

1955

## Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

*P. G. T. Beauregard, Napoleon in Gray.* By T. Harry Williams. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1954). pp. xiv, 345. Illustrations, maps, bibliography, index. \$4.75.

Beauregard, a Louisiana Creole, attended West Point, fought as an engineer officer in the War with Mexico, gave up his commission in order to fight for the South during the Civil War, was in command at Charleston when Fort Sumter was fired on, was the successful field commander at First Bull Run, held and lost command of the Confederate armies in the West, and defended Charleston from attack by sea. He turned to many things after the War, notably to Louisiana railroads and the Louisiana Lottery. His connection with the Lottery was for show and lobbyist purposes, and as a result he died a wealthy man. Another post-War activity was defense of his War record. His attackers were legion, his defense was marled more by shrewdness than by historical objectivity.

General Beauregard was the South's first Civil War hero. However, he was a trouble-maker in the eyes of President Jefferson Davis and of several of the men, cabinet officers and soldiers, closest to Davis. Ego-centric, fault-finding, ambitious in a manner peculiarly similar to Napoleon Bonaparte, and somewhat paranoid, he clashed with a man of like traits. President Davis, on numerous subjects and occasions. Davis was his superior, but this seems only to have whetted Beauregard's appetite for criticism. Moreover, when the "Little General" damned a man he damned him in no uncertain terms, fluently, even unto death. Thus, Davis being Davis, Beauregard was relegated during much of the Civil War to posts that were relatively insignificant, hero or no hero. Still, Beauregard, flamboyant and picturesque, loved by his men and adored by Southern ladies, ended the War a hero. In comparison, Davis was exceedingly shopworn as a leader and hero in the year 1865. Davis the President was not loved, whereas Davis the man became much loved in the years after 1865. Both Davis and Beauregard were accorded heroes' funerals.

T. Harry Williams' study of Beauregard is the fifteenth number of the *Southern Biography Series* which was inaugurated by the distinguished historian, Wendell H. Stephenson. And Professor Williams has continued the established practice of the *Series* of publishing only good books. His subject, Beauregard, is a fabulous one, and he has made the most of it; his materials were widely scattered, but he has gathered them together quite adequately; he writes well; he makes his subject live; he has written an appropriately balanced book, giving most of his space to Beauregard's Civil War career. Williams unfolds Beauregard's whole life and career, detail by detail, praising him here and castigating him there. All of this is as it should be when one prepares a biography of such a controversial figure as Beauregard.

WEYMOUTH T. JORDAN

*Florida State University*

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*History of Banking in Florida*, by J. E. Dovell (Florida Bankers Association, Orlando, Florida, 1955) 300 pp.

This history of 126 years of Florida's banking is a well-written, interesting and informative volume, and Florida bankers are greatly indebted to the author.

Florida's recent banking history has been so up and down, so zig-zag, that we needed a compilation such as this for comparing the exciting present and the equally exciting but tragedy-filled past.

In 1825 Florida had but 13,554 people. One hundred years later, in 1925, its population was 1,265,549; and now only 30 years later, we have 3,658,000, and are growing at the rate of 3500 per week.

Our banking history is filled with tragedy, just as is that of the other states. Many more banks have failed than are open today. Banking is now firmly established, but it has encountered

heart-breaking hurdles. In the beginning, banking and credit were based on land. There was then just as much land as there is today, but then there was too much land or too few people and too little production. So for seventy-five years banking tried to get a foothold without satisfying success.

In 1906 the bank with which this reviewer is connected was established. The total deposits in all of the commercial banks of Florida in that year were \$32 million; but Florida was booming, and during the preceding twenty years, deposits had increased from \$2 million.

Then came World War I in 1917-1918 followed by one of the greatest land booms of history anywhere - the Florida land boom - which exploded in 1926. At that time bank deposits had increased to \$900 million. Then, by 1934, deposits decreased to \$274 million. Two hundred twenty-four banks had closed and only one hundred fifty-five remained open. Today there are two hundred forty-two banks in Florida, and bank deposits are \$3,102,000,000. A startling, thought provoking growth.

Bank supervisory officials at the national and the state levels are students of banking history. Their responsibility is not to make money in banking, but to keep banking sound and solvent.

Bankers and the supervisory officials now have a number of new tools, plus history, plus experience, which were not available in the 1920's. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation is perhaps the most effective tool in the preservation of confidence - and confidence is the most valuable asset in banking. There is no greater liability than the loss of confidence. The Federal Reserve System, in existence in the 'Twenties, but without the experience, now has the experience, plus added powers - the power and the desire and the responsibility to prevent financial chaos such as developed in the 1929-34 era.

*Florida's economy.* The new era of pensions is making Florida a paradise for retirees. These millions of new citizens will,

because of their fixed incomes be a great stabilizing factor in Florida's economy.

Industry is rapidly becoming a big factor in our economy also, and bids fair to become a mainstay.

We have become, by far, the largest citrus producing area in the world. We are rapidly climbing as a cattle producing area and pastures are consuming much of our land area. We are the second largest forestry area in the nation, and pulp and paper plants are rapidly increasing at tens of millions of dollars per plant. Ere long there will be few idle acres in Florida, and every acre will have a substantial liquid value worthy of and eligible for bank credit.

What of the future? I have full confidence that up to now Florida's development has been but practice swings for the great future which is beginning.

As a Florida banker, I wish to acknowledge the great debt we owe Dr. J. E. Dovell for his outstanding narrative of our exciting Florida banking history.

G. G. WARE

*The First National Bank  
Leesburg*

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*The Caribbean: Its Economy*, edited by A. Curtis Wilgus (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1954), pp. xix, 286. \$4.00.

According to the eminent geographer, Carl Sauer, the Caribbean is the American Mediterranean and may be the second "chief crossroad of the world." Who doubts that Florida is an integral part of the Caribbean? Indeed the peninsula is one of the vertices of the Caribbean triangle, as Sauer calls it. Therefore nothing is more appropriate than Florida being the host to the annual Caribbean conferences to discuss the Caribbean community in all its phases. The yearly gatherings of known

authorities, businessmen and scholars, at the campus of the University of Florida are acquiring more fame and are a genuine source of friendship among the diverse nationalities of the Caribbean domain.

The wide interest in these conferences is due mostly to the high caliber of their participants and the effort of the School of Inter-American Studies of the University of Florida in cooperation with the University of Florida Press to publish annually, in a handsome volume, the papers delivered at the conferences.

The 1953 conference, held in December and published by the Press the following year, dealt with the economy of the Caribbean. The book contains twenty contributions grouped into six parts: an introduction containing the speech of the Assistant Secretary of State for Latin American Affairs, which is now obsolete; followed by sections dealing with resources and production, manufacturing and investment, transportation and marketing, labor and industry, and culture and economy. Sixteen of the twenty papers were by our countrymen and the rest by Latin Americans, a somewhat unhealthy proportion.

In general all papers are good and solid. The fascinating topic of resources is sketched by such able voices of experience as Carl Sauer and Wilson Popenoe, old hands in Latin America. Alan Probert's essay on mining resources has plenty of facts, but his advice that Latin America can improve its condition by imitating the American system of free enterprise is tactless and undiplomatic. The words of the colorful mayor of San Juan, Sra. Rincon Gautiers, about Puerto Rico are enlightening and simple. The speech by a dean of the University of San Carlos in Guatemala about his country's resources and social progress is most candid and straightforward.

All the other essays are interesting. For example, an American businessman, Percy Magnus, speaks about the touchy issue of expropriations in the Caribbean and uses admirable moderation

and supplies the reader with thoughtful ideas. Another businessman, John M. Mitchell, manager of the export division of Alcoa, writes a noteworthy essay in his "Caribbean Trade - a Two-Way Street." His advice on how to behave in other countries is sound. To this reviewer it is the best chapter. A paper about roads and bridges is highly original. The chapter on housing and sanitation is scholarly and the only annotated essay of the book.

The last section about "Culture and the Economy" is somewhat unintegrated with the whole subject. The papers about music and drama are interesting and well delivered, but neither drama nor music is an important part of the Caribbean economy. That "Guatemalan Arts and Crafts" are important in that country's economy can be seen from the enlightened account of Lilly de Jongh Osborne. And Roscoe R. Hill's "Caribbean Archivalia" is written with the weight of his many years of experience in this field, but that too is far removed from the main topic.

In summary, the book is interesting, useful, and well done. The very minor defects are well over-shadowed by the many positive factors.

CHARLES W. ARNADE

*University of Tampa*

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#### EDUCATION IN FLORIDA

The Research Council of Florida State University issues a series of *Studies* under an Editorial Committee of which Dr. George Yost Jr. is chairman. Number Fifteen of the series, with Dr. Victor S. Mamatey as editor, is *Education in Florida, Past and Present* (182 p.). As the title indicates, this is partly historical, five of the papers in the volume being based on historical research.

*English School in Spanish St. Augustine, 1805*, by James E. McClellan, tells of a school in the English language in that Spanish town many years before the cession of Florida to the

United States. This is based largely on documents in the "East Florida Papers" in the Library of Congress, the most important source for all the history of the area during the second Spanish period.

Dr. Nita K. Pyburn who has written much relating to education in Florida in her nearly thirty years as a member of the staff of the College of Education of Florida State University, tells of *An Early Proposal for the Development of the State System of Education*, and includes a reprinting of the first annual report (1850) of the State Superintendent of Schools, John Beard. Numerous explanatory annotations are added by Dr. Pyburn who is well versed in the subject.

A study of the *Minutes of the State Board of Education, 1871-1895*, by S. E. Hand, covers that subject.

*A Preliminary History of Adult Education in Florida* (11 p.) by Dr. Coolie Verner includes schools established for the freedmen after the War for Southern Independence.

Dr. Sarah L. Hammond in *Historical Development of Schools for Young Children in Florida*, begins with private kindergartens 1875-1890, following with public county kindergartens, 1890-1946, and later programs. The article is documented with numerous references to official and other publications.

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#### EARLY FLORIDA MAPS

Early maps hold a fascination for many. It is interesting to trace the gradual growth of knowledge about a country with which you now are familiar. Especially is this true of Florida. Most coast lines are so similar to others they can scarcely be identified if not labeled; but on the very earliest maps of our part of North America you see at least the definite outline of a projection, under various names or none at all, which can only be our Florida of today.

The above was suggested in turning the pages of a recently published article by one who, through long study, has come to



know more of early Florida maps than any other two or three of us together. This is a reprint from *Imago Mundi, A Review of Early Cartography*, edited in Stockholm and printed in Leiden, entitled "Early Maps Relating to Florida" by David O. True of Miami.

Here is the Cantino map of 1502 - so very few years after Columbus - with a peninsula pointing to a large island. There follows more than a score of others in succession all undoubtedly showing our Florida peninsula. These include the Caverio map of 1504, the Waldseemuller of 1507, the Ptolemy of 1513.

If you are interested, suppose you write to Mr. True in care of The Historical Association of Southern Florida, 1340 DuPont Bldg., Miami.

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#### DADE COUNTY MEDICINE

The recently published *History of Medicine in Dade County* is all that the title implies. The author, Dr. John G. DuPuis, is the only surviving charter member of the Dade County Medical Society (Association), the official records of which from its organization in 1903 to 1915 have been lost; which two facts emphasize the importance of the volume and point to Dr. DuPuis as the one to undertake such a history. The comprehensive volume includes numerous related subjects: early hospitals, epidemics, Florida State Board of Health, pioneer nurses, drugstores, a list of early physicians with biographies of the principal ones, etc. etc.

#### *Early Schools*

The same volume includes a *History of Early Public Schools in Dade County* (82 p.) and *History of Early Agricultural Relations* (85 p.) for Dr. DePuis took a prominent part in public education and agricultural problems as well as medicine.

## KEY WEST

*The Martello Towers and the Story of Key West*, a folio brochure of 48 pages with numerous illustrations, first appearing in 1951, has been republished in a revised and enlarged edition. Construction of these towers, part of the fortifications of Key West, was begun shortly before the Civil War and carried to completion during that war. Since then they have largely fallen to decay, but are being restored in part by the Key West Art and Historical Society. You are invited to become a member of the Society, P.O. Box 913, Key West, where copies of the book mentioned may be obtained.

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 RECOLLECTIONS OF A PIONEER FLORIDA JUDGE

The first volume of these *Recollections*. . . was published two years ago. This was *'Gaters, Skeeters and Malary*, and the judge is Judge E. C. May of Inverness. Judge May has now given us another volume of the series, *From Dawn to Sunset* which is equally interesting. These are tales of pioneer Florida, and as the story teller saw or was a participant in many of the incidents and adventures, they will become an important part of Florida's folklore. Either volume can be obtained from Judge May himself.

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 THE NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

With the publication of *Knickerboker Birthday*, the New York Historical Society celebrates its sesqui-centennial, having had a continuous life since 1804.

This Society has become a national institution, for its collections and activities have grown and expanded in interest until its library is one of the important sources for historical research in the country. For example: here is the large collection of Florida historical material gathered by our Buckingham Smith, our foremost historian one hundred years ago.

The author of this history of the New York Historical Society is R. W. G. Vail, the present director of the organization and the library. It is a handsome volume of 547 pages with hundreds of illustrations, including the former homes of the Society and the present one facing Central Park which to us is a palace.

Our especial interest is the prominent place given George A. Zabriskie who held a keen interest in our Florida Historical Society and was one of our active members. He lived a good part of each year at his home in Ormond Beach where he died on January 2, last year. Former director Alexander J. Wall and the present director, Mr. Vail, are numbered among our Society's friends too.

Mr. Zabriskie, of 17th century American stock, was a leading member and official of the New York Society for thirty-four years, eight years of which he served as president. Through his efforts as treasurer, the Society was put upon its feet and enabled to build its present home. On retiring from the presidency, he was elected Honorary President for life.

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#### TWO CENTURIES OF A GEORGIA FAMILY

Among those who came to Georgia in 1732 with General Oglethorpe was a Noble Jones, a physician with other abilities. Jones settled on an island near the coast and called his home *Wormsloe*. The plantation which he began is still the home of his descendants of the sixth generation. A number of members of the family, as well as Jones himself, have taken a prominent part in Georgia's life and government in every generation, and a few of them in the larger life of this country; hence, a volume recently published: *Wormsloe, Two Centuries of a Georgia Family*, is a stone in the building of our country's history; and since the greater part relates to the first of the two centuries, it is a bit of the foundation of recorded Southern history.

The author is Dr. E. Merton Coulter of the University of

Georgia, whose numerous volumes on Southern history and whose editorship of the *Georgia Historical Quarterly* for many years is assurance that the volume is a thoroughly worthwhile if a minor stone.

This volume (Univ. of Georgia Press, 322 p.) is the first of a series to be issued by Wormsloe Foundation Publications which "will be largely important manuscripts relating to Georgia and the South."

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#### EARLY DAYS OF COASTAL GEORGIA

Though there are only occasional brief references to Florida, a recently published volume, *Early Days of Coastal Georgia*, will prove interesting and enlightening to Florida readers. The author, Margaret Davis Cate, a Georgia historian of note, in association with Dr. Orrin S. Wightman, an artist-photographer, determined some years ago to preserve in picture and story the vanishing life of coastal Georgia, as well as bring to life that which is gone. The result is a folio volume with full-page photographs on the left and the story behind each on the opposite page written by Mrs. Cate, the one preeminent for the task which to her was a labor of love. There are more than one hundred of these vivid pairs, and not one will disappoint the reader. The volume was published by the Fort Frederica Association of St. Simons, Georgia.

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#### COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, IN THE CONFEDERACY

Whatever is written about Columbus, Georgia, except what is purely local, frequently has some connection with West Florida history, both because of its proximity and because the Chattahoochee River (Apalachicola River in Florida) was a highway one hundred years ago. A recent publication, *Columbus, Georgia, in the Confederacy* is of interest for both reasons. The author is D. W. Standard, and the publisher, The William-Frederick Press, (N.Y.1954). \$2.00.

## SEMINOLE LIFE 100 YEARS AGO

A story of the Seminole Indian War, recently published, is *White Moccasins* by Louis Capron. While this is fiction, the author's *Medicine Bundles of the Florida Seminole and the Green Corn Dance*, published as *Anthropological Papers No. 35* in Bureau of Am. Ethnology Bull. 151 (1951) is abundant evidence of the authenticity of this story of the life of the Florida Indians one hundred years ago.

## BATTLE OF OLUSTEE

Much the most important battle ever fought on Florida soil, both from the number of men engaged and the results, was that of Olustee. A full and scholarly account, with a map of the four stages of the battle, by Dr. Mark F. Boyd appeared in this *Quarterly* (July 1950, xxix, pp. 2-37).

The site was marked and consecrated by a monument more than forty years ago. Now "an interpretive museum exhibit, designed and constructed by Florida State Museum of the University of Florida for the Florida Board of Parks and Historic Memorials" has been dedicated and formally opened on the site.

## THE HOUSE OF REFUGE MUSEUM

The Gulf Stream flowing northwards is near the shore along much of Florida's east coast; hence, through the centuries, this has been the path of vessels from the Gulf out into most of the Atlantic, and many in all eras have been wrecked on that shore. The beach is barren and there have been no habitations inland until recent years. So the few survivors who reached the shore nearly always perished from hunger. Brinton, in his "Guidebook of Florida" (1869) says that even as late as that there was but one house along ninety miles of beach, and in earlier times there was no human along most of the whole shore or inland. So in

1876 the U. S. Government established seven houses of refuge along the beach solely to save ship-wrecked mariners.

Only one of these houses has survived, and the Martin County Historical Society has established therein a museum with the above title. You are invited to become a member of the Society and thus have a part in building up the Museum. If you have anything which would be appropriate there, or relating in any way to Martin County, will you not make a permanent loan of it to the Society. The address is Box 1297, Stuart, Florida. You will receive all of their publications, the first of which is a complete "History of the House of Refuge."

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AN F.S.U. HISTORY PROJECT

Florida State University  
Southern History Business Center

*To the members of the Florida Historical Society:*

There has recently been launched at Florida State University a project in Southern history which will be of interest to members of our Society. This project, The Southern History Business Center, has been organized to collect the business records of pioneer firms of Florida and other Southern states. The collections obtained will be preserved in the F.S.U. Library, where they will be available for research studies by graduate students, faculty members, and visitors interested in history, business administration, economics, sociology, and related subjects.

We hope that you will give us your assistance in this undertaking. Do you know of any pioneer business men, or their heirs, who might have business records, no longer important for current business purposes, but which will contribute to the understanding of some industry, or some community or section? Tell us about them. Tell them about us. Explain to them that historical records should be preserved in public repositories where

they will be both safe and useful. This Center has been organized to explore, over many years, and as fully as may be possible, one vital aspect of our history. We invite you to participate in this enterprise, and to become partners with us in the development of a research center worthy of that great historical tradition which has so long been a part of our Southern heritage.

*Southern History Business Center*

*by M. M. Vance*

