

***St. Cloud Tribune*, 1, no. 8 (October 28, 1909).**

The American Eagle, published by The Koreshan Unity, at Estero, Fla., says in its issue of Oct. 21: "We have received two copies of the *St. Cloud Tribune*, a new weekly publication emanating from the old soldiers' colony which is now being established at St. Cloud, in Osceola Co., Fla. The two issues received contain lengthy and most interesting illustrated articles by Ezra J. Stewart, descriptive of the Shaker Community, a thriving little colony adjacent to the new town of St. Cloud. The text and illustrations of Mr. Stewart's articles form a most convincing argument as to what may be attained in a material way through earnest application in Florida, the sunny land of golden opportunity. *The St. Cloud Tribune* is a handsome little paper, ably edited, and we bespeak for it the full measure of success which it deserves."

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The Shakers have put out two more acres of bananas. The plants already make a good showing, and if all goes well they will gather a profitable crop next season.

***St. Cloud Tribune*, 1, no. 9 (November 4, 1909).**

A Tribute to Benjamin Gates.

Editor *St. Cloud Tribune*: The Shaker Colony at Ashton, Florida, has recently been notified of the passing from this life of Benjamin Gates from his home at the Shaker Community, Mount Lebanon, New York, in the early part of September. Brother Benjamin was a prime mover in the selection and purchase of the Shaker estate near St. Cloud, in Florida, and was for several years a well known figure in Osceola County. After many years of unceasing devotion to the interests of his people, during which time he occupied the responsible position of Senior Trustee of the United Society of Shakers, this man of large ability and absolute integrity has passed on to his reward at the ripe age of 92 years. During the dark days of the civil war and afterwards for a considerable period of years Benjamin Gates was unusually active in extending succor and assurance of friendship to many an unfortunate man crippled in health and finances as a result of that memorable contest. Many a struggling man has been started on the road to success and fortune in business; many homeless men and women were helped to secure comfortable homes through his financial ability and his practical friendship. For years Brother Benjamin

had it in mind to plant an infant colony in some more salubrious climate than that of the frozen North, and when the opportunity came, in 1894, to purchase a tract of land in South Florida his years of practical experience in handling large landed properties stood the Shaker Society in good stead. Altho the wisdom of the move was at that time greatly doubted by some, experience and time have fully justified the remarkable, almost prescient, faith which Benjamin Gates always had in this section of Florida. At the memorial service held in his honor at the Church Family, Mount Lebanon, N. Y., many beautiful and noble tributes were paid to his character and life work by those who hold him in grateful remembrance as a wise guardian, a faithful friend, and a loving father. Many were the expressions of esteem and friendship offered by friends and neighbors who had known him for over half a century, from those who had ample opportunity to estimate the real worth of the man, and were desirous to testify to the uplifting influence of a noble character.

EZRA J. STEWART.

Shaker Colony, Ashton, Fla.

