

January 1960

## 'Rosebank,' home of phosphate discoverer

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### Recommended Citation

Dunn, Hampton, "Rosebank,' home of phosphate discoverer" (1960). *Hampton Dunn Phototouring Florida Collection*. 316.

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# Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



## 'ROSEBANK,' HOME OF PHOSPHATE DISCOVERER

By HAMPTON DUNN

DUNNELLON --- He was known far and wide as "The Duke of Dunnellon," the man who accidentally discovered hard rock phosphate at this mining community on May 1, 1889. His name was Albertus Vogt, an adventurer who even was a guerilla fighter after the Confederacy was defeated.

At one time a surveyor and another time a deputy U.S. Marshal, the colorful "Duke" once operated a stage coach between Ocala and Homosassa.

Vogt was married to a pretty young widow, Mary Renfro Anderson, in 1886. He already had built his home there in the little community of Renfro, now known as western Dunnellon. And his bridge gave the estate a name --- "Rosebank."

"Rosebank" stands today, a weather-beaten, rambling structure with a big yard and lots of shade trees. A description of "Rosebank" in its early days is given by Dunnellon's biographer, J. Lester Dinkins, in his exciting history of the area, "Dunnellon---Boomtown of the 1890's."

Dinkins wrote: "Rosebank, built on a knoll overlooking Renfro Springs, was constructed facing South on the Old Inglis Road, a road that no longer exists. Surrounded by gardens, wide piazzas, and well-kept grounds, the structure, with its stained glass windows, presented the passersby with an impressive appearance.

"The furniture was ornate, hand-hewn oak and cedar. Delicately hand-painted lamp globes and china were imported from England and Germany. Rosebank was indeed, a showplace of Central Florida.

