

## THE DOMINICKER SETTLEMENT

The beginning of the Dominicker Settlement was before the Civil War in 1855 by a black man named Joe Thomas. A slave raised a family of four children one boy and three girls, by a white woman named Polly Thomas. She owned the black man and after her husband was killed she took her slave for a husband and raised the four children. Their son Berrian Thomas married a white woman named Rally Hall. Their daughter named Martha Thomas married white man named Bill Bland. The other two girls raised a family of children without being married for different colored men.

How they got their name Dominiker. As they were mixed with both white and colored, the white people and better class of colored named them Dominicker, as they were born and raised here. The white citizens would not allow them to be classed with them, and neither would the Dominickers go with the colored and they have know by the name of Dominicker from 1860.

Some years later a school was established as the Dominicker school, six miles east of Ponce de Leon where they have been until today. They are not allowed to go to white schools and neither will they attend colored schools or churches. So they are off to themselves but the sorry poor class of white people marry them but some of them are ignorant until today. Some can't read, neither can they write.

[Ed. notes: Typescript produced by the Federal Writers' Project of the Work Projects Administration for the State of Florida, no date [1930s]. Dr. James Cusick of the Smathers Library, University of Florida, provided a photocopy of the microfilmed reproduction. Transcribed by Ms. Tina Bernath, edited by Dr. Martin Olliff.]