

MEMORANDUM BY JUDGE AKERMAN
FOR MR. BEGGS

About 1928 the matter of establishing a division for the holding of the United States District Court at Orlando was brought up before the Bar Association, and a Committee from the Bar Association was appointed to urge the matter. I cannot at this time recall the names of all on that Committee, but Mr. Raymer Maguire and I were on the Committee.

We took the matter up with Congressman Sears, and he introduced a bill providing for the holding of terms of Court at Orlando, and then the Bar Committee went before the County Commissioners, and got the County Commissioners to pass a resolution pledging the use of suitable quarters in the County Court House for the holding of Court until a Government building was erected. In that matter we were ably assisted by Mr. Louie C. Massey who at that time was attorney for the Commissioners.

A little later I happened to be in Washington, and Mr. Sears took me down to the office of the Judiciary Committee, and we went very fully into the matter, mapping out the proposed Counties that should be included in the Orlando Division.

Although Mr. Sears worked very hard, he was unable to get the bill passed, and, when Mrs. Ruth Bryan Owen was elected, we took the matter up with her, and she again introduced the bill, but was unable to get it passed during the first session of Congress of which she was a member, and about that time I found out where the hitch was, and at the next session the bill passed both Houses,

and the first session of Court was held here in October, 1933.

At first there was no provision for a Deputy Clerk or Marshal at Orlando, and all of the records were kept at Tampa, and the Judge and Court officers only came up twice a year and held a short session of Court, and the first step was to have a Deputy Clerk appointed here, in which I was ably assisted by Mr. Wilcox, who had been elected Congressman, and Senator Fletcher. In November, 1935, a Deputy Clerk was appointed and stationed at Orlando, from which time on all of the Court records for the Orlando Division have been kept at Orlando.

I also appointed a United States Commissioner at Orlando, and the attorneys were able to file suits and preliminary hearings were held at Orlando, but we still had no Marshal to serve the writs. If a writ was issued by the United States Commissioner or the Deputy Clerk at Orlando, it had to be sent to the Marshal's office at Tampa, and the Marshal charged mileage from Tampa to the place of service which was a heavy burden upon the litigants.

I then took up the matter of having a Deputy Marshal stationed at Orlando, and with the help of Congressman Wilcox and Senator Andrews, who had been elected in the meantime, a Deputy Marshal was stationed at Orlando, so now the Orlando Division is a complete Court in itself.