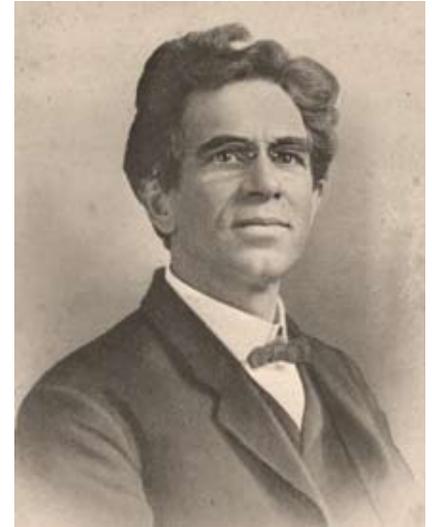


## Poet Laureate: George Graham Currie (1867-1926)

A man of many talents and one of the great promoters of West Palm Beach and Palm Beach County was George Graham Currie. Born in Quebec, Canada, Currie was a traveler, lawyer, developer, newspaper reporter, and author. After traveling as a youth, Currie moved to New York and became a correspondent to cover the insurrection taking place in Cuba in the mid-1890s. While en route to Cuba, Currie stopped in Florida while trying to find transportation to Cuba, and ended up in West Palm Beach. Currie stayed, studied law, and was admitted to the Florida Bar, practicing law in West Palm Beach from 1897-1925. As a real estate agent, he developed subdivisions in West Palm Beach and in Palm Beach County. To promote one of his subdivisions, Currie brought the first airplane to West Palm Beach in 1911. Currie also wrote poetry and published several books of his poems. According to *The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography* (1926), Currie was known as the “poet laureate of Florida.”



George G. Currie. Courtesy HSPBC.

## Hotel Royal Poinciana

by George G. Currie

George Graham Currie. *Sonnets and Love Songs*. Jacksonville: The Drew Press, 1911.

**Royal Poinciana! Hostelry complete!  
Monarch of Inns and chief of all resorts!  
Within thy walls, about thy beauteous courts,  
Meander guests from many a far retreat.**

**Luxurious ease upon the grandest scale  
Presents itself to all who woo thy bliss;  
Music and wine and mayhap Siren's kiss  
Conspire to hold them in thy pleasant pale.**

**Strength, beauty, wisdom, coronets and power,  
Are all attracted by thy multi charms;  
And in their freedom from outside alarms  
Inside thy gates would stretch each honeyed hour.**

**Diamonds and sparkling eyes in conflict rare,  
Venus disdainful though Adonis pleads,  
Statesmen and magnates in unstudied deeds,  
Might well entice the most fastidious stare.**

**But these are merely items in the bill,  
Relieved by backgrounds in some palm tree grove,  
Where golfers gather, or where nimrods rove,  
And catch complainings of the whippoorwill.**

**Thy ball room floor, where happy couples meet,  
With grace and chivalry revives his eyes;  
Thy vast rotunda while “The Season” vies,  
The world concedes is “Fashion’s very seat.”**

**Royal Poinciana! Millionaires’ delight!  
Goal of the tourist! Antipodes of care!  
Where is there Inn that can with thee compare?  
Where is resort where time makes quicker flight?**