

JOHN B. STETSON UNIVERSITY

HISTORY AND REMINISCENCES

By  
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### Introductory Note

On various occasions it has been suggested that I write a history of John B. Stetson University. The following account of Backgrounds and Beginnings may be considered the initial chapter of such an undertaking, whether or not the circumstances shall permit continuation.

Immediately upon graduation from the University of Rochester in 1888, I was appointed to the position of Latin and Greek, and custodian of the infant library in DeLand Academy, President Forbes being the brother of my Greek professor, and two Rochester men having been on the DeLand faculty the previous year. My connection with the institution has not been altogether continuous, but it has included over forty years of my life.

The Florida which I first saw could not have been very different from what it was at the first opening of the Academy only five years before. I, of course, had personal contact with some of those who have been here years before my arrival, and from them I learned much regarding previous situations and events. Freedom from error cannot be expected, but sincere effort has been made that all statements of fact be impartially based on authentic evidence, whether from individuals or from available records and publications.

## CHAPTER I

### Backgrounds and Beginnings

The initial incident leading to the founding of the institution now known as John B. Stetson University and the city in which it is located was the visit to Florida in 1876 of Mr. Henry A. DeLand, of Fairport, New York, a successful businessman and prominent Baptist layman.

In dealing with the backgrounds and beginnings of the institution, it may be of interest to consider not only the men prominently concerned, but the locality. DeLand became the county seat of Volusia County, and Volusia County possesses to an exceptional degree what, to a certain extent, is true of Florida in general. Here we find in striking contrast the old and the new, the scenes of some of the earliest events of American history and a wide range of undeveloped country. This was particularly true when Mr. DeLand came in 1876. Volusia County is a tract of about thirty miles wide bounded on the west by the St. John's River and on the east by the Atlantic Ocean. Not only are the respective margins of exceptional interest and attractiveness, but even with the limits of Volusia County they are the scenes of centuries of romantic and tragic historic events.

The St. John's is one of the world's most beautiful rivers. While it lacks the lofty shores of the Rhine and the Hudson, it has compensating charms. As one familiar with it reads Longfellow's description of the Mississippi as traversed by Evangeline, he feels that much of the detail applies to

the broad stretches of the St. John's as seen in the northern part of Volusia County and a little farther south as the narrower stream twists and bends between picturesque banks covered with varied vine draped semi-tropical foliage, he feels that language is hardly adequate to suggest its beauty.

The enthusiastic naturalist Bartram in his volume Travels, published in Philadelphia in 1781, gives a detailed account of his solitary row-boat trip up the St. John's in 1774 over a hundred years before the arrival of Mr. DeLand. To one interested in Volusia County it is of special interest to follow, step by step his detailed description of the river from Lake George at the north and west corner of the county down to what with little or no doubt was Lake Beresford only a few miles from DeLand. Bartram's primary interest is botanical, and from him we learn in detail the vast variety of plant life natural to the region; but he does not neglect animal life and we are introduced to a series including mosquitoes, deer, bears, and twenty foot alligators.

A few miles further would have taken him into Lake Monroe at the southwest corner of the county, the point that marked the head of the navigation up the river. Incidentally, it is a pity that changes in our transportation system have caused discontinuance of the regular steam boat service up the St. John's. In connection with his visit at Beresford, Bartram gives a detailed description of what seems to have been Blue Springs to which his host, a British planter, conveyed him. There are at least three springs of this sort in Volusia County,

one, DeLeon Springs, only a few miles north west of DeLand, and one near Lake Monroe. They all could be described in somewhat similar terms. Some of Bartram's characterizations are as follows: "A vast fountain of warm or rather hot mineral water, which issued from a ridge or bank on the river in a great cove or bay--it boils up in great force, forming immediately a vast circular basin capacious enough for several shallops to ride in, and runs with rapidity into the river. This creek which is formed instantly by this admirable fountain is wide and deep enough for a sloop to sail up in to the basin." The perfect transparency, unpleasant odor and bluish tint of the water is also mentioned.

These springs, which constitute one of the most striking natural features of Florida result from the fractures of the rock ceilings and subterraneous streams, flowing southward from higher elevations. Up through these fractures pour tremendous floods. DeLeon Springs, only a few miles northwest of DeLand, pours forth a volume capable of propelling a huge undershot water wheel. The power produced has, at various times, been utilized to operate machinery, the latest being an electric motor to furnish light for the surrounding park. This place has historic as well as physical interest even if we discard the dubious legends that have grown up about it. The huge old chimney and the row of brick furnace arches, evidently used for making sugar naturally take us back to the period of early British occupation.

An item bearing on the history of the region is the ref-

erence to numerous mature orange groves. At least a dozen such groves are mentioned in connection with Bartram's trip south of Lake George, and an island in that lake is said to be one entire orange grove. As the British had taken over Florida only eleven years previous to Bartram's trip, and as British planters are regretfully spoken of as clearing away the groves, they must have anteceded British occupancy. Is it possible that there had been Spanish settlers up the St. John's or had the Indians obtained the seed of the plants from the early Spanish missionaries? Bartram also mentions a grove of almost incredible extent in the New Smyrna section.

There is little question that the lower St. John's was explored very early. In 1564 Fort Caroline, called the "first Christian settlement within the borders of the United States" was founded by the French Huguenots a few miles above the mouth of the St. John's. Just how far these explorations extended is uncertain, but they may have reached the border of Volusia County.

An early Spanish king is recorded as directing an exploration of the sources of the St. John's. When we consider how early the mouth of the river was known and what a major means of access the St. John's offered to the interior of Florida, and how important it was to know to what goals it led, it becomes probable that its exploration was even more extensive and detailed than available records indicate. As we have seen, the numerous orange groves which Bartram found along the river soon after the arrival of the British would

indicate if not the early presence of Spaniards, at least their influence, through missions, upon the Indians.

When we turn to the eastern margin of Volusia County we find noteworthy elements of physical and historical interest.

The northeast corner of the county is only about forty miles south of St. Augustine; and the southeast corner still fewer miles north of Cape Canaveral; an early Spanish American history abounds in references to those two places and the intervening region.

Physically, the eastern margin is distinctive. The beach does not skirt the mainland, but is along narrow strips of land, peninsulas or islands separated from the mainland by bodies of water, which, from their form and proportions are paradoxically called rivers instead of sounds. Formerly they were known as north and south Mosquito Inlets, while Halifax River and Indian River have replaced the earlier names of the sounds.

The broad, straight hard beach near the present Daytona must be distinctive for it has been used in recent years internationally as the place for automobile speed contests, now superceded by the shore of the Utah Salt Lake.

The history of eastern Volusia includes two contrasting groups of events: two hundred years of Spanish missionary activity, and three hundred years abounding in varied warfare.

From the very beginning of the Spanish occupation of Florida, missionary friars were brought with the professed aim to Christianize and civilize the Indians. However, in-



consistent governors at many times may have been in practical emphasis of this aim, it was constantly professed, and the history of the missions abound in accounts of heroic sacrifices and numerous martyrdoms.

The Jesuits were not very successful in this section and transferred their activities further south and north. The greatest success was with the Franciscans. Geiger in his "The Franciscan Conquest of Florida" claims that before the landing of Plymouth Rock, Florida Indians had been taught to read, write, and sing. At one point reference is made to six thousand Christian Indians.

It is difficult to recognize place names in the Spanish records. The center of the missionary work was St. Augustine, from which it extended to the north, the west, and the south. We are repeatedly told that it involved the entire region from St. Augustine to Cape Canaveral, which, of course, would include Volusia County. The region of the Indian River is frequently mentioned. Granted that it is in error to regard the ruins at New Smyrna as belonging to an early Spanish mission, it is still not improbable that so favorable a place was a center of missionary activity; and the extensive orange groves which Bartram reported having there at just about the time of the British occupation would seem to indicate Spanish activity. Maps indicate that there was a mission center near the northwestern corner of the present Volusia County, the exact location of which center is not known.

Geiger's volume, a doctor's thesis on "The Franciscan



Conquest of Floride," claims that Spanish missionary activity, which began almost at the beginning of Spanish occupation was a continued success until Florida was taken over by the English.

One may question whether any part of the United States has been the scene of more varied and more numerous armed conflicts than has the eastern coast of Florida. From the Spanish attack on the French Huguenots at Fort Caroline near the mouth of the St. John's on to clashes during the Civil War in 1862 and 1863, the Florida east coast has witnessed clash after clash. French, Spanish, Indian, Dutch, British, and the United States forces have been involved. Much has centered around St. Augustine, but one finds frequent reference to the coast between St. Augustine and Cape Canaveral, which, as we have seen, includes Volusia County.

Histories of Florida abound in accounts of voyages along the east coast of the state from the time of Ponce de Leon and we are told that both from its height and its position, Turtle Mound, an old Indian shell mound on the east Volusia shore was probably the most conspicuous object which these navigators, coasting at a distance, would see. Only a few miles north of Turtle Mound is historic New Smyrna. Great Britain in 1763 secured sovereignty and this sovereignty lasted but twenty years. The English then receded Floride to Spain in exchange for the Bahamas. These twenty years were a period of spectacular development. Extended land grants were allotted to prominent British citizens both along the east coast and along the St. John's River. The interesting ruins of an old sugar

mill at what is now known as DeLeon Springs, and early settlement at Lake Beresford witness to the movement in western Volusia. The Turnbull Colony at New Smyrna was the most significant of all.

Dr. Andrew Turnbull was one of the Englishmen to receive an extended grant along the eastern border of Volusia County. His wife was a cultured and brilliant woman of Greek race, a native of Smyrna, Asia Minor, a circumstance which occasioned the name of their colony, New Smyrna. Very promptly and efficiently Dr. Turnbull secured a large body of settlers of various races and nationalities and a prosperous colony was organized. New Smyrna is referred to as at one time having over twelve hundred population. Various criticism and controversies marred relationships at times, but various remains testify to the significance of the enterprise. We still see the drainage canals and the ruins of the massive and extended sugar mill. There is no question that this ambitious structure was used as a sugar mill during the English occupation. Some have maintained that we have here the ruins of an old Spanish mission that was later converted into a mill, but their view seems to be discredited by recent authorities. When Florida was receded to Spain, British population and activity in this region seemed almost instantly to have disappeared. New Smyrna was destroyed and its surroundings again became a wilderness, the town later to be rebuilt from time to time.

Another Volusia County town with several decades of interesting history prior to Mr. DeLand's initial visit is Enter-

prise. Its location is important as being at the head of navigation by the St. John's River. Early explorers of the river probably reached this point on the shore of Lake Monroe at the south extremity of the county. It was common, we are told, for passengers bound for the east coast to come this far by river boat and cross over to the beach by land. Settlement began about 1840. For many years the Brock House, situated here was well known in entertaining nationally known guests.

Such, then, was the territory of the present Volusia County upon Mr. DeLand's arrival, almost its entire borders rich in historic associations and picturesque beauty, but most of its surface bare and uninhabited.

This chapter on backgrounds and beginnings opens with the statement that, "The initial incident leading to the founding of the institution now known as John B. Stetson University and the city in which it is located was the visit to Florida in 1876 of Mr. Henry A. DeLand of Fairport, New York." So far we have been considering the section to which he came.

We next turn our attention to the man. The fruitfulness of what he did here was no mere accident but the natural projection of his rich personality, for he was a successful businessman of absolute integrity, almost sacrificially generous, and recognized as a leader in manifold religious, educational and civic activities.

Henry Addison DeLand was born at Newark, New York, of

Huguenot and New England ancestry, October 25, 1834. He attended the Macedon Academy and taught for a time. The greater part of his life he spent in Fairport, New York, a town only a few miles from the beautiful and enterprising city of Rochester, almost near enough to be considered a suburb. The DeLand's interests and activities are so articulated with Rochester that one naturally asks what the city is like. From 1877 to 1881 he was a member of the Monroe County Board, the most important part of Monroe County being the city of Rochester.

Situated at the upper falls of the Genessee River, it early was a milling center and it was known as "The Flour City." When later the milling industry was moved to the west and Rochester became a center for nurserymen and florists, the spelling was changed to "The Flower City." Building and loan associations were early developed and house ownership became the prevailing custom. At one time there was a report upon the percentage of owner-occupied homes in the American cities of a hundred thousand population and over and Rochester headed the list. The prominence of the nursery industry encouraged the practice of having well kept lawns with ornamental shrubs and flowers. From the beginning, the people of Rochester were successful in securing industries of a high class. Their industrial population was relatively well paid and prosperous. All these factors combine to make the city one of neat, well kept homes with little of the ugly or shabby.

Rochester is also a religious and educational center

noted for great churches and distinguished pastors.

An unsuccessful attempt to move Madison University, now Colgate, from Hamilton in central New York to Rochester, led to the establishment under Baptist auspices about 1850, of the University of Rochester. From the very beginning it operated with marked success as a moderate sized liberal arts college. For the next half century its courses were largely prescribed and the faculty limited in number, but practically consisting of a group of mature distinguished scholars, great Christians, and great teachers. For thirty-five years, 1853 to 1888 that heroic personality, Dr. Martin B. Anderson, was president, and by his chapel talks and classroom instruction permanently inspired and moulded the thoughts, ideals, and actions of generations of students.

The Rochester Theological Seminary, although under a distinct Board of Trustees, was established in connection with the attempt to remove Colgate University from Hamilton to Rochester. The institution for many years was presided over by one of America's greatest leaders, Dr. Augustus Hopkins Strong. In later years the Colgate-Rochester Seminary occupied a beautiful campus in the eastern part of Rochester. Mr. DeLand was vitally interested in the work of his local church, and functioned as deacon and trustee. He was superintendent of the Sunday School of the First Baptist Church of Fairport from 1867 to 1881. It is said that when business took him a long distance from home he would return to perform his part as superintendent. At one time he was president of

the New York State Interdenominational Sunday School Association and director of the New York Baptist Missionary Society. He was a large contributor toward the building of the Fairport Baptist Church.

Young Henry A. DeLand, for a time, lived on a farm near Fairport, but in 1854 removed to Fairport and became associated with his brother, Mr. D. B. DeLand, in the conduct of the recently organized DeLand Chemical Company. Henry threw himself energetically and efficiently into the administration of the business which grew rapidly. Upon the death of his elder brother in 1872 the administrative responsibility is said to have rested entirely upon Henry and soon the company was doing over a half million dollars worth of business, and manufacturing and selling more tons of saleratus and soda than any other concern in the United States. Mr. DeLand is quoted as saying that the business, at times, yielded him from five thousand to twenty-five thousand profit a year. He further said that he fixed a goal as to the extent of his savings and resolved to contribute any excess to worthy objects, a resolution which he more than kept.

In March of 1876, Mr. DeLand decided that for once he would take a real vacation. His sister, Mrs. O. P. Terry, and family were living at Walterboro, South Carolina, about sixty miles north of Savannah, Georgia, and to them, Mr. and Mrs. DeLand with their son and daughter proceeded to make a visit.

Mr. Terry had recently become interested in Florida as a promising field for orange culture. It seems that about



1870 an extended interest was aroused in the possibility of profitable orange raising on the rolling pine lands of Florida. In this connection we find frequent reference to Orange Ridge, a strip of land about a hundred miles south of Jacksonville. It is described as about twenty miles long and broad, parallel with and a little east of the St. John's River.

People from northern sections were steadily securing homesteads in this promising area. A Captain Rich, often referred to as the first home builder in the present limits of the city of DeLand, had been a guest at the boarding house of the Terry's. Through this contact Mr. Terry had been led to secure a homestead and before Mr. DeLand's visit had begun its development. Mr. DeLand's interest was sufficiently aroused that he decided to extend his pleasure trip and inspect the new enterprise, a decision of momentous significance for himself and for the place he visited.

So under the leadership of Mr. Terry, Mr. DeLand and his family continued their journey southward. As the railroad building was just beginning in Florida, the party ascended the beautiful St. John's by boat, landing at Enterprise and lodging at the Brock House, said to have been, for many years, the most noted hotel in Florida.

Leaving the family at Enterprise, the brothers-in-law with a one-horse conveyance started to drive toward the Rich and Terry homesteads. At first the country did not favorably impress Mr. DeLand, and several times he suggested that they return to Enterprise, but Mr. Terry repeated the encouraging



statement that it was more attractive further on. After passing Orange City, Mr. DeLand's enthusiasm gradually rose; the wooded knolls reminded him of his own western New York. They passed but a single house between Orange City and Beresford. The story is often told how the explorers were entertained in Captain Rich's log cabin, sleeping on a mattress placed upon the floor.

Mr. DeLand learned that there was a square tract of land of a hundred and sixty acres directly east of the Rich homestead, the ~~Harrison~~ <sup>Adams</sup> homestead, and that it could be purchased, so he promptly acquired it. This was a momentous decision, both for Mr. DeLand and for the region concerned. It marked an epoch in Mr. DeLand's entire career. A trip that was to bring rest and diversion ushered him into a period of most strenuous and fruitful activity. The decision determined the precise locality of the city that was to bear his name. This ~~Harrison~~ <sup>Adams</sup> homestead was to be the center and core of what has been called the Athens of Florida. This block of half a mile on each side was to contain the greater part of the business section of DeLand. In it are four of the churches with others close to its borders. Here are the Court House and the post office, and apart from the dormitories and gymnasiums, the principal buildings of what is now John B. Stetson University. A crowning result of the decision was that the personality, interests and ideals of Henry Addison DeLand were to be projected into the life of the community that was to be.

The family returned to Fairport. The vacation was over.

Now in addition to the cares a respite from which the vacation was to offer came those connected with the planning and organizing of a new community. In the fall, Mr. DeLand returned to Florida to give the project personal attention. His chief associate while present and representative when absent was the Rev. M. S. Leete, father of Bishop Frederick DeLand Leete, Mrs. Leete being a sister of Mr. DeLand. This associate must have been a very versatile and efficient man. A Methodist minister, he conducted the earliest religious service in DeLand. For a time he conducted a boarding house, and he was co-editor of the first newspaper published in the county.

On December 6, Mr. DeLand met for conference a group of settlers residing in the vicinity, and on this occasion it was voted to call the town DeLand. Mr. DeLand offered to give a site for a school house, the house to cost from eight to ten hundred dollars. According to the minutes, "the school house could be used for divine worship and a sabbath school until such time as a church could be built, and when that time should come, he pledged to give a like sum of four hundred dollars to any denomination who should build or form a union church." These may seem to be but a very moderate contribution, but we shall see that they were only the first tricklings of an ever-growing stream.

The brother-in-law cooperated in forming a plan for the development of the homestead. A square tract of primeval pine forest, half a mile on each side was to be laid out as the basis of a potential city, and it is interesting to see

how permanently determinative this plan proved to be.

The principle street was to extend north and south through the exact center of the tract. The planners disliked the hackneyed name of Main Street and chose Woodland Boulevard. A broad park-like space was to be cleared. A row of oaks was to line each margin and a third row through the center was to divide the two driveways. The plan was carried out, and at the present day this Boulevard is not only the principle street of the city, but extended to the north and south, has become a leading highway for this part of the county..

Each of the four margins of the tract was to be bounded by a street. That on the south boundary was named New York Avenue, which is now the principle east and west street of the city, and which like Woodland Boulevard, has been extended in both directions as an important highway. The north boundary was marked by Minnesota Avenue, a prominent street, the junction of which with the Woodland Boulevard, is at the very center of the University campus. The east and west streets have been named for states, Indiana, Wisconsin, Ohio, Michigan. One exception is Rich Avenue named for the pioneer Captain. On the east margin was Amelia Avenue, named for Mrs. Leete. Clara Avenue, on the west, named for Mrs. Rich, became the center of a prominent residence, school and church section.

For the next two or three years, Mr. DeLand repeatedly visited Florida, giving as much personal attention to the development of the new enterprise as possible. He purchased portions of many neighboring homesteads thus supplying the

owners with means to improve their tracts. An old map of the region, showing names of owners, is fairly dotted with small parcels bearing the name of H. A. DeLand. This map shows at each of the southern corners of the DeLand homestead a ten acre square tract, the western with the name Terry, the eastern with the name Parce. Here were built DeLand's first two boarding houses. Mr. and Mrs. Terry conducted theirs for several years. Later the land facing New York Avenue was sold and is now occupied by two hotels, the Putnam and the Lexington, the Terry's later having built on their northwest corner the boarding house which for many years they conducted. The house on the southeast square was for a time owned by the Leetes, and later by Mr. J. Y. Parce, a brother of Mrs. DeLand. The Parceland was for many years a prominent hotel and later was replaced by the College Arms, one of Florida's outstanding tourist hotels, the winter resort for many people, including Secretary Cordell Hull. The ten acre tract remains intact surrounded by streets on all four sides.

After the little town seemed well under way, Mr. DeLand discontinued his Florida visits, and concentrated on his Fairport interests, but in 1881, thinking that the Florida project was not going ahead fast enough to suit him, he decided to sell his Fairport business and devote himself to making DeLand Florida's "religious, educational, business and social center."

For a time union religious services had been in the school house, but in August, 1880, the Methodists organized a distinct

church. In the following October a group of thirteen organized the Baptist Church. The two deacons elected were Messrs. O. P. Terry and J. Y. Parce. Ground was broken for the church building on April 22, 1881. The occasion seems to have been regarded a notable one by the community. Dr. John H. Griffith delivered the address. The first regular pastor, the Rev. A. L. Farr, began his work the following January. Previously the Rev. J. H. Bohannon had often gratuitously supplied the pulpit. The new house to the cost of which Mr. DeLand had liberally contributed, was dedicated April 16, 1882, Dr. Griffith preaching the dedicatory sermon. The building seems to have been dedicated free from debt, for at the dedication services Mr. DeLand moved that any surplus be turned over to the Methodists toward their building fund. Their building was dedicated about a year later.

In the records of the Baptist church, reference is made to the removal of the bell from the school house. It would seem that the Baptists had a bell that was temporarily used at the school house where for a time union services were held and that they later moved this bell to their own house. At all events the bell that the Baptists had at their first building had an interesting history. When in 1894 a second house was built the bell was removed from the old cupola but never placed in the new tower. After resting in the basement nearly twenty years, it was shipped to Ridgecrest, the North Carolina Assembly place of the Southern Baptists, narrowly escaping destruction in a railway wreck. For several years it

rang out from the Assembly Tabernacle giving to some of the surrounding residents the thrill of for the first time hearing the sound of a church bell in their native hills. During a destructive wind storm, the bell was so injured that it is again resting. In the autumn of 1883 occurred the first definite step toward the establishment of what is now known as John B. Stetson University. Under the auspices of Mr. DeLand, and the principalship of Dr. John H. Griffith, of Troy, New York, whom we have mentioned in connection with the dedication of the Baptist church building, the DeLand Academy was opened.

Dr. Griffith was a prominent Baptist minister who on account of his health had come to Florida. He was graduated from the University of Rochester in 1859, a member of the scholastic honor fraternity, Phi Beta Kappa, from the Rochester Theological Seminary in 1861. In the intervening twenty-two years he had held pastorates in Detroit, Michigan; Galesburg, Illinois; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Troy, New York.

The Academy is sometimes incorrectly spoken of as having developed from the DeLand public school system. Such statements are absolutely without foundation. There are available two articles by Dr. Griffith himself written early in 1884 which make it perfectly plain that from the beginning the Academy was a private institution, public only in the sense of being available to the community and to those who might come from elsewhere.

During the session of 1883 and 1884 the classes were



held in the Baptist church building. The attendance on the first day is said to have included but thirteen, but before the year was over, fifty-six different pupils had been in attendance. Notwithstanding the limited number of pupils, Dr. Griffith was very optimistic as to the future. His article repeatedly emphasizes the favorable climatic conditions, expressing the conviction that the student can here accomplish more rather than less in the north. His predictions of the future success of the institution may at the time have seemed too optimistic but they now appear prophetic.

As early as January 1884 he wrote, "DeLand will undoubtedly become an educational center, for the state will demand additional educational facilities. The mildness and healthfulness of the climate will attract many who do not wish to endure the severity and face the hazards of northern winters." In May, after the close of the session, he contributed an article to the National Baptist containing statements: "The attempt to found a school here of academic grade was an experiment. Many questions vital to the success of such an institution were untried. No such school has been opened so far in the south. The problem has not been solved but the solution has already proceeded far enough to insure ultimate success.....

The next year will open about the middle of October when we expect to have a new and commodious building ready for occupancy. Mr. DeLand, under whose auspices the school has been opened, proposes at an early date to have the insti-



tution incorporated, and a Board of Trustees chosen to whose fostering care the school will be committed. It is to be a public institution, for the benefit of the public, devoted to the great cause of Christian education.....

If our citizens and those interested in the welfare of our community, give to it the support and sympathy which such an institution must have, DeLand will become a great educational center for this state, and a place where hundreds of young men and women will come to escape the rigors of northern winters. As was expected, Mr. DeLand, during the summer at his own expense, built the academy building, the first structure on the present campus. It is on the northeast corner of Woodland Boulevard and Minnesota, just off the original homestead of the Rev. M. L. Leete. During the year of 1884 and 1885 the academy met in the new building under the continued charge of Dr. Griffith, the registration of eighty-eight pupils ranging from those in elementary grades to those nearly ready to enter the freshman class of any standard college."

We have seen that the aim was to establish in DeLand an educational institution complying with nationally recognized standards. At about the same time Florida Baptists, independently, were looking in the same direction. It is interesting to see how the two movements, originally distinct, became gradually to be fused into a unit.

At the meetings of the Florida Baptist Convention, the reports on education had been chiefly concerned with efforts to assist Florida students for the ministry attending institutions in other states, and with the commendation of various

Southern Baptist Colleges, but in the report for 1880 we find an expression of regret that in the state the Baptists have no college of their own.

The 1882 report on education after dealing with the usual matters, contained the following:

"At last, but not least, there is a Christian gentleman known to all of us, Brother F. B. Moodie, who proposes to found a Female College in Florida, provided a sufficient interest should be taken in such an enterprise by the Baptists of Florida." Later in the session the following resolution was presented and adopted:

"Resolved that it is with profound pleasure we learn that Prof. F. B. Moodie contemplates establishing a Female College in the city of Gainesville, and we pledge to our brother our sympathy and co-operation, and we assure him that we hail with delight that prospect of soon being able to educate our daughters within the borders of our own state."

It was also voted that a committee of ten elected from different parts of the state and including Prof. Moodie, be appointed to consider the feasibility of the enterprise and the place most eligible for the situation of the college, and to solicit gifts for its establishment.

The proceedings of the 1883 Convention indicates that Prof. Moodie was chairman of the committee and Mr. H. A. DeLand the next member on the list.

The Convention seems heartily to have supported the enterprise, and urged the co-operation of all Florida Baptists.

The aims expressed in Prof. Moodie's report were very similar to those of Mr. DeLand and Dr. Griffith. Florida should have an institution that would compare favorably with schools in the North. Such a college would attract many northern students and make it unnecessary to send Florida girls to the "frozen north."

We find so far no reference to coeducation. Since the education of ministerial students in colleges in other states had been so prominent a theme in Florida Convention reports, it may seem strange that in this connection there was so much emphasis on the education of women. This may be because Prof. Moodie who first roused the Convention to the need and the possibility of a Florida Baptist College, is said to have been, at one time, president of a women's college.

In December, 1884, the Convention met at Orlando. Dr. Griffith, who was now conducting the Academy in its new building and who was just about to assume the pastorate of the DeLand church, was present and took an active part in the proceedings of the Convention. The general report on education, presented by Mr. C. H. Nash, highly recommended DeLand Academy and its able principal and called upon the denomination to encourage and strengthen it. Yet in the special report on the Female College, there seems to be no suggestion of any fusion of the Moodie project with the DeLand Academy. The Baptists of the state were urged to make immediate steps toward the founding of the college.

In view of later events, it is significant to note the

provisional plan suggested for the organization of the college. The State Board of Missions were to elect a Board of nine trustees, two-thirds of whom, together with the president were to be members of churches connected with the Florida Baptist Convention. The nine trustees were, by lot, to be divided into three groups, to serve two, four, and six years respectively, their successors to be elected by the Convention, the trustees having the privilege of nominating the candidates for election. To the initial Board was to be entrusted the incorporation of the college, and the preliminary work of its organization. It was definitely voted that in order to secure pledges from the locality where the college was to be located, the denomination "in the state should contribute not less than \$10,000.00 toward an endowment." A new committee of five was to be appointed to make definite the decision as to the location of the college and solicit funds.

The latter part of the year 1885 was a decisive period in the history of the DeLand institution. It marked the fusion of the two movements toward Christian education in Florida, sponsored respectively by Mr. Moodie and Mr. DeLand, and the coming of Dr. Forbes as principal or president of the Academy. September saw the publication of a four page announcement of the plans of the Academy for the following season. The fourth page included a signed statement by Dr. Griffith. Finding the work of the pastorate and teaching more than he is able to perform, he has surrendered the Academy into the hands of Prof. Forbes, whose chosen work and successful experience is

that of a teacher. He adds, "two recently received letters," which commend the ability, experience, and character of the new principal, is one signed September 4, 1885 by M. B. Anderson, President of the University of Rochester, and the other signed September 1, 1885 by G. J. Barrett, pastor of the Lake Avenue Baptist Church of Rochester, New York.

The bulletin, evidently prepared by Prof. Forbes, announces, besides the principal, two teachers, E. H. Alger, Latin Language and Literature, and Miss Fannie Bigelow, Preceptress. There were to be three chief courses, Classical, Scientific, and Higher English, with supplemental courses providing Normal and Business training. The Classical and Scientific courses were each of four years, alike except that the latter substituted other subjects for the three years of Greek and some of the history. Both complied with nationally recognized standards for college entrance. The Higher English course included only three years work. For the opening session two teachers were later added to those listed in the initial announcement, Miss Addie Parce, daughter of Mr. J. Y. Parce, and Mrs. R. S. Macnamee.

The bulletin gave a summary account of the location, history and ideals of the Academy that in 1883 was established through "the foresight and generosity of Mr. H. A. DeLand." During its second year, eighty-eight pupils, we are told, were in attendance. Reference is made to the "beautiful and commodious building---erected and furnished through the liberality of Mr. DeLand---in the midst of a four acre grove of pines---half a mile from the business center of the town."

We quote in detail President Forbes' initial formal statement entitled:

"The Character of the School"

It is a school for both sexes. It is an academy, not a college, and its work will be academic, not collegiate. Its aim will be two fold; first to prepare students for college, whether in the classical or scientific course; and second, to supplement the instruction of the common school with so much of language, science, literature, and art as may be needful for teaching or for practical life. It will be the aim of the faculty to lay the foundations of mental discipline broad and firm, then furnishing the student a sure basis on which he may build in after years. Believing that no system of education is sound or complete that ignores the moral and religious element, the school will be positively Christian. While everything of a secretarian nature will be scrupulously avoided, the fundamental principles of Christian morality and religion will be inculcated."

In other paragraphs desirable characteristics of the environment were presented--the general healthfulness of the location, the "intelligence, morality, and social culture" of the town comparable with that of "old educational towns" and



the presence in DeLand of houses of worship of six leading denominations permitting students of various affiliations to attend services of their choice.

This reference to the quality of the local population was no idle claim, for Mr. DeLand had advertised widely in religious periodicals and had attracted settlers from religious groups. The Sunday School quarterlies of the American Baptist Publication Society early carried full page pictures of DeLand Hall.

John Franklin Forbes, son of a Baptist minister, was born at Middlesex, New York in 1853. In 1871 he entered the University of Rochester, after a year withdrawing to teach in Middleburg Academy. Later he became principal of the Mount Morris High School, and spent a year traveling and studying in Berlin, Leipzig, and Paris. Re-entering the University of Rochester, he graduated in 1875 receiving the Sherman Scholarship prize, the most sought after honor open to seniors. Soon after graduation he was called to the chair of Latin and Greek in the Brockport State Normal School, only a few miles from Rochester. This position he held until 1885 when he was called to DeLand and received an honorary doctorate from his alma mater.

A twin brother and classmate, George M. Forbes, was professor first of Greek and later of Philosophy in the University of Rochester. These twins were identical in a very literal sense. Amusing stories are told how Brockport students, meeting George, would take him for Franklin, and Rochester students, meeting Franklin, would mistake him for George. Members of



George's Bible class at the Park Avenue Baptist Church once had an uncanny experience. Franklin as a guest was invited to speak to the class. There sat their teacher before them as usual, and at the same time there he stood speaking to them. Physically, they seemed exactly alike even to the extent of the recession from the brow of the thinning of the locks. Voice, gesture, and general manner, as well as manner of speaking were identical.

Many years later an attendant in a sanitarium had an even more uncanny experience. He had cared for Franklin during his last days. After a time, George, in practically the same condition as had been his deceased brother, was entrusted to the care of the same attendant who knew nothing of the twin relationship. We can imagine what his reaction was.

Late in 1885 the Florida Baptist Convention met in Jacksonville. We have seen that, for some time, the establishment and location of a Christian College in Florida under Baptist auspices had been a prominent theme at the meetings of the Convention. The offer which at this meeting was presented by Mr. DeLand through Dr. Griffith is reported as being "that he would give the denomination for the purposes of education all the property belonging to DeLand Academy worth not less than \$12,000.00 and \$10,000.00 for an endowment while all that should be contributed by citizens of DeLand and vicinity should be so much additional, provided the denomination and friends of education in the state at large should raise as an endowment fund for the institution the sum of \$10,000.00.

It is stated that the Convention by a cordial and hearty rising vote, adopted the noble and generous proposition in the spirit in which it was offered, and elected a Board of Trustees to which it entrusted the work of incorporating the institution and caring for its interests." This action would seem to have determined that the two movements sponsored by Mr. Moodie and Mr. DeLand respectively for the establishment of a Christian educational institution in Florida were definitely fused.

The autumn of 1885 was a decisive time in the history of higher education in Florida under Baptist auspices. It is a coincidence that at the same time under the auspices of the Florida Congregationalists with New England background a similar movement took definite shape.

In 1883, Miss Lucy A. Cross, teacher in a Daytona Beach private school and formerly a member of the faculty of the Wellesley College suggested to her pastor the need of a Christian College in Florida. This suggestion he presented to the first meeting of the General Congregational Association of Florida, held in Winter Park in 1884. The movement was supported by the Congregationalists of Florida, and by a group of businessmen in Winter Park. Action taken by the Association meeting at Orange City in January 1885 definitely led to the founding of Rollins College. There are many analogies between the beginnings of the institution at Winter Park and of that at DeLand. One was encouraged by a group of New York Baptists, the other by a group of New England Congregationalists. Both sought to establish under Christian auspices a

college in Florida conforming to national standards. In both cases, after the denominations had decided that the institution should be established, a committee was appointed to raise funds and decide upon the most eligible location. Both sought a Board of Trustees who would be alive to religious values.

Which institution was established first? The Baptists were discussing the Moodie proposition in 1882. The Congregationalists' discussion began in 1883. The DeLand Academy opened in 1883, and plans for a college published in 1886, but no charter was granted until 1887. Rollins College was chartered and opened in Winter Park in 1885. Not until 1887 did DeLand have college students. At any rate both were pioneers in establishing in Florida nationally recognized colleges.

Dr. David Moore, trustee of the DeLand Academy, is reported as having said to Professor Forbes in connection with his appointment as principal, "There is a great need and a great opportunity for higher Christian education in Florida, if you will go as principal of the DeLand Academy, will aim to work hard, very hard, shoulder heavy burdens, meet great responsibilities, encounter difficulties and discouragements, work on and wait patiently for results, success and reward are sure to come in due time." The development of the following years would indicate that the new principal met the challenge. Perhaps in this connection a word regarding Dr. Moore may not be inappropriate. Reared a country boy in western New York, he, like some of our Florida boys entered the ministry without college or seminary training. After

some experience as a teacher in Clarkson, New York, he became pastor of the Gains and Murray Baptist Church, his home church. Other successful pastorates followed including the Washington Avenue Church in Brooklyn. He received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity and for years was a member and vice-president of the Board of Trustees of the Rochester Theological Seminary. After retiring from the active ministry he divided his time between Geneva, New York, and DeLand co-operating with Mr. DeLand in his early activities in developing the town and the school. For at least twenty years from 1885 to the time of his death he served as a trustee of the DeLand institution, some of the time as a member of the executive committee. His painted portrait hangs on the north wall of the Stetson Chapel.

The need of a dormitory was considered by the college Board of Trustees at their earliest recorded meeting held January 19, 1886, at the Parceland Hotel. Eight members were present including five to whom we have already been introduced, Mr. DeLand, Dr. Griffith, Dr. Moore, Professor Moccie, and Dr. Forbes. The other three were Florida residents, Mr. W. Welker of Jacksonville, Mr. Osteen, of Osteen, and Mr. M. W. Sargent of DeLand. Mr. Sargent, a businessman, active in church work, for the next ten years served as treasurer and member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees. Represented by proxy was Mr. J. S. Turner, Levyville, Florida, for many years a member of the Board. He was the great-uncle of our Dean of Women, Miss Etter Turner.

At this January meeting, Dr. Griffith, we are told, in an earnest address introduced the all important questions of raising money for a "dormitory building." The proposition met immediate and unanimous approval. Mr. DeLand offered to contribute \$1,000.00 to the project if \$5,000.00 could be immediately raised. All those present, and Mr. Turner by proxy, pledged at once sums ranging from \$250.00 to \$500.00 making a total of \$3,500.00 half of the estimated cost of the building, and of course we know that the estimated and actual cost of buildings rarely coincide.

At an adjourned meeting March 24, 1886, a building committee consisting of Messres. DeLand, Gelston, Griffith, Shotwell, Sargent and Forbes was appointed and entrusted to carry out the plans for building the dormitory. Rev. H. C. Gelston was pastor of the Presbyterian Church, and Mr. Shotwell was also a resident of DeLand.

Among the new members of the Board elected at this meeting was Mr. C. T. Sampson, who was to be a prominent figure in the development of the institution. A shoe manufacturer from North Adams, Massachusetts, he was spending his winters in the vicinity. It is he who contributed funds for the establishment and endowment of our library and also left a handsome legacy that was available for other purposes.

The building enterprise must have been carried out with efficiency and rapidity, for in the minutes of the Florida Baptist Convention, meeting in November 1886, the dormitory is referred to as already built and furnished, and the cata-

log for 1886 and 1887 contains the following: "The citizens of DeLand vicinity together with the generous friends of education in the north--notably John B. Stetson of Philadelphia, after whom the building was named, have erected a spacious and elegant dormitory, thus supplying a very urgent need of the institution. ---The dormitory is large, well furnished and pleasant, and the entire building is heated by steam. The President and family, as well as the other teachers, reside in the building or in the immediate vicinity, and parents may thus feel assured of a careful oversight of interest in their children. The young ladies are under the direct control of the Preceptress." Was this last statement intended to allay the apprehension of those who questioned co-education and favored the plan for a Baptist College for girls?

We in connection with the dormitory have met our first reference to John B. Stetson. This famous Philadelphia manufacturer, like so many others, had visited Florida for consideration of health. Miss Helen DeLand, in her book, Story of DeLand and Lake Helen, cites Dr. Moore's account of a momentous incident. We quote it entire: "We whispered to one another, 'What if this man were, indeed, a man sent from God? What if he could be led to see the possibilities of this school?'" With this in mind we one day planned a ride to Lake Helen. There were in this party, Mr. DeLand, Mr. Stetson, Dr. Forbes, and your humble servant with some others. After an elegant dinner at the Harlan we all went on the upper verandah of the hotel. It was one of those charming days of which Florida



has so many. Lake Helen lay like a sheet of silver in full view, the noble pines stood in their silent majesty all around us. The birds were singing among the branches, the air was balmy, and all nature was beautiful. And then and there we did our utmost to make this man, John, see visions and dream dreams. There was prayerful, earnest seed sowing and John B. Stetson University, as we see it today, with its magnificent buildings, its ample equipment, and the grand work it is doing is the rich golden harvest."

Thus began the long, intimate co-operation between Mr. Stetson and Dr. Forbes in realizing the dreams of the founders of the institution. The dormitory was named for Mr. Stetson as the largest contributor to the cost of its construction. Three thousand dollars is said to be the amount of his gift. As time went on each gift intensified his interest and the increased interest led to larger gifts, and so, on and on the progress continued.

Dr. Moore mentioned Lake Helen and the Harlan Hotel. Lake Helen was a suburb which Mr. DeLand established out in the beautiful pine woods five miles southeast of his principal settlement. The lake and this suburb he named for his daughter Helen, and the hotel for his son Harlan.

The space between DeLand and Lake Helen was an almost unbroken park of giant pines, the rolling surface with little or no underbrush. Here and there a little plot would be cleared and set with orange trees. There were no highways, only crisscrossing trails leading to various homesteads.



The inexperienced driver had almost as much need of a map and a compass as would a navigator on the sea. Sometimes hesitating between two diverging trails he would find that one was simply improvised to avoid a fallen pine tree. As he approached a common goal he would find the trail converging, and if he had not strayed too far to the right or the left, he would reach his destination without serious loss of time.

We have been considering some of the men who had a conspicuous part in laying the foundations of our university. In this connection of prime significance is John B. Stetson, inventor, organizer, industrialist, humanitarian, Christian; a man who starting as an individual worker in a single rented room, developed the hat factory which for the extent and quality of its production was probably best known throughout the civilized world, a factory of twenty-five acres of floor space, manned by thousands of workers who formed a great co-operation family.

John Batterson Stetson, of New England descent, was born May 5, 1830 in Orange, New Jersey. His father and several brothers were hat makers, and from his boyhood, instead of attending school, he worked with them as an apprentice.

Threatened with tuberculosis which seems to have been a common experience among those making felt from fur, he left for the middle and far west for a time working in a brick yard.

Elbert Hubbard in his Journeys to the Homes of Great Businessmen, tells of an interesting incident that occurred when Stetson was one of a party starting on foot for Pike's

Peck. A discussion arose as to whether cloth could be made from fur. The young felt maker improvised a demonstration, tools or no tools. To amuse his companions he made from some discarded fur a large picturesque hat. A local horse rider so admired it that he bought it for \$5.00, a circumstance that later led to important results.

With recovered health the traveler returned to the east. His first Philadelphia factory was a small rented room. His aim was to develop distinctive types that would appeal to the local elite. Progress in this direction was slow and discouraging. Then the western experience was recalled and appeal was made to the cowboy. Large broad-brimmed hats were sent to western dealers with bids for orders. Response was immediate and extensive. Soon the cowboy was not considered properly equipped without a Stetson. An ordinary one could be bought for five dollars, but the price of the choicer types mounted to almost unbelievable heights. The Stetson factory grew by leaps and bounds. Gradually, various types of hats were developed that appealed to classes and localities, and the immense factory with its world-wide patronage was the result.

Organized labor was not encouraged in his factory. Some applied to the system of the term paternalism, but it was a co-operative type of paternalism, including compensation for apprentices, liberal bonuses according to profits, and various provisions for the welfare of the thousands of employees and their families. A splendid auditorium with pipe organ, played by the blind organist and composer, Adam Giebel, provided for

religious and other assemblies, and a large well-equipped hospital served the needs primarily of employees but others as well. A building and loan organization promoted home ownership.

The Mr. Stetson, who contributed to the building of Stetson Hall had had little contact with educational institutions, in fact, is said to have supposed that colleges were profit making enterprises; but in spite of his years he responded readily to the new appeal, and how literally the history of the University demonstrates.

Stetson Hall in its opening session in the autumn of 1886 is associated with the name of another Philadelphian, one who through the intervening years has been a prominent member of the Stetson faculty. George Prentice Carson, son of a Philadelphia clergyman, was born in 1864. At the early age of nineteen he was graduated from Wesleyan University, Connecticut. He accompanied his mother to Florida, she coming from consideration of health; and in 1887 he became a teacher in the DeLand Academy, for a time occupying a room in the new dormitory. The records of the University tell of his various summers spent in graduate study in American Universities and repeated summers devoted to travel and historical studies in Europe. He served as Dean, first of the College of Liberal Arts, then of the University as a whole. In recent years he has been Dean Emeritus and professor of history. No other person has rendered so extended professional and executive service to the University. The first regular annual

catalog, that for 1885-1886 registered a faculty of six: President J. F. Forbes, E.H. Alger, Miss Fannie Bigelow, Miss Addie Parce, niece of Mr. DeLand, and Mrs. R.A. Macamee. The faculty list for 1886-1887 is new except for the name of President Forbes. Of the new members, Professor George W. Botsford, Principal of the Academy and Professor of Ancient Languages and English was a member of the faculty for but one year. Various references to his subsequent work elsewhere as a teacher and author have been met. Mrs. Helen B. Webster was Preceptress and teacher of mathematics and natural sciences; Miss Annie K. Tuthill was Principal of the Art Department for three years. Mrs. Mary E. Cheney, possessor of a beautiful soprano voice, was for many years Principal of the Music Department. This was the first teaching year of Professor Carson whom we have already introduced. His title was Assistant in mathematics and science. In the catalog for 1885-1886, thirty-seven students were registered in the Academy proper. Harlan DeLand, son of the founder of the town, was the only senior. Some of the others whose names were familiar in DeLand were Sam Jordan, Josephine Lindley, Ida Erhart, Gertie McNeil, and Marion Powell, long known as Mrs. G. P. Carson. The twenty in the grammar school included Viola Erhart, Guilda Voorhis, and Mabel Allen, now wife of Professor Harry S. Winters. Her father, Mr. J. F. Allen, was one of the earliest settlers of DeLand, and she was a pupil in the Academy when it was under the direction of Dr. Griffith.

For the year 1886-1887 a total of 82 were enrolled, 22

in the Classical Course, and 23 in the Higher English Course of the Academy. Apart from the names already mentioned, we may mention A. L. Abercrombie, Emma Eldridge, Willie Swift, Bessie Guild and Elmer McBride.

Some time during this year, a charter was obtained from the Florida Legislature under the name of DeLand University. This may seem a rather ambitious name for an institution that did not yet have a single student of collegiate rank, but the term University was not then as much associated with graduate work as it is now, and, besides, those responsible for the institution had definite ambitions which included Schools not only of Business, Art, Music, but of Law, Medicine, and Theology.

According to the Charter, the number of trustees "shall never be less than eighteen nor more than twenty-four, three-quarters of whom shall be members of the Baptist denomination in good standing with their several churches, and which number shall always include the President of the University, for the time being as ex-officio trustee." This placed the University under Baptist auspices, although not requiring, as did the provisional plan of the Florida Baptist Convention for a Baptist Women's College, that the Baptist trustees should be members of churches connected with the Florida Convention. Another difference is that according to the charter the trustees are "to hold office without express limitation of time," and the Board to be self-perpetuating, while the plan of the Convention was that the first Board would consist of three groups, holding office for two, four, and six years, respec-

tively, successors to be elected by the Convention for six year periods.

To those familiar with the various functions which Stetson Hall has performed through the years of its history, as well as those who have seen its recent transformation, it may be of interest to know how it was originally used.

As to the western end of the lower floor, the front was the living apartment of the President and his family, and the rear contained the President's office and the housekeeper's apartment. The rear of the east end was the college dining room, and the front a room where the faculty and students met for social fellowship or devotional services. The two upper floors constituted the dormitory proper, the west end for the girls, the east end for the boys. Each end had its own stairway and there were no connecting doorways between the ends. Later when the entire building was occupied by girls or by boys, doorways were cut between the ends.

The Convention at its meeting in 1886 seems to have wholeheartedly supported the DeLand institution and there seems to have been no official reference to "the female college." Dr. Forbes was appointed chairman of the new Committee on Education, the other members being mostly from the DeLand Board. The next meeting of the Convention was to be at DeLand.

The extended report of the Committee on Education, presented by the chairman, Mr. Walter Gwinn, was mostly concerned with what was called "our own institution, DeLand College." Regarding Stetson Hall the report contained the following: "During



the year the citizens of DeLand and vicinity, together with the help of Mr. DeLand himself and generous friends in the north, including such noble givers as John B. Stetson of Philadelphia, and C. T. Sampson of North Adams, Massachusetts, have erected and furnished a dormitory building, which your committee thinks, may safely said to be the finest building for educational purposes in Florida, at a cost of \$12,000.00 making the property now worth \$25,000.00. This property is exclusive of the \$10,000.00 endowment fund which Mr. DeLand included in his proposition." Recognition was also made of the fact that this is not merely money, but is actually invested in an established institution, hence is of greatly increased value. Appeal was made to the Convention to raise immediately the \$10,000.00 which was to be their share of the endowment fund, an appeal which, we may say, was somewhat slow in meeting practical response.

CONCLUDING NOTE

We have been tracing the background of John B. Stetson University, geographical, historical, and personal. We have seen that Volusia County of which DeLand became the county seat in 1888, possesses in a marked degree what is the most interesting and characteristic of Florida as a whole, including the striking combination of the old and the new.

Situated between the beautiful and historic St. John's River and the stretch of ocean shore limited by St. Augustine, a little to the north, and Cape Canaveral a little to the south, it falls within a section notable for centuries of history including sacrificial missions and numerous bloody battles involving numerous peoples over centuries of time. At the north limit of the county near Lake George, was the ancient trading post, Volusia, from which the county derived its name, a point marking the junction of the crisscrossing Indian trails and possible site of an old Spanish mission, while at the south end is Lake Monroe with the early settlement of Enterprise. And at the same time we have seen that Volusia County, like much of Florida, is one of the most recent parts of our country to be settled and cultivated.

We have traced the beginnings of our institution from Mr. DeLand's first visit to Florida in 1876 and the opening of the Academy in 1883 to the time of the formal incorporation of the University in 1887 and the completion and occupation of Stetson Hall, and have been introduced to the leading

men whose personalities have contributed to the development of the institution. We have seen the hearty spirit of cooperation between the Florida Baptist Convention and the College and the ambitious plans and expectations of the responsible executives.

So this seems a natural point to close this chapter, leaving the period of rapid expansion for later treatment.