The name of William Cooley needs little introduction to those even casually interested in the history of south Florida. His leadership of the New River settlement, the massacre of his family at the beginning of the Second Seminole War, and the many important offices he held on the frontier has established him to one of the major figures of the Territorial period. Yet only one important work has been written concerning this recognized leader. (See Cooper Kirk, “William Cooley: Broward’s Legend,” Broward Legacy, vol. I, nos. 1 and 2, 1976 and 1977).

Within the last few months, “new” documents have surfaced concerning the life of William Cooley. For example, in his capacity as justice of the peace at Homosassa, he was active in encouraging federal and state officials to complete the surveys for the settlers of that area (Letters from Commissioner, volume 3, 1840-43, pp. 605-06). Because his name appears as the person to whom at least twenty-eight Armed Occupation patents were delivered, it is likely that as justice of the peace he delivered these to their rightful owners as an assumed duty (Senate Executive Document No. 39, 30th Congress, 1st Session). Cooley himself was the recipient of 160 acres under this act of 1842, and the patent says he owned the land at the head of the Homosassa River. The original patent is on file at the Department of Natural Resources, Title Section of the Bureau of Survey & Mapping, Tallahassee, Florida. These “finds” simply add further documentation to the portrait so admirably drawn by Dr. Kirk.

The most significant recent discovery, however, is the ten-page, handwritten letter from Cooley that appears transcribed below. In this remarkable document, Cooley describes his activities prior to and during the Second Seminole War of 1835-1842. What is more, he goes on to recommend a number of measures that he feels will significantly aid the development of south Florida. These suggestions are not altogether new or original with Cooley or of many other leaders of his day. Among the ideas proposed are the improvement of the “Inland Route” and the drainage of much of the Everglades. Also included is one of the more vivid descriptions of the southern Florida wilderness that this introductor has ever had the pleasure of reading. It is this description and the tenor of the writing that makes this letter unique and valuable.

It should be explained how Cooley came to write this remarkable letter. He put pen to paper at the behest of land agent John Darling of Tampa. Darling, who had many ideas concerning the development of Florida, was engaged in an active campaign to get the state and federal government more motivated to remove the Seminoles and begin the physical development of the land. He solicited Cooley and others to write him, or the governor, and explain the necessity of developing the land as rapidly as possible. Among the others writing at Darling’s request was G. W. Ferguson of “Bermuda, Miami River,” who expressed ideas similar to Cooley’s, with possibly even more flair. The fact that the internal improvements proposed may have led to additional Indian troubles seems not to have disturbed anyone greatly. Indeed, it was the common frontier assumption of the agreements reached with Billy Bowlegs and other Seminole leaders that the Indians would soon be leaving Florida to join their compatriots in the Indian Territory west of the Mississippi River. Thus, Darling, Cooley and Ferguson must have felt relatively free to advocate their common programs.

Whatever the case, on August 16, 1851, Darling wrote to Governor Thomas Brown, explaining Cooley’s letter:

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose to your Excellency herewith the letter of Captain William Cooley, narrating several reconnaissances of the Everglades and other portions of South Florida. This letter is obscure in some portions but in general contains much interesting and valuable information, because it comes from a disinterested witness who has no inducement to make a glowing report merely for show.

Whether or not Cooley was a “disinterested witness” may be open to question. The exact nature of his relationship to the ambitious Darling is unknown at this time.

What follows is a complete transcription of Cooley’s letter of August 11, 1851. Because of its readability and unique tenor, it has been decided not to “edit” the letter, but, instead, to let it stand on its own merits. No spelling, punctuation or other changes have been made. It is believed that “editing” would detract more than enhance the quality of the document. Any errors of transcription are the responsibility of the introductor. The two footnotes placed in parentheses are Cooley’s. The remainder are explanatory notes.

Tampa, Fa., August 11 1851

Dr. Sir;

I resided on New River from 1823 to 1836. During that time I explored the coast and the Everglades every year more or less with different persons. In 1826 with Col. Fitzpatrick we explored new River and its branches into the Everglades at different points. New River divides itself into four branches or prongs — the south prong, North West prong, North prong, and Snook Creek — The south prong is the main channel of New River — all the branches communicate with the Ever-
glades; but during a dry time they are all dry except the south prong (1) — on the head of this River and its branches there is a large quantity of the richest bottom lands which are never overflowed except in a very wet season — these lands extend for miles into the Everglades clear of Rock with a base of Marle — on New River lie Rich Hammock, Pine and Prairie land, which never overflow except occasionally during the Equinoctial Gales but then not enough to do any great damage to crops — County grows here in large quantities, and the land generally must be good because the county does not grow on Wet land; and the water dries up almost as soon as it reach the land — never lays more than four or five days — I speak of the lands now that lie immediately on the banks of the Main River — I think there is a ridge about one mile wide between Cape Florida & New River that does not overflow — this ridge runs the whole distance about 19 miles — I think that about 3/4 of the lands between Cape Florida and New River are subject to occasional overflow — in places near the, and in the, Main channel when it debouches from the Everglades about to 2 to 4 feet under the surface the rock appears (2) — at this point there is a fall of about 6 feet descending from the Everglades — We likewise explored Jupiter River — all the lands between Jupiter and New River are wet except about ¼ which lie in the Big Cypress (5) which is celebrated as the place where Genl. Jesup (6) treated with the Indians on the 9th Feby 1838. The road to New River must pass through it or go along the sea beach — the distance from Jupiter to New River is about 60 Miles — we found good land on Jupiter River and its branches which may be reclaimed for sugar or Rice by Keeping Jupiter Bar open — this bar occasionally closes and when it does so the water rises in the River 6 or 8 feet and flows back on the lands — In the fall of 1827 I went with a party of Indians to the head of the north prong of New River — we travelled on horseback — the season was very dry — The Indians had set fire to the Everglades — I cannot tell how far the fire extended but we rode in a North West direction near 30 miles across the burnt tract without seeing the end of it — along our trail I observed large quantities of decayed vegetation but did not observe any signs of sea, or any place where the fire had taken hold of the soil — along our whole route water was very scarce — To our right as we travelled N.W. lay a dense Cypress swamp or Hammock — The Indians said there was good Hammock in this Cypress area in large bodies — I never saw better land than this prairie across which we travelled — Col. Gadsden (7) got lost in this Cypress about 11 Days and finally reached New River by following the beach on the east side — He says the land in the Cypress is good and the wet portion can be easily drained, as there is a fall of 6 feet from the Cypress to the sea — In the fall and winter of 1827 I explored the Inland route (8) from the Indian River Haulover, to Cape Florida in company with Capt. Johnson (9) — we found not less than 2 feet water from the Haulover to Jupiter Bar — from this point we ascended the south Lagoon of Jupiter River about 4 miles with our whale boat, which we had to haul over about 75 yards into what was called Granville Sound, and now Lake Worth — a beautiful sheet of water, very deep — we found not less than 10 feet, though we did not sound many places — we sailed south about 35 miles to what was called Old Granville Inlet — A number of years ago, it was said that there was 2 fathoms of water on this bar (see Granville’s chart) — now the Inlet is closed — I think this Inlet might be easily kept open if necessary — The Conks (10) say a vessel was sunk in this channel — the surface of the ocean is not 6 feet below the surface of the Lake at this point — we hauled our boat into the surf about 15 yards which is the width of the said bank between lake and the sea — If this bar was opened a large quantity of land would be reclaimed — there is a water communication between this lake and Bocal Ratones sound (11) a distance of about 6 miles but too small for a boat — a small canoe might pass — on this creek which is the only outlet of Lake Worth there are the richest red prairie lands I ever saw — we proceeded outside about 6 or 7 miles to what is called the Orange Grove Haulover (12) near a large sour and bittersweet orange grove of several hundred trees — we hailed our boat at this point into Bocal Ratones Sound, I should think about 250 or 300 yds across the orange grove Hammock — the water from Jupiter to this place is all fresh as it has of course no communication with the sea — we proceeded about 8 miles to Bocal Ratones River, thence by this river 3 miles to Hillsborough River — the water has an average on this section of 5 feet in depth — thence by the latter River 4 miles into New River — the passage for the last 7 miles is narrow and shallow — we there ascended New River about 8 miles to the Everglades this section is good steam navigation — from this point we proceeded through the Everglades in shallow water full of grass about 10 miles to the head of Rio Ratones — the water on this section was about 18 inches deep — we proceeded down the Rio Ratones which is narrow, shallow and Crooked 4 miles into Key Biscayne Bay which Closed this reconnaissance — I think it will not require more than 15 miles of wraith canal to open a light draft steamboat navigate inland from Key Biscayne Bay to Indian River Haulover — From 1827 to 1836 I often visited the Everglades with the Indians who lived on New River — we often tried to go to what the Indians called Micaco or Big Water which I suppose is Okeechobee — We passed through several fine Lakes and saw a number of small Islands covered with casapulm tree — we came to a lake full of Water Lettuce about 15 miles West from the head of New River — the lettuce was so thick we could not penetrate it with our boats — on this route the water on the Everglades is not more than 12 to 18 inches deep except in the channel where it is 2 to 3 feet, rocky bottom. The Everglades are covered here with a growth of saw Grass and Maiden Cane — the Indians said that the big water was about 20 miles from where we struck the Lettuce — that the Lettuce came out of the big Cypress between Jupiter and New River and was blown by the wind across to its present position — the Indians stated that they had frequently been through this passage into the big Water — My own opinion is that this Lettuce came out of Okeechobee — the Indians also stated that the water from Okeechobee runs under the Lettuce thence to New River.

Florida Governor Thomas Brown, to whom Cooley's 1851 letter was relayed (courtesy of Florida Photographic Archives).
as far as we went we found a well-defined rocky channel having a greater depth of water than the surrounding Glades with considerable amount setting towards New River — I think the lettece is at least 12 feet above the level of the Ocean — the bounds of the ocean at the same time that they encroached upon the margins of the Everglades — the tributaries of Okechobee during the wet season pour the surplus water into that Lake & swell its volume which spreads over the Everglades looking for an outlet — the natural outlet not being sufficiently capacious to convey away the surplus water — I think that all that is necessary to be done to drain a large portion of the Everglades is to enlarge the natural outlets — such as the Hillsborough River, the Goose Pond River, the new River and Branches, the Rio Ratones, Arch Creek, Little River, and Minch River — on the eastern side of the Peninsula — the Caloosahatchee River, Marka River, the tributaries of Galveston & Chatham Bays, Shark River, and Black Cesar's Creek land — form a margin to the Everglades — I accompanied that part that went into glades — we proceeded in boats into the Everglades expecting to camp on Big Pine Island which is about 9 miles from the entrance to the Glades, but the Boats drew too much water and finding no channel to the Island we camped in our boats — The next day we proceeded into the Glades about 30 miles in a westerly direction — with the Spy Glass we saw several large Islands in a north direction from us — at least they appeared to be Islands — this route is from the south prong of New River and to the south -ward of all my previous routes — It was the opinion of the command that the whole of this region could be drained by a large canal to New River — I think the fall is about the same as on the other route — the current setting to New River — the water here on the grassy part of the Glades was about 18 inches deep — this is about the average depth of the water on the largest portion of the Everglades — in the lagoons and channels it is deeper — in a dry time the water is collected in these lagoons and channels — in a dry time the north and west prongs of New River, Snook and Arch Creeks, and Little River go dry, and the Rio Ratones nearly so — on to Indian River is a large canal which takes its name — in wet times the water rises & the arch which is so formed that it backs and consequently raises the water about 5 feet and causes it to overflow thousands of acres of land which could be avoided by its removal — the little channels that are observable coursing through the Everglades have one common direction towards the lake Okechobee where the Indians say they all terminate — from this circumstance I conclude that they are fed from that Lake — finding that our boats drew too much water we were obliged to return to Cape Florida — on our way back we explored all the water courses out of the Everglades but observed nothing important more than a river which had already been mentioned — we proceeded from Cape Florida to Cape Sable, part of the boats through the Sandwich Gulf along the main land of Key Largo, and the remainder through the Keys inside the Florida Reef by Key Tavernier — all to Cape Sable by the Rabbit Keys — At Key Tavernier we fell in with the Indian "Chai's Wife" — our boats gave chase but it was no go — Chai reached the main land and we gave up the chase — the Indian and his wife were afterwards captured by Col. Harney between Cape Florida and Cape Sable, and they are now living in Sarasota — From Cape Sable we started for Shark River — here I was transferred to Lieut. Waldron of the U.S. Marines — We did not find Shark River but we found a river beautiful at the mouth emptying into Chathams Bay, not far from Lostman's Key — we ascended this river in the night time until we reached fresh water — Doctor Lightner acted as Pilot — He told us that he had examined the river before the war with the Indians and that there had been an Indian Settlement on the river, but he was unable to find the same place again — the river was very crooked — When we found ourselves the next morning we were about 15 miles from the Starting point and ten or 15 miles from Cape Sable — this river was called Snake River from its course and is to the northwest of Shark River — being tired and sleepy we lay by that day — the next day we proceeded along the coast to Pavilion Key in Chatham Bay — we then went through the Bay to a place called Owl Key, there we went up a small River to a large Indian Town on a Shell Island containing some 500 acres of the best land about 50 acres of which had been under cultivation — but the Indians had retired into the Everglades in their canoes — this river heads in the Everglades but we did not go up so far because our boats drew too much water. From this point we proceeded along the coast to Caximbas which is Cape Roman River or Marko — We stayed here some time examining the country — there is a large body of good land in that section — I think that

Section of the 1837 J. Lee Williams map of Florida, showing Cooley's name just above the New River.
it is the Little Caximbas which is about half way between Cape Roman and the mouth of Sanybel River in the parish properly called Marko — back of Cape Roman lies the best country I have seen in Florida — high live oak land free from Rock — it appears to be an immense Island for we pursued Indians through it full 20 miles the whole distance of this same Kind of Land, until we came to a Mangrove Slough which we supposed surrounded it and separated it from the main land — We then ascended the river as far as we could and then walked to the main land — the distance from Caximbas to the main land by the river is about 12 miles — we found the main land a fine high rich pine barren — the pines very tall — this land appeared to be without limit but I did not penetrate far into it — we went to the main land in search of an Indian Town that Capt. Johnson the Pilot said he had visited before the war; but we could discover no traces of Indians — at Cape Romano there are three or four Indian plantations of 25 or 30 acres each — here we found Bananas, Sugar Cane, and pumpkins in abundance — this whole country has the appearance of being healthy and from the fact of its extensive occupation by the Indians I have no doubt it is the best country in Florida — on the coast at Cape Romano and Cape Sable the country is high but the coast except these points appears to be low and covered with Mangroves — From this point we proceeded to Charlotte Harbor — we spent some time on Caldias Island now called "Useppa" or Fort Casey — while here the country was examined up to Peas Creek but I did not accompany the detachment — From this point the command returned to Key West — I accompanied Col. Harney and Lt. Worrell on several excursions into the Everglades but did not observe anything more interesting than here related — The next tour I had was with Col. Lawson in 1838 — we left the Calooseatchetee with three companies of volunteers and some Delaware and Shawnee Indians and went to Cape Sable — then we built fort Poinsett — I was sutler for the command but acted as Pilot — the Delaware and Shawnee Indians were sent out to explore the country back of Cape Sable — they were gone 7 or 8 days — when they returned they stated that they had discovered an immense Cypress swamp about 25 miles in a North direction — they stated that they had spent 6 days in the Cypress which they described as both wet and dry — back of Cape Sable I examined a prairie which is about 15 miles across — it is dry in a dry season — it borders on the Glades and gets wet at about 15 miles from the coast — it has very little saw grass upon it even in the wet places — the whole is very rich — the growth grass — thistle and Calx — 15 miles of this Prairie from the coast back is dry but may be wet in a very wet season — In the wet Places the water is fresh showing that it has no connection with salt water — there appears to be a gradual descent to the coast and I think a large quantity of the wet prairie may be reclaimed and the dry kept from overflow by draining — I have no conception of the whole extent of this prairie — I made 15 miles to the wet prairie in a west of north direction and 15 miles in an Easterly direction towards Cape Florida to Loyds Lake — if this Prairie could be secured from inundation it would become one of the best producing sections of the State — at Loyds Lake you strike the porous or honeycomb rock which reaches from that point to Rio Ratones — most of this distance this rock appears above ground but in some places it is covered with soil a foot or more — this rock on this route extends some distance into the everglades but I have not discovered it any where else in any body — There are several large Hammocks whose base is this porous rock — the land or soil is rich but if fired in a dry time it will burn up — the base of the Prairie land above referred to is Marle — I accompanied Col. Lawson to Shark river — we ascended this river to Manatee Lake and encamped on Manatee Island where we saw immense piles of Manatee bones — this is an old Indian camping ground — from this point we tried to get into the Glades but could not do so for Sawgrass which grows here on the Margin of the Glades to great size — If there is any river running out of the Glades at this point we could not find it — We saw the Big Cypress with the Spy Glass in a northerly direction — the intermediate distance appeared to be covered with Saw Grass, and Mangrove Keys — I have heard that Liet. Rogers went to the Big Cypress from Manatee Lake to Sam Jones Town in his Boats — The Shawnee & Delaware Indians stated that a belt of land extends from Cape Sable to the Big Cypress wet but passable — I think the Big Cypress can be reached without trouble by land from Caximbas — Chai says there is an Indian trail from Cape Romano to the Big Cypress — I have

first page of the original letter, in Cooley's handwriting.
been from Fort Dennaud to Fort Kenis" — the country on this route is flat pine woods.

I am an old man and think I know something about land and a country — in the sections I have described will be found at present fit for cultivation immense quantities of Land equal and in most cases better than any other lands in the state, and immense quantities that may be reclaimed at a small comparative expense —

Yours truly

WM Cooley

To J. Darling

A.D.B.I.S.L.35
Tampa, Fla.

(Cooley's) Notes —
1. That is dry at the heads where they come out of the Everglades
2. This rock appears to be composed of marble, shell and sand is slightly porous and easily cut with an axe — this rock is most abundant between New River and Cape Florida —

ENDNOTES
1. G.W. Ferguson is George W. Ferguson who was the postmaster at the Miami River. Walter C. Maloney mentions a G.W. Ferguson joining a company of Union volunteers in Key West on May 16, 1861. This may be the same person. (See, Walter C. Maloney, A Sketch of the History of Key West, Florida. Facsimile reprint of the 1876 edition, introduction and index by Thelma Peters. Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1968.)
2. Colonel Richard Fitzpatrick is well-known to students of Broward County history as the purchaser of the Franklee Lewis grant. Maloney notes him as an original settler of Key West and states that Fitzpatrick Street there is named for him. As a delegate to the Territorial Legislature in 1838, he sponsored the bill that created Dade County. As a friend and political ally of Governor Richard K. Call, he was entrusted to bring the infamous bloodhounds to Florida for use against the Seminoles, an experiment that failed to produce anything but trouble.
3. Various maps from the early and mid-nineteenth century apply the name "Stock Creek" alternately to Middle River and to the North Fork of New River.
4. The coconut plant, from which Cooley had manufactured areas westward while living on New River.
5. This name was applied to several large cypress stands between the Atlantic coast and the Everglades, and is not to be confused with the Big Cypress Swamp of southwest Florida, which Cooley mentions toward the end of this letter. The particular area he describes here is the site of the Camp Truce conference, located between today’s Delray Beach and Deerfield Beach.
6. Major General Thomas S. Jesup commanded the armada in Florida from December 9, 1836 to April 29, 1838. His service to the United States extended from the War of 1812 to his death as Quartermaster General in 1860. According to Professor John Mahon, "Jesup was the most important white individual in the Seminole War." (See John Mahon, History of the Second Seminole War, 1835-1842, Revised edition, Gainesville: University Presses of Florida, 1985.)
7. Col. Gadad (or Gadens) is the famous James Gadad, one of the most important men in frontier America. His list of accomplishments extends from his service under Andrew Jackson to negotiating the Treaty of Payne’s Landing to the famous purchase that bears his name. Gadad County, Florida, is named for him also.
8. The inland route consisted of a series of lakes, rivers, lagoons, and marshes running parallel to and immediately west of the Atlantic coast and later connected to the Intracoastal Waterway along Florida’s east coast.
9. Capt. Johnson is probably Charles Johnson of Key West, who was described a "pilot" in the 1830s. (See Jefferson B. Brown, Key West. The Old and the New. Facsimile reprint of the 1912 edition, introduction and notes by Abigail Haas. Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1973.)
10. Cooley here refers to the "Conchs," Seminole Indians of Florida’s lower east coast and Keys, a name well-known as wreckers in the early and mid-nineteenth century.
11. Bocal Ratones Sound and Bocal Ratones River refer to a natural waterway in the present Delray Beach/Boca Raton area which was also known at various times as the Little Hilochee and the Spanish River. It is now port of the Intracoastal Waterway. (See Daniel Austin, Spanish River, "Broward Legacy," vol. 3, nos. 3-4, Fall 1979, 19-20.)
12. The Orange Grove House is located at what is today Delray Beach.
13. Rio Ratones is Snake Creek, today forms a portion of the Broward-Dade county line.
14. "The river is probably as an elongated body of water between Hillsboro Inlet and New River on the Vigneux-Tanner map of 1823. "Goose Pond River" may represent a portion of Middle River or Cypress Creek.
15. Marco River, sometimes spelled "Malco" on maps from the Seminole War period, referred to the Gulf from the mainland opposite Marco Island.
16. Gallivan’s Bay, located between Cape Romano and the Ten Thousand Islands.
17. In the early nineteenth century, the designations Chatham Bay and Ponce De Leon Bay were interchangeably used to describe an area much larger than today’s Ponce De Leon Bay. Some early maps apply these names to all of the waters between Cape Romano and Cape Sable, others to the region below Palm Island.

18. Although Cooley places "Black Cesar’s Creek" on the west side of the peninsula, it is probably the Creek between Elliott and Old Rhodes Keys in lower Biscayne Bay. This bay was supposedly named for the pirate Black Caesar.
19. Fort Denaud stood on the Caloosahatchee River just west of present-day LaBelle.
20. Captain Thomas Powell was a pioneer in "Riverine Warfare" as practiced in Florida. Though Cooley refers to him as Captain, during the 1836 expeditions he held the rank of lieutenant. (For the best account of Powell’s exploits, see George E. Buick, Swamp-Scalfs: Riverine Warfare in the Everglades, 1835-1842. Gainesville: University Presses of Florida, 1975.)
22. A name formerly applied to Biscayne Bay, "Sandwich Gulf" here evidently describes Biscayne or Card Sound between Biscayne and Florida City.
25. Lieut. Waldron is First Lieutenant Nathaniel S. Waldron, United States Marine Corps. Stationed at Key West under Commodore Alexander J. Dallas, he saw a great deal of action during the Second Seminole War. He frequently went on expeditions with Powell (see footnote 6) and Colonel William Lindsay, United States Army. (Also see Buick’s Swamp-Scafe.)
26. Probably a reference to the Caloosahatchee River, although Cooley could be describing any of a number of small, winding rivers entering the Gulf from the Everglades in the same southerly direction.
27. Doctor Lightner is the well-known physician and botanist, Dr. Frederick E. Leinier. He studied medicine under J.C. Biddle in Philadelphia and was a fellow student with Jacob R. Motte, who served as an army surgeon in the Second Seminole War. Leiner was also a member of the Legation to the Seminole Indian Territory. Dr. Lightner, who had been on a philological expedition to the Seminole Indian country, was one of the first to describe the "Spanish Indian" Chacon. (See, F. S. Speck, ed., The Education of Army Surgeon’s Account of Life in Camp and Field During the Creek and Seminole Wars 1836-1843. New York: R.H. Motte. Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1963.)
28. Sanyel or Sanibel Island was a common designation for the Caloosahatchee on maps from the early nineteenth century.
29. Pea Creek is today known as the Peace River.
30. Misoolor Worrell of Delrayton was employed as an assistant surgeon in the United States Army from 1832 until his discharge in 1842.
31. Col. Lawson is Surgeon General Thomas Lawson, one-time lieutenant colonel in the Louisiana Volunteers and later Surgeon General of the United States Army. (See Mos, Journey Into Wildernesses.) The anonymous author of an article appearing in The Neus of St. Augustine in 1841 notes that Fort Poinsett was established by Surgeon General Lawson. (See Notes on the Passage Across the Everglades: From The Neus, St. Augustine, January 8, 1841." Tequesta, vol. 5, 1978, 388.)
32. Lloyd’s Lake appears on maps from the Seminole War period at the extreme southeastern corner of the Florida mainland, opposite Key Largo.
33. Lieut. Rogers is most likely Lieutenant John Rodgers, who also commanded the 1842 expedition into the Everglades and up the Kissimmee River. (See George Henry Preble, "A Canoe Expedition Into the Everglades in 1842," reprinted in Tequesta, vol. 5, 1943.)
34. Buckner notes that Capt. John Rodgers commanded the slop Wave after Lieutenant John T. MacLaughlin was given command of the First. Both of these vessels and their crews figured prominently in the "riverine warfare" of 1837-39, when Cooley remembers these expeditions taking place.
35. Fort Keisal was located at the northwest edge of the Big Cyprus Swamp, ten miles south of present-day Bonita Springs.

Tampa scene in 1846. Cooley lived in Tampa intermittently from 1837 until his death in 1863.

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