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THE TALLAHASSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S "APALACHEE"

The Tallahassee Historical Society has long been one of the most active local historical associations in Florida. Program meetings are held during each winter at which carefully prepared papers are read, many of them having been written after extensive research. Several of these papers have been published in this *Quarterly*, and a much larger number were selected and published at intervals as *The Annual of the Tallahassee Historical Society* in 1934, 1935, 1937 and 1939. These are mimeographed volumes of sixty to one hundred twenty pages.

Now, instead, the Society will issue a printed volume biennially under the title *Apalachee*, the first number of which has recently appeared. The publication committee for this issue was: Guyte P. McCord, Sr., Venila L. Shores, Dorothy Dodd, Rosalind Parker, and Mary Croom Whitfield.

The significance of the title chosen is strikingly shown by a map on the front cover of the region between the Ochlockonee and the Aucilla rivers, with Tallahassee near the center. From the earliest Spanish period this territory was called Apalachee.

Eight papers are included in the ninety-seven pages of this number:

"The Senatorial Deadlock of 1897" by Albert Hubbard Roberts

"Newport as a Business Center" by W. T. Cash
"Physicians of Early Tallahassee and Vicinity"
by Henry E. Palmer M. D.

"Tallahassee Through Territorial Days" by
Mary Lamar Davis

"Father Hugon and the Early Catholic Church
in Tallahassee" by Dorothy Van Brunt

"Tallahassee Rejoins the Union" by Albert Hubbard Roberts

"George Pettus Raney, 1845-1911" by Benjamin A. Meginniss

"Thomas Brown" by Mary D. Lewis.

It will be seen that many of these papers are of statewide interest, reflecting the fact that Tallahassee, founded as the capital, was in addition the center of much more than the state government until near the end of the past century.

The first paper in *Apalachee* is:

The Senatorial Deadlock of 1897

This contest, known as the "Call-Chipley fight", was perhaps the most famous and bitterest of the numerous struggles for one of Florida's seats in the United States Senate.

Mr. Roberts, the author of this paper, in a biographical sketch of Wilkinson Call in this *Quarterly* (xii, 95, 179) gave us an account of Call's career prior to this contest, as well as his relations with William D. Chipley up to that time. Call, whom Mr. Roberts dubs "a demagogue extraordinary" had served three terms in the senate, "a service more notable for its length than for its accomplishments." Chipley had had a large part in the building of the Pensacola and Atlantic railroad and in the beginnings of the development of West Florida west of Jackson county, and was a "typical corporation politician."

"The feud between Chipley and Call had existed for ten years or more, and had almost caused Call's defeat in the memorable contest of 1891, when Chipley himself was not a candidate. This gentleman, now member of the State Senate from the second district (Escambia county) had gathered enough visible support to defy not only Call, but the tradi-

tion which gave one senator from Florida to that part of the state east of the Suwannee river, and one to that part west; the junior senator at that time being Samuel Pasco of Monticello. . . . Except for a long cherished desire to serve in the United States Senate, Chipley was the antithesis of Call."

As the session and the election of a senator approached there were a number of "favorite sons" brought forward and "dark horse candidates" groomed ; but Call and Chipley were the principals, and candidates for the legislature were "known generally to be for or against one or the other."

Most of the Florida press lined up, with Chipley on the larger side. Few pulled any punches at least after the contest grew hot, and that was true of the principals also. For instance they met at a public speaking in Santa Rosa county "in the course of which" writes Mr. Roberts, "the usually placid Chipley invited the audience to 'gaze upon this shameless creature' (Call), - a fair indication of the personal and factional bitterness that was to prevail throughout the contest."

Headquarters of the Call and the Chipley forces were respectively in the old St. James and Leon hotels ; and a member of the legislature "was quoted as saying that the principal difference was that at the Chipley headquarters liquors were dispensed in bottles and at the Call headquarters in jugs. If tradition is correct, about every known method of influencing votes was resorted to during this long contest . . . an unhappy situation which reflected little credit upon the political morality of that day, even allowing for exaggeration in traditions unsupported by documentary proof.

"Before balloting began a call for a Democratic caucus, signed by twenty-three legislators, mostly

supporters of Chipley, had failed of results, and on April 20 separate ballots were taken in the House and Senate."

Besides Call and Chipley, George P. Raney, William A. Hocker, R. A. Burford, and two or three others were nominated, and the result of the first ballot was Call 33, Chipley 24, Raney 14, Hocker 12, Burford 7, and four others one and two each. Balloting was carried on for several days with little change, although a lone vote which soon disappeared was cast for Stephen R. Mallory. Not until the third week of balloting did Chipley go into the lead with one vote over Call. The next day Call's name was withdrawn and John N. C. Stockton was nominated and received the Call vote.

"Senator Call's withdrawal was in accordance with an agreement previously made with some of his supporters, which he carried out most reluctantly and probably with the conviction that circumstances would bring him back after a few more days of deadlock. Next day the joint ballot gave Chipley 37 votes to Stockton's 33, both candidates 'passing' when their names were called on this and the succeeding ballots, but the following day they were on even terms.

"Stockton, the only native of Florida of the three, a former newspaper man, was then a banker of Jacksonville, though a leader of the anti-corporation faction of the Democratic party in Florida. The antagonism between him and Chipley was worse, if possible, than that between Chipley and Call. Though a Call leader in the early balloting, he more than likely realized from the beginning that the old senator could not make the grade, and kept himself in a key position as his most available successor.

"Only one ballot was taken on May 11; Stockton

led 38 votes to 37 for Chipley, with the remainder scattering. . . . A resolution providing for withdrawing all candidates and substituting new ones if a choice was not made after five more ballots, failed of adoption, and on the following day Chipley resumed the lead [40 to 38]."

Judge Raney's vote had fallen from its peak of 23 to 10, and his name was now withdrawn. It is interesting to note that now a resolution was adopted requesting the State Democratic Executive committee to provide for nominations of candidates for United States senator by side-box primary elections thereafter.

Now for the first time, Chipley voted for himself -at the wish of his constituents, he explained. Stockton did also. "One member was brought to the hall on a mattress" writes Mr. Roberts, "but was too weak from illness and intoxication to answer to his name. . . . When the joint session, lasting an hour and a quarter, adjourned, Chipley lacked but four votes of a majority of all members, and it was evident that Stockton could not be elected. A caucus of anti-Chipley members was held that night, which lasted beyond midnight, when Stephen R. Mallory was chosen as its candidate. He had not been considered seriously by many legislators up to this time.

"Mallory had served, at sixteen years, in the Confederate army, and in the navy, of which his father was secretary in the cabinet of President Davis. . . . The younger Mallory, long a resident of Pensacola, had served four years in the national House of Representatives, from which he had been retired two years earlier, much against his will, and largely through the skilful opposition of Chipley. He had come to Tallahassee in an unsuccessful effort to swing several West Florida legislators from Chip-

ley to Stockton, and it dawned upon the opposition leaders that Mallory himself was the one man for whom these members could be induced to vote instead of for Chipley.

The Last Joint Session

From the journal, from contemporaneous newspaper accounts, and from the narrative of a participant, Mr. Roberts skilfully pictures the scene and describes the proceedings of the final joint session and the dramatic end of the long fight.

"The Legislature met the following day (May 14) in a tragic setting, a member, who has been referred to already, having died that morning. The tragedy was deepened by the fact that its victim 'had once been an earnest and eloquent minister of the gospel.' This death reduced the anti-Chipley forces, for the deceased legislator had voted consistently for Call and later for Stockton, until the previous day, when he had been brought into the hall on a mattress, too weak to respond to his name. A resolution was introduced in the final joint session to inquire into the circumstances surrounding his death, but was withdrawn without being acted upon.

"Each side was straining every nerve for the next joint ballot, which must needs be the final test, if narrowed to two men. At last Chipley and Call had something in common. Either would have preferred the other to Mallory, and the latter cordially reciprocated their dislike."

The Senate, as for more than three weeks past, proceeded in a body to the representatives' hall and the balloting began. "There were no new nominations, no announcements of withdrawals, the anti-Chipley men simply voting for Mallory as their names were called. There were ninety-eight members present, the single absentee being Senator W. J.

Daniels of Jackson. Representative Junius Rawles of the same county 'announced that he was paired with Senator Daniels, which he was allowed to break under certain conditions.'

"On the original roll call Representative Morgan, 'passing' and Representative Rawles being paired, Chipley voted for himself. Possibly he recalled that in the same chamber twenty-two years before, a representative from his own Escambia County, Charles W. Jones, had given himself the vote needed to elect him a United States senator. . . . but more likely his thoughts were entirely in the present, as with unconcealed agitation he followed the long roll call upon the result of which rested the fulfilment of his great ambition.

"The roll call showed Chipley 49, Mallory 47, and the hall became the scene of the wildest demonstrations, supporters of Chipley crowding about him with congratulations, while the supporters of Mallory cried that no one had been elected. At length President Perrenot restored quiet sufficiently to order the roll call verified. While this was in progress, Representative Morgan and Rawles voted for Mallory, making it 49 to 49. A particularly violent demonstration accompanied the vote by Rawles, the Chipley supporters charging bad faith and the Mallory supporters declaring him within his rights. Neither the official records nor the newspapers of the day show the 'conditions' of the pair between Senator Daniels and Representative Rawles, and I [Mr. Roberts] cannot express an intelligent opinion as to the latter's justification (or lack of it) in breaking the pair which, having no legal validity, rested entirely on the honor of the parties.

"The vote was now a tie, when Senator Barber changed his vote from Chipley to Mallory, making the total Chipley 48 Mallory 50. This destroyed

Chipley's last hope. Representatives Sheppard, Rice, and Dees, in the order named, changed from Chipley to Mallory. The vote finally stood: Mallory 53, Chipley 44, Call 1.

"Throughout the hour and thirty minutes of this final joint session and especially during the verification of the roll call, the disorder was so wild that President Perrenot, a sick man, was entirely unable to control it. Speaker Mays, a much stronger man physically, at length restored order, after strident appeals to the members to remember the honor of their State."

Mr. Roberts adds, "From time to time I have heard President Perrenot criticized for not declaring Chipley elected without ordering a verification of the roll call, but I think the presiding officer was simply carrying out the rules and that whatever may have been the motives of any of the men who changed their votes during this verification, they were clearly within the prevailing rules in doing so."

"It is said that Chipley was the calmest man present while the disorder reigned . . . and the great prize for which he labored so long and so hard was snatched from his grasp at the last moment, and almost without visible effort by an ancient enemy. He was big enough to express the opinion subsequently that Senator Mallory himself had done nothing for which he might justly be criticized.

"The election of 1897 was the last of the senatorial 'deadlocks' in Florida, and it had its effect in bringing the old method of selecting United States senators into disrepute throughout the nation, a feeling that culminated in the adoption of the Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution, which provides for their election by popular vote."

Newport as a Business Center

While the Spanish colonial provinces of East and West Florida had but one town each for more than two centuries, St. Augustine and Pensacola, there was to be found on the maps more or less continuously a third location, San Marcos, midway between the two. St. Augustine and Pensacola were military posts, but they were capitals too (if of little more than themselves) and small towns grew up around them. But San Marcos was virtually only a fort. Yet from its central location and its perfect position as an outlet for the best lands in either province it was always assumed that a settlement would be made and a city later built there.

But it was not until after the final cession of the Floridas that these good lands, and especially those around the new capital, Tallahassee, began to be settled and the settlers looked for a tidewater outlet for their cotton. A series of small towns resulted in the old San Marcos neighborhood and there has been some confusion as to their sequence, size, and duration, most of which Mr. Cash resolves in his article. He says: "Newport, founded in October, 1843, was the fifth and last town started on the St. Marks river while Florida was a territory. The first was Rock Haven, situated just below the natural bridge where the river emerges. The second, Magnolia, located eight miles above the confluence of the St. Marks and Wakulla rivers, was settled in 1827. The third, St. Marks, situated less than half a mile above the fort of that name, probably had its beginning in 1828. The fourth, Port Leon, three miles down the river from Fort St. Marks, may have been founded late in 1839, but it was certainly as late as 1840 before it got off to a good start. From Rock Haven, the most extreme up-river town, to

Port Leon, the one nearest the mouth of the twenty-seven mile stream, was only twenty-one miles.

"Neither of the last two towns, Port Leon or Newport, could be considered so much a new settlement, as the reestablishment of a former one in a new location. The Tallahassee Railroad Company planned and promoted Port Leon, but it was settled largely from Magnolia, which went out of existence about the time the former place was founded.

"Rock Haven appears on numbers of Florida maps of the territorial period, but we know almost nothing about this early Florida village and post office of 1828," the total receipts of which were \$2.40 for the year.

Magnolia was incorporated in 1828, and the next year had ten stores, two hotels, a newspaper, *Magnolia Advertiser*, and a custom house. By 1833 there were four large warehouses, a cotton press and a bank, "with exports of 6,500 bales of cotton and some hides, deer skins, furs, tallow, etc. to New York and New Orleans."

Fort St. Marks was incorporated as a town in 1827, and reincorporated as St. Marks six years later. In 1834 the custom house was moved there from Magnolia, and along with it went the prospect for the expected city, for Magnolia began at once to go into a decline.

But the high hopes for St. Marks were also vain. The railroad which had been built from Tallahassee chose to make its terminus three miles down the river and there built its own Port Leon, and in 1839 offered town lots to the public. So for several years there was rivalry between St. Marks and Port Leon for the 30,000 bales of cotton exported from the district.

As county seat, with warehouses, wharfs, several stores and a hotel, Port Leon, by 1843, could boast

a newspaper, and seemed to be well on its way; but the end came suddenly when, in September of that year, it was destroyed by a hurricane with the loss of fourteen lives. Only three houses were left standing.

"But the citizens of Port Leon," writes Mr. Cash, "would not allow themselves to be discouraged by a gale which put an end to their town ; in less than a week they were making plans as to how they would carry on. . . . A committee was chosen to select a site for a new town, to acquire the necessary land and take subscriptions to the enterprise."

A site two miles below Magnolia was selected, and the building of Newport was soon under way. But in the first announcement of the promoters there is more than a hint of the continuation of rivalry with St. Marks farther down the river : for it was affirmed that the many advantages of the new site could be claimed by "none below."

The first vessel arrived in October of the same year (1843) and the contest for trade was on again. The *Newport Patriot* now succeeded the *Port Leon Commercial Gazette*. An effort was made to move the custom house from St. Marks to Newport but without success; and it is not known what part of the 30,000 to 40,000 bales of cotton exported annually through that custom house from the district was shipped from Newport. There were other exports : tobacco, tar, pitch, turpentine, resin, beeswax, lumber, hides and furs; but cotton was the bulk of the trade.

A United States Coast Survey report of 1852 says :

"The town of St. Marks used to be a flourishing little place of some thirty or forty houses with a railroad to Tallahassee, and a branch to Port Leon, both connected with a bridge over the St. Marks river. This last was destroyed in 1843, but the

main branch to Tallahassee is still in use, and, a train drawn by horses arrives daily. There are several large warehouses and a cotton press. Considerable business is transacted here. . . . About three miles above St. Marks (five by river) is Newport a flourishing town of some size, and some mercantile importance." But the census of 1850 gave Newport only 232 inhabitants.

Mr. Cash believes that Newport was at the height of its prosperity during the middle years of the 1850 decade, but "1860 found it in a rapid decline," and the census of that year gave it only 441 inhabitants.

* * *

Physicians of Early Tallahassee

This is the kind of material best suited for a local publication, for it is local history rescued just before it is lost. Though it appeals only to the one locality, it is interesting to everyone there, for at one time or another a doctor comes close to the life of each one of us.

Tallahassee seems to have had more than its share of physicians noteworthy in the community for other reasons than their profession ; and Dr. Palmer begins his narrative with Dr. William H. Simmons, of St. Augustine, who, with John Lee Williams, selected the site of Tallahassee. But the first known resident physician was Dr. Byrd Willis, who came from Virginia with his daughter, the future Princess Murat, less than two years after the town was founded.

A score or more of antebellum Tallahassee practitioners are named, with some account of each, Dr. Palmer noting that in the early days "many of the physicians were active in politics, probably because they were the most prominent men in their localities and were looked to by the people to administer

not only to their physical needs, but to every other need as well." One was a Methodist preacher, several were planters, and a number were members of the legislature. Most of the Tallahassee physicians went into the Confederate army medical service, but one at least, Dr. G. W. Parkhill was a captain in the line. Then there was Dr. John L. Crawford, secretary of state, for several terms, and others prominent in numerous ways.

* * *

Tallahassee Through Territorial Days

The selection of the site for Tallahassee, the capital, is told of, together with the earliest descriptions of the region, and the choosing of the name and its meaning. There is the oft-quoted account of the beginning of the town from the contemporaneous *Pensacola Gazette*, with the arrival of Governor DuVal and Colonel Robert Butler, surveyor general of Florida, with his instructions from Washington to "proceed without delay to lay out the seat of government."

Miss Davis describes the plan from the original plat and from contemporaneous maps; and the naming of the streets for public men: Monroe and Adams, at the time president and vice president of the United States, Calhoun, Butler, Gadsden, DuVal, Bronough, president of the first legislative council, McCarty, secretary of the territory and acting governor, Jefferson, Lafayette.

The old roads leading out of Tallahassee are named and described, as are the first and later hotels. There is the long-drawn-out building of the capitol.

But doubtless it is the people of those days who will interest most readers. Miss Davis believes that "the 'first family' of Tallahassee was that of

John Bellamy, who with his family and seventy or more slaves had already laid out a plantation near Miccosukee Lake . . . in 1823. Another was that of Thomas Randall who in 1827 was appointed judge of the Superior Court of Middle Florida . . . Before leaving Washington Judge Randall was married to the daughter of William Wirt, attorney general of the United States. He brought his bride to Tallahassee, and here is an extract from a letter of Wirt to his daughter: 'You are going to a newly settled country-do you wish to make yourself and your husband popular? Dress as plainly as possible, and conform as closely as you can to the manners of the place . . . fine dressing and haut-ton manners will only excite envy, criticism, malignity, quarrels and contempt'."

Miss Davis considers "the most outstanding women of early Florida were Madam Murat, Octavia Walton LeVert, daughter of George Walton, and Florida Adair White, a Kentucky beauty and wife of Joseph M. White. These women became famous on two continents for their wit and beauty."

* * *

Father Hugon and the Early Catholic Church

Tallahassee's earliest Catholic record tells of a visit of Bishop Portier of Mobile who wrote: "It is but four years since Tallahassee was founded, it already numbers over a hundred neat, well ordered buildings. I rested there for three days, and found both people and governor to be polite and respectable. It was my good fortune to celebrate Mass there on Sunday June 23 [1827], and I had hardly begun when, to my great surprise, the room was filled up with Protestants. I had to extemporize a sermon, and while I spoke of the great value of salvation and pointed out how it was to be

secured, these people listened with reverence, and then remained until the end of the Holy Sacrifice. I felt I had satisfied their expectations."

Mrs. Van Brunt notes the building of the first and subsequent Catholic churches and the succession of priests until Father J. L. Hugon came in 1877; and during more than thirty years the frail little Frenchman made a unique place for himself in the life of Tallahassee. She writes: "He invariably wore dress boots, a frock coat, a derby hat, and was never without his cane . . . He was loved by Protestants and Catholics alike and freely mingled with both. One of his best friends was Judge J. T. Bernard a staunch Methodist. Both enjoyed smoking pipes, and many were the evenings they sat together and discussed affairs of state. Dr. W. H. Carter, who served as rector of the Episcopal church in Tallahassee for over thirty years, was another of Father Hugon's close friends."

* * *

Tallahassee Rejoins the Union

Mr. Roberts writes: "The surrender of General Joseph E. Johnston's Confederate forces. . . to General Sherman on April 26, 1865, seventeen days after General Lee's surrender at Appomatox, brought hostilities east of the Mississippi to a close as soon as the news could be transmitted through out the area affected. It found Major General Samuel Jones at Tallahassee in command of all Confederate troops in Florida; Brigadier Generals Israel Vogdes at Jacksonville, Alexander Asboth at Barrancas (Pensacola), and John Newton at Key West, in command of Federal forces, the last charged with the patrol of the gulf coast, and the first named covering the area which included Tallahassee . . . General Jones opened correspondence with General

Vogdes for the surrender of all Confederate forces in Florida . . . and had gone from his headquarters in Tallahassee for a personal conference on May 5 with the Federal commander at White House, ten miles west of Jacksonville. The latter wrote his Confederate adversary from Jacksonville : 'Rest assured I will do all in my power, should it be left to me, to make the arrangements such as are honorable to brave enemies and generous foes.' This brought from his own commanding officer Major General Gillmore: 'You will please confine your official correspondence with rebel officers to matters pertinent to the execution of the convention of surrender between Generals Sherman and Johnston, not forgetting that while we are to be humane toward surrendered enemies; these men are still rebels to whom forgiveness is an act of grace and not of justice.'

"With preparations practically completed for the surrender to General Vogdes of all Confederate troops in Florida, and their parole under the same terms granted to Lee and Johnston, Brigadier General Edward M. McCook, Federal cavalry officer, appeared somewhat unexpectedly in Tallahassee and received possession of the city and the surrender of General Jones and all of his command. . . . Leaving his men encamped about four miles north of the town, and accompanied only by his staff of five, he proceeded to the Florida capital during the afternoon of May 10. Our people were impressed, doubtless, both by his courage in coming into their midst practically unattended and by the silent evidence it bore that he trusted the good faith of his recent foes. . . . The leading citizens called to pay their respects and to assure him of the general desire of the people for peace and the restoration of Florida to its previous place in the Union of States.

"The national flag was raised above the state capitol during the afternoon, but without special ceremony." Mr. Roberts continues: "We have no record on the subject, but may assume that the last Confederate flag to float over the old brick state house had already been removed, reverently, by its defenders, and not left to be hauled down by those in whose eyes it was the emblem of treason. Two days later, Fort Ward, at St. Marks, was surrendered to one of McCook's officers, and the United States flag raised above it while a national salute was fired.

"On the day General McCook reached Tallahassee, he received from General Jones the surrender of all Confederate troops in Florida, approximately eight thousand in all, with military property, his own troops entering the city the following day. . . .

"Both General Vogdes and General Newton claimed the honor of receiving the surrender of Tallahassee and St. Marks. General Wilson, however, disregarded their claims, on the grounds the surrender had been accomplished before he received their protests, and exonerated General McCook, who had acted under his orders. . . .

"A serious problem was the negroes. Though peaceably disposed, the newly-enfranchised race showed an aversion to work and disclosed promptly an expectation that the government which had freed them from bondage would now maintain them in a style suitable to their new status. The harrassed officer requested instructions from headquarters in Macon, which advised him that they could not feed the negroes, and that all he could do was to send them away, letting them go back to their former masters or wherever they would; they were to be treated the same as white persons.

"On May 20 General McCook issued an order "for the information of those who did not seem to know

it," stating that the negroes were free by virtue of the President's proclamation, and that he had no authority to require them to go to work. The same day the national colors were raised over the capitol building to the thunder of one hundred guns. The white people of the city generally remained indoors while the fall of their late government was thus celebrated by the Federal soldiers and the newly-enfranchised blacks.

"These circumstances must have inspired Florida negroes, to the present time, to celebrate May 20 as 'Emancipation Day.' I can find no other reason," writes Mr. Roberts, "for observing this date in such a connection.

"Upon his return to Macon, three weeks after he took possession of Tallahassee, General McCook said, in part, in his report to headquarters: 'In my intercourse with the citizens and surrendered soldiers of this Florida Command I found only the most entire spirit of submission to my authority, and in the majority of instances an apparent cheerful acquiescence to the present order of things. The citizens expressed and apparently feel entire confidence in the magnanimity of the Government and its officers, and seemed to feel that our success had at last relieved them from the oppression they had so long suffered at the hands of the rebel authorities.' It is hardly necessary to comment that the general was using his own phraseology at this point.

"Continuing, he [Gen. McCook] says: 'Unless the present growing crops of this county are cultivated to maturity the people there, both black and white, will suffer for food. I had no collision with any of the authorities except the ecclesiastical. The pastor of the Episcopal church in his public service omitted the customary prayer for the President of

the United States. I thought it my duty to christianize him, if possible, and succeeded in convincing him of the error of his way by a communication, a copy of which I have the honor to enclose. He prayed for the President that afternoon. . .!"

Mr. Roberts considers that General McCook, both personally and officially, got along well with the authorities, both state and local "and to have helped them and accepted their cooperation as fully as permitted by higher authority. He was clearly sympathetic with Governor Allison's appointment of commissioners to Washington, and with his call for a special session of the Legislature. It was higher authority that nullified the call for the legislative session and ordered the arrest of Governor Allison, ex-Senator Yulee, and other Confederate leaders, on charges of treason. In fact, it was not until after McCook had left the state that these arrests were made.

"General McCook spent less than three weeks in Tallahassee, and in the main he handled a difficult situation considerately, wisely and well. Whatever may have happened after his departure is no part of this narrative."

* * *

George Pettus Raney 1845-1911

The lives of few Floridians have been so closely connected-even intertwined-with the life of the state government for so long a period as has Judge Raney's. He was the first native to become chief justice of the Supreme Court of Florida, having been born in Apalachicola on October 11, shortly after Florida's admission to the Union in 1845.

Mr. Meginniss finds that at the age of eighteen he withdrew from the University of Virginia to enroll as a private in the Confederate army, in which

he served in Georgia and Florida. He says : "At the close of the war he returned to the University of Virginia where he was prepared for the practice of law. In 1867 he was admitted to the bar, commencing his practice at Apalachicola," from whence he was elected to the Legislature as representative in 1868, and there "assumed a leading role." He moved to Tallahassee where the remainder of his life was spent.

"In 1873 he was married to Elizabeth Lamar. . . . In 1876 he was a member of the State Democratic Executive Committee, and a nominee for presidential elector." In the noteworthy contest and election of that year "effectuating the release of Florida from carpetbag rule," Raney was chosen by candidate Drew as one of his three attorneys. The result was that the state Supreme Court, though Republican by two to one "unanimously rendered its decision in favor of the Democratic contention, and required the Canvassing Board to re-canvass the returns and declare the election of Governor George F. Drew."

A result was the appointment of Raney as attorney general in the Drew cabinet, and he was appointed again by Governor Bloxham.

Mr. Meginniss says: "Members of the bar and historians agree that no abler lawyer than Judge Raney has ever served the state."

In 1885 Raney was appointed an associate justice of the Supreme Court, and in 1888 he was elected one of the three justices. Thereupon he was chosen chief justice, and served as such until his resignation in 1894, when he was appointed attorney for the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund. "In 1898 he was elected representative to the Legislature from Leon County, and re-elected in 1900. In 1902 he was elected to the State

Senate, and served in the sessions of 1903 and 1905." He died in 1911.

* * *

Thomas Brown

For near half a century after its final cession, none of Florida's most prominent men were natives, and almost without exception, all were well along in their careers before coming here. The most noteworthy case is that of Governor Branch, who, strange as it may seem, was an ex-governor of North Carolina.

Thomas Brown was one of these, for he had a versatile career before coming to Florida. He was then in his early forties, having been born October 24, 1785 in Virginia. Miss Lewis writes that after attending an academy at Charles Town and then one at Alexandria, he went to live with a Frenchman who carried on an extensive importing business where he not only learned the business but became fluent in the language. Fleeing from a yellow fever panic in Alexandria he returned to the Westmoreland county of his birth, where he "wrote in the clerk's office and read law." Then he became a post office clerk in Richmond and devised a crude arrangement for the delivery of mail there which became the present-day post office box. His health now called for an outdoor life, and he had just bought a place and began farming when war came. Volunteering forthwith he served around Washington and Alexandria in the War of 1812.

As a planter after the war he was elected to the General Assembly of Virginia for two terms. Later he made a trip to England, quite an experience in those days, and though he went for private reasons, he carried despatches from President Monroe to our ambassador at the Court of St. James's. Re-

turning he was nominated for Congress but lost the election.

Deciding to move to a new country, "in 1824" writes Miss Lewis "he started a party of sixty negroes and twenty young men who wished to adventure with him, to Florida. They arrived in Tallahassee about the close of the year, then just located in the wilderness. . . . There were but few plantations then, and the cotton on them of the preceding year was in January in blossom, sugar cane was green and growing luxuriantly, for there was no frost." He entered land on Lake Jackson and in March returned to Virginia.

Two years later he returned to Florida with his wife, six children, twenty-odd young men, 144 negroes, two carryalls, his family carriage and five saddle horses, commodious tents, marquees and camp fixtures, a quartermaster, paymaster, and a foraging party, who, with the quartermaster, went ahead every day to procure fresh supplies and select the camping ground, pitch the tents, make fires, and begin the cooking before the main party came up. They traveled slowly, from fifteen to twenty miles a day, and stopped at convenient places for two or three days to wash and rest, and never slept in a house during the whole journey of sixty days. Thomas Brown walked the whole distance at the head of his cavalcade, as an example to the young men who could not afford to have riding horses.

"They arrived at Lake Jackson January 8, 1828. This year he opened his plantation and planted corn. The next year he planted 130 acres in sugar cane, put up extensive sugar works, and had great expectations, when on the night of November 12 there was not only frost but a freeze that killed everything. In the next two years he learned that

Middle Florida, neither by climate nor soil, was a country for sugar as a staple crop.

"Finally he made up his mind to quit planting and leased the Planter's Hotel. On his Lake Jackson plantation some of his negro families cultivated corn, hay, etc., and raised stock and poultry. On another place he had a dairy. . . . He bought the square to the west of the capitol and erected the City Hotel."

Versatile in his activities as always, he established a brick yard as well as a race track, and was secretary and treasurer of the Tallahassee Jockey Club. Later he was teller of the Union bank for a time.

Going into politics again he held a number of local and state offices, among them auditor of the territory, president of the Legislative Council and was a member of the St. Joseph constitutional convention. After that he served several terms in the Council and the state Legislature.

From 1849 to 1853 he served as the state's second governor. Miss Lewis writes: "In his message he recommended with particular earnestness the establishment of a system of public education, and the revival of the spirit of enterprise, so long held in restraint by the prejudice against corporations. . . . He suggested the creation of a Board of Internal Improvement, and a Board of Agriculture," and proposed the draining of the Everglades.

He died in Tallahassee on August 24, 1867.

Other Papers

A number of other papers read before the Tallahassee Historical Society which have not been published are listed as an appendix in *Apalachee*. These are:

Kathryn T. Abbey, *Blockade Running off the Florida Coast During the War Between the States*

Mrs. Jeffrey Allfriend, *The Lost Colony*

W. T. Cash, *An Account of Some Attempts to Move the State Capital*

Dorothy Van Brunt, *Excerpts from Early Copies of the Weekly True Democrat*

Lulu Dee Appleyard, *Plantation Life in Middle Florida, 1831-1845*

George Couper Gibbs, *Spanish Missions in Florida and California*

Mildred W. McCullough, *Florida Railroads from Territorial Days to 1897*

Mabel B. Hodgson, *The Old Plank Road*

Edward Conradi, *Memories of Florida State College for Women*

Daisy Parker, *The Apalachicola Land Company*

Dorothy Dodd, *The Cromartie Letters*

Henry E. Palmer, *Letters of Captain Bryan, C.S.A.*

W. T. Cash, *Dead Towns in the Vicinity of Tallahassee*

Albert Hubbard Roberts, *Francis Eppes Harris*

R. L. Goulding, *The Development of Teacher Training in Florida*