

1942

Notes

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Recommended Citation

Society, Florida Historical (1942) "Notes," *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Vol. 21 : No. 3 , Article 7.

Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq/vol21/iss3/7>

NOTES

THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

At the Coral Gables Country Club on November 17 a joint program meeting of the Historical Association of Southern Florida and the Miami Pioneers was featured by a talk of Mr. J. K. Dorn, president of the Pioneers. As a long-time resident, Mr. Dorn was able to tell at first-hand numerous incidents and facts of early Miami days, especially occurrences of the Spanish-American war. Giving the talk additional interest were early photographs shown by the speaker and Mr. Claude Matlack.

Dr. C. W. Tebeau, professor of history in the University of Miami, read a paper on The Ingraham Everglades Exploring Expedition of 1892. This was based on and included extracts from the log of the exploring party who made the trip from Fort Myers to Miami.

This year's officers and local and regional directors, with Dr. John C. Gifford as president, were listed in the last issue of the *Quarterly*.

THE TALLAHASSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This is one of the most active local societies in the State, with program meetings throughout the winter. The feature of the October meeting was a paper by Mrs. W. M. Hodgson on Florida legislation between 1846 and 1865. On November 13 Judge Rivers Buford read a paper on Napoleon B. Broward. Due to conflict with the holiday season there was no December meeting. On January 8, Dr. Dorothy Dodd will read a paper on Bishop Pearce, the colored reconstruction divine and politician.

Meetings are held in the parish house of St. John's Episcopal church. Dr. Robert H. Cotterill,

Florida State College for Women, has been re-elected president.

JUDAH P. BENJAMIN MEMORIAL

Robert Gamble, a son of John G. Gamble, president of the Union Bank of Florida, moved to the Manatee region in the 1840's where he proposed to establish a huge sugar plantation. Here he built a remarkable dwelling which is now the Judah P. Benjamin Memorial, and where at one time he had three hundred slaves. The two-story brick and tabby structure is nearly one hundred feet in length, with a colonnade of eighteen enormous pillars supporting the roof on three sides.

Here, on the fall of the Confederacy, Secretary of State Benjamin was concealed awaiting a small boat in which he escaped to Bimini. On the purchase of the building by the Judah P. Benjamin Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the legislature of Florida made it a state memorial and it has been developed through several appropriations. It is in the custody of a state commission of which Eva M. Gates is chairman.

Miss Gates has written a booklet of fifteen pages describing the Memorial, including sketches of Secretary Benjamin and Major Gamble, with ten illustrations. This has just come from the press and copies may be obtained from the Memorial, Ellenton, and from Miss Gates, Manatee, at thirty-five cents. The proceeds will assist in its further development as a Confederate museum.

THE ST. AUGUSTINE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The reorganization and rehabilitation of the public library of St. Augustine will be of interest to

our members because of its cooperation with and influence on our own library there and on historical and general culture in St. Augustine.

The new president is Mrs. Marjorie K. Rawlings Baskin who is active in our Society ; our Mr. Watt Marchman is now secretary, and our own secretary, Mr. Albert Manucy, is one of the directors.

CONTRIBUTORS To THIS NUMBER

LOUISE BILES HILL, PH. D., was manuscripts editor and state supervisor of Florida Historical Records Survey until its recent discontinuance, and editor of its *Spanish Land Grants in Florida*. She received the Baruch Award for research in Southern history with her *Joseph E. Brown and the Confederacy*. Dr. Hill is now engaged in literary work in Jacksonville.

T. FREDERICK DAVIS is the author of *History of Jacksonville* published by the Florida Historical Society. His numerous contributions to the *Quarterly* include our special Ponce de Leon number.

CHARLES L. MOWAT, PH. D., of the history department of the University of California, Los Angeles, has contributed several papers on British East Florida to the *Quarterly*.