



# Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



'STRANGER CONSIDER AND BE WISER'

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TAMPA --- A prominent Tampan in the mid-1800s was William Ashley, who had moved here from Virginia in 1837, and clerked for the Army sutler. His home was located on the southeast corner of Lafayette St. (Now J. F. Kennedy Blvd.) and Water Street, in what is now downtown Tampa.

When Tampa was incorporated as a city in late 1855, Ashley was elected City Clerk. One recognition given this leading citizen was the naming of Ashley Street.

Historian Karl H. Grismer relates in his story on Tampa about Ashley dying in 1873 and being buried in Oak Lawn Cemetery.

"Shortly afterward a Negro woman died who had long been Ashley's servant," Grismer reported. "The relationship which had existed between Ashley and Nancy was much closer than that which normally existed between master and servant but, strange to say, it was not frowned upon by the community."

The history states that upon Nancy's death she was buried in the same grave. Ashley's executor, John Jackson, had a tombstone erected "to commemorate their fidelity to each other." The inscription on v the gravestone reads

"Here Lies Wm. Ashley and Nancy Ashley, Master, and Servant. Faithful to each other in that relation in life, in death they are not seperated (sic). Stranger consider and be wiser, In the Grave all human distinction of race or caste mingle together in one common dust."

