


1946

Book Reviews

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Recommended Citation

Society, Florida Historical (1946) "Book Reviews," *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Vol. 25 : No. 1 , Article 10.
Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq/vol25/iss1/10>

BOOK REVIEWS

Florida Becomes a State. Introduction and edited documents by Dorothy Dodd; foreword by W. T. Cash. (Tallahassee : Florida Centennial Commission. 1945. Pp. xi, 481. \$3.50).

When Governor Spessard L. Holland appointed the Florida Centennial Commission in 1941, Floridians anticipated an elaborate celebration on the one hundredth anniversary of the State's admission into the American Union. In the following years, it became evident that the war would prevent the realization of this hoped-for commemoration ; but not content to allow the anniversary to pass unnoticed, the Commission accepted the suggestion of the State Library Board and approved the use of Centennial funds to underwrite the publication of a historical account of the steps by which Florida entered the Union. *Florida Becomes a State* is the result. Although it does not take the place of a spectacular pageant, this attractive volume is fundamentally a more appropriate and enduring form of commemoration of an important historic event. The members of the Florida Centennial Commission and the State Library Board, under whose direction the volume was prepared, have been instrumental in making a real contribution to Florida bibliography.

Florida Becomes a State will have a limited popular appeal, for more than three-fourths of the volume is composed of fifty-seven documents which trace the steps to statehood. Beginning with the treaty of 1819, these documents include messages of the Territorial governors, resolutions, bills, acts, petitions, memorials, election returns, census reports and proclamations, and end with the Act of July 25, 1845, by which the State of Florida legally accepted her responsibilities in the Union. Consider-

ably more than one-half of the documentary section of the volume is devoted to the Journal of the St. Joseph Convention and the Constitution which was the work of that Convention. The reprinting of this Journal, of which only a few copies are extant, would of itself justify publication of this volume. The Journal is reproduced in its entirety, and this is also true of all but a few of the other fifty-six documents. Those who prefer to have the complete record, rather than an editor's selected extracts, will not only appreciate this full reproduction, but also the careful copying of the originals, for Dr. Dodd went to the manuscript sources for the Territorial and State documents. This faithful reproduction together with careful proofreading results in an accurate documentary section which will be of particular use to the student.

Dr. Dodd's introduction is a narrative rather than an explanatory preface to the documents which follow. Under the title "Movement for Statehood", she traces the political action from the early agitation for statehood and the St. Joseph Convention to the struggle between the friends and foes of admission and the final creation of the State of Florida. The narrative is more inclusive than the documents, for much additional material is introduced to complete the story. The editor, however, does not bring in unnecessary extraneous material or attempt to write a history of Territorial Florida. In clear and concise language she traces the political account of the movement for statehood: every historical event necessary to a complete explanation is included. The careful documentation of the introduction indicates an extensive study of the original sources. Dr. Dodd has in fact done her work so well that the documents are exhausted in so far as the political story of the statehood movement is concerned.

In a foreword to the documents and Dr. Dodd's introduction, W. T. Cash, the dean of Florida historians, describes the social conditions of 1845. Although Mr. Cash bases some of his descriptions on recollections of his own boyhood and young manhood just before the dawn of the twentieth century, he is eminently successful in throwing light on a little known aspect of Florida history. His accounts of the houses, with their shrub decked and flowered yards; of religion, with its emphasis on evangelicalism; of education and literature, with all their frontier limitations; of amusements, dress, customs, superstitions, and general folklore, with their close association to nature—all are interesting reading. While this foreword has little connection with the theme of the documents, it gives the volume a popular appeal and makes it more than a historian's history.

Most reviewers point to certain defects in a volume under consideration, and the present one is no exception to the general rule. In his opinion one minor addition and a few changes would have enhanced the value of the book. A list of the fifty-seven documents should have been included in the table of contents, or some ready means provided by which the reader could quickly find a desired document. Although conscious of the modern trend toward placing notes in the back of a volume, the reviewer feels that, because of the nature of this book, the notes should be at the bottom of each page. A brief explanation of each document and an identification of the more important men would be of aid to the reader. Such criticisms are minor and in no way negate the fact that Dr. Dodd and Mr. Cash have made a most valuable contribution in this volume. The worth of the book is further enhanced by

the inclusion of thirteen illustrations, a map of Florida in 1845, and a satisfactory index.

In one hundred years of statehood, *Florida Becomes a State* is the first attempt on the part of the State to support the collection and publication of her early records. It is sincerely hoped that a planned program of State supported publications, which would help Florida to secure her rightful place in the annals of American history, might be the outgrowth of this beginning.

REMBERT W. PATRICK

The University of Florida

John Stuart and the Southern Colonial Frontier.
By John Richard Alden. University of Michigan Publications in History and Political Science, Vol. XV. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. 1944. (xii, 384 p. \$4.00.)

This is a scholarly work, based on a comprehensive list of contemporary and later sources and selected maps. The text is divided into parts, the first filling one third of the book and relating to the Southern frontier during the Seven Years' War. Part II deals with the "Imperial Management of Indian Relations under John Stuart, 1763-75," six of its eleven chapters relating to Florida matters.

For the first time Professor Alden tells of the Scottish Highland connections of Stuart, his schooling in Inverness and London, and his youthful adventures in business. On his first voyage to South Carolina, in the spring of 1748, he brought a supply of goods. Returning to England promptly, he married, gathered another cargo of commodities, and arrived back in April, 1751, with his wife and infant daughter. He became prominent in Charleston, holding local offices and a seat in the house of as-

sembly and serving as captain in the South Carolina provincials. In the fall of 1759 he supplied provisions and a reinforcement to Fort Loudoun against the Cherokees, freed the garrison by a capitulation, under which the Indians received the arms, powder, and ball. In an affray that followed Stuart rescued most of the soldiers and by a chief's help escaped and got back to Charleston.

This notable record so impressed Governor Boone of South Carolina that he urged Stuart for Superintendent of Indians in the Southern Department. He was appointed in January 1762 and served until March 21, 1779, when he died at Pensacola after a prolonged sickness.

The Indian situation was complicated by the transfer of the Floridas to the English in 1763 and by the plans of the Charleston and Savannah merchants to trade with the red men of the Mobile and Pensacola regions. General Gage approved of Stuart's having his own agents at the Florida posts to keep him informed and to execute his policies, distrusting the military officers as managers of Indian affairs. Gage wrote the Superintendent to visit the coast forts, leave supplies of Indian presents, and instruct the officers how to handle the Indians and keep them peaceful until plans were completed in London for the management of their affairs.

The series of Stuart's conferences with different groups of Indians is chronicled: with Cowkeeper and the Seminoles, in July 1764; with leaders of the five Creek towns north of Fort Appalachie, in the following September; his congress, in the spring of 1765, to cement good relations between the Chickasaws and the English and to fix the boundary between the Choctaws and West Florida; and his conference with the Creeks at Pensacola in May 1765. Two congresses were also held in East Flori-

da, Governor Grant taking part, both at Fort Picolata. At the first, in November 1765, the line was laid down between the province and the Creeks, while at the second, two years later, the Indians made complaints of encroachments upon their highly valued hunting grounds.

The Board of Trade's "Plan for the Future Management of Indian Affairs" reached Stuart in November 1764. He at once drew up specific regulations relating to the conduct of both Indians and traders, which were found to be not enforceable. From 1764 quarrels had been fomented among the Indians to keep them from attacking West Florida. The tension between the English there and the Upper Creeks had reached a climax in 1766, and during the same period hostilities had existed between those Indians and the Choctaws.

In the winter of 1766-67 Stuart framed new trade regulations, but abandoned them in the fall of 1768 and discharged all his commissaries. He ended the strife between the Choctaws and the Upper Creeks so as to get the support of both in the Revolution. In East Florida he and other officials cut off the Creek trade, and Governor Tonyn seized a shipload of ammunition intended for them.

In January 1771 the boundary between the Choctaws and West Florida was surveyed. That fall a congress was held with the Upper Creeks at Pensacola. In January 1772 there were discussions with both the Choctaws and the Chickasaws, but from 1768 until Galvez captured West Florida the troublemakers among the Southern tribes were the Spaniards.

Three pages of the book are largely occupied by clear, pertinent maps, and there is a much larger one in the pocket at the end of the book. The volume is equipped with appendixes, a bibliography, and an index.

WILBUR H. SIEBERT

Ohio State University