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Special Issue Introduction by FHQ Editors

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500 Years of Florida History—The Long Nineteenth Century, 1877-1920

by Connie L. Lester and Daniel Murphree

In the planning of the 500 Years of Florida History series, we decided that the complexity of the nineteenth century was too challenging for a single issue. As a result, we divided the century at the end of Reconstruction and expanded it to 1920 and the extension of suffrage to American women with the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The seven articles that focused on the earlier decades of nineteenth century appeared in the winter issue of Volume 94 and were edited by James Cusick. Those articles covered a range of topics from literature to Native Americans and the Seminole Wars, runaway slaves, Confederate prisoners in the Civil War, and a Reconstruction-era African American physician. Cusick tied everything together with a historiographic essay on nineteenth-century Florida.

The fifth issue in the series takes up where the previous volume left off and is, in many ways, more tightly conceptualized. There are only three articles, but they focus more narrowly on two issues that consumed Florida public discourse—the role of African Americans in the social, political and economic life of the state and the debate over political rights.

Publication of this series would not be possible without the continued support of the Florida Historical Society and its members. The collective effort of the many supporters of the 500th Anniversary Special Issue series not only furthers the mission of the *Florida Historical Quarterly* but benefits all who are interested in the state's history.