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## Reviews of New Books

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## REVIEWS OF NEW BOOKS

*A History of Florida, From the Treaty of 1763 to Our Own Times.* BY CAROLINE MAYS BREVARD. Edited by JAMES ALEXANDER ROBERTSON. Vol. I., DeLand, Florida, 1924.

This volume, a notable and an invaluable addition to Florida history, is a posthumous work, the talented author having died five years ago. It is regretted deeply by her numerous friends and admirers that Miss Brevard could not have lived to see her carefully compiled data published in its present exceptionally pleasing form. Mr. John B. Stetson, Jr. in giving this publication to the State has earned and is assured of our sincere and lasting gratitude.

The volume is one of three hundred pages, with a map of Florida of the date 1836 (at the beginning of the Seminole War), and a portrait of Miss Brevard. The work complete will consist of two volumes. The author had planned three, but it was deemed best to confine the publication to the period named in the title. The present volume brings us down to the admission of Florida as a state in 1845.

Three chapters dealing with the period before its possession by the United States have been included and make a fitting introduction to the main portion of the volume. These are *The Second Spanish Occupation*, *Short Lived Republics*, and *The Later Colonial Days*. Other subjects covered in the nineteen chapters are - the organization of the Territory, the beginning of civil power, the selection of Tallahassee as a site for the permanent capital, the early days of the new capital, the dispute over the Georgia - Florida boundary, the taming of the wilderness to the uses of civilization, early relations with the Indians, the Indian

War and Indian leaders, general progress and education, social life, territorial banks, politics in the Territory, and finally and fittingly, preparations for statehood.

Miss Brevard's manuscript was edited by Dr. James A. Robertson, of Washington, D. C., who has spent some years in making an exhaustive research into documents bearing upon the history of Florida. No abler editor than he could have been found for this work, and the author's sister, Mrs. Jane Brevard Darby and her brother, Dr. E. M. Brevard, who turned over the manuscript to him and Mr. Stetson, are entitled to the thanks of all lovers of Florida history. Dr. Robertson's editorial comments and list of authorities, his appendices, and especially his notes and references have all added greatly to its authoritative value.

It is now twenty years since Miss Brevard published her *School History of Florida*, which has been the text-book for the present generation of school children.<sup>1</sup> The daughter of Col. Theodore W. Brevard of the Confederate States Army, the granddaughter of General Richard Keith Call, the first resident of Florida to serve as territorial governor, and niece of Mrs. Ellen Call Long, whose published works and voluminous manuscripts are priceless chronicles of the early days, Miss Brevard's ancestry and family associations, as well as her own ability as a writer and educator, qualify her in every respect for compiling a great and authoritative historical work dealing with her native State. "An Appreciation" by Miss Rowena Longmire, friend and associate in the Florida State College for Women, in which Miss Brevard closed her earthly career, is a fine tribute to her memory,

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<sup>1</sup> The writer of this recalls that his first book review of his newspaper days was of that work.

and is one which will find response throughout all Florida.

The work is dedicated to the people of Florida. It was planned to publish it at the time of the Centennial celebration in Tallahassee in November last, and though it appeared a little late, the spirit which prompted a desire to recognize this auspicious event is gratefully acknowledged.

Publication of the second volume will be awaited with even greater interest than attended the publication of this one.

ALBERT H. ROBERTS.

*The Negro of the Old South.* By MRS. NICHOLAS WARE EPPES. (Chicago, Joseph G. Branch Publishing Company, 1925.)

This unpretending delightful book is a welcome addition to the not large group of volumes which undertake to humanize those bygone days of the Old South. The author, Mrs. Nicholas Ware Eppes, is a Southerner, a native of Florida, and is acquainted with the period and conditions as only one of her experience can be.

Mrs. Eppes has throughout the volume evidenced a marked ability of presenting her subject matter, a clear and fascinating style, and a charm and interest-holding quality of writing which have made the book most attractive and pleasing to the reader. To these excellent qualities the author has added color and atmosphere that make the work most acceptable and valuable, historically. In its totality it is convincing in its theme: "These Aristocrats of the Old South are beloved by the negroes, - a kind of free-masonry exists between them, and it is hard for an outsider to understand the loving kindness of the ex-master and the respectful love of the ex-slave."

Although not divided into parts, the volume naturally falls into divisions. "The Foreword", "Introduction", "Old Black Mammy", "The Dedication", and "The Negro from Barbarism to Slavery, from Slavery to Freedom" constitute in reality an introduction. In this part is found the motive of the volume. It contains the spirit and the sympathy which Mrs. Eppes has for her subject.

There are twenty chapters which may be grouped into three parts. Chapters one through eleven constitute the second division of the narrative. These chapters tell of slavery on the plantation before and during the War between the States. It is in these chapters that Mrs. Eppes has given the most charming and vivid pictures of the life, customs and reactions of this period. The chapter "High Days and Holidays on the Old Plantation" contains the finest coloring and atmosphere of the life on the plantation. Nowhere in our literature on southern history are finer and more vivid pictures of this phase of history to be found. The "Hog-Killing" scene is a fair example of the realistic qualities of these chapters. In the chapter, "Dear Black Mammy", the relation between the ex-master and ex-slave and the appreciation one for the other are portrayed in clearest and sincerest manner. This is further shown in the incidents of "Runaway Lawrence", "Jordan, the carriage driver", "Mammy Lulu", "Nurse Rachel", "Gardener Davie", and "Aunt Ginnie". Chapters twelve through eighteen make up the third division and are a study of the negro during Reconstruction Days. They are as the preceding chapters, very fine and strong, showing the author's knowledge of her subject to be fair and unbiased. The last chapters, nineteen and twenty, are the concluding part of the volume and are the weak

point in the work. They add no value and have no bearing on the subject, "The Negro of the Old South".

The book is a distinct and valuable addition to the material on the subject, and Mrs. Eppes has every reason to be proud of her volume which is a splendid picture, full of local color and atmosphere and a broad and appreciative understanding of her problem.

CATHERINE ZIMMERMAN WINTERS .