

signed reports as "Directoresses" invariably in the order, Mrs. Susan A. Hartridge, Mrs. A. Doggett, Mrs. J. D. Mitchell. Upon the adoption of a constitution in 1882, Mrs. Alexander Mitchell was asked to become president; Mrs. Mitchell served from 1882 to February, 1899, and was succeeded by Mrs. D. G. Ambler. Mrs. Ambler was active president about a year, when upon her removal from the city she became honorary president and Mrs. J. H. Durkee active president. Mrs. Durkee was elected president in April, 1902, and served until 1910, since which time the following gentlemen have served as presidents: A. W. Cockrell, Jr., 1910-16; E. M. L'Engle, 1916-19; J. H. McKinnon, 1919-20; Jay H. Durkee, 1920-21; J. H. McKinnon, 1921-23; E. M. L'Engle, 1923-24; H. P. Osborne, 1924—.

Free Public Library, 1878

In the fall of 1877, two young ladies of Jacksonville, Miss Florence Murphy and Miss May Moore, originated the plan of starting a free public library and reading room in this city. Soon many prominent residents, both ladies and gentlemen, became identified with the movement, with the result that the Jacksonville Library and Literary Association was formed, officered as follows: Miss Florence Murphy, president; Mrs. Aristides Doggett, vice-president; Miss May Moore, secretary; Miss Lizzie Clark, treasurer. The first regular meeting of the association was held January 22, 1878.

In order to provide funds for equipping and opening a reading room the association gave a number of entertainments, moonlight excursions, amateur concerts, lectures and plays. Among the last were "Pinafore", "Chimes of Normandy", "Pirates of Penzance" and "Sorcerer". These plays were the most popular social events of the time in Jacksonville. "Pinafore" made an especial "hit", being repeated several times and was long afterward referred to as the best local play of the decade. The cast in "Pinafore" was: Frank Ely—Sir Joseph Porter; Miss Lola Ochus—Josephine; Geo. M. Parker—Captain Corcoran; Miss Ida Griffin—Little Buttercup; J. C. Marcy, Jr.—Ralph; A. B. Campbell—Dick Deadeye.

Sufficient funds were netted from these entertainments to rent a room in the Astor building, southeast corner of Bay and Hogan, where in the winter of 1878-9 the first free public