

MANATEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Unveiling of Portrait of Joel Jackson Addison

Sheriff of Manatee County ~~1964~~ - 1966 1861 - 1866

Manatee Village Historical Park

March 21, 1990

Colonel G. Warren Johnson, Jr.: Welcome. On behalf of the members of the Manatee County Historical Commission, the Chairman of the Manatee County Historical Commission, I wish to welcome you here to Manatee Village Historical Park. I especially want to extend a hearty welcome to the Addison family who so graciously put on this little program that we're having today and which are going to make the presentation that you will become aware of a little later on. Again, I wish to say thank you to all of you, and welcome.

Reverend Thomas H. McLeod: Let us join in prayer together. Almighty God, bless us as we gather here today to celebrate and to witness to our heritage and past achievement. And so inspired by your grace that we might see what work is yet to be done, and seek to do that work to your glory and for the common good. Amen.

Virginia Sparks Barnard: (?). In Westmorland County, England, there's a monument that bears this inscription. On this spot, (?) ancestors will be celebrating Joseph Addison. The father of the Reverend Lancelot Addison was born here in 1632. The monument also has the same Coat of Arms as that of (?). The history of the Addison family usually begins with the Reverend Lancelot Addison who was educated at Oxford and is the author of several notable religious publications. Later he is installed as Dean of (?). His son, Joseph Addison, would later become a major influence on people's public opinion. His writing skills were legend in several (?) in government and lobbying (?), as a poet and a (?). His fame rests almost exclusively on his contributions to two newspapers of his time, which were known as the Tablet and the Spectator. His poem style was polished (?). He was a master of lucidity (?). The measure of his greatness is probably best summed up by Daniel Johnson's famous pronouncement, whoever wishes to improve his English style should spend his days and nights with the writings of Joseph Addison.

Joseph Addison died young at the age of 74 without issue. He is interred at the Point's Corner of Westminster Abbey. At this point, it is interesting to note that the complete name of the man who Bradenton was named for was Joseph Addison Braden, III. The first of the Addison family to come to this country was Colonel John Addison. Born in England, he was an older brother of the Reverend Lancelot Addison and (?). Colonel John Addison came to Maryland and settled on the banks of the Potomac River in 1667. He owned 12,000 acres of land in Maryland and he helped establish Broad Creek Church which was the oldest Episcopal church in Maryland.

An old census enumerates there were a few Addisons in Vermont, New York, Virginia, and North Carolina. But the greatest concentration were found in the

states of Maryland and North Carolina. People bearing the Addison name were generally of English descent and occasionally were of the Scottish variety. (?) John Addison, in Leon County, which is 1824-1825. There was another John Addison living on the east coast of Florida. This John Addison owned a plantation with some 1,000 acres in what is now Takoma State Park on Halifax River near Daytona Beach. The plantation's name was (?), named after Mr. Addison's (?). Incidentally, Andrew Jackson, the 7th President of the United States was also (?). This same John Addison died 24 days after his land grant was confirmed by the United States Land Commission in 1925. The property went to his brother Tom who died a few months later. And as far as we know, there are no known descendants of either one.

Today only ruins remain in this once thriving plantation along the Halifax River. All that remains of (?) are coquina block houses (?). But this has come to be known as the Addison block house. It's State owned, and like the Gamble Mansion here in Bradenton, it has been designated as being a historical memorial on Florida (?).

Our branch of the Addison family first came to Florida from the eastern part of North Carolina. John Addison and his wife, Ellen Henderson Addison, arrived in Leon County either in 1824 or 1825. Their first child was named William Henderson Addison. He had been born in North Carolina in 1821. Some records show their second child, another son, as being James Addison, who was born in 1824 in Florida. Other records show him being born in North Carolina. We know for certain, however, that they were in Florida in 1825 inasmuch as the first census of Leon County was dated in September of 1825, and it lists John Addison and his younger brother, James Addison. In addition to the two sons that were just mentioned, John and Ellen had four more children, all of which were born in Leon County, and they are as follows: John, Jr. was born in 1827; Eliza Ann in 1830; Joel Jackson in 1833; and Lucy C. in 1837. Shortly before 1850, the entire Addison family moved from Leon County to southern Hillsborough County, which is now going back to the Manatee settlement on the Manatee River, and most were raised in Manatee County.

Here on this new frontier, cattle raising was becoming a national commercial industry where the cattle could roam and graze across grassy river valleys and there was ample grass to support the growing herds. In time, John Addison and his children made their pellets on the surrounding open range. Like some of the other nearby settlers, they (?) in the profitable market of shipping cattle to Key West, Cuba, and (?). During these times, there was always a constant danger of Indian attack. In the third Seminole Indian War, John Addison mustered a company of men of his own called Lieutenant Addison's Company of Florida Mounted Volunteers. His four sons were in this company, along with his son-in-law, David Townsend, and Colton Ross. Colton Ross was the father of David's wife.

In February of 1855, the Seminole Indians made a (?) attack on Braden