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NOTES

OUR NEW DIRECTORS

Four directors elected at the late annual meeting have not held office in the Society before.

Mr. Gaines R. Wilson of Miami was elected At Large. He is a graduate of Princeton University and is a landscape architect. Since coming to Florida he has become much interested in our history, and was one of the organizers of the Historical Association of Southern Florida, of which he is now secretary. He was chairman of the program committee for our successful meeting in Palm Beach last January, and has done much for the Society in his region.

Dr. Ernest L. Robinson of Tampa was elected to represent the first district. A native of Connecticut, he is a graduate of Yale (A.M.). Coming to Florida in 1907 he has been engaged in educational work since as high school principal and county superintendent. He is a past president of Florida Education Association, and received the honorary degree of Doctor of Education from Southern College. He is the author of *History of Hillsborough County*.

Dr. Mark F. Boyd of Tallahassee represents the third district. He is on the field staff of the International Health Division, Rockefeller Foundation and is engaged in malaria research. Is a member of the Health Section of the League of Nations, past president of the National Malaria Committee, and past president of Florida Public Health Association, and the author of medical works. The result of his research into the early history of the Tallahassee region is numerous articles in the *Quarterly* which have long made him known to our readers.

Mrs. Alton B. Whitman of Orlando represents the fifth district. She has lived in Florida since early childhood, is a graduate of Rollins College

and received the Rollins Decoration of Honor last year. She is a past president of numerous local clubs and boards; has held several offices in the State Federation of Women's Clubs and is now chairman of the Conservation Committee of the Florida State Chamber of Commerce.

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All who use the Society's library will be grateful to Miss Della Northey who for several weeks has been at work on its recataloging - for the lack of a modern catalog has long been a handicap in its use. Miss Northey has given her time to the Society, so only her expenses have been borne by our library fund. At the same time she has written duplicate cards for inclusion in the Union Catalog; hence all of the extensive resources of our library will be available at hand for researchers in that Catalog.

A DONATION TO SMALL FLORIDA PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Not many in the Society have been with us longer than Mrs. Henry L. Richmond's fourteen years. In addition to her contributing membership, she has adopted the suggestion in the last *Quarterly* that those who wish to broaden the general interest in Florida's history can readily do so by donating a *Quarterly* subscription to some public library in the State which might not be able to subscribe from its own meager funds. The *Quarterly* on their reading tables, and in time an accumulated file on their shelves, would be certain to awaken an interest in our past for many readers. Mrs. Richmond sends the *Quarterly* to five of these under-privileged Florida public libraries.

Should any other member wish to have a part in this missionary historical work, and thus make

a worthwhile contribution to these small libraries and to the *Quarterly*, the editor would be glad to select them and tell the libraries of the donation.

* * *

During the last two years of his life the Right Reverend Nathaniel S. Thomas was a director and one of the most active members of the Society. He did much to broaden interest in Florida's history and in our work in South Florida, and it was at his invitation and through his efforts that the unusually successful annual meeting of 1937 was held at Palm Beach. As a memorial to his interest, Mrs. Thomas has presented a gavel to the Society, on which Dr. George A. Waterman has placed a silver plate with this inscription: "To the Florida Historical Society, January 12, 1840, in memory of the Rt. Rev. Nathaniel Seymour Thomas, D. D. first director and organizer of the 4th Congressional District of the Florida Historical Society. Presented by Mrs. Thomas."

DR. ROBERTSON'S MEMORIAL

The publication of Dr. James A. Robertson's *Bibliography of Florida* as a memorial to him was described in the *Quarterly* for October last. The Society's committee has been active in raising funds for the memorial with considerable success, but as the publication is our tribute to Dr. Robertson's leadership in the writing of our history, the committee wishes to broaden that tribute and would like some contribution however small from each of those members who want to express their appreciation thus.

* * *

The first three volumes of *Dictionary of American History* have appeared and contain much relating to Florida. Several members of the Society

contributed brief articles on Florida subjects to these volumes - the late Dr. James A. Robertson, Dr. Kathryn T. Abbey, Professor A. J. Hanna, and Mr. W. T. Cash.

FEDERAL ARCHIVES IN FLORIDA

Two Florida volumes have recently appeared in the series of "Inventory of Federal Archives in the States." They are: *The Federal Courts, Florida*; and *The Department of War, Florida*.

As a WPA project under the cooperating sponsorship of The National Archives, inventories have been made of all United States government records over the country. In Florida this work was carried out with Dr. Kathryn T. Abbey as director, and under the supervision of Dr. Dorothy Dodd as assistant director, who also edited the volumes to be issued. The published volumes were mimeographed through the facilities of Historical Records Survey.

The Federal Courts volume (60p.) lists surviving records of the Northern District, now filed at Pensacola, Marianna, Tallahassee, and Gainesville ; and of the Southern District, now at Jacksonville, Key West, Miami, Orlando, and Tampa. There are records also of the old Circuit Courts, filed at Tallahassee, Jacksonville, and Tampa.

Many of these records are of much historical value, and as the inventory and editing were carried out under the direction and supervision of trained historians, these volumes will be of great service. The most noteworthy court records are: At Pensacola - *Minutes of United States Circuit and District and Confederate States District Courts 1846 to date*. At Tallahassee - *District Court Records 1846-1867, Dockets 1847, Law Records (Apalachicola) 1847-1867. General Cases 1847.....* including Union Bank and Apalachicola Land Company cases, *Civil*

Cases Confederate States Court 1861-1865, Admiralty Record 1860-1863, Naturalization 1847-1871, Attorneys 1852. . . ., Juries 1846, Appointments 1846. . . ., At Key West - Clerks' Minutes 1828, Law Record 1849. . . ., Civil Cases 1864, Admiralty 1828-1912, Derelict Docket 1861., Wrecking License Register 1862., Naturalization 1847

The Department of War, Florida, is a volume of 169 pages, of which near one-half lists the records at Fort Barrancas, Pensacola Bay. This has been a military post of the United States since the cession of Florida in 1821, but apparently all records there were lost during the Civil War, but a part of those at the National Cemetery (9 p.) near-by, relate to the earlier period. The burial records there begin in 1845. Some of the Barrancas post records begin in 1866, but the greater part are of recent years and there are not many of the last century.

The records at Jacksonville (2Op.) are largely those of the District Engineer and the National Guard. There are a few recruiting and quarantine records.

At Key West are the records (12p.) of Fort Jefferson (Dry Tortugas) and Fort Taylor (Key West). Some of these are of historical value. Both date from 1846 and both were in possession of Union forces throughout the Civil War, Fort Jefferson being used as a military prison then. Most of these originated with the Corps of Engineers. There are a few as early as 1841.

The records at Gainesville and St. Petersburg are those of the Reserve Officers Training Corps. At Lakeland and St. Augustine are records of the National Guard.

There are Engineers' Office records (in addition to Jacksonville) at Clewiston, Ocala, Panama City,

West Palm Beach, Tampa, and Miami. Also at Miami are those of the Organized Reserves, and Aerial Gunnery Range.

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HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

The organization of this association was told of in the last issue of the *Quarterly* with the names of the officers, to which is added Mrs. Mabel B. Francis, assistant librarian. Active work has begun with headquarters in Miami, and it is already one of the State's strongest local and regional historical societies, with sixteen founding members and one hundred twenty charter members.

The last meeting of the season was held at the University of Miami on April 23 with a historical program, and over ninety members were present. Mrs. James M. Carson, vice president, spoke on "Opportunities for Historical Research in Southern Florida," Professor C. W. Tebeau on "The Functions of a Local Historical Society," and Professor Lewis Leary read a paper on "A Check-list of Floridiana for Southern Florida."

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STRATFORD

The Robert E. Lee Memorial Foundation has issued an elaborately illustrated description of Stratford and of its restoration and preservation. This was the birthplace of Robert E. Lee, and of Richard Henry Lee and Francis Lightfoot Lee, signers of the Declaration of Independence.

The eleven hundred acre estate was purchased for \$240,000 and \$450,000 has since been expended upon it. Now it is one of the most typical and most interesting of colonial homes and plantations, and as such illustrates Southern colonial country life, as Williamsburg does that of the town.

THE IRVING BACHELLER ESSAY CONTEST

This annual contest in Florida history for high school students of the State, told of in the January, issue of the *Quarterly*, was won by Gordon Blackwell who wrote on Lue Gim Gong, Florida horticulturist, and Helen Farnum who had Mary McLeod Bethune, Florida educator, as her subject.

* * *

Pedro Martinez S. J., Martyr of Florida tells the story of this Jesuit priest who was murdered by the Indians in 1566. It is a sixteen page pamphlet from the Abbey Press, of St. Leo, and is by Reverend Michael Kenny S. J., whose *Romance of the Floridas* was commended and reviewed in this *Quarterly* (Jan. 1936). After research and first-hand investigation of possible sites, Father Kenny places this attack at the foot of Mt. Cornelia on Fort George Island at the mouth of the St. Johns River. Any one interested may obtain a copy from Reverend J. H. O'Keeffe, The Cathedral, St. Augustine.

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Part Ten of *Brief History of the Churches of the Diocese of St. Augustine* has appeared. (The Abbey Press, St. Leo. 1940. pp. 253-276)

This series was begun by the Very Reverend Benedict Roth, O.S.B., and Part One came from the Abbey Press in 1923. Father Benedict, a versatile scholar, was author, compiler, and editor, as well as printer-for he did much of the actual printing himself. The parts were issued regularly, and Part Six appeared in May, 1925. Father Benedict died four months later, but he had left material for other issues, and these and further parts have come from the same press at intervals.

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Two other recent Florida publications of a historical nature are *Sheaves Gathered from the Mis-*

missionary Fields of the Sisters of Saint Joseph in Florida (n.p.n.d. 75 p.), a record of the work of these Sisters from their arrival in Florida in 1866 until today, which includes several epidemics of yellow fever; and *The Jesuits in Florida, 1889-1939* (The Salesian Press, Tampa. 42 p.)