell, 47, died at St. Joseph of yellow fever July 29, 1841. She and her brother Joseph, 51, who died the 24th, are the first two burials as you enter the St. Joseph Cemetery.

William's son, Theophilus, moved to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1840 where he taught school and married a cousin, Mary A. Loftin. They named a son born in 1845 William Marion Loftin. William became a successful newspaper editor at Montgomery. He moved to Pensacola in 1887 to accept the position of city editor with the *Pensacola Daily News*. In 1897 he founded the *Pensacola Journal*. While on his deathbed in 1899, he sold the weekly to his assistant, Frank L. Mayes. Mayes was an early promoter of Panama City before the first town lots were sold July 4, 1906, during which he was guest speaker for the celebration.

Jose and Elizabeth built a home at today's Massalina Bayou about 1836. Children Frank 1840, Crispina 1844, Joe, Jr. 1846, Spinoza "Rabbit" 1847, Augustine 1848, Narcisco "Hawk" 1853 and Elizabeth "Betsey" 1855 were born there. A hurricane destroyed the home in 1856 and Jose was appointed caretaker for St. Andrew's City chartered February 5, 1838. During the Civil War the city was burned by the Federal Navy December 11, 1863. Crispina 20, Joe, Jr. 18 and Spinoza 17, enlisted on the *U.S.S. Restless* February 13, 1864. They were mustered out June 30, 1865.

The U.S. Navy opened sections of Davis Point to the public March 29, 1880. Jose and family had lived on the Loftin property where "an old house stood" since 1866 (George M. West's notes). Jose purchased the site, Lot 10, 38.87 acres extending to the Gulf, from James S. Baker August 30, 1883 for \$40. Baker had bought the property at the Calhoun County Abe Springs Courthouse (south of Clarksville) during a sale of property for back taxes in 1873.

Elizabeth, wife of Jose, died at Davis Point after 1880 and before 1885. Joe, Jr. died at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 31, 1868. Spinoza died there October 30, 1886. Augustine is believed to have died at Pensacola after 1909. She lived there at Millview in 1900. Elizabeth "Betsey" died at Davis Point May 14, 1924. The last record for Frank was September 10, 1867, and Crispina June 30, 1865. Hawk died at Panama City February 16, 1948, age 94.

Jose, a recognized carpenter, builder of the first boats and houses at St. Andrew's Bay, lived on Lot 10 at Davis Point until his passing November 11, 1902. He was buried in the cemetery near Davis Lake at Davis Point, Calhoun County, Florida (today Tyndall). He was the last of the original builders at St. Andrew's Bay. He is known to have built for Loftin, the Watsons, Peter Parker, Dr. Keyes, Captain Blood, the Dicksons, Longs, Porters and Farley, Davis and Harmon. These residents were friends and colleagues. Sons and daughters occasionally lived with the Gainers.

Governor Clark's slaves built Clark's two-story house, in 1841 the first hotel at St. Andrew's Bay.