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## NEWNANSVILLE: A LOST FLORIDA SETTLEMENT

by SUSAN YELTON\*

**C**REATED BY AN ACT of the Territorial Legislative Council on December 29, 1824, Alachua County comprised most of the territory known as "inland Florida," extending almost from the Georgia line to Charlotte Harbor. The development of this land had a long and colorful history. In the annals of Florida history one finds the name Newnansville identified as the county seat of Alachua County, a fort site during the Second Seminole War; and as a prosperous nineteenth-century settlement in one of the richest land belts in north-central Florida. This little town, located south of the Santa Fe River, helped pave the way for the growth of interior Florida, but the energies the community expended to attract settlement laid the seeds of its own destruction. Today Newnansville is nothing more than planted fields, whereas in the 1840s it was a bustling settlement.

Alachua County had its beginnings with the Indians and the Spanish. The Spanish did not stay long but left the name of a ranch, "Chua," to the county, Sante Fe to the river, and San Felasco to a fertile hammock in the area.<sup>1</sup> Unlike the Spanish, the Indians did not emigrate, when Florida became a territory of the United States and it was their presence which caused the

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1 . Charles W. Arnade, "Cattle Raising in Spanish Florida, 1513-1763," *Agricultural History*, XXXV (1961), 6-7; *Cattle Raising in Spanish Florida, 1513-1763* (St. Augustine, 1965), 5. William A. Read, in *Florida Place-Names of Indian Origin and Seminole Personal Names* (Baton Rouge, 1934), 1, states that "Alachua is thought to be a derivative of Sem.-Cr. *luchuwa*, 'jug,' a term originally applied by the Indians to a large chasm near the present site of Gainesville, the county seat." Other writers suggest that "*chua* is the Timucuan name for sink," and "that the name *Alachua* means sink-hole." J. Clarence Simpson, *A Provisional Gazetteer of Florida Place-Names of Indian Derivation Either Obsolete or Retained Together with Others of Recent Application*, edited by Mark F. Boyd (Tallahassee, 1956), 21. See also Allen Morris, *Florida Place Names* (Coral Gables, 1974).

white settlement to develop slowly. When James Dell and his two brothers visited Payne's Prairie, Alachua County, in 1821, the countryside was described as unsafe for "white people" to travel because of Indian hostilities.<sup>2</sup> As late as 1824 seventy Indians living in ten houses valued at \$100 made their home in San Felasco.<sup>3</sup>

But land-hungry people like James Dell were not to be kept away from the fertile acreage near the Santa Fe River. When the Treaty of Fort Moultrie was ratified by the Legislative Council on January 2, 1824, and the Indians were removed to a reservation south of present-day Ocala, the Territory started to bustle with traffic. Governor DuVal described inland Florida in 1824 as a wilderness "alive with travelers from all parts of the Union."<sup>4</sup> Some traveled on cart roads, which were usually impassible in wet weather; others went by horseback along Indian paths and trails.

Near San Felasco Hammock and the Santa Fe River, at a point where the Bellamy Road crosses, a settlement began sometime before 1826 which would form the nucleus of what was to become Newnansville. Without census data the number of people who lived there cannot be determined, but there was a post office named "Dells." Postal records show that it was established January 7, 1826, and was one of nine post offices in Florida at that time. James Dell was postmaster, and he took in \$9.93 the first year and \$22.09 the next. The other post office in the county was at Wantons (Micanopy).<sup>5</sup>

Population growth remained low until the end of the Second Seminole War in 1842. Although the Indians were living south of Alachua County in 1826, there were continuing disturbances in the area. Hunger often drove the Seminoles outside the reservation in search of food, and sometimes hunting expeditions strayed across reservation lines. Apparently the situation became a crisis in the view of the settlers. On January 4, 1826,

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2. Clarence Edwin Carter, *Territorial Papers of the United States*, 26 vols., *The Territory of Florida* (Washington, 1934-1962), XXIV, 781.

3. *Ibid.*, XXIII, 105.

4. F. W. Buchholz, *History of Alachua County, Florida, Narrative and Biographical* (St. Augustine, 1929), 59.

5. Richard J. Stanaback, "Postal Operations in Territorial Florida, 1821-1845," *Florida Historical Quarterly*, LII (October 1973), 159; *American State Papers*, Class VII, *Post Office Department*, 1: 180, 210.

sixty-three inhabitants signed a memorial to Congress complaining of Indian hostilities. A meeting was called on March 23, 1826, at the home of Colonel Samuel Piles to investigate the complaint. There was evidence to show that Indians had been seen in the watermelon and corn fields, but nothing more to substantiate any alleged depredations.<sup>6</sup>

The people who had signed the memorial were mostly farmers. Some owned slaves, but mainly it was a settlement of small farms. There were no large cotton plantations like those near Tallahassee and Monticello. In 1830 out of a total population of 413 in the section "near Courthouse and St. Afee river," 164 were Negroes. Nineteen of the fifty-one families held slaves and eight owned more than nine. Henry Bailey was the largest slaveholder with twenty-eight.<sup>7</sup>

Alachua County had no permanent county seat until 1828, when by an act of the Legislative Council on November 15, one was established: "at a place in said county usually called and known, as the courthouse head, eight miles southeast of the Natural Bridge on the Santafee river, and on United States road, known as Bellamys' road. . . . That said county site shall hereafter be called and known by the name of Newnansville."<sup>8</sup> This is the earliest official record of the name of the town. On contemporary maps it is variously identified as Dell's Court House, Dell's Post Office, Alachua Court House, and Dells. The post office continued to be called Dells until May 1, 1837, when it appears on official records with Sylvian Ellis as postmaster of Newnansville.<sup>9</sup> In 1832 Newnansville became part of the newly-

6. *American State Papers*, Class II, *Indian Affairs*, 2: 685, 690, 694, 695, 696; Carter, *Territorial Papers*, XXIII, 500-01.

7. Jacob Rhett Motte, *Journey Into Wilderness: An Army Surgeon's Account of Life in Camp and Field during the Creek and Seminole Wars, 1836-1838*, edited by James F. Sunderman (Gainesville, 1963), 90; Unpublished "population schedules" for the Territory of Florida, Fifth Census of the United States, 1830, schedule 19, microfilm roll 15, National Archives, Washington, D. C.

8. John P. DuVal, ed., *Compilation of the Public Acts of the Legislative Council of the Territory of Florida, Passed Prior to 1840* (Tallahassee, 1839), 287.

9. Captain John Mackay and Lieutenant J. E. Blake, "Map of East Florida, 1840," 1840 PKY 589; David H. Burr, "Map of Florida Exhibiting the Post Offices, Post Roads, Canals, Rail Roads, etc.," 1839 PKY 756, both in P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History, University of Florida, Gainesville; Jess G. Davis, *History of Alachua County* (Gainesville, 1960), 125.

created Columbia County. It was then the largest settlement in the area. More people were voting in the Newnansville district than in Micanopy, until that time the larger of the two settlements.<sup>10</sup>

Changing the county boundary did little to modify the character of Newnansville. It remained an agricultural community where settlement depended upon the removal of the threat of Indian attack. James Dell, a member of the Territorial Council in 1830, informed Governor DuVal that the presence of Indians constituted an annoyance to the white inhabitants, and he called for their removal beyond the Mississippi.<sup>11</sup>

From 1832-1835, when Newnansville was part of Columbia County, it began to take on the character of a small village supported by outlying farms. The town was surveyed and platted by Michael Garrison, and lots sold in 100 by 200-foot parcels. In 1832 a dwelling house, kitchen, smoke house, and stable with fencing sold for \$200.<sup>12</sup>

A Methodist circuit rider who traveled through the wilderness on horseback conducted religious services from time to time. In 1828 Isaac Boring sometimes held service at Dell's meeting house, with only Dell and his wife present.<sup>13</sup> Although preachers' lives were lonely and often dangerous, throughout the history of the Methodist circuit riders Newnansville is always mentioned as a place where they preached. Eventually the Methodists constructed a church in the community, on the brow of the hill east of the cemetery.

The Territorial Council by 1835 recognized Alachua County's growth and considered making more public lands available for settlement. Transportation was also a problem. Agricultural products raised in the area were "such as will not bear land transportation to any great extent, without serious injury to its quality and vastly diminishing its profits to the Grower."<sup>14</sup> The Bellamy Road which passed through Newnansville, connecting St. Augustine and Tallahassee, was in a poor state of repair—

10. Carter, *Territorial Papers*, XXIV, 536.

11. *Ibid.*, XXIV, 361.

12. Alachua County Book of Records, Deeds of Lands Alone 1826-1848, aka Ancient Record 1826-1848, p. 162, Clerk's Office, Alachua County Courthouse, Gainesville, Florida. Hereinafter cited as CO:ACC.

13. John C. Ley, *Fifty-Two Years in Florida* (Nashville, 1899), 46.

14. Carter, *Territorial Papers*, XXV, 166.

particularly between Newnansville and the St. Johns River. Since the Newnansville farmers were purchasing supplies and carrying their trade to Black Creek, and some even going on to the St. Marys River, a good road was important.<sup>15</sup>

But dreams of expanding the Newnansville settlement were shortlived. Although \$7,000 had been appropriated to repair the road from Bayard on the St. Johns River to Newnansville, Indian hostilities put a stop to the work.<sup>16</sup> By December 1835 the Second Seminole War had begun. The mail carrier in Alachua County reported that every dwelling had been “abandoned by the inhabitants on the roads leading from Black Creek to Newnansville, and to Micanopy, also from Newnansville to Aligator, and from Picolata and Palatka to Micanopy.”<sup>17</sup> Newnansville residents and those who came there for refuge became alarmed, and the 240 women and children present built entrenchments for their defense. The courthouse was converted into a fort and the jail into a blockhouse.<sup>18</sup> Lieutenant Colonel William J. Mills of the Florida Militia reported to the commander of the post at Jacksonville on December 12, 1835, that the force at Newnansville comprised the 4th Regiment, Companies A, B, C, and H, and the 6th Regiment, a total of 259 field and staff men.<sup>19</sup> Throughout the countryside the men built pickets or stockades, drawing rations for their work from the United States government. Many others joined the Militia.

Newnansville became a hub of security for families in the area. The influx of population drastically changed the character of the community. Before the war it had a single block house and one tavern, but by 1837 there were two hotels, a fortification named Fort Gilliland, many shops, and dwellings so numerous that an army captain said he could scarcely find his way through the “labyrinth of streets and lanes,” laid out without any uniformity. Outside the fortified area most fields were abandoned in fear of Indian raids.<sup>20</sup> Many of the houses

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15. *Ibid.*, XXIII, 616.

16. John Lee Williams, *The Territory of Florida* (New York, 1837; facsimile edition, Gainesville, 1962), 144.

17. *Jacksonville Courier*, December 24, 1835.

18. *Ibid.*; W. W. Smith, *Sketch of the Seminole War, and Sketches During a Campaign* (Charleston, 1836), 15-16.

19. *Jacksonville Courier*, December 24, 1835.

20. Motte, *Journey*, 89-90.

built for the refugees were little more than sheds constructed of slab boards enclosing a twelve-foot area. In some buildings several families— as many as four or five— lived, each occupying a corner of the room. Many Newnansville families took in boarders or welcomed family and friends.<sup>21</sup> Some 300 people, including children, were forced to live in tents pitched around the fort. According to reports there was much hardship, particularly for the women and children. During the summer of 1836 “of the 118 men stationed at Ft. Gilliland, 43 were affected with chills and fever. The measles had also been raging among women and children.”<sup>22</sup>

At Black Creek conditions were even worse. One observer noted that “the people of Alachua, who sought that place for security, and are encamped on both sides of the creek for some distance are suffering greatly from sickness. . . . The measles and the whooping cough still prevail among them.” All manner of persons were “houseless, homeless, lying on the ground, exposed to the noonday heat, the damps and the dews of the night, storms of heaven, destitute of everything, sick and dying.”<sup>23</sup>

Territorial Governor Richard Keith Call was not without concern. In April 1836, writing to Washington, he told how many people in Alachua County had been forced to abandon their homes and the means of sustaining themselves. They had sought protection in the forts and were dependent upon government subsidies. “In this state of things I beg leave to recommend that the women and children should be removed to some place where they can be more conveniently subsisted than the little forts on the frontier. When this is done then the men will more willingly engage in the service.”<sup>24</sup> Francis R. Sanchez, a Newnansville planter, did not think this was the answer to the matter of protection; he recommended more federal troops. Settlers, he said, were already leaving the countryside for a safer place to live.<sup>25</sup>

Newnansville experienced its first major encounter with the

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21. *Ibid.*, 91.

22. *Niles' Weekly Register*, July 2, 1836.

23. *Ibid.*, September 24, 1836.

24. Carter, *Territorial Papers*, XXV, 280-81.

25. *Ibid.*, XXV, 282.

Indians in mid-September 1836. Charles Dell reported that he had observed Indians lurking in the woods in the vicinity of the fort: "It seems that they have made their headquarters at San Felasco (col. [Francis R.] Sanchez's plantation) only four miles from Newnansville, and collecting cattle, penned them there for a night, and then drove them off towards Hogtown prairie." On one occasion the Indians came within 150 yards of the fort, and stripping a slip of bark from a tree, made some marks on it. It was thought that the scratches indicated that there might be as many as 150 Indians present in the area. Dell feared that if assistance did not come soon the Indians would overrun Florida.<sup>26</sup>

Dell's opinion was shared by many others. In mid-1836 Fort Gilliland was the last remaining post occupied by troops between Black Creek and the Suwannee River. To protect and provision the fort, Major B. K. Pierce and 100 mounted regulars left St. Augustine on August 31, 1836. Apparently Pierce reached Newnansville on the evening of September 7, with subsistence for two months, one howitzer, 140 rounds of ammunition, canister shot and shells, and 10,000 musket ball cartridges.<sup>27</sup>

Pierce had arrived none too soon. Accounts vary, but it was either September 10 or September 17, 1836, that "a cart belonging to John Standley and attended by three white men and two negroes was sent from Newnansville to gather corn in a field about a mile from the village" when they were fired upon by Indians. The men escaped to the fort, but the cart was captured and set afire. The soldiers pursued the Indians some distance to the plantation of Colonel Sanchez in San Felasco Hammock, but before they could attack a heavy rain came up and the men returned to the fort. That night spies were sent out to assess the situation, and they reported an Indian force of around 300.

The next morning Colonel John Warren of the Florida Militia with 150 men, 100 mounted volunteers, twenty-five gentlemen citizens, and twenty-five regulars advanced in three columns within three-fourths of a mile of San Felasco Hammock

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26. *Niles' Weekly Register*, September 24, 1836.

27. *Ibid.*, October 1, 1836. John K. Mahon has written that Pierce left St. Augustine on August 15 and reached Newnansville on October 1. John K. Mahon, *History of the Second Seminole War, 1835-1842* (Gainesville, 1967), 177, 180.

where an encounter took place. The Indians charged several times in an attempt to take the howitzer, but were repelled and driven into a dense hammock. The engagement lasted one and one-half hours, the first part of which "the firing was heavy along the whole line." Casualties were few. Private Jerry Burnett was killed, and five were listed as wounded. The number of Indians killed could not be assessed; many fell and were carried off by other warriors.<sup>28</sup>

On September 11, 1,200 Tennessee volunteers reached Tallahassee. The following day Governor Call led them out to relieve the frontier refugees.<sup>29</sup> With provisions and the protection of the military it was believed the refugees could probably hold out. News from the surrounding countryside was brought in by R. H. Howren, the circuit rider, who continued to visit the frontier settlements. He ministered to the needs of both the soldiers and civilians in Newnansville. Once, during a service, a large band of warriors, believed to number about seventy-five, approached, but then withdrew. The Reverend Howren thought the stir of the people had alarmed the Indians. On another occasion, during a night service, the Seminoles climbed up into the pine trees around the house where the crowd had gathered, but someone discovered them, and the people were able to run into the building.<sup>30</sup>

Captain James Motte, an army physician, was stationed at Newnansville during the spring of 1837, and he reported on conditions there. He noted that there were nightly dances with many couples attending. He was amused by the original style of dancing. The dance step, which was given the name "double trouble," involved moving both feet without lifting them from the floor, in such a manner as to keep time to the music.

The townspeople sometimes invited the officers to dinners and picnics. Motte writes: "At the hour stated on the notes of invitation we presented ourselves at one of the rival hotels, the scene of operations upon this festive occasion. We found a long arbour erected in the yard, back of the house, and an equally long table extending under it with all the appliances of the feast. . . . All the inhabitants of the country, men, women, and

28. Williams, *Territory*, 255; *Niles' Weekly Register*, October 22, 1836.

29. Mahon, *History*, 179.

30. Ley, *Fifty-Two Years*, 55.

children, were present. The ladies dined first; the children next; and after them upon the remnants of the feast the gentlemen and invited guests. This order being observed apparently, for want of a better reason, that the gentlemen might not be interrupted in the patriotic duty of drinking toasts."<sup>31</sup>

Motte grew fond of Newnansville while he was there even though it lacked the genteel ways of his home, Charleston. St. Augustine also held an appeal for Motte, and it was less of an outpost and frontier settlement. Dancing in particular was much more formal and graceful there than Newnansville's jerky "double trouble."

In the spring of 1837, Major James A. Ashby of the 2nd Dragoons joined Major Thomas T. Fauntleroy and his forces at Newnansville, and Motte noted that afterwards there was even more frolic. There was "ball and double shuffle without end; the ladies very amiable and duty in the camp not very irksome." While Fauntleroy was at Newnansville he described the area which he and his men patrolled. The land was high and undulating, well suited for farming. There were pines, oaks, hickory, and sweet gum growing in great abundance. The farms, when they were cultivated, harvested Indian corn, sugar cane, cotton, and "all the excellent roots."<sup>32</sup>

An act of the Legislative Council on February 25, 1839, made Newnansville again the county seat of Alachua County. The community was legally incorporated the same day. Although the trouble with the Indians continued to plague the settlers, they looked forward to the future with optimism. In 1839 Congress was petitioned to establish a land office at Newnansville so that the public lands could be bought and recorded at a place more convenient than St. Augustine. In 1842 the land office was established, about the same time that settlers began to take advantage of the provisions of the Armed Occupation Act.

On August 25, 1842, instructions were received authorizing the issuance of permits, each for 160 acres in the area ten miles

31. Motte, *Journey*, 92.

32. *Ibid.*, 93; W. F. Fauntleroy, "Memoir: Fort Gilliland, February 18, 1839," map with annotations, Record Group 77, L. 247-57, National Archives, Washington, D. C. Although the "Memoir" is signed "W. F. Fauntleroy," there presumably was only one Fauntleroy—Thomas T.—at Newnansville.

south of Newnansville. Settlers came in large numbers; 947 permits for 151,520 acres were recorded at Newnansville, as compared with 336 permits issued by the land office at St. Augustine.<sup>33</sup> Most of the Newnansville permits were for land in present-day southeast Alachua County, and approximately one-third were near Fort King and Ocala.

Newnansville's population increased steadily. The town was bustling in the 1840s, and there was much dealing in real estate. In one instance, a lot with buildings and furniture, including a billiard table, sold for \$250.<sup>34</sup> Town lots varied in price between \$20.00 and \$100. The six-room Goodrich House, probably used as a hotel, sold for \$2,000.<sup>35</sup> An inventory of George F. Olmsted's property in January 10, 1842, listed a pitcher and bowl at \$1.00; two flat irons, \$1.00; feather bed, bolster, and three pillows, \$25.00; two bedsteads, \$12.00 each; mahogany sideboard, \$50.00; rocking chair, \$3.00; double-barrel gun, \$20.00; and a house, outbuildings, and nearly forty acres of land, \$250.<sup>36</sup>

Many of the first settlers—Dells, Knights, the Sanchez family, Burnetts—continued to live in Newnansville after the Seminole War. The county commission in 1846, presided over by Charles Dell, turned its attention to opening new roads and repairing the old, and providing for the county court. The courthouse building was no longer adequate, and on February 7, 1847, it was decided that it should be remodeled so that it would be suitable for holding superior court. Two jury rooms were also added. The total cost was \$150.<sup>37</sup>

The following year a new jail was built by B. M. Dell for \$400.<sup>38</sup> The commission's notes of May 1, 1848, authorized a structure "of hewed logs dovetailed together, double-pinned one pin inside. . . . That all the logs shall be square. That the jail shall be sixteen feet clear on the inside, that there shall be a trap door in the loft. . . . That there shall be a door in the gable end above the logs. . . . That there shall be two windows, or air holes eighteen by twenty-four inches square secured by a double

33. Carter, *Territorial Papers*, XXVI, 527-33; XXVI, 729.

34. Alachua County Book of Records, September 18, 1840, p. 346, CO:ACC.

35. *Ibid.*, November 24, 1844, 207.

36. Inventory and Orders, 1841, pp. 9-10, County Judge's Office, Alachua County Courthouse.

37. County Commission Records, p. 6, CO:ACC.

38. *Ibid.*, 19, 44.

set of large iron bars crossing each other. That the doors shall be fixed with strong hinges and locks and a ladder for the trap door. That there shall be a sink or hole for a spring inside secured as well as possible."<sup>39</sup>

On February 4, 1850, Samuel W. Burnett received a contract to construct a new courthouse using a plan similar to the one in Columbia County. Burnett was given nine months to complete the job. When the building was ready, Samuel Russell removed the old courthouse. The commission agreed that there would be no dancing in the new building.<sup>40</sup>

By the early 1850s population began to increase all over Alachua County. Settlers from Georgia and the Carolinas were attracted by the availability of farmland that was suited to the growing of cotton, corn, and vegetable crops. When the Florida Railroad Company announced its intention to build a road from Fernandina to Cedar Key and published a projected plan of the route, it revealed that the line would pass through Alachua County but several miles due south from Newnansville. This helped spur the move to relocate Alachua's county seat. The legislature authorized this in a bill approved December 28, 1852. Madison Starke Perry, who was elected governor in 1856, owned a plantation at Rochelle in southern Alachua County, and Gabriel Priest, senator of the fifteenth senatorial district, lived in Wacchoota. They were likely active in the relocation move. The 1854 election returns showed that southern Alachua County had more votes than the Newnansville area.<sup>41</sup> The records do not show what exactly transpired when the citizens voted at Boulware Springs in accordance with the 1852 act. On September 6, 1854, the Alachua County commission announced that it had secured a site for a new courthouse and that the place would be named Gainesville.<sup>42</sup> On July 6, 1857, the county commission ordered that the courthouse at Newnansville be sold at public auction. It was utilized for several years as a Masonic Temple.

Although considerable farming continued around Newnansville, its population began to move, mainly to Gainesville. By 1883 when Carl Webber wrote his *Eden of the South*, he noted

39. *Ibid.*, 19.

40. *Ibid.*, 62.

41. *Ibid.*, 65.

42. *Ibid.*, 63.

that Newnansville had become "so isolated from other portions of the county but few inhabitants of Alachua County have ever visited or even know of its many attractive features."<sup>43</sup> Although Senator John Boston Dell owned 2,000 acres southeast of Newnansville, he was living in Gainesville in the 1880s. The Gainesville mayor, Samuel J. Burnett, was the son of Samuel Burnett who had built the Newnansville courthouse.<sup>44</sup>

Not everyone deserted Newnansville. Several of the Dells continued to live there. Webber described their family farm as being like a New England scene, "beautiful hammocks, hilly and fertile, flourishing in the cultivated portions with waving corn, bordered with grassy hillside and plains. . . ." John K. Stevens, Edward Hodges, and R. L. Cathcart also operated large farms.<sup>45</sup>

The average annual cotton sale in Newnansville was 600-700 bags. A. B. Edgell, who moved into Newnansville in 1876, handled most of it. There was a cotton gin in Newnansville, but it was not in operation, and the cotton was usually shipped to Gainesville and Lake City for processing.<sup>46</sup>

In 1883 the streets of Newnansville, shaded by China trees, were described as being laid out in a regular pattern. There were many water oaks, and fruit trees grew in the gardens. There was one hotel managed by P. F. Olmstead and a number of shops. A. R. Edgell sold general merchandise in addition to his cotton operations. W. H. Geiger and J. H. Love owned drug stores, and Herman Levy and E. K. Fagan sold general goods. Dr. Williams, the oldest physician in town, was said to have "a perfect knowledge of the best treatments for diseases peculiar to the county." He also owned one of the largest and most beautiful orange and peach groves in the area. Dr. Cloud also practiced medicine.<sup>47</sup>

Webber prophesied in 1883 that Newnansville would soon become a town reborn; the Live Oak, Tampa and Charlotte

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43. Carl [Charles Henry] Webber, *The Eden of the South, Descriptive of the Orange Groves, Vegetable Farms, Strawberry Fields, Peach Orchards, Soil, Climate, Natural Peculiarities, and the People of Alachua County, Florida* (New York, 1883), 66.

44. *Ibid.*, 68; Charles Halsey Hildreth, "A History of Gainesville, Florida" (Ph.D. dissertation, University of Florida, 1954), 108.

45. Webber, *Eden*, 68-69.

46. *Ibid.*, 68.

47. *Ibid.*, 68-69.

Harbor Railroad was scheduled to connect with the Florida Southern Railroad from Gainesville to Newnansville. The railroad was built, but it passed about a mile south of Newnansville, and even more population shifted to the rail terminal. On April 30, 1887, the post office closed at Newnansville and was re-established at Alachua. Where the Methodist church once stood there is now only the remains of a cemetery. All the buildings have been razed, and it is only with difficulty that one can ascertain where streets were located. The Bellamy Road is no longer passable through Newnansville. A wooden gate crosses the road and warns "no trespassing." Newnansville has vanished like the frontier of which it was once a part.