

MYRTLE MILES

in which will interest many old residents throughout the state was a dinner given in Jacksonville this week.

The day which marked the eightieth anniversary of the birth of Mrs. A. E. Frank a dinner was given by Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Gaboury at their beautiful home, Monte-Casa, in honor of their mother, Mrs. A. E. Frank and of three lifelong friends, Mrs. Mary Forney, widow of the late Joseph Forney; Mrs. Mary Caldwell, widow of Col. J. H. Caldwell, and Mrs. Sceptima Forney, widow of the late Confederate general, J. H. Forney. There were two other guests who were so fortunate as to be included though they belonged to a newer age, Miss Elizabeth Parker and Col. Ed Caldwell. The day was ideal, and the home of the Gabourys, Monte-Casa, which is so appropriately named from its situation on a beautiful hill, and its commanding view of the mountains, had the true air of the old southern home, and its hosts might have belonged to those ante-bellum days, for their hospitality was perfect.

At 1 o'clock to the strains of old southern melodies played by Miss Adelia Gaboury, the eldest daughter of the house, the guests marched into the dining room, and here they were served to a delicious and sumptuous dinner, cooked by "Aunt Margaret," an old family servant of the Franks. The many tempting viands proved that the old slave's hand had not lost its cunning. Col. Ed Caldwell gave a happy toast to Mrs. Frank and her friends, four of the sweetest, best and most charming old ladies to be found anywhere.

As the music stole softly over the scene the guests enjoyed the delightful courses of the dinner and indulged in pleasant chat of other days and of other dinners, ante-bellum as well as war time dinners, and all agreed that never had they tasted fare more suggestive of the old days.

The table was adorned with a center piece of Battenburg on which rested a bowl of Cherokee roses. After dinner the guests repaired to the parlor where they simply and happily revelled in reminiscences of the past.

Over 60 years ago there came to Jacksonville as a bride a fair northern girl to share the lot of her southern spouse; little did she dream of the stirring, exciting, nerve racking days that fate had in store for her; days in which her heart was literally to be torn asunder in anxiety, first for the gallant young husband who wore the gray and then for the brave father and brothers who donned the blue. The heroine I mention is still living in her Jacksonville home, and at the age of 89 her happy face is a benediction and her optimism is a lesson to the pessimism which prevails among the people of the present.

Another of the dear, charming old ladies, Mrs. Mary Caldwell, went to Jacksonville over 60 years ago from Tennessee with her young husband, a lawyer and later a gallant colonel in the Confederacy. Bravely she assisted him in those days, by teaching the youths of Jacksonville, and there are many fathers and mothers in Jacksonville today who have most loving gratitude for their first teacher.

The third lady present is the widow of one of the bravest generals our south had, a man after the type of Robert E. Lee, one who sacrificed everything to duty, for, like Lee, he resigned a position in the United States army to follow the cause of his beloved southland. Her gentle, sweet manners betoken the strain of the Rutledges of South Carolina.

The honoree of the occasion, Mrs. Frank, went to Jacksonville from Columbus, Ga., some years before the war. Her husband was for many years a very prosperous Jacksonville merchant. She is a most unusual old lady, her mind as bright as ever, and her interest in everything that pertains to Jacksonville, and her adopted country is exceptional, for she was reared in Philadelphia.

Seldom have there been seen together four such lovely and interesting ladies. Reminiscences fraught at the same time with joyful and heart rendering memories were exchanged and those who listened could not but feel that they had missed a great deal by not having been a participant in the old life of the south.

This was a most unique occasion, and all who were present enjoyed to the utmost the kindness and hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Gaboury.