

12-1-1983

The Log of H.M.S. Mentor, 1780-1781. Ed. James A. Servies

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Recommended Citation

Billingsley, Baxter (1983) "*The Log of H.M.S. Mentor, 1780-1781. Ed. James A. Servies,*" *Tampa Bay History: Vol. 5: Iss. 2, Article 10.*

Available at: <https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/tampabayhistory/vol5/iss2/10>

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Similar criticisms can be raised concerning the copious maps and plans presented in the book. These should be an aid to the reader's understanding of the text, and generally they are. Some, however, are more of a hinderance than an aid. North arrows are frequently omitted, exact locations of profile drawings should have been noted on the specific site plans, and two profiles give no elevations. An overall map of South Florida showing the Lake Okeechobee Basin and the exact location of Fort Center would have been a welcome addition, as well as a complete listing of the maps, plans and illustrations appearing in the text.

Perhaps the most disturbing aspect of the book for the general reader is its organization. Sears has tried to present the data recovered from the site before discussing its implications. Although this is a laudable theory of organization, in *Fort Center* it merely serves to confuse the reader. Many technical terms and discussions are taken for granted in the earlier chapters (e.g. the Calusa Indian empire, the Hopewell phenomenon, Period designations at Fort Center, and the deposit definitions used in the tables) and are not explained in simple terms until the later chapters. A rigorous system of cross-references would have been helpful, although a total reorganization of the chapters in the following sequence would be preferable: 1, 2, 9, 10, 3, 4, 6, 5, 7, 8, 11. Fewer questions are left unanswered if the reader follows the above order.

Despite all these shortcomings, Fort Center, the site, remains a significant and important excavation that raises interesting questions concerning Florida's prehistoric population. As the only substantial report of this fascinating site, Fort Center is invaluable. It is a shame, however, that the book was targeted at two different audiences, and this, unfortunately, has diminished its value for either one.

William M. Murray

The Log of H.M.S. Mentor, 1780-1781. Ed. James A. Servies. Introduction by Robert R. Rea. Gainesville, Florida. 1982. University Presses of Florida. Maps. Glossary. Pp. viii, 207. Cloth.

The major part of this book is the text of the personal log of Captain Robert Deans, R.N., commanding H.M.S. *Mentor*, during the brief service of that ship in the Royal Navy from March, 1780, to May, 1781. The text is copied from the original in the library of the University of West Florida and has been edited to modernize archaic symbols and phrases and to indicate differences between the captain's personal log and the official log submitted to the Admiralty. *Mentor* was a former privateer hastily purchased and commissioned at the height of the Revolutionary War to bolster England's weak naval forces in the Gulf of Mexico against America's ally, Spain. Following commissioning she was stationed at Pensacola to prey on Spanish shipping in the Gulf while protecting the scant British commerce. In 1781, when a superior Spanish force under the able leadership of Governor Bernardo Galvez laid siege to Pensacola, *Mentor* became an important element in the futile defenses of that city. Therein lies the principal interest of this volume for students of Florida history or the American Revolution. The log gives a fresh, if somewhat stark, account of the running battle between the British and the Spanish for control of the Gulf from the viewpoint of the British navy. It gives a day to day account of the battle for Pensacola in somewhat more detail than is usually found in naval logs. Perhaps this is because Deans, knowing that his light ships would be ineffective against the heavier Spanish fleet,

ordered them destroyed and moved his guns and men ashore to incorporate them in the land defenses. In the long run his sacrifice was futile. The British could neither find spare ships for action in the Gulf nor reinforce the garrison of Pensacola. The city capitulated May 9. Captain Deans was made prisoner and remained a hostage in the hands of the Spanish until the end of the war.

At best logs are dull and repetitious. In recognition of this fact introductory chapters written by Robert R. Rea provide explanations of the situation along the Gulf coast during the Revolution, a reconstructed description of the *Mentor*, a short sketch of the officers and crew, and a very interesting description of the *Mentor's* log. They do much to add meaning to the austere entries found in the log itself. Unfortunately, the printers have fouled up the notes following the explanatory chapters. Several pages are either missing or misnumbered. An appended glossary of "Names and Technical Terms" is very helpful for readers not familiar with eighteenth century naval terminology. An unnecessary but interesting account of Captain Deans' naval career after his capture is included in the first chapter. It includes the fact that a court martial of seven officers convened at his request to investigate his actions at Pensacola completely exonerated him. One of the members of the court was Horatio Nelson. After a long period in semi-retirement at half pay the *Mentor's* captain was elevated to the rank of "Admiral of the White" on the retired list.

Baxter Billingsley

Florida's 'French' Revolution, 1793-1795. By Charles E. Bennett. Gainesville, Florida. 1981. University Presses of Florida. Maps. Photographs. Notes. Appendix. Bibliography. Index. Cloth.

Most students of United States history are generally aware of "Citizen" Genet's audacious efforts to launch invasions of Spanish Florida from the United States during the early 1790s, and of his ultimate fate when a new revolutionary regime came to power in France. Congressman Bennett has investigated the episode from the vantage point of the Spanish-American border and its effects on Americans who had recently accepted Spain's invitation to settle in Florida. He has used the requisite supporting materials, but the testimony elicited from alleged conspirators John McIntosh, Richard Lang, Abner Hammond, John Peter Wagon, William Jones, and William Plowden by Governor Juan Nepomuceno de Quesada's officials and depositions from several witnesses constitute the basis and critical source for the book.

The first four chapters portray the complex military and diplomatic activities preceding Spain's reoccupation of Florida in the 1780s, Spain's effort to populate the province by making it attractive to Americans, "Citizen" Genet's efforts to include George Rogers Clark, Elijah Clark, Samuel Hammond and others in his audacious scheme, and the exposure of plans for a rebellion by Richard Lang and Abner Hammond.

In chapters five through eleven, the testimony of the accused and several witnesses is so arranged as to reconstruct the events of the widely rumored conspiracy of the Americans to revolt in the context of the Spanish government's efforts to ascertain whether there was such a conspiracy and who was involved in it.