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REVOLTING TAXES AREN'T NEW

By LU DOVI

Revolting taxes and irate taxpayers are indeed nothing new. Recently I discovered among some old papers a complaint, dated 1899, addressed by a relative of mine to the City Council of Tampa.

My relative, James Jackson, was the brother of my great grandfather, John Jackson, who surveyed downtown Tampa, named the streets, served several terms as mayor and owned a mercantile business. At one time the same Jacksons owned a great deal of property in this area and some Jacksons still do on the east side of Lake Carroll.

So I was particularly interested in James' complaint in which he stated:

"I have found, on careful inspection of the City Tax Books, that my property is valued excessively. On Franklin Street, for instance, where the average Real Estate valuation is \$120 per front foot, I am assessed at \$190. In other Parts of the City, where I own property, the same inequality in taxation is to be found. My improvements have, likewise, been valued in excess of what is right and just; in some instances, at more than their actual cost. I also find that I am assessed with \$8 personal tax; whereas I reside outside the City limits ... On examination of my Tax Receipts, for the last five years, I have ascertained that in the year 1892, the total tax on my City Property was \$435.85; and that this amount has steadily increased, beyond just needs, until the present year it has reached the outrageous volume of \$1041.45. Viewing the foregoing facts, and feeling that I am justified in

asking your protection against such unjust discrimination and excessive increase in taxation, I respectfully petition your Hon. Body, to reduce my assessment, for the year 1898, the sum of \$350."

"Respectfully yours,
James A. Jackson
Tampa, Florida
Feb. 23, 99"

I don't know how the matter turned out.