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## Frederick Delius found himself in Florida

Hampton Dunn

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# Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



## FREDERICK DELIUS FOUND HIMSELF IN FLORIDA

By HAMPTON DUNN

JACKSONVILLE --- The shady banks of the beautiful St. John's River, and the serenity of the Northeast Florida countryside provided the backdrop Frederick Delius needed to ignite his tremendous musical career.

He disappointed his father, but pleased the whole world when he spurned a life of a businessman and developed into one of the greatest composers. And it all started here in Florida.

Delius' father was a wealthy wool merchant in Bradford, England. He tried to interest his son in the same enterprise. But Frederick flunked out, he wasn't interested. OK, his father finally conceded, the young man would go to faraway Florida and there operate an orange grove he was buying for the rebellious youth.

So it was that in the spring of 1884, Frederick Delius took a boat ride up the St. John's from Jacksonville to the tiny community of Picolata, on State Road 13. There he built a little four-room house with kitchen connected by a covered walk. He soon forgot his mission to make money on oranges; and besides the freeze of 1895 wiped out the trees, and addressed himself to his first love: Music. He had a teacher from Jacksonville, Thomas F. Ward, come live in the cottage, and there he got his basic instruction. It was here Frederick composed his soon-to-be-famous "Florida. Suite," which he dedicated to "The People of Florida."

Delius told a friend back in England that "In Florida, through sitting and gazing at nature, I gradually learned the way in which I should find myself..." He died in 1934 at age of 72. His cottage is now restored and rebuilt at Jacksonville University.

