


1948

## Local History

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### Recommended Citation

Society, Florida Historical (1948) "Local History," *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Vol. 27 : No. 2 , Article 2.  
Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq/vol27/iss2/2>

## LOCAL HISTORY

The QUARTERLY has often stressed the urgent need for the recording of local history ere it is forgotten, and has encouraged its writing by some one in each community. This is a real public service, and one that would be appreciated by those now who care for what is past, and by those in the future who will want to know about the early days of their home town or county. There is no more certain way to make sure that one's name is remembered, for if even a brief sketch is printed in your local newspaper, some copies will be preserved and handed down to other generations.

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### *"When Kissimmee Was Young"*

This is the title of the latest local Florida history, which is one of the best. The author, Elizabeth Aultman Cantrell, is largely indebted to her mother, Mary Willson Aultman, whose family was one of the region's pioneers, for much of the material upon which the book is based. Another important source was files of the *Kissimmee Gazette* covering the past half-century, with clippings from other newspapers preserved by Mrs. Aultman. Reminiscences, interviews with the old-timers, and a few quotations from historical volumes, make up the remainder of the seventy pages, which must include most of what can be learned today of Kissimmee's youth.

Here are narratives of the Indians, the old trails, drainage and the founding of the town, early shipping, Will Wallace Harney, the Kissimmee poet, an old-time Fourth-of-July, and much more of the like.

The book was published (at \$1) by the Philathea Class of the First Christian Church.

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### *Coconut Grove in 1895*

In *My Pioneer Reminiscences*, Mrs. Harlan Trapp says: "When I was a child I often dreamed that some time I would have a home in Florida. My dream came true. I have had the thrill of seeing the magic city of

Miami grow from an infant and I want to share some of my experiences with you."

This booklet of a dozen pages tells of the realization of the dream, but there was at first the hard reality of the pioneer in the, Coconut Grove of the early 1890's.

The railroad ended at Palm Beach then, from whence a small sail boat carried the dreamer to Fort Lauderdale. From there a wagon with no springs and a plank across the sides for a seat took her over the mail route, which was not a road, to Lemon City - a city of two shacks, and another small boat landed her at the future Coconut Grove with its Peacock Inn.

Pioneer hardships and pleasures are recounted, but time brought Flagler with his railroad and the Miami of today was on the way, of which something also is told; and Mrs. Trapp's last sentence is "Life as a pioneer in Dade County has been full of hardships, but I would not exchange the memories I have for those of any life of luxury I could imagine."

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#### THE RECORDS OF THE TERRITORIES NOW IN WASHINGTON

The project of the State Department for the publication of these records was fully described in this *Quarterly* the issue of October 1941 (xx, 216). Another volume of the series has now appeared: "The Territorial Papers of the United States, compiled and edited by Clarence Edwin Carter. Volume XIII: The Territory of Louisiana-Missouri, 1803-1806." Washington, Government Printing Office, 1948. (\$3.50)

There is little or nothing in this volume relating to Florida, but several of the earlier volumes, Louisiana proper and Mississippi territories, do have a small amount of Florida references. Two volumes of Florida documents are projected, but it will be some time before they are published.