

## Afro-Cuban Patriots in Tampa



### Teófilo Domínguez

Of the many Afro-Cubans who were involved with local Cuban revolutionist publications in Tampa during the 1895 Cuban War of Independence, Teófilo Domínguez was the editor of a revolutionary weekly in Tampa and a close associate of Juan Gualberto Gómez. He was also a friend of Gustavo Urrutia, an Afro-Cuban writer who is only now gaining recognition for his role in shaping Cuban political thought. Between 1897 and 1899, he published a weekly literary and political magazine in Ybor City called *El Sport*. Listed among the founders of this publication is Generoso Campos Marquetti, an Afro-Cuban general in the liberation army who served in the Cuban legislature after independence. Domínguez contributed work to well known Cuban publications like *La Fraternidad*, Juan Gualberto Gómez' magazine, and *Minerva*, an early Cuban magazine dedicated to items of interest to Afro-Cubans. He also wrote a short volume profiling some of his even lesser known colleagues originally published as a series of biographical sketches in a Key West magazine, in July 1898 (at the height of the final battle for Cuban independence). Domínguez reprinted these pieces as a book, along with several essays he had written about the importance of education in effecting Martí's vision for Cuba, after the war was over in 1899.



### María de Jesús Viernes

Domínguez' future wife, María de Jesús Viernes, also worked actively for the cause of Cuban independence. Among other things, she is credited with having sewn the flag that the Liberating Army carried into battle at the outbreak of war, in 1895. Her great granddaughter, Sonia Menéndez, a current resident of Tampa, has in her possession her great grandfather Teófilo Domínguez's will, which bears the signatures of two witnesses—Juan Gualberto Gómez and Gustavo Urrutia.<sup>1</sup>

1- See Greenbaum, Susan. (2002) *More Than Black: Afro-Cubans in Tampa*. Gainesville, University Press of Florida.