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Flagler: Rockefeller Partner and Florida Baron by Edward N. Akin

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ethnic identity of the indigenous people. But this book is a major contribution toward understanding the unique and complex culture that was "the product of the frontier interaction between priest and Indian."

<div style="text-align: right">Nancy Marie White</div>

Flagler: Rockefeller Partner and Florida Baron. By Edward N. Akin. Gainesville, Florida. 1992. University Press of Florida. Pp. xiii, 305. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Paper $16.95.

The late Edward Akin spent fifteen years compiling this fascinating picture of businessman Henry Morrison Flagler. Flagler's birth in upstate New York, his decision to earn his livelihood at fourteen, his early success as an Ohio merchant, and his ultimate bankruptcy as a salt manufacturer are all shown to be a prelude to his amazing success as a partner in the Standard Oil Company. Although forced to start his business life over, Flagler set a new course, and his life goal of seeking wealth was in motion again.

The author first develops the various roles Flagler played during his active years as a full partner of John D. Rockefeller with their desks back-to-back during those start-up days at Standard in Cleveland. Although Flagler most likely brought some money to the arrangement, his most valuable contribution was his "business genius: a shrewdness in identifying new opportunities and then capitalizing on their potential" (27). Flagler is shown to be the skillful negotiator with the railroads and canal companies for favorable freight rates, with fellow refiners for "associations," and with federal and state lawmakers for advantageous laws and regulations. His familiarity with contracts as a result of these negotiations made Flagler the company legalist.
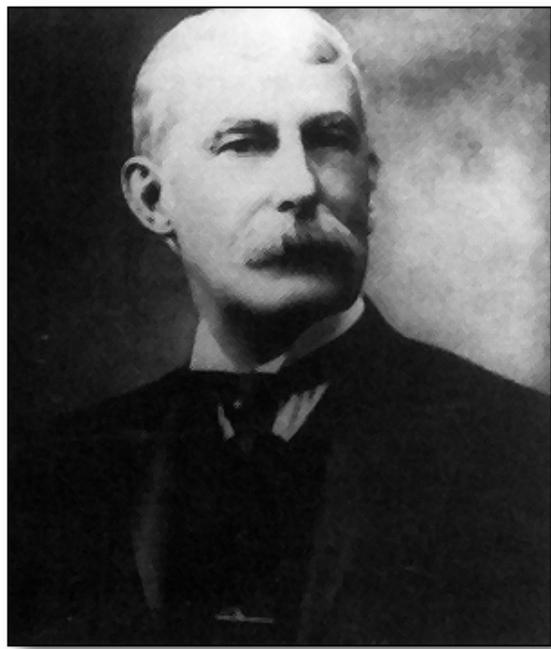
The author suggests that working at the giant Standard lost its appeal for Flagler who then turned his energies to developing Florida. Flagler attempted to control all the forces necessary to convert historic St. Augustine to "the Newport of the South" (116). Advertising, transportation, electricity, water, hotels, churches, shopping arcades, baths and cottages were all built, brought or renovated toward that end. Although the new "Newport" never quite materialized, the experience and energy of the attempt prepared Flagler for later, more successful developments at Palm Beach, Miami, and finally the railroad extension to Key West.

This book portrays Henry Flagler as the builder and business man who fulfilled the American Dream of rising from humble beginnings to great wealth. We meet his family, friends, and acquaintances. We see his motives, share his failures, and successes. It is an excellent look at the business world from just before the Civil War until the beginning of World War I and an important supplement to the relatively few available readings about the man.

<div style="text-align: right">R. Randolph Stevens</div>

The Historic Places of Pasco County. By James J. Horgan, Alice F. Hall and Edward J. Herrmann. Dade City, Florida. 1992. Pasco County Historical Preservation Committee. Pp. ix, 230. Illustrations. Index. Paper $5.00.

The Historic Places of Pasco County is a listing of 264 buildings, sites and objects designated as historic by the Pasco County Historical Preservation Committee. Authored by three current committee members who draw on unpublished research in addition to a list of published works on Pasco County's communities, this local register of historic places has been fifteen years in the making. The Preservation Committee was guided in its designation of historic sites by nine criteria, outlined in the introduction. The rich image of Pasco County's past is enhanced by historic photographs gleaned from the archives of the University of South Florida Special Collections and the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library. Organized alphabetically by community name and by site name within each community, Pasco County's historic sites are presented from Aripeka in chapter two to Zephyrhills in chapter twenty-four. Non-extant communities are treated as sites under the community headings. Appendices listing the cemeteries and post offices of Pasco County complete this presentation of the county's designated historic resources.

Henry M. Flagler (1907).

Photograph from *Flagler* by Edward N. Akin.

Chapter one opens this survey of Pasco County's heritage with a profile of Samuel Pasco, relating the story of the naming of the county at the time it was partitioned from Hernando County in 1887. Local boosters managed to keep legislative action creating the new county on track over the objections of a strong Brooksville lobby. The Harvard-educated Pasco, a politically effective resident of Monticello in Jefferson County since 1859, had no direct connection to the county that now bears his name. In fact, it is not known that he ever visited Pasco County.

The chapter on Aripeka presents the Old Aripeka Post Office, originally built in 1895, an institution that survived the partitioning of Hernando County. Here, the logging operations of the Aripeka Saw Mill Corporation, named for the Seminole chief, are first discussed. Chapter three on Bayonet Point offers the first glimpse into the lives of some of the persons involved in the county's logging industry. The chapter on Dade City, the county seat, with 107 designated sites, is the first with an adequate sampling of sites to offer any meaningful view of the community's history. The second site of Fort Dade, the Old Pasco County Courthouse, combined with representative examples of ecclesiastical, commercial and residential buildings, begin to offer the reader a perspective on the community's heritage.

The designation of a community's historic sites should be preceded by a survey process that includes identification, documentation and evaluation of the sites being considered. The physical,