

Charter History of Some of the Others

(Alphabetically)

First in their respective fields in Jacksonville, many of them paved the way for similar organizations throughout the State.

American Legion, Edward C. DeSaussure Post No. 9.—On May 21, 1919, a number of ex-service men held a meeting for the purpose of organizing an American Legion post in Jacksonville. A temporary charter was signed by 164 members June 3, 1919. A permanent charter was issued from National Headquarters at Indianapolis August 2, 1923, and signed by the Department of Florida on the 16th of that month. W. D. Vinzant was the first Post Commander. The Home at No. 221 West Church Street was occupied November 5, 1923; it was dedicated November 12, 1923, by Admiral W. S. Sims, U. S. N. The Post is named for a Jacksonville young man who was killed at Sommerance, France, in the Argonne Forest drive.

American Red Cross, Jacksonville Chapter.—The Jacksonville branch was organized March 20, 1914, with a membership of 54. The first officers were: W. E. Cummer, chairman; Miss Louise C. Meigs and L. G. Haskell, vice-chairmen; R. T. Solensten, secretary; G. R. DeSaussure, treasurer. The first practical work of the chapter was in connection with the Confederate reunion in Jacksonville in May, 1914.

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Jacksonville Lodge No. 221.—The Lodge was installed December 12, 1891, with 182 charter members, the largest initial membership of any Lodge in the country up to that time. A delegation from the Savannah Lodge conducted the ceremonies. John E. Hartridge was the first Exalted Ruler. The first club rooms were in what was then known as the Mohawk Block, southwest corner of Bay and Market Streets. This was the first and for a number of years the only Elks Lodge in Florida.

Boys' Home Association of Jacksonville.—Founded in April, 1914, through the efforts of J. C. Lanier. Chartered in August, 1914, with 220 members. First officers: F. O. Miller, president; H. H. Simmons, vice-president; R. T. Dewell, secretary; J. C. Lanier, treasurer. Opened a home at No. 25 East Church Street August 10, 1914. Incorporated