



Perspectives on “Florida” White (1801-1884)

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Public Perspectives on Florida White

- Southern Belle
- Deep Christian Religiosity
- Teacher to her slaves
- Benevolent and kind
- La belle sauvage (the wild beauty)
- Manners such as a queen
- Genius
- Receiver of precious gifts (Ex. Rosary made of gems)
- Overshadowed her husband, Joseph Mills White, in all respects
- Charming
- Enjoyed Entertaining

Private Perspectives on Florida White

- Not highly religious
- Not strict in her moral code
- Likely did not teach her slaves how to read and write
- Writer
- Poet
- Disliked being alone
- Did not overshadow her husband during his lifetime
- Receiver of simple and precious gifts (Ex. Rosary made of rosewood)
- Charming
- Acquaintance of influential people such as Caroline Bonaparte, Achille Murat, and John Quincy Adams

References

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- Florida Memory: State Library and Archives of Florida. (circa 1870). Portrait of Mary Ellen Adair White - Jefferson County, Florida. Retrieved from <https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/39226>.
- Florida Memory: State Library and Archives of Florida (circa 1870). Mary Ellen Adair White Beatty - Jefferson County, Florida. Retrieved from <https://www.floridamemory.com/items/show/142672>.

Historical Significance and Background

- Full Name: Mary Ellen “Florida” Adair White Beatty
- Daughter of former congressman and Kentucky governor, John Adair
- Wife of former congressional delegate, Joseph Mills White
- Widowed in 1839
- Second marriage to Dr. Theophilus Beatty, later divorced
- Coordinated election campaigns for her first husband during the 1824-25 congressional election in Florida
- Spent the majority of her time with her two husbands and niece Etta
- More historical significance will be discovered as this project continues

Florida White in Her Youth



Florida White in Elderhood

