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Pioneer journalists lived in pre-fab house

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Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



PIONEER JOURNALISTS LIVED IN PRE-FAB HOUSE

By HAMPTON DUNN

TALLAHASSEE --- One of the "greats" of Sunshine State journalism was a pioneer, Capt. Charles Edward Dyke, who came here from Canada in 1839 and acquired The Floridian, a newspaper that had been established in 1828. He also was the local Methodist preacher.

Today in Tallahassee there remains a tangible memento of the early editor. At 325 N. Calhoun St. sits an attractive, even in its old age, mansion that once was occupied by Captain Dyke. It now has as sole occupant Miss N. Clare Bowen, an alert and spry lady in her 80s, whose father bought the home from Captain Dyke in 1885. Newton Marion Bowen was an old-time employe of The Floridian and when he headed the staff later was regarded as "the most ethical editor south of Baltimore."

The house was built in the early 1830s with white pine lumber from Maine. It was shipped to New York City where it was cut for construction, every piece being numbered for the final job. All work was morticed and pegged because nails had not been manufactured. The pre-fab house then was shipped to New Orleans and thence to St. Marks, Fla., from where it was hauled by ox teams to Tallahassee. Not long ago, a Library of Congress representative visited Miss Bowen and recorded data on the ancient structure.

The interesting architecture features an upstairs verandah with attractive latticework. The home contains many antique furnishings from the original owners, including a Victorian chandelier.

