

Hillsborough County Marks & Brands Book #1, page 13, shows that on April 12, 1852, Captain Hooker registered the brand Heart H for use on his cattle. According to the 1850 census, he owned nine Negro slaves. According to the Tampa Blue Book and Pioneers, 1914, Captain Hooker ". . . was also interested in the cultivation of oranges and planted the first seed from what was then called "China" oranges in the State of Florida."

Captain Hooker served on the Hillsborough County Commission, 1847-49, and in 1850 served on the jury that convicted Jose Perfino of murder and sentenced him to be hanged. This was the first legal hanging in Hillsborough County. Captain Hooker was one of the trustees of the Tampa Methodist Church, and was listed as such on a deed from the County Commissioners to the Methodist Episcopal Church, dated April 7, 1851.

The old deed records of Hillsborough County and Manatee County are literally full of real estate conveyances involving William B. Hooker. Of interest are the following:

1. Deed Book B, page 80, Hillsborough County: Thomas Weeks to William B. Hooker, 160 acres for \$100, Nov. 8, 1852, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of S2, T29S, R20E.
2. Deed Book B, page 238, Hillsborough County: S. L. Sparkman to William B. Hooker, 159 and 38/100 acres for \$200, May 25, 1852, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of S1, T34S, R18E. This land located in Manatee County, later sold by Hooker to Samuel B. Reid, Feb. 4, 1869, found in Misc. Book, Manatee County, pages 147-48.
3. Deed Book B, page 34, Hillsborough County: Simon Turman to William B. Hooker, a lot in Tampa, May 1, 1852, recorded May 10, 1852.
4. Deed Book B, page 83, Hillsborough County: Will Cooley to William B. Hooker, a block in Tampa, 1 acre, Nov. 11, 1852.
5. Deed Book B, page 132, Hillsborough County: William B. Hooker to N. W. Tucker, for \$1,000, Lot 1 in Block 10, Lots 2, 3, 4 in Block 22, all of Block 48 and 41; including 6 Negroes--Parrish, age 39; Lucky, 32, his wife; Charles, 16; George, 15; Connor, 3; and Doctor, 2; dated Feb. 15, 1853.

Captain Hooker was involved in the raising of sea island cotton in Manatee County, near the site of old Fort Hamer. On January 18, 1853, he contracted with William H. Johnson by which it was agreed that both parties were to furnish three Negroes, with which Johnson was to cultivate thirty-three acres of sea island cotton on Hooker's farm near Fort Hamer. Hooker agreed to build a cotton gin during the summer and fall of 1853, gin the crop of cotton, and give one half share to Johnson. Johnson claimed that Hooker failed to divide the crop with him and sued him on an action of covenant, in the Hillsborough Circuit Court. Judgment was for Johnson and Hooker appealed to the State Supreme Court, which reversed, during its term at Tampa in 1856. Johnson then filed an action