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* * * To explore the field of Florida history, to seek and gather up the ancient chronicles in which its annals are contained, to retain the legendary lore which may yet throw light upon the past, to trace its monuments and remains, to elucidate what has been written, to disprove the false and support the true, to do justice to the men who have figured in the olden time, to keep and preserve all that is known in trust for those who are to come after us, to increase and extend the knowledge of our history, and to teach our children that first essential knowledge, the history of our State, are objects well worthy of our best efforts. To accomplish these ends we have organized the Historical Society of Florida.

GEORGE R. FAIRBANKS.

Saint Augustine, April, 1857

DENYS ROLLE AND ROLLESTOWN, A PIONEER FOR UTOPIA

During the English occupation of Florida, a short but notable episode in its varied history, broad plantations and charming homes spread over the wild, deserted country, and many distinguished men, in England and the colonies, applied for grants there. For a few brief years they enjoyed a rapidly increasing prosperity, and heedless of the gathering storm of the American Revolution, invested heavily in land, cattle, and farm equipment. They were rudely awakened, after the Revolution, when England found it expedient to turn her youngest colony back to Spain. Eight months. were allotted the unfortunate land owners to sell their property to yet absent Spanish and seek new homes in other parts of the British realm.

Such was to be the fate of Denys Rolle, founder of Rollestown, a village which struggled into being in 1767, on a lonely curve of the St. Johns River, about a mile from the present San Mateo. This gentleman, a member of Parliament and wealthy Devonshire landowner, became fired with the philanthropic desire to found a colony of poor white people, give them a fresh

(Note-This account of Denys Rolle and his attempt at colonization in Florida is based on forty-three contemporaneous documents preserved in the Public Record Office, London,- letters and reports of Governors Grant and Tonym to the Lords of Trade and Plantations, to the Earl of Shelburne and to Lord Hillsborough; memorials of Rolle, and his letters to the governor and the secretaries; Acts of the Privy Council; private letters; etc. Copies of these papers were secured from London by Mrs. Corse and given to the library of the Florida Historical Society where they may be seen; hence it is considered unnecessary to cite the source of each statement made. Three of these documents follow this article. Others may be published here when space is available.

Another account of Rolle and his project, from numerous printed sources, appeared in the **QUARTERLY**, the issue of July, 1925.-Ed.)

start, and achieve an ideal society in this new world. Hoping to secure a vast tract of land and more financial backing, he at first associated with him four friends, but a disagreement soon arose between the partners which left Rolle the sole petitioner. In the cause for this separation lay the seeds of all Rolle's troubles-his arbitrary temper and impractical mind. He drew up their first petition asking for an immense grant in Georgia on the Altamaha River, ignorant of the fact that existing Indian treaties made this project impossible. Before his petition had been considered, a second paper signed by the same people was filed, requesting the grant of Cumberland Island. As this was a practical proposition, the Lords of Trade and Plantations met with the Governor of Georgia present, to consider it. Denys Rolle hurried to this meeting and disclaimed the Cumberland document which he said one of his partners, a Dr. Willan, had drawn without authority, and the Lords accordingly instructed him to frame another. All his subsequent petitions are signed by Rolle alone, and it would seem that his would-be partners found him either too arbitrary or too visionary to deal with. Nothing daunted, he made a new request as ambitious as the first, in which he asked for a small state in Florida, where administrative powers would be vested in him, and promised in return to build a capital city, a small town, make of his white colonists a militia, and furnish naval stores for the British fleet. The British government was offering twenty thousand acre tracts, but Rolle declared he needed one hundred thousand at least. The English learned to think in large terms in taming the American wilderness.

On the back of this ambitious document is written the decision of the Lords of Trade-to allow Rolle twenty thousand acres in Florida wherever he should

choose to settle and to furnish him with a deputy marshal from the Governor. If this township were settled within two years, another similar grant would be made, and so on until the desired hundred thousand acres should be obtained. Thus the wily Lords thought to curb the eloquent gentleman who dared face a wild country with new and doubtful immigrants.

Rolle was by now so engrossed with his scheme that he decided to be the acting head of the colony. He sailed for Florida as a steerage passenger, shocking all his future associates by this unconventional behavior. On his way from Charleston he even lay under a cart on the deck of a small schooner, thus giving himself the impression of roughing it. This strange gentleman arrived in St. Augustine in September, 1764, and since there was no inn there, Governor Grant asked one of his friends to give him a bed in his house. Rolle dined with the governor daily, as did all other prominent visitors passing through the little capital. The governor was an able administrator and a man of firm decision, whose brilliant capture of Havana had forced Spain to offer Florida for the recovery of Cuba. To him this enthusiastic visionary was a sore trial, but Shelburne, the colonial secretary, was continually warning Grant to handle him with tact. Guides and hunters were furnished him to go to St. Marks, but at the last minute he turned to the St. Johns River, where he spent five months without coming to a decision. To us who know the St. Johns, between September and February this would seem to have been a delightful excursion and we are tempted to wonder if Rolle was so beguiled by a taste for good fishing. At any rate he had a taste for scenery, for he went about building cabins on all the beautiful spots along the river, where the high banks and great oaks were most tempting. When Rolle returned to St. Augustine

to claim these, Governor Grant explained that he must take his land, good and bad, in one contiguous tract of twenty thousand acres. Much disgruntled, Rolle took the warrant of survey from De Brahm-the first English surveyor, whose maps of Florida are remarkable for detail and accuracy-and started once more.

Other settlers had arrived in Florida by this time, and Grant was obliged to divert them from the St. Johns until Rolle's case was settled. Rolle's next choice was a tract of land on both sides of the river, which he claimed ought not to prevent it from being described as contiguous. Since Grant did not agree with him, Rolle went back to England in high dudgeon, to secure his land from the Lords of Trade and Plantations. Hillsborough, now the colonial secretary, was very anxious to prevent adverse reports of Florida from spreading in England, and himself petitioned the King for power to make this unusual grant. The matter was referred to the Privy Council which reported favorably. The terms of his grant were typical in all other particulars-he agreeing to settle the land with white Protestants, one to every hundred acres, within ten years, paying a quit rent of one half penny per acre. His Majesty reserved places for fortifications and public stores, and all valuable mineral rights.

Rolle now turned to the problem of securing colonists. This was not so easy as he anticipated, for even very poor farmers were timid about facing unknown dangers in a new country. Only the hopeless vagrants, debtors and beggars off the streets of London were willing to follow him, and these Rolle accepted, still deluded with his dream of giving them a refuge, and heedless of the fact that most of these people were constitutionally unfit for any steady work.

And so in 1767 Rolle returned with forty-nine white settlers to Florida, where Grant had been

obliged to keep a great region open to his choice for four years. The land he finally decided upon was about a mile from the present San Mateo, on the river. No other English settlers were allowed above Picolata, on account of the Indians' antipathy to whites so near the lands reserved for them by treaty.

When the new colonists arrived at the site of their future town they were put to work clearing a site for a church-before they had shelter of any kind! They proved an unruly lot, and their enthusiasm for work soon vanished before real hardships and bad management. Rolle had promised them half the produce they could raise, but when he put them to digging palmetto stumps and clearing new land, they refused to obey him. For this he stopped food supplies to whole families for a week at a time, which only made them run away to St. Augustine where they filled the streets with loud tales of persecution. Their cases were tried before three Justices of the Peace, who were about to free them from their indentures, when Governor Grant heard of it, and urged that they be persuaded to return. He had no love for Rolle, but feared the effect such a precedent would have on other colonists in Florida. So the settlers were returned-those who did not escape to the woods-and Rolle continued to import the same unprofitable types. In 1779 eighty-nine took ship to Charleston at his expense, and the majority vanished as soon as they reached port. Mr. Laurens of Charleston, in reporting the incident to Rolle's agent, said that, though he pitied Mr. Rolle, he considered their loss a good riddance.

Finally the colony reached two hundred souls; but it was never a paying investment. Once in 1770 Rolle had one thousand cattle on his range, but a dishonest agent sold them for his own profit in his master's absence. Discouraged by the returns from his

project, Rolle at length gave up his white settlement and bought negroes to work his plantation. He restocked his range with cattle, hogs, and sheep, and returned to England to find the American Revolution the engrossing topic of the day. He at once became active trying to equip a man-o'-war with funds raised in Devonshire, but was not able to infect his neighbors, with his enthusiasm.

In 1778 Rolle made another trip to Florida, and crowned his folly there by investing twelve thousand pounds more to restock his plantation. Even though he was fresh from England no suspicions of Florida's precarious position, as the only loyal colony south of Canada, entered his mind. He was enthusiastic over the prosperity he at last began to see on his land; and having purchased many additional tracts from his neighbors, bringing his acreage to eighty thousand, he claimed he had the finest cattle range in America, bounded by thirty-six miles of navigable water. Before his house, ships from Europe came within "plank's length" of the shore, in thirty feet of water, to load large quantities of turpentine from his fifteen hundred tapped trees. Another interesting item for export was "one thousand gallons of orange juice in a good year". A two-storied house boasting "five sash windows", offices in different ranges on a ten acre square, with negro houses and their gardens on each side, a church and clergyman's house completed the list of buildings at Rollestown in 1782.

But it was not long before Rolle saw that his cause in Florida was lost. In spite of eloquent petitions from her loyal subjects, England felt obliged to surrender Florida to Spain, in exchange for certain stations in the West Indies. Rolle was desperate for fear his Indian neighbors would plunder his possessions and did not wait for the English transports which were to

take the unhappy settlers to other shores. He chartered a vessel for five hundred guineas to make as many trips as necessary to move all things movable at Rollestown. He had petitioned the Lords of Plantations for Mogane, an island north of Turks Island in the Bahamas, but in 1785 we find the remnants of Rollestown upon Exuma, another island. In two trips negroes, farm implements, and stock were moved, and even the buildings taken down and shipped. Forty-five of his negroes died on the journey, and only twenty-eight of the remainder were "taskable". Twenty three thousand pounds had been spent in all on the Florida venture, and though Rolle fared much better than most of the refugees since he returned to England to press for his indemnity, he was thenceforth content to live at Stevenstone, his country home in Devonshire, a chastened pioneer.

CARITA DOGGETT CORSE

LETTERS FROM THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

(Copy-Governor Grant's Letter to Lachlan MacLeane Esqr. in answer to an Official Letter wrote by order of the Earl of Shelburne, concerning Denys Rolle Esqr.)

St. Augustine, February 13th, 1767

Sir

I have had the honor to receive your Letter of the 20th November, informing me that you are Commanded by the Earl of Shelburne, to acquaint me that it is His Majesty's Pleasure that all suitable Encouragement be given to Denys Rolle Esquire in his useful undertakings in the Province of East Florida.

It is my Duty and Inclination to encourage every Settler-if that was not my constant study, I should not deserve the honor which His Majesty has conferred upon me., by putting an Infant Colony under my care; but I have the satisfaction to believe that

my Endeavors to serve and oblige every Gentleman who has come to settle, or even to look at the Country have succeeded except in the ease of Mr. Rolle, tho' I have been at more pains to please and accommodate him than all the rest.

Mr. Rolle came to this place in September 1764 determined as he told me to proceed directly to St. Marks by Land, but after Guides and Hunters were provided to attend him, he altered his Opinion without assigning a Reason, and said he would go to St. John's the Province was open to his Choice, a single Acre had not been granted away, and he had near Five Months to consider of a proper situation for Locating his Estate, before the appointment of the Land Surveyor took place; upon Mr. De Brahm's Arrival from Georgia in the end of January 1765, a Warrant of Survey was issued to measure out twenty thousand Acres of Land for Mr. Rolle in one Contiguous tract in any part of the Province without Restriction where he chose to, fix-by this means I flattered myself that his Business must soon be settled to his Satisfaction-but Difficulties soon occurred, the Deputy Surveyors obliged by their Instructions and Oath of Office, to measure out Lands according to the Terms of His Majesty's Order in Council, and His Majesty's general Instructions to me, could not comply with Mr. Rolle's directions in Locating his Estate and on the other hand the Terms contained in the King's Order did not appear to Mr. Rolle to be sufficiently advantageous to him therefore the Survey was postponed-and in place of doing business a thousand Doubts, Suspicions and Grievances were started. I received many Letters from him upon those disagreeable Subjects-my Answers were as Civil; and as much to the purpose as I could contrive to make them to a man, who for the most part I did not understand, but nothing was satisfactory to him,

he remained complaining and wandering upon the River St. John's during the Winter 1765 - wherever a place pleased his Eye he built a Log House by way of taking possession, upon Islands as well as on each side of the River indifferently, without asking my consent or even taking the trouble to inform me of it - this extraordinary measure was prior to the Indian Congress, and was not pleasing to me-for tho' I never intended to ask the Country to the Eastward of St. John's as a favor from the Indians I wished to bring them in good Humor to the meeting, and for that reason I was determined to Grant no Land above the Fort of Picolata except to Mr. Rolle, who I wished to get off my hands, upon any Terms that could be complied with. The Indians who are tenacious of their property took exceptions as I expected at the little Log houses - One Indian Family humorously enough fixed in one of them-their Complaints and Suspicions were put a stop to with good talks and the expectation of presents at the Congress and therefore tho' Mr. Rolle's Conduct was unprecedented in an established Government, as it was not attended with serious bad consequences to the Publick, I thought the best way. was to overlook his Behavior to me - But I could not comply with Mr. Rolle's request, when he applied to me for Grants of those Log house spots, to wandering woodsmen who never Resided a Year at a time in the same place - to whom I would not have given an Acre in any part of the Province, and who I knew were by Agreement to transfer their Rights for those Lands to him, for Lots to be assigned to them in his Ideal Town-where there is nothing to show for the Money he has trifled away, even the house intended for himself and raised at some Expense has remained so long uncovered that the Timbers are Rotten.

This Log House Plan one of the Objects of what he called his extra Settlement was extensive and not ill laid. Planters of Note intending to settle upon St. John's River, must have purchased proper spots for their houses from him, and of course would have been at his mercy.

In the course of our Correspondence I often pressed Mr. Rolle to Locate some where but to no purpose-at last in May 1765 I wrote to him that tho' the King's Order gave him a preference to other Settlers, I could not keep the Province open upon his Account-that Messrs. Kinloch and Moultree two considerable Carolina Planters were arrived with an Intention to look at the Country, and to form Settlements in it - I observed to him that if their Petitions for particular tracts were Prior to his, they in that case must be preferred to him, and that I therefore thought it right to put him upon his Guard against an inconvenience which was likely to happen - this seemed to alarm him, he applied for a Deputy Surveyor, who was immediately sent to him, and wandered for near two months with Mr. Rolle over all the Swamps and-Creeks round his Bluff, but as the Deputy got no Money he tired at last and left Mr. Rolle, upon finding that no Business could be carried on, he could not deviate from his Instructions, and it was impossible to prevail upon Mr. Rolle to agree to Terms which he thought so contrary to his interest-upon the return of the Deputy I sent for the Surveyor General and desired him to make out Plans of all the different ways in which it was possible to survey out Mr. Rolle's Tract (without transgressing the Kings Instructions) in that part of the Country which he seemed attached to, and of which the Deputy had made a Sketch. Mr. De Brahm proposed three different methods of running out the Tract. Funk the Deputy was directed to transmit the Plans to Mr.

Rolle, which was done, he rejected all the three, and was determined to go to England to get some alterations made in His Majesty's Order in Council dated in May 1764 -he left the Province dissatisfied because I would not act contrary to my Instructions, and refused to reserve two or three tracts 'till his Return-indeed Mr. Rolle thought every man in the Country was hostile to him, tho' in fact he had no Enemy but himself. I believe people did not shew him so much respect as he expected-his method of coming from England as a Steerage Passenger, and an affectation perhaps of saving the Expense of a Cabin passage by lying under a Cart upon the Deck of a small Schooner, which brought him from Charles Town, drew upon him a sort of Contempt, which was increased by the Clamours and repeated Complaints of the few White people brought out with him that they were Naked and starved. I could not command respect from other People to Mr. Rolle, but I treated him with great attention myself, had him every day at my Table, and asked the favor of a Gentleman to invite him upon his arrival to lodge at his house which was done, but he disliked his Guest so much, that he would not give Mr. Rolle a bed when he returned to Town a second time.

Mr. Rolle arrived at his intended Settlement on St. John's River the 26 ultimo with about forty white people, some of them indented, others not-they eat at his Expence - left England because they were idle and starving, and will not easily be prevailed upon to work in America-while they remain with him they will be a Load upon him, and will never be of any use to him or the Publick. I am very sorry to see his plans so wild and inconsistent, but 'tis impossible to direct him or put him right, he hates, indeed never forgives a man

who differs in opinion with him, of which I have seen too many instances.

In place of preparing Ground to raise Provisions his whole attention is taken up in clearing a spot for a Church and Church Yard in his Town where there is not a House or one permanent Inhabitant - he might have formed two valuable Plantations upon his Estate, for the Money which his two Trips from England will cost him, but by his management he will have nothing to show for so large an Expence - and I am much convinced he will never raise a hundred pounds worth of Produce in the Country.

When Mr. Rolle was last in this Province I did not think it necessary to trouble His Majesty's Ministers with his Transactions - but I am obliged to enter more particularly into his Conduct, as he informs me in a long letter that he has published our Correspondence and presented it with a Memorial to His Majesty-My Letters to him were private not intended for the press, tho' there is nothing in them that I wished to keep a Secret from His Majesty. I have kept Mr. Rolles Original Letters except one which I took the Liberty to transmit to the Lords of Trade if he has published exact Copys of them I am much mistaken if any Man in England can Decypher them.

I have the honor & c.

JAMES GRANT.

Lachlan MacLeane Esquire

* * *

St. Augustine

13th August, 1768.

My Lord

In obedience to Your Lordship's Commands relating to Mr. Rolle in your Letter No. 6 I take the liberty to send a Copy of my Letter of the 13th February 1767

to Mr. MacLeane, which was wrote in consequence of Mr. Rolle's first Memorial to His Majesty.

Facts speak for themselves My Lord, and I flatter myself that those contained in my Letter will convince Your Lordship that Mr. Rolle has met with no unnecessary Difficulties or improper Obstructions in locating his Land, but on the contrary every Facility which was in my power to give him, for I had heard and seen enough of Mr. Rolle at London, to wish most anxiously to get him off my hands as soon as possible after his arrival here. I therefore pressed him to take his Land, even before the Indian Congress took place, and I gave him a Special Warrant of Survey, to locate wherever he pleased without Restriction, which Warrant he had for Six Months in his Pocket, before an Acre of Land was given away in the Province.

The delay of Location therefore My Lord can only be imputed to Mr. Rolle's suspicious and Litigious disposition, for an unhappy Jealousy in his Temper, is the source of all his Grievances, which exist nowhere but in his Imagination.

Mr. Rolle thinks me his Enemy, and says so publicly, I never did him an Injury, I have often endeavoured to serve him, and tho' his behavior to me has been irregular as Governor of the Province, I should at this hour assist him in the same manner as I would any other Adventurer. I have ever acted upon that principle with him without showing the least Resentment for his Conduct-every man in the Country will do me the Justice to say so, tho' he no doubt endeavors to represent things in a very different Light.

Your Lordship seems to think that Difficulties may have arisen from a Delicacy with regard to my Instructions, and you say that if I will state my Doubts, possibly upon Consideration they may be removed-that might be done My Lord if Mr. Rolle could be prevailed

upon to come to the point, but it has ever been impossible for me to fix him to any thing - if he would have made a Demand in consequence of the King's Order, the Business might have been brought to a Conclusion long ago, for I should readily have given him small Grants in addition to the large one to accommodate him to his Satisfaction, tho' I have absolutely refused to do so, 'till the twenty thousand Acres are once Located.

Mr. Rolle if I understand him wishes to have about sixty thousand Acres of Land upon the East Side of St. John's River, to consider the Water of that River as Land, he being willing to pay Quit Rent for it as such and having removed the difficulty of the River by this Conversion of Water into Land, he is desirous to join a Body of 3, 4 or 5 thousand Acres of Swamp Land (already Granted to Colonel Middleton in 1763 by the Governors of Carolina) upon the West side of the River to the Sixty Thousand Acres upon the East side-the whole from this mode of Surveying the Waters to be considered as one Contiguous Tract, and not exceeding the King's Order, as he is of Opinion that he will not have a greater proportion of good Land, than a Gentleman who has a well chose Tract of 20,000 [acres] should have-Your Lordship will think this plan wild enough, but it is as far as I can judge Mr. Rolle's Idea of Location, and all the Gentlemen who have talked with him upon the Subject are convinced that it is his Plan-in looking over a Sketch of the Country he may possibly mention it to Your Lordship, but My Lord if he apprehends that Your Lordship disapproves of the System, or if he suspects that I have given the information he will fly off directly and deny every word of it-tho' before he went to England having made a Road through a part of the Swamp I believe with his own hands, he would hear of no other

Objection to his Plan, but the Governor's ill will to him.

For he is convinced of my Hostility, tho' I have kept a large Tract of Country open for him for four Years and have refused repeated Petitions for Land where he probably must locate in the end-but so far am I My Lord from having a desire to distress him, that I have really done an Irregular thing to serve him, and save his Land, since he returned to England last.

In a New World the same Tract of Country may be described different ways, and often is so by people who have an Intention to deceive or mislead-An Order was presented to me from His Majesty, for twenty thousand Acres of Land for Lord Adam Gordon, a Grantee from the Crown has a Right to chuse, wherever the Land has not been Surveyed or Granted, a Warrant was immediately issued, the Surveyors had traversed the Tract, and a Sketch of it was actually sent to England before I discovered that this Survey took in a great part of Mr. Rolle's intended Estate, I immediately put a stop to any further Survey *there*, and have Located Lord Adam's Grant in another place -As Lord Adam is My Friend and Acquaintance I ventured to take this Liberty with him, another. Grantee probably would not have allowed it, for 'tis an Act of power for which I have no Authority, but Lord Adam wont trouble Your Lordship upon the Subject, he might no doubt complain of my Partiality to Mr. Rolle, but I am pretty safe for neither His Lordship nor Mr. Rolle, will I believe impute my Conduct to any such Motive.

Mr. Rolle thinks it is in my power to make his servants work and to settle every little Dispute he has with the other Inhabitants, 'tis to no purpose to point out a Chief Justice, Assistant Judges, Justices of the Peace, King's Attorney & ca. all that costs Money and

he will have recourse to me only-he insisted upon my taking in Charge as Chancellor a Young Girl of Sixteen or Eighteen, who he had brought out from England for the second time, because they quarreled and she was going to leave him, I begged to be excused as Chancellor, but I took care to prevent any of the Young Gentlemen in Town, from giving her Encouragement, and employed people to persuade her to go back and things were seemingly made up when they differed about a few Guineas for a Gown-in one of his Letters to me he calls the Girl one of his nearest Relations, and after she left him, he actually applied for a Warrant to Commit her Brother for Felony to be tried for his Life upon the Suspicion of Stealing or Carrying away a Blanket from the Village of Rolle-he gives Protection as a Member of Parliament to all the Vagabonds who come about him, and has a thousand mean, low, trifling Litigious Disputes with all his Neighbours, and in short with every Body he deals with-he keeps an Indian Store without Leave or Licence, and indeed sells Goods in Retail to any Body who calls for them, at the same time he throws away his Money, and has not sunk less than five thousand pounds for which has nothing to shew-a Planter with a Dozen of Negroes would do more in Six Months.

Mr. Rolle's great and constant Complaint is the loss he sustains by his Indented Servants, who he says are seduced away by other people, 'tis impossible to convince him that everybody who attempts a settlement in the same way will meet with Disappointments of the like Nature, and Mr. Rolle do's not consider that his own Conduct with regard to those Servants induces them to leave him sooner than perhaps they would do if they were treated in another manner.

Mr. Rolle made alterations and additions to many of the Indentures upon his passage from England. Peo-

pie were prevailed upon to agree to Changes visibly made to their disadvantage-upon Mr. Rolle's giving Tea and Sugar to their Wives and Daughters and probably a little Liquor to themselves, they considered the immediate convenience and signed to what Mr. Rolle pleased to dictate tho' they at the same time look't upon it as an imposition on his part.

Those people of course landed disssatisfied, and their Discontent was soon increased by bad living, and I am sorry to add by Acts of Injustice and oppression-for example, My Lord, some of the Servants by agreement were to have half the produce raised by their Labor, those people were set to work in a Pine Barren to Grub up Palmetto Roots, when they enquired of Mr. Rolle what advantage they could reap from such Labor, the answer was, that they might sell half the Palmetto Roots-they saw that they never would be able to buy a pound of Bread at that rate, and they declared that they would raise Provisions, but that they would not continue at the Palmetto Work, upon which a quarrel ensued, and several of them came to Town-I was not informed of the Circumstances, I refused to see any of the Servants, and in order to Support Mr. Rolle in the Command of them, I sent round to the Inhabitants to beg that none of Mr. Rolle's Servants might be received or harbored by them-if I detected any of them in a Publick house I threaten'd to take away the License from the Publican and in short I obliged numbers of them at different times to return to his Plantation.

One of Mr. Rolle's managers called upon me and said overly [i. e. superficially] in Conversation, that his Master at times stopt People's Provisions. who did not finish their Task-I told him that I thought Mr. Rolle did very right, for I believed they were a parcel of troublesome lazy people, I thought the man meant

a Dinner or a Supper, but the Fact was stopping Provisions from whole Familys for ten days or a fortnight at a time, and that in a Wilderness where it was impossible for them to get any thing to eat, unless it was in Charity from the other Servants out of their allowance.

Disputes and Dissatisfaction at last run so high that they came off in a body and abandoned Mr. Rolle and the settlement-upon their arrivel in Town they insisted upon being heard. I could no longer act in the way I had done, and the Affair was referred to three Gentlemen, who are Justices of the Peace. Mr. Rolle came to Town to answer the Complaints which were. made against him,-but at a Publick hearing so many things appeared against him and in favor of the servants-that if I had not underhand interposed the greatest part if not the whole of them I believe would have been discharged from their indentures, but I represented that it was a New Country, that adventurers laboured under many inconveniences, that servants getting the better of their Master would be a bad precedent, and might be hurtful to the future Settlement of the Province in short I prevailed upon them not to proceed to sentence, but to advise Mr. Rolle, and to recommend Obedience to the servants-in any other County in America every man of them would have been set at Liberty-yet Mr. Rolle thinks he met with injustice he exclaims against the Justices, & very probably I do not escape Censure, tho' officially I could have nothing to do in the business, he can know nothing of this last step which I took in his favor, - indeed it was rather done to serve the Colonist than the Man-I shall now leave that Gentleman, having 'tis to be hoped sufficiently explained to Your Lordship the Nature of the difficulties Grievances and

Obstructions, which he says he met with in this Province. I have &c.

JAMES GRANT

[To Lord Hillsborough]

(From MMS. of the Marquess of Lansdowne, vol. 66, pp. 687-688.)

THE PRESENT STATE OF THE PLANTATIONS IN 1782

The Village of Rolle of 15,000 acres & an Island of 85.

A Good House of two Fronts to the River and Inland-of 5 sashed Windows and two Stories.

Offices in different Ranges on each side a Large square of 10 acres with the Negroes Houses rang'd regularly on each side with Garden Lotts behind each -a Church & Clergymans house intended in Front with an Avenue 'between exactly fronting the Principal mansion cut straight for 8 miles through the woods towards Augustine to the end of my land-24 Feet wide road with 7 Feet Drains on each side in the middle of the avenue.

320 Acres on the banks of the River above the House enclosed for Tillage of which 200 acres are Imbank'd for Rice.

22 Acres below the House enclosed for a garden for Tropical Fruits and Vine yard.

79 Working Negroes, 27 Children, 106 in all. Between 2 & 300 Cattle, 100 Hoggs - many oxen trained to the Plough harnessed as Horses.

15000 Trees tapped for Turpentine. Vast Plenty of Provisions for sale. Negroes well clothed and great quantity of Turpentine ready for export.



SAMUEL PASCO (1834-1917)

SAMUEL PASCO (1834-1917)

Samuel Pasco was born in London, on June 28th, 1834. His parents moved to Prince Edwards Island during his infancy and later settled in Charlestown, Massachusetts, a suburb of Boston. He attended school there and afterwards entered Harvard College, graduating in 1858. About the time of his graduation, a group of Southern planters in far-off Florida had organized an academy and applied to the president of Harvard to recommend a principal. The graduate was recommended and accepted the position. And so the young English-American was transplanted from the hotbed of abolition to the heart of the Old South. The young schoolmaster, traveling largely by stage-coach, made his way to the scene of his future labors at Waukeenah, in the southern part of Jefferson County.

Two years spent in the intimacy that the warm-hearted Southern hospitality soon established between him and the families of his pupils, completely won him over to the cause of the South, and when he closed the academy in July, 1861, it was to go forth with fifteen of his older pupils and enlist in the armies of the Con-

Note-The accompanying history of Jefferson County, Florida, was prepared by Senator Pasco at the time of the dedication of the court house at Monticello in 1910, and was in part used by him in an address on that occasion. As first written the history of this region was traced from the earliest times to 1910; but because much relating to the period prior to the establishment of the county in 1827 has appeared in other articles in the **QUARTERLY** the narrative will begin with that year. The entire manuscript has been given to and may be seen in the collections of the Society.

Samuel Pasco, of Pensacola, has been asked to bring together here an outline of the most important events and services of his father's life. It is hoped that an adequate biography of one whose services to Florida were so extensive will appear in a future issue.--Ed.

federacy. His devotion to his boys is vividly illustrated by an incident told by one of his comrades, Clarence Smith, in *Camp Fires of the Confederacy*, entitled "Private Pasco", in which he rescued a wounded boy under heavy fire from between the lines. He served in the Third Florida Regiment throughout the war. Though almost continuously detailed for clerical work at regimental headquarters to the time he was captured, he participated in every action that his command engaged in. He was wounded and captured at Missionary Ridge and remained for fourteen months a prisoner at Camp Morton, despite the efforts of Northern friends to induce him to take the oath of allegiance. At length he was exchanged and the end of the war found him on crutches, on furlough in Florida while recovering from his wounds.

Samuel Pasco's first public office was Clerk of the Circuit Court of Jefferson County, to which he was elected in the interim between the surrender of the Southern forces and the beginning of the so-called Carpet Bag regime. The records of Jefferson County show the following formal protest entered on the minutes of the Circuit Court when he surrendered the records to his successor:-

BE IT REMEMBERED that on this the 24th day of August, A. D. 1868, came Robert Meacham and claimed the office of Clerk of the Circuit Court in and for the said County of Jefferson, by virtue of a certain instrument purporting to be a commission from one Harrison Reed, claiming to be Governor of the State of Florida, and it appearing that the said Commission is issued under the State seal, and that the said Harrison Reed is actually exercising the functions of Governor as aforesaid and that he has full power to enforce the said Commission; the undersigned, believing it to be his duty as a good citizen to yield obedience to the existing government, has this day surrendered all the records, seals and other public property that has been in his custody as Clerk of the Circuit Court and Criminal Courts in and for this County of Jefferson

to the said Robert Meacham, but he does the same under protest, reserving and claiming all his rights as Clerk as aforesaid. And he protests that the authority under which the said Robert Meacham is acting is unlawful and a usurpation.

And in testimony hereof, he hereto sets his official signature as said Clerk on that day and year aforesaid.

S. PASCO, Clerk

After leaving the clerk's office, he entered the law office of Colonel W. S. Dilworth, his old regimental commander, forming a partnership which lasted until the death of the latter.

His next and perhaps greatest public service was as chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee in 1876 when, under his leadership home rule was restored in Florida. He served in that capacity until 1886. He was elected president of the Constitutional Convention of 1885 which framed our present constitution. In the Democratic Convention of 1886, he and General Perry were placed in nomination for governor, and there ensued a contest that broke all records for endurance. Finally in the interest of harmony he withdrew his name, and on his motion General Perry was nominated by acclamation. In 1887 he was chosen speaker of the House of Representatives; and at the same session was elected to the United States Senate where he served continuously for approximately fourteen years. In 1899 he was appointed on the Isthmian Canal Commission serving until it completed its labors. This was his last public service. He died March 13, 1917.

Samuel Pasco was called to the leadership of almost every body, legislative, political, and fraternal of which he was a member. He served as state commander of the Confederate Veterans; for three years he was grand master of the Masons, and as we have already recounted, served in succession as speaker of the House, chairman of the Democratic Executive

Committee and president of the Constitutional Convention.

His life was too active and full otherwise for much work of a literary character, but he was deeply interested in all matters pertaining to history, particularly of his adopted State. He wrote the chapter on Florida in *Why the Solid South*, a history of reconstruction in the South, edited by Hilary A. Herbert. He also wrote a history of Masonry in Florida.

While this sketch is intended rather as a brief recounting of his public service than as a biography, we cannot forbear quoting a tribute paid him by the late General B. W. Partridge who knew him intimately for more than fifty years:

He was a potent thinker--a deep student--a loyal devotee to those things that men love and respect--an ardent tutor--a courageous soldier--a patriotic zealous citizen, clean in his public and private conduct--a model of loyalty in his home life--a devoted husband--an idolized father--inflexible in his private friendships--a safe, unselfish political captain--a statesman and a philosopher, and above all--an exemplary Christian.

SAMUEL PASCO (JR.)

JEFFERSON COUNTY, FLORIDA, 1827-1910

By SAMUEL PASCO

PART I

It was in January, 1827, that Jefferson County was formed out of Leon, with its western boundary nearly the same as at present and the eastern boundary remaining at the Suwannee until December, 1827, when Madison County was established. Thus Jefferson County became a separate territorial division and governmental organization, after being at times a part of the provinces of East Florida and West Florida, and of the counties of Escambia, Jackson, Gadsden, and Leon. It extends from the Georgia line to the Gulf, a distance of about forty miles, and at the base line is about twenty miles wide. Its area is 593 square miles.

In the Act of January 6th, 1827, establishing Jefferson County, it was provided that the County Court at its first session should appoint five commissioners to select a permanent seat of justice and it was authorized that the courts be held at the house of John G. Robinson until the selection was made and approved. The location chosen was the site of an old Indian town in the west half of the northwest quarter of Section 30, Township 2 North, 5 East, which was entered by William Bailey, August 15, 1827. The town was laid out early in 1828 and was named Monticello, after President Jefferson's home in Virginia.

A postoffice had already been established in this vicinity, May 10, 1826, called Robinsons. John G. Robinson was the first postmaster and it was at his house that the courts were temporarily held before the county seat was selected. The name of the office was changed to Monticello December 26, 1827, and

Robinson continued to be postmaster. Some of the early post routes, by which mail matter was received and sent from this office were as follows: From Tallahassee by Tuscowilla and Bailey's Mill to Monticello, one round trip a week; Thomas Heir was the contractor. From Thomasville by Grooverville, Ga. to Monticello, then by Bunker Hill, back to Thomasville. From Monticello by Ocilla and Rossiter's Ferry to Miccotown, the first county seat of Hamilton County, situated in the forks of the Allapaha, one round trip every two weeks. From Monticello to Lipona and Waukeenah to Magnolia; R. B. Scott was the contractor.

Early settlers. - As soon as the lands in this section were surveyed and offered for sale, they were in great demand; in fact, many were ready to establish their locations before the surveys were completed and accepted. The date of the earliest entry in Jefferson which I have found upon the record is April 23, 1825, while it was still a part of Leon County. Elizabeth W. Wirt on that date entered the west half of the southeast quarter of Section 34, Township 2 North, Range 4 East. Other entries made that year were by Richard Parish, Charles Williamson, Robert Jameson, Samuel R. Overton, James Gadsden, Daniel E. Burch, Romeo Lears, John Bellamy, Thomas K. White, Thomas Townsend.

Many prominent people established their homes within the present boundaries of Jefferson very soon after the Indians ceded and relinquished to the United States all their claim or title to their lands in Middle Florida by the treaty of Moultrie Creek, September, 1823. Capt Lewis M. Goldsborough of the U. S. Navy, who had married a daughter of Attorney General William Wirt, settled at Wirtland about three miles west of Monticello and the place still retains its name. A little later he established a colony here of

Swiss and Italians for the culture of mulberries for silk, olives, and grapes. The colonists afterwards became dissatisfied and went to Frenchtown, near Tallahassee. Colonel Joseph M. White, a distinguished lawyer, who represented the Territory as delegate in Congress from 1825 to 1837, established his home at Casa Bianca, about three miles south from Monticello, on the Waukeenah road.

Welanee, several miles further to the south below the St. Augustine road, was settled by Robert Gamble of Virginia. He and other members of the family always took an active part in the affairs of the Territory and State in time of war as well as peace. John G. Gamble's place a few miles to the west was named Joachina in honor of a lady of Pensacola of Spanish descent. The post office established at the plantation was removed to the crossing of the St. Augustine road, first known as Marion Cross Roads, and the settlement there was afterwards known by this name, but the spelling was Anglicized into Waukeenah. Thomas Randall, the first judge of the Superior Court, named his place Belmont.

Prince Achille Murat, eldest son of the former king of Naples, had his plantation about four miles west of Waukeenah. He called it Lipona, reversing the syllables in the Italian name of his native city and state, Napoli. He married the grand niece of Washington, Kate Willis, afterwards the "Widow Grey," famous for her beauty and accomplishments. Mrs. Ellen Call Long has written a very interesting sketch of our Florida princess and her husband, which was published in the Quarterly of the Florida Historical Society, July, 1909. It contains many interesting incidents of their life at Lipona. Those of us who in past years enjoyed the hospitality of this fair lady when she presided over this home, will ever remember the charm

of her manners, her sweet courtesy, and her uniform kindness.

General James Gadsden, one of General Jackson's aides, had a large plantation close by Lipona and a little further north and west was El Destino, belonging to William B. Nuttall, His widow married George Noble Jones and the property is still [1910] owned by members of the same family.

These large planters occupied some of the best lands in the County and although they lived remote from the great centers of population, they had their full share of the enjoyments and luxuries of the days in which they lived. During the holiday occasions different families would give house-parties and the guests would ride in turn from place to place, keeping up a round of entertainments and prolonging the festivities until the season was closed. There were other representatives in town and country of the best families in the older states, mainly from Virginia and the Carolinas; and a visitor at Waukeenah in 1828 said of them, "There is more intellect and intelligence to be found among the settlers of Florida than in the same population in any other new state."

Among the early settlers who bought lots in Monticello and entered lands near by were Adam Wirick, William Blackburn, Martin Palmer, J. B. Watts, Everett White, Joseph M. White, T. R. White, Isaac G. Teague, John Bellamy, Abram Bellamy, Littlebury Harbour, William Connell, Alexander Adair, Benjamin Chaires, Solomon E. Mathers, Turbutt R. Betton, and Edward R. Gibson. There are many descendants of these early settlers in this and the adjoining counties at the present day.

As already stated, William Bailey entered the eighty which was fixed upon for the location of the county seat, and the forty designated as the western

addition to the town was entered by Romeo Lewis. I have not been able to ascertain the exact location of John G. Robinson's home.

Courts.-At a very early date the courts were held in a small wooden building on the lot at the northeast corner of Washington Street and the Court Mouse square.

When the commissioners had the town surveyed and laid out in 1828, a square was reserved for the location of a permanent court house at the intersection of the two principal streets, Jefferson and Washington, running north and south and east and west; but several years elapsed before the building was commenced. The county was but thinly settled and its taxable resources were small, so that the construction of the necessary buildings was a great undertaking for those days. The United States census of 1830 showed that the total population was 3,312 of whom but 1,695 were whites. Few of the new settlers were wealthy and the property of those who were in easy circumstances consisted of slaves, horses, mules, cattle, vehicles and other movable property, and their newly entered lands. Their ready money was needed to pay for their lands, build their homes, and start their planting operations. It was not easy to raise by taxation large sums for public improvements and the plan of placing a part of the burden upon a later generation by issuing bonds was not included in the financial system of those early days. The disturbed condition of the country on account of the dissatisfaction and hostility of the Indians to which I will refer later, increased the difficulty of raising the necessary funds and carrying on the work.

In November 1834, the grand jury presented "the want of a decent and comfortable Court House as a great inconvenience that should be remedied." They

called attention to the manner of the expenditure of the funds, which should have been applied to the erection of a court house and jail and urged that the work be commenced without delay; but as it appeared that sufficient funds could not be raised at that time by taxation they suggested that an application be made for aid to Congress by an appropriation of land or money.

The spirit which prompted this suggestion must have stimulated the county authorities to some decisive action, for at the next session the general presentment expressed satisfaction at the prospect of a new court house in a few months. This expectation was not realized, and in November, 1835, they determined to make a direct appeal to Congress. Accordingly, a memorial was addressed to the United States Senate and House of Representatives, setting forth the unfinished condition of the public buildings and the desire to erect a permanent and commodious court house to serve all the conveniences, which ought to pertain to such a building. It asked for assistance to complete the house and stated that the county was unable to do more than finish the outer work. In consideration of the aid thus asked for, the county would agree that the Superior Court should have offices for the clerk and marshal and the use of the court room in which to hold its sessions without charge, and it was stated that the building had been planned and designed with this purpose in view. Upon a motion of the District Attorney, it was ordered that copies of this memorial be sent to the delegate in Congress to be laid before the two houses. This appeal seems to have been ineffectual, for in 1838 the buildings were still unfinished.

During the session of the Territorial Council in February of that year Albert J. Dozier, one of the members from Jefferson County, introduced a resolu-

tion upon this subject. In addition to the statements contained in the memorial of the grand jury, it was represented that the county had by direct tax on its citizens raised about five thousand dollars for the building of the court house; that this amount had been expended and that the house had not been completed. An appropriation of four thousand dollars was asked for, and it was ordered that a copy of the preamble and resolution be transmitted to Charles Downing, the delegate, to be presented to Congress. I have been unable to find that such an appropriation was granted and it is fair to presume that this effort also failed and that the citizens and tax payers were left to struggle with- their financial difficulties unaided by the authorities in Washington.

Jefferson County was included in the Middle Circuit of Florida, which comprised all the country between the Apalachicola and Suwannee rivers. The first term of this court, after the establishment of the new county, was held in Monticello on the fourth Monday of May, 1828. Thomas Randall was then judge of the Superior Court and continued in office until 1840, when he was succeeded by Alfred Balch. The grand jury was organized by the appointment of James Smith, Sr., as foreman and there was a full panel of petit as well as grand jurors present. The attorneys present were William Allison McRea, United States District Attorney, Richard K. Call, John Lee Williams, Achille Murat and John K. Campbell. Wm. II. Mathers, Jr. was clerk of the Court and continued in office till May, 1835, when he resigned and William Budd was appointed as his successor. The Grand Jury found no true bills and there being no business the term lasted but a single day. On the fourth Monday in November following, a second term was held. Zachariah Bailey was appointed foreman of the grand jury,

but again there was an early adjournment for the want of business.

The records of the court show that there was more or less work at every term after this on the civil as well as the criminal docket. The most frequent violations of the law originated in personal difficulties, but though the juries brought in verdicts of guilty of assault and battery, they were lenient in their penalties, fines of six and a quarter or twelve and a half cents, sometimes a dollar with the costs of prosecution, were often imposed on offenders; indicating very clearly that in the opinion of the juries, the person convicted was guilty of no moral turpitude. In a general presentment of the grand jury in November, 1834, it was stated that these personal assaults often grew out of the violence of party spirit. The grand jurors further said: "The aid and shield which the violators of the law sometimes receive and in most cases confidently expect from political friends on party grounds are an encouragement to crime which has a most demoralizing and dangerous influence."

Convictions of larceny were regarded in a very different light, and the culprit was punished by stripes upon the bare back to be inflicted at once by the marshal. Convictions of those indicted for homicide were rare. The accused persons found it less hazardous as well as less expensive to make a change of residence rather than face a jury. At the November term, 1834, the grand jury complained that four under such indictments had fled from justice, and it was recommended that the governors of neighboring states be called upon to aid in their arrest.

Judge Balch was succeeded by Samuel J. Douglas as judge of the Middle Circuit in November, 1841.

The first deed was recorded on the fourth day of

June, 1827, and the record of deeds from that date is complete and in good condition.

Churches.-The records and history of the early territorial days afford satisfactory evidence that the different religious denominations were well represented among those who established their homes in the Floridas after the exchange of flags and the opening of the lands to settlement. As early as 1821, Rev. John J. Triggs, who was in charge of the Allapaha Mission extending from the Ocmulgee to the Florida line, extended his labors across the line and was in all probability the first Protestant minister who preached in Middle Florida after it became American territory. In 1822, Mr. Triggs organized a mission in south and west Georgia and this mission embraced parts of Alabama and Florida. Rev. John Slade was appointed junior preacher on this work the following year and from his great success and his continued labors in the territory he has been called "The Father of Methodism in Florida." In 1824 Florida was made a district and Josiah Evans was appointed presiding elder. Among the faithful pioneers who proclaimed the word in this district was John L. Jerry, who had rendered effective service in his Master's cause for two years or more in the eastern part of the State with appointments at St. Augustine, Cowford (now Jacksonville), Fernandina, Newnansville, and other places.

In Monticello, the temporary court house was used for religious services, and it was doubtless in this building that the Monticello Church was organized. It was not until 1832 that the congregation undertook the erection of a building for their own use.

In April of that year, Martin Palmer deeded to Adam Wirick, William Connell, Darius Williams, Zach Wirick, and William H. Mathers, Jr., as trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, lot number sixty-

four, where the jail has recently been erected, in trust that they erect a house or place of worship for the use of the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States. Here a small wooden structure was built and used by the congregation until a larger building was erected in 1844. In October of that year, the trustees bought lot number two, and a more commodious building was built, which was occupied by the Church till 1887, when it was displaced by the beautiful brick structure, completed in the following year, in which the Methodists have since worshipped.

Adam Wirick was one of the early settlers in Monticello and devoted many years of his early manhood to ministerial and missionary work in the Methodist Church. He was a man of great intellectual force, energetic, enterprising, and thoroughly in earnest in all that he undertook. He was somewhat advanced in years when I first met him and I was impressed with the vast fund of information he had at his command derived from his extensive reading and a large experience with the realities of life acquired in his association and dealings with his fellow men. This information and these experiences were interesting to a younger man and they were made attractive by his fine description and the choice language with which he adorned his narrations. His early residence was on the east side of Jefferson Street on the block between Pearl and Dogwood streets, where Thomas Simmons lived in later years and where his daughter now resides. At one time he had a store on the same block, south of his home. Later in life he lived on his plantation about eight miles' from town, on the road to Lloyd, where his son John E. Wirick, now resides. Here this venerable pioneer passed away at an advanced age.

Other Methodist churches were formed in differ-

ent parts of the county as the result of the labors of the missionaries and local preachers and later the Waukeena Circuit was formed, but I have been unable to ascertain the date. It appears, however, that in September, 1853, Mrs. Maria Ulmer deeded to the trustees of the Methodist Church there, a piece of land in the southeastern part of the settlement, near the old school house. Here a large wooden building was erected and a cemetery established close by. The parsonage was built on the St. Augustine road and the preacher in charge filled appointments at a number of different stations in the eastern and southern part of the county. The cemetery is still in use but the present church and parsonage are located on the old Pinbook or Monticello road, a little north of the Waukeena settlement at the old Marion Cross Roads.

Rev. William Peeler was the preacher on the circuit when I moved to Waukeena in January, 1859, and often when he was filling his appointments in other parts of the field, his brother, Dr. Anderson Peeler, then a local preacher, occupied the pulpit and conducted the services.

In those days the annual camp-meetings were held at the Cabell camp-ground, where Edward C. Cabell had deeded in December, 1857, six acres of land of his Bolton place to George W. Taylor and other trustees of the Monticello Circuit. These gatherings were held every summer and were largely attended. Prominent members of the Monticello and Waukeena churches established themselves here, when the meetings were to be held, in spacious cottages with large stables and lots close by where they extended a generous hospitality to all who visited the grounds and participated in the daily services.

During the Seminole War the preachers continued their work, going from one block-house to another as

they filled their appointments, notwithstanding the dangers which constantly threatened them. Father R. H. Howren, whom many of us knew in his later years, referring to his own experience said on one occasion, "I knew that I was exposed to sudden and violent death every day, but the divine promise sustained me, 'Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world'."

But these brave men had something worse to dread than personal exposure to danger. Who would protect their homes in case of an Indian attack? The sad fate of the family of Rev. Tilman D. Purifoy illustrates the peril to which the wife and children were exposed during the absence of the husband and father. He married a daughter of Daniel Bird and they lived in the Pettus place. While he was filling some of his appointments a band of hostile Indians destroyed his home. On his return he found a scene of desolation. His two children had been murdered and burned with his house, the dead bodies of his negroes were lying about the place, and his wife, though still alive, had been shot and tomahawked. Though desperately wounded, she partially recovered and after some time was taken back to her old home in South Carolina.

The Baptists were also represented among the earliest settlers. Rev. James Connell was one of the pioneers of that denomination who held services in the first court house. The first Baptist church in the county was established not in Monticello, but at Casa Bianca plantation, about two miles south of town. It was called Ebenezer and was the first Baptist church organized in Florida. Colonel Joseph M. White, territorial delegate, in September, 1829, conveyed to the trustees of this church two acres of the south part of the east half of the northeast quarter of Section one, in Township one north, Range four east. The old

building was located on the west side of the road leading to Waukeelah and no vestige of it now remains, but on the opposite side of the road the old burial place is still used. The Ebenezer Church was afterwards moved to the Bolton plantation about four miles south of the old location on the road from Drifton to Waukeelah. Here a new church was built in the centre of a tract of four acres which was afterwards, in January 1860, conveyed to the trustees by Edward C. Cabell, a former Representative in Congress from Florida.

The Baptist Church in Monticello was constituted in September or October, 1841, with six members—Jesse Goodman, Sampson Barrington, Emily Clark, Amelia Palmer, Julia Bacon, and Elizabeth McCants. Rev. Richard J. Mays, father of our present Representative in Congress, was the first pastor. A place of worship was erected in 1845 or 1846 upon a lot south of the court house, which was afterwards, in May, 1846, given to the Church by Martin Palmer, husband of one of the original members. His brother, Stephen Palmer, built the house. It is the same building that is now used by the Baptists and it is in good condition. The trustees named in the deed of conveyance were Joseph McCants, William H. Scruggs, and Aaron Marvin. When the court house was occupied by a company of United States soldiers, raised in Florida, soon after the War Between the States, they used the north wall of the church in their target practice and shot their guns from the court house square. The marks of many bullets are still visible in the brick foundation.

Another early Baptist church was established at Bethpage in what was afterwards known as the New-some neighborhood, on the plantation which at a later date belonged to the late William C. Thomas. When I

first became a resident of Waukeenah, Rev. Zachariah Wheeler, one of the old soldiers who defended the Withlacoochee block house, which I shall give an account of later, held the monthly service here, but the church is now extinct. Messengers from these three churches in Jefferson and others from churches in Madison, Hamilton, Leon, and Gadsden counties in Florida and Thomas and Lowndes in lower Georgia met at old Ebenezer Church in October, 1843, and established the Florida Baptist Association, the mother association of our state, which now numbers 24 associations with 524 churches and a total church membership of 32,326 (1908).

I have not been able to ascertain when the Presbyterians first organized their church in Monticello. The Rev. Mr. Graves was an early settler in the town. He established his home on Tucker Hill and was interested in silk, which at one time promised to be a profitable industry. He was the stated supply for some time after the establishment of the church. Their first place of worship was erected on lot 35, which was deeded to Daniel S. Graham, Benjamin Johnson and Andrew Denham as trustees of the church, January 20th, 1841. The first building was destroyed by fire, soon after which the present one was built on the same site. Mrs. Adaline Denham, widow of Andrew Denham, one of the original members of the church is still living at the advanced age of ninety-four.

The Protestant Episcopal Church in Monticello was incorporated by a special act of the Legislative Council of the Territory, approved February 28th, 1844, as Christ Church; and William D. Moseley, Joseph R. Rowles, James R. Tucker, and such others as were elected church wardens and vestrymen of the Episcopal congregation. and their successors in office were made trustees of the church property. Their first

place of worship at the corner of Washington Street and the Waukeedah road was destroyed by fire and they erected their present house at the corner of Jefferson and High streets and the rectory on the adjoining lot.

Another Protestant Episcopal church was established at Waukeedah, and in December, 1840, Abram Grantham conveyed two acres of land there to a board of trustees for church purposes. It was called St. Paul's Church and the trustees named in the deed were John B. Page, John A. Edwards, Octavus H. Gadsden, Julius High, Alexander Jernigan, Alexander Scott and Pickney Bellinger. While I had charge of the Waukeedah Academy, just before the War, Rev. William E. Eppes, the rector of Christ Church, held a Sunday afternoon service for the little congregation of St. Paul's. After his morning's work was ended, it was his custom to mount his horse and ride eleven miles, regardless of the condition of the weather, to fill this second appointment.

Education.- The early records afford abundant evidence that the first settlers of the county took a great interest in the cause of education. In 1832 the trustees of the Jefferson Academy received a charter from the Legislative Council, and when the western addition of the town of Monticello was laid out a square of four lots was reserved for academy purposes. The lots west of this reservation upon which the present academy stands were afterwards purchased by the trustees. A large part of the money used in the construction of the brick building which still stands there was raised by subscription, and the work was completed in 1858. The Masonic and Odd Fellows lodges each raised a part of the building fund and as a consideration for the assistance the trustees leased to them for a period of ninety-nine years, the rooms in the upper

story, which were fitted up and occupied by each for lodge purposes.

On the lots south of Washington Street reserved for academy purposes, a young ladies' boarding school was maintained for many years by Mrs. Ferguson, and afterwards by Rev. and Mrs. Myers, under the direction of the trustees. This school enjoyed a high reputation but during the War the buildings gradually went to decay and were removed during the days of reconstruction. In 1840, the Oscilla Academy, east of the river, was chartered by the Legislative Council. The trustees named in the Act were John Bellamy, A. B. Shehee, Lloyd Skannal, William Bailey, Elias Edwards, Abram Bellamy, and Samuel Sessions.

(Part II, beginning with the Seminole War, will appear in the next number.)

MUSIC OF THE SEMINOLES

In her address to the last annual meeting of the Historical Society, published in the July number of the QUARTERLY, Mrs. Minnie Moore-Willson told of the music of the Seminoles, and mention was made there of the song and the other melodies which appear on the, following pages.

In 1916 Professor Albert Gale, a musician who has recorded the traditional music of many Indian tribes, visited Florida. Through years of friendship and mutual respect and trust Mrs. Willson has gained the full confidence of the Seminoles, and through her influence Professor Gale was received in an Everglade encampment and given full opportunity to record their music, assisted by the leader of the Green Corn Dance. She says "The Indians took the greatest interest and made every effort to have the record perfect-repeating the songs until they were satisfied with the rendition." She adds "So far as it has been possible to learn, this is the first Seminole music to be recorded. I would call it the Indians' natural music. They say 'White man's music talk too much'."

A paragraph from her address mentioned above is of especial interest-

"Music is not a genius with the Seminoles. Their songs are monotone and rythmical, and to be complete they need the aboriginal setting. Their tunes are full of a wild, weird melody that harmonizes with the forest and the wigwams and the shadowy flicker of the camp-fire. The songs are centuries old, and the Seminole does not seem to improvise nor add tunes to his ancient folio, but adheres to those of his father."

Mrs. Willson also gives an account there of John Jumper's hymn, from the Oklahoma Seminoles.

The thanks of the editors and of the Society are due Professor Gale and Mrs. Willson; for beyond its present interest, the recording of this music and its preservation is of much value to the history of the Seminoles.

~ Semitole Songs ~

Recorded by Albert Gale.
February 28, 1916

Copyright by Albert Gale - 1916

Sung by Willson Tiger - Dance Song - Repeated over and over

KA YU WA NAN KA YU - WA NAN KA YU WA - NAN HI YAH, HI YAH

By Willson Tiger - Right Love Song -

TOE HE TOE HE TOE HE TOE HE YAH - HE TOE HE TOE HE TOE HE YAH - HE

Sung by Willson Tiger - Wey Song -

YO WAD LE HA YO WAD LE HA YAH - HE HE - E YO WAD - LE HA YO WAD - LE HA YAH - HE

Sung by Willson Tiger - Quail Dance - Probably wachles only

HE YAH YAH - AH WE YAH AH WE - E YAH - AH WE YAH - AH WE

Sung by Willson Tiger - CHICKEN DANCE - Probably not so old as the others.

HE YO - HO TA LE TA LE HE YO - HO TA LE TA LE - HE YO HO - O TA LE TA LE HE YO HO - O TA SE TA

Hunting Dance (Incomplete) - Sung by Tiger & Stewart

LE TWA YAH HO - TA HE TWA YAH HO - TA HE TWA - YAH HO TA KE AH TWA - EL - LEE.

Tempo ♩ = 100 Rattle = ♩ Sung by Tiger - All kind Hunting Song -

HE SLAH JO - HA YAH LE HA YO YAH - NAN NEE HE SLAH JO HA YAH LE.

As sung by Dr A J Molt - JOHN JUMPER'S SONG - Recorded at Kissimmee, Fla
♩ = 112. From Oklahoma Seminoles by Albert Gale.
Feb. 28, 1916.

YA - MA YIS - TA HEL - LA TIN - NA TE HU YA NI YO - TE HU YA NI YO - TE HU YA NI YO

YA - MA YIS - TA MEL - LA TIN - NA TE HU YA NI YO YE - SUS NUN POL - KA HLEES MIC - CO SAN - PA MI - NAN PO - KEES

MIC - CO SAN - PA MI - NAN PO - KEES MIC - CO SAN - PA MI - NAN PO - KEES HE - SHA - KE TUM - HE SEE.

"WHEN WE PASS THROUGH THESE TRIALS HERE BELOW, JESUS WILL TAKE US HOME."

Dedicated to
Minnie Moore-Willson-

~ Night Love Song ~
From the Seminole Indians

English words and piano trans-
cription by Albert Gale.
March 26, 1916.

~ Night Love Song ~

The original as sung by the Indians -
Recorded by Albert Gale, 2-26-1916

TOE HE TOE HE TOE HE TOE HE

YAH - HE TOE HE TOE HE TOE HE YAH - HE

Andante $\text{♩} = 50$

WHERE CY-PRESS LAST THEIR SHADOWS ROUND

AN - HOO, AN HOO, AN HOO, AND MOSS FER-TOONS THE ECH OLS DREAMIN' WAH - OO, WAH-OO, WAH-OO; THE

GRAY OWL CALLS HIS MATE TO WOO, HOO - OO, TOO-HOO, TOO HOO, AN IN-DIAN LOV-ER'S VOICE CALLS TOO,

YAH - HE, TOE-HE, TOE-HE, TOE - HE, YAH HE

O'ER BUG AND FER THE CALLS HE-SOUND.

HOO-OO, TOE-HE, TOO-HOO, BY INK-Y POOL AND GRASS-BY MOUND, YOH-HE, TOE-HE, TOE-HE, THE

Ped *

MOON SLINKS OVER THE PINE-Y WOOD, YO-HO YO-HO, YO-HO, IN-TRUD-ING NOT THE LOVERS' MOOD,

Ped * Ped * Ped *

YOH-HE, TOE-HE, TOE-HE

Ped * Ped * Ped *

HE, TOE-HE, TOE-HE, TOE-HE, YAH-HE, TOE-HE, TOE-HE

Ped * Ped * Ped *

JEAN RIBAUT, HIS PERSONALITY AND ACHIEVEMENTS

[This essay was awarded a first prize in the Irving Bachelor-Florida Historical Society contest for Florida high-school students, held at Rollins College under the direction of Alfred J. Hanna, February twenty-first last. Mr. Curry, its author, is a student in Orlando High School. The other prize-winners and the subjects of their essays were: Ruthjeanne Bellamy, also of Orlando High School, who wrote on *Pirates of the Florida Coast*; Nellie Kennedy, of Hernando High School, Brooksville, who wrote on the same subject; and Chester R. Yates, of Plant City High School, on *Territorial and Early Statehood of Florida*.]

Among those few characters of history who have written their names into the hearts of people everywhere, there is none that ever achieved this enviable position that did not have before him a worthwhile goal far which he was striving.

And so in the life of Jean Ribaut, we naturally seek out those purposes that made of his career such an exemplary one. And yet, these purposes are not hard to discover, for every action that he ever performed, every word that he ever uttered, and indeed, every thought that ever entered his mind, were influenced by two great purposes, which were, namely, the expansion of his Huguenot faith and of his native land, France.

In 1562, when Admiral Coligny, the Huguenot leader of France, was searching for someone to command the expedition he was sending to America, his first thought was of Jean Ribaut. There was the man he wanted. One, who besides being an experienced and able seaman was also both virtuous and honorable. Such men are rare enough in any age, and Coligny must have considered himself fortunate to have a man with the character of Ribaut at the head of his new enterprise.

It was almost May when Ribaut first sighted the Florida coast from his fleet. After the long and tedi-

ous ocean voyage, the new land was a veritable paradise to them. In his quaint narrative; Ribaut was brimming over with good spirits when he wrote of Florida as being, "the fairest, frutefullest and pleasantest of all the world."

It was here that Ribaut lingered leisurely, exploring the various rivers and inlets which emptied into the sea, and in addition, observing the native Indians and their mode of living. Upon the bank of the River of May, which is now called the St. Johns, he found time to plant a pillar to substantiate the claim of France to this new world.

Farther up the coast, somewhere near Port Royal, South Carolina, the colony which he determined would be a refuge for all Huguenots was founded, and which Ribaut named after his youthful sovereign, Charles IX, Charlesfort. After strengthening the new settlement as much as was in his power, he sailed away toward France.

When he arrived at home, the country was in turmoil. A religious war, between Catholic and Huguenot, was raging in all its fierceness, and as would be expected from a man of Ribaut's character, he took an active part in the defense of his native city, Dieppe. After the surrender, though, of that town, Ribaut sought a refuge in London.

It was while here in the British capital, that the English translation of "The Last and True Discouerye" appeared, in which Ribaut portrayed the attractions of Florida in the most glowing colors.

Not long afterward Ribaut is granted an audience with Queen Elizabeth. When the fact of Ribaut's prominence is kept in mind, this act on the part of the Queen is not surprising. She was ever on the lookout for means to increase her nation's influence, and Ribaut

could easily be a means to that end, either directly or indirectly.

But the next report of him is not cheerful. Living in London at that time was an unscrupulous individual, by the name of Stukely, whose purpose was to organize a fleet for Florida and the West Indies. He had been unusually fortunate in securing the support of influential and reliable persons, and the scheme had every appearance of being entirely dependable. Even Queen Elizabeth agreed to furnish a ship for the enterprise.

Ribaut seems to be convinced of the soundness of the undertaking, when suddenly, Elizabeth withdraws her support. It then became evident to him that the scheme was extremely questionable. But Ribaut was then in a deeper quandary than ever. At length, in an attempt to solve the problem that had been thrust upon him he tried to escape to France in a Flemish vessel with four hostages. Most unfortunately for Ribaut, they were all captured at Gravesend, and he was sent to London and there imprisoned.

Meanwhile, though, the colony that he had left at Charlesfort had ended with disaster. But Coligny was not willing to surrender. As soon as peace was restored to France, he dispatched another group of colonists to Florida under Laudonniere. This new venture which took the name of Fort Caroline, settled along the St. Johns, near the place where Ribaut had placed his pillar.

Not long after the new expedition had left France, Ribaut, when he had obtained his release, returned once more to his native land. Anxious to be employed again in the service of his faith and country, he was overjoyed when Coligny gratified that desire, by placing him in command of a fleet of seven ships that would sail for Fort Caroline, which by that time would be in need of additional supplies. Besides heading the fleet to Flor-

ida, he was to relieve Laudonniere of the command.

The heart of Ribaut was filled once more with the hope of a glorious consummation of his life's purposes. Once more he beheld the vision of a stronghold for Huguenots, and with it, a stronghold for France. Every sign pointed to the fulfillment of this honorable ambition, and he could have hardly realized the fate in store for him, even if he had been forewarned.

The inhabitants of little Fort Caroline rejoiced to see him. The depression which had hung over them was lifted with the arrival of reinforcements and news from home. The banks of the River of May teemed with life and happiness, and trouble seemed far away.

And yet, that night from one of the French vessels anchored at sea, a grim hulk was discerned floating slowly toward them through the blackness; and flaunting the banner of Spain. By morning the Spanish fleet was there. Menendez placed his ships so that the great French vessels that had been incapable of entering the river were unable to communicate with the ships on the inside. Affairs seemed black for the French, when suddenly, completely upsetting the carefully-laid plans of the Spaniards, they cut their cables and flew before the stiff wind. The Spanish pursued them, firing at them all the while, but they were a poor match for the French and soon halted their pursuit. After stopping the search for the French, the Spaniards retired to St. Augustine and began the foundations of the oldest city within the United States.

Back at Fort Caroline, however, Ribaut was holding a council of war. Should they stay at home and fortify themselves, and there await the arrival of the Spaniards? Or should they take the four ships that had returned and go in search for them? Ribaut was firmly convinced that they should pursue the latter course. But the others were as firmly convinced of the former

plan. To strengthen his stand Ribaut reminded them of a letter he had with him from Coligny, which he, construed to be an order to attack the Spaniards. So, believing this to be the Huguenot leader's wish, Ribaut went in search of the Spanish fleet.

Up and down the Florida coast, he sought them. After many days, he was ready to call the chase a fruitless one and return to Fort Caroline, when a storm broke upon them. The great ships that he had been so proud to command were blown down the coast like fragile bits of paper, and ruthlessly cast upon the sandy beach.

A few of the French sailors, including Ribaut, were able to reach the shore and began to toil northwards in hopes of reaching the fort. When they reached Matanzas inlet, they were unable to cross.

The rest of the story is known all over the world. Menendez went in search for them, and after speaking equivocally, so as to induce them to surrender, gained their confidence, and had them all murdered.

Strange to say, though Menendez was Ribaut's greatest enemy in all of his attempts to strengthen his faith and nation, and was finally successful in thwarting the accomplishment of the two purposes of that great man's life, it is he that has left us the most faithful and laudable portrait of Ribaut. It was Menendez that said of him: "The King of France could do more with him with fifty thousand ducats than with others with five hundred thousand; and he could do more in one year than another in ten, for he was the most experienced seaman and corsair known, and very skillful in this navigation of the Indies and the coast of Florida."

It is but another irony of fate that history should have put the truest appreciation of a man in the mouth of his most bitter adversary.

KENNETH CURRY

THE TALLAHASSEE FIRE OF 1843

[An account of this conflagration, which destroyed the greater part of the town as first built, appeared in the Quarterly in the issue for July, 1924. These additional documents and notes are taken from contemporaneous issues of the *Floridian* and the *Sentinel*, Tallahassee newspapers.]

An Address to the People of the United States of America.

It has pleased an inscrutable Providence to afflict, by an awful calamity, the inhabitants of a city on the frontier of the Union. At five o'clock in the afternoon of the 25th of May, 1843, the city of Tallahassee numbered, with a population not exceeding two thousand souls, eighty-nine stores and houses, the theatre of activity mercantile and manufacturing industry. In three hours of a devastating fire which no exertion could stay not a solitary store, shop or theatre of business remained. A property in buildings which many estimate at not much less than half a million had fallen a prey to the flames and with it goods, furniture and movable effects of a value of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars more.

The extent of this overwhelming calamity may be measured by the fact that from the ports of Tallahassee at the mouth of the River St. Marks, there has been exported in the current year, or collected for exportation, chiefly on account of the Merchants and Traders of Tallahassee, 32,000 bales of cotton, the only staple export of the Territory of Florida, a quantity worth, in ordinary years, \$1,200,000, and at its present reduced price, a moiety of that sum.

In return for this exportation, a full equivalent has hitherto been imported comprehending not merely nor chiefly the comforts nor luxuries but the necessities of life, its staple commodity having, until lately, employed

the productive industry of the country, to the exclusion of every other pursuit. The Merchants and Agents of a commerce that has exceeded two and a half millions in a year, are, by a sudden blow, deprived of their stores, warehouses, and their stock of goods; the artizans of their shops, and of their very tools of trade. And, of the property so lost, less than twenty thousand dollars is covered by insurance.

Having just escaped from the ravages of an Indian war, they had begun to cherish the hope of returning prosperity, though struggling with embarrassments of currency and commerce. It is at such a period, and under such circumstances, that they are reluctantly induced to look beyond the limits of their own Territory for consolation and aid. The far greater part of those who have most heavily suffered by the late destructive fire will seek through a different channel to repair their heavy loss. That portion of its victims to whom relief may come need that it should be promptly administered.

F. EPPES, Mayor of Tallahassee.

Committees appointed by Mayor Eppes

on Losses	on Relief
D. P. Hogue	Gen. C. F. Mercer
J. W. Argyle	L. A. Thompson
Thomas Baltzell	W. H. Brockenbrough
M. Starr	T. H. Hagner
H. Bond	H. L. Rutgers
J. Kirksey	T. Brown
W. W. Waddell	G. W. Call
J. B. Bull	John Parkhill
R. A. Shine	Jas. B. Gamble
L. W. Levinus	Jas. E. Broome

Editorial, *The Florida Sentinel* (June 6, 1843).

As gold is tested by the fire, so are the moral qualities of man tried by adversity. . . .

There is none of that stagnation, idle stupor, hopeless despair, or brooding, listless melancholy which might be expected after the overwhelming blow which has fallen upon our previously embarrassed community. All our Merchants, with the remnants of their stock in trade, have taken temporary stands and are busy again. . . .

. . . . One might indeed be facetious over the ruins of our office and the expedients to which we have been compelled to resort to compass the poor object of issuing even a half sheet. The sheet was issued from the south basement room of the Capitol. A plasterer's horse serves to support a case, out of which we are extemporaneously composing the present article, since we have neither pen, ink nor paper. A few broken grave-stones serve to support our battered and squabbled forms-in one corner of the room lies a promiscuous heap of pi, type metal and sand, while scattered about the floor are cases, sticks, furniture, chases. . . .

* * *

AN ORDINANCE.

Whereas, the owners of lots situate within the district which has been recently burnt commencing at Augustine st., on the east side of the Capitol-square and extending north to McCarty street, commonly known as the two hundred foot street, including the blocks on the east side of Monroe street and the blocks between Monroe and Adams streets from the Capitol-square to McCarty street have petitioned the Intendant and Council for the passage of an ordinance prohibiting the erection of any other than fire proof buildings on that part of the town

Be it ordained That it shall be unlawful for any person to build any house situate within said burnt district which shall be composed of

wood That all houses shall have the walls of brick, stone and the roof of slate, tyle, zinc. . . .

That until such fire proof houses can be built, the merchants who are burned out are authorised to put up temporary buildings on the public open squares of the city and the two hundred foot street.

F. EPPES, Intendant. JAMES BARRY, Clerk.

June 5, 1843.

* * *

A very laborious investigation has been had in regard to the origin of the late destructive fire in Tallahassee. From an unhappy misunderstanding which had existed between the owners of the property, and the occupant of the Washington Hall Buildings, where the fire originated, the latter became subject to the suspicion of having intentionally fired them, or caused them to be fired, in the spirit of vindictive revenge. He, together with a white person employed in the house as cook, were arrested. After examining a great number of witnesses the Court came to the unanimous conclusion, that although it appeared highly probable that the fire was the work of an incendiary, yet there was no evidence indicating the individual who had been guilty of this enormous offence.

* * *

Our merchants have generally accepted the tender of the City Council of public squares and are fast establishing themselves in shanties near their old stamping-ground. We doubt if any could have endured a long series of buffetings of fortune with braver hearts than they. First there were heavy losses in the decline of Cotton; then still greater in bad debts and the explosion of credit; and finally to cap the climax a sweeping conflagration.

NOTES AND COMMENT

Senate Journal (Florida) session, 1839, ap. p. 4 :-

Mr. Marvin from a select committee to whom was referred the petition of the inhabitants of Monroe County, Key Vacas in Dade county, the depositions of William H. Eldridge and of John Sicker, respectfully report,

. . . . that the petitioners are entitled to relief. The petitioners of Monroe county state "that some three years since by a law of the Legislative Council, the county of Monroe was divided, and a new county called Dade was set off from it," that before the division of the counties, it was with great difficulty that offences could be punished on account of the paucity of jurors, and that since such division, Monroe county is in as bad a condition as before, and that in the county of Dade it is utterly impossible to obtain a legal grand and petit jury. The administration of justice is therefore rendered impossible in the county of Dade, and very much embarrassed in the county of Monroe.

The consequence necessarily is that the laws of the Territory do not extend over the county of Dade, and that no person who visits that county or resides in it is protected by law, for by our organic law, no person can be punished for the violation of the law, but by the intervention of a grand and petit jury, which grand and petit jury must come from, and the offence be punished in the county where it is committed, unless otherwise expressly provided by law. Dade county has according to the best information in possession of your committee, about sixteen legal jurors, Monroe has about forty, the whole put together will hardly enable the court to punish offences where the whole

peremptory challenge is allowed, but are sufficient to secure the punishment of offences where the whole extent of these peremptory challenges are not allowed.

The petition of the inhabitants of Key Vacas is signed by sixty-five persons, constituting a majority of the male inhabitants residing in the county of Dade. This fact unexplained might go to show that there were sufficient jurors in the county of Dade to secure the administration of justice; but there are but very few of the petitioners competent jurors. By our organic and Territorial laws jurors must be *householders* and citizens. But few of the petitioners are householders and citizens; some are young men not householders, and some, though resident at Key Vacas, are not yet citizens of the United States. The latter therefore cannot vote or sit on juries; but it is believed that while they are residing among us, occupied in the pursuit of peaceful industry, and are adding wealth to the country, they possess at least the right of petition, and are entitled to the protection of the laws of the country. The great number of names to this petition in proportion to the population of the county, only shows the almost universal desire of the inhabitants of Dade county that the Council shall extend to them the protection and equal administration of the law.

The petition of the inhabitants of Monroe county further states that on account of the want of jurors in Dade county and of the consequent perfect irresponsibility of its officers, and on account of the superior power which wealth and position always gives, all power both Executive and Judicial is exercised by one man, the proprietor of Indian Key. The petition states that the clerks of court of that county lately refused to give a copy of the poll book of the late election held at that Island, or allow a copy to be taken after his fees had been tendered him. This charge is verified

by the oaths of two creditable witnesses. This clerk is in the employ of the proprietor of the Island, Jacob Housman. There can be no prosecutions against the officers, for there are not enough jurors in the county to indict and try them.

The affidavit of George Eldridge shows "that while at Indian Key, in the month of August last, he saw in the warehouse of Jacob Housman, two white men, of the sloop Brilliant, confined in stocks, by order of Captain Housman, and that in the month of October he also saw two other white men, belonging to the schooner Sylph, in like manner, and by the orders of the said Housman, confined in stocks; and that it is a general report that such practices are common with the said Housman at that place." Mr. Eldridge is known to a member of your committee as a man incapable of falsehood. Mr. Sticker states in his affidavit he saw two white men named Charles Schanks and Charles Thompson, confined in said Housman's warehouse in the stocks. They had been in that situation three days and were only allowed biscuit and water and no bedding or mosquito bars, and were obliged to sleep in that situation, and that they were placed in that situation by order of Jacob Housman, the reputed owner of Indian Key."

Mr. Housman holds no office. It is in vain for these men to appeal to the law for redress. The suit must be tried in the county of Dade, and there, there is no jury. Their only redress is in their own strong arm and stout hearts. Whether it be wise for the Legislature to encourage this state of things is respectfully submitted: It is certainly unjust that that portion of the citizens of South Florida, who are endeavoring to support the laws; and to lead a quiet and honest life, should be made to suffer in their character and reputations, by the wanton outrages of others. If a

community do not possess the power of restraining and punishing offences, it ought not to be held responsible in its character or reputation for any outrage committed within its borders.

The petitions pray 1st for the repeal of the law establishing Dade county, and 2nd, if this is not done, a repeal of the laws establishing a Superior and county court in Dade county.

The recent act of Congress having recognized the existence of Dade county, and assigned to it one Representative in the Council, it is not deemed by your committee advisable to repeal the law establishing that county. But it is evident to your committee that the existence of courts in Dade county, with their clerks and other officers to issue and execute attachments, writs of replevin, and other process by which a man's property or person may be seized and detained, without any possibility of bringing the matter to a trial, for want of jurors, may be used to the very great oppression and injury of the petitioners. Your committee therefore recommend that the jurisdiction of the county court in Dade county be taken away, and transferred to the county court of Monroe county, and the jurisdiction of the Superior court in Dade, be also transferred to the Superior court of Monroe, until the increase of the jurors in Dade county justify the re-establishment of the courts in that county, and they respectfully report a bill for that purpose.

WILLIAM MARVIN,

Chairman.

* * *

At the next session of the Legislative Council an act was passed, and approved on March 2, 1840, as follows-

Be it enacted by the Governor and Legislative Council of the Territory of Florida, That from and

after the passage of this act, it shall be lawful for the clerk of the Superior court in Dade county, to issue his *venire* to the Marshal of said district, to summon any of the legal jurors in the County of Monroe, to attend as jurors in the Superior Court of Dade county; and it shall be lawful for the Clerk of the Superior Court in Monroe county to issue his *venire* to the Marshal of the said District to summon any of the said jurors in Dade county to attend as jurors in the Superior Court of Monroe county; and it shall be the duties of the jurors in the counties aforesaid to attend the several courts of the aforesaid counties, when summoned by the Marshal, under the authority aforesaid, and it shall be the duty of the Marshal to summon the jurors from either of the counties, upon the receipt of the *venire*, from the clerk of either of the aforesaid counties.

In *My Pioneer Days in Florida, 1876-1898*, (privately printed, 1928; 55 p.; \$1) Mrs. Emily Lagow Bell tells a story of the settling of that portion of the East Coast around Fort Pierce, a land which she has "seen come out of the sand and the wilderness. . . . from the ox-teams and sailboats. . . and from the palmetto school-house that held only ten or twelve children."

The History of Jacksonville, Florida, and Vicinity, by T. Frederick Davis, published by The Florida Historical Society, has been adopted by the commissioners of Jacksonville as the official history of the city. Mr. Davis's *MacGregor's Invasion of Florida, 1817*, has been reprinted from the July number of the QUARTERLY. Copies of both can be obtained from the Secretary, the former at five dollars and the latter at sixty-five cents each.

The membership of the Society continues to expand throughout Florida and elsewhere. Among the new members outside the State are Dr. George Bird Grinnell, of New York, author, Indian specialist, bird-lover, and friend of our own Minnie Moore-Willson; and Heloise H. Cruzat, of New Orleans. Those who follow the history of Louisiana and the Mississippi Valley as it is being brought to light are familiar with the valuable work Mrs. Cruzat has long been laboring on: collecting, translating, and publishing the records of the Superior Court of Louisiana, documents concerning Bienville's lands in Louisiana 1718-1737, and other material. The mass of these and other colonial records of Louisiana in the Cabildo at New Orleans is the envy of less fortunate colonies of this country, especially Florida where our records of this early period are but little more than none. Mrs. Cruzat's work appears serially in each number of *The Louisiana Historical Quarterly*. Her membership, as an expression of her interest in Florida history also, is welcomed by the Society.

We are much pleased that Rt. Rev. Charles H. Mohr, O.S.B., S.T.D., Abbot of St. Leo, has joined with us.

These have become members of the Society during the past quarter :

W. J. McTimmons	Jacksonville
Charles H. Mohr, O.S.B.	St. Leo
St. Petersburg Public Library	
Eleanor Scull	Jacksonville
Robert E. Lee High School	Jacksonville
Ella Winslow Richardson	Jacksonville
Davenport Reed	Cowesett, Rhode Island
William B. Young	Englewood, New Jersey
Harriet M. L. Young	Jacksonville
Ocala Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution	
George Bird Grinnell	New York, N. Y.
Heloise H. Cruzat	New Orleans, Louisiana

DONATIONS

- By T. Frederick Davis,*
Photostat copies of files of the *Savannah Republican* for the months of July, 1817, and March, 1818; and the *Charleston Courier* for June and July, 1817, and January, 1818.
- By Abbot Charles H. Mohr, O.S.B.,*
The Silver Jubilee of St. Leo Academy.
- By John E. Hartridge,*
Speech of Governor Bloxham, August 26, 1884.
The Disston Land Sale. State Finances.
- By Mrs. Emily L. Bell, author,*
My Pioneer Days in Florida.
- By Moses Folsom,*
Mrs. H. W. Beecher, Letters from Florida.