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Books in Brief

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BOOKS IN BRIEF

Hardee County: Its Heritage and People. By Spessard Stone (St. Petersburg: Southern Heritage Press, 2007. iii, 310 pp. Preface, B&W photographs, maps, appendices, acknowledgments, selected bibliography, index. \$100.00 hardcover in glazed pictorial boards)

Created in 1921, Hardee County was named for Cary Augustus Hardee, Florida's twenty-third governor (1921-25). The new book by the Wauchula historian and genealogist Spessard Stone is the first comprehensive history of the county ever written. Although Louise K. Frisbie's *Peace River Pioneers* (1974) and Canter Brown's *Florida's Peace River Frontier* (1991) contain significant information about the Hardee area, the only previous book-length publication on the county's history was Jean Plowden's eighty-two-page *History of Hardee County* (1929).

Hardee County: Its Heritage and People is the culmination of Stone's three decades of researching and writing about Hardee County and its historical antecedents. The first third of the book focuses primarily on the period 1843-1920, when Hardee was successively part of Hillsborough, Manatee, and DeSoto Counties. The remaining two-thirds covers Hardee County proper, from its establishment in 1921 to 2007. This section examines in detail the county's political, economic, religious, and social development. Throughout the book, readers will find biographical and genealogical information about individuals and families significant in the area's transformation from a wilderness frontier to a twenty-first-century community.

The author's research appears to have been extensive and meticulous, though the book's lack of notes makes it difficult to ascertain his sources except where they are cited in the text itself. Nonetheless, Stone's well-written, extensively illustrated history is a useful addition to any serious Floridiana collection, and should have particular appeal to readers interested in the history of the Peace River valley area and its pioneer families.

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The Tampa Bay History Center's new home is Hillsborough County government's first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certified Building. This certification is a huge undertaking in planning and construction. In keeping with our commitment to green initiatives, the text pages of this publication are printed on Finch Casa Opaque. Finch Casa is 30% post consumer waste recycled paper and is also fully recyclable. In addition, the cover is made from 10% post consumer recycled stock. The journal is printed with 100% soy inks, and all waste during the printing and bindery process is recycled.

