

1953

Book Review: Hundredth Birthday, Duval County Medical Society

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Recommended Citation

Society, Florida Historical (1953) "Book Review: Hundredth Birthday, Duval County Medical Society," *Florida Historical Quarterly*: Vol. 32 : No. 4 , Article 9.

Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq/vol32/iss4/9>

HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY, DUVAL COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY
1853-1953

The Duval County Medical Society has published a quarto volume of 127 pages with the above title to commemorate its century of activity. The organization, on May 25, 1853, antedated by nearly a quarter of a century the establishment of the Florida Medical Association, for which the Duval County Society was largely responsible.

Dr. A. S. Baldwin, who had a large part in so many Jacksonville "firsts," including its first railroad, seems to have been the leader in the founding. Another cornerstone of the body was Dr. R. P. Daniel, twice president, and especially remembered for his work in the dread epidemic of yellow fever in 1888.

A wide variety of illustrations form the greater part of the volume, of which there are more than two hundred. These include individual portraits of sixty-four annual presidents of the Society. Other cuts are plans of Jacksonville in 1847 and another at the time of the organization of the Society, Civil War scenes in Jacksonville and vicinity, a page from the account book of Dr. John S. Murdock, first president of the Society, several during the yellow fever epidemic, numerous Jacksonville buildings as they were before the great fire of 1901, and recently erected ones.

The editor of the volume, Dr. Webster Merritt, is one of Florida's outstanding historians and collectors of Floridiana. As the volume was published by a committee of seventeen, together with the officers of the Society, a great variety of illustrations are included, a large number of which have no relation to the Society, nor to Jacksonville, nor to Florida.

The attractive end-papers are reproductions in color of one of the earliest of Florida maps, that of Jeronimo de Chaves of 1582.