

Bluff† precinct, an obscure little village, to vote, thus laying the foundation for the fraud afterwards perpetrated. Yellow Bluff proper had about 80 votes, but the ring had invented a method by which a minority could be transformed into a majority without votes or the knowledge or consent of the voter. They waylaid the Inspector from this precinct, who had been intrusted with the ballot box to deliver to the County Clerk's office, and getting him drunk, broke it open, took out and destroyed the returns made by the Inspectors and substituted one of their own manufacture, with votes for the other ticket to correspond with the return—the same being made to give Jenkins, Hoeg, and Price small majorities. Re-sealing the box, it was conveyed to the Clerk's office, and the demand made for its count; but the canvassers failed to see it, and threw it out.

When the legislature met, Christy took his seat, but he was permitted to hold it only three days, when he was ousted and Jenkins seated in his place.^e

The Osborn referred to was Thomas W. Osborn, who came to Florida as the head of the Freedmen's Bureau in this State. He was the originator of the notorious "Lincoln Brotherhood" among the negroes.^e

Florida had her share of "carpet-baggers" and Jacksonville her full quota. Most of them arrived between 1868 and 1870, with military prefixes to their names, though many of them hardly knew the difference between a cartridge and a cannon ball. Some came as "professional" men. As a class their activities here were within the meaning of Judge Black's general description. When it was clear that their day was drawing to a close most of the "carpet-baggers" packed their luggage and disappeared in the direction of the northern horizon. Some lingered awhile and then left. But few remained permanently.^d

All Northerners Not Carpet-Baggers

To leave the mind impressed with the idea that every Northern man in Florida during this period was a carpet-bagger or an attache of the Freedmen's Bureau would be gross injustice to those representing the conservative and best element of the North who came down seeking bona-fide residence and legitimate investment and pursuit; some of them were wealthy people seeking health. This type is

†Now New Berlin.