

1927

## Contemporaneous Pen-pictures of Richard Keith Call and Thomas Brown (1841)

Horatio Waldo



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## RICHARD KEITH CALL-THOMAS BROWN

*[The following sketches written by Horatio Waldo, editor of the Florida Journal of Apalachicola, were published in the issue of March 17, 1841, of that paper. They were brought to light and copied for the QUARTERLY by research students of Florida State College for Women.]*

Richard Keith Call, ex-Governor of Florida, is known to fame in both the military and civil world. During Jackson's campaign in 1813-1814, he was found in the ranks as a private soldier, and although but 19 years of age, fought his way to distinction; and attracted the attention, and secured the lasting friendship of the Hero of Orleans. He emigrated to Florida in 1820, and was appointed Delegate to Congress, and in 1836 the office of Governor of the Territory was conferred upon him by Mr. Van Buren, which station he filled until the fall of 1839. During a part of the year '37 he took the field against the Seminoles, and commanded conjointly with Gen'l Jesup. He is about 46 years of age and possesses a remarkably commanding figure and form. He is perhaps; the best natural orator in Florida. What with a fair personal appearance-a form tall and erect-a countenance open and manly-an eye, large, bright and intelligent, and a readiness of speech, with a voice of much melody and power, he is at all times an interesting and commanding speaker. His manners are apparently reserved and ostentatious, particularly to a stranger: but to those who know him intimately he is the affable and accomplished gentleman-the kind and enthusiastic friend ; while his ardent temperament-which it may be, not infrequently leads to prejudice-a natural consequence flowing from the development of strong traits of character.

Governor Call has filled numerous high and dis-

tinguished stations among his fellow men, and in the discharge of their important trusts, has won very general admiration and confidence. His residence is in the vicinity of Tallahassee, and his noble mansion and hospitable board, appropriately in accord with the high toned sentiments of his nature.

*Thomas Brown.* - Upon the theatre of political action in Florida, General Brown has for the last twelve years borne no insignificant part. He hails from old Virginia, and was formerly a member of the Legislature of that mother State. In this Territory he has held the offices of Adjutant-General of the militia, Auditor of Public Accounts, member of the Legislative Council on various occasions, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and one of the most prominent members of the St. Joseph Convention. <sup>1</sup> In all places of public trust he is ever found, the industrious, faithful, and indefatigable officer, the courteous and accommodating gentleman, and the honest man. General Brown is a man of superior talents. Whatever might have been his early education, whether complete or deficient, he has, since grown to manhood, acquired a vast fund of useful information; and place him where you will, he brings that information to bear with a readiness and force which renders him equal to any, and superior to most of his associates. To a natural clearness and strength of intellect, he unites a quickness of perception which enables him to grasp - a subject of magnitude, and handle it with force and effect. Gen. Brown is 50 years of age, about five feet six inches in height, and slender and delicate in his proportions. His physical frame bears the strong impress of past care and thought, and upon his benevolent brow, are the deep furrows of mental anxiety and labor. As a private citizen, and in his social rela-

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<sup>1</sup> Thomas Brown was elected governor of Florida and served the term 1848-1852.

tions, it were superfluous for me to record here, what every Floridian knows full well, that the subject of this sketch is amiable and estimable to an exalted degree. If pure goodness of heart, and unbounded liberality of feeling, could enrich or impoverish a man at will, then would my excellent friend be rich or poor, each hour of his useful and honorable life.

“His life is gentle ; and the elements  
So mix'd in him, that nature may stand up  
And say to all the world - This is a man!”