

USS SHARK

Florida Keys

Sea Heritage Journal

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Heros of World War One

The following is an undated article from The Key West Citizen .

True the name of their great order the Patriotic Order Sons of America held a solemn memorial service yesterday afternoon at the Harris school building sacred to the memory of two Key West boys who have met death fearlessly on the battlefields of France. This was indeed one of the most impressive services ever held in this city and the building was filled with friends of the heroes fell in a glorious cause before the hordes of the Huns, and all joined in the solemnity of the occasion.

The exercises were opened by a fervent prayer by the Rev. Mr. Armstrong and scripture reading by Rev. E. L. Ley. Mayor Allan B. Cleare, Rev. J.L. Griffiths and Sheriff A.H. McInnis made talks that were inspiring and patriotic.

Appropriate vocal and instrumental selections were interspersed through out the hour, and the occasion came to a close with a prayer by Rev. J L. Kilgore.

The address of Sheriff A. H. McInnis included biographical sketches of the two bold boys who lives now only in honored memory,



Arthur Bates Sawyer. Photo credit: Monroe County Library.

and his remarks were so illuminated with flames of zeal and patriotism that he was urgently requested to allow its publication. So it is given in full below, as follows:

“We have met here in honor of two young lives that have been sacrificed in a great cause. It is

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SOCIETY NEWS AND NOTES

By Ed Little, President, KWMHS

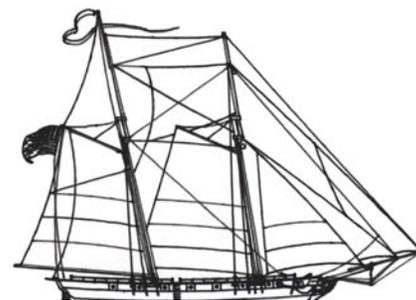
As you read this issue of our Society's quarterly Journal, the peak of the Keys "tourist season" will likely be well underway. Folks from around our nation (and, from around the world) will be coming to our islands to partake of an ambience, lifestyle, and cultural history that are very special and fulfilling indeed.

However, as recent news articles indicate, there is "trouble in paradise". The cost of living here is high, and getting higher. In fact, some surveys show that the Keys are actually losing population, as families and singles move away to less expensive localities.

That has some implications for our Society. We are slowly losing our membership base due to emigration (and in some cases, mortality). We are now down to just over 200 members. And, that

is where you come in. We need all Society members to actively recruit new members. You can even solicit memberships from the above mentioned "tourists", by reminding those interested in seafaring history that we mail our Journal to many places outside of the Keys.

Thus, if you do come across a prospective member, please remind him/her that all they need to do in order to join is mail us their address (and a check for \$20.00 made out to "KWMHS") to P.O. Box 695, Key West, FL 33040. By joining us, new members are helping foster a greater public awareness and appreciation of our maritime past. They will also be getting advance notice of the many field trips and free public lectures sponsored by the Society. That's not a bad deal at all- so please, do your part and help strengthen our membership numbers!



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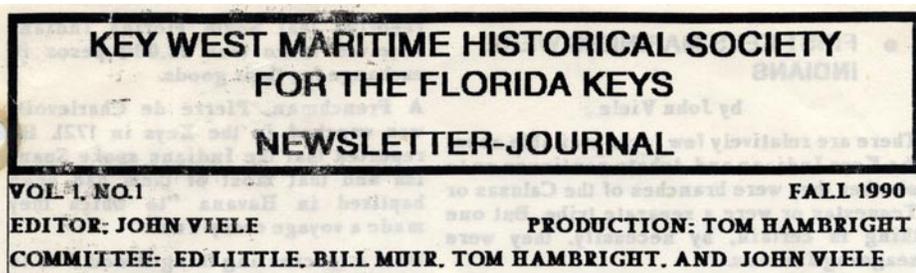
Editor: Lynda Hambright
Production: Tom Hambright

Letters and articles are welcome. Please write to: Editor, Florida Keys Sea Heritage Journal, KWMHS, P.O. Box 695, Key West, FL 33041.

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• A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Carole Heinlein

My interest in maritime history of the Florida Keys developed seriously seven years ago. It all stemmed from an article I wanted to write about the Stephen R. Mallory, the only clipper ship ever built in Key West.

At the time, I worked for the owners of the property where Messrs. Bowne and Curry constructed and launched the Stephen R. Mallory. I figured that all I had to do was walk the few blocks to the Monroe County Library and pick up a photograph or artist's rendering of her along with her entire story from the day she set sail. Since that day back in 1983, I've learned historical research just isn't that easy.

• INTRODUCTION TO FIRST ISSUE

The KWMHS plans to publish this combined newsletter and journal quarterly. It will contain news of the Society and its members, articles on Florida Keys maritime history, and provide a forum for comments by members.

Members are invited to submit articles for publication. Because of the limited funds available for publishing, they should be limited to 500 words. Please submit typed double-spaced copy directly to the Editor, KWMHS, P.O. Box 695, Key West, FL 33041.

Volunteers are needed to assist with assembling and mailing the newsletter-journal. If you can spare a couple of hours four times a year to help out, please

As we begin our 18th year, a look at volume number 1.

New Members

Paul & Joanne Brennan, Miller, Fort Pierce; Bonnie Tynes, Summerland Key; Bennie L. Key West.

Florida's State Board of Health

The following history of Florida Board of Health was excerpted from "Millstones and Milestones Florida's Public Health" published in 1964 by the Florida State Board of Health.

"The birth of the Florida State Board of Health is a dramatic incident in the history of yellow fever and its control in the State. The immediate stimulus was the Jacksonville epidemic of 1888. Over 10,000 of Duval County's 26,800 residents fled. Among those who remained, there were 5,000 reported cases of yellow fever with 400 deaths. The mortality was said to be about nine per cent, a very low rate and not due to the mildness of the disease but to the fine care given the patients.

"As soon as news of the epidemic spread, the city became a ghost town. Stores were closed and buildings were boarded up. The rumble of death carts carrying away bodies was the only sound to break the uncanny night stillness. Panic was rampant. Dr. Porter describes the fall of 1888 as 'a time of constant dread, actual fright and brutal instances of neglect where a member of a family deserted home, a sick wife and children because of uncontrollable fear... The panicky condition which prevailed . . . carried an irresponsibility of action which to a rationally acting mind, was difficult to understand' Dr. Porter had commendations also, 'Likewise unstinted praise to those who fighting a concealed enemy in the dark, place service above self and fearlessly met and conquered every obstacle which arose where the sick and needy were concerned.'

"From the early part of the nineteenth century, yellow fever was an endemic infection in Havana,



Dr. J.Y. Porter Key West native and Florida's first health officer. Photo credit: Monroe County Library.

Cuba. Commerce and passengers moved by ship from Havana to Key West (90 miles distant), and up the east coast of Florida, and from Havana to Tampa and the gulf ports. During the war between the states, yellow fever prevailed almost every year in Key West. According to Dr. Porter, it struck in this city in 1867, 1869, 1870, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1879, 1884, 1887, and 1899.

"It had long been recognized that Florida's seacoast was one of the most difficult to protect due to its length and its port cities which were in direct communication with infected communities in tropical countries from which yellow fever was introduced. Thus it was that Pensacola, Fernandina, Key West, Tampa, St. Joseph (now Port St. Joe), and finally Jacksonville, ports for slow-moving vessels, were the points of attack, and furnished the ammunition for outbursts which took thousands of lives.

"As early as 1835, the schooner **Grampus** was credited with

bringing yellow fever to Pensacola. Fernandina had severe epidemics in 1871 and 1877. Tampa had a visitation in the early fifties, with widespread fatalities. In 1887 panic-stricken from knowledge gained in earlier sieges, the exodus from the city of Tampa was so hasty that it is reported lamps and stoves were left burning. Port towns all along the west coast were victims of yellow fever epidemics including Cedar Key, St. Marks, Apalachicola, and Pensacola. One of the most memorable epidemics occurred at St. Joseph. This thriving west coast community was, for all practical purposes, wiped out in 1841. It has never regained its importance as a seaport.

"Commenting on his experience in such epidemics, Dr. R. D. Murray, Surgeon in the Marine Hospital Service (later the U. S. Public Health Service) said, 'We have suffered with yellow fever and the Gulf Coast has tales of

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horror which put foreign wars in the light of junketing parties. My war experience was a holiday compared to my anti-pest duties and privations.' Thus, the major public health problem in this era in Florida was prevention of introduction of yellow fever at its port cities.

"A similar hazard from the dread cholera was recognized. One illustration must suffice. On one occasion a steamer came into Key West for medical aid and provisions. There was a cholera epidemic on board. The bodies of victims were being thrown overboard while the steamer was in dock. On discovering this, the steamer was cut free to drift out to sea. The floating bodies of those who died so quickly that proper burial was impossible were snagged by boat hooks and towed into the channel of the outgoing tide.

"Florida recognized the acute need to protect itself from epidemic diseases from other countries. Faced by the terrorizing epidemics, counties also sought to prevent the introduction of diseases from other counties. Physicians seeking to visit the ill in counties adjoining their own were warned that they risked the danger of being shot because they had been in contact with yellow fever in their own counties. Francis P. Fleming, a candidate for Governor in 1888, the year of the major Jacksonville epidemic, personally experienced the restricted and chaotic commercial and travel conditions. His first act as Governor was to seek authorization for 'an organization which would administer protective measures freed from extreme fear or unreasonable restrictions.'"

"Let us return to the Jacksonville epidemic of 1888. The city was gripped by fear. Many strange cures were suggested and tried. Lime

was spread in the streets, houses, and shops. Bonfires lit the sky at night. Invoking the theory of concussion, cannon and fire arms were discharged each evening to dispel the 'fomites,' all to no avail. Mail delivery ceased. Mail going out of and coming into the city was fumigated as it was thought it might be carrying the disease-bearing fomites.

"Quite early, it was decided that depopulation of the city was the quickest method of controlling the spread of the disease. The United States Bureau of the Census supplied census takers whose duty was to determine the number of people in the city and those willing and able to leave. Refugee camps were established outside the city. The Marine Hospital Service established a camp at the Florida-Georgia State line for refugees who wished to leave the State.

"It was in these circumstances that Dr. Porter began his professional career in Jacksonville. Having had the disease, he was, in the language of the day, 'acclimated' to it. As a physician in Key West, he had had wide professional experience with yellow fever. Also, as a visitor to Jacksonville, he had seen in consultation the first suspect case and had confirmed the first diagnosis of yellow fever in the 1888 epidemic. Shortly after he returned to Key West, he received an urgent telegram from the Duval County Board of Health asking him to provide professional assistance.

"There was a massive problem of relief, as well as acute need for medical and nursing care. The Duval County Board of Health had no full-time personnel but the Marine Hospital Service provided some aid. At the instigation of local physicians, an 'Auxiliary Sanitary Association' was established primarily to handle general relief, as

well as to combat rumors and to deal with criticism. Substantial donations of money, food, and clothing were being received from all parts of the country and from distant parts of the world.

"Shortly after Dr. Porter's arrival, it was agreed that all medical relief measures should be coordinated within one 'government relief service.' It was also agreed that Dr. Porter should be in charge of this combined program. One of its activities was to assure, insofar as possible, that medical and nursing care was made available to those in need. Prevention of disease was of particular interest to Dr. Porter, who maintained responsibility for fumigation, the one measure believed effective. Under his direction every house in the city in which there had been a case of yellow fever was fumigated. Then there was the responsibility for the receipt, custody, and distribution of funds, food, and clothing. Besides the sick there was a population of some 16,000 left in the city, 14,000 of whom were without employment because of the utter demoralization of business. To add to the confusion, hundreds of people, mostly Negroes, poured into the city drawn by stories of free rations and easy money.

"With senior responsibility for this emergency medical and relief program, the capacity of this comparatively young man as an outstanding physician, an organizer, and a community leader became apparent. In January 1889, when the epidemic had subsided, the citizens of Jacksonville turned their attention to Dr. Porter. Ceremonies were held, and lengthy and extravagant commendations and heartfelt thanks were tendered him. In recognition of his gratuitous service to the city during the epidemic, the Jacksonville Auxiliary Sanitary Association presented him with

an expensive gold timepiece from Switzerland decorated with rubies and diamonds. His grandson presented the watch to the Florida State Board of Health some years ago. (It still keeps time.) Many resolutions of appreciation were presented to Dr. Porter and later, both Houses of the Florida Legislature honored him. Later Dr. Porter wrote, 'The perfume of the flowers of esteem still lingers as fragrant as when given 37 years ago.'

"Before it was actually accomplished, there had been repeated efforts to create a State Board of Health to provide protection for the health of the people. In 1873, a bill establishing a State Board of Health and carrying an appropriation of \$200 had been presented to the Legislature. This failed, the records reveal, due to the 'exorbitant' amount of money requested. Repeated efforts through subsequent years also failed. Dr. John P. Wall of Tampa, a past president of the Florida Medical Association, urged each Legislature to pass a law establishing a Board of Health because 'the duty preserving the health and lives of its citizens from causes of disease is as incumbent on the State as is that of suppressing rapine and murder.' He went on to say that the time was in fact hastening when the preservation of the public health would become one of the primary considerations of enlightened government.

"The first effective step toward the establishment of a State Board of Health was taken at the Constitutional Convention of 1885. Florida's two prior constitutions failed to contain an article relating to the public health. However with the encouragement and insistence of Dr. Wall, who at that time was legislative representative from Hillsborough County, the brief article in the present constitution authorizing and directing the designation of a State Board of Health was inserted and accepted.

Dr. Porter commented on the significance of this as follows: 'This . . . stands as a lasting memorial to a man (Dr. Wall) of superior mental attainments and who, far ahead of his times, was looking forward to the future welfare and commercial prosperity of his State.'

"Even with this constitutional provision of 1885, and with urging from the president of the Florida Medical Association, the Legislature of 1887 failed to take needed action to establish a board of health.

"It was the epidemic of 1888, with the attending disruption of travel and commerce, which brought action. Governor Fleming as his first official act called the legislature into special session to create a State Board of Health. The wording of the bill repeatedly indicates that the concern was for 'yellow fever, smallpox and cholera.' Attention to other infectious diseases and to the general supervision of the public health is included in a position of lesser priority.

"The Governor promptly appointed the three-person Board, William K. Hyer, Pensacola, William B. Henderson, Tampa, and Dr. R. P. Daniel, Jacksonville, chairman. Dr. Porter was immediately chosen as State Health Officer. Concerning this action Dr. Daniel stated, 'In making this selection, the Board realized that it was not only giving expression to its own preference but was voicing the almost unanimous sentiment of the people of the State—that Dr. Porter was the one man best fitted by the qualifications of capacity, experience and popularity to fill the office.' The choice proved to be a happy one.

"Dr. J. Y. Porter served as

Florida's State Health officer for seven terms, each lasting four years. The problems and activities of the first three differed substantially from the later ones.

"In commenting on this period, Dr. Porter indicated that the whole thought of the Board of Health was centered upon preventing yellow fever from again entering the State. Its endemic character in Havana, and to a lesser extent in Key West, was recognized. It was apparent that it was introduced periodically at port cities, presumably arriving by ship; the infection was believed to be carried on clothing, in mail, and on cargo. Annual reports provide many statements of opinions relative to the origin of specific cases or outbreaks of yellow fever. Probable sources of infection were believed to be a mail bag from an infected area, inadequately disinfected trunks used in the smuggling of cigarettes, incomplete disinfection of homes, the movement of those improperly certified as 'acclimated' to the disease, and many others. Control of travel, fomites, and shipping were considered to be of major importance. But there were uncertainties, conflicting opinions, and astute observations. Here, for example are Dr. Porter's reasons for differentiating between vessels which did and did not remain in Havana overnight: 'Experience has demonstrated that the night air in places continuously under the endemic or epidemic influences of yellow fever is pernicious and calculated to produce the attack of the disease . . . The unacclimated, exposed in this wise, very rarely escape sickness; whereas on the other hand, the unacclimated can almost with impunity visit an infected city during the sunlight.' (This is understandable now that we know the *Aedes aegypti* is a night-
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biting mosquito).

“The Board of Health under Dr. Porter’s leadership, developed a system of maritime quarantine involving: (1) Boarding and inspecting incoming vessels; (2) establishment of quarantine stations at all major ports; (3) differential handling of vessels which did or did not remain overnight in an infected harbor; (4) fumigation and/or sterilization of fomites; as for example, clothing, mail, or cargo believed to be carrying infection; (5) requirement of Acclimation Certificates to certify that the person had had yellow fever, cholera, and smallpox (or had been vaccinated for the last named disease). The last was the forerunner of vaccination certificates required today for reentry into the United States.

“Concerning the Acclimation Certificates, questions were raised both as to their dependability (it was stated that they were sold for a price both in Florida and Havana) and the reliability of the medical concept. Dr. Porter firmly believed that an attack of the disease conferred immunity and that such persons need not be held in quarantine. Those who disagreed were wont to say facetiously that the ‘State Health Officer would not be convinced of a second attack of yellow fever in the same person unless the diagnosis was confirmed by postmortem in both instances on the same patient.’ A second method of proving immunity was ‘continued residence in an endemic focus of yellow fever for 10 years.’

“The development of regulations and procedures, the application of these, and the building and operating of quarantine stations were major concerns of the State Health Officer in these early years. The road was not smooth. In the very first annual report of the Florida State Board of

Health, there is reference to ‘the present enmity to the State Board of Health by Key West’ . . . due to ‘government supervisions and restrictions which the people view as imposed more for the benefit of other communities than for Key West.’ This was the State Health Officer’s home city.

“Early in this period, maritime quarantine, where applied, was a responsibility of the states. In Florida it was the major public health activity in these early years. The pictures in the early annual reports are of quarantine stations and their disinfecting machinery. These stations were ‘fitted up with the latest machinery for dry and moist heat disinfection and sulphur fumigation.’ The cost of operating these, though supported chiefly by fees, equaled that for all other Board of Health activities. During this period the Marine Hospital Service displayed increasing interest and assumed more responsibility for maritime quarantine. This resulted in heated defense of ‘states’ rights.’ In 1900 the State Health Officer was invited to appear before the U. S. Senate Committee on Public Health and National Quarantine to ‘present arguments for or against federal supremacy in health matters in the several states.’ Dr. J. L. Horsey, the Assistant State Health Officer, offered a forceful and lengthy statement ‘against any proposition of the kind.’ Referring to this comment, the annual report for 1900 states, ‘It is to be regretted that the venerable Chairman of the Committee in his bias should have endeavored to make it appear that the State Board of Health was possessed of a vindictive spirit.’ However, the annual report for 1901 stated, ‘A notable and probably the most important feature of the labors of the Board during the past year was the transfer of operation

and management of the maritime quarantine system of the State to the U. S. Marine Hospital Service.’ Florida had reason for pride as the Federal authorities accepted with few changes the rules and regulations previously developed. Thus a service conceived and developed by the Florida State Board of Health under Dr. Porter’s leadership provided the foundation for the further growth of this modern system. Through his designation as quarantine officer for the Port of Key West, he maintained his contact with this public health activity.

“The year 1901 was the end of an early era, for this was the time that the practical significance of the discovery of the mosquito transmission of yellow fever and malaria was being discussed. In 1900, findings related to the “mosquito theory” were effectively summarized. Dr. Porter’s opinion at that time was ‘while it is not denied that mosquitoes may convey malarial germs . . . yet to ascribe to these insects the sole power of production of this disorder as well as that of yellow fever, is to reject equally convincing and potent facts.’ In the following year, however, Dr. Porter stated that ‘the possibility of the transmission of yellow fever to man through the agency of the infected mosquito of a certain species is no longer theory but a well determined fact.’ The uncertainty which lurked in the minds of the members of the Board as well as the American Public Health Association was whether this was ‘the sole and only means of transmission of the yellow fever poison.’ So the tried and tested means of quarantine and disinfection continued for a time while the efficacy of prevention of yellow fever by mosquito control was being observed and established.

“Smallpox was the second major problem to which the State Board of Health directed its attention in these early years. Reports from counties for these years record many instances of the identification of smallpox, the isolation of patients in ‘pest houses,’ and the urging of vaccination. Here for example are comments from four counties: cited in the annual report for 1900: ‘Occasional cases of smallpox,’ ‘A few cases of smallpox,’ ‘One of the worst epidemics of smallpox,’ ‘Smallpox made an inroad into the county.’ In that year, of a total budget of about \$50,000, there were ‘extraordinary and unusual expenses’ of about \$14,000 for ‘yellow fever expense’ and \$17,430 for ‘smallpox and vaccine virus.’ Emergency expenditures for these two diseases in this year were substantially more than the regular State Board of Health budget.

“Compared with yellow fever and smallpox, other infectious diseases received little attention. Malaria was something to be expected. Dengue fever was important since it was easily confused with yellow fever, and large numbers of cases occurred periodically. Measles, whooping cough, and scarlet fever received passing comment. As for diphtheria, the annual report of 1894 states, ‘The discovery by Behring . . . of a serum . . . promises to rob the disease of its terrors . . . Should this prove a success, this lymph will be kept constantly on hand and ready for distribution.’ Tuberculosis was recognized, the advantages of Florida’s climate for treatment were emphasized, and there was the new concept that, ‘at the present time it is believed to be transmitted by infection.’ Leprosy is mentioned as a problem because of unfortunate publicity. There were sensational articles in northern

papers maliciously reporting the employment of lepers in the cigar factories of Tampa and Key West. There was also concern with epidemic disease in livestock. In the second annual report of the State Board of Health, action to prevent the introduction of glanders was reported.

“Besides the control of epidemic and other infectious diseases, two problems received repeated attention. There was a persistent concern with vital statistics. The initial plan to work through county boards of health failed. Proposed legislation to require reporting of infectious diseases was met with disinterest by legislators. But despite these rebuffs, a system for reporting was initiated. Then there was the eager interest in health education. The publication of *Florida Health Notes* was started in 1892. Early and later developments of these and other specific programs are considered separately in the later section.

“In these beginning years there were prominent administrative problems involving Federal-State and State-county relationships. As previously indicated, the first was related to differing opinions in the handling of maritime quarantine. The criticisms by State personnel of Federal plans and programs were pointed and emphatic. Concern with ‘states’ rights’ in the health field has a long history.

“Prior to the establishment of the State Board of Health in 1889, there were county boards of health. These boards had authority to make rules and to declare quarantine whenever they deemed it expedient. The continuation of such boards was authorized by the Legislature in 1889, but problems soon became apparent. Within three years, abolition of county boards was

recommended and eventually this received legislative authorization except for Escambia and Franklin Counties. In place of county boards, “county agents” (physicians) were appointed; these local practitioners reported directly to the State Health Officer.

“Looking back over these first 12 years, Dr. Porter comments with deep feelings and affection. Here are excerpts from his concluding statement, ‘The Board started out 12 years ago without precedents for guidance. The entire country viewed with some anxiety and doubt the inauguration of a system of maritime quarantine . . . which was opposed to all previously conceived ideas. The Board has jealously watched every movement which would affect the reputation of the State as a health resort. The growth of manifestations of confidence has been as marvelous as it has been gratifying to the Board . . . In no State of the Union has so much been accomplished in an educational way in health matters . . . The third term of service of the State Health Officer is completed . . . 12 years . . . marked by strenuous effort, much anxiety, and a responsibility, the burden of which cannot be expressed. Yet the service has been . . . one of satisfaction and gratification. The people of Florida . . . have made the position of State Health Officer one of honor, dignity, and affection. . . . To the press . . . the great director of thought and controller of public opinion . . . his grateful thanks for the words of cheer, approbation, and support . . . The flattering praise . . . reads more like a eulogy given the dead than an approval of conduct of the living. These choice flowers of tender expressions, fragrant with the perfume of appreciation, attachment, and love are priceless gems to himself and family . . .”

A Living Memorial

By Elizabeth Ann Gardner

This story involves a war, a brave and patriotic young man, a group of several teenaged boys, and a little tree that grew to become a majestic giant, one of the largest trees on the island.

The story begins in the year 1917. World War I had been a raging and Europe since July, 1914, when Austria had declared war on Serbia. When the war began, few thought that the United States would be involved, but as time went on, neutrality became more and more difficult. Following Germany's announcement early in 1917 that any ship approaching Allied ports in Europe would be sunk without warning, the United States declared war on April 6, 1917 and President Woodrow Wilson called for volunteers.

One young man who answered the call was Howard Jennings Sands, who was born in Key West on September 1, 1896 to parents Adriana and Kersey M. Sands Jr. he was assigned to the 101st infantry in France, where he was killed in the battle of Chateau Thierry on July 1, 1918, six weeks before his twenty-second birthday. His body was returned to Key West, where he is buried in lot 61 on 5th Avenue in the Key West Cemetery.

Howard had attended the Harris school, which prior to the year 1915 had included grades one through twelve. During recess in the schoolyard, the old boys taught the younger boys how to play various games. Several boys in their early teens, who had been Howard's protégés, were deeply saddened by his death, and they decided to plant a tree in his memory.

One of the boys was 13-year-old Whitney Knowles, who lived at 805 Frances Street, which at that



Malabar Almond tree with new leaves appearing in March 1954. Photo credit: Elizabeth Ann Gardner.

time was a house on the corner of Frances and Petronia streets. My family home at 1104 Petronia Street was next door to Whitney's house on the Petronia Street side.

One day in August 1918, my aunt Eliza Gardner was sitting by the front window on the Frances Street side of our house, from which she could see down the Petronia Street side all Whitney's house, all the way to the front corner of his yard. She watched as Whitney and several other boys came down Francis Street from the direction of Southard Street, bringing with them a small Malabar almond tree, not more than 18 inches tall, which they had dug up from someone's yard, or a vacant lot.

One of the boys was my father, Henry Alban Gardner Sr., who was then 13 years old. Another was 11-year-old William Norberg "Ikey" Cates, who live at 1121 Petronia Street. From the distance my aunt could not tell who the other boys were, they did not live in this neighborhood. My father would have been able to tell me who the other boys were, but he had died in 1975, before I became interested in recording the story of the almond tree.

My aunt said the boys dug a hole in the very corner of Whitney's front yard and planted the little tree. They then joined hands and formed a circle around the tree and had a ceremony, but my aunt could not hear what was said until the conclusion, when in unison they shouted the name Howard Sands three times, emphasizing each syllable of his name with stomping of the right foot.

After Whitney's father, James A. Knowles, died his mother married William Pent and they continued to live in the house at 805 Frances Street until the mid 1920's when Whitney moved to Miami and his mother and stepfather moved to Ashe Street. The house at 805 Frances Street remained vacant until it was condemned and torn down around 1932, leaving a vacant lot with the then 14-year-old almond tree, which was a still-growing tree. In 1938 my aunt Susie bought the lot. After she died in 1973 and my aunt Eliza died in 1995, I became owner of the lot.

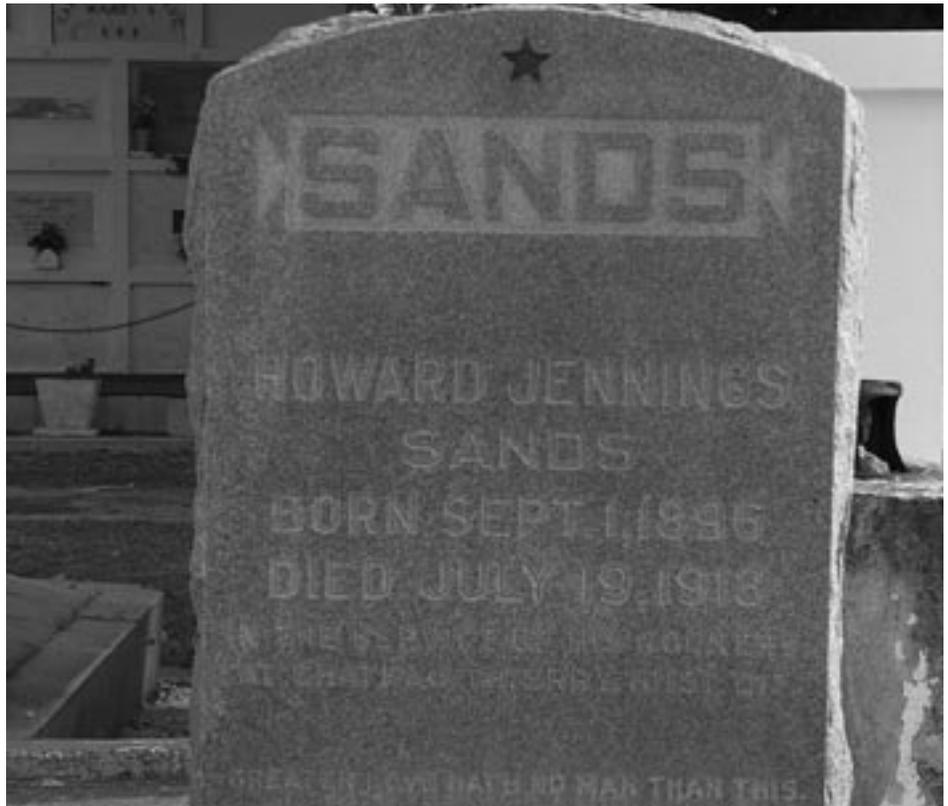
During my childhood in the 1930's, I could climb the almond tree and look out over the cemetery and see the houses on Passover Lane and Solaris Hill. My aunt

Susie fixed a tin can on the end of a long pole, and I and other children in the neighborhood could poke down the ripe almonds. We would sit on the sidewalk for hours, gnawing the skin and thin layer of pulp off of the ripe almonds, sucking the juice from the straw-covered seed, then cracking the seed opened with a hammer or big rock and eating the inside of the seed.

The Malabar almond tree is native to Southeast Asia and is also known as the East Indian Almond Tree. Its botanical name is *terminalia catappa*. It is a tropical fruit tree and not a member of the nut family, getting its name from the almond shape all be fruit it bears. When ripe, the skin of the fruit of the almond tree on the corner of Frances and Petronia streets is yellow, sometimes with a tinge of pink or red. There is also a variety of Malabar almond which produces fruit with a dark reddish-purple skin and pulp.

The wood of the Malabar almond is soft and small branches and the lambs can be easily snapped off by hand and by a heavy storm or hurricane, but the mature Malabar almond tree develops a stronger root system, with some large roots extending out for 50 feet or more from the base of the trunk. A mature Malabar almond tree has never been known to be uprooted by a hurricane.

At the time of this writing, my almond tree is 89 years old. It is one of the largest trees on the island, a majestic green giant. It used to be every year in November or December, when the weather turned cold, every leaf on the almond tree turned red and dropped off, leaving the tree looking like a dead skeleton until March, when new leaves appeared. However, during the past decade this has changed. Now the tree maintains a green canopy of leaves year round, dropping only a



Howard Sands grave stone in the Key West City Cemetery. The bottom lines read:

“IN THE SERVICE OF HIS COUNTY

AT CHATEAU THIERRY. 101ST INF.

GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS.”

few dead leaves daily and replacing them with new leaves within a few days. This is probably the result of global warming.

As the global population of people continues to increase, the number of motor vehicles on our city streets and highways continues to increase, as does also traffic in our skies. The exhaust from these vehicles is constantly sending increasing levels of carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide into our atmosphere and this is said to be what causes all of global warming.

Trees breathe just as people do. While people need to inhale oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide, trees need to inhale carbon dioxide and exhale oxygen. People can not live without trees and trees cannot live without people. However, as the global population of people continues to increase, the number of trees and other plant life is being

decreased as land is cleared for building more homes, schools and shopping centers.

People and trees both need water. Trees draw rain. South Florida is currently experiencing below average rainfall for a second straight year, and the water level of Lake Okeechobee is at a record low. To what extent is the loss of trees in the Everglades responsible for this drought?

A tree planted in memory of someone is a living memorial and could help to prevent our earth from eventually becoming a dead planet. If and when there are no more trees, there will be no more people.

Elizabeth Ann Gardner graduated from Key West High School and Florida State University with a Master Degree in Food and Nutrition with a minor in Biochemistry. She current owner and caretaker of the Malabar Almond tree

Hackley's Diary

William Hackley practiced law in Key West from 1829 to 1857. He kept a diary for part of the time he was in Key West. Here is the diary for part of February and March 1856.

Sunday, February 24. Rose at 5 and walked to the salt ponds, returned home and took a shower bath. At 8:30 A.M. barometer 29.56, thermometer 70.5, wind north 3, clouds 2. The steamer **Vanderbilt** went out about 8 A.M. and towed the brig **Huntress** over the Northwest Bar. Sent by John Smith the Law Register and Law magazine for 1855 third volume of each to be bound in sheep. Read papers.

Monday, February 25. Rose at 5 and walked to the salt ponds, returned home and took a shower bath. At 8:30 A.M. barometer 29.56, thermometer 71, wind north northeast 2, clouds 2. Mailed a letter to R.S. Millis, Editor of Musical World, with \$2.00 for a subscription for 1856. Also to Dix and Edwards \$1.00 for the Schoolfellow magazine. Returned Francis Watlington's claim with the certificate from the Clerk of Court. Tried the case of Simeon Frow vs. bark **Balaklava** and cargo. Made some cartridges. The steamer **Isabel** came in. Paid \$1.00 for cleaning the well and \$.38 for vegetables.

Tuesday, February 26. Rose at 4:45 and walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.43, thermometer 71, wind northerly 1, clouds 2 with hazy, weather pleasant. Read papers. Went down to Bowne and Curry's and Bowne gave me some root of the Bermuda Arrowroot to plant and went over the ship with me, he told me a good deal about Cosumel and showed me some vanilla which he

brought from there. Paid Meza for a Parrot cage received yesterday from Havana. John P. Baldwin charged me no duty on it. Hiram Benner and Mrs. Hubble spent the evening. Filled some cartridges.

Wednesday, February 27. Rose at 5 and walked to the salt ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8:30 A.M. barometer 29.48, thermometer 76, wind south southeast 3, clouds 2. Read papers and prepared for an expedition to the Marquesas. Turner and the Patterson girls spent the evening and Major William Fraser came in and sat for some time.

Rose at 4 and called Charles Tift and Major William Fraser. We got off in the schooner **Dart** with two small boats on deck and the sail boat in tow about 6 A.M. The company consists of Captain N. Palmer and his nephew Richard Palmer, Captain Stone, Mr. E. Mowry, Major Fraser, Mr. Foster, Turner Patterson, Alexander Patterson, Fleiding Patterson, Charles Tift and William Wall with a cook and a steward and boat keeper. The wind was very light nearly calm and we got down about 3 P.M. and went off and caught some fish for supper. Slept on deck.

Friday, February 29. Turned out about 5 and ashore on the flats shooting saw but four small birds and they were all very shy, the weather being too warm. Went on board about 9 and got breakfast and divided into three parties. Captain Palmer and Alexander Patterson went after Cormorants and I went fishing, could not find good bottom and caught but three fish. All hands aboard by 3 and got underway for home. On the way caught eight Kingfish. Got home about 8 P.M. having had a very pleasant trip thought not very successful as to game.

Saturday, March 1. Rose about 6 and bathed. At 9 barometer 29.45.5, thermometer 80, wind southeast 4, clouds 2. Overhauled my traps and hung them out to dry. Paid Dr. LeEngle his bill \$35.00. Paid Lizzie to date \$8.75 cash and \$2.50 paid for shoes, she does not charge for the first month.

Sunday, March 2. At 8:15 A.M. barometer 29.38, thermometer 80, wind south by west 2, clouds 2. All night in pain in all my limbs, back and head and teeth ache have every symptoms of a severe cold. Took a conite and put on the wet bandages and went to bed. Passed a miserable night could not sleep more than a half hour at a time about 4 commenced perspiring and felt better got up about 6 and bathed and lay down on the bed with my clothes on and had a short nap which made me feel better. Did not go down town after dinner but read Harper's magazine at home and feel very sore towards night and took a conte and belladonna and put on a girdle. The wind changed during the night and blew on my bed and I went into the house and slept the rest of the night.

Monday, March 3. Rose about 6 and bathed. At 8:20 A.M. barometer 29.56, thermometer 79.5, wind north northwest 3, clouds 7. I feel better this morning but my teeth are very sore and my throat is quite painful and in the night put on a wet towel. I slept pretty well and am easier. Judge William Marvin read the decree in the case of the ship **Mary Hale** giving 36 per cent of the gross value the smallest salvage ever given in such a case. William Wall came to get me to draw a petition for the amount of damage done by the ship **Ashburton** to his wharf.

I spent the afternoon looking up cases.

Tuesday, March 4. Rose about 6 and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.68, thermometer 78, wind east by northeast 4, clouds 4. Slept in a wet girdle again and a wet cloth round my throat better this morning but throat still sore and teeth painful though not aching. Drew up the petition for Oliver O'Hara and Wells against the ship **Ashburton** for breaking down their wharf by putting too much ballast in one spot. Filed the petition signed by Oliver O'Hara. Went up home at 10 with Dr. Walton. He plugged three teeth for Matilda and commenced Aeltas.

Wednesday, March 5. Rose at 6 and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.62, thermometer 80, wind north northwest 3, in a thick fog for the last few minutes. Had a wet cloth round my throat last night and well this morning except throat and teeth. Received from J.B. Browne my fee in the case of the bark **George Thomas** \$12.00. Proctor's fee in the same \$20.00. Fee in schooner **Entire** \$24.00. Proctor's fee in same \$20.00. Fee in the case of ship **Mary Hale** \$253.76. Paid R.P. Campbell's bill to 1st of January \$219.81 and Library dues for last year \$5.00. After dinner Dr. Walton came up and pulled two teeth for Hatty and six for Charlotte. Lucia quite unwell and vomited all evening, put a wet bandage which relieved her somewhat and ipecac several times about 11 she had some fever and I gave her some aconté and out on a wet bandage which remained all night she slept from about 2 till morning.

Thursday, March 6. Rose at 5 and walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. Lucia better. At 9 A.M. barometer 29.55, thermometer 78, wind north

northeast 2, clouds 3, weather very pleasant. Yesterday paid Wright \$10.00 for work on piano. Anduze, who came in yesterday on a smack from Havana, came up to see me he says that he has some Curassows for me and he will send by the first vessel. His wife sent one which was for me but by mistake it was sent to Captain Lowe. The Steamer **Florida** got in about 4 P.M. and the steamer **Isabel** about half past 4. Received a letter from Mother and Comptroller of Treasury, Matilda got one from P. Butler. I had two front teeth filled the others are so sore that I cannot have them finished.

Friday, March 7. Rose at 5 and walked partly to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.54, thermometer 77.5, wind northeast 1, clouds 2. Got papers from the Post Office. Got a barrel of flour by the Steamer **Florida** which cost here \$11.90. Got five volumes of American State Papers (Public Lands) which I bought at auction on Thursday for \$2.75 and eighteen volumes of Medical Review bought at the same time for \$3.31. Taxed costs in case of the ship **Ashburton** and examined witnesses on the claim of Oliver O'Hara and Charles Wells against her for breaking down their wharf. Went down to Bowne and Curry and saw a hound sent to John P. Bladwin by a friend from Apalachicola. She is a perfect hound. Lucia was sick vomiting and pain in the stomach. Kept me a wake most of the night. Gave her Chamomile which relieved her.

Saturday, March 8. Rose about 6 and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.47.5, thermometer 79, wind northeast 1, clouds 4. Paid William Dennis for hire of Matilda to the first and a cord of wood \$14.50. Paid John Conde amount due \$8.50. Mr. Anduze came to my office and

sat for some time. Bought a cotton umbrella for \$1.50 and left my cane at home.

Sunday, March 9. Rose at 4:45 and walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.48, thermometer 80, wind north northeast 1, clouds ½. Read papers. P.M. Siesta. Weather pleasant.

Monday, March 10. Rose at 4:45 and walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.55, thermometer 80, wind north northwest 3, clouds 7. Wrote to Mother. Wrote to L. Campbell and Company enclosing \$1.00 for Chapman's Principie. Mailed a letter from Matilda to Mrs. Lightborne and Miss Juliana Floker in Savannah. Paid John Porter auction bill of \$6.60. Filed a petition for sale of the bark **Balaklava**. Sent by Captain Richard W. Cussins for piano strings. The steamer **Isabel** got in about 4 and the steamer **Florida** left very soon after she arrived. Went round to Alexander Patterson's after tea with Matilda and children and had music.

Tuesday, March 11. Rose at 4:15 and was quite sick with Cholera Morbus from eating cow peas. Took Chamomile and walked to the Salt Ponds and returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.53, thermometer 77, hazy. The ship **Ashburton** went to sea this morning. Presented a petition for the sale of the bark **Balaklava** to the Judge. Had my teeth finished and paid Dr. Walton for Matilda, Myself and the children \$30.00. Joseph B. Browne brought me a half a ticket from Havana for the lottery draw on March 28. Captain N. Palmer went in the steamer **Florida**.

Wednesday, March 12. Rose at 4:45 and walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed.

(Continued on page 12)

(Hackley from page 11)

At 8 A.M. barometer 29.42, thermometer 80, wind southwest 2, hazy. Received of the Clerk of Court \$143.84 fee in the case of the ship **Ashburton**. Paid Joseph B. Brown \$4.12 for Lottery Ticket. Paid William H. Wall and Company my bill to January 1st \$109.29. Crawford Thompson was found drowned at Tift's Wharf. He was last seen drunk on Sunday night on board the steamer **Florida**.

Thursday, March 13. Rose at 5:25 and walked across the island by Simonton Road and round by the Fort home and then bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.29.5, thermometer 81, wind south southwest 5, clouds 7. Put on cotton socks and thin coat. Read papers. About 4 P.M. the wind came out of the northwest with rain and blew fresh all night.

Friday, March 14. The weather being raw and cloudy I was fearful that going out I would increase the pain in my teeth which is bad enough as it is so I lay in bed till near 6 and did not bath. At 8:15 A.M. barometer 29.50, thermometer 75.5, wind northwest by north 4, clouds 6. Read papers. Mr. Anduze came to bid me good bye, he is to leave in the morning. I gave him a memorandum to send me some plantains, yams etc. when he an opportunity. Walked above the Barracks with Matilda and the children.

Saturday, March 15. Rose at 5:25 and walked as on the 13th. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.55, thermometer 73.5, wind north northeast 2, clouds 4. The sloop **Texas** came down with a load of salt from the wreck of the ship **Mariner** ashore on Carysford Reef loaded with salt bound to New Orleans. Read Household Words. In the afternoon the brigantine **Saline** from New York for Galveston laden

with assorted cargo came in having been ashore on Cape Florida. The schooner **John Britton** and another vessel took a load each and got her off. Turner Patterson and the two Patterson girls dined with us and I did not go down town after dinner. Walked to the Fort with all the family and Major William D. Fraser joined us and he made many remarks on Major William H. Chase's work and complained that many slight alterations for the worse had been made in the work by him. Alexander Patterson and the rest of the family came in after tea.

Sunday, March 16. At 8:15 A.M. barometer 29.50, thermometer 75.5, wind southeast 2, clouds 3. From soon after I went to bed till after 12 suffered intense pain from my teeth. Used the wash given me by Dr. Walton without effect. Put a wet bandage on which soon eased me and I went to sleep and slept till 6. Face quite sore but the tooth does not ache this morning. Went to see Dr. Walton who scarified the gums and cut down to the roots. Went home about 11 and remained all day reading Harpers magazine.

Monday, March 17. Rose at 4:50 and walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.48, thermometer 78, wind south ½, clouds 3. Slept with a wet cloth to my face all night and this morning the tooth is better. Read Household Words. After tea Matilda and I went to Mary Ann Porter's.

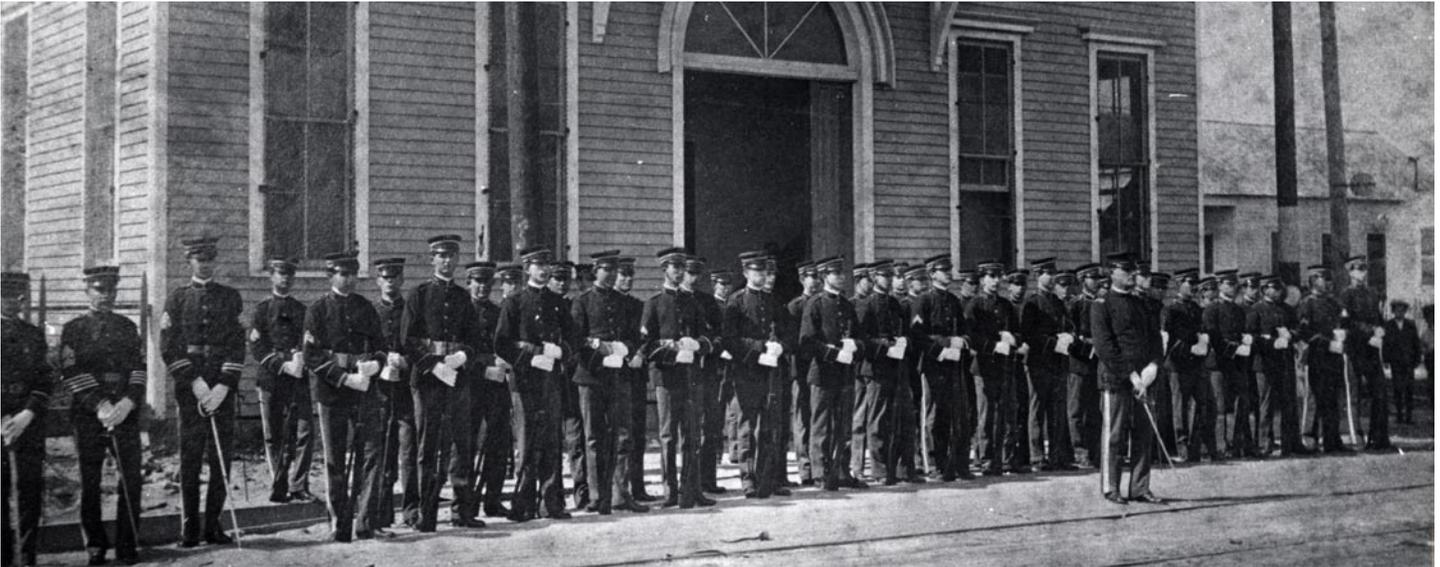
Tuesday, March 18. Rose at 4:50 and walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.50, thermometer 80, wind south southwest 2, clouds 2. Read Household Words. After tea Matilda and I went to Mrs. Stephen Mallory's. Samuel Douglas and wife and Felix Senac and wife came in while we were there.

Wednesday, March 19. Rose at 4:45 and walked to the Salt Ponds,

returned home and bathed. At 8 A.M. barometer 29.52, thermometer 82.5, wind south southwest 2, clouds 1. Yesterday got back the clock with calendar hand and took to Walberg the eight day clock which I had found that it would not run more than a few days without losing many minutes. Read Household Words. Judge William Marvin read the decree in the case of the bark **Balaklava** ordering that cotton be sold (the bark is sold) and 25 per cent of net sales for salvage the rest to remain in Court until called for by the owners. The Captain (Barss) drinks very hard which I suppose caused the Judge to act as he has. The case of Phillips vs. Brig **Sabine** tried, lawyers Samuel Douglas and Ossian B. Hart. P.M. Siesta and read Household Words.

Thursday, March 20. Rose at 4:45 and walked to the Salt Ponds and returned home and bathed. At 8 barometer 29.46, thermometer 82, wind south ½, clouds 5. There is a ship either ashore or at anchor in Boca Grande Channel but it is so calm that the wreckers cannot get down to her. The steamer **Vanderbilt** got in about 4 P.M. and immediately ran down to the ship it having been so calm all day that but few of the vessels got down. The USS **Fulton** got in about 5 P.M. The whole family went down to Alexander Patterson's and stayed till 9.

Friday, March 21. Rose at 4:15 and walked to the Salt Ponds, returned home and bathed. At 8:20 A.M. barometer 29.36, thermometer 83, wind south 3, clouds 4. The ship on shore is the clipper **Metropolitan**. The Captain mistook Sand Key for Tortugas and squared away for New Orleans and put steering sails on her. She is on the bar marking the west end of Sarigold Key.



Company I Florida National Guard in front of the Armory on White Street. Photo credit: Monroe County Library.

(Heros from page 1)

needless to consider the acts and deeds of violence that finally led the United States to declare that it could no longer endure German arrogance and misrule.

“After the Declaration of War was made there was but one course open to every man who had strength to bear arms—that was to say, ‘Here am I, send me.’

“Our young friends in whose honor we meet did not stop to count the cost, but in the strength of their young manhood threw themselves at the Hun in defense of their nation, their flag, their people, their families. They have covered themselves with honor. They have finished their young lives in glory. They have given everything, everything. They have seen the Hun face to face. They have looked him squarely in the eye. They have actually said in deed The two of us cannot live on the face of the earth. And these two young lives have been sacrificed.

“But the sacrifice is not in vain. They have made the way. They have led into the stronghold of the German where millions of men shall follow.

“Their sacrifice has counted.

Their sacrifice counts today. It declares the victory of the Allies. It announces that America is unafraid. It declares that all America will follow their example before we shall be under the dominion of the Hun.

“In the year of our Lord 1897, on the 4th day of July was born to Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Sawyer, Arthur Bates Sawyer, a boy, born on the anniversary of our ‘Independence Day’ and who was destined to become a great soldier, and to die the death of a hero.

“He attended the public schools of this county having reached the eighth grade. He was an apt pupil and was loved by his teachers and classmates.

“When about eighteen years of age he ventured out into the world, and his efforts were being crowned with success in his lines of endeavor, when our government called for volunteers for service on the Mexican border. Arthur responded, and being an American who wanted action and plenty of it, he enlisted with the ‘Fighting Marines,’ and was in the service from this time until the time of his heroic death on the battle fields of France.

“After the American troops had been withdrawn from the border he was moved to Portsmouth, N.H., where he was promoted to Corporal. Being a bright pupil and a well drilled soldier, he was taken from his company at Portsmouth together with five other members and transferred to Utica, New York, where he was taught the operation of the great Lewis Machine Gun. After a short period, and upon his examination as to his knowledge of this marvelous fighting weapon, he broke the record, having dismantled and put together again this gun in five minutes and twenty-seven seconds, while blind folded. The best record made up to this time being six minutes. At this time he was again promoted to First Gun Sergeant. He was then detailed to instruct in the use of the Lewis Gun and for seven months was busily engaged learning others to use it. During this period he instructed five companies.

“He was given a short furlough before being sent across, and was with his parents in Key West during the last holiday season. On Jan. 10th Sawyer sailed for France, and from

(Continued on page 14)

(Heros from page 13)

then no official record has been received. A letter to his mother at one time from Arthur stated that he had been several battles 'From official reports there were seven men killed from his company on the day of his death, and it is supposed that his entire gun crew of seven were wiped out at this time.

"Truly, a glorious record of Key West boy; truly a glorious death for a Key West boy to die, the death of a Fighting Marine.

"Arthur was a devoted son to his parents and was ever solicitous about his mother. A letter received by her a short time before his death said; 'don't worry about me; keep a good heart I am coming home someday and, tell you all about it.' Another letter received by his mother requested that he be sent religious tracts for distribution among his men, and, from that time on his mother always sent him religious literature.

"A letter from the war department to his mother and father announcing Arthur's death, said, 'We grieve with you. We have lost a good gunner, a good sergeant, and a good instructor. Your boy's name is on the roll of honor and will never die.'

"Thus ends the chapter of a 'Fighting, Marine.'

"In the year of our Lord 1896, on the first day of September, there was born to Mr. and Mrs. Kersey McGregor Sands, a son, Howard Jennings Sands. From baby-hood and during his short stay on this earth, he was a model child. He was a boy that loved, honored and, respected his mother. Such boys always make good soldiers. He entered the public schools of this county at an early age, and was a very bright pupil, but several years ago, when his father's home was destroyed by fire, he insisted

on leaving school to assist his father and mother in their time of misfortune. He stood nobly by them, and from that time on helped support his, little brothers and sisters, thus depriving himself of a higher education

"He was a member of the Fleming Street Sunday School and the First Baptist Sunday School, was a model pupil and an example to his classmates.

"When old enough he made application, and was taken into the Patriotic Order Sons of American, Washington Camp No. 12 of Key West, Florida. In this order his love for his country and flag was intensified. He vowed that 'through life and until death he would defend his own, his native land.' He said, 'My country first, last and forever, through life until death; my country.'

"He volunteered, and was in the service in Company I, Key West Guards, for three years. For nine months he was with his company on the Mexican border, protecting American citizens from, the invasion of the heathen followers of Villa, and other Mexican bandits.

"After this service he returned to Key West where he had a short respite before being again called to the colors, this time to cross the ocean in defense of devastated Belgium and bleeding France. He went with a smile. When about ready to bid farewell to his mother, he said, 'Mother don't go to the train with me unless you can go with a smile.'

"A letter received from Howard somewhere in New Jersey which was mailed just before he started across addressed to his mother, said, 'Mother don't worry, I am going over with a smile.'

"The following is a copy of a letter received after he reached France:

"Dear Mother:

I would have you before this but I did not the time. I am well and hope you and all the family are the same. I arrived safe overseas but. I expect you know that by now. Mother don't worry about me. If it is the Lord's will I will come back to you if I do I will have lots to tell you. Give my love to all the family, and, all the neighbors that ask about me. Tell them hello for me. I will close for this time hoping that these few lines will cheer you up.

Your ever loving son,
HOWARD J. SANDS.

"P. S.—Tell - papa hello for me. Send me Keddie's address. I might run across him.

"Howard's mother has his Bible which, he gave her when leaving Key West, which is of course greatly prized.

"The following is an extract from a letter received by Mr. and Mrs. Sands to A. A. Parker, Adjutant General:—'It is with profound regret that I confirm my recent telegram announcing the death of Private Howard J. Sands, Replacement Detachment, 101st Infantry, who was killed in action July 19th, 1918.'

"Thus ends the chapter of this

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Arthur B. Sawyer's grave stone in the Battleship Maine Plot in the Key West City Cemetery. Photo credit: Tom Hambricht.

noble patriot. His name will go down in history numbered with the patriots of old, his example will shine out through the ages to come. All honor to Brother Howard Jennings Sand.

"Friends of the loved ones, we meet honor them we say in reality we are honored to meet here and speak their names and mention in public that which we have already said. It is beautiful to die in defense of women and children and down-trodden nations. We glory in their honor. We older men envy the name they forever bear among us. We have striven half a century or more to be of service to our nation, and here comes two boys who shame us with their daring, their willingness, their sacrifice.

"What shall one who has no boy to offer to the nation today say to you, parents? Out of a heart eager for victory I say to you! I envy you the glory that shines around your name today. I envy you stalwart lads who bore your name. I envy you the satisfaction of knowing that one taught at your knee has gone bravely up to his own Calvary.

"As a citizen I thank you. As a citizen I appreciate with multitudes of others the fact that they died for the protection of every one of us. As an American I want to express my gratitude to you for your sons who have died that others might live.

"I am honored in pronouncing the names of Key West's two heroes, Arthur Bates Sawyer and Howard Jennings Sands."

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Malabar Almond tree , a living memorial, see story on page 8. Photo credit: Tom Hambright.

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