

LEGENDS AND LYRICS OF THE GULF COAST

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Legends and lyrics of the Gulf coast by Laura F. Hinsdale

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LAURA F. HINSDALE

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GULF COAST**

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OF THE

GULF COAST

BY LAURA F. HINSDALE, Litt. D.

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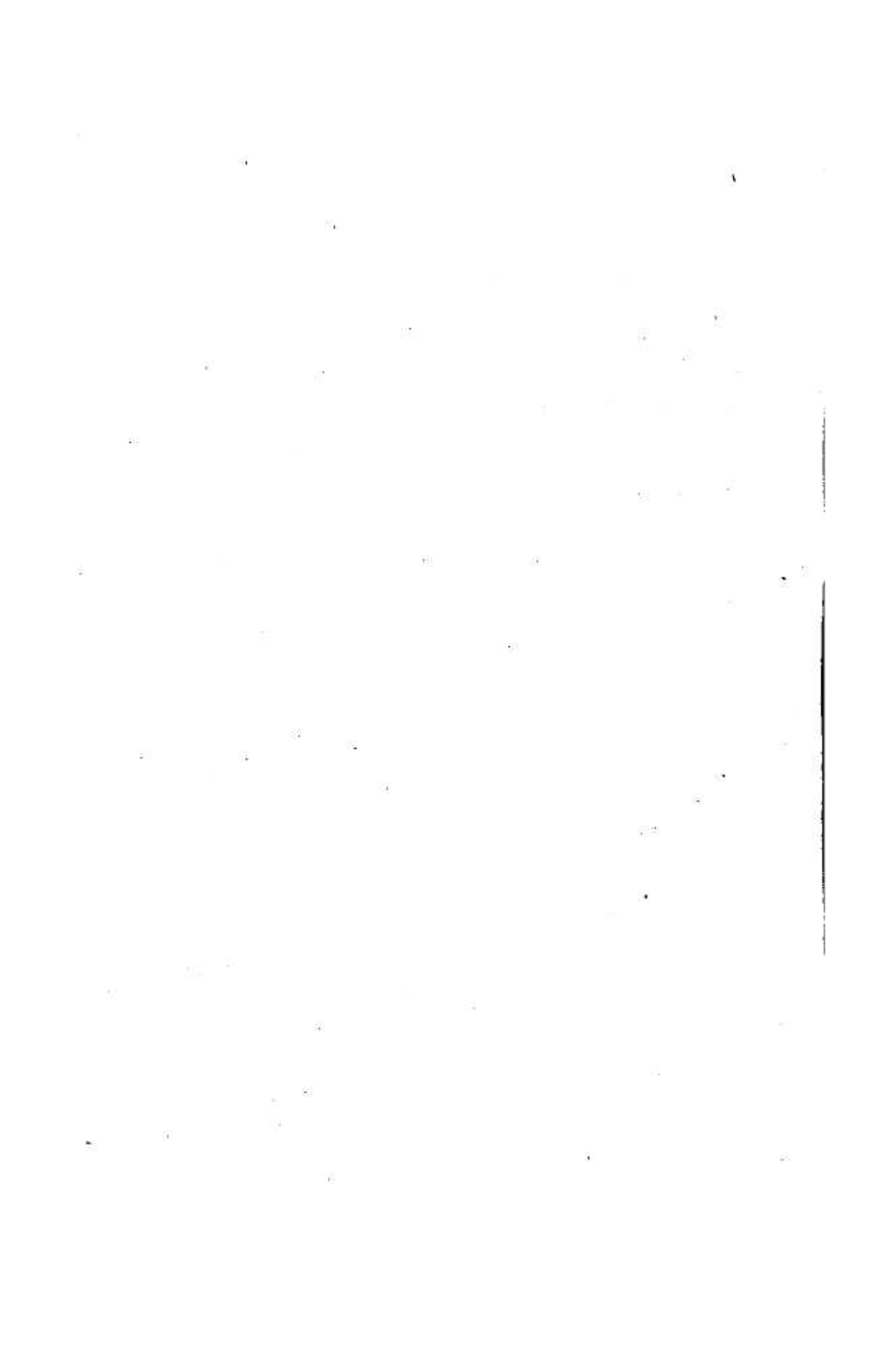
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Anderson 5 Feb. 1925



PREFACE

The Gulf Coast, especially that portion between New Orleans and Mobile, has been commemorated in this volume. Here the student of Colonial History finds a region rich in legendary lore.

Biloxi, the old city named for an Indian tribe long vanished, greeted Iberville and his three ships, the "Badine," the "Marin" and the "Francois" in the year 1699.

Ancient publications in French and Spanish have been consulted in the history of Biloxi's romantic past. Here Fathers Davion and Montigny visited Commander Sauvolle in the first fort when Biloxi was the seat of government for the vast region named Louisiana, which since that day has been divided into many sovereign states.

Here were Iberville's inscriptions on the trees telling of his coming. The trees bore the carven figures of three ships and a pipe of peace.

Here a chapel was built and here were the first bright romances and Christian marriages when there came to these shores a ship-load of beautiful women to become the helpful companions of men in the new world of their adoption. Here the aborigines of the stone age have left traces of a life of wonderful interest. The picturesque Indian has wielded his tomahawk and sung his death song. The pirate wrecker has built his red fires to lure unsuspecting seamen to destruction. France, Spain and England have each in turn wakened the pine forest to the sound of their guns, armies have besieged these shores, but the Gulf Coast today looks smiling from her Iliad of woes.

Here the sea leads to adjacent lovely islands; conspicuous among them is Ship Island, twelve miles away, where old Fort Massachusetts enlists the interest of the historic

student. Along the shore of the Gulf Coast are fair cities whose legends and land marks are fast disappearing in the activities of a new time.

Among them is beautiful Ocean Springs, connected with Biloxi by its long bridge and its early traditions. Pass Christian, Pascagoula and Bay St. Louis are typical cities of the coast, offering sheaves from the harvest fields of the past. Gulfport has the human interest of a great ocean harbor. Beauvoir, four miles distant from Biloxi, the former home of Jefferson Davis, is now the Confederate Soldiers' Home. Charles Gayarre, the eminent historian of Louisiana and Jefferson Davis were among the number to relate to this writer some of these old legends which are herein retold in verse.

Several of the contributions of this collection first appeared in the Times-Democrat and in leading Eastern Magazines.

L. F. H.

Biloxi, 1918.

BILOXI

The blue gulf billows love thee, the blue skies bend above thee,
A hundred sails, like pinions, are winging to thy shore,
The giant live oaks over, have woven thee a cover,
And the music of thy pine woods sighs on forevermore.
In thy jasmine bordered gardens what spell of memory lies,
When the mocking birds are singing of love and Paradise!

The starry night discloses thy bowers, sweet with roses,
I hear the boatman singing a legend of the sea,
As a mirage of the highlands, I see thy distant islands,
And the white sail lingers and seems to beckon me.
In thy jasmine bordered gardens what spell of memory lies,
When the mocking birds are singing of love and Paradise!