

# Florida Historical Quarterly

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Volume 25  
Number 3 *Florida Historical Quarterly*, Vol 25,  
*Issue 3*

Article 10

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1946

## Notes

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### Recommended Citation

Society, Florida Historical (1946) "Notes," *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Vol. 25: No. 3, Article 10.  
Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq/vol25/iss3/10>

## NOTES

### KEY WEST

During the late war Dr. A. W. Diddle, Lt., M.C., U.S.N.R., was stationed at Key West, and, after much research, wrote several articles of a medical nature relating to the town. One of these, first appearing in the *Quarterly of Phi Beta Pi*, was reprinted in the *Journal of the Florida Medical Association* (xxxI, p. 207).

Under the title "The African Depot of Key West" it is an account of the establishment of an encampment there in 1860 for the internment of more than 1,400 Negroes, in effect temporary slaves, from intercepted slave ships seized by the Navy. These Negroes were kept there several months until accepted by the American Colonization Society and sent to Liberia. A full account of the encampment and the Negroes is given from surviving documents. Due to the conditions on the slave ships, where as many as five hundred were crowded nude between decks of medium-size or small vessels, and to the unreadiness at Key West to receive such an unexpected influx, nearly three hundred died there notwithstanding the efforts made to care for them by the government officials.

Another result of Dr. Diddle's research is "Medical Events in the History of Key West," published in *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* (May, 1944). Here is an account of the Marine Hospital which, under the United States Health Service and its predecessor, rendered hospital facilities to seamen and citizens of Key West for ninety-eight years. There is also some description of the numerous yellow fever epidemics and other medical happenings there. Dr. Joseph Y. Porter, the first Florida State Health Officer (1889-1917), of course comes into the narrative, who ". . . during his term of office contributed much to the elevation of medical standards in the state, particularly in the fields of sanitation and disease control."

**FLORIDA HISTORICAL MATERIAL IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES**

The first lot of a series of microfilms of documents of every kind relating to Florida in the National Archives is now available. This lot consists of eleven rolls of films of eleven volumes of "Territorial Papers, Florida, 1777-1824." Positive films of the lot can be purchased from the Division of State Department Archives, The National Archives, Washington, D. C. for \$21.30. These films are now available for reading in Florida State Library and P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History, University of Florida. These documents and records are of great value to Florida historians.