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Recent Publications: Federal Archives of Florida

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

FEDERAL ARCHIVES IN FLORIDA

This series of publications was described in the *Quarterly*, the issue of July 1940 (pp. 88-90). It is a WPA project. Each volume is an inventory of the archives of some department of the Federal government in Florida. Several additional volumes have now appeared: the departments of the Navy, Agriculture, Justice, Commerce, Labor, Farm Credit Administration, and Veterans' Administration.

The Navy volume (177p.) is nearly all devoted to the Naval Air Station at Pensacola (170p.) As the Navy Yard there was destroyed during the Civil War there are virtually no records prior to 1865, and very few are earlier than this century. But there are numerous log books, 1865 to date ; and a file of muster cards 1846 to date (1861-1865 missing). There are records of the Naval Reserve Aviation Base at Opa-locka (Miami) 1930 to date ; some of the Naval Station at Key West, with log books 1879-1936; and a few at Jacksonville and Jupiter of recent dates.

The *Department of Agriculture* (203p.) lists the records in Florida of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, bureaus of Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Engineering, Animal Industry, Biological Survey, Chemistry and Soils, Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Extension Service, Food and Drug Administration, Forest Service, Plant Industry, Public Roads, Resettlement Administration, Soil Conservation Service, Weather Bureau, and Office of the Solicitor. These are located in more than a score of towns throughout the State.

The *Department of Labor* (56p.) includes the

Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the Employment Service ; the two are located in seventeen towns.

The records of the *Farm Credit Administration* (34p.) are in fifteen towns.

The *Veterans' Administration* records (28p.) are at Bay Pines and Lake City.

Department of Commerce (35p.) contains Air Commerce, Coast and Geodetic Survey, Fisheries, Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Lighthouses, Marine Inspection and Navigation. These are at Jacksonville, Tampa, Key West, Miami, Daytona Beach, and the several lighthouses.

Department of Justice records (43p.) are those of the Administrative Assistant to the Attorney General at Jacksonville, Miami, Pensacola and Tampa ; the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Jacksonville; and the Lands Division at Ocala and Tallahassee.

Department of the Treasury. While this number is in press another volume has appeared: that of the Treasury (240p.). This is an inventory of the records of the State Disbursing Office, Jacksonville; Coast Guard, nine locations from Jacksonville to Pensacola ; Bureau of Customs, fifteen locations ; Internal Revenue, Daytona Beach, Jacksonville, Key West, Miami, Pensacola, St. Petersburg, Tampa ; Bureau of Narcotics, Jacksonville, Miami, Tallahassee ; Procurement Division, Jacksonville, Miami, Tampa ; Public Health Service, Apalachicola, Boca Grande, Fernandina, Jacksonville, Key West, Miami, Pensacola, Tampa; Secret Service Division, Jacksonville.

INVENTORY OF COUNTY ARCHIVES OF FLORIDA

Another volume of this series has appeared—that for Clay county—and in several particulars

it is an enlargement and improvement over former volumes.

These inventories were made and published by the Florida Historical Records Survey, of whose work it has been the most extensive and much the most valuable project. Inventories of ten counties have been issued and distributed gratis to public and institutional libraries.

The last one, Clay county, is a volume of 478 large (4to.) pages. It includes an accurate and comprehensive historical sketch (12 p.) with copious notes and references; a chapter on county governmental organization and records system (about 100 p.) which covers those of a typical Florida county and so is of much value; and a critical note on the housing, care, and accessibility of the records of this county, which doubtless is more or less typical of those of most of Florida. The second part is an inventory of the records of all county officials, boards, and agencies (317 p.) ; a detailed description of the functions of each official and body ; a bibliography ; and a full index (34 p.).

The project was under the direction of Mrs. Sue A. Mahorner, state supervisor, and the inventories were made by local personnel of the Survey. The volumes were written, compiled and edited by Dr. Dorothy Dodd, public records editor, and Charles D. Farris, compiling editor.

Inventories of Florida counties have been issued: in 1938 Charlotte, Collier, Duval, Flagler, Hendry; in 1939 Hardee, Okaloosa, Sarasota; in 1940 Pinellas; in 1941 Clay.

Similar inventories in nearly all other Florida counties had been begun and some were near completion when the work was suspended. It is to be regretted that a work of such definite value is unfinished. But any one wishing information on

county government or county records in Florida should consult the Clay county volume.

SPANISH LAND GRANTS IN FLORIDA

Sub-title: *Briefed Translations from the Archives of the United States Commissioners for Ascertaining Claims and Titles to Land in the Territory of Florida.*

Four of the five volumes of this publication were reviewed in some detail by Mr. F. P. Hamilton in the last number of the *Quarterly*. The fifth and final volume has now appeared. Its four hundred one pages contain an introduction by Dr. Louise B. Hill, the editor of the series, a list of governors of both Floridas 1763-1821, and one of other officials who are mentioned in the volumes, a glossary, the completion of the list of confirmed claims, and a comprehensive index of ninety-three pages. There are three indices: one of claimants, another of place names, and another of personal names. References in the first index refer to pages, those in the latter two refer not to pages but to claim numbers, hence each requires a search by the initiated, and perhaps a foregoing of the use of these indices by many others.

The introduction of fifty-nine pages is historically valuable and brings to note numerous facts, more or less related to these grants, of the British and Spanish periods in Florida, as well as the operations of the United States commissioners and courts.

The State Library Board, sponsor of the publication, has as agent for its distribution Everyman's Bookshop, Tallahassee, where copies may be obtained at one dollar a volume, or five dollars for the set.

THE RECORDS OF THE TERRITORIES NOW IN
WASHINGTON

Selected papers from the Federal archives relating to each of the territories in turn are being published in a series under an act and an appropriation of Congress by the Department of State. Dr. Clarence E. Carter, of its Division of Research and Publications, is editor; and the unique place as historical material already attained by the series is the result of his historical acumen and experience and of those of his assistant Dr. Edgar B. Nixon—for the editing must be highly selective from the vast accumulations in Washington.

Much of the material comes from the State department, as the administration of the territories was from that source. The Library of Congress has the papers of many of the presidents and innumerable other historical manuscripts, so it furnishes much ; and the editor has gleaned a great deal from the files of the Senate and House of Representatives. Other documents come from the departments of the Interior, the Treasury, War, and many other departments and offices, some of which have been transferred to the National Archives.

Each volume (or volumes) comes close to being a documentary history of a territory, for the relation between the Federal government and that of the territories was so intimate that little occurred that is not reflected in the communications between the two. Hardly any of the documents selected had ever been published.

The title of the Series is *Territorial Papers of the United States*, and the last volume published (IX, of 1092 pages) is *The Territory of Orleans, 1803-1812*. The international aspect of the period in that region gives this one an added interest. As with all of the series, historical notes and other

annotations for most of the documents help the reader towards his background.

Little or nothing has yet been included in the series relating to the region that is now Florida; but Volumes V and VI on Mississippi territory, and the present volume, contain more or less on the part of the Florida of that day westward from the Perdido river, even to the Mississippi. The exception is Pensacola, which then had nominal governmental relations with the Florida region west of it.

As the volumes are issued in the order of the creation of the territories in turn, that for Florida will not be reached for some time. We look eagerly for its appearance, for then only will any large amount of our territorial history be known. Territorial records preserved in Tallahassee are almost nil; Florida newspaper files of the period are rare; nor were private records preserved to any great extent—hence our especial interest in the forthcoming Florida volume.

PRESENT-DAY SEMINOLE INDIANS

The Seminole Indians in Florida is one of a number of publications compiled by workers of the Writers' Program, Works Progress Administration in Florida, under the direction of Dr. Carita Doggett Corse, state supervisor. It is an eighty-seven page book published by the Florida State Department of Agriculture, with the University of Florida as sponsor.

There is a brief historical sketch, but nearly all of the book relates to the modern Seminole. The compilers had the assistance of Mrs. Ethel Cutler Freeman of the American Museum of Natural History, Dwight R. Gardin, superintendent of the Indian agency at Dania, and others; but the work

is based largely on *Survey of the Seminole Indian of Florida* by Roy Nash (Washington, United States Government Printing Office, 1932, 88p.)

A map of the Everglades is included which shows the locations of the Seminole reservations and the sites of the twenty-nine Indian camps. Catlin's well-known painting of Osceola is reproduced, and there are seven reproductions of recent photographs of certain Indians and their mode of life.

THE FIRST SPANIARD BORN IN ST. AUGUSTINE

The St. Augustine Historical Society has issued a brochure of twelve pages: *Martin de Arguelles*, with a sub-title: *The First Spaniard Born in St. Augustine and the First European Child Born on the Atlantic Coast of the United States in a Permanent European Settlement*. This contains the evidence collected and edited by Mrs. Katherine S. Lawson, secretary of the Society, to prove the truth of the sub-title. Most of this evidence is from documents in the Woodbury Lowery collection of Florida manuscripts in the Library of Congress.

THE UNION CATALOG OF FLORIDIANA

An article in the last number of the periodical *Special Libraries* (New York. xxxii 160-162) describes the establishment of and the progress made on the **UNION CATALOG OF FLORIDIANA** at Rollins College, with which our readers are familiar.

The compiling of the **CATALOG** goes steadily forward; but, it might be said, is no nearer completion. There never was a time when more printed material was appearing pertaining to Florida (except the flood of fairy-tales of the boom period) ;

nor, perhaps, when such material of the past was coming to light in greater volume than now. So the **CATALOG** will never be completed. But that fact emphasizes its value : If it was a desirable tool or helpmate yesterday to researchers and to the general reader wanting to know what there might be on this or that Florida subject in which he was interested, and where it could be found-if it was needed yesterday, how indispensable it will be tomorrow.