

# TO SETTLE THE LAND:

## Pre-Emption and the Withers Report in Early Twentieth Century Broward County

*Introduced and Edited*

by JOE KNETSCH and PAUL S. GEORGE

Even after Henry M. Flagler's Florida East Coast Railway entered Fort Lauderdale in 1896, the area that would later become Broward County remained sparsely populated. Not until one decade later, with the onset of Everglades reclamation, did it begin to exhibit even modest growth, for attracting settlers to one of America's last frontiers was not an easy task.

One method of bringing settlers to the area was through active recruitment. Broward County Historian Cooper Kirk, in his "Andrew Christian Frost: Founder of Dania," wrote of Frost's trip to Oconto, Wisconsin, to find settlers for the fledgling community of Modelo (Dania). Frost brought back thirty adults.<sup>1</sup> James Ingraham, another colonizer, was forced to recruit his brother-in-law, Luther Halland of New York, to lead the settlement that was eventually named Hallandale. Halland advertised southern Florida to his fellow Swedes in newspapers and flyers strategically placed aboard Clyde Line steamers. Printed in Swedish, they proclaimed the area "safe from that early and late frost which in the northmost parts of the state has so often ruined the expectations of the fruitgrower."<sup>2</sup>

A different but widely used method of populating the region was the awarding of land to settlers through

pre-emption. The procedure had been outlined in 1881, in Chapter 3324, Sections 1-5, of the Acts of the Legislature of the State of Florida.<sup>3</sup> Under this legislation, citizens of the state were permitted to enter upon public lands and establish residence or cultivate a parcel of land not exceeding 160 acres for the purpose of creating a homestead which could not directly or indirectly benefit any other person(s). The land had to be located in legal subdivisions (i.e. surveyed and

sectioned land). The state would set the price, while the awardee had to obtain two "credible witnesses" to sign affidavits stating that he/she was residing on or improving this land; moreover he/she was required to sign a personal affidavit before an authorized officer empowered to administer official oaths. The state provided an installment plan for the purchase of the land, providing for a settler to pay one-third of the cost of his parcel at the time of the agreement; he would

*The scattered nature of Broward County's early twentieth century settlement and the relatively late formation of the county as an independent governmental unit make it difficult to assemble a comprehensive list of the area's earliest settlers. Various land records help fill the gaps left by federal census reports and newspaper accounts. One such record, I. N. Withers' report to the state Internal Improvement Fund Trustees on pre-emption claims in Dade and Monroe Counties, not only lists claimants, but provides thumbnail descriptions of improvements to their property. Withers' description of claims in the portion of Dade County which in 1915 became Broward is reprinted here, along with an introduction by Joe Knetsch and Paul S. George explaining Florida's pre-emption law and outlining Withers' varied career.*

*Joe Knetsch, a frequent contributor to the Broward Legacy, is research historian with the Florida Department of Natural Resources in Tallahassee and a former Broward County Historical Commissioner. Paul S. George is professor of history at Florida Atlantic University and the University of Miami and the director of the Historic Broward County Preservation Board.*

pay another third within the first two years of settlement, and the final third within three years of concluding the initial agreement. If a settler failed to pay within ninety days after the due date, the land would revert to the state. Only one entry per person was allowed. These terms, which paralleled the pre-emption policy of the federal government, were strong inducements to settlement for land-hungry pioneers.<sup>4</sup>

In sparsely settled regions of the state, it was common practice for the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund to dispatch an agent to an area to investigate the legitimacy of land claims. In 1905, the Trustees appointed Isaac N. Withers as land agent. Withers' duties involved selection of state land under the Swamp and Overflowed Land Act of 1850; moreover, "...it also [will] be a part of his duties to look after trespassers upon the lands of the Internal Improvement Fund and prosecute the claims for such trespass, making monthly reports of his doings and actions..." For these tasks, Withers received \$100.00 per month, and twenty percent of all moneys collected for successful trespass prosecutions.<sup>5</sup>

Born at Fort Mill, South Carolina, on January 7, 1853, Withers was educated locally and at Rutherford College in North Carolina. After moving to Florida in the early 1870s, he began working as a salesman in a Leesburg mercantile store. Withers later joined his brother in an orange grove venture on Picciola Island in Lake Griffin. In 1894, he began his own

store and grove at Lady Lake, but two devastating freezes in the winter of 1894-95 ended this attempt at homesteading. After a sojourn in Citronelle in Citrus County, Withers returned to Lady Lake in 1902. His career of public service had begun as tax collector of Sumter County in 1885 and included a stint as county commissioner. In 1906, after less than a year as a state land agent, Withers was appointed to fill the unexpired term of a member of the state senate from District Twenty-three, which included Lake County. He was re-elected to the seat in 1908 and remained in the senate until his death on February 12, 1912.<sup>6</sup>

The Withers report, which follows, represents a rare first-hand glimpse of early settlement in Broward County. From the information he gathered, we can see the type of people who pioneered the area and the various improvements they made on the land. Withers reported that many of the people who made claim to improvements or settlements were exaggerating — if not outright prevaricating. Some claims had already been abandoned, or their claimant had died. However, many did institute the necessary improvements and received land at prices ranging from \$1.25 to \$3.00 per acre.<sup>7</sup> Some of the claimants were founders of Broward County's first communities.

Of special interest in the Withers report are his revelations concerning the varieties of pioneer agriculture. Because of the well-known success of the region's truck farms, it has been

generally assumed that this was the most common type of agriculture in early Broward. Relying on the memories of early Hallandale residents, one writer has stated, "The type of farming they did could be described best as truck farming without trucks. The area was too wet for any grain, even corn, but produced excellent vegetables." This same writer also noted the early importance of the pineapple.<sup>8</sup> Withers found, however, that the cultivation of citrus crops was at least equal to the acreage devoted to raising vegetables. This fact appears to have escaped the memories of many pioneer offspring upon whose recollections historians have based some of their accounts of Broward's early history. Withers' report will help refine and balance earlier pictures of life in the land which became Broward County, and demonstrate the diversity of opportunities that southeast Florida's fertile frontier offered pioneers.

— Endnotes —

1. Cooper Kirk, "Andrew Christian Frost: Founder of Dania," *Broward Legacy*, vol. III, nos. 1 & 2 (Summer/Fall 1979), 18-19.
2. Bill McGoun, *Hallandale* (Hallandale: Hallandale Historical Society, 1976), 6.
3. State of Florida, *General Statutes of the State of Florida*, 1906, Title VII, Chapter II, Article I (Tallahassee, 1907).
4. *Ibid.*
5. *Minutes of the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund*, vol. VI (Tallahassee: Capital Publishing Co., 1906), 63-64.
6. William T. Kennedy, ed., *History of Lake County* (St. Augustine: The Record Company, 1929), 44-45, 308.
7. *Minutes of the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund*, vol. VII (Tallahassee: N.P., 1906), 190-204.
8. McGoun, *Hallandale*, 10.



# THE I.N. WITHERS REPORT

PUBLISHED IN  
*MINUTES OF THE TRUSTEES,  
INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT FUND  
VOLUME VII*

Lake City, Fla., Nov. 5, 1907

To the Honorable Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund,

Gentlemen:

In accordance with instructions from your honorable board, I have examined settler's claim on State lands

in Dade and Monroe Counties and hereby report as follows, to wit:

In Township 50S, Range 41E, Frank R. Oliver, Ft. Lauderdale, claim filed November 22nd, 1897, on S½ of SE¼ and SE of SW¼, Section 1.

P.N. Bryan, Ft. Lauderdale, claim filed March 15th, 1902, on S½ of NE¼,

Section 12.

Fred T. Fisher, Ft. Lauderdale, claim filed March 27th, 1906, on E½ of SE¼, Section 12.

W.P. Cromer, Ft. Lauderdale, claim filed March 5th, 1902, on NW¼ of SE¼ and NE¼ of SW¼, Section 12.

No improvement whatever on either of above claims.

TOWNSHIP

6	5	4	3	2	SECTION 1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36

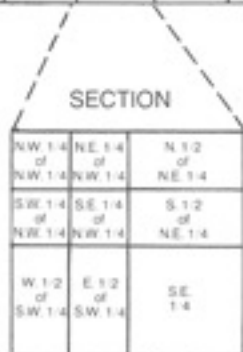


Diagram showing section divisions as described in the Withers report.

L.H. Bryan, Ft. Lauderdale, claim filed May 1st, 1899, on N 1/2 of NE 1/4, Section 13.

Abandoned claim and it is now occupied by J.W. Clark, Ft. Lauderdale. His improvement consists of one palmetto shack, with paper roof and one shack with one side and one end palmetto, the other side and end and roof of paper; a shed for mule and cow, has three small clearings of about half acre each, on which he will plant vegetables; value of improvements, ten dollars.

G.D. Bryan, claim filed May 1st, 1899, on E 1/2 of NW 1/4, Section 13. The only improvement is an Indian camp.

W.M. Hill, Ft. Lauderdale, claim filed December 3rd, 1906, on NW 1/4 of NW 1/4, Section 13.

Has farmed a few acres, also says he has farmed ten or twelve acres of NW 1/4 (a part of G.D. Bryan's claim), therefore he thinks he should be permitted to purchase the said forty acres.

R.A. Bryan, Ft. Lauderdale, claim filed April 28th, 1899, on SW 1/4 of NE 1/4 of SE 1/4, Section 13.

No improvements whatever.

N.H. Braddock, Ft. Lauderdale, claim filed July 25th, 1899, on E 1/2 of SE 1/4, Section 13.

Nothing done on claim.

H.D. Braddock, Ft. Lauderdale, claim filed November 11th, 1899, on E 1/2 of SW 1/4, Section 13.

Improvements consists of one small shack and three acres cleared and planted in vegetables; has also a few bananas and guavas. Improvement worth fifty dollars.

J.W. Braddock, Ft. Lauderdale, claim filed April 2nd, 1899 on SE 1/4 of NE 1/4 and NE 1/4 of SE 1/4, Section 13. Which he has assigned to N.H. Braddock. Improvement consists of one small board house, in which he is living; a well, stable and packing shed. Has three hundred orange and grapefruit trees, one half in bearing, eight Avocado pear trees, five mangoes and a number of guavas.

J.W. Clark, N.H. Braddock, H.D. Braddock and W.M. Hill, state that if permitted to buy the land on which they have filed claims they are willing for the State to reserve all wood on the land.

Skelton & Bemis filed claim on E 1/2 of SE 1/4 [1/4], Section 36, Tp. 50, R.41 and NE 1/4 of NE 1/4, Section 1, Tp. 51, R 41, on which nothing whatsoever has been done.

In Township 51S, Range 41E.

N.C. Pike, Hallandale, claim filed April 8th, 1902, on E 1/2 of SE 1/4, Section 1.

J.E. Mosley, Hallandale, claim filed April 3rd, 1899, on SE 1/4 of SW 1/4, Section 1.

Farmed about twenty acres in 1904; nothing done since.

Sold claim to H.F. Ingalls, who is in possession and has six acres cleared, on which he has five hundred two-year-old grapefruit trees. Improvement worth five hundred dollars.

C.W. Brown, Hallandale, claim filed March 12th, 1902, on W 1/2 of SE 1/4 and E 1/2 of SW 1/4, Section 2.

N.A. Carlson, Hallandale, claim filed August 13th, 1901, on NE 1/4 of Section 11.

Improvement consists of small house and four or five acres in cultivation. Improvement worth fifty dollars.

A. Andrain, Hallandale, claim filed July 25th, 1901, on N 1/2 of SE 1/4, Section 11.

Improvement consists of a house 20

x 20 and several acres that have been cultivated in vegetables. Had barn and stable but was burned. Improvement worth fifty dollars.

A.L. Bryan, Hallandale, claim filed July 22nd, 1901, on S 1/2 of SE 1/4 and E 1/2 of SW 1/4, Section 11.

Improvement consists of packing house and twenty-five acres that have been cultivated in vegetables. Improvement worth twenty-five dollars.

C.H. Garthside, Miami, claim filed August 31st, 1901, on NE 1/4, Section 12.

P.N. Bryan, Ft. Lauderdale, filed claim March 3rd, 1902, on S 1/2 of NE 1/4, Section 12, but neither Garthside nor Bryan have made any improvements.

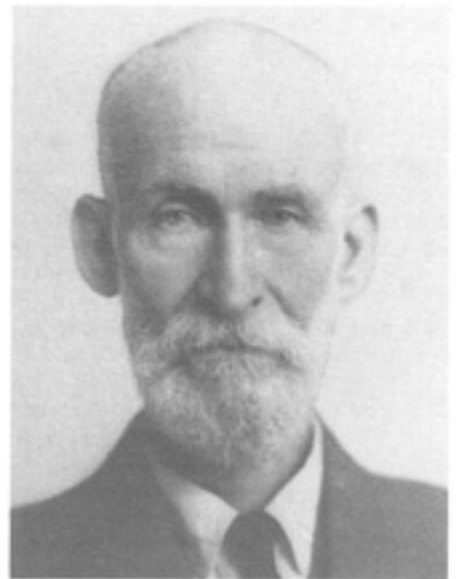
Oscar Anderson, Hallandale, filed claim on W 1/2 of SW 1/4, Section 11. No improvement.

N.C. Bryan, Hallandale, filed claim April 20th, 1899, on S 1/2 of SE 1/4, Section 12.

Improvement consists in dwelling and several acres in cultivation on which are growing two hundred orange and grapefruit trees, fifty avocado pears, fifty mangoes, guavas and one acre in pineapples. Improvements worth one thousand dollars.

J.M. Bryan, Sr., Dania, filed claim April 20th, 1899, on SW 1/4 of Section 12.

Assigned claim to C.E. Ingall



Philemon N. Bryan, one of Fort Lauderdale's earliest pioneers, his sons Reed and Tom, and other members of his large and influential family filed pre-emption claims in present Broward County.

[Ingalls], Hallandale, who is in possession. Improvements consist of good barn and packing house, several acres in cultivation, on which he has growing one hundred orange and grapefruit trees, one hundred avocado pears, ten mangoes, guavas and two hundred acres in pineapples. Improvement worth five hundred dollars.

W.Q. Bryan, Hallandale, claim filed April 20th, 1899, on N½ of NE¼, Section 13. No improvement.

J.B. Gordan [John B. Gordon, famous Confederate general and post-Civil War governor and United States senator from Georgia], Biscayne, filed claim December 13th, 1901, on SE¼ of NE¼, Section 13.

Assigned December 20th, 1901, to Fannie H. Gordan. No improvement, except a few acres cultivated in tomatoes in 1903 and 1904.

Henry Clemmons, claim filed April 20th, 1899, on SW¼ of NE¼ and SE¼ of NW¼ and NE¼ of NW¼, Section 13. No improvement.

J.R. Charlton, Hallandale, claim filed June 12th, 1899, on W½ of NW¼, Section 13.

Improvement consists of dwelling house, six acres cleared and cultivated, on which is growing four hundred orange and grapefruit trees, twenty-five avocado pears, twenty-five mangoes, twelve Japan persimmons, plums, guavas, maumee apples, mulberries, pineapples, beside flowers and a well. Improvement worth five hundred dollars.

H.N. Gordan, Biscayne, filed claim December 9th, 1901, on SW¼ of Section 13. No improvement.

Frank Gordan (dead) filed claim December 9th, 1901, on SW¼ of Section 13. No improvement except a few acres in tomatoes several years ago.

C.M. Howell, Hallandale, claim filed November 13th, 1901, on NE¼ of Section 14. No improvement.

J.H. Johnson, Hallandale, claim filed October 30th 1901, on NW¼ of Section 14. No improvement.

John T. Wofford, Hallandale, claim filed July 13th, 1901, on SE¼ of Section 14.

Improvement consists of packing house, twenty-five acres cultivated in tomatoes in 1902. Nothing since.

J.B. Coombs, Ojus, claim filed September 23rd, 1901, on E½ of SW¼, Section 14. No improvement.

J.W. Wofford, Hallandale, claim filed September 23rd, 1901, on W½ of SW¼, Section 14. Nothing done. Mr. Wofford is dead and his widow has moved to Atlanta, Georgia.

Edwin Anderson, Hallandale, claim filed December 19th, 1901, on NE¼ of Section 15. No improvement.

H.N. Harris, Ojus, claim filed October 28th, 1901, on SE¼, of Section 15. No improvement.

W.T. Johnson, Ojus, claim filed October 28th, 1901, on S½ of SW¼, Section 15. No improvement.



Former Confederate general and Georgia statesman John B. Gordon, who lived on Biscayne Bay, filed a claim for property near the present intersection of Hollywood Boulevard and U.S. Highway 441. Gordon died at his Biscayne Bay home in 1904.

Edward W. Johnson, claim filed October 28th, 1901, on N½ of NE¼ and SE¼ of NE¼, Section 21, and NW¼ of NW¼, Section 22.

John Anderson, Hallandale, claim filed December 10th, 1901, on S½ of SW¼, Section 22. No improvement (now in asylum).

J.W. Johnson, Ojus, claim filed October 25th, 1901, on NE¼, Section 22.

Abandoned claim and it is now being worked by Henry Johnson. Had ten acres in tomatoes last season and now preparing land for fall planting.

C.W. Coombs, Ojus, claim filed

October 28th, 1901, on S½ of NW¼ and N½ of SW¼, Section 22. No improvement.

Charles Errickson, Hallandale, filed claim December 11th, 1901, on SE¼, Section 22. No improvements.

George E. Galloway, Hallandale, has located a farm on E½ of NW¼, Section 22.

Has cleared land and set out four hundred and twenty-five bananas and six avocado pears.

E.J. Glass, Buena Vista, claim filed March 26, 1896, on E½ of E½, Section 23.

J.B. Gordan, Biscayne, also applied for same, but neither has made improvement.

H.N. Harris, James Murphy, R.R. Thompson, Fannie B. Smith and J.M. Holding, filed claim on W½ of E½, Section 23, but no improvement by either worth considering.

S.L. Padgett, Miami, claim filed October 26th, 1901, on NW¼ of Section 23. E.H. Padgett cultivating a small part of claim in tomatoes.

N.G. Padgett, Ojus, claim filed October 26th, 1901, on N½ of SW¼ and SE¼ of SW¼, Section 23.

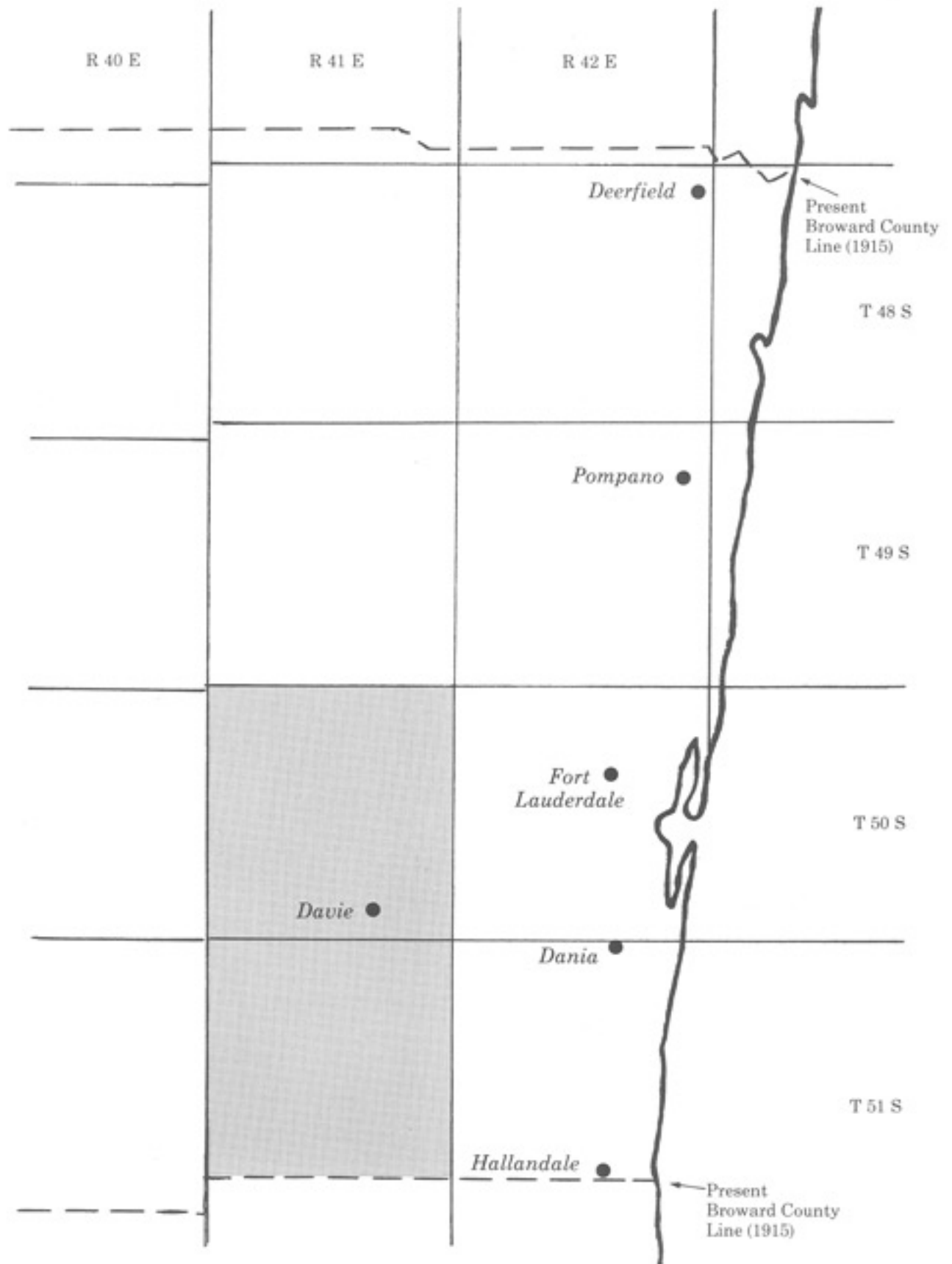
No improvement, except few acres cultivated in tomatoes.

E.W. Smith, Francis, claim filed September 26th, 1896, on N½ of NE¼ and SW¼ of NE¼, Section 24. No improvement.

H.W. Padgett, Miami, claim filed March 13th, 1896 on SE¼ of NE¼ and N½ of SE¼, Section 24. The SE¼ of NE¼ has been assigned to George E. Galloway, whose improvement consists of a dwelling and several acres in cultivation, one hundred young orange and grapefruit trees, ten avocado pears, mangoes, limes and guavas. Improvements worth one hundred dollars. NW¼ of SE¼ has been assigned to W.M. Ingar, who has dwelling, one acre in cultivation, on which he has fifteen avocado pears, eight mangoes, a few orange trees, limes, lemons and guavas. Improvement worth one hundred dollars. The balance of the claim is held by Mr. Padgett, although he is in business in Miami. About ten acres have been cleared, on which are two old houses and fifteen or twenty avocado pears, which constitute the improvements.

Note as to claim of John W. Leslie, Miami, Fla. S½ of NW¼, Section 24, T. 51S.,





Map showing areas claimed under Florida's pre-emption law and investigated by L.N. Withers in 1905-06.

R.41E. He built house before survey was made. After the survey the house proved to be on the NE¼ of SW¼. Mr. Leslie wants to retain his improvements. The NE¼ of SW¼ is occupied by J.S. Blackman, who has small settlement.

James W. Strange, Miami, claim filed March 13th, 1896, on S½ of SE¼, Section 24. No improvement.

W.M. Brown, claim filed November 20th, 1901, on N½ of NW¼, Section 24. No improvement.

John W. Leslie, Miami, claim filed October 17th, 1901, on S½ of NW¼, Section 24.

Improvement consists of dwelling, rock fence and fifty or seventy-five fruit trees.

Fred H. Kron, Buena Vista, claim filed July 27th, 1896, on NE¼ of SW¼ and S½ of SW¼, Section 24 and NW¼ of NW¼, Section 25. Claim abandoned and now in possession of J.S. Blackman, who is living on NE¼ of SW¼ and has small grove of young orange trees on NW¼ of NW¼, Section 25.

E.T. Byington, Miami, claim filed November 16th, 1901, on NW¼ of SW¼, Section 24. No improvement.

John B. Britt, Lemon City, claim filed, May 21, 1903, on E½ of NW¼ of SW¼ and NW¼ of SE¼, Section 25. Claim abandoned by Britt and now occupied by T.G. Pryor, who has made a clearing and built two palmetto houses 15 x 15 and 15 x 25 respectively, set out sixty orange trees, thirty-five lemons and three hundred bananas. Improvement worth one hundred dollars.

J.J. Slevin, Buena Vista, filed claim July 27th, 1896, on SW¼ of NW¼ and W½ of SW¼, Section 25 and SE¼ of SE¼, Section 26. Claim abandoned by Slevin. SW¼ of NW¼, Section now occupied by J.M. Holding, he has several acres cleared and set in young orange trees. W½ of SW¼, Section 25, now occupied by E.A. Brewer, who has one house, one palmetto house, barn and packing house, four hundred young orange trees, fifteen mangoes, twenty-five avocado pears, forty guavas, limes, lemons and eight thousand two hundred bananas. Also sugar apple, tamarinds, etc. Improvements worth two thousand dollars.

R.E. Padgett, Miami, claim filed March 3rd, 1896, on W½ of NE¼, Section 25. No improvement.

Ivan B. Padgett, Miami, claim filed March 13th, 1896, on E½ of E½ of Section 25. Cleared and cultivated three acres in vegetables.

O.L. Brown, filed claim January 21, 1902, on NE¼ of Section 25, which includes claims of R.E. Padgett and Ivan B. Padgett, but has made no improvement.

Edward A. Brewer, filed claim May 9th, 1898, on SE¼ of SE¼, Section 32 and SW¼ of SW¼, Section 33. Assigned claim to John Douglass July 8th, 1898. Douglass assigned August 31st, 1901, to R.E. McDonald. McDonald has sold an interest in claim to John O. Neal, they have in grove five hundred young orange trees, this is an island in the glades, known as Honey Hill.

Robert B. Fickle filed claim February 15th, 1896, on SE¼ of SE¼, Section 34, and S½ of SW¼, Section 35. Transferred same to J.G. Truitt, Fulford, August 19th, 1897; improvements consists of twenty-five acres cleared and set with orange and grapefruit, avocado pears, mangoes and sixty thousand nursery stock.

John A. Harp, Fulford, filed claim on S½ of SE¼, Section 35. Improvement consists of five acres cleared and set in orange and grapefruit. Mr. Harp lives on homestead adjoining said claim.

J.B. Studstill, Miami, filed claim August 4th, 1906, on SW¼ of SW¼, Section 36. Improvement consists of house 16 x 20 feet, two acres cleared and set in avocado pears and mangoes.

Thomas A. Harp, Fulford, filed claim February 19th, 1896, on SE¼ of SW¼ and SW¼ of SE¼, Section 36. Improvement consists of dwelling, one hundred and fifty large orange and grapefruit, two hundred small trees, two hundred large avocado pears, one hundred mangoes, guavas and limes.

Elijah H. Padgett, Miami, filed claim March 13th, 1896, and February 23rd, 1898, on E½ of NE¼ and N½ of SE¼, Section 36, transferred same to Noble Padgett. Improvement consists of house, five acres cleared and set in small orange and grapefruit, avocado pears and guavas, said improvement being on NE¼ of NE¼, and a three acre clearing on NW¼ of SE¼ for gardening.



## To the Honorable Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund, Tallahassee, Florida.

Gentlemen:

Following instructions of your honorable Board, I have examined the various claims of settlers on State lands in Township 51 south, Range 41 east. The following are on pine land, the soil being poor and in many places covered with rock, the claimants have made substantial improvements and, with one exception, are living on the land. The one exception, Mr. J.W. Leslie, is quite old and feeble and unable to make a living for himself, therefore was compelled to leave his place and is living with his daughter in Miami. Taking into consideration the fact that they went on these lands and have been at considerable expense in making improvements and have opened the way and shown what can be done off the land, I recommend that they be permitted to purchase eighty acres of the land at \$1.50 per acre.

### Section

H.F. Ingalls, SE¼ of SW¼ . . . . .	1
N.C. Bryan . . . . .	12
C.E. Ingalls . . . . .	12
J.R. Chalton [Charlton] . . . . .	13
H.W. Padgett . . . . .	24
John W. Leslie . . . . .	24
J.S. Blackman . . . . .	24
T.G. Pryor . . . . .	25
E.A. Brewer . . . . .	25
John O'Neal . . . . .	32
John O'Neal . . . . .	33
J.G. Truitt . . . . .	34
J.G. Truitt . . . . .	35
John A. Harp . . . . .	35
Thomas A. Harp . . . . .	35
Thomas A. Harp . . . . .	36
N.G. Padgett . . . . .	36

The following have built and live a part of the year on pine land, but have farms on the sand glades. I recommend they be allowed to purchase eighty acres of land at \$2.00 per acre.

### Section

N.A. Carlson . . . . .	11
Mrs. A.D. Ingalls . . . . .	11
A. Andrain . . . . .	11
G.E. Galloway . . . . .	22
Henry Johnson . . . . .	22
Wm. Inger . . . . .	22

The following are now farming or have farmed the glades. The glades in this vicinity are mostly sand and not so fertile as those composed of muck. With heavy fertilizing and a great deal of water they are very productive, on the other hand too much fertilizing and too little water makes a failure in a

crop. I recommend this class of claimants be allowed to purchase eighty acres at \$3.00 per acre.

**Section**

N.C. Pike	1
C.W. Brown	2
C.H. Garthides	12
P.N. Bryan	12
J.B. Gordon	13
H.N. Gordon, Biscayne	13
C.H. Howell	14
J.H. Johnson	14
J.T. Wofford	14
J.B. Coombs	14
J.W. Wofford	14
Edwin Anderson	15
H.N. Harris	15
S.L. Padgett	23
E.H. Padgett	23
I.B. Padgett	25
J.M. Holding	25
J.J. Hamilton	23
L.L. Silcox	22
John Anderson	22
E.P. Byington	24

The following claims are abandoned:

**Section**

Oscar Anderson	13
W.O. Bryan	13
Henry Clemons	13
H.N. Gordon	13
W.T. Johnson	15
E.W. Johnson	21
E.W. Johnson	22
C.W. Coombs	22
E.J. Glass	23
W.M. Brown	24
E.W. Smith	24
J.W. Strange	24
R.E. Padgett	25

The claims in Tp. 50, R. 41 of Frank R. Oliver, Sec. 1 and P.N. Bryan, Fred T. Fisher and W.P. Cromer Sec. 12, and Skelton & Bemis, Sec. 36 and Sec. 1, Tp. 51, R. 41, deserve no concession whatever.

Henry H. Harrison, Miami, has filed claim on all Secs. 4 and 5 and parts of Sec. 6, but informed me he does not want the land.

Dr. Graham, Miami, filed claim on portions of Secs. 5 and 6, but he also informs me that he would not buy the land if he could get it.

Joe Jennings, Miami, filed claim on portions of Secs. 6 and 8, but I have not been able to locate him; therefore do not know if he wants the land.

J.B. Studstill, Miami, has claim on SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 36, 51, 41, but informed me that he did not want the land and would not pay 25 cents per acre for it.

J.T. Sloan, Miami, has claim on SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 36, 51, 41, a part of Thomas A. Harp's claim. I have requested Mr. Sloan three times to give me a statement in writing setting forth his claim, but he has failed so far to do so. I think Mr. Harp has best right to the land.

According to the Florida *Tract Book*, Volume 30, the following settlers received deeds to the land they homesteaded:

	State Deed Number
H.F. Ingalls	16134
C.E. Ingalls	16159
N.C. Bryan	16124
A. Andrain (Andrew)	16112
J.T. Wofford	16232
J.B. Coombs	16330
J.R. Charlton	16101
N.A. Carlson	16155
Charlotte Wofford (widow)	16259
J.H. Johnson	16219

This information appears in pages 212-226 of the *Tract Book*.

