

1947

## Regional Historical Societies

Florida Historical Society  
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## APALACHEE 1946

The Tallahassee Historical Society's *Apalachee 1946* has appeared since the last issue of this QUARTERLY. Their first historical volume was issued in 1934, and this one is the sixth, and the second under the name *Apalachee*. All have been made up of papers read at their program meetings, several such meetings being held each winter season. Most of these papers, year in and year out, are the result of much research, and as such are definite and important contributions to local history, and many have had a state-wide interest and value.

The Publication Committee of this volume was Hon. G. P. McCord, Dr. R. S. Cotterill, and Dr. Dorothy Dodd. Nine papers are included with a total of seventy-seven pages. Copies are two dollars.

There is a tribute to and reminiscences of Governor Broward, by Judge Rivers H. Buford; a full account of the establishment and growth of the David S. Walker Library by Mildred White McCullough ; a narrative of the Negro Proctor family of Tallahassee which is unusual and interesting local history. A story of "McDougall's Pasture" by Carrie E. Elliot recounts the many uses of and activities carried on in that plot of ground for many decades past.

The number one fete of Tallahassee for more than a century had been the annual May Party. Contemporaneous descriptions of several of these from the scrapbook of Evelyn Whitfield Henry, the first in 1844, make up an article, with a list of sixty-four of these May Queens.

The "History of Trinity Methodist Church" is given in much detail by Librarian Cash of the Florida State Library from its beginning in 1825, and what is known of its early history gathered from many sources makes interesting reading elsewhere as well as in Tallahassee.

Miss Daisy Parker describes the inauguration of the first governor of the State from contemporaneous sources, so this article also is of statewide interest.

The origin of place-names is an important part of history, and those of the region between the Suwannee and

the Apalachicola rivers have long been studied by J. Clarence Simpson of Tallahassee. In "Middle Florida Place Names" he suggests the origin of a score or two of these from numerous available sources. A few names are interpreted on early maps, or the maps give clues or variants through which meanings may be determined. Early writers are freely used, as well as Dr. Swanton's works and especially Professor Read's "Florida Place Names of Indian Origin and Seminole Personal Names." Most names, especially Indian names, are descriptive of the locality, and Mr. Simpson's knowledge of the region is an advantage with his conjectures.

Dr. Dorothy Dodd, Florida State Archivist, in "Bishop Pearce and the Reconstruction of Leon County" extends her broad knowledge of Florida's territorial period into reconstruction, and here makes a definite contribution to the history of that era in the State by showing that political control of the freedman was in good part gained through his church. Though documentation was impracticable, evidence is readily available and complete for this multitude of important facts relating to reconstruction in Florida, some of which are brought out for the first time.

All who are interested in Florida's history will hope that *Apalachee* will be published regularly.

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#### THE JACKSONVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Quarterly Meeting of the Jacksonville Historical Society, held on May 14, was featured by two research papers: John C. Blocker, County Attorney of Pinellas county, read a paper on "Henry B. Plant and the Plant System;" and Sam Proctor, Assistant Professor of History, University of Florida, gave a paper on "Napoleon B. Broward in Florida History."