

GREEN SPRINGS PARK

The DeBary Connection

Frederick deBary (1815-1898), sportsman and part-year resident of lands near Lake Monroe.

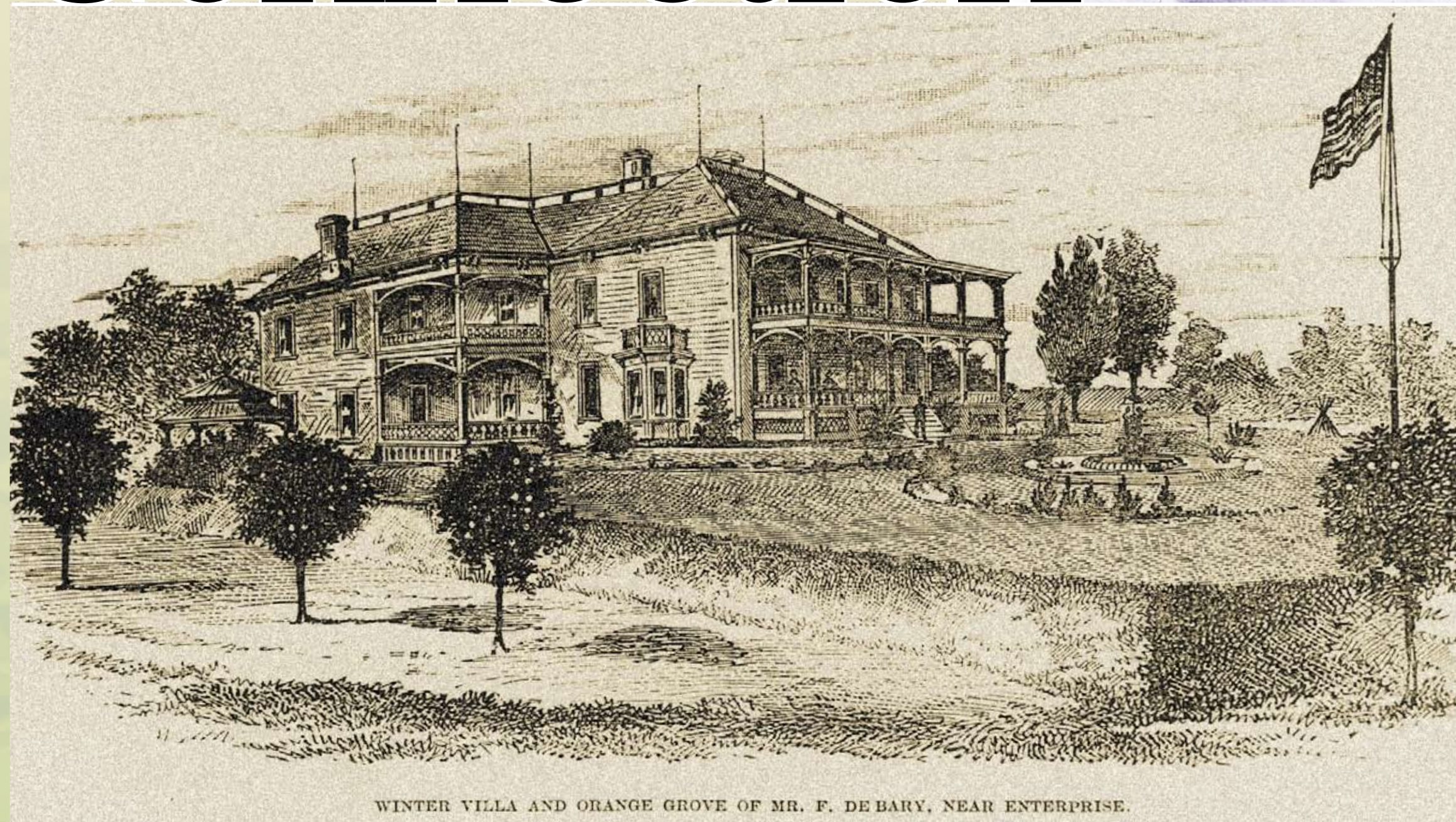
Photo courtesy of Rollins College special collections.



Green Springs had many owners after Cornelius Taylor first claimed these lands in 1842. Certainly the most exotic were the deBarys—New York wine merchants who wintered near Enterprise starting in the 1870s. European-born Frederick deBary and his son Adolphe not only built a showy vacation house at the heart of their vast hunting estate. They also acquired Green Springs and its well-known shell mound.

Most deBary lands lay west of here, in what is now the city of DeBary. Family members and guests ranged over the country, hunting quail, fishing, and exploring on horseback and in wagons. For lovers of the outdoors, Old Enterprise would have been a natural destination.

Not that the deBarys were great preservers of their scenic property. A visitor in 1885 found them clearing and draining the land for orange groves. And he reported that two-thirds of the shell mound had been carted off for fertilizer and walks. “Man erected it,” he said, “and man is digging it up.”



WINTER VILLA AND ORANGE GROVE OF MR. F. DEBARY, NEAR ENTERPRISE.

DeBary Hall—once a winter retreat, now a county-run historic site.

From a DeBary Merchants' Line guidebook (1882), courtesy of FSU special collections.

Visitors to the Enterprise shell mound in 1896.

Photo courtesy of the Florida Photographic Collection/State Archives.

