

Mrs. Amelia L. Pacetti Will Be 95 Years Old October 24

Has Feminine Record For Age In This City

Mrs. Amelia L. Pacetti is, according to the data the Record has been able to gather, the oldest woman of St. Augustine. She will be 95 next Wednesday, having been born on October 24th, 1839. Mrs. Pacetti was born in St. Augustine and has lived here all her life. Before her marriage she was Miss Amelia Osmundsen, daughter of Anton Bengt Osmundsen, a native of Stavangar, Norway, and Lorana Bonelli, who was born in Modena, Italy. Her father came to this country as a young man in a boat belonging to his father. He had no intention of staying, coming over here for adventure.

Mrs. Pacetti was the oldest in a family of eight children and is now the only living child. She attended a private school conducted by Miss Mather. The school was located where the Villa Zorayda now stands. She specialized in music and art and became quite an accomplished musician. When nine years old her father purchased for her one of the first grand pianos owned in St. Augustine. The instrument is still in the family and is very well preserved. Mrs. Pacetti had a brother, Wm. Osmundsen, who joined the Confederate Army when only 17 years old and was not seen again by any of the family

until after the War Between the States. He died in the battle of Olustee.

Mrs. Pacetti was married to Capt. Adolphus Pacetti, who was in the Confederate Navy during the War Between the States. Capt. Pacetti fought in the battle of Mobile Bay. He served as sheriff of the County of St. Johns, and also held the office of city alderman at one time. There were three children born to Mr. and Mrs. Pacetti, two of whom are now living. They are Mrs. Minnie Dowd and Mrs. Harry Jones, both of St. Augustine. Mrs. Pacetti lives with Mrs. Harry Jones at the old family home at No. 56 Marine Street. This is one of the interesting old residences in St. Augustine, being built when Mrs. Pacetti was only 12 years old. During the War Between the States, the family was ordered to vacate the home by the Northern soldiers, but Mrs. Pacetti made friends with them and by putting them off with various excuses managed to keep the home. The history of the house is quite interesting. Mrs. Pacetti's grandmother Mrs. Antonia Bonelli, lived there for some time and died there. Her mother, Mrs. Osmundsen, lived and died there, and all her children were born there. Mrs. Jones was married in the old home, as was one of her daughters.

Mrs. Pacetti is still very active in spite of her years. Her sight and hearing are still excellent, and she is a most interesting conversationalist.