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Florida Lighthouses by Kevin M. McCarthy

John W. Stafford
University of South Florida

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supplied teachers for the tiny, rural, public school at St. Joseph, despite periodic opposition to the idea of employing nuns as teachers in public school.

In relating how all this took place, Professor Horgan provides far more than the history of an institution. *Pioneer College* appeals to much wider interests. It is rich in information regarding the growth of the Roman Catholic Church in Florida during the past century. Among the revealing details: Bishop Moore became infuriated when St. Leo students sang “My Country Tis of Thee” (an Irishman, he did not want to hear “God Save the Queen” under any guise); Theodore Roosevelt, when introduced to Abbot Charles Mohr at a meeting of Florida postmasters, was “de-lighted to meet a live Abbot” and commented that his previous acquaintance with abbots was in the novels of Sir Walter Scott. Roosevelt later called nation-wide attention to a pamphlet by Abbot Charles, written during the anti-Catholic furor drummed up by Florida Governor Sidney J. Catts.

Horgan also provides a wealth of information regarding the technology available in Florida in the early twentieth century. Not content just to mention that the old convent building (a three-story frame structure) was moved in 1911, he carefully describes how the move was accomplished: uphill, through the careful use of a winch, rope, pulleys, two oxen, some pine logs, and a crew of workmen. Such topics as well drilling at the turn of the century and the construction of the first poured-concrete-block building in Pasco County are also described in such a way as to provide the reader with a clear picture of how it was done.

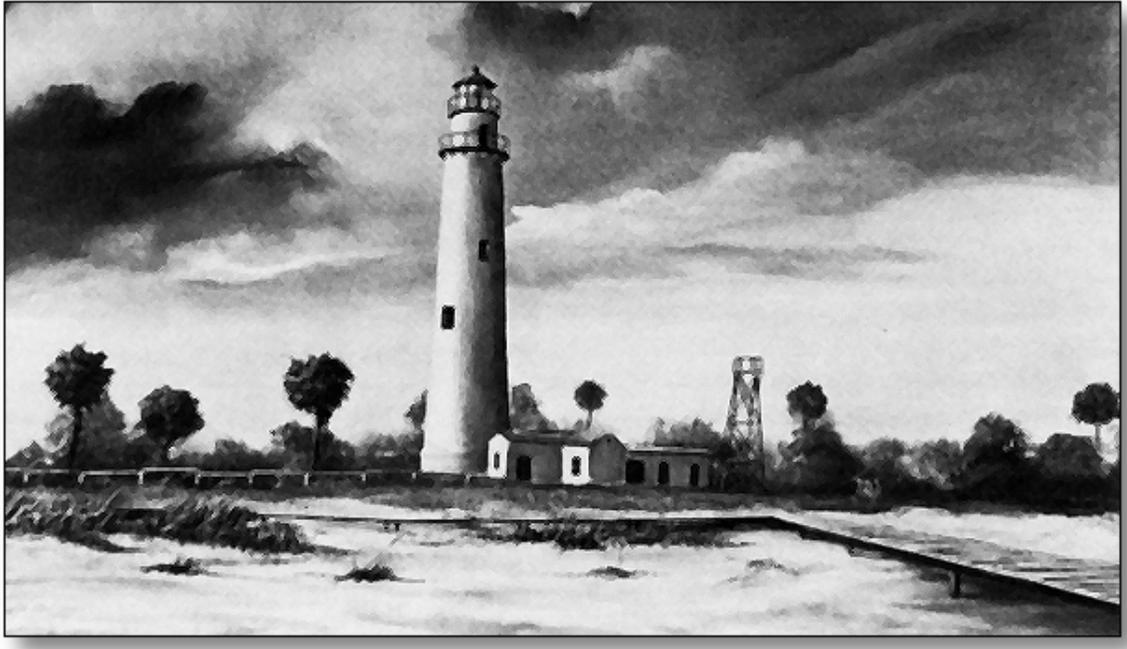
In writing *Pioneer College*, the author had the advantage of the detailed journals of a pioneer monk, Farther Benedict Roth, OSB (to whom the book is dedicated). This rich source is expanded by extensive interviews and careful research. The many personalities involved in the college’s early years come alive in Dr. Horgan’s lucid, readable prose.

Pioneer College provides an interesting, instructive, and thoroughly entertaining picture of private school life in Florida over the past hundred years. The appendices and footnotes are extensive and informative, although the index is somewhat scanty. All told, the book stands as a fine example of how histories of institutions should be written.

William G. Dayton

Florida Lighthouses. By Kevin M. McCarthy. Paintings by William L. Trotter. Gainesville, Florida. 1990. University of Florida Press. Pp. vii, 134. Illustrations. Maps. Index. Cloth. \$19.95. Paper. \$9.95.

This book of just 128 pages is chock full of informative facts about the history and development of lighthouses along both coasts of Florida. To avoid needless repetition, the author manages to weave a bit of history and personal insights into his brief treatment of each of Florida’s thirty lighthouses. The author visited all of the accessible lighthouses and examined records from national and state archives and old lighthouse logs. The result is an informative and entertaining narration. A painting of each lighthouse is included in the book to illustrate the structure as it might have appeared in its prime condition.



A painting by William L. Trotter of Egmont Key Lighthouse, located at the mouth of Tampa Bay.

Photograph from *Florida Lighthouses*, by Kevin M. McCarthy.

The author is clearly sympathetic to lighthouse keepers. He duly records the daily life of a keeper as lonely, isolated, and poorly paid. Entries in logs provide observations of weather conditions, names and numbers of passing ships, daily routines of lighting the lamp in the evening and turning it off in the morning, trimming the wick, polishing the lens, scraping, and painting. Keepers were called wick trimmers or simply wickers.

In addition, keepers were expected to keep a lookout for submarines and saboteurs during wartime and also act as game wardens to ensure that wildlife was adequately protected from would-be poachers. From time to time the keeper and his family were threatened by marauding pirates and Indians, as well as by periodic hurricanes and other storms.

Woven throughout the book are observations on the changing technology of lighthouses, including the transition from whale oil to lard, kerosene lamps, electricity, battery power and solar power. Eventually most, if not all, lighthouses were automated, thus reducing the need for a keeper to climb to the top of the lighthouse twice a day. Ultimately the keeper's job was eliminated entirely. The author makes note of various construction materials and techniques. He relates the periodic need to rebuild a lighthouse that had been destroyed by a hurricane or whose foundation had been eroded away by wave action. Occasionally, these acts of nature necessitated the relocation and rebuilding of a lighthouse some distance inland.

The appearance of lighthouses varied considerably. Many were painted white; others were painted black on the upper part to contrast with the sky and white on the bottom. Still others

were painted with stripes like a barber pole. Most were constructed of brick or cement block, but several were made of metal framework and slender cylindrical tube.

The book is informative and enjoyable from cover to cover and provides interesting reading for people of all ages, especially those with an interest in the history and geography of Florida.

John W. Stafford

Charles H. Jones, Journalist and Politician of the Gilded Age. By Thomas Graham. Tallahassee, Florida. 1990. Florida A & M University Press. Pp. x, 207. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Cloth. \$24.95.

Charles H. Jones wrote about nineteenth-century American politics, democratic ideals, and injustice in the American South. He overcame a fundamentalist upbringing in a rural Georgia family to become a progressive journalist and politician of national stature. He thrived in both pursuits before it became unfashionable to endeavor in the two fields simultaneously. An example of the personal journalism of the late nineteenth century, Jones used the editorial page of his newspapers to promote his own agendas for the communities where he lived and worked. Biographer Thomas Graham, professor of history at Flagler College, does an excellent job of chronicling Jones's complex career. Like most good historians, Graham is as perceptive as an interpreter as he is competent as a story-teller.

The author begins by eliciting our empathy for the young Charles Jones by describing his parents: a tightly wound, humorless father and a frail, religious mother. The self-educated Jones left his home in Talbotton, Georgia, to join the Confederate Army shortly before the end of the Civil War. It was not the last time Jones would pick a losing side; he later wrote the platforms for three losing Democratic presidential candidates.

Before expanding into politics, Jones excelled in journalism. Working in a New York dry goods store during the day, he wrote at night for local magazines and by the age of twenty-one became an editor. He then moved to Jacksonville, Florida, where he founded the *Florida Daily Times*, which competed with and later merged with the *Florida Union* to become one of the largest newspapers in the South. In 1893, he was hired by Joseph Pulitzer as editor-in-chief of the *New York Herald*. Later, Pulitzer sent Jones to St. Louis to run the *Post-Dispatch*. While in St. Louis, Jones aligned himself and the newspaper with the 1896 and 1900 presidential campaigns of William Jennings Bryan.

This book represents the best of two literary worlds. It includes enough formal documentation to please scholars and historians, but it is written in an informal style to appeal to the lay reader. The latter was probably a difficult task, considering the book was derived from Graham's University of Florida doctoral dissertation. The book is extremely anecdotal, and the author paints a vivid portrait of Jones' childhood, including an early account of his witnessing a slave auction. The author implies that it was that incident that planted the seed of liberal thought in Jones's mind.