

PRESIDENT, GOVERNOR, GENERAL, CAPTAIN, DIPLOMAT

Five patrons of early American
Lake Monroe area history in what is now
Seminole County

JAMES MONROE, fifth president of the United States, after whom Lake Monroe was named fifteen years before the naming of Fort Mellon.

"...The American continents...are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European powers."

James Monroe, December 2, 1823

ROBERT REID, the fourth territorial governor of Florida, after whom in 1840 Fort Reid on Mellonville Avenue was named.

"The people are the Sovereign Power - they formed the States, the States formed the General Government - therefore the People formed the General Government."

Robert Reid, 1835

GENERAL JOSEPH FINEGAN, from whom Sanford bought the 12,000 acre grant; resident at Rutledge (Sanford) where he died in 1885; Commander of the District of Middle and East Florida and of the Battle of Olustee, 1864.

Of the Battle of Olustee: "...the enemy's line having been broken...two fine Napoleon and three 10-pounder Parrot guns and one set of colors captured from them, they gave way entirely..."

Joseph Finegan, 1864

CAPTAIN CHARLES MELLON, after whom Fort Mellon in 1837 and later Mellonville were named.

"I received the appointment of third Lieutenant...to deserve which shall be the study of my life which I hereby devote to the service of my country."

Charles Mellon, April 9, 1814

HENRY SANFORD, 1849 Secretary of the American Legation at Paris and 1853 Charge D'Affairs; 1861-69 Minister to Belgium; 1870 founded the county seat city named after him.

His "New South" business venture in Sanford earned him the title of "founder" of the modern citrus industry. or

His 145-acre experimental Belair grove at Sanford earned him the title of "founder" of the modern citrus industry.

(Mellon, Sanford, and Finegan were on the scene - the other two at a distance lent their names to history that now belongs to us.)