

**Pinellas County
Pre-history
and
Early History**

Pinellas County Today



What was this area like long ago? How did it develop into our world?



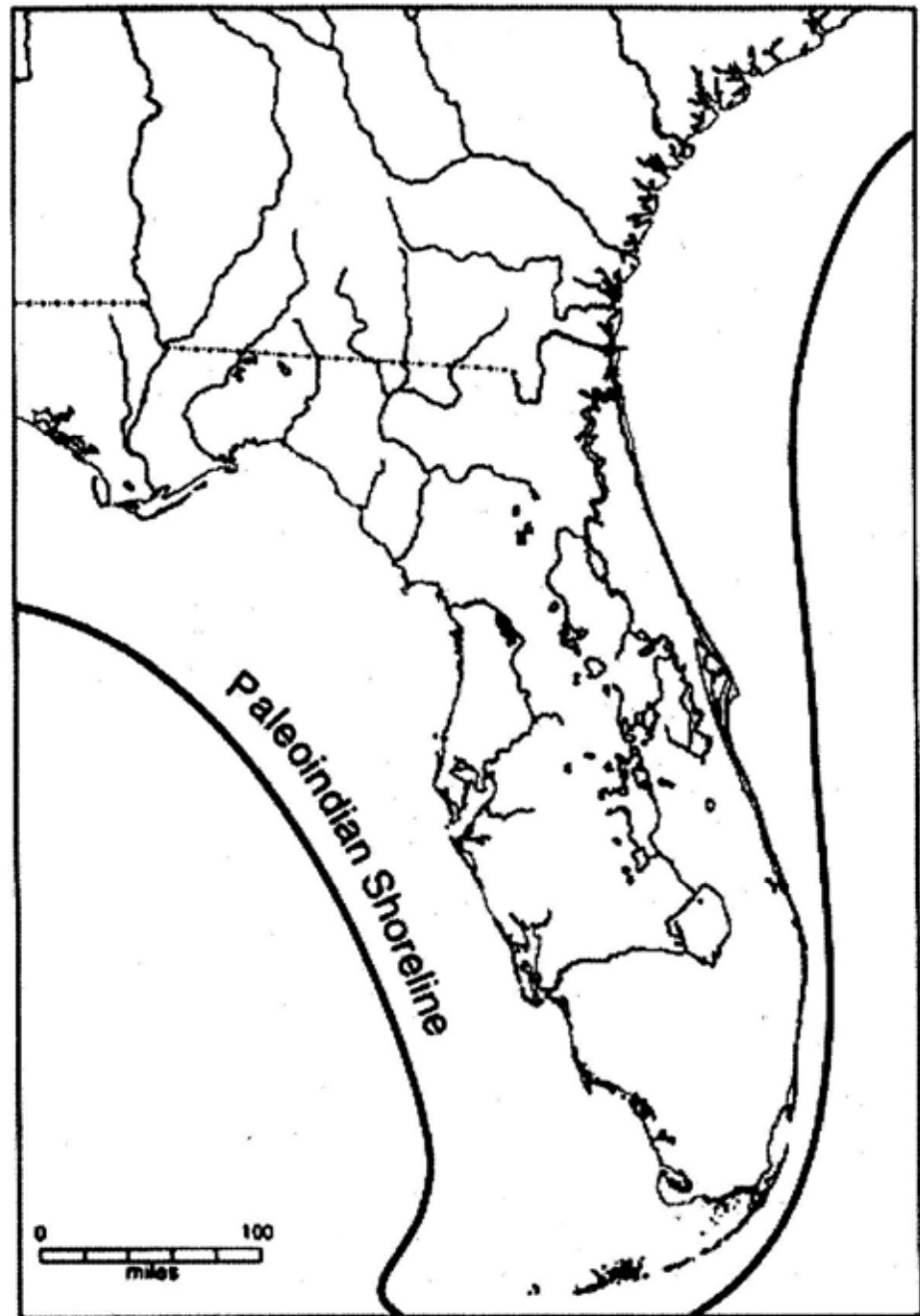
What would we see if we rode a time-machine back into Pinellas County's distant past!

If you really cranked-up the time-machine and go all the way back to 14,000 years ago. You would still find people living in this area.



The sea levels were much lower then and the shoreline would have been over 200 miles to the west of here.

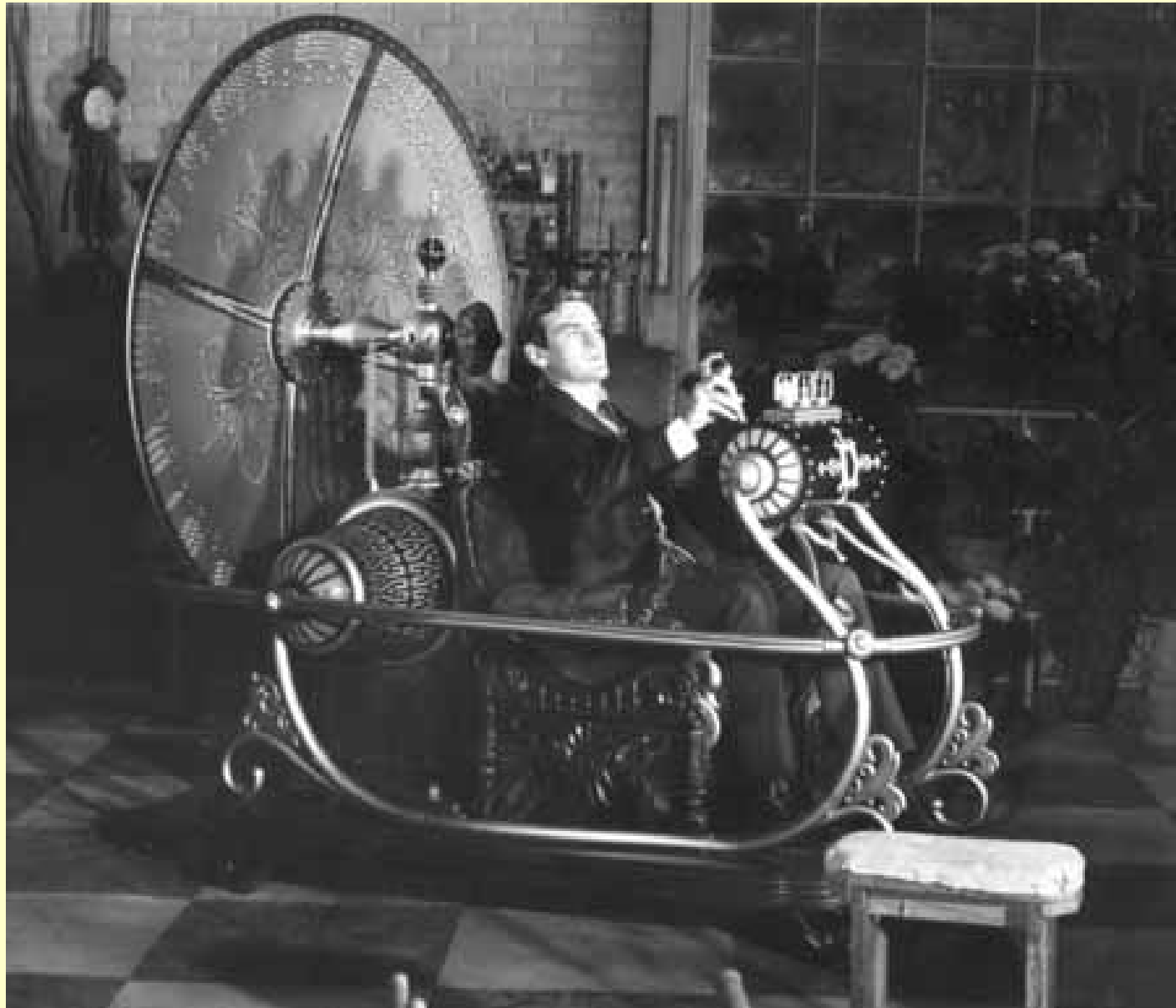
Florida was twice as big. The climate was cooler and drier and the environment was open savannah that supported mastodons, bison, and other large mammals.



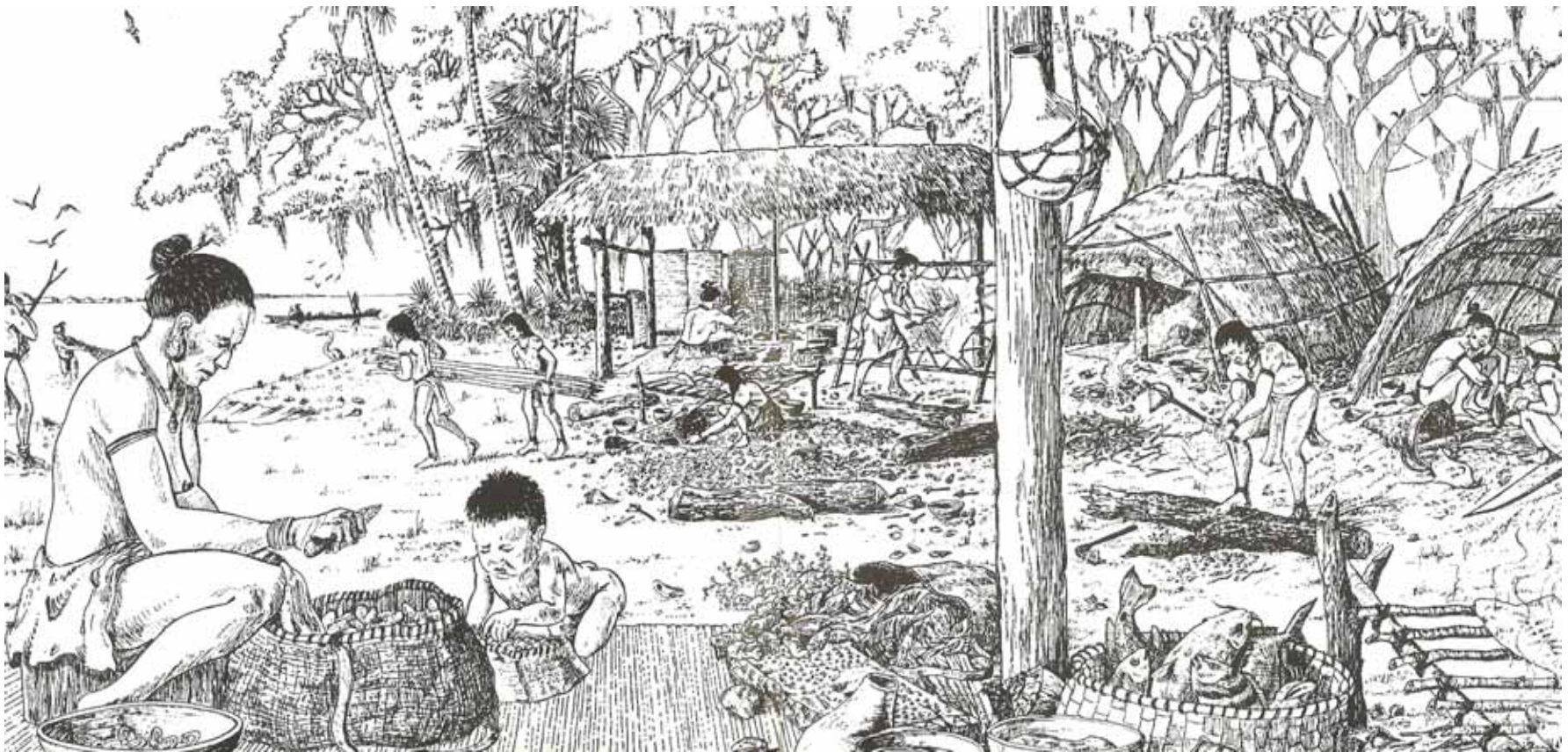
Archaeological sites tend to be close to water, in fact, the majority seem to be within 300 feet of water sources (fresh, marine, or estuarine) contemporary to that time.

***Note – Perhaps our best early sites will be found off-shore, near bays and drowned river valleys.**

On our return trip, we can stop to see how things change...



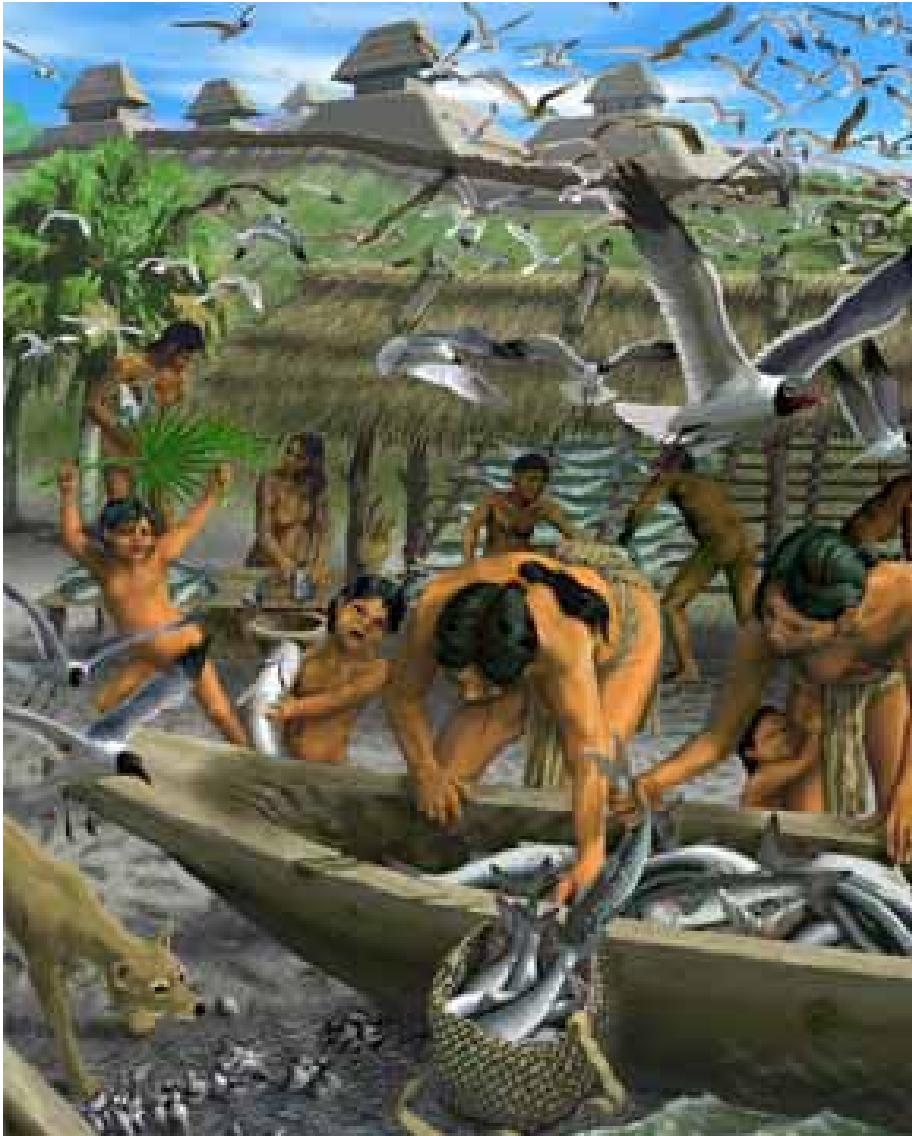
Over time, small family groups grow into larger family hamlets, such as, Yat Kitischee; by the modern St. Petersburg Clearwater International Airport





Painting by Christopher Still

As populations grew, tribal communities began to develop.



We've tried to identify and understand the cultures that developed before the Spanish "discovered" the area. The names assigned these cultures reflect the sites where they were first identified:

Manasota (500 B.C.),
Weeden Island (200 A.D.),
Safety Harbor (900 A.D.)



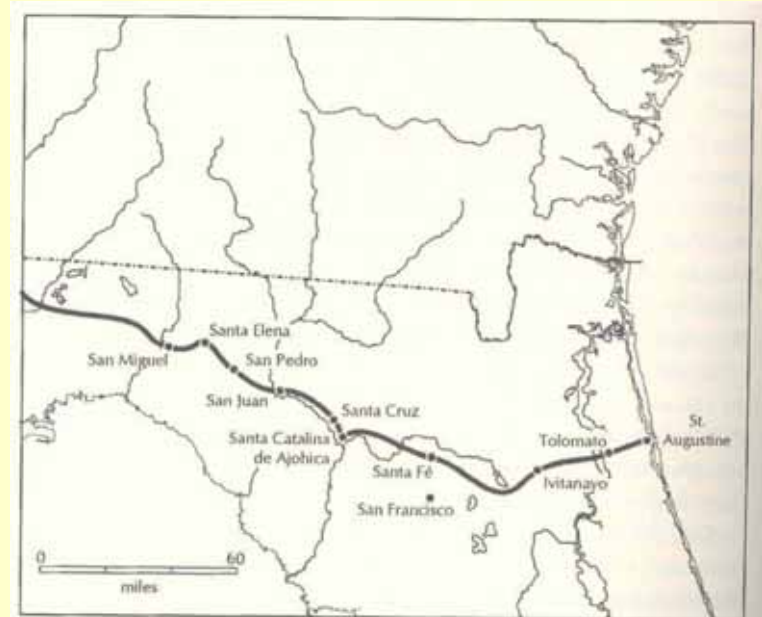
The Indian mounds you see in this area were built by these peoples.





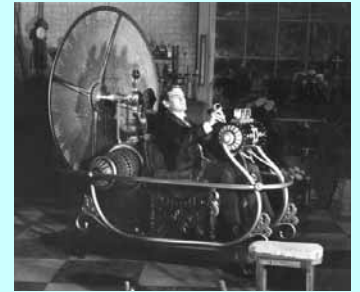
At 500 years ago
(around 1505 on the
time machine's
meter). The
Tocoboga tribe
dominated the area.

Their biggest town was located in northern Pinellas County where Safety Harbor is today! The Spanish had a mission here, but the local Indians rebelled and remained independent for many years. Unfortunately for the Indians, the Spanish brought with them diseases which eventually wiped-out the entire tribe, leaving room for the Seminoles to settle.



The Timucuan missions positioned along the camino real following the 1656 rebellion

At 200 years ago (around 1805 on the time machine's time meter) most of the people living in this area were Seminole Indians, generally Creek Indians from Georgia and Alabama (started arriving in Florida around 1750).



Most non-Indians could be found at scattered Spanish fishing camps and forts along the coast



The Seminoles (means: wild people) had small towns throughout Florida. In Pinellas County, one of those towns was Tate-ta-la-hosta-ka where the modern city of Seminole is now.

At 150 years ago (1853) we would find the farm of Odet Philippe; actually settled in the late 1830s just before the 2nd Seminole Indian War.



Ft. Harrison at Clearwater Harbor

- A recuperative outpost established 1841.
- One of the starting points of a 3 pronged concerted northward drive against the Seminoles in the 2nd War.
- Abandoned in 1842 at the War's end.



Painting by Christopher Still

Local Pioneers 1830s - 1880s



McMullen Home

After the Civil War we might pass John Donaldson an ex-slave that moved to the Town of Pinellis near Bells Lake around 1868. Mr. Donaldson worked hard, bought his own land became a successful farmer, the local mail carrier, and one of the most respected pioneers in the area.



Tarpon Springs



Boyer House- Built in 1878
along the Anclote River in
Spring Bayou.

Coastal life led to the development of fishing and the sponge industry.

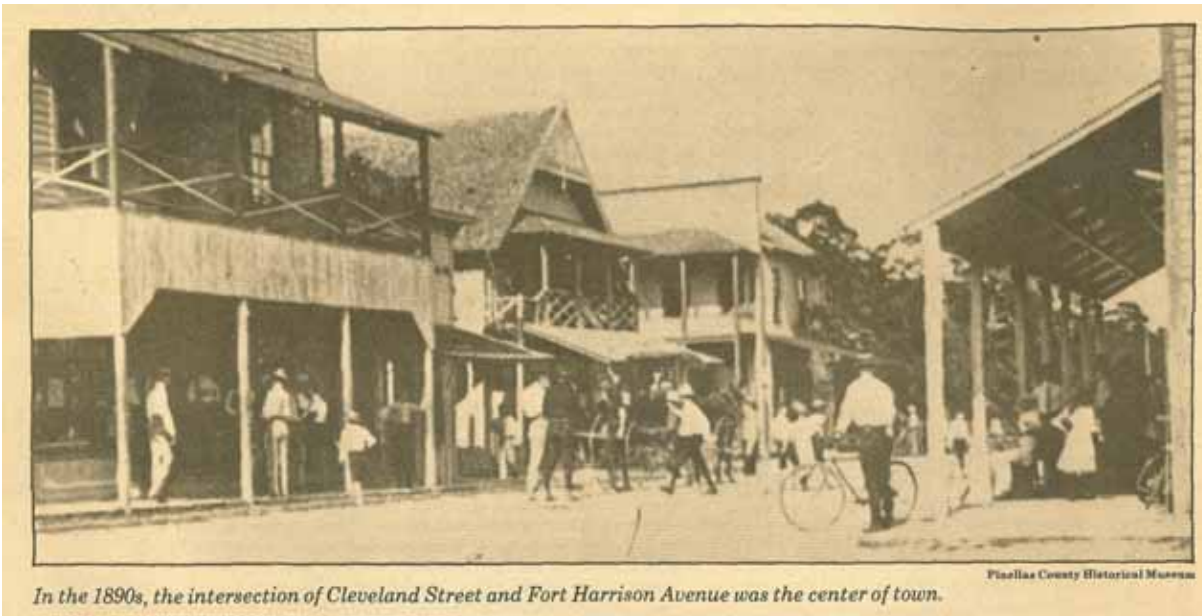
Pinellas ranch life



The interior areas were better suited for ranching and farming.



Here in Pinellas most people lived on the coast where contact with the outside world was by boat. After 1888, when the railroad arrived, growth centers began to include areas along the railroad routes.





The beginning of sustained growth for Pinellas County coincided with the coming of the Orange Belt Railroad to St. Petersburg in 1888. A railroad pier to facilitate freight loading extended one half mile into Tampa Bay to a point where the water was 12 feet deep. However, St. Petersburg never became a rival port with Tampa, since the second owner of the railroad, Henry Plant, chose not to rebuild several hundred feet of the pier destroyed in a storm.

**Railroad Pier in
St. Petersburg - 1900**

Local place names that have changed
or faded away.

- **Yellow Bluff → Ozona**
- **Anclote**
- **Seaside → Crystal Beach**
- **Sutherland → Palm Harbor**

Steve Robinson will now take control of the Time Machine.

