

COLONEL H. T. TITUS

FOUNDER OF

TITUSVILLE, FLORIDA

1865

By: Ianthe Bond Hebel  
Daytona Beach, Florida,  
1969

Henry T. Titus Biography File, Florida State Archives, Tallahassee  
University of Florida Library, Gainesville

COLONEL HENRY THEODORE TITUS

FOUNDER OF TITUSVILLE, FLORIDA

1865

A. J. Hanna in Chapter 12 of Florida's GOLDEN SANDS writes of Col. Titus as a man of uncertain destiny. He was certainly a soldier of fortune, about whom controversy and conflict always gathered.

HIS BACKGROUND.

- I. The first of his family in America was Robert Titus, born in 1600 in St. Catherine's Parish, Hertfordshire, England, about thirty miles Northwest of London. He was a respected farmer.

m He embarked from London, April 3, 1655, with his wife, Hannah, and their sons, John and Edmund on the ship "Hopewell", commanded by Capt. Bundock. They settled on a land grant in what is now Brookline, Massachusetts, near Muddy River. They later moved to Weymouth, Mass.

In 1644, Robert, together with some forty families, moved to Rehoboth, Mass. He was one of the founders of the first Parish, And was commissioner for the court of Plymouth from Rehoboth, 1648 to 1658.

In March 23, 1654, he emigrated to Oyster Bay, Long Island.

Peq Lib Fla. Hist. I.B. Hebel \$6.00 4/25/72



XCol. Henry T. Titus

Content died in 1730, age 87. His wife, Hannah's will made March 25, 1678, by Gov. Andrus, is on file in the office of the Clerk of the Court of Appeals, Albany, N. Y.

- II. CONTENT TITUS, their son, born Mar. 28, 1645, settled in Newtown, Long Island (now Elmhurst), 1672, and died there in 1730, age 87. He married Elizabeth Moore, daughter of John Moore, of Newtown, whose wife was Margaret Howell, daughter of Edward Howell, one of the founders of South Hampton, L. I. Capt. Titus was active in Church and State. He was Captain in the war against the Indians. He was an Elder in the Presbyterian Church when he passed away. He was buried in the ancient burial ground of Elmhurst, L. I.

His third son was John Timothy.

- III. JOHN TIMOTHY, born Newark, N. J.  
m. Rebecca Died, Hopewell, 1754  
Will proved 11-1-1768  
Moved to Hopewell Township, N. J. before 1722.

Their second son was Andrews.

- IV. ANDREW, born Hopewell, or near Titusville, N. J. died 1806  
m. Hannah Burrows  
born, Hopewell, N. J. 3-26-1735, died Hopewell.  
daughter of Stephan Burrows (Burroughs) Sr. of Thomas Sr., of Edward, of Long Island.

Their first son was John.

- V. JOHN, born near Titusville, N. J., died Jan. 28, 1826  
m. Sarah Marshan, daughter of Henry Marshan,  
born. Jan. 27, 1734, Hunterdon, N. J., died Nov. 5, 1814,  
Maidenhead, now Laurensville, N. J. Son of Andrew, baptized,  
Aug. 6, 1706. Will made May 10, 1791, Inventory June 29, 1791,  
and wife, Francine Anderson, 1714 - 1795.

Andrew was the son of Henry Marchon, 1678 - Sept. 1736,  
died at Maidenhead, N. J. His large gravestone is in Laurance ville  
The family were from Ooen, France. Father and son came to America  
with his eldest son Henri age 13, in 1689, and returned to France.  
Never heard from. The son was a weaver, grew up in Newton, L. I.

John Titus son was Theodore.

- VI. THEODORE TITUS, born Oct. 6, 1794, Trenton, N. J.  
died, Jan. 1865, Wilkesbarre, Pa.  
married, Catherine Flick Howell,  
of Elliot, Hezekiah<sup>2</sup>, Daniel Howell<sup>1</sup>,  
born Nov. 12, 1798, died, 1843

He was a farmer, had 300-400 acres in Trenton, also a grist mill, and a brewery. He owned 30-40 slaves to whom he offered their freedom when he left Trenton, which they refused. His home, later rebuilt, became the State Asylum of New Jersey.

He removed to Wilkesbarre, and is buried there.  
Their first child ~~and only son~~ was Henry Theodore.  
<sup>NO</sup>

- VII. HENRY THEODORE TITUS was born in Trenton, New Jersey Feb. 13, 1822, and died in Titusville, Florida, Aug. 7, 1881.  
A. J. Hanna states his birth was 1815. The Titus Bible says 1822. He was brought up in Trenton, and later, Wilkesbarre, Pa. where his father was a prominent citizen, and was able to get his son into West Point, but not to keep him there. Henry Theodore, Jr. says his father was at West Point for a time. He also served in the Pennsylvania Militia.

Hanna describes Titus as a handsome, commanding mountain of a man in physique, in words, and in action.

The Adrian, Michigan, Times and Expediter of Feb. 1, 1881, says Titus was on Lake Superior, and was later with Fremont in California. Hanna does not confirm this.

It seems he was on the Texas cattle trails for a time. There is a Titus County in that State. It is in the Pine Belt of Northeast Texas, named for Andrew J. Titus, created in 1846 from Bowie Co.  
m Andrew Jackson Titus was born in Rutherford Co., Tennessee in 1823, son of James Titus, born in Pennsylvania during the Revolution, moving to Tennessee in 1800, and to Texas in 1839.

See: The Handbook of Texas, published by the State Historical Commission.

We do not know when our Titus came to Florida. In March, 1852 <sup>SEPT. 1850.</sup> he married at Darien, Georgia, Mary Evelina Dufour Hopkins, daughter of a prominent planter, active in politics and in military affairs. She was born at St. Mary's Georgia, 1832, daughter of Edward Stevens Hopkins who settled in Jacksonville, in 1853. He became a prominent merchant, was Mayor for two terms and ran for Governor, losing.

TITUS'S PART IN THE LOPEZ CUBAN ATTEMPT TO FREE CUBA.

The Colonel made his first appearance in recorded history, according to A. J. Hanna, in his Florida's Golden Sands, in August, 1850. At thirty-five he was called from Philadelphia to New York, to meet the Revolutionist Narciso Lopez who was then recruiting men to mostly Southerners for an expedition to help free Cuba, then controlled by Spain. General Lopez engaged Titus to recruit men in the Jacksonville area.

In late July, 1851, Titus was notified that in August Lopez with a party on the <sup>E. O.</sup> Pampura would sail from New Orleans. They landed in Cuba. They landed and were executed as pirates.

Meanwhile the Pampura arrived at the mouth of the St. John's where she was fired on by a U.S. cutter, but allowed the Pampura to proceed. Titus was able to unload the cargo of ammunitions and stores. A year later he sold them to the U. S. to be used in the expected Seminole campaign.

There was a trial in St. Augustine in October, 1851. Here were many Cuban sympathizers. Witnesses and Colonel Titus were vague. He stated he thought he was on a pleasure expedition. The Pampura was sold. Nothing done to Titus.

In the spring of 1852 Titus supplied the State of Florida with forage, quartermaster's supplies, ordnance stores and sustenance stores for the Militia, then busy with the Seminoles.

In 1853 in the Jacksonville, Florida News, Titus announced as a dealer in groceries, provisions, liquors, tinware, hardware, furniture and cigars.

The Florida Republican of Jacksonville, on April 2, 1856: Colonel Titus stated that he was leaving for Kansas, remarking "that his adaption by experience, as well as by physical proportion for a frontier life, warrant us in predicting for him a successful career in that new territory." Mrs. Titus went with him.

### THE KANSAS WAR

The struggle in Kansas began in 1854 when the U. S. Senate permitted Kansas to decide for itself whether to be a free or a slave state.

The Abolitionists from the Northeast and the men from the South poured in. Colonel Titus arrived in Kansas about April 1, 1856, with some 1,000 Floridians and Georgians, determined to support the pro-slavery cause.

On May 20th about 700 of them attacked Lawrence, Kansas. The town was wrecked. Titus was said to declare: "If I ever come here again I will kill every damned abolitionist in it." Later Revenge reached Colonel Titus, he continued as "Colonel of the Second Regiment of the First Brigade of the Southern Division of the Kansas Militia."

Mrs. Titus wrote her father: "I have had to flee from my home to save my life. We were surrounded by 500 Abolitionists, the house destroyed, our all taken. There were only ten men then in the house. They fought two hours. Six cannon ball were fired into the house. Titus was shot in the breast. The ball still remains. His right thumb was shot off, there were other slight wounds, everything, including my dresses, was stolen. Titus lost his hat and his shoes. His men were all wounded. Like a lion Titus leaped upon the foe. I escaped from the cellar. Titus fell. With him, sixteen prisoners were taken, His cabin "Fort Titus" was burned. Titus and his men were taken to Lawrence. John Brown and



other abolitionists demand that they be hanged. Cooler heads prevailed. Prisoners were exchanged. Titus's sword which he had lost in the battle has been preserved in the Kansas State Museum.

Titus reported in early November in the Jacksonville Florida Republican. "Of the cowardly and disgracefull attack on my house when I was robbed of money, household furnishings, and other valuables to the amount of \$12,000. I was shot in three places, my house was burned. I was thrown into an uncovered wagon, dripping with blood, and dragged through the blazing sun to Lawrence, the great den of thieves."

Peace came to Kansas with the removal of the pro-slavery Governor. The new Governor appointed Titus, on September 15th, a special aide-de-camp.

Colonel Titus left Kansas in December, 1856.

It was said the more beligerent men sought other exciting fields. William Walker offered free passage from New Orleans to the Nicaraguan Army. About one hundred "Border Ruffians" as Titus and his men were now called, in December, started down the Mississippi for New Orleans. There a New York Times reporter saw them and wrote "I never saw a finer lot of filibusters."

Titus refused to serve under another commander. He was commissioned to capture an old fort which in 1790, Lord Nelson had captured from the Spanish. An attack was repulsed, Titus was criticized for his conduct. Later, after some insulting remarks about Queen Victoria, the British imprisoned him. He called on the American Counsul for help, who told him that filibusters had no rights as citizens. Titus now let out a torrent

of personal abuse and insult, and was taken a prisoner on a U. S. Man-of-War. Released, Titus went to Panama. From here he rejoined Walker. Later he reached San Francisco. Nothing was heard of Titus until the early days of the Civil War.

In the Union Records of the Civil War, it was reported on October 11, 1862 that Colonel Titus, an able soldier, had crossed the Saint Johns River near its mouth and had gone to Tallahassee. It was supposed he hoped to get arms for fortifying some point on the Florida East Coast.

Four months later he was captured on the Indian River, then the Captain of the CHARM. Aboard were a crew of four and seven passengers, five of whom it was reported were trying to escape to Nassau from the Confederate conscript act. What happened to Titus was not on the record.

We know Titus was head of the Florida Provision Co. in 1861 and 1862 when he sold to the Army such supplies as salt beef, pork, bacon and cornmeal, as well as the services of teams and their drivers. On April 20, 1862, for two mules, three wagons, one cart and eight harnesses, Titus was paid \$5,400.

It is said Titus did some running of the blockade on the Indian River. The inlets between Mosquito Inlet and Indian River Inlet were useless unless for very small craft, but the Endeavor went, cotton usually going out and needed goods coming in, going on to the Saint Johns and middle Florida.

Colonel Titus had married at Darien, Georgia, in 1852, Mary Evelina Dufour Hopkins, b. St. Marys Ga. 1832, of Gen. Edward Stevens Hopkins and Mary Evelina Dufour, she born 1814, died 1840, daughter of Louis Dufour

and Maria M. Ponce. The first Titus child, Edward, was born in Savannah, Ga. Jan. 1859. There is no further mention of him. A daughter, Kate Howell Titus was born, Jamaica, Long Island, in 1860, died in Titusville, Fla. in 1884.

A second daughter, Mary Evelina (Minnie) was born, Jacksonville, Fla. April 1, 1862. A son, Howell, was born in Madison, Fla. in 1863<sup>7</sup>. At that time many from East Florida had taken refuge during the war. The third son, Henry Theodore, Jr. was born in Wilkesbarre, pa. in his grandfather's home. He, Theodore, died during that year. Other sons, making six in all, were born in Titusville, Florida.

The Mariner's Museum of Newport News, Virginia, writes on September 3, 1868, to the Compiler:

"According to our records" The INDIAN RIVER formerly U.S.S. CLYDE, formerly British steamer NEPTUNE, was lost on the Florida coast in 1865. She was a paddle steamer of 302 tons; 199x19x9. The records of the New York Custom House show she was conveyed Nov. 16, 1865 by N. J. Hammill to New York & Indian River Preserving Co. (W).

The Lytle List says she was a blockade runner captured June 14, 1863, became the U.S.S. Clyde, July 25, 1863, and was documented as INDIAN RIVER, Nov. 1865. No date for her loss in 1865."

The following is from a letter by Col. Titus's son, Judge Henry to Titus, of Daytona Beach, Fla. to the compiler, in October, 1940.

"During the Civil War a corporation in New York of which the first Henry T. Titus was part owner, ran cotton through the blockade.

in

In 1867/the large steamer CLYDE owned by this company, my father had his family aboard, taking them to Florida. The vessel was

wre      wrecked on a bar at Indian River Inlet on Nov. 5, 1867."

Young Titus, then four months old, was carried ashore in a clothes-basket.

Colonel Titus was looking for the closest place of navigation to the St. Johns River, which was where they settled at Titusville. Here, he built his hotel, and later grubstaked nearly everyone who came to that part of the country.

At the time the family came, there were four or five families within a radius of 100 miles. They were the Stones at Sebastian, Capt. Miles, C. Burnham at Canaveral, and the Dummitts, on Merritt Island, south of the Hawlover.

Colonel Titus hired a teacher for his children six months of each year. Among them was Mrs. Parkinson (her husband was a brother of the grandfather of the present John R. Parkinson of Daytona Beach, a prominent lawyer.) a Mr. LeBaron and a Miss Watson of an English family who settled ten miles above Titusville.

Henry T. Titus, of Daytona Beach, in his Reminiscences of old Daytona stated:

"Nov. 5, 1866 we were wrecked at Fort Pierce. I was brought ashore in a clothes-basket, my bed for nearly all of the next year. Father wanted to settle at a navigation point he had picked at what is now Titusville. It was woods but he and a few others from the wreck settled there. The town was named after him.

Father brought cargoes of freight to Titusville in wagons and it went on by boat to Daytona and points south. On the trip back of the wagons, citrus, pineapples went north.

A man on horseback carried the mail three times weekly. Father was postmaster.

The big two-mule hack carried five passengers. The price was \$50.00 for each trip. Three brothers, Bobby, Buddy and Gardner Hardee came. Gardner drove the hack most of the time for \$20.00 and board, six months of the year. The rest of the time he worked at Rockledge on some land he had bought. He developed one of the show places, and is now "Senator Hardee."

After 1883 boats ran from Daytona to Titusville. Everyone on the river had a dock, and the boat stopped at each one. The Haulover was cut about 1873 and finished in 1881. The first was several miles from the present one.

CAME LIFE IN FLORIDA, 1876, By C. H. HALLECK, states:

River fares: p. 254

Jacksonville, to Volusia	\$7.00
to Blue Springs	8.00
To Enterprise and Mellenville	9.00
to Lake Harris	12.00
to Salt Lake	14.00
Salt Lake to Sand Point, Indian River	5.00

Mr. Halleck continues:

"Sand Point is the principal place on the Indian River, and about the only part the visitors see - he is so tired and worn out that he goes no further.

Sand Point is nearly ten miles below the Haulover. The passage there is only seven feet wide in one place.

Hotel at Sandpoint said to be well managed. \$3.00 per day.

Other places are \$1.50.

Sand Point owes all its present prosperity to Col. H. T. Titus.

The town is only noteworthy as a point of the arrival and departure for more interesting points on the river."

The Colonel, aboard the OLYDE, bound for Sand Point, located in an area on the Indian River, owned by the Florida Provision Company. It was in Southern Volusia County, and had a few settlers already in the area. It was at the head of navigation of the Indian River, and only a few miles from the head waters of the St. Johns River. A town here was certain to grow. He planned to build a Hotel, The Titus House, frame, square, only two stories at first, with one story wings on each side reaching to the street., Washington.

There was a saloon stocked with the finest liquors. It was the finest, and the only public house South of St. Augustine. This river area had become known for the finest fishing and hunting. Here was one of the great fly-ways of America for Duck. The table provided fish and oysters, bear, venison, wild turkey, also.

The Colonel provided transportation from the St. Johns. Travelers came down the St. Johns to Enterprise. Then a hack carrying ten left at 6 A.M., stopping half-way at Maytown, reaching the Titus House in the early evening. There was mail weekly and after Titus became Postmaster in 1873, it was addressed to Titusville. When the J.T. and K.W.R.R., now the Atlantic Coast Line reached Enterprise, a branch line ran to Titusville, and the coastal area had an outlet to the North.

As agent and attorney for the Florida Provision Co., and for the consideration of the sum of Two Hundred Dollars paid by Mary E. Titus, of the County of Duval, and the State of Florida, a parcel of land lying on the Indian River, the Lot 1 of Section 16, Township 22 South, of Range 34 East - 75 and 52-hundreds Acres, lying and being in the County of Volusia in the said State of Florida, and in fee simple.

Signed in the City of Jacksonville, on the 4th day of June, A.D. 1868.

Francis P. Solhi  
Agent and Attorney for  
Florida Provisions Company

Witness:

C. Hopkins

F. N. Hopkins

Recorded on the 8th day of July, A. D. 1868

Volusia County, Fla. Records Book B. P. 90, DeLand

Record of deed to Mrs. Mary E. Titus, June 10, 1868.

Captain Miles Burnham, the keeper of Canaveral Light, and Douglas Dummett, of the Dummett Plantation, were the other big men of the area.

The Titus children following Henry Theodore Titus, born Wilkesbarre, Pa. August 2, 1865 in his grandfather's home, were born in the Titus House, in Florida.

VIII. Ellet Livingston, Later Elliot, born Titusville, Fla. Nov. 26, 1869.

VIII. Theodore, born Titusville, Oct. 23, 1871. Died Thomasville, Ga.

July 4, 1959. A prominent lawyer there for 50 years. Married Frances Canora Hopkins, 1873 - 1939.

VIII. Piere Soule, born Aug. 16, 1873, died Los Angeles, Calif.

Aug. 30, 1956. He was a railroad Engineer on the Florida East Coast Ry. and other lines. Married May 13, 1892, Hopkinsville, Ky. Margaret Frances Martin, 1873 - 1903.

In 1871 Bishop Young of the Diocese made a visitation. He visited St. Marks Episcopal Church in Palatka, then almost twenty years old.

He came via the St. Johns to Enterprise and then overland to Titusville. He held services in the hotel dining room.

In 1877 the Rev. William H. Carter, who came to Daytona that year to establish the Episcopal Church on the East Coast, also visited Titusville.

St. Gabriels Church, Titusville, was built in 1883. It also served as a school building. The Titus family gave the site. The Court House lot across the street was also their gift. Other sites were given for other churches and schools.

Colonel Titus was long confined to a wheel chair, spending long hours on the front porch, a great talker full of tall tales, he entertained his many guests with accounts of his travels and his exploits. When there were no visitors he was on guard with a rifle across his knees protecting his property, and Washington Avenue. His son says it was not a rifle, but a long braided rawhide whip, such as he had used in his youth on the cattle trails of Texas. Chickens, dogs, pigs and picannies learned to pass with caution.

One of his sons has said: "Father was hard on us boys. I left home as soon as I could."

The Colonel died in 1881, age 59 years. He had carried two bullets since his past in the Kansas War.



Later the hotel, in other lands was enlarged and named the Dixie.

It was still there in 1960, but is now gone.

A grandson, Edward Rutledge Ensey, is the only Titus relative now living on Merritt's Island.

#### DEVELOPMENT OF BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

When the United States took over Florida in 1821, East Florida became St. Johns County. In 1828 Mosquito County was taken from St. Johns. It reached from the southern part of St. Johns to the northern border of Lake Okeechobee, part of Mosquito became Orange, and part of Orange became Volusia County in 1854. The southern part became St. Lucie in 1858 with a population that year of 139.

Brevard was taken from northern St. Lucie in 1856. In 1860 it had a population of 246, and reached for 120 miles along the Indian River. Many cattlemen were on the east side of the county. The first County Seat was placed by them at Lake View, in the woods near Kissimmee, some 40 miles beyond Lake Winder.

Ada Coats Williams states this in her very fine history of Brevard and St. Lucie Counties. Among the cattlemen were Hendrys and Carltons, they being among her forebears. Lake View was in the prairie so far from the Indian River, and inaccessible to the boatmen of the Coast.

In 1879 the southern part of Volusia was taken and added to northern Brevard, the boundary being between Oak Hill and Shiloh. This area was the Sand Point District. It included Dummitt Grove, which dates back to 1840. A light house had been built on South Merritt

Island at Cape Canaveral. Sand Point was six miles from Salt Lake and the St. Johns, which had its source some miles further South.

There was a post office at Sand Point as early as 1858. It was discontinued in June 1860. Then mail arrived weekly. It was restored April 1, 1868 and discontinued in October 1869, restored in June 1870. Then mail came three times weekly, coming from Enterprise. Daily mail began with the railroad in 1887. There was a branch line to Enterprise Junction on the J. T. & K. W. Ry.

The Sand Point Post Office became the Titusville Post Office in 1873 with Colonel Titus as Postmaster.

In an earlier day Sand Point was the North Post Office of the four on Indian River. The mail came by boat and its arrival depended on the wind.

ST. GABRIEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

TITUSVILLE, FLORIDA

St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church in Titusville, Florida, was built in 1887 and dedicated a year later. In the early life of the city, prior to 1887, the Rev. S. B. Carpenter journeyed up and down the Indian River holding services for the various families.

Due to the tremendous growth of the North Brevard area, the original church was enlarged in 1961. The beauty of the church was retained by extending the sides of the church and moving the altar forward. Great care was taken to match the age-old pine and pews and to place properly the magnificent windows.

In the early 1900's all the previous church records were destroyed by fire. Since that date, St. Gabriel's has had eleven priests. The Rev. Charles H. Bascom was rector of the church at three different times for a total of approximately eighteen years. The present rector is the Rev. Charles H. Dorman.

Many of the early families of Titusville contributed much to St. Gabriel's Church. The wife of the city's founder, Mary Titus, deeded the property for the church to the mission on October 12, 1896.

From: Titusville's Early History  
1967

COL. HENRY THEODORE TITUS

A. J. Hanna, in his book, FLORIDA GOLDEN SANDS, writes of him as a man of uncertain destiny.

He went to Kansas in 1856 with about 1000 men from Florida and Georgia, as Colonel of the Second Regiment of the First Brigade of the Southern Division of the Kansas Militia.

A bloody war followed. He left leaving his sword and with two bullets in his body.

Next he went on the expedition to Nicaragua, where he did not do very well.

During the War he supplied the South with provisions and did some blockade running, according to a report from the Mariners Museum of Newport News, Va. He was aboard the former U. S. S. OLYDE, lost on the Florida Coast in 1865, which he had acquired in mid-November as the New York and Indian River Preserving Co.

He then founded Titusville, Florida

COL. HENRY THEODORE TITUS

A. J. Hanna, in his book, FLORIDA GOLDEN SANDS, writes of him as a man of uncertain destiny.

He went to Kansas in 1856 with about 1000 men from Florida and Georgia, as Colonel of the Second Regiment of the First Brigade of the Southern Division of the Kansas Militia.

A bloody war followed. He left leaving his sword and with two bullets in his body.

Next he went on the expedition to Nicaragua, where he did not do very well.

During the War he supplied the South with provisions and did some blockade running, according to a report from the Mariners Museum of Newport News, Va. He was aboard the former U. S. S. CLYDE, lost on the Florida Coast in 1865, which he had acquired in mid-November at the New York and Indian River Preserving Co.

He then founded Titusville, Florida

Col. Titus built the "Titus House" in tropical style. It was a large frame building with a long one story wing on each side that formed three sides of a square. Within these there was a garden and a fountain. The wings later became part of the Dixie Hotel. Rates were \$3.00 per day.

The end room in one wing was reserved for Captain Mills G. Burnham, long the keeper of the Canaveral Lighthouse, who, with Titus and Dummit, governed the area.

The Dixie Hotel which succeeded the Titus House, was destroyed in the 1960's.

This place owes all its present prosperity to the indefatigable energy of its proprietor Col. H. T. Titus, Titusville is only noteworthy as a point of the arrival and departure for more interesting points on the river.

#### THE POST OFFICE

There was a post office at Sand Point as early as 1858. It was discontinued in June 1860. Then mail arrived weekly. It was restored April 1, 1868, and discontinued in October, 1869, then restored in June, 1870. Then mail came three times weekly, coming from Enterprise. Daily mail began with the Railroad in 1887. This was a branch line to Enterprise Junction on the J T & K W Ry.

The Sand Point Post Office became the Titusville Post Office in 1873 with Col. Titus as Postmaster.

In an earlier day, Sand Point was the northernmost Post Office of the four on Indian River. The mail came by boat and its arrival depended on the wind.

## T I T U S

November 5, 1866, we were shipwrecked at Ft. Pierce. I was brought ashore in a clothes basket, my bed for nearly all of the next year. Father wanted to settle at a navigation point and picked what is now Titusville. It was woods but he and a few others from the ship wreck settled there. The town was named Titusville after him. It is only 6 miles from the St. Johns. Father ran a passenger, freight and mail line to Enterprise where the big boats brought their cargoes. Father brought freight to Titusville in wagons and it went on by boat to Daytona or south. The back trip of the wagons, citrus and pineapples went north. A man on horseback carried the mail three times weekly. The big 2 mule hack carried 5 passengers, \$50. for each trip. Three brothers, Bobby, Buddy and Gardner Eardee came. Gardner drove the hack most of the time for \$20. and board, 6 months of the year. The rest of the time he worked at Rockledge on some land he had bought. He developed one of the show places; now is "Senator" Hardee.

After 1883, trade boats ran from Daytona to Titusville. Everyone on the river had a dock and the boats stopped at each one. The Haulover was cut about 1878 and finished in 1881. It was several miles from the present one.

Henry T. Titus in "Reminiscences of Old Daytona".

Daytona Beach, Florida,  
October 31, 1940

Dear Mrs. Hebel:

Your letter to my father, Judge Titus, was received some days ago and I have been intending to send you what little information we can give you , for some days but have been busy.

At the time you mention that Bishop Young visited Sand Point my father was only four years old and he doesn't remember anything about it. He says he remembers the first Episcopal Church was built at Titusville in 1883-84 and that it was used as a combination school and church.

He told us about the time when he was 10 years old and two priests came to his father's hotel and asked that six cans of beer be sent to their room and how horrified he was that they would ask for beer and his father told him that it was all right-- they were Catholic priests.

My grandfather, Henry T. Titus, was born in Trenton, N.J. in ~~1820~~ <sup>1821</sup>. He married Mary Evelina Hopkins, who was born at Deering, Georgia, the daughter of Gen. Edw. Hopkins and Evelina Defoe. They had eight children in this order: Edward, Katie, Minnie, Howell, Henry, Elliott, Theodore and Pierre S.

of Huntington 1912, Ry engineer. aboard Feb

My father, Henry T. Titus (junior) was born 1867 at Wilkesbarre,

**Pa.**

During the Civil War a corporation in New York of which the first Henry T. Titus was part owner, ran cotton through the blockade. In 1837 in the large steamship Clyde owned by this company, my grandfather had his family aboard taking them to Florida. The ship was wrecked on a bar at Indian River Inlet on November 5th., 1867. My father then four months old was carried ashore in a clothesbasket. His father was looking for the closest place of navigation to the St. Johns River, which was where they settled - Titusville. Grandfather built his hotel and later on grub-staked nearly everyone who came to that part of the country. At the time the family came there there were four or five other families within a radius of 100 miles: The Stones at Sebastian, Capt. Miles O. Burnham at Canaveral. The Dummitts - whose Dummitt grove is still well known. He does not remember the other families. Grandfather Titus hired a teacher for 6 months each year. Among the ones Dad remembers were a Mrs. Parkinson (her husband was brother of the present John Parkinson's grandfather) a Mr. LeBarron and a Miss Watten, of an English family settled 10 miles above Titusville.

Mrs. Geo. F. Enzey (my father's sister, Minnie) lives at Tropic, Florida and as she is a little older she might possibly remember more about the early Church. She is an excellent correspondent, or was a few years ago, and might be able to give you a little more information about the early days.

I have enjoyed some of your stories of the early days in Volusia County which were in Fitzgerald's paper and will look forward to the opportunity of reading anything else you may write.

Very truly yours—



## Notes on the Carpenter Family

Four of their children were born in England but Abigail was born in Weymouth, Mass. April 9, 1643. William and his wife (and probably the four children born in England) came to America in 1638 on the ship Bevis.

Abigail Carpenter Titus. See Titus Genealogical record, Generation II.

<sup>1</sup>Explanatory footnote - see Page 1 of text.

Rehoboth, meaning, "The Lord hath made room for us," was originally a part of Seekonk, Rhode Island. Subsequently Rehoboth, and Rehoboth North Purchase, later Attleboro, became a part of Massachusetts.

## THE TITUS FAMILY OF TITUSVILLE, FLORIDA

This branch of the family can be but remotely related to the New Hampshire Tituses, but because Col. Henry Theodore Titus had such an interesting and adventurous career, and because it appears from the statement of the late Edmund D. Titus, as quoted by "Judge" Henry Titus, of Daytona, they descended from Robert Titus, this sketch is included in the appendix. It is compiled and condensed from a letter and notes written by P. H. T. Unfortunately some of his notes relating to dates and details have been lost.

In 1924, P. H. T. had occasion to meet numerous members of the bench and bar of Southwest Georgia, all of whom commented on his striking resemblance to a Judge Theodore Titus of Thomasville, Ga., formerly of Titusville, Florida. In 1925, he met a banker in St. Augustine, Florida, formerly of Titusville, who, at first, was none too friendly. He was a former political opponent of Judge Theodore Titus, who, he said, was then Mayor of Thomasville. He said the resemblance was so pronounced that it was hard for him to believe that he was not dealing with one of his former political foes.

In 1941 P. H. T. visited Titusville and learned that not one of the family remained there. However, he contacted a Mr. Pritchard who was a hardware merchant and one of the oldest inhabitants. As he recalled, Col. Henry Theodore Titus first came to the little East Coast fishing village, that is now Titusville, either during the latter days of the War between the States or not long after the end of the War. He was a very active man of dominating personality and quite a promoter. He had led a hard and adventurous life, and according to Mr. Pritchard's memory, he was an "old man in 1880." For many years before his death he was confined to a wheel chair, but was all over town in his chair propelled by his negro body-servant.

## Titus Family of Titusville, Florida (continued)

He ruled the entire community with an iron hand. He had six sons and two daughters. He owned a large part of Titusville which was formerly merely a fishing village known as Sandy Point. Col. Titus was the first to see the possibilities of orange growing in that section of Florida and proceeded to develop that industry on a large scale. He did a great deal to promote and build Titusville and developed it into a fruit shipping port. His sons were a group of aggressive individualists, several of whom were lawyers and active in politics. Mr. Pritchard spoke most highly of two of the younger sons, Judge Theodore Titus, then of Thomasville, Ga., and Henry Titus then of Daytona, Florida, who, he said, was not a lawyer, but was also known as "Judge," presumably from having acted as a lay magistrate. He also paid especial tribute to the two daughters, Kate and Minnie, the latter, (Mrs. ~~Green~~ <sup>Katherine</sup>), was then living in Florida and occasionally visited Titusville. Mr. Pritchard said that although the old Colonel and some of the boys were aggressive individualists, they were all "quality folks". He gave the names of the sons as follows: Edward, ~~Elliot~~ <sup>Elliot</sup> Howell, Henry, ~~Pierre~~, and Theodore. *and Pierre*

Mr. Pritchard thought that at that time, (1941), the first three sons named above were deceased. He said that Pierre went West and he had lost all track of him.

The following day P. H. T. called upon "Judge" Henry Titus. He was a large, hale, hearty and hospitable man, apparently in his sixties. He had retired from business. He lived in a beautiful home in an attractive section of the city. He had a very charming wife apparently considerably younger. Present also was his daughter, Mrs. Moore, apparently about twenty-seven years old, and of extraordinary beauty. Her little son, six years old, was a handsome child. His mother was a brunette, the boy a blond. One of the "Judge's" sons, James Titus, a man about thirty, called. He was a mountain of a man in breadth, height, and weight, rather dark with Titus features. He had a pleasing personality. So much time was consumed in introductions, etcetera, that the dinner hour was approaching before it was possible to make more than sketchy notes of family history.

P. H. T. had planned a further interview the following day, but was unexpectedly called to Jacksonville on business. Part of his notes were lost, but the following, which may not be accurate in detail, were dictated from his memory.

Colonel Henry Theodore Titus was, according to his son, a West Pointer. As a young man he organized and ran mule trains from Madison, Florida, (or Georgia), to El Paso, Texas. He commanded two or three of these expeditions. The Titus Trail in Texas was named after him. On one expedition one of his brothers was killed by Indians. *(Elliot)*

Colonel Titus also accompanied William Walker, "The Blue-Eyed Man of Destiny," of Nashville, Tennessee, on one of his famous filibustering expeditions to Nicaragua, where, with three hundred daredevils, he conquered and ruled the country for about two years. When, with the help of Costa Rica, Walker was overthrown, Colonel Titus was among those captured, including his friend, Col. Crittendon. Crittendon was executed. According

Titus Family of Titusville, Florida (continued 2)

to legend, when before the firing squad he was told to face the wall and kneel, he made this oft quoted reply, "I never turn my back on an enemy nor kneel except to my God." Thus he was shot facing his executioners. Titus escaped.

Col. Titus was an officer in the Confederate Army. Later he was a blockade runner. "Judge" Henry told many interesting tales of his father's adventures in running the blockade. The implication was that Sandy Point, later Titusville, was one of his ports of refuge. After the war he founded a small boat line operating in coast-wise trade out of Titusville. He then developed orange growing in the Titusville section.

The Colonel married the daughter of General <sup>Stuen</sup> Hopkins of Georgia.

"Judge" Titus stated that his father at one time owned a great deal of land on Long Island, N. Y. but he did not understand that he originally came from Long Island. He thought that the family came from near Trenton, N. J. At one time his father was interested in coal mining in Pennsylvania near Wilkes Barre. He understood that his father traded the Long Island land for a large tract of Florida land where town of Green Cove Springs is located.

<sup>3rd son</sup>  
"Judge" Henry said that he, (~~the youngest son~~), had not had the educational advantages of the others and had had to make his own future by way of many occupations. He moved to Daytona when the town was small and engaged in various enterprizes. He was Mayor of the city for several terms and later, as the city grew, and adopted a commission form of government, he was a member of the Commission. He acquired a small moving picture theater, later owned several in Daytona and other East Coast towns, and sold them out in the boom days of the late twenties. Since that time, except for some political activities and a little real estate operating, he has been retired from business.

He knew little about his ancestry, except that they came from New Jersey. (Note: The towns of Titusville and Hopewell, New Jersey, were founded by descendants of Robert Titus from Long Island). He remembered that he had always understood there was Dutch blood in his ancestry, but, he did not know whether it came from the paternal side of his family or from some maternal line.

Just as P. H. T. was leaving, however, he remarked that he had formerly had a complete record of his genealogy which had been lost, and that it was furnished him by a member of his line, Mr. Edmund D. Titus, a former Editor of the New York World. Edmund D. Titus was a descendant of Robert, and spent years of research in America and England on Titus genealogy. It would therefore appear quite definitely that the Titusville Tituses — are descendants of Robert.

# Colonel Henry T. Titus

Controversy completely surrounds our founder, Col. Titus, beginning with the date of his birth. Col. Henry T. Titus was born on February 13, 1823, in Trenton, New Jersey, according to the inscription on his tombstone in LaGrange Cemetery. However, the date 1822 is found on one of the beautiful stained-glass memorial windows in St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church. Still another source gives the year of his birth as 1815.

Col. Titus has been called a soldier of fortune by some and a national character by others. Concerning his adventures before the founding of Titusville we find that he had opposed John Brown of abolition fame in the days of Bleeding Kansas (1854). The Colonel was reputed to be in favor of slavery. He served with Earl William Walker in Nicaragua (1854-1860) as Walker's Adjutant. He also served as an Adjutant General in Pennsylvania and acquired the title of Colonel which he used from then on.

Henry Titus married Mary Hopkins, daughter of Edward Hopkins, a wealthy and prominent planter of Darien, Georgia. Mr. Hopkins moved to Jacksonville, Florida, in 1853. There he had an active political career, serving as a member of the legislature, as Mayor and collector of customs for that city. He also had an unsuccessful try for Governorship. Our Hopkins Avenue was named in honor of Mary Hopkins Titus.

As the actual date of his birth varies, so also do the stories concerning Titus' arrival here. One story holds that "Titusville was settled by and named for Captain Henry Titus, who came with his family to that site in the 70's." "In 1870, Henry T. Titus," another story relates, "was forced to land here because he was shipwrecked." Still another asks, "Why did Col. Titus select here?" hinting at mystery.

Much has been written about Col. Titus and many of the tales are uncomplimentary. Despite this, the Colonel appears to have had a good side to his character. He donated generous areas of land for our churches and for civic use. To his credit, the land on which St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church and the Courthouse are built were given by the Colonel.

It was principally due to Titus' efforts on behalf of his community that Titusville became the county seat in 1880. (Another source states that 1879 is the correct date for this event.)

Col. and Mrs. Titus operated the Titus House. Legend claims that he would sit on the balcony of the Titus House with a gun across his lap. However, one person says, "I never knew of him taking a shot at anyone."

Dr. Holmes wrote: "In the winter of 1874 and 1875, I went to Titusville. Its name had just been changed from Sand Point. Much of the mail still was addressed to Sand Point. Col. Titus himself was postmaster and had had the name changed to Titusville. While there were only a few people, some did not want it named after him. The principal part of the town was near to the north of the City Wharf (Main Street). Col. Titus owned a hack that met boats at Salt Lake and Lake Harney."

He also wrote, "He had rheumatism and neuritis

which necessitated that the Colonel be confined to a wheel chair much of the time. He was a public spirited man, and always striving to improve the town named after him."

Col. Titus built the "Titus House" in tropical style. It consisted of a large main building with two long wings, all one-story, that formed three sides of a square. Within the walls was a garden. These long wings later became part of the Dixie Hotel. Rates in 1875 were \$3 a day.

Col. Titus and his wife kept an excellent hotel building in the two one-story sections. The southeast corner of one wing was always kept ready for Captain Mills O. Burnham, lighthouse keeper of Canaveral. He frequently visited Titusville in his famous sailboat, the "Osceola". It was quite an event when the Captain arrived with his jolly crew.

Col. Titus gave the land on which our county buildings stand, but stipulated they be used only for county or public purposes. In this way he sought to firmly anchor the county seat in Titusville.

It was considered his crowning achievement for the community to be made the county seat of Brevard County in 1880.

The Tituses had two pretty daughters, Kate and Minnie, and six sons. Minnie later married George Ensey and resided at "Tropic" on a beautiful place appropriately known as "Two Rivers" situated between the Indian and Banana Rivers.

*Compliments Of*

## QUALITY COURT OF TITUSVILLE

Swimming Pool - TV

Air-Condition - Phones

Steam Rooms

Restaurant - Lounge

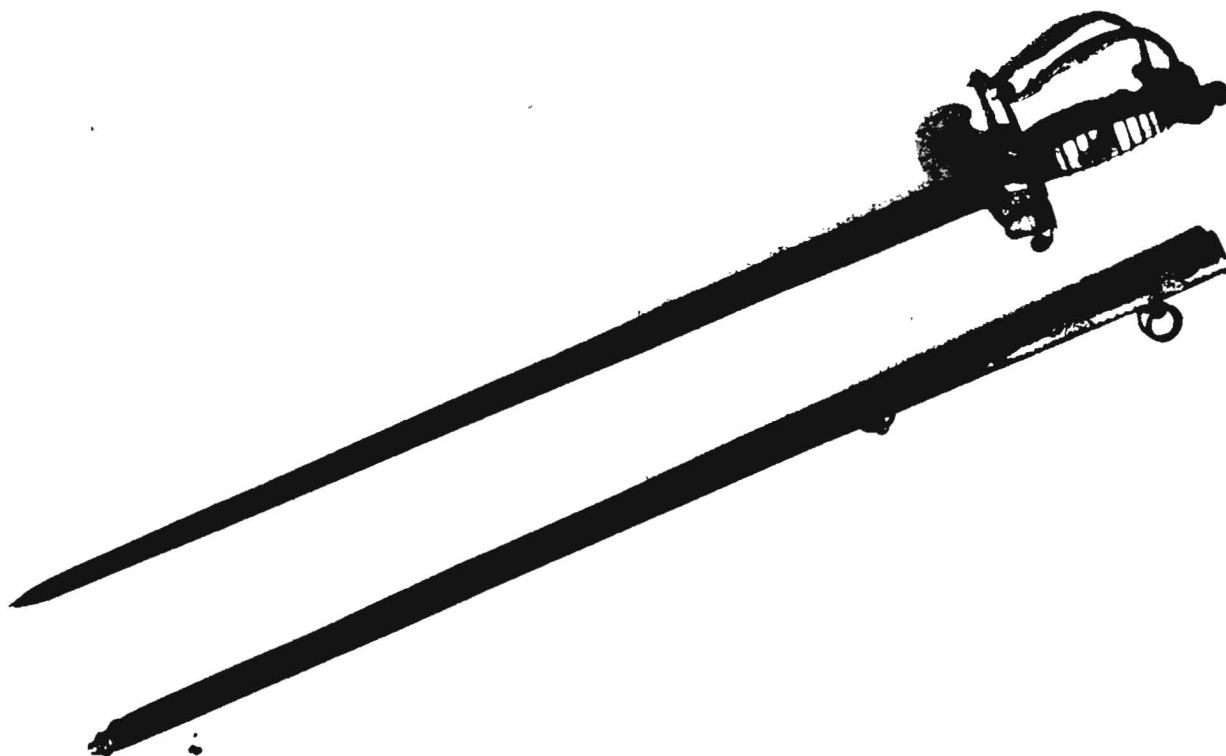
112 Units

**"FREE ADVANCE RESERVATIONS"**

**QUALITY COURT MOTEL OF TITUSVILLE**

3810 S US Hwy 1 ..... 267-9111





The **SWORD** of **COL. H.T. TITUS**  
which he took to **KANSAS** in 1856

Long in the **KANSAS** STATE MUSEUM

This copy obtained in 1909