

Florida Historical Quarterly

Volume 22
Number 1 *Florida Historical Quarterly*, Vol 22,
Issue 1

Article 7

1943

Local Histories

Florida Historical Society
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Recommended Citation

Society, Florida Historical (1943) "Local Histories," *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Vol. 22: No. 1, Article 7.
Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq/vol22/iss1/7>

and additions, the work ended with the placing of the royal coat of arms and the inscription over the sally port which we see today. And in another century Mr. Manucy tells "how these isolated subjects of a decadent empire labored through the long, hard years, mingling their own sweat with that of the peons to build this impregnable defense."

LOCAL HISTORIES

Local history, in the aggregate, is as important as that of a country, and is of far greater interest to the majority. In comparison its bulk is huge, but little of it was recorded until the daily newspaper incidentally took up the job of preserving a record of the happenings of the community. The pioneer settlements of Florida had no newspapers of course, for with the first issue of a paper any village became a town overnight. The settlement of Florida can be considered as beginning with its cession to the United States (and this is not to start a controversy) and for more than half a century afterwards there was virtually no daily newspaper. The weekly paper recorded some of the general but little of the local news. You would be surprised at the often total absence of local news in the files of these early Florida newspapers. Why is this so? Little may have happened in these small towns from week to week, but did not the editor, who was reporter as well, ask himself why laboriously set up an account of an incident that every child in the place had known of for perhaps a week. And these newsless newspapers or any other kind were few in Florida.

So we should be grateful to those who have collected, written, and preserved local history. While

the *Quarterly* has not the space to include such unless there is an especial reason for doing so, it has always stressed the importance and encouraged the writing of local history.

Many towns and districts of Florida have little or no recorded history. Much, well worth remembering, is gone forever. Much else is still remembered, but will also be gone tomorrow. If you would like your name to be remembered in your community, then collect and write out and print somewhere a bit of its history. You may be sure some copy will be preserved, and with it your name will go down as a public-spirited citizen.

"HISTORY OF PASCO COUNTY"

A local history of note which has recently appeared is *History of Pasco County* by J. A. Hendley (n.p. n.d. 22 p.) . The author, a lawyer of Dade City and former State senator, is the last surviving member of the Florida constitutional convention of 1885.

Mr. Hendley is a pioneer of that section of Florida, having moved there from Kentucky in 1881, and has taken part in or observed much that has occurred there for more than half a century. In addition to his own account, he includes narratives of other pioneers of the region: D. E. Sumner, R. C. Bankston, Jasper Carter, and J. B. Hudson, all of whom record recollections of their early life ; and many of these are of a much earlier period than the arrival of the author in Florida. Some of them begin with the coming of their fathers to Florida. Of the latter the Indian troubles are the high-lights; but there is mention of the wild animals, of the first primitive schools, and later of the building of the first railroads. The first settlements, which are now towns and cities, are described: Fort Dade, Brooks-

ville, San Antonio, Ellerslie, St. Leo with its College and later its Abbey, Richland, Hudson, and New Port Richey.

KISSIMMEE

To mark the sixtieth year of incorporated Kissimmee, the *Kissimmee Gazette* has published (March 26, 1943) a brief history of the town by Mrs. Myrtle H. Crow. The first settlers and their loghouses are told of, the first store, grist mill and cotton-gin, the first steamboat and saw-mill. Then the new era began with the drainage of Hamilton Disston and the activities of Disston's land company. Until 1883 the town was Allandale, but with its incorporation, and at the suggestion of R. E. Rose, its first mayor, the name Kissimmee was chosen, a word of Indian origin antedating the Seminole and of doubtful meaning.

FLORIDA'S POCAHONTAS

The rescue of Duncan McKrimmon by Milly Francis, told of in the January (1943) issue of the *Quarterly* by T. Frederick Davis, has stirred an interest in the story of this Indian girl in many of the schools of the State. Heretofore that interest has been greater in Oklahoma than in Florida where Milly was born and where the rescue occurred, for Mrs. Grant Foreman of Muskogee, writes Mr. Davis :

The children of Muskogee in April 1933, planted a tree in her [Milly's] memory near the lake in Spaulding Park, Muskogee. At the base of the tree a granite marker was placed and the monument was dedicated at a festival given May 13, 1933, by the children.

On May 5, 1933, a handsome granite marker was dedicated in honor of Milly at Bacone Indian College, Muskogee. The stone was given to the College by the senior class. There were elaborate ceremonies attended by noted Indians and citizens of this part of the state.

HISTORICAL PLAYS

The April issue of *Bulletins of the Association for State and Local History* (v. I, no. 6) is "The Production of Local History Plays and Pageants," by Samuel Selden, Associate Professor of Dramatic Art in the University of North Carolina, and Director of "The Lost Colony" which is produced annually on Roanoke Island. This should be exceedingly helpful to any one who plans the production of a historical play. It includes a comprehensive bibliography.

The Life of Johnny Reb, The Common Soldier of the Confederacy (Bobbs-Merrill, \$3.75), written by Professor Bell Irvin Wiley of the University of Mississippi, from letters, diaries, contemporaneous newspapers, and other original sources, must be a true picture of the private in the Confederate army.