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## Book Notes

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**Samuel Proctor**

## **BOOK NOTES**

*Florida's Heritage of Diversity: Essays in Honor of Samuel Proctor.* Mark I. Greenberg, William Warren Rogers, and Canter Brown, Jr., editors. Tallahassee, Florida, 1997. Sentry Press. xiv, 245 pp. Illustrations. Tables. Notes. List of Contributors. Index. Cloth – \$24.50.

*Florida's Heritage of Diversity: Essays in Honor of Samuel Proctor* is a festschrift appropriate to its honoree. Samuel Proctor, now Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus at the University of Florida, served as editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly* for thirty-one years. He was a pioneer in the field of Florida oral history, an avid preservationist, and a lifelong teacher. The essays in *Florida's Heritage of Diversity* cover many of Proctor's areas of specialization, including Florida's Native American history and the history of Jews in Florida. The authors, most of whom are Florida-educated, are themselves a testament to Proctor's mission to expand and enhance history programs both at the university and community levels.

Of particular interest to readers in the Tampa area may be Mark Greenberg's "Tampa Mayor Herman Glogowski: Jewish Leadership in Gilded Age Florida." This essay looks at Glogowski's service during Tampa's explosive late nineteenth-century growth, an era that saw the introduction of telephone service, streetlights, and Henry Plant's rail service. This is the same railroad

growth, suggests Harry A. Kersey, Jr., in “The Florida Seminoles, 1880-1990: Cultural Survival, Political Revitalization, and the Exercise of Sovereignty,” which helped destroy traditional Seminole economic independence. Also of note are the contributions of two of this region’s historians: “Prelude to the Poll Tax: Black Republicans and the Knights of Labor in 1880s Florida” by Canter Brown, Jr., and “Cracker Women and Their Families in Nineteenth Century Florida” by James M. Denham. In addition to other essays dealing with marriage in St. Augustine, black troops in Florida during the Civil War, African-American leadership in post-Civil War Florida, mob violence in Tallahassee, Florida during World War II, and “The Latinization of Florida,” an essay by Ralph L. Lowenstein pays tribute to Samuel Proctor.

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*Hernando de Soto Among the Apalachee: The Archaeology of the First Winter Encampment.* By Charles R. Ewen and John H. Hann. Foreword by James J. Miller. Gainesville, 1998. University Press of Florida. xvi, 238 pp. Illustrations. Tables. References. Index. Paper – \$29.95.

In April 1987, Paul Harvey’s radio show listeners were treated to an unexpectedly dated bit of news. After 450 years, archaeologists had finally pinned down the site of one of Florida’s earliest European settlements, Hernando de Soto’s winter encampment in Apalachee territory. Soon the spot, in the center of Tallahassee, was swarming with a combination of excited archaeologists and curious tourists, in addition to the beleaguered contractors who had been just days from laying in a driveway on the land. A great race ensued, as the discoverers cobbled together enough funding and enough artifacts to stop plans for development.

De Soto’s remnants range from the typical (majolica shards and chain mail links) to the macabre (the remains of a man burned at the stake), mirroring the experience of the expedition. Likewise, the historic record is divided in its presentation of de Soto, with some seeing him as a cavalier, while others insist that his careless brutality should be at the center of his image. Ewen and Hann helpfully include the documentary record of the encounter, drawing the reader into the discussion, just as their clear presentation of the excavation draws the reader happily into the dirt of the site.

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*The Supreme Court of Florida and Its Predecessor Courts, 1821-1917.* By Walter W Manley II, editor and co-author, with E. Canter Brown, Jr., contributing editor and coauthor, and Eric W. Rise, co-author. Forewords by Richard W. Ervin, Stephen C. O’Connell, and Kenneth W. Starr. Gainesville, Florida, 1998. University Press of Florida. xi, 454 pp. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Cloth – \$49.95.

This beautifully researched work traces the development of Florida’s Supreme Court, beginning with the territory’s legal struggles during Andrew Jackson’s gubernatorial administration and following them through the Progressive era. Manley divides the text into five historical periods, presenting for each the landmark decisions and political machinations that shaped the court. Discussions of the issues are interspersed with frequent biographical sketches,

which are equally, if not more, illuminating. Manley's explorations of the judiciary's personalities are reminders of the complexity and occasional caprice of legal and state history.

A welcome addition to the growing body of legal history writings, this book is also widely readable; the court is viewed in the broader context of Florida's social, economic, and demographic growth. Its writers are from the fields of business administration, history, and criminal justice, and their array of perspectives offers a good model of cross-disciplinary collaboration. The result is a book which ought to interest readers of history, politics, and law. Indeed, as the book points out, the Florida Historical Society was founded by George Raney, a politician who became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Florida.

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**Odet Philippe**

*Odet Philippe: Peninsular Pioneer.* By J. Allison DeFoor, II. Foreword by Raymond Arsenault. Safety Harbor, Florida, 1998. Safety Harbor Museum of Regional History. viii, 69 pp. Illustrations. Appendices. Bibliography. Index. Cloth – \$17.95.

Odet Philippe, the first European settler of Pinellas County, has been described as everything from a nobleman student of Napoleon Bonaparte to “a French quack.” He is reputed to have been a pirate, or at least a pirate fence, as well as an illegal slave trader; he was in any case no stranger to litigation. On the other hand, he is credited with introducing the grapefruit to Florida, as well as producing Tampa's first cigars. Though he disowned his oldest daughter upon her marriage, he was careful to provide for his adopted daughter in a trust. Indeed, it is hard to imagine Philippe as a forefather of the sleepy town of Safety Harbor.

This biography, some of which appeared originally in *Tampa Bay History*, is well-researched by Allison DeFoor, a descendent of Philippe, who has pieced together a broad range of sources in tracing his subject's background, travels, and work. These paint a picture of an indefatigable entrepreneur. Philippe variously operated a billiard hall, an oyster shop, and a cigar factory. Philippe's life, however, does not easily give up its secrets, and many of the facts simply lead to other questions. Perhaps it is fitting that so vibrant a figure should resist being laid to rest; this is a work in progress, but it presents the best portrait of Odet Philippe yet available.

*Florida's Black Public Officials, 1867-1924.* By Canter Brown, Jr. Tuscaloosa, Alabama, 1998. The University of Alabama Press. xiii, 252 pp. Illustrations. Biographical Directory. Appendix. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Cloth - \$44.95; paper - \$22.50.

In *Florida's Black Public Officials, 1867-1924*, Canter Brown offers a statewide study of blacks in public offices from Reconstruction through the first quarter of the twentieth century. The first section of the book is a history of black political and civic participation, tracing the route by which Floridian blacks came into power in the post-Civil War period, the political struggles they faced, and their eventual disenfranchisement. Obstacles came from both outside the black community, as in the case of Presidential policies, as well as from within, as divisiveness diminished support from AME churches. Nevertheless, Brown's research shows that blacks served in public positions to an extent historians have widely underestimated, suggesting the strength of black resistance to disenfranchisement after Reconstruction.

Perhaps as a counter to that underestimation, the second and third sections of Brown's book are devoted to biographical and geographic directories. Though Brown admits in his introduction that the scope of his research limited his study (he does not include, for example, blacks who served on school boards, as postmasters, or as militia officers), his listing is nevertheless an archive in itself. The biographical directory includes dates, positions, and terms of service, and, where possible, either public records or personal quotes. John Hurston, we read, was mayor of Eatonville, and "beloved by his church," in addition to being the father of Zora Neale Hurston. Benjamin W. Thompson, lawyer and farmer, of the Florida House of Representatives, suffered an attack which left him unable to drag himself home; the *Monticello Advertiser* reported "We do not think that politics was at the bottom of this dastardly affair." The third section organizes these men, numbering over 600, by county and office. This book should be of help to those wishing to flesh out the contours of Florida history during the Jim Crow era; its research offers new angles from which to view Southern politics as well as black civic history.

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*Ossian Bingley Hart: Florida's Loyalist Reconstruction Governor.* By Canter Brown, Jr. Baton Rouge, 1997. Louisiana State University Press. xx, 320 pp. Illustrations. Note on Sources. Index. Cloth - \$40.00.

This biography looks at Governor Ossian Bingley Hart, whose death in 1874 took him from office after just fourteen months. This brevity, coupled with Hart's often unpopular political stances, has often erased him from historians' thoughts; author Canter Brown observes that Hart's opponents found "a need for him to be forgotten." In resurrecting Hart, Brown hopes to shed light on Reconstruction-era Florida.

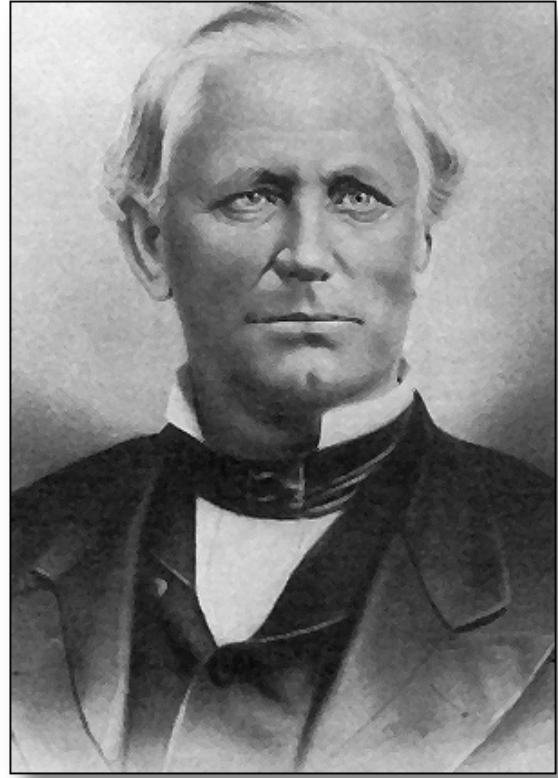
Hart's terms in office were characterized by the contradictions that led to and followed the Civil War. Though the ante-bellum owner of over fifty slaves, Hart fully expected the war to free them, and he was a staunch if naive proponent of voting rights for blacks. As a politician, he served in a state government scrambling to balance irreconcilable interests - northern investors, increasingly influential black voters, and southern whites in both the Democratic and Republican parties. This biography suggests that Hart's turmoil was an apt statement about Florida politics.

Fittingly, the site of Ossian Bingley Hart's Tampa house is now the home of the Hillsborough County Courthouse.

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*Come to my Sunland: Letters of Julia Daniels Moseley from the Florida Frontier, 1882-1886.* Edited by Julia Winifred Moseley and Betty Powers Crislip. Gainesville, 1998. University Press of Florida. xiv, 249 pp. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Cloth – \$29.95.

“Can you imagine a neglected corner in the Garden of Eden,” Julia Moseley wrote to her friend Eliza Slade, “where you could look up fifty feet and see air plants growing on the branches of great oaks and hundreds of ferns nodding to you up there in the sunlight and the grey moss like a mist?” Moseley’s query resonates now as it must have a hundred years ago; these are the kind of letters that will make you yearn for a world as new as Florida was to her in 1882. With skirts hemmed up to her knees for gardening and hiking, Moseley set about carving a place in her newfound paradise – arranging flowers ( like a breeze grown into a blossom of gold), hunting out wild plums, fashioning wallpaper out of saw palmetto and a handbag out of a killed rattlesnake.



**Ossian Bingley Hart**

Luckily, she was also a prodigious letter-writer, with an eye to posterity. *Come to My Sunland* is her own collection, the letters she copied into a leather journal for her children and grandchildren to read. As such, we can read it in two ways. The letters provide an invaluable glimpse into Moseley’s world and perceptions, a harsh and gorgeous landscape harboring a curious admixture of entrepreneurial settlers, cadaverous crackers, ex-slaves, and the Utopian Mrs. Averill, who thinks everything belongs to the world. What Moseley offers less consciously is herself as a woman. “I loathe nine-tenths of the things that go to make up the daily round of a woman’s life,” she confided to Eliza. Nevertheless, she knew the value of her observations, which she carefully preserved and handed down to the next generation; the record of that gesture should be as valuable to us as what she wrote.

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*Jannus, An American Flier.* By Thomas Reilly. Gainesville, Florida, 1998. University Press of Florida. 240 pp. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Cloth – \$29.95.

Tony Jannus won a place in aviation and local history by piloting the world's first scheduled air flight in a 1914 trip between St. Petersburg and Tampa. However, his pioneering contributions to

aviation went far beyond this single feat. In this first complete account of his life, Thomas Reilly records the many contributions of Jannus and his relationships with better known aviation pioneers, such as Glenn Curtiss and Thomas Benoist. Drawing on extensive research, Reilly documents Jannus's life as a barnstormer, test pilot, and romantic figure in the early days of aviation, beginning with test flights in 1910 and ending with his premature death in Russia while delivering bombers to the Romanov government. This engaging account will appeal to specialists in aviation history and general readers interested in a magnetic character, whose brief life intersected the history of the Tampa Bay area.

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*The Tampa Tribune: A Century of Florida Journalism.* By Bentley Orrick and Harry L. Crumpacker. Foreword by James D. Head. Tampa, 1998. The University of Tampa Press. 479 pp. Illustrations. Notes. Index. Cloth – \$34.95.

This celebration of the *Tribune's* centennial anniversary is more than just a look at the workings of a newspaper; it provides a survey of the history of Tampa. Orrick and Crumpacker trace not only the *Tribune's* reportage, but also Tampa's politics, including early Cuban resistance movements, and the ongoing struggles for civil rights and women's equality. Vignettes and headlines range from charming (Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings' correspondence about how fishing has spoiled her for work) to ghastly ("MOB SEARCHES FOR FIEND" in Rosewood), reflecting the turbulent times in which the *Tribune* found its feet.

Above all, though, this is a compelling book to flip through. Sometimes the material seems strikingly current, as when the *Tribune* took a stance against politicians' "rabid radio talk" against one another during elections. Other entries point to the difficulty of assessing the history of a newspaper. The front page on August 7, 1945, features one of George White's cartoons, depicting a blackened bomb victim being laughingly welcomed into Heaven, while a nearby sidebar is headlined "Atomic Bomb Could Wipe Out World." A newspaper record is a great window into the past, and Tampa readers should be particularly interested in this one.

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*Scenic Driving Florida.* By Jan Godown. Helena, Montana, 1998. Falcon Press. 176 pp. Illustrations. Paper – \$15.95.

This guidebook offers twenty-seven different drives through many of Florida's relatively undiscovered sites. Authored by Jan Godown, a Tallahassee resident and freelance writer, the book includes not only descriptions about points of interest but also historical insights that give a good sense of the state's rich history. In addition, *Scenic Driving Florida* provides up-to-date travel information for trip planning.