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New Books

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NEW BOOKS

Florida place-names of Indian origin and Seminole personal names. By **WILLIAM A. READ** (Baton Rouge, Louisiana State University Press, 1934, pages v, 83.)

Dr. Read is professor of the English language and literature in Louisiana State University and his excellent work is No. 11 of "University Studies". He has divided this pamphlet into five parts as follows: Introduction, Symbols and Abbreviations, List of Geographic Names; Names of various Indian Chiefs, and Conclusion. Section III is subdivided into four parts, namely: Names from the Florida dialects; Florida name of dubious and unknown origin; important names; and sundry names on Taylor's war map of 1839. While most of its Indian geographic names in Florida are derived from the three languages of the Muskogean family the Seminole, the Hitchite, and the Choctaw, "many Indian names drawn from other dialects have been brought into the State by white men and conferred on post-offices, railway stations, and settlements." (p. iii)

Other names are reminiscent of the Yuchi, Timucua, and the Calusa Indians. Some were first reported by early Spanish and French explorers, writers, and missionaries. The book is full of surprises. For instance, "Charley Apopka Creek" in Hardee County which is noted on the Davis map, means "the place where trout are eaten", "Charley" being a corruption from Seminole chak, trout, and Apopka from Seminole papka, "eating place". Again "Olustee" is a corruption from Seminole Creek Oklasti, "blackish", a very appropriate name, as later history was to record.

The author concludes that "The prosaic character of the native geographic names in Florida is re-

markable. Animals, fish, reptiles, trees, conspicuous features of the landscape, trivial incidents, and personal names form the chief sources from which these names are drawn, with keen powers of observation, it is true, but apparently with little or no difficulty or emotion on the part of the Indian. Among the numerous native names comprised in this study there is, indeed, scarcely a single one that would appeal to a white man's sense of beauty."

Dr. Read believes it is quite otherwise with various Indian names in Louisiana which are extremely poetical in their meaning.. The book is very suggestive and will be useful, though it may not be the last word.

JAMES A. ROBERTSON.

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Salt as a Factor in the Confederacy. By ELLA LONN, Ph. D., Professor of History, Goucher College. (New York, Published by the author, 1933. 324 p. Frontispiece and folded map.) \$3.00

Only if it be lacking could one realize the importance-the necessity, of salt; and almost every page of this volume shows how continually and how greatly this lack was felt by the people of the Confederacy and especially by those in authority-those in authority, for the work is based largely on official records of every kind, both of the general and the state governments. Throughout also can be seen the continuous and at times extraordinary efforts made by the people and the different governments to secure salt; too, that salt was the reason for many naval and military expeditions; and also, that its scarcity was one of the numerous contributing causes of the downfall of the Confederacy. The nearly one hundred pages of references, notes, and bibliography indicate the wide range and thoroughness of the author's research.

“Nowhere else were federal naval attacks so frequent, so persistent, and so exclusively directed against the salt industry as on the Gulf coast of Florida.” (p. 172). Dr. Lonn has given an account of these Florida raids in this periodical (Vol. X. pp. 167-184) to which little is added. The extent of the industry on the Florida coast is all but incredible. At that period the region of St. Andrews, Bay was little more than a wilderness, yet during only one of several raids there a Federal naval force destroyed salt works of an estimated value of over three million dollars.

As the Confederacy was not primarily overthrown in the field, the volume takes no unimportant place in the history of the struggle.