



EXPLORE
SARASOTA
COUNTY'S
HISTORY

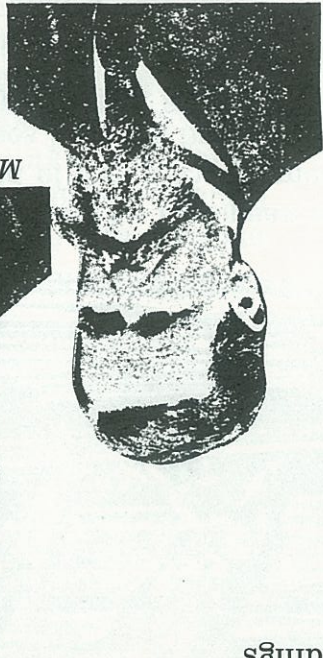
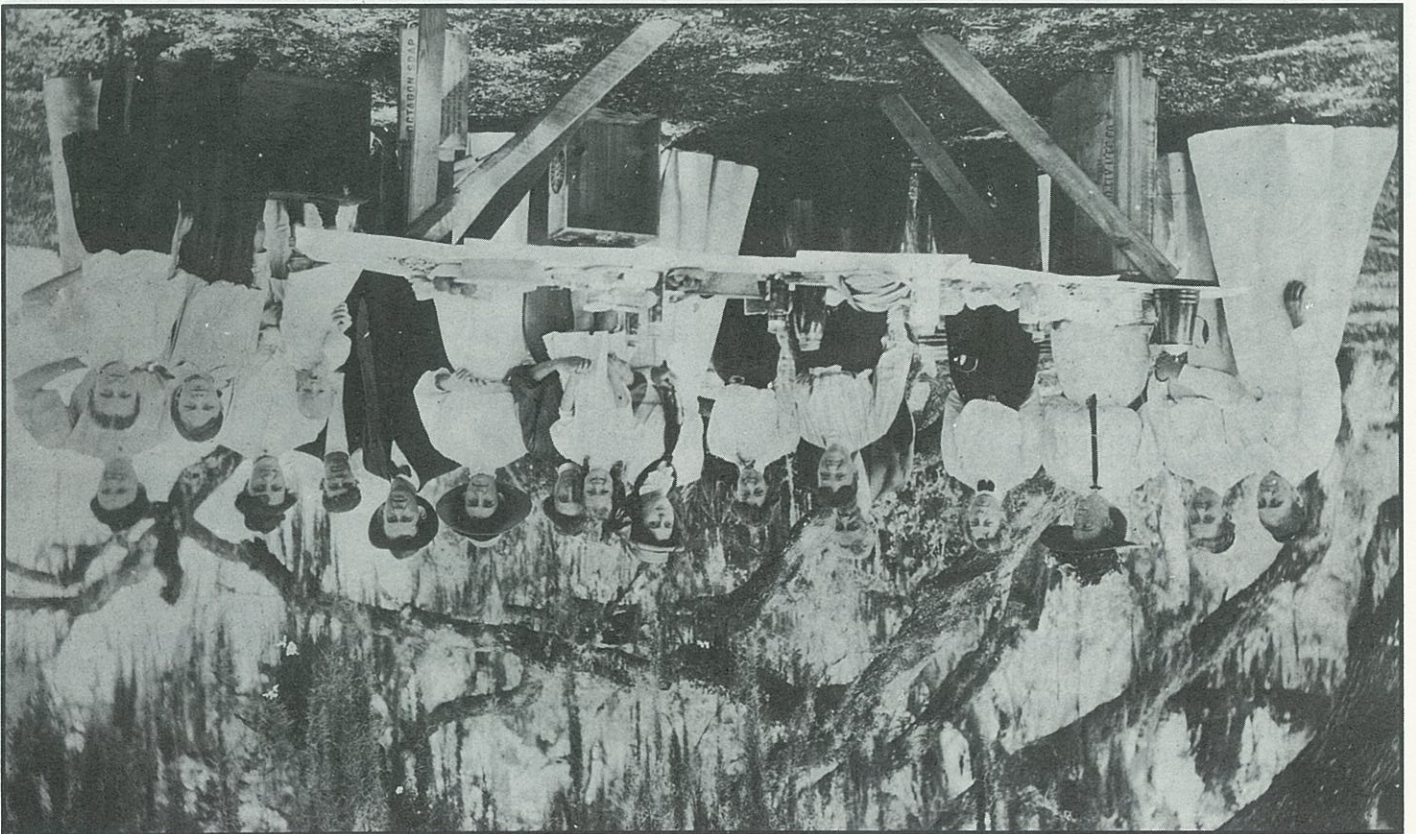


These pioneer residents have a lot to be proud of. They were a part of Sarasota's history. Photo courtesy of Florida State Archives.

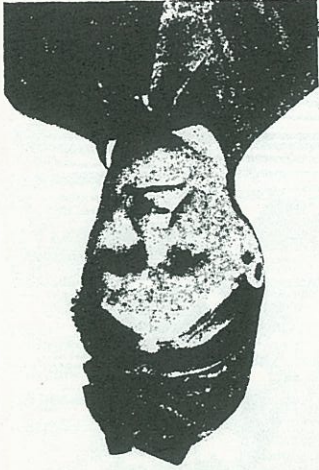
Other pioneers followed in Whitaker's footsteps. As these pioneers settled nearby one another, communities were born. Churches, schools, post offices and stores were established. Many individuals and families have been a part of Sarasota's history. Each played an important role in the development of our communities and our county.

The first pioneer in the Sarasota County area was William Whitaker who arrived over one hundred and forty years ago. Whitaker was twenty-two years of age when he came to Sarasota to build a home. He had fished the waters of southwest Florida for a few years before moving here. Whitaker may have selected Sarasota as a homestead because of the many advantages for living here. Fish and shellfish were abundant in the bay and gulf. The woods were filled with deer and other game. The soil was excellent for raising crops. The climate was healthful. The surroundings were beautiful.

Pioneers sharing food and good times.



Wm. Whitaker



Mrs. Mary Wyatt Whitaker