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Volume XVIII

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Number 4

**The
FLORIDA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY**

C O N T E N T S

A Prelude to the Creek War of 1813-1814

John Innerarity to James Innerarity

Elizabeth Howard West

Quincy Conservative Convention, 1868

The Great Storm, Tallahassee, August, 1851

The Tekesta Indians of Southern Florida

John Mann Goggin

The Bemrose Manuscript on the Seminole War

Robert Charles Stafford

The Florida Guide

Federal Writers' Project

The Florida Historical Society

The Annual Meeting

The Palm Beach 4th District Meeting

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A PRELUDE TO THE CREEK WAR OF
1813-1814

IN A LETTER OF JOHN INNERARITY TO
JAMES INNERARITY

NOTE-This letter is of unusual historical significance, for it describes the visit of McQueen and his Creeks to Pensacola, which resulted in the attack of the whites on the Indians at Burnt Corn Creek, the first fight of the war. Without this Creek victory as fuel for the war party and aid in bringing the waverers along with them, Big Warrior's peace party might well have carried the majority with them instead. Innerarity's letter is important in the light it throws on the relations of Governor Manrique with McQueen, and his furnishing the Indians with a large amount of ammunition-some of which must have been used at the Fort Mimms massacre. - *Ed.*

INTRODUCTION

Both writer and addressee of the letter here printed were at the date of its writing partners in the firm of John Forbes & Company, the name under which Panton, Leslie & Company was re-organized in 1804, three years after the death of William Panton, senior partner of Panton, Leslie & Company and of its predecessor, Panton & Forbes. Both were nephews of Panton; James, the older brother, had charge of the House at Mobile; John, the younger, was in charge at the Pensacola House,

The text as here printed has had to be pieced together from fragments in three collections, viz: in the Greenslade papers, the property of Admiral John W. Greenslade, U.S.N. and his family, inherited from the late Mrs. Marie Taylor Greenslade (Mrs. John W. Greenslade) ; in the Cruzat papers, a legacy to the Florida Historical Society from the late Mrs. Heloise Hulse Cruzat ; and in the Georgia Department of Archives and History.

The Greenslade fragment is an eight-page draft, in John Innerarity's hand, of the first part of the

letter; the Cruzat fragment, a one-page duplicate, partly in the same hand, partly in a clerk's, of its last part. An original letter, of July 30, 1813, also in John Innerarity's hand, follows; it is addressed to James Innerarity, and endorsed by him as received on August 6. The Georgia fragment is a typescript of an extract from the letter of July 27, which was enclosed in a letter, dated Aug. 14, 1813, from Brigadier-General Ferdinand Leigh Claiborne, of the Louisiana and Mississippi Territory Volunteers, to the Governor of Georgia.

Virtually nothing but the part referring to the visit of a group of Creek and Shawanese Indians to Pensacola in quest of Spanish aid for their projected anti-American war is here printed.

Tecumseh, the famous Shawanese chief, had visited the Southern Indians about two years before, in the hope of uniting them solidly with other tribes in a general war which, as he expected, would annihilate the Americans and thus reestablish Indian ownership of the country. Though he was only partially successful in gaining Southern Indian support, his influence, together with conditions existing in the Creek country, seems to have been the immediate cause of the bloody conflict known as the Creek War of 1813-1814.

It is an interesting coincidence, which adds to the dramatic quality of Innerarity's account, that the Battle of Burnt Corn Creek, the first of the Creek War, was fought on the same day his letter was written, by at least a part of the Indians whose visit the letter describes; their American antagonists being commanded by Colonel James Caller, "of the Militia."

Although part of the letter as originally written seems irrevocably lost, the part here printed seems in its restored form to be complete.

ELIZABETH HOWARD WEST *

* * *

Greenslade Papers
1813, July 27
John Innerarity to James Innerarity
A.L. 8 p. [incomplete]

[July 27, 1813]

My Dear Brother

I had the [pleasure of receiving] your esteemed favors of the 25th Ins^t [Poor D'O]lives ¹ went away from here quite panic struck & with such precipitation as not to afford me time to drop you a few lines. On receiving your letter by him I went up to the Governors ² in order to prevail upon him not to furnish the Indians w^t any ammuniton, but when I arrived they were in Conference in his Sala de Audiencia, & I stepped into the Secretary's office in order to learn from Reggio ³ the Governor's intentions. While there the Governor sent for me, in order as he said to impart to me all their proceedings & particularly to inform me of their vehement threats & menaces against me if I did not furnish them wt. powder Ball & Father Coleman ⁴ was present-His words were "han echado veneno contra la Casa de v" - "han dicho qe echarian

*Miss West, librarian, Texas Technological College, and formerly of the Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, and Texas State Librarian, is writing the story of William Panton and his large share in the history of the southern region during the last years of the 18th century. - *Ed.*

1. D'Olives : See also *infra*, p.
2. The governor: Mateo Gonzales Manrique, Civil and Military Governor at Pensacola, May 8, 1813 - March 31, 1815.
3. Reggio: Probably [Carlos] Reggio. See an undated petition (in the Cruzat Papers) of inhabitants of West Florida [probably between 1819 and the formal transfer of Florida to the United States in 1821], where mention is made on folio 2 of "el Secretario del Gobierno Dn Carlos Reggio."
4. Father Coleman: The Parish Priest of Pensacola.

pronto abaxo su Casa alta." ⁵ McQueen further said that the house had acquired all their property from the Nation & that they now must give back a part of it to assist them, nay he told the Governor that he must compel us. The Chiefs had all retired previous to the Gov^r's sending for me. He told me in continuation that they had carried their insolence & audacity so far as to tell him that he (the Gov^r) had two tongues, two hearts, that he was an American, & all this because he would not give them guns & swords, and the quantity of ammunition they demanded (25 Cases of Gunpowder) & because he told them that he was a subordinate Chief, th[at he could not take] any part with them in their war, nor could [he violate the treaty ⁷ of friendship [p. 2] and limits betw]een Spain & the U.S. They even told [him that if he did not assist] them they would kill all the Spaniards [whom they found out of Pensacola] & carried their threats & menaces to the [utmost pitch with a view of in]timidating the Gov^r to give them whatever [they should ask. This was] the second Conference on the day after their arrival & not one of [the Chiefs] had hitherto come to see me, nor did they until the third day, when McQueen came with all his Warriors & squatted

5. "Han echado... ": i.e. "They have spat venom at your House"; "they have said in a moment they would tear down your lofty House."
6. Peter McQueen: "a half-blood, of property and influence, shrewd, sanguinary, and deceitful. . . had already declared for war. . ." (Claiborne, John F.H. *Life and times of General A I* . . . New York, 1860, p. 67). See also Pickett, *History of Alabama*. . . Birmingham, 1900, Chap. XXXVI, p. 521: "Peter McQueen, at the head of the Tallase warriors; High-Head Jim, with the Autaugas; and Josiah Francis, with the Alabamas. . . departed for Pensacola with many pack-horses. . ." (Note that this reference corresponds to v.II, chap. XXXII, p. 253, of edition III, Charleston, 1851.)
7. "The treaty of friendship and limits. . ." : "Pinckney's Treaty," 1795, between the United States and Spain.

themselves on the galleries & stair case as thick as they could be strewed & in all their military attire with their shaker⁸ who trembled, grinned horribly, & made the most convulsive movements so as to endeavour to inspire terror. But all this warlike array was lost upon me, & I was about ordering their shaker out of the house, but the interpreter told me not to pay any attention to him. M^cQueen then was about to harangue me, but I interrupted him & told him of what the Governor had informed me, of their threats - & exclaimed against their ingratitude, I told them that they ought to be ashamed of their conduct towards the house & that they were very much mistaken if they thought to get any thing from me by threats & menaces, that I was indeed very much surprised how they could have the assurance to ask any thing from me when I had been from month to month & day to day in the Constant expectation of receiving a large sum from them in Cash in payment of their debts according to their solemn promises to me. Altho' M^cQueen every now & then interrupted me & tried to change the conversation, yet I continued to talk

8. "Their Shaker": Either High-Head [High-headed] Jim or Josiah Francis, the brother-in-law of Sam McNac [Manac, Moniac. Tuskegee]. See the sworn statement of McNac in Halbert & Hall, *The War* (Chicago and Montgomery, 1895 :". . .An Indian came to me, who goes by the name of High-Headed Jim, and whom I found had been appointed to head a party sent from the Autassee Town, on the Tallapoosa, on a trip to Pensacola. He shook hands with me, and immediately began to tremble and jerk in every part of his frame, and the very calves of his legs would be convulsed, and he would get entirely out of breath with the agitation. This practice was introduced in May or June last by the Prophet Francis, who says that he was instructed by the Spirit. . ." Claiborne, *op. cit.* p. 69-71, quotes a statement of McNac of July 13, 1813, apparently written by Dale from dictation, which he "forwarded to Colonel James Caller, commanding the 15th regiment of militia, Mississippi Territory." This differs in some details from the sworn statement, though on the whole in agreement therewith.

to them with the utmost firmness & most placid composure, & M^cQueen had no other resource left but to deny all what the Gov^r had informed me. He & another Chief attakulpie then began their talk, - told me how they had taken up the Tomahawk, & that the whole Nation w^t the exception of the [Cowetas] and Tuckabatchies had joined them, that the Chactaws were also about [to join them and that the] flame of war, would be kindled from the Mississippi [to the Lakes of Canada]. They said that the Great Spirit above had [spoken to many of the c]hiefs, & had commanded them to go to war. [p. 3] They magnified greatly their resourc[es and strength and the extent of their] designs & after a long talked [sic] conclu[ed by saying now they] would know their friends from their en[emies, and that if the House was] really their friends, as they had alw[ays professed; now was the time] to show it by acts of friendship [by assisting them with plenty] of ammunition & clothing-that if [we did] not, they would then be convinced that we would not take their talks, & that we held to the talks of the Big Warrior.⁹ They then asked me if I had any paper from him, if I had said they, burn it, fling it into the sea, it is of no account, 'ere now he is killed, & so will soon all those who do not abandon his steps & cause. To all this I pleaded extreme poverty, told them that they had made us poor, that I had more need to receive from them than to give, that I was no King nor Governor, nor Chief to give them presents but merely a Merchant, that not withstanding as they represented their distress to be very great I would give them a few blankets & some flaps and salt This they thought

9. Big Warrior (Tustinuggee Thlucco) : the leader of the Creek party friendly to the Americans. (See Pickett, *op. cit.* (1900 ed) p. 514.

was a beginning & that they could draw me on by degrees & they accordingly pretended to be pleased & gave me all their hands on going away after a conversation of upwards of two hours in presence of Father Coleman & Arroyo.¹⁰ In the afternoon the Shawanese Chiefs waited upon me & began a long talk informing me that all the Nations between the Missouri, the Mississippi & the Lakes had joined in the war excepting one Nation, meaning I believe the Cherokees, that they were all now like one fire, that they were determined to make the land clean of the Americans or to lose their lives, that they had come a great way to see their Brothers, the Creeks, who had none to look to here at present except the Governor and us and that therefore [they hoped and expec]ted that we would be their friends & furnis[h [them liberally with what] we could, & that when they went back they [would inform their friends [p. 4] the English of what we had done] for them, with a great deal of such [like stuff to which I gave v]ague answers. The next day they assem[bled on the square to receive the] Governor's presents & sent several messengers [to me to send my present to the] square also that. they all might see it. [Finding it therefore, useless and unsafe] entirely to resist, I sent them eight [Damaged Blankets, 100 l^{bs} Tobacco, 1]0 l^{bs} Wampum Beads, 5 l[b] Vermillion & 3 B^{ls} Salt. When they saw this present they set no bounds to their fury, scattered the Vermillion in the sand, flung the beads in the air and trampled upon the blankets. They then came to the house much enraged, asked if I took them for Children or Warriors, expressed the utmost contempt for the present, & clamorously demanded ammuniton. I told them I had none but

10. Arroyo : Francisco Gutierrez de Arroyo, Secretary.

this would not satisfy them. I took them up to the loft of the Brick Store & shewed them the empty barrels. They were quite incredulous, & said that at least they knew I had plenty of lead for they had seen it, but I told them I had but little & could not spare any. Finding they could neither by threats, nor artifices shake my inflexible determination not to furnish them with a single ounce of powder or lead, or flint, they then insisted on my furnishing them with plenty of blankets, Hatchets, Knives, Strouds &^c telling me for my government of the number of their Towns, but to all this I lent a deaf ear. They then returned to the Square rejected with contempt the Governor's present which was very considerable, not less than

20 Barrels flour

25 D^o Corn

about 50 Blankets

a quantity of Scissors; Knives, Razors, Ribbons &^c

4 or 5 Steers

about 1000 lb Gunpowder & a proportion of Ball &^c &^c

and sets up the *War-whoop*, in every direction. Some of them went to the Tan Yard, broke a large Iron pot, stole two spades, an axe & [a hoe, and would have] committed other excesses, but advice & information was [given to the Governor, who] ordered to beat to arms. In the meantime [M^c-Queen and a few others came] to the House, & told me that he had been for [p. 5] two days laboring & spending his breath for my good, but as I would not (he said) take it for my good, I must now take it for evil, & then he told the Interpreter to tell me to hear a few words he had to say to me before he turned his back upon me. I told him that provided I liked his talk I would hear him, but if not

I would leave him. He had just begun when we heard the noise of drums in the yard, & Captⁿ Cardoso from the foot of the Store Stair Case & at the head of his Comp^y hailed me in a Stentorian voice, & requested me to tell M^cQueen & his Chiefs that by order of the Gov^r they must quit the town directly. I went down stairs & begged him personally to communicate the Governor's orders, as I did not wish to irritate them any further. He accordingly came on the Piazza brandishing his Sabre & told the Spanish Interpreter to order M^cQueen out of the house directly, to which the latter replied that he would retire when he had finished his Talk with me, but Cardoso brandishing his Sabre in his face made him retire forcibly. M^cQueen now seemed quite submissive, shook me by the hand, told me he was my friend, said that the Town had got alarmed for nothing, & that he nor none of the others intended to do any harm until they crossed the Spanish limits. I then accompanied him to the Square, where all the Militia & every body were under arms. The Fort & Block Houses were manned, the colours hoisted, & strong guards placed in every direction. When the Indians saw this they assembled in their turn in a body, & at one end of the square presented a line of Cavalry. The young men were loading their Carabines & seemed to wait the event with a great deal of composure until they saw the Artillery Men dragging the field pieces across the square, which seemed to appal them., The Governor then surrounded by Officers called M^cQueen & one or two more Chiefs & told them that he was very sorry to see the scandalous manner in which they had behaved, that they had rejected his & my presents, that they called themselves friends, but by their Conduct shewed themselves enemies, that I was under his protection, &

a great deal of such like milky [p. 6] discourse, instead of threatening to punish them severely for their audacity & insolence, as every body round him advised him to do & particularly col. Soto. ¹¹ He concluded by again offering the presents, & begged me to make a little sacrifice rather than suffer them to go away discontented. I told him that they did not deserve any thing & that I would not give more than what I had already offered. Montero & some others joined him in the request & I was reluctantly obliged to give them a piece of blue & red Strouds, 1 p^c of 3^t Blkts & a Barrel of Sugar & Coffee, which they eagerly accepted & seemed extremely well pleased. The Governor's present alone was upward of Two Thousand Dollars & they had received some trifles from different people in Town. The Troops were beat to arms on account of their conduct at the Tan Yard & the Governor more alarmed for my safety than myself had sent Cardoso to the house, & even after tranquillity was restored he sent a Centry to the House. M^cQueen & the Chiefs came to see me in the afternoon, expressed their regret at what had happened, and made great proffers of friendship. I did not, however, fail to rebuke them very sharply for their conduct, which had rendered them unworthy of the Governor's goodness or rather weakness. Next day some Shawanese came to the House & remained all day. The old Chief harangued me the whole day. He begged that as a proof of my friendship I would only fill his Horn with powder, but I was determined that even this sin should not lie on my head, & told him I had none. It is remarkable that of the whole band of Indians, not a single one would taste a drop of liquor, or any

11. Col. Soto : Jose de Soto; afterwards Acting Civil and Military Governor at Pensacola, March 31, 1815 - March 3, 1816.

thing else but water. Some of the Chiefs before they went away expressed great compunction for what had happened, & a hope that the path to Pensacola would remain as open to them as before. M^cQueen & his party said they would not injure any thing belonging to us, but that you must leave Mobbille & come here with your family, for it was their intention to take Mobbille at an appointed time & that they would not be able to contain their young men, who would be very impetuous. All this I know is balder dash, but if they are, (as I have [p. 7] no doubt they will be) joined by the Chactaws they will annoy the inhabitants very much. The league seems to be very formidable & I fear will daily gain much additional strength. They have all gone Stark mad & the fermentation will communicate like wild-fire. They will spill much innocent blood with the Ammunition which the Gov^r involuntarily gave them. Indian John arrived three days ago from Appal^a w^t letters from Doyle, of which I inclose one to yourself. All there is as yet quiet, but God knows how long it may continue so. The Harrolds have arrived here with Cattle & report from second hand authority that the Big Warrior has been shot. At all events he says it is impossible 'that he could have held out until now, as he was surrounded by the Indians in great force. If he falls those who espouse his cause will be intimidated & overawed & his present opponents will bear down every thing before them. Should the Semanories be compelled to join the Confederacy, Doyle & Hambly's situation will be very critical, & our Stores & property will not be in safety.

'Tis a pity that D'Olives abandoned his plantation with so much precipitation as I do not think he had any thing to fear, being an old Spanish resident, and had he remained your overseer would not

have flinched from his post. This abandonment is an *invitation* to the Indians to come & destroy & burn all the buildings. Being on the water edge a barge or canoe might be kept in readiness to remove the Negroes in case of necessity, or they might be armed so as to defend themselves against any small party that might appear as it is not probable they would come in a body, & if you had an Indian Interpreter they would not, I think, molest you at all, further than killing stock, or demanding provisions. Charles & all the Browns are in the Nation & a part of them fortified with the Big Warrior. Could not Col Bowyer, or Captⁿ Wilkinson spare a few troops for the defence of [p. 8] the inhabitants on this side of the bay? For my part I think the danger is greatly magnified, & I would not myself be in the least afraid to stay at the Brick y^d provided the Negroes were all well armed, & with the precaution of having a Barge or Canoe in readiness for any sudden emergency, especially if Col. B or Captⁿ W-could spare a few troops. If you send back a few Negroes, I think D'Olives would also return to his Saw Mill, & between you you might keep, a trusty scout.

30th Since M^r Dodge's arrival I have been constantly trying to arrange matters so as to mount my horse to pay you a visit, but I am quite chained to the oar & find it impossible to absent myself even for a day. The only danger that I conceive is to be apprehended is from the sun during these intolerable heats. Could you by no means come here for a short time. You might go to Mobile point by the return of some of Col. Bowyer's boats, & from thence there are almost always ,opportunities to this place. I am very anxious to see you on many accounts.

I was quite electrified a few days ago by the receipt of M^r Milne's A/Cur^t of which I inclose Copy. In addition to his charging the *full* Com^s on the several Invoices shipped by him, he makes the, *exorbitant & unwarrantable* charge of 5 PC^t Com on my Bill remittances, with which he has had no trouble whatever excepting that of sending them to his Bk, or by a Clerk for presentation & recovery, and is it possible that for so doing he can exact. \$455.96 Com on 7 Bills to which must be added the Bill on Shepard for \$3.277 which has been accepted since the date of his A/Cur^t & the total Com for the recovery of 8 Bills will \$620!! & which I must place to P & L unless you can get him to retract, as I never contemplated that he would have charged any other Com than that of paying & receiving. You informed me that he was to do our business on half Com, I pray you therefore most earnestly to write him *immediately* on the subject of this *monstrous* charge. If he [next sheet lost.]

[The following incomplete letter found in the Cruzat papers, seems to be the last part of the foregoing.]
[Copied by a clerk.]

Please to present my most cordial & respectful comp^{ts} to Capⁿ Wilkinson & inform him that I have been at the Gov^r respecting the mails, which M^r Dodge has just succeeded in recovering, & carries with him overland along w^t a dispatch f^m the Gov^r to Captⁿ Wilkinson. I would have written him in answer to his letter but am overwhelmed with business -a propos, you may shew him that part of the present which relates to Indians, but it must not be made public, otherwise our red friends would be incensed beyond the power of appeasement.

Valery purposes going next week to the Brick Y^d to finish your chimney. Would he not answer your

purpose for the management of it? What wages would you allow him? He is the only person in this place competent.

[In John Innerarity's hand.]

If you cannot come round here immediately, you will please write me by any overland conveyance, or via Mobile p^t directing y^r letters to the care of Captⁿ Walsh who is now with me & will return early tomorrow morning- He will forward them to me without loss of time & you can never be in want of an opportunity.

I pray God that you may have recovered from your indisposition & am in haste &^c

[Another letter, dated 30th July 10 P. M. follows. The whole bears the following address and endorsement:]

Address : James Innerarity, Esq^r
Merchant
Mobile

[Endorsement, in James Innerarity's hand] :

John Innerarity
Dup 27th >
Origl. 30th > July 13
recd. 6th August

[In pencil, by a later hand].:

1813

Indian troubles in Pensacola

* * *

The two letters of Gen. J. F. H. Claiborne which follow relate to the incident and period, and were of assistance in establishing the date, of Innerarity's letter.*

The text below is copied from the J.F.H. Claiborne Letter-book "F", in the Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History. 2/19/35.

(on reverse)

4th Augst 1813 / Cap^t Wilkinson / to / Gen^l Claiborne / -The Shawnese / Indians in / Pensacola.

*Grateful acknowledgment is made to Dr. McCain, Director of Archives of Mississippi, for copies of these two letters; and to Mrs. J. E. Hays, Director of the Georgia Department of Archives and History, and to Admiral John W. Greenslade, United States Navy, for copies of John Innerarity's letter.

(original letter)

Mobile 4th August, 1813. -

General, -

I had the honor to receive your letter of the 2^d Ins^t yesterday noon, - and agreeably to order, have placed in the hands of Captain Morrison,

996.dozen of musket cartridges,-

50.stand of muskets .-

50.cartridge Boxes and Belts.-

12.Swords and Sword belts.-

800-flints.-

100 pounds of Rifle Powder, - and

392 pounds of Lead. - all of which articles;

I hope, - may reach your cantonment in safety and without damage. -

It was unnecessary General, for you to observe, "*the fortress under my command must not be surrendered, but in the last extremity*". -Be assured Sir, it will never [p. 2] be surrendered, so long as I have the controul, - under *any circumstances*, or in *any extremity*, - and I possess the physical means (altho my Garrison is small) to resist any force that may be sent against me from Pensacola, - at least, until reinforcements could arrive. -

You shall be promptly advised of the approach of an Enemy: - which I fear we shall not have the pleasure of seeing, - even tho, - they do now and then *threaten*. -

For your information I enclose an extract of a letter from Jn^o to James Innerarity, - in relation to the outrages, committed by M^cQueens party in Pensacola : - which confirms the report, of a number of *Shawanese* being among the Creeks, instigating them to hostility. -

It gives me sincere pleasure to learn, that Colonel Caller acted with much bravery: - for it was

currently rumored in Mobile, - that he drew off the Militia in person from the battle Ground. -

- I have obtained two or three mails (*in one bag*) from the Governor of Pensacola, - which were carried thither, by M^cQueens banditti. - various letters of importance were broken open, - and no doubt a great number destroyed or kept. - there must be some thing rotten in the councils at [p. 3] Pensacola. -

It will afford me much happiness to see you in Mobile, - and I am in hopes you will make my house your home, - as we have a chamber & parlour at your service, which I flatter myself you will command. -

with sentiments of sincere regard & esteem

I have the honor to be

General

your most ob^d Serv^t

James: B. Wilkinson

Capt. Com^d FtCharlotte

Honorable

Brigadier General

Ferdinand L. Claiborne

* * *

The text below is copied from the J.F.H. Claiborne Letter-book "F", in the Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History. 2/18/35. (on reverse)

14th Aug. 1813 / Copy of Letter to the / Governor of Georgia / -This document may / be adapted in the / history of the Creek / War / - Gen. Claiborne's / Letter / - (28) / John Inerarity / - The best mode of fighting / in War is to penetrate / their country & fight / them at their very doors -

Aug. 14th

Cantonment near Fort Stoddart 1813

Sir

Having an opportunity by an express which passes by an indirect rout through East Florida

to Col. Hawkins, I have considered it proper to communicate to you as the Governor of Georgia, circumstances relative to the approaching War with the Creek Indians, which have come into my possession since my arrival at this place from Baton Rouge, which was on the 30th Ult. When I arrived I found the inhabitants on Tombigby and Alabama in a state of the utmost confusion and alarm. They were flying from all quarters to the west side of the Tombigby, leaving behind them rich and highly cultivated farms, with immense crops & stocks of cattle &c an easy prey to the Hostile Indians. I took every possible pains to ascertain the disposition of the Creeks towards the American Government, and from, the unquestionable testimony of many respectable planters, (??) and half breed Indians, who reside on the East side of Alabama who are perfectly acquainted with the dispositions & intentions of the unfriendly Creeks, I deemed it advisable forthwith to make such a disposition of the disposable force under my command, as would best secure protection to the most exposed part of the Eastern Frontier of this Territory. Sometime previously to my arrival, information which could be relied on, was received, that McQueen, who appears to be a leading man with the unfriendly Creeks, was on his way to Pensacola, with a party of about three hundred Indians, who were going there to procure powder and other warlike stores from the Governor of that place. [p. 2] Immediately on the receipt of this intelligence two gentlemen of respectability were dispatched to Pensacola to ascertain whether the Governor of that place would furnish munitions of war to the Indians, and also to discover their intentions towards us. Their report was that the Governor had supplied them with a considerable quantity of powder, lead Flints

&c., and that the Indians did not hesitate to declare openly at all times that their objects were hostile to the Whites, and that they were determined to attack and destroy the settlements on Tombigby and Alabama. Information was also brought that this party of McQueens would proceed from Pensacola north to the Whetstone Hill about 80 miles east of Tombigby, where they were to be met by a party from the nation, would distribute their stores & immediately attack our defenceless frontier. When these things were known Col. Caller of the Militia hastily collected about 175 mounted men and proceeded to the trace leading from Pensacola into the nation, with a view to prevent the Junction of these two parties and also to distroy the stores which they were conveying into the Nation. On the 27th July the Co^l with his Militia met the Indians on the edge of the Escambia low grounds and gave them battle. The Savages were soon drove & when every thing declared for the Colonels party, contrary to his express orders & expectations a retreat was ordered by a Junior officer, and notwithstanding every exertion of Colonel Caller and some of his officers & men the Militia could not be rallied, but retreated in confusion, with the loss of two killed and eight or ten wounded. The loss of the Enemy was much greater. From the information which I have collected there can be no doubt that the Civil [p. 3] War between the Creeks has originated with the British in Canada. It is stated to me by some of the most intelligent half Breeds that the little Warrior who had been with the British army in Canada had written orders from the commander in that quarter, to the governor at Pensacola to furnish the Indians with whatever arms & ammunition they might require. These orders, when the little warrior was killed fell into the hands of

McQueen, and upon them there is no doubt but he was supplied. Inclosed is an extract from a letter of John Innerarity of the house of John Fords [?] & Co. of Pensacola which shews that the Indians have obtained by threats & otherwise considerable warlike supplies. And shews too that the Spanish Government of that place is too weak to support their authority. When we are at war with a Savage Nation, who are thus able to procure warlike supplies from the Spanish government immediately on our borders, which enables them to commit depredations on our frontiers, & to support a contest with our troops, which will create verry considerable expenditures of Government; Sound Policy would dictate that such dispositions should be made as effectually to distroy these resources. This can only be done by taking possession of Pensacola and such other places in East Florida as border on our lines. This measure I hope will be adopted. I have now at the different Frontier Stations about seven hundred men & expect in a few days to be reinforced by the 7th Regiment. I sincerely hope that I may then be ordered by Genl. Flournoy under whom I act, to penetrate into the Creek Nation. More could be effected now; by one thousand men, than could be accomplished three months hence by double that number. [p. 4] If I am ordered to act on the defencive only much serious injury will be done on the Frontiers. The best mode of fighting Indians is to penetrate into the heart of their settlements and to give them battle at the threshold of their doors.

Genl Flournoy has been unwell since his arrival in this country, but is now fortunately in good health his Head Quarters are at the Bay of St. Louis, but will unquestionably be transferred to this place should our difficulties continue. with the Muscogeas.

He is highly esteemed and approved by the twelve months volunteers of the State of Louisiana & the Mississippi Territory under my command, & by the officers and men of the Regular Army serving under his orders - Should any thing of interest occur in your quarter in regard to our Indian Enemy, I shall feel under obligations for any communications your Excellency may make me on that interesting subject-

[end]

QUINCY CONSERVATIVE CONVENTION

"In accordance with an informal call by circular from a meeting of Conservative Gentlemen at Jacksonville, a Conference of Conservatives was held at Quincy on the 31st of March, 1868, in which the following Counties were represented; Leon, Duval, Jefferson, Gadsden, St. John's, Putnam, Madison, Columbia, Jackson, Alachua, Sumpter, Monroe, Washington, Holmes, Walton, and Calhoun.

Our fellow citizen [of St. Augustine], Major W. W. VAN NESS acted as President of the Convention. A Committee of one from each County reported the following recommendations :

1. We recommend a decided opposition to the adoption or ratification of the Constitution, by voting against the same.

2. We recommend the immediate nomination and announcement of candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and member of Congress.

3. We recommend that the views adopted by the meeting be embodied in an address to the citizens of Florida, to be prepared and put forth by a committee to be appointed for the purpose, and that such committee be constituted an executive committee.

After full and mature deliberation, the report was unanimously adopted and the committee discharged.

The committee selected under the third resolution were authorized to promulgate the address and the nominations made by the Convention.

Nominations for the several offices being declared in order, the name of Col. George W. Scott was

*From *St. Augustine Examiner*, April 18, 1868.

announced for Governor, and confirmed by acclamation.

Thomas M. White of West Florida, for Lieut.-Governor, and Major W. W. Van Ness of East Florida, as member of Congress, were also nominated, and their nomination separately and unanimously confirmed.

Major Van Ness immediately declining the nomination, the name of Hon. John Friend, of Fernandina, was put in nomination, and his nomination ratified unanimously.

The following delegates to the National Democratic Convention, to be held in New York, were separately nominated and confirmed by the meeting, viz:

F. R. Cotten, Leon ; Wilkinson Call, Leon ; J. P. Sanderson, Duval ; C. E. Dyke, Leon ; W. D. Barnes, Jackson ; C. H. Smith, Madison ; T. Randall, Leon ; S. Fairbanks, Duval ; Charles Davis, Jackson ; S. H. Owens, Marion ; A. L. Smith, Gadsden ; A. Hewling, Duval ; J. B. Brown, Monroe ; J. C. McLean, Walton ; E. C. Love, Gadsden ; H. Wright, Escambia ; R. L. Campbell, Escambia ; James McKay, Tampa ; Major W. W. Van Ness, St. John's ; W. H. Robinson, St. John's ; J. J. Williams, Leon ; E. M. L'Engle, Duval.

On motion, the Executive committee are authorized to provide for appointment of Presidential electors if deemed proper, and at their discretion to call a Convention of the State.

* * *

Just as we were going to press we received this notice: The Conservative press of the State are requested by the advice of the Executive committee and at the request of our Conservative friends in a portion of West Florida to substitute the name

of James W. Hall, Esq. of West Florida as the conservative candidate for Lieutenant-Governor in place of Hon. T. M. White, declined..

The Tallahassee Floridian says : No better ticket could have been selected. Scott, a laborious, vigilant, self-sacrificing officer in the Confederate interest during the war; White, a Southern Union man; and Friend, a Northerner casting his lot in Florida since the war, but generous in feeling and devoted to his adopted State.

Col. Scott is a Pennsylvanian by birth, but has resided in Florida since 1850, during which time he has been actively engaged in mercantile pursuits and in planting. No citizen stands higher among us in popular estimation. He is in his fortieth year. He came to Quincy as an invalid in 1850, and in 1852 established the mercantile house of George W. Scott & Co. in Tallahassee which he is still successfully conducting. He is also a partner in the well known cotton house of Smallwood, Hodgkiss & Co. of New York. He resides on his plantation near Tallahassee and has. been for years an officer in the Presbyterian Church. Modest and retiring, he is at the same time decided in his convictions and unflinching in maintaining them. He possesses in a rare degree that excellent trait called "common sense."

THE GREAT STORM

[Tallahassee, Aug. 23-24, 1851]

When we * went to press last week, the 23rd, we mentioned that a storm was raging which threatened to be very disastrous. It grew to be even more disastrous than we anticipated. Such an one has not been felt here within the memory of man. Neither that of 1843, which destroyed Port Leon, nor the one of 1837, was so violent and terrible. It lasted from an early hour of the morning on Saturday [August 23] till near the dawn on Sunday - at first the wind blowing in squalls more or less frequent from the East, then about noon Saturday going around Southward, and increasing in violence and long continued blasts till it rose to a furious gale, which was about its worst at two o'clock next morning, and after that gradually abating till daylight. It was' raining nearly all the while in great torrents. Trees of all sorts and sizes were broken down or torn from their roots, and those that remained were rudely -stripped of their limbs and much of their foliage.- Houses were unroofed, some blown down, and others greatly injured, and fences generally in whole or in part were thrown to the earth. Altogether, the scene as it presented itself on Sunday morning was a vast chaos of destruction and of entangled streets and yards.

The tin roof of the Capitol was torn off, a window blown in, much of the glass broken, and several of the rooms drenched with water-but the books and archives were very little injured. Captain Bond's Warehouse was left a complete wreck. The "Exchange" buildings unroofed and badly injured.

**Floridian and Journal*, Tallahassee, August 30, 1851.

Towle's house gable end smashed in. The Livery Stables, the stores on McMullin's corner, Mr. R. Hayward's new stores, the new stores of Walker and Shine, and probably others were unroofed. The Hoc building, formerly occupied for the *Floridian* office, partly unroofed and much injured. The Market House prostrated. Many other houses sustained damage; and in nearly every store some goods were wet from leaking, in some of them badly so. We have heard of no dwelling house that was seriously hurt, except from the intrusion of the rain, which it seemed no roof could prevent.

We cannot undertake to estimate the loss the storm has caused. All through the country, besides prostrating innumerable forest trees, there has been vast damage. Crops of Corn and Cotton are blown into the utmost confusion, and there will be immense loss in consequence.

* * *

FURTHER PARTICULARS

We learned that the storm was more violent North and Northwest than in this vicinity. In Gadsden County, much damage has been done. About one out of five of the tobacco barns has been demolished, and the cotton plants broken down and the bolls whipped off. In Quincy, the Masonic Hall, Mr. Wilson's and Mrs. Burnley's dwellings, and the Baptist Church, and several other buildings were blown down. Many other buildings were seriously damaged. No lives were lost.

Railroad & Terminus. - We learn that the Railroad, which was washed up from the wharf to Holt's Hotel, will be rebuilt by tonight. The Ware-houses were very little injured. Five or six hundred dollars will repair the whole loss. The damage to goods in store is said to be not more than a thousand or

twelve hundred dollars. It is painful to record the losses of Mr. Spencer and Dr. Hines whose stores were nearby. Their houses with all contents were swept off.

* * *

We have had but one mail - a very small one - this week in consequence of the impassability of the roads. In every direction they are covered over with fallen timber, and the one from Quincy which brings the chief mail, has lost the bridge over Little River. As our mails can come no other way, a pony purse was made up for Mr. Fillmore, who started for Quincy yesterday to bring it through.

* * *

THE STORM ON THE COAST

Newport and St. Marks both suffered severely and though the lighthouse stood, those who were there had a terrible time of it. The fourteen or fifteen who were there had made up their minds that they would be swept away. As to the damage at St. Marks it is melancholy to contemplate. Many who owned little else had their houses and the contents drifted off, and they are now without homes and almost without the means of subsistence. But the gentleman who suffered the greatest loss was our friend R. T. Brickett Esq. Deputy Collector. The house in which he lived was carried away, and scattered along the river banks for two miles up. It took everything of value, even the clothing of himself and family. Those who have enjoyed the sea shore and the pleasures at Shell Point, will regret to hear that not even a vestige of the houses which once knew them remains upon the beach.

Crops and Weather. From every quarter the crops are reported to be very greatly damaged by the gale. Everything lies prostrate and inextric-

ably tangled. Scarcely any planter we have seen counts upon more than half a crop of cotton. The tobacco crop of Gadsden was wellnigh destroyed—a great part of that which was gathered being in houses were blown down, and that which was standing being mangled beyond recovery. The turpentine plantations also suffered severely.

THE TEKESTA INDIANS OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

By JOHN MANN GOGGIN
University of New Mexico

The Tekesta¹ Indians at the time of the discovery of America occupied a portion of southeastern Florida. This area seems to have comprised the greater part of Dade county and possibly to have extended north to Pompano in Broward county.² To the south toward Cape Sable it is difficult to tell where the boundary between the Calusa and the Tekesta was, although Barcia says there was a Tekesta village named Abayoa at the southern extremity of the Florida peninsula (probably Cape Sable). (Barcia, *Ensayo* 2, bibliography, post). However, archaeological evidence seems to indicate that sites about Cape Sable are more closely affiliated with the Calusa than the Tekesta. The Tekesta were second in power and prominence among the small tribes on the east coast, south of the Timucua territory. To the northward were the Ais, and to the west and southwest were the Calusa. In addition, many minor tribes existed whose names vary with different authors. Although the Calusa seem to have been overlords of the whole southern part of the state, the other small tribes sometimes refused to obey the chief of the Calusa, with resulting warfare. It is said that the chief of the Tekesta was related to the chief of the Calusa. (Lowery : 260)

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1. There exist numerous forms of this name. Some are as follows : Tequesta, Tegesta, Tequeste, Takesta.
 2. There seems to be some disagreement over the extent of the area. For example Lopez de Velasco (Swanton: 389) says that their territory extended from Cape Canaveral to the Florida Keys, but it is probable that he is in error.

The natural regions inhabited by the Tekesta were the Miami limestone region and the coastal prairie. The Miami limestone region is an eroded limestone ridge from five to twenty-five miles wide, extending the whole length of the Tekesta country. It never rises more than twenty-five feet above sea level. To the west lies the Everglades and to the east the coastal sloughs and lagoons. The vegetation is mainly pinewoods, with hammocks of West Indian hardwoods scattered throughout the general area and at the mouths of the streams. These streams cut through the ridge from the west, draining the overflow of the Everglades. The Everglades themselves seem to have, been occupied only around the edges. The coastal prairie, constituting the extreme southeast and south portions of the state, was sparsely occupied in aboriginal times except for the Cape Sable area. Biologically and climatically this whole area is in the tropical life zone. The greatest centers of population seem to have been at the mouths of the creeks, rivers, and inlets, on keys, and on the coastal beaches that are separated from the mainland by a mangrove swamp.

The first record of European contact with the Tekesta was in 1513. In May of that year Ponce de Leon discovered the Florida coast near lat. 30°. Turning south one of the places at which he stopped was a bay called Chequescha, in the approximate location of Biscayne bay, where the main Tekesta villages were later to be found. (Davis: 21)

The second known meeting of the Tekesta with Europeans was in 1565, when one of Menendez' ships was caught in a storm and forced to find shelter in what is now Biscayne bay. There the Spanish anchored opposite the settlement of Outh-coqua who was chief of the Tekesta. The Spanish

were treated very well by the Indians, who assisted them until they were able to leave. (Lowery : 260, bibliography, post)

The next year Menendez himself visited Tekesta and erected a number of houses. With him were several missionaries, who took the nephew of the chief to Havana, where they educated him. The brother of the chief also accompanied Menendez to Spain, where he became a Christian. The relationship between the Spanish and the Indians was always friendly, except for one incident in which the soldiers provoked the natives. This friendship was due mainly to the personality and fairness of Menendez himself. On one occasion by making a treaty between the Calusa and the Tekesta, he stopped a war.

In 1568 Menendez again visited Tekesta. While there he erected a block house and a large cross. He left thirty soldiers to man the post and Brother Francisco Villareal to instruct the natives. Brother Francisco had learned the language from the nephew of the chief when the latter visited Havana two years before. The Brother was making good progress with both the children and the elders until the soldiers provoked acts of hostility. When the soldiers executed the uncle of the chief, the Indians in a rage tore down the cross and attacked the Spaniards from ambush. As a result Brother Francisco decided to abandon the mission for the time being, and on Passion Sunday he arrived at Charlotte Harbor with the remnant of the soldiers.

In November of the same year the brother of the chief returned from Spain. His appearance so revived the natives' friendship that Brother Francisco reopened his mission. In order to show their friendship, the Indians made a large cross and erected it in place of the one they had torn down.

In 1570 the mission was finally abandoned because of the seeming fruitlessness of missionary work, and Brother Francisco worked among the Indians of northern Florida with much success.

In 1673 Bishop Calderon refers to "13 tribes of savage heathen Carib [sic] Indians." Among these is one called the Vicaynos which was located between the Jobeses [Hobe] and the Matcumbeses tribes, at approximately the former location of the Tekesta. (Wenhold: 11-12) It is probably from the tribal name "Viscaynos" that the present name of Biscayne bay was derived.

It was not until 1743 that another attempt was made to convert the Tekesta to Catholicism. Fathers Monaco and Alna came from Havana to start a mission at the mouth of the Rio Ratones, where they built a chapel and a fort. It might not be amiss to consider the exact location of this mission, since many authorities have taken it for granted that the Rio Ratones was the Miami river. But evidence seems to show that it might have been the Little river a few miles north of the Miami. The early geographers usually described only two streams emptying into Biscayne bay. However; Williams writing in 1837, names three: Arch creek, Rio Ratones, and Miami river. If this naming is correct, Rio Ratones and Miami river cannot be identical, and Rio Ratones would be what is now Little river. A half mile upstream from the mouth of Little river is a fine oak hammock on a high rock formation overlooking the river. Here there was once an Indian village. A fair sized mound now marks the spot. Between the mound and the river is a bluff that stands about eight or nine feet above the edge of the stream. Cut in the limestone just opposite the mound are steps leading down the most abrupt part of the bluff for approximately three

or four feet. These surely were not the work of Indians and their weathered condition indicates that they were there long before any of the post Spanish settlements in south Florida. It is reasonable to suppose that they might have been cut by missionaries if that was the site of the mission. However, there is also the possibility that this site was occupied by pirates or wreckers at one time. It is also fair to state that there once stood a large mound at the mouth of the Miami river. It is obvious that a careful study of early maps will do much to clarify the situation but the above theory is mentioned as being a possible answer.³ By writers after Williams, Rio Ratones is considered as entering Biscayne bay north of Arch creek, but I believe that the archaeological evidence points to Little river as being the original Rio Ratones.

The Tekesta, like so many other small tribes, were finally exterminated by the bands of raiding Creeks who later formed the present Seminole group. Father Monaco in 1743 was the last person to make any reference to the Tekesta, when he wrote they were suffering from the continued attacks of the Yuchi. A little later Adair writes of the warfare the Creeks carried on against the "Indians of Cape Florida" The Tekesta were undoubtedly those referred to. "The Muskhoge carried their cypress bark canoes from the head of the St. John's black river, only about half a mile when they launched them into a deep river which led down to a multitude of islands to the N. W. of Cape Florida." At last the cape Floridians were so reduced by warfare that only thirty men were left. These removed to Havana with the Spaniards. (Adair: 134) In

3. Romans, whose geography is quite good, unfortunately does not clarify this point. He merely says that west of Cape Florida is the River Rattones. p. 288.

the 1770's Romans traveled along the east coast and mentions numerous deserted villages in the Tekesta country. He, too, attributes the extinction of these south Florida Indians to the Creeks and says "that in 1763 the last remnant of the people consisting of about eighty families. . . .went to Havannah." (Romans: 29) These people he calls Calusa but they may well have included many Tekesta because of the better feelings between this tribe and the Spanish. Then, too, all of the Calusa did not leave as some of them are often referred to during the Seminole War as "Spanish Indians." Moreover, Romans refuses to recognize the fact that there was such a tribe as the Tekesta and accuses De Brahm of having made up the name of "Tegesta." (Romans : 296)

By 1820 there were several white settlements on Biscayne bay and there are no accounts of Tekesta (as such) around there. If any were left in Florida they must have been merged with the Seminoles and lost their identity.

Our knowledge of the customs of the Tekesta is very scant. A little, however, is known concerning the burial and religious rites. The first notice is by Velasco who says: "The Indians of Tegesta, which is another province extending from the Martires to Canaveral, have a custom, when the Cacique dies of disjointing his body and taking out the largest bones. These are placed in a large box and carried to the house of the Cacique where every Indian from the town goes to see and adore them, believing them to be gods." (Swanton: 389) This custom of disjointing the bodies of the dead is substantiated by Kenny (226) He says: "The corpse is stripped and dismembered at all the joints; and the bones are carefully cleaned and. distributed among the kinsmen and friends, the largest bones

going to the nearest and dearest. Then a bonfire is made and the flesh is thrown into the flames, while around the fire a mournful chant and dance goes on, which ends in carousings that last until morning." Investigations in the burial mounds of the Tekesta reveal that many of the burials are secondary. In most cases they consist of the larger bones and the skull only. Velasco after describing the chase and kill of the sea cow says: "they cut open its head and take out two large bones, which they place in the coffin with the bodies of their dead and worship them." (Swanton: 389)

Father Monaco states that in 1743 "a fish painted on a board was worshipped in a hut by these Indians, the chief Medicine man calling himself bishop." (Shea 2: 472-3) At that time the Spanish influence must have been strong to cause the medicine man to appropriate the title "bishop." From another source we find that "the sun was worshipped under the semblance of a stuffed deer." (Lowery: 64)

The Tekesta, like the other South Florida tribes, were very savage. There seems to have been little love on the part of the parents for their children. Many were killed or maimed by their fathers when they were drunk. (Kenny: 339) The sacrifice of children is said to have been common whenever a special occasion arose. When Father Monaco arrived to start a mission at Tekesta in 1743 he found that no one was at the village. All the inhabitants were seeking to seal a friendship with their former enemies, the Santa Lucas. To celebrate the occasion they were sacrificing a child. (Kenny: 337) It seems rather difficult to believe the foregoing since from no other tribe in the southeast do we have, definite information that children were sacrificed. However, this may well have been the exception.

The Tekesta inspired great fear in the sailors of that area, particularly the English, for they were reputed to treat shipwrecked mariners cruelly and often tortured them, according to both Adair and Romans. In fact, Adair says that the "Cape Floridians were only Spanish mercenaries shedding blood for their maintenance." (Adair: 151) Despite this, Adair defends them against charges made by navigators that they were cannibals, saying that according to the Creeks "they could never be informed by their captives of the least inclination they ever had of eating human flesh, only the heart of the enemy, -which they all do, sympathetically (blood for blood) in order to inspire them with courage; yet the constant losses they suffered might have highly provoked them to exceed their natural barbarity." (Adair: 134)

No description has ever been written of the dwellings of the Tekesta. However, it is evident that they had some kind of huts, as Velasco mentions the "house of the cacique" (Swanton: 389), and Father Monaco refers to a "hut" (Shea 2 :472). It is likely that they lived in the open the greater part of the year, as Calderon says of the tribes in south Florida : "they had no fixed abodes" (Wenhold: 11). What huts they did have were probably covered with palmetto thatch. Their villages were marked, as a rule, by a kitchen midden. This was the result of the accumulation of refuse and consisted of shell, bones, ashes, broken pottery, etc. These are usually located in some hammock on a river, near its mouth, or on a key. In all cases the site is accessible by water.

The Indians wore very little clothing. A breech clout was all that was worn by the men. The women wore skirts of "Spanish moss." Dickenson says that the Ais (who lived immediately north of the

Tekesta) wore breech-clouts of plaited straw (palmetto ?) and Fonteneda says the same of the Calusa to the west.

The Tekesta, in common with the other tribes of the section, did not cultivate the soil, but derived all their food from wild plants and animals. Their main reliance was, of course, the ocean and its many and varied forms of life. They were famed as fishermen and went to sea in their small dugouts, often traveling long distances from land in search of large fish. "In winter all the Indians go to sea in their canoes to hunt for sea cows. One of their number carries three stakes fastened to his girdle and a rope on his arm. When he discovers a sea cow he throws a rope around its neck, and as the animal sinks under the water the Indian drives a stake through one of its nostrils and no matter how much it may dive, the Indian never loses it because he goes on its back." (Velasco in Swanton: 389)

Besides sea cows they caught other large marine animals such as sharks, sailfish, porpoises, and sting rays. The bones of all these have been excavated from the kitchen middens along with those of many kinds of smaller fish.

Large quantities of oysters and conchs that were easily procured in the shallow waters of Biscayne bay were eaten. However, shell fish do not seem to have played such a prominent part in the diet of the Tekesta as it did among the Calusa and the people to the north. Why a greater quantity of this form of seafood was not used is unknown. It is probable that roots and wild fruits, always plentiful, were preferred to shellfish.

The more important food plants were the coontie root (*Zamia* sp.), and the palmetto berry (*Serenoa repens*). The coontie root was ground and the starch, which was washed out, made a very palat-

able and nutritious flour. The palmetto berries were eaten fresh and dried, but mostly in the latter state. The dried fruit was used extensively when the Indians were traveling and unable to procure fresh food. Extreme hunger was necessary to force the average European to eat these dried berries, for according to contemporary accounts they were quite offensive to the taste. The fresh fruit was far more palatable.

In season other fruits were eaten such as the cocoplum (*Chrysoblanus* sp.), the sea grape (*Cocolobis uvifera*), the pignon plum (*Cocolobis laurifolius*), prickly pears (*Opuntia* sp.), and possibly the wild figs (*Ficus* sp.). Wild grapes and huckleberries were also no doubt eaten when they could be procured.

Deer must have been fairly plentiful as the large number of bones in the middens show that they were frequently eaten. We have nothing definite about the other land mammals that were used as food, but it is quite probable that most of the species found in the area were eaten.

Those Indians who lived inland made great use of the terrapin and other turtles in their diet. Some of the middens on the edge of the Everglades show a predominance of turtle carapaces over all other bones. On the sea coast the large ocean turtles were seized when they came to lay eggs on the beach.

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THE BEMROSE MANUSCRIPT ON THE SEMINOLE WAR

By ROBERT CHARLES STAFFORD

The Bemrose manuscript was written by an English apothecary's assistant who ran away from home and joined the United States Army and, as a hospital steward, served through the early part of the Seminole War.

It deals with the causes of unrest, the Indian conferences, the slaying of Gen. Wiley Thompson, the Dade massacre, and the campaigns of Gens. Clinch, Scott and Gaines. It gives a close personal insight into the feelings and activities of the soldiers. It describes daily camp life, the minutiae of campaigning into uncharted wilds—the small details that historians so often miss. John Bemrose, the author, knew a number of Seminoles personally, and he was at times in close contact with Clinch, Scott and Gaines, as well as with a number of lesser-known officers.

The manuscript will add to the general knowledge of that period. However, Bemrose wrote his story some years after he left the Army, in fact after the Civil War, and at times his memory may have played him false, as is natural. But he kept a diary, which lends credence to much of his material, and he either copied several statements verbatim from other sources available to him, or took such statements himself. At one period, when many of the officers were sick at Fort Drane, he acted as secretary to his commanding general and

NOTE - Mr. Stafford has given a copy of the Bemrose manuscript to the library of the Florida Historical Society. He is writing a story of the Seminole War based on this manuscript and other primary and secondary sources.

wrote many dispatches and orders, which gives him further authority. *

Bemrose starts with an account of his flight from his apprentice's job with a country druggist at Oakham. In August, 1831, with a bundle of clothing and four pounds sterling, he went to Liverpool where he pawned his watch and obtained passage on the ship "Constellation" for New York. He arrived there with four, shillings four pence, "a sum not calculated to produce exuberance of spirits."

He does not explain how he got to Philadelphia, but it was there he enlisted. Army records show this: "First November 1831. John Bemrose, Lincolnshire County, England. Druggist, age 18 years. Enlisted on this date for five years at Philadelphia. Dark eyes, brown hair, light complexion, 5 feet 7 inches tall. Received \$6 pay. Neither parent, master or guardian alive. (Signed) Lieut. W. Day, First Infantry."

He was assigned to St. Augustine as hospital steward. He gives an interesting description of St. Augustine of that day, dealing at length with the Minorcans and their customs. He turns then to the Seminole problem. The following is in present tense, leading to a belief that it was taken from his diary:

"The Seminole tribe is supposed to number about 6000. There are a few hundred run-away slaves residing with them. The Indian nation has its distinct boundaries. In length about 200 miles, and at the greatest breadth 80 miles. If any

*I have the assurance of Dr. Arthur Freeman, from whom I bought the manuscripts (about 40,000 words) that this is the only copy in existence and that it has never been published. Bemrose wrote the story, according to Dr. Freeman, not with the thought of publication, but with the idea of furthering the historical records of that period.

Indian trespasses upon the land of the settlers, he is reported to the agent, who appoints a council of his chiefs to punish him."

Bemrose and a column were sent to Fort King, where he met Gen. Thompson. From there he further describes the Seminoles: "The males are very tall, more being above six feet than under that height. They are a symmetrical race, but the fault, if any, is that their chests are narrow, and the arms not so well developed as the lower limbs. These defects are owing to their never working. Hunting is the chief exercise. The Indians are very fond of bleeding themselves on the march, when fatigued. They will rest at the first brook and cut themselves either with needles or the teeth of the garfish. This they do in parallel lines, straight down the muscles of the thigh."

He witnessed a conference "in the latter part of March" at Fort King between the Seminoles and Gen. Clinch, with the negro, Cudgo, as interpreter. Jumper, Osceola and John Hicks, among others, were present. The platform on which the party was seated, some 10 feet in the air, collapsed and tumbled them all to the ground. On April 23 another conference was held, attended by Micanopy, the supreme chief, at which it was agreed to give the Indians until the following year to prepare for removal to the west.

Reports of depredations and killings by the Seminoles kept arriving, until in November Bemrose got orders to pack up his medicine and hospital stores and a column started on the 8th, going to Gen. Clinch's plantation, "a position 26 miles N. W. of Fort King and 10 miles west of Micanopy."

He describes Clinch's plantation fully, with particular emphasis on the inadequate quarters for the men. He states also the disposition of troops

throughout the territory. Capt. Drane was ordered to fortify the place, which he did with a picket fence 12 feet high, and the place was named Fort Drane.

Isolated cases of raiding and killing and frequent attacks on small detachments of troops continued to be reported. On December 3, Gen. Call (Bemrose spells it "Caul"), started from St. Marks for Fort Drane with 650 Florida militia. On the 8th they were attacked. On the 14th they reached Fort Drane. At this time Bemrose was writing the dispatches and keeping the military records for Clinch.

Preparations were going forward for an expedition into the Nation, when, on December 27, word arrived of Gen. Thompson's murder. On the 28th the expedition started: 560 mounted men under Gen. "Caul", the governor of Florida, 160 horsemen under Col. Barrne (name illegible in manuscript), an Englishman, and six companies of regulars under Col. Fanning, amounting to 250 men. And there is much close description of the men, the camp life, and the mode of traveling.

On December 30, Clinch learned that the Indians were in force on the south side of the Withlacoochee River (Bemrose spells it throughout "Ouithlacoochie"). They spent the night three miles from the river. In the morning Bemrose was "much surprised and chagrined" to receive orders to stay in camp with the sick. He says: "Five men down with intermittant fever kept me from seeing the Battle of Ouithlacoochie."

However, his account of the battle from a number of friends leaves little to be desired. Meanwhile, Lieut. Dancy, in charge of the camp, had trees cut and erected as breast-works and the wagons were placed to supplement the defenses.

About noon they saw a party of mounted men coming from the river and the entire band, numbering about fifty, including the sick, stationed themselves with loaded muskets in preparation for a fight. They proved to be a party of Gen. Call's Florida Horse, who demanded rations, being in flight home from the scene of battle. One shot was fired as a warning and the party rode off.

A single rider appeared and carried off all the cartridges he could manage, reporting heavy fighting across the river. They spent a sleepless, fearful night (New Year's Eve, 1836), expecting any moment an assault by Indians. At about 10 a. m. the next day the troops began returning from the river with scores of groaning wounded. The trip back to Fort Drane was one of intense agony for the wounded, none of whom received any attention until the fort was reached.

Bemrose here gives his account of the battle. It was about 10 a. m. when the troops reached the river and the regulars crossed in a canoe which held only eight men. He writes: "As soon as Gen. Clinch and staff had crossed the troops were formed and ordered to stack arms, when some threw themselves down awaiting the crossing of the horsemen. The troops were then resting about 150 yards from the bank of the stream."

Suddenly one of the scouts came running in from the hammock, about 80 yards distant, with the shout of "Indians ! Indians !" Capt. Mellon was the first to see an Indian and he fired. Immediately it was "answered by the peeling sound of 1000 rifles fired amidst the troops simultaneously, followed by the unearthly warwhoop from a thousand savage throats."

The soldiers fled precipitiously to where the surgeons had been resting, about 100 yards to the

rear. Some 20 fell in the first volley. About 200 of the Seminoles rushed out of the cover and the troops received orders to fire, sending the enemy back to protection. The troops now moved up to their former position and a general fusilade was kept up on both sides, the white army losing heavily, officers predominating. Bemrose explains it was always the Indian custom to pick off the officers first and then to massacre the "big knives" at close fighting - "big knives" being foot soldiers with bayonets.

In the following quotation Gen. Clinch's tactics are shown-holding his men in formation, seemingly a fatal policy. "The soldiers continued forming according to order, a complete target for the unseen enemy. Losing their officers, the ranks became gradually thinned so that at length they lost discipline and got together in huddled groups, a most certain spectacle, unless remedied, of coming disgrace, ending possibly in wholesale butchery. This brought the commander general to reason and he ultimately saw the futility of his fine old Spartan valor against a treacherous and cunning foe. Already he had one horse killed under him and a shot or two through his clothing but all this was as nothing but pleasurable excitement to the brave old officer who could afford to bask on his laurels of former days when engaged against the British, Spaniards, Indians and negroes amalgamated. The battalion officer, Col. Fanning, was a man of a different stamp, equally brave like his own steel, yet possessing more tact, having got his renown more especially as an Indian fighter."

He made several appeals to Clinch to allow him to charge, finally the General ordered it made, and the Indians were dislodged from all but a thicket on the left. Capt. Gates and Capt. Mellon headed

a charge into this, and the enemy fled. Bemrose says 30 dead were left by the Indians.

He explains that the Indians had small bore rifles, which accounted for large numbers of wounded with comparatively few deaths. He is especially bitter toward the Florida Horse, which made no effort to cross: "Out of 800 they might have managed to send over half their number, but suppose they found discretion to be the better part of valor." He says the Jacksonville Horse, commanded by Col. Warren, an Englishman, were the only ones to cross and join the fighting. Gen. Call, chagrined at the cowardliness of his men, crossed with some of his officers and got into the affray.

Bemrose describes in fine detail the treatment of the wounded after the return to Fort Drane which became even more crowded as civilians sought safety there. On January 6 Gen. Call and his militia were mustered out, having been enlisted for only six weeks.

Bemrose's description of the attack on Dade does not differ in any major detail from others familiar to all students of Florida history. However, he quotes the account of Rawson Clark, about 1300 words.

Bemrose says Gaines had artillery with him. I have seen no mention of artillery in other accounts of Gaines' troubles on the Withlacoochee. Bemrose says the troops at Drane could hear the booming sound of Gaines' cannon. This they did by placing their ears to the ground to get "this thundering telegram more distinctly."

Gen. Winfield Scott reached Fort Drane on March 15, accompanied by a band, fine tents and much furniture, bringing the total of armed men to 3354. Bemrose tells of the building of barracks, the increase of sickness and finally of being informed "by

my dear old general," meaning Clinch, that the last three months of his enlistment would be granted him in appreciation of his services in the hospital.

He deals with the sick, and himself was taken with country fever. It left him so debilitated that he was sent to St. Augustine by his beloved superior, Dr. Weightman.

The last pages of the manuscript deal with individual encounters with Indians, attacks on outposts, on express riders, and with general observations on the war.

Bemrose, still weak, was sent to Charleston, from where he went back to England.

THE FLORIDA GUIDE

Florida, A Guide to the Southernmost State. New York. Oxford University Press. 1939. \$2.50.

This substantial volume of 600 pages is a product of the Federal Writers' Project, Works Progress Administration. It was compiled by the local units throughout Florida with continuous supervision and editing by the headquarters staff in Jacksonville, and all under the direction of Dr. Carita Doggett Corse.

The result is worth the large amount of time and labor put on its preparation, for the need was great and it has been well met. The many thousands of facts and items of miscellaneous information cover what the tourist and uninformed resident will probably most want to know. No longer must the stranger wander idly about the State unless he wishes to. Here is the greater part of the whole before him and he can choose, go where he will, and the *Guide* will prompt him on the way and answer his most likely questions when he gets there.

The book is of today, yet the past is touched on here and there, and there is also a division of a few pages on history-but enough, and rightly, to suggest further inquiry to those who may be interested. Some errors have crept into this portion, but they are unimportant to the causal inquirer.

Half of the volume consists of twenty-two carefully planned tours which cover the entire State. This is the main purpose of the book and is its most successful part.

In its planning, which was mostly well-done, there was the temptation to wander from its field and to try to make the volume a Florida encyclopedia.

This is shown by the inclusion of a chapter on literature, which might well have been limited to a word on the most important books relating to Florida. Two stanzas of "The Earliest Known Poem on Florida" are quoted from this *Quarterly* -verses from Shakespeare's time and reminiscent of the best of his songs; and though nothing but the verse itself has come down to us, in the *Guide* it is put in the mouth of an imaginary tipsy sailor.

The most striking feature of the book is the one hundred illustrations, many full-page, which are sure to please everyone, for they are interesting and well reproduced. The mechanical work also is good and this is important, for the volume will be used, and to advantage, by any one once opening it.

THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE ANNUAL MEETING

In the January number of the Quarterly was an outline of the plans and program of the annual meeting to be held in Quincy and Tallahassee on March 27, 28, & 29 in cooperation with the Quincy Historical Society and the Tallahassee Historical Society. The program has grown and plans have broadened until it is assured that this meeting will in interest and importance equal any ever held by the Society. Mr. C. H. Curry is chairman in Quincy and Dr. Kathryn T. Abbey in Tallahassee. The exhibit of Floridiana, which has come to hold such a prominent place at our meetings, will be under the direction of Miss Louise Richardson, librarian of Florida State College for Women.

The program throughout features the local historical societies of Florida, and members of a number of these will attend, and several will make addresses.

The public is welcome at all sessions except the business meeting at the Quincy Women's Club at eight o'clock on the evening of the 27th, when members will gather for a general discussion of Society affairs and various committees will report.

Next morning at 9:45 at the same place former president Joshua C. Chase will preside at a program session on "Episodes in Modern Florida." Miss Occie Clubbs, secretary of the Pensacola Historical Society, will present a paper on Stephen R. Mallory, Florida senator and secretary of the navy of the Confederate States. Judge Rivers Buford will speak on Governor Napoleon B. Broward. Mrs. James M. Carson, vice president of the South

Florida Historical Society, will have Florida and the Spanish American War as her subject, and Miss Helen Sharp will tell of William S. Swann.

A presentation of gifts will follow, and Miss Richardson will describe the exhibit of Floridiana.

Mr. Curry, as president of the Quincy Historical Society, will preside at a luncheon conference on cooperation between local historical societies and the Florida Historical Society, when the speakers will be Mr. Spessard L. Holland, director and former vice president, and Mr. Herbert Lamson, our former secretary.

At two o'clock, at the Women's Club, Mrs. Charles W. Ten Eick will preside at a session of local historical societies. Miss Daisy Parker, of the Tallahassee Historical Society, will read a paper on Governor John Milton. Mrs. James Love, of the Quincy Historical Society, will tell of tobacco growing in Florida. Miss Mary Graff, of the Jacksonville Historical Society, will give the story of Picolata; and Judge David R. Dunham, president of the St. Augustine Historical Society, will have that historic city for a subject.

The election of officers and general business will follow.

The annual banquet will be at the same place at half-past seven, with Mr. Phil May as toastmaster. President Hanna's annual address will be "From Prince to Democrat."

Friday, March 29, at Tallahassee

A tour of the Capitol will begin next morning at 9:15 with Mr. A. H. Roberts as guide.

The program session at 9:45 will be in the House of Representatives chamber, with Dr. H. E. Palmer, president of the Tallahassee Historical Society, presiding, Judge E. C. Love, of the Quincy His-

torical Society, will tell of the constitutional convention of 1885; Mrs. Lou E. Miller, of the Tallahassee Historical Society, will read a paper on "Literature by Floridians." Mr. Leon Huhner's subject is Moses Elias Levy Yulee; and Secretary of State R. A. Gray will describe the "Battle of Natural Bridge." Miss Richardson will explain the Floridiana, which will have been on exhibit both days.

The final session will be at Waukulla Springs at one o'clock, where Dr. John J. Tigert, president of the University of Florida, will preside, and Dr. W. Watson Davis of the University of Kansas, native Floridian and author of *Civil War and Reconstruction in Florida*, will make the address. Adjournalment will follow.

* * *

The officers and directors urge all the members, and especially those of the district, to attend one or all sessions of the meeting. Questions affecting the future of the Society will be considered and perhaps decided. The program, as you see, is of unusual interest and wide appeal, and it will probably be a number of years ere our annual meeting is held again in this part of the State. So why not come to this one.

Two matters of importance have been recommended by the Board of Directors for submission to the Annual Meeting

- 1) The City Council of St. Augustine has offered the Society space rent free in the Civic and Cultural Center being developd in the Alcazar building. The space is large and commodious, two rooms, one the old ballroom, and a washroom. The Board favors accepting the offer because

- a) it will enable the Society to expand in suitable physical surroundings and make its collection available,
- b) it will enable the Society to perfect plans for a permanent executive secretary,
- c) it will assist the Society to establish the Publications program mentioned below.

These three objectives have been considered desirable for many years.

2) The Board is recommending the establishment of a Publications program which in effect will be a revival of that started by the Florida State Historical Society some years ago. Such a program will be financed by not less than 300 subscriptions. Mr. John B. Stetson, Jr., of Deland, will be the permanent chairman of this program.

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THE PALM BEACH MEETING

Few regional meetings of the Society have been so successful in every respect as that held by the members of our Fourth District in Palm Beach, January 12 and 13 - there being more than three hundred registrations. In addition to speakers of the district, several came from our other districts and from without the State, and their addresses and papers attracted large and interested audiences. But the greatest attraction was the remarkable exhibit of Floridiana brought together for the meeting by Dr., Edmund LeRoy Dow.

The general chairman was Mrs. Henry Kohl, our vice president, with Mr. Gaines R. Wilson chairman of the program committee, Mr. E. V. W. Jones of the publicity committee, and Mr. Ralph Reynolds that on local arrangements. These were assisted by Mr. James M. Owens Jr. and Mr. A. S. Bussey, president and secretary of the Palm Beach Historical Society.

Our board of directors and members of committees of the Society met in conference on Society affairs on the twelfth, followed by a luncheon at The Villas, at which they were joined by officers of the local society. An account of the conference and decisions will be included in the next issue of the *Quarterly*. The Reverend Tage Teisen presided at the session which followed. Dr. C. W. Tebeau of the University of Miami spoke on the "Function of Historical Societies," and Dr. Dorothy Dodd our treasurer read a paper on the "Relation of the Florida Historical Society to Local and Patriotic Societies."

The afternoon program at The Society of Four Arts was open to the public. The welcome was given by Dr. Daniel J. McCarthy, president of The Four Arts. Mr. Albert C. Manucy, our secretary, gave an illustrated talk on old houses of St. Augustine; and Mrs. Katherine S. Lawson described "Human Landscaping of Old St. Augustine." Mrs. Ruth D. Wilson told of the Bulow plantation, and Mr. J. Marquette Phillips spoke on "The Mission of San Ignacio." Dr. Dow closed the program with an account of the collections of Floridiana.

This exhibit, which was crowded continuously during both days, covered the whole period of Florida's history as well as prehistoric eras, all arranged in chronological series. It began with mastodon bones, with pamphlets from the Smithsonian Institution to tell of them and of the other archaeological specimens. Next were bones of Indians with broken pottery from their mounds, then a complete half-buried skeleton as found, with his necklace of shells. A chain of Florida maps covered the walls with one or more of every period in turn. Flags of the nations holding sovereignty over the Florida of every period were hung above.

First place was held by the Society's relic, our mission candlestick from the ruins at New Smyrna; and a special case was given to the Society's Ferdinand and Isabella letter, told of in the last *Quarterly*. There was a case of ancient atlases with Florida maps, and a section devoted to Jonathan Dickenson's shipwreck on the Florida coast in the 17th century. Another section showed the Seminole Indians and the Seminole War, and another related to Henry Perrine. There was also an exhibit on the Civil War, and one on Palm Beach history. Mrs. Lawson of the St. Augustine Historical Society brought many historical items from their library ; and there were numerous books and other historical pieces from libraries and private collections of the State.

Dinner was at Whitehall, former home of Henry M. Flagler, with President Hanna as toastmaster. Mr. James M. Owens Jr., mayor of Palm Beach, welcomed the members and their friends, and Mr. Watt Marchman described recent donations to the Society's historical collections. Mr. Messmore Kendall, national president, Sons of the American Revolution, made the address which was on "An Adventure in Historical Research."

At the program meeting next morning Mr. Gaines R. Wilson presided. Miss Alma Lu Meerdink of the Palm Beach public schools read a paper on "Early Days," and Mr. George E. Merrick, founder of Coral Gables, spoke on "Pre-Flagler Influences on the Lower East Coast." Mrs. Marian R. Trumbull told next of Hiram F. Hammon, pioneer homesteader, Mrs. Maud Howe Elliott was guest speaker, and Mr. Charles Brookfield described the recovery of relics of a 17th century ship wrecked on the Florida reef.

Dr. Dow commented on the principal items of the extraordinary exhibit which he had arranged; and the meeting ended with lunch at Cluett Memorial Gardens.

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THE REGIONAL MEETING AT LAKE WALES

The regional meeting of the Society in our first district at the Mountain Lake Club, Lake Wales, announced in the last issue of the *Quarterly*, was held on February ninth and tenth, and was notably successful under the general chairmanship of Dr. A. R. L. Dohme, with Mrs. William H. Nichols Jr. as vice chairman.

Mrs. Louise duPont Crowninshield, the Society's director for that district, presided at the first session. Mrs. Frances F. Cleveland Preston spoke on Dr. Henry Perrine, and Mr. E. Barrett Rich, a great-grandson of Dr. Perrine, gave his recollections of his ancestor.

Mr. A. J. Wall, director of the New York Historical Society, came from New York to read a paper on our Florida historian Buckingham Smith, who was closely connected with that Society and deposited his Spanish Florida historical material in their library.

Mr. Samuel E. Cobb, of the staff of The National Archives and a native of Florida, came to present a paper on "The Florida Militia and the Affair at Withlacoochee."

Mr. Theodore Lesley told of the Florida Confederate cattle battalion, and our librarian Mr. Watt Marchman and Mr. John B. Stetson Jr. described the exhibit of Floridiana, Mr. Stetson telling of the series of publications of the Florida State Historical Society, to which tribute has been given often in the *Quarterly*.

A luncheon at the Club was followed by the afternoon program with Dr. Dohme presiding.

Rt. Rev. Francis Sadlier, O.S.B., Abbott, St. Leo Abbey, had for his subject "Benedictine Pioneering in Florida," and Major H. M. Nornabell, director of Mountain Lake Sanctuary, told of Mr. Bok's ideals for the Sanctuary and Singing Tower. A tour of the Sanctuary under Major Nornabell's direction with a special carillon recital followed.

Mr. and Mrs. Milton J. Warner were hosts at tea.

Dinner at the Club preceded the evening session at which Mr. Stetson, a director of the Society, presided. After the announcement of gifts by our librarian Mr. Watt Marchman, and Mr. Carl G. Alvord, which were accepted by Dr. Kathryn T. Abbey, our director, Dr. Doris Stone of Tulane University gave the address of the evening on "Mexican Resemblances in the Southeastern Area of the United States."

President Hanna read a message from Mr. Jefferson Randolph Anderson, president of the Georgia Historical Society, with greetings from that society.

Mr. Samuel H. Fisher presided at the program session next morning, where Julia Ann Smith of the Haines City high school read an essay "Fifty Years Ago in the Ridge," and Miss Dena Snodgrass gave her ideas on "How to Interest Young People in Florida History." The discussion leader was Professor S. G. Coe of Southern College.

That classic of Florida history, the *Journal of Jonathan Dickenson*, was treated fully by Mrs. Evangeline Walker Andrews who has made a study of it.

Mrs. William H. Nichols Jr. was hostess at luncheon to the board of directors and standing committees of the Society ; and a meeting of the board and committees with President Hanna followed.

An exhibit of Floridiana was directed by Mrs. Guy Gannett at the Club and drew continuous interest. There were pieces of pottery and bones from Indian mounds of Florida, all the flags of Florida, maps of various dates from the sixteenth century downwards, manuscripts, volumes on all periods of Florida history from our own library and other collections, items relating to Dr. Perrine, Jonathan Dickenson's shipwreck, Civil War items, Murat material, prints, the series of publications of the Florida State Historical Society, and a file of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*.

LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES OF FLORIDA

QUINCY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TALLAHASSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

It is at the invitation of these societies and in cooperation with them that our annual meeting on March 27, 28 & 29 will be held there. Unusual and interesting programs have been arranged for both places. The Society is appreciative and grateful for their hospitality and assistance.

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PALM BEACH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The meeting of the Florida Historical Society in Palm Beach, January 12 and 13, was held jointly with the local society, and its notable success was due in large part to their cooperation. Mr. James M. Owens Jr. is president and Mr. A. S. Bussey is secretary.

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SOUTH FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Influenced or encouraged perhaps by the preparations for our district meeting at Palm Beach in which they took a large part, a number of the historically minded of Miami and its vicinity met early in January at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James M. Carson in Coral Gables and organized the South Florida Historical Society. Its objects are: "to preserve historic sites and historical material, to publish articles, to promote public interest in and further in every way the memory of South Florida's past."

Mr. George Merrick was elected president, and the vice presidents are Mr. F. M. Hudson and Mrs.

Carson. Mr. Gaines R. Wilson is secretary, and Mr. Lewis Leary is librarian, with Mrs. Leonard Freeland as chairman of the membership committee. Addresses were made by Mrs. Charles Watson Ten Eick, a director of the Florida Historical Society; Mr. John G. McKay, a former director; Mr. Thomas P. Caldwell, Mr. Hervey Allen, and Dr. C. W. Tebeau. Committees were appointed and plans made to build upon a solid base.

The Florida Historical Society gives a cordial welcome to this strong organization and offers a helping hand. A worthy field awaits it, for the present is so alive in the Miami district that the past might be forgot until it is too late to record its beginnings.

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THE PENSACOLA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Pensacola Historical Society is actively engaged in a membership campaign and in planning for further markers for historic spots in the vicinity. Their projects focus about the Dorothy Walton Museum whose collections are housed in the former home of the widow and son of George Walton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, from the state of Georgia. This building is owned by Mr. T. T. Wentworth, Jr., treasurer of the Society and a leader in local historical activities.

Mr. Wentworth has just completed a series of radio talks on Pensacola history over the local station. Information is also given tourists through an information booth sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce. The Senior Chamber, through the Agnes McReynolds school, maintains correspondence with other schools over the United States. The Junior Historical Society directed by Miss Margaret Ray has the funds and is planning a tablet to mark the last home site of Stephen R.

Mallory the elder, U. S. Senator and Secretary of the Confederate Navy, and his son of the same name who represented Florida in the United States Senate, 1897-1907. The Angela Moreno Chapter, Children of the Confederacy, is doing good work in keeping the younger generation informed of the South's historical heritage. The local chapter of the American Association of University Women at its January meeting was treated to items taken at random from *The Pensacola Gazette* from issues beginning more than a century ago. Mrs. W. W. Barr, the speaker, culled some particularly interesting items giving bird's-eye views of early Pensacola. All of these activities spring more or less from the Pensacola Historical Society of which Mr. Ben R. Smith is president.

* * *

THE ST. AUGUSTINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The first issue of the *Bulletin* of the St. Augustine Historical Society and Institute of Science has recently appeared. Its sixteen pages contain descriptions and notes on certain material in the library of the society, as well as mention of their activities, and the results of recent research. It was compiled and written by Mrs. Katherine S. Lawson, secretary and librarian of that society. This publication marks another step in the growth of the organization. It is hoped that it will appear at intervals to tell what the Society is doing and disseminate historical information.

With the acquisition of an Argus micro-film reader, a new phase of research has begun in the Webb Memorial Library. A series of legajos of the first Spanish period can be studied at a small expense compared to the old photostat method, and much

long needed material is expected to be obtained during the coming year.

The Society will be represented by its president, Judge David R. Dunham, at the coming annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society. He will make an address at the session for local historical societies.

* * *

CONFERENCE OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The Conference of Historical Societies held a joint session with the American Historical Association in Washington on December 28, 1939. * Dr. C. C. Crittenden of The North Carolina Historical Commission presided. Dr. Harlow Lindley of the Ohio State Archeological and Historical Society reviewed the work of the conference since its inception in 1904, and Dr. S. K. Stevens of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission told of the excellent results in Pennsylvania from publishing information about their various historical agencies. A similar plan might be utilized on a national scale.

Dr. James W. Moffitt, of the Oklahoma Historical Society discussed the benefits to be obtained by closer cooperation. It was suggested that the scope of the conference be so enlarged as to bring in all historical agencies and organizations interested in local, state and sectional history, and to extend the membership to all organizations as well as individuals. Consideration was given to the possibility, of issuing an enlarged publication of a quarterly news sheet and a reissuance of the handbook of historical agencies.

*The Florida Historical Society is a member of the Conference, and President Hanna attended this meeting. Mr. Samuel E. Cobb, formerly of Madison and now of the National Archives, Washington, represented the Society and gave us this report.

Dr. Victor Hugo Paltsits, of the New York Public Library and an enthusiastic supporter of the movement, quoted the late J. Franklin Jameson with a statement that is stimulating to the work of every local historical agency, "Local history is national history, locally exemplified."

Dr. Crittenden was reelected for the coming year. A motion was approved to appoint a committee of ten for reorganizing and revitalizing the conference. Dr. Crittenden has appointed Mr. Watt Marchman, our corresponding secretary and librarian, as a member of this committee from the Florida Historical Society.

* * *

SPANISH CLAIMS OF 1765

Dr. C. L. Crow, a former director of the Society, has given our library a copy of a map apparently drawn, by Fernando Menenez and dated 1765. Accompanying the map is an extensive explanatory key which Dr. Crow has translated. According to the key the map is intended to show the extent of territory claimed as Florida by the Spanish government, as well as that "in which the English are with lawful title and the territory which they have unlawfully occupied." Twenty-four locations are designated on the map with descriptions of each in the key. Of these, eleven are within the present limits of Florida.

