

that it gave satisfactory control of the bird grasshopper at 35 to 45 pounds of a 10 percent dust per acre, or when used as a spray at 3.5 to 4.5 pounds of the active ingredient per acre. Only preliminary work has been performed on the leaf footed plant bug but a 20 percent dust at 25 pounds per acre showed favorable results.

Hexaethyl tetraphosphate or HETP has been tested for the control of citrus aphids and purple mites. HETP is very volatile and should be used as soon as it is mixed as a dilute spray. It has no residual effect as a spray and should never be combined in sprays containing lime. Precautions should be taken to prevent the concentrated material from coming in contact with the skin.

In experimental tests HETP (100% active ingredient) used at 1-1600, reduced citrus aphids populations 93 to 96 percent where the leaves were not curled. Where it was used in a commercial grove, a medium infestation of citrus aphids was reduced to a very low level.

Where HETP was applied at a concen-

tration of 1-1600 for the control of purple mites, a high percentage of the active mites were killed but, within a week after the application, 9 percent of the leaves were infested with young mites as compared to no mites where a more effective material was used. A month following the application there was no difference in the populations in the treated and untreated plots.

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COUNT ODETTE PHILLIPPI, - A CORRECTION TO FLORIDA'S CITRUS HISTORY

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Terra Ceia

All the accounts of the introduction of grapefruit into Florida with which the writer is familiar recount that the man primarily responsible was "Don Phillippi, a Spanish Nobleman." No account of his antecedents or how he came to choose the region of Safety Harbor on old Tampa Bay have appeared in any of the accounts that have come to the writer's attention. It came therefore as a surprise, and a distinct shock, to read an authoritative account of this man's career in a newspaper article and to learn that he was no Spaniard but a French-

man and one of a famous family with an important place in French history.

Col. D. B. McKay has been running a series of most interesting articles in the Sunday edition of the Tampa Tribune, articles dealing with the early history of Tampa and the surrounding territory. A newspaper man of long experience, several times Mayor of Tampa, and a student of history, his articles are on a plane far above the common run of reminiscent anecdotes. In the issue of Dec. 29, 1946, he gives a detailed account of this famous Frenchman to whom Florida is so much indebted. His career is so eventful, and truly romantic as to furnish the theme for a historical novel

that in the proper hands might easily become one of America's "best sellers."

Col. McKay reveals that Count Odette Phillippi was a friend and associate of Napoleon Bonaparte, also was a great nephew of King Louis XVI of France. When they were schoolmates together, Napoleon specialized in military strategy, while Phillippi took up the study of medicine and surgery. When Napoleon came to power as Emperor he appointed Phillippi as Chief Surgeon of the French Navy. He won laurels in this position, his Admiral making a commendatory report on his services in a naval battle occurring in August, 1804, as a result of which he won a special decoration. Not long after, however, Oct. 21, 1804, occurred the great naval battle of Trafalgar, in which the British fleet under the famous Lord Nelson almost destroyed the French fleet. Among the French prisoners taken was Count Phillippi. Along with the other prisoners of war he was sent to the Bahama Islands. There his skill as a physician was so helpful to the British in their administration of the colony that within two years he was given his freedom, under a pledge not to return to France.

He first went to Charleston where he married a beautiful French girl. They lived on an extensive plantation near Charleston until her death in 1814. Her grave in Charleston is marked by a beautiful monument in the Catholic Cemetery.

He remembered the citrus fruits he had learned to like in the Bahamas and he soon outfitted a sloop determined to seek a place where he could grow such fruits and recoup his fortunes brought low by some heavy losses due to endorsing the note of a friend.

He sailed to the Bahama Islands to secure plants. Not content with just securing seed or small seedlings he had bearing citrus trees dug up for transfer to the land of his dreams—Florida. He first attempted a settlement in the Indian River section on the East Coast. Indians were at that time generally friendly but attacks were of occasional

occurrence. Through the warning of a friendly Indian, he barely escaped when a marauding band burned and destroyed his buildings and plantings, as he sailed away in his sloop, named for the famous Marshall Ney. Before this tragic end of his first Florida venture he had made several trips to Key West and Havana and on one of these trips he was captured by a pirate by the name of Gomez. He soon cured some of the pirate crew that were ill of fever. So grateful were the pirates that they not only released his ship but placed aboard the Ney a large chest filled with treasure taken as plunder from other vessels. Still more important at the time, the pirate captain gave him a letter that would secure him immunity from future pirate attacks. This letter came in handy on a later occasion.

When Phillippi told the pirates of the ill fortune that had befallen him in the destruction of his East Coast plantation, one of the pirates comforted him by the assurance that it might all prove good fortune—that a better land lay on the western side of Florida. The pirate produced a map of what we now know as Tampa Bay and especially recommended the area on Old Tampa Bay near the present site of Safety Harbor. Count Phillippi was so impressed that he determined to take the pirate's advice. He arrived in the Bay in the spring of 1823, and found it all that the pirate chief had claimed. We of today in Florida can only be too grateful that a man trained in scientific methods was the one to introduce citrus and especially grapefruit into the West Coast of Florida. He was careful in his selection of varieties and his grove, variously reported as 10 to 100 acres, was a marked improvement over his East Coast pioneer planting. Evidence of his care in selection is the accepted fact that one of the first generation seedlings of his grapefruit introduction became the parent tree of the Duncan grapefruit, the variety that for over fifty years has been the accepted standard of excellence among Florida grapefruit varieties.

The amazing thing in this revelation regarding the career of Count Phillippi is that scores of residents of Tampa and in Pinellas County must have known for a long time that our citrus histories were all wrong. Col. McKay cites a half dozen Tampa families who are descendents of the famous Count. One of them, Mrs. Nell Verri Clark, possesses a magnificent necklace and locket ornamented with the French fleur-de-lis, indicating that Gomez had secured it as loot from a captured French vessel. The chest with most of the treasure was lost in the great hurricane of 1848 which inundated the Phillippi property, forcing all residents to flee inland. The Count was no quitter, however, but promptly set about rehabilitating his home and grove, locating however on higher land. He distributed seed and seedlings to his neighbors throughout the Pinellas Peninsula and helped greatly in familiarizing growers with grapefruit and its culture. The only places known to the writer which carries the pioneer's name are Phillippi Creek, a few miles south of Sarasota, and Phillippi Hammock near Safety Harbor, the site of his grove development. Upon his death in 1869 he was buried near his last earthly home, his grave marked with a simple tombstone bearing the epitaph:

"Dr. Odette Phillippi
Born Lyons, France
1785—1869"

In 1940 the Clearwater Chapter of the D. A. R. erected a bronze tablet at the grave inscribed as follows:

"Phillippi Hammock
was homesteaded on this site by Dr. Odette
Phillippi, Pioneer
where citrus was introduced by him in 1846
Born Lyons, France, 1785
Died at his homestead in Florida 1869
Dedicated by Clearwater Chapter, D. A. R.
1940"

The date 1846 is evidently an error as Col. McKay agrees. The Count's grove had probably been in production for 20 years or more at this time.

The writer is making this contribution to the Proceedings of the Florida State Horticultural Society partly to put himself right on this important phase of Florida's Citrus history. A few years ago the writer contributed to the program of the Florida Academy of Science a brief paper entitled "Some Aspects of the History of Citrus in Florida." This was published in the Quarterly Journal of the Florida Academy of Science, Volume 8, Number 1, March, 1945.

In this sketch touching only the high lights of Florida's Citrus development the writer, following such eminent authorities as H. H. Hume and H. J. Webber, referred to "Don Phillippi a Spanish Nobleman" and gave the date of his landing on the shores of Tampa Bay as 1809, as recorded by earlier authorities. Having lived a good part of thirty-five years just across Tampa Bay from Pinellas Peninsula the author feels chagrined and more or less ashamed not to have learned the actual facts in regard to this famous Frenchman and to have avoided the errors of previous writers. The date 1809 is clearly in error. At that time Count Phillippi was living with his wife and four daughters on his large plantation near Charleston. It was not until 1823 that he arrived in Tampa Bay, following his having been driven off his East Coast plantation by hostile savages.

The author is glad to make this belated correction and to pay tribute to Col. D. B. McKay, distinguished citizen of Tampa, who has made it possible to set our records straight on this important event in our citrus history and its effect on the development of the West Coast of Florida.