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## Quincy Conservative Convention, 1868

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## 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

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\*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.

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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."