

successful land owner. As his cattle increased in number and subsequently his ranches, he was known in Florida and in New York City, as the Cattle King of Florida. At one time Mrs. Potter Palmer of the Palmer House in Chicago, came to Sarasota, and bought from Garrett Murphy four thousand head of branded cattle. One of the Murphy ranches, which is now a part of the Myakka State Park, which was called "Upper Lake", is where the good hunting was. The Myakka River flows into Upper Lake and on into the Gulf of Mexico, below Venice, Florida.

Garrett Murphy's cattle used to range as far south as Fort Myers ninety miles south. The cowmen from Manatee County section used to drive cattle to Tampa and put them on a boat for Cuba. More times than not, when the men were fording the streams, it was necessary to keep a very close watch that the gators didn't catch the dogs and calves. At one time, Upper Lake got so dry, the men waded out in the mud with axes, pine knots or anything they could find, and knocked gators in the head that were floundering in the mud.

"Grandpa Murphy had a hard but interesting life", relates his grandson, Samuel Garrett Murphy. "I recall of having read a history of Florida wherein Grandpa was given honorable mention." Garrett Murphy had no formal education and little elementary learning, but he became learned from the Holy Bible, and educated himself from the Church papers. He and his family were nine of the first thirteen charter members of the First Methodist Church in Bradenton, Florida. "I heard Grandpa Murphy say that himself, at the laying of the corner stone of the present Church in Bradenton. Grandpa made a speech at the time. He was a fine public speaker. The only reason there were not fourteen charter members and ten Murphy's, my Pappy was not old enough to join the Church", recounts Samuel Garrett Murphy.

The great Greek moralist & biographer, Plutarch said that he first commenced writing biographies for the good of others, and then he wrote them for his own sake. He said, "The virtues of a great man serve as a sort of looking glass, in which I may see how to adjust and adorn my own life. I am thus able to free myself from any ignoble, base, or vicious traits."

The following narrative concerning the character in our history might well be omitted by some writers, but because Garrett Murphy so overcame his bad habits by looking into the lives of great men of the Bible, that we are proud to inject it.

A slave Garrett Murphy once owned was freed with the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. But, as many did, this slave stayed to work for his master, where he had grown up. One day, as grandpa was starting to shave, he happened to look out of the window and saw his colored slave take a swing at grandpa's dog. Crawling out of the window which was the nearest exit, grandpa used his razor on the slave, every way but right. The slave was cut up so badly it was feared he was dead. Grandpa said that as a young man he used to let his temper get away with him, but when he decided to turn over a new leaf, he went whole hog. He quit drinking, swearing, fighting. He learned to control his temper, and joined the Church. Oh yes, years later in Bradenton, after he had raised his family and moved to town, he was down on an old wooden dock when one of the boats came in from Tampa. The same old slave started down the gang plank of the boat, he looked up, saw grandpa, got back on the boat and left with it. But grandpa recognized the slave and was mighty glad to see him, for he always wondered what had happened to him. Grandpa was a much happier man after this.

This quality of being at peace with himself carried over to his fellow man, and with all he came into contact. The sermon on the mount was now in his blood stream, and a "Do unto others as you would be done