

SPOTLIGHT ON HISTORY



For FLORIDA TODAY

Early settlers. Reprinted with permission from "History of Brevard County, Vol. III," published by the Brevard Historical Commission.

Carlile family lived off land

BY WEONA CLEVELAND
FOR FLORIDA TODAY

According to interviews with his descendants in the 1950s, David Nathaniel Carlile, who was born about 1800 in Meridian, Miss., arrived with his wife, Eliza, and their children in LaGrange area of Brevard County in the 1850s.

An early settler is quoted as saying: "In the vicinity of LaGrange when I arrived, there were four houses: the homes of David Carlile; his son, L.J. Carlile; John Harrison and John Redditt. Our nearest post office was Enterprise (on the St. Johns River), which also was our supply station and voting place."

Grandson Charles W. Carlile said in the 1950s that his grandfather built a log house on the highest hill near the turn of the road, about a quarter of a mile south of the LaGrange Church. Carlile had four sons and five daughters.

These settler families learned to live well on the land. In the beginning, women cooked on fireplaces. Meat was plentiful — wild turkey, quail, duck and deer.

One of Carlile's sons, Andrew, went to Cabbage Slough, a section near Aurantia, and in one afternoon and the next morning, killed and dressed out 22 deer saddles, which he shipped out on the steamer that ran from Salt Lake to Jacksonville. Salt for curing

and preserving meat was obtained from a Mr. Pace who had a salt works on the Indian River.

The Carliles kept chickens and a few cows, and grew corn to feed the horses and to grind into meal. They also grew collards, turnips and cabbage. They had sugar cane patches for syrup and produced what had been called some of the best oranges around. ■

Send spotlight suggestions to Community Desk, FLORIDA TODAY, P.O. Box 419000, Melbourne, FL 32941-9000; fax 242-6620; or e-mail community@floridatoday.net. Include a daytime phone number.

Source: "History of Brevard County, Vol. III," published by the Brevard Historical Commission.

Computer repairman changes e-mail address

Dear Help: A while back, you referenced in your column a gentleman named Fremont Bassett who took in computer



Doug Lang

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