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THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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THE
IMPORTANCE OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

This subject can best be introduced with concrete illustrations. A year ago several Tallahasseeans interested in Florida history heard that many old letters and books were in the attic of a near-by plantation house which had been built more than twenty years before the Civil War. Attracted there, they found the unfinished attic littered with business and social letters, documents, and books - all of ante-bellum days. The greatest prize discovered was a dilapidated journal of the overseer of the slaves, of which there were more than one hundred on the place as early as 1836. As this journal gave an account of what was done by the slaves from day to day, they saw at once that it was of the greatest value as a record of the social and economic conditions of early American Florida. In fact, one of the party believes that it is the most valuable document on that subject which has come to light in this state, if not in the entire South.

As the tenant had no right to give the material to the searchers, they returned to Tallahassee empty-handed, and immediately took steps to secure authority from the owner to remove and preserve the papers. After the necessary permission had been secured, a second pilgrimage to the attic was made and many letters, papers, and books were obtained, but most of the documents relating to the overseer and the slaves had vanished. Some months later this missing material, which is of inestimable value to Florida history, was reported to be in the library of a middle western historical society.

Two years ago a senior in the Florida State College for Women heard one of the teachers at the college pleading with the students to show an interest in the collection

and preservation of old books. She remembered that there was a deserted house near Quincy, where a public-spirited and cultured man had lived for many years. After his death, about four years prior to the time of this incident, the surviving relatives had left that section of the country. Our senior went to the place during the Christmas holidays. She found the doors standing open, the window frames gone and the floor covered with books, pamphlets and manuscripts, many of which were irretrievably ruined by exposure to the elements. She picked up some pamphlets to take back to Tallahassee. It was discovered that she had saved from destruction five or six copies of very rare and valuable Acts and Journals of the Territorial Council of Florida.

These stories have a moral. If an active historical society had been in existence in the Tallahassee region six years ago, it is altogether probable that its members would have been interested in collecting and preserving in Florida the treasures of the plantation house and the house near Quincy.

However, we are not interested in what might have been but in what may be. All over Florida, places are found containing historical documents which are slowly being destroyed. If the people of the state cannot be roused to a sense of their value, they will inevitably disappear, and the reconstruction of our past in accurate detail will be almost impossible. It is right here that the fundamental importance of historical societies lies. They can and must teach our citizens the imperative need of locating, collecting and preserving such material.

One of the reasons why New England has always received recognition from historians while other parts of the country have often been paid scant attention is the enthusiastic interest of New Englanders in the preservation of their documents. Their many historical and genealogical societies are both cause and result of this interest. Probably the most notable ones are the Massa-

chusetts Historical Society, organized in 1791; the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, organized in 1812, which now possesses the finest collection of selected newspapers in America; and the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, established in 1847, undoubtedly the foremost genealogical organization in America. These, with more than a hundred others, have spread their influence into the remotest corners of that section of the country, so that much historical material has been located, collected and made accessible to the research student. It is not surprising that many New Englanders become writers of history, and that all historians lay emphasis on the part played by New England in the development of our country.

When Professor F. J. Turner some thirty years ago showed the importance of the Mississippi Valley in American history, the historical societies of the Middle West were ready to help the historian. The great State Historical Society of Wisconsin was more than forty years old, the State Historical Society of Iowa was but a few years its junior, and the Missouri Historical Society had been founded in 1867. Thus the Middle West and the Northeast are getting their rightful place in history, but what of the Southeast, and particularly what of Florida? Spasmodic, intermittent attempts have been made by Floridians to interest their fellow-citizens in the state's past, but all such efforts were useless as there was no active organization to carry on the work. The Florida Historical Society is such an organization at last. It will fail unless a general interest can be aroused. If it continues to function, the experience of Massachusetts and other states will be repeated.

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Our society can accomplish much more than simply arouse interest in the preservation of historical data in private houses ; we should be able to influence the Florida

legislators to create ways and means of restoring order out of chaos in our public archives. Here again it is better to give concrete instances from the experience of other states.

One of the most notable printed collections of state archives is the one issued by Pennsylvania in more than one hundred volumes. In them are found the muster rolls of the Pennsylvania regiments in the various wars, tax lists in many counties during parts of the eighteenth century, warrantees of land in the several counties of the state in the same century, papers of the Governors from 1681 to the present time, - in short, the "Pennsylvania Archives" is a remarkable storehouse of information for the historian.

How did it happen that the state started this comprehensive and ambitious program? In 1836 the American Philosophical Society, which was founded before the Revolution by Benjamin Franklin, and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, organized about 1825, presented a memorial to the state legislature urging the publication of certain colonial records. The immediate result was the publishing by the state of three volumes of "Colonial Records" between 1837 and 1840. Then the work stopped. In 1849 the Historical Society petitioned the Senate to resume the publication, but no action was taken. The society, not to be discouraged, handed in a second petition in 1851, and this time it was acted upon favorably. The result was the continuance of the "Colonial Records" and the beginning of the magnificent series of the "Pennsylvania Archives". It can easily be seen what a very vital part in the inception of the work was played by the historical society.

The same influence is seen in other states. In New Jersey, men of prominence asked the legislature in 1843 to obtain from the English archives copies of papers relating to New Jersey's colonial history. When nothing definite was done, these men organized in January, 1845,

the New Jersey Historical Society. As its memorials to the legislature met with no response, it undertook to start the work on its own initiative. After the society had thus paved the way, the legislators at last in 1872 aided in the work. It may be of interest to Floridians that one of the leaders of the historical society was William Adeed Whitehead, who had been an influential citizen of Key West from 1828 to 1838.

In Maryland the state legislature made the Maryland Historical Society the custodian of the public archives, which were published under the society's supervision. The Georgia Historical Society, as early as 1849, was memorializing the legislature for aid in preserving the public records. The Alabama Historical Society was one of the prime movers in the establishment by the state of the Department of Archives and History, which has done notable work. The Mississippi Historical Society has always been closely connected with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, which published in 1923 the monumental collection of the letters, papers and speeches of Jefferson Davis in ten volumes - a work which makes every student of American history a debtor to the State of Mississippi.

The Florida Historical Society has taken its cue from these societies. At its annual meeting held in Tallahassee on November 13, 1924, it passed a resolution directing its president to appoint a committee to present to the next session of the legislature proposals for the preservation and indexing of the state archives that are at the present time in such a chaotic condition. Florida has had no Jefferson Davis, but we have had an important past. the public records of which should be preserved in a fire proof structure. They should be printed as soon as it can be done, although this can be postponed for some time. The expenses of publication would not be prohibitive, as many sets would be bought by leading research and university libraries. Our society's commit-

tee will have the greater chances of success with the legislature, the larger our membership is.

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In the opinion of the writer, the chief aims of the society should be the ones mentioned: the collection and preservation of historical data now in private hands, and the preservation, indexing and future publication by the state of the public archives and records; but other purposes helpful in arousing and sustaining interest in historical affairs must be kept in mind.

Meetings should be held regularly, at which ideas could be exchanged and waning enthusiasm revived. The attendance at the Tallahassee meeting was small, but those present left for their homes greatly encouraged with the prospects. Let us hope the next meeting will give even greater inspiration.

Again, our society should issue publications. The **QUARTERLY**, even if only a modest attempt, performs its duty in telling the people of Florida of the ideals that animated our forefathers. It will give Floridians an inspiration to live up to the best ideals of those who have gone before. It will stimulate an interest in collecting material about our history.

To achieve all these purposes one thing is absolutely essential, a large membership. There should be at least three thousand people in Florida who are willing to show their faith in the plans advanced by the society. Surely Floridians will not be content to remain behind citizens of sister states, such as Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Wisconsin.

JAMES O. KNAUSS

JACKSONVILLE AND THE SEMINOLE WAR
1835-1836

REGIMENTAL ORDER ¹

4th Regt. Florida Militia,
Jacksonville, Nov. 10th, 1835.

Sir-You are hereby required to muster the company under your command, forthwith; and cause a complete inspection of the same to be made, as to their arms and equipments, and make an immediate return to me of the same. You will impress on the men the necessity of their equipping themselves according to law, and be particular in returning to your company Court Martial all defaulters, in not appearing armed as required. The General commanding this Brigade, has informed the Colonel of this Regiment, "that as the Indians are to be removed about the 8th of January next, in the event of their not complying peaceably with the Treaty with the General Government, circumstances may require him to call on a portion of the Brigade for their services, and he confidently expects support in such an event, from this Regiment." I think it unnecessary for me to say more to you, than fully to express confidence in yourself, and the officers and men under your command, being held in readiness to meet promptly any call that may be made on their services, and that this Regiment may, in the event of their being called to the field, shew that patriotic and military character that has always so distinguished the sons of Florida.

I have the honor to be, &c.

W. J. MILLS,
Lt. Col. 4th Regt. F. M. Com. 1st Batl.
To Capt. DANIEL S. GARDINER.

¹ The Courier, Jacksonville, Florida, Dec. 24, 1835.

THE INDIANS ²

By news from Alachua, it appears that the Seminole Indians have openly shown their opposition to the measures of the Government for their removal, by commencing hostilities upon the inhabitants residing near them. Their first act was the murder of Charles O'Mathla, a chief of the Mickasuky tribe, who was in favor of a removal.

Col. McIntosh, who resides near Micanopy, thus writes :-“By express from Fort King last night, we learn that the Mickasuky Indians have killed Charles O'Mathla, and shown other signs of hostility; which, in my humble opinion, brings matters to a crisis. We have a defenseless frontier, which must be entirely sacrificed, unless aided from some source or other.”

They have since made attacks upon several families, laying waste their plantations, and, though, from the last information, no whites have been killed, they have evinced every manifestation of determined hostility. - The inhabitants are flying in every direction ; while military, corps are organizing and repairing to the frontier to protect the lives and property of those who are exposed to the depredations of this wily and secret foe. By the commendable activity, and the great ability and experience of Gen. Clinch, who has the command of this station, aided by the praiseworthy readiness with which the volunteer corps are repairing to his assistance, we doubt not the Indians will be prevented from doing extensive injury. We have such entire confidence in Gen. Clinch as to remove all fear of the Indians, hostile as they may be, ravaging the country beyond the frontier, and we believe many are agitated by needless fears.

² *Ibid.*, Dec. 3, 1835.

REGIMENTAL ORDER ³

4th Regt. Florida Militia,
December 5, 1835.

Sir-You are hereby required to muster the company under your command, at Isaac Hendricks', Esq., Cowford, on Monday morning, the 7th inst. at 9 o'clock, A. M. completely armed and equipped, and all mounted that have horses, or that can procure them, when you will make immediate report to me of the full effective strength, in men, arms, equipments and horses. And at that time and place, you will receive such further orders for your guidance, as shall be communicated to me by the Colonel commanding this Regiment. The Indians having committed some depredations on the frontiers, the General commanding the United States troops in Florida, has made a requisition for the services of a portion of this regiment, you will therefore impress on your company, the necessity of being fully prepared for immediate service, at a moments warning after your parade is formed, as herein ordered.

By order of Col. **JOHN WARREN**,
Commanding 4th Regt. F. M.

W. J. MILLS,
Lt. Col. Com. 1st Batl.
To Capt. D. S. **GARDINER**, Company D.

Head Quarters,
Jacksonville, Dec. 7th, 1835.

Sir-You are hereby ordered to hold the company under your command, in readiness to march at a moment's warning. You will cause all the men to be immediately prepared for actual service. Press all the arms in the district, and make report to me forthwith. The regiment being called into actual service by the Commanding General of the Brigade.

By order of Col. **WARREN**.

W. J. MILLS,
Lt. Col. 4th Regt. F. M.
Capt. D. S. **GARDINER**, Company D.

³ **The Courier, Jacksonville, Florida, Dec. 24, 1835.**

Head Quarters,
Jacksonville, Dec. 7, 1835.

Sir - You are hereby ordered to muster the Batallion under your command into immediate service, and order the companies to take up the line of march for Wetumpka, via Black-Creek, to-morrow morning; you are also required to establish a post at Jacksonville, under the command of a Captain and twenty-five men - one post at Mandarin, under a Lieutenant and twelve men - one post at Whitesville, under a Lieutenant and twelve men - you will charge the Captain commanding the post at Jacksonville, to keep a regular mounted guard, and to take into custody all slaves and free persons of color, except they are in the actual service and presence of their owners, overseers, or employers, and to keep them in close confinement, subject to the disposition of the civil authorities ; and you will order the Commandant at Jacksonville to issue the same peremptory orders to the Commandants of the posts at Mandarin and Whitesville - and to require regular reports from them; and he is required to report to Major Isaiah D. Hart, who will remain at Head Quarters as commanding officer of the Regimental Bounds - you are further required to take all arms found within your command, for the purpose of arming the Batallion - you will also charge the Guards with the duty of bringing in all persons who are defaulters, in appearing at the different places of rendezvous.

By order of Gen. J. M. **HERNANDEZ** ,
Corn. 2d Brig. F. M.

JOHN WARREN ,
Col. 4th Reg. F. M.

To Col. J. W. **MILLS** ,
Corn. 1st Batl. F. M.

INDIAN WAR! ⁴

During a few days past, our town has been the scene of busy preparation for a campaign on the Indian Frontier. By the last accounts, the Indians evince a determination and preparation for hostilities little anticipated. The friendly chiefs, (or such as professed themselves friendly) are said to have removed from the Fort and joined the hostile tribes, with the exception of two or three immediate dependents of Charles O'Mathla, who, it will be recollected, was a few days since murdered. They have retired in a body to a large swamp near their villages, and are carrying their wives and children to places of security. They are reported to have made an attack upon a party of whites, and plundered and burnt two or three more plantations.

In obedience to the call of General Clinch who has the command of the U. S. Troops, General Hernandez has ordered out the Militia. Col. Warren left this place yesterday morning at the head of his regiment, leaving only a number sufficient for the protection of the posts near this. Every man is enroled for the service on the Frontier, or for service at home. At such a time as this a great want of muskets is felt. Such as have rifles, have taken them. But a great part have been compelled to take their fowling pieces, or such guns as they could lay their hands upon. There has been an alacrity in their preparations, creditable to all, and particularly to the officers who have directed the movements. We hope, that by such a timely display of militia, the Indians will be induced to abandon their intention of further hostilities, and submit to the stipulations of the Treaty made at Payne's Landing, without further resistance.

(Succeeding documents will appear in other issues of the QUARTERLY).

⁴ *Ibid.*, Dec. 10, 1835.

NARVAEZ AND DE SOTO

THEIR LANDING PLACES AND THE TOWN OF ESPIRITO SANTO

But little is known of Ponce de Leon's two voyages to Florida. It is said that the first time he landed somewhere between the present Jacksonville and New Smyrna. We have no knowledge as to where he was defeated by the Indians when he came the second time.

After Ponce de Leon came Narvaez in 1528. We have quite a full account of his expedition, written by his Treasurer, Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca. From this history we are able to definitely know where Narvaez found a landing place.

Nunez' story has been four times translated into English. Mrs. Fanny Bandelier of New York City, made the last translation from a copy of the original publication printed in 1542, that is now in the Lenox Library of that city. The book was published in 1904, as one of the Trail Makers Series of American Explorers.

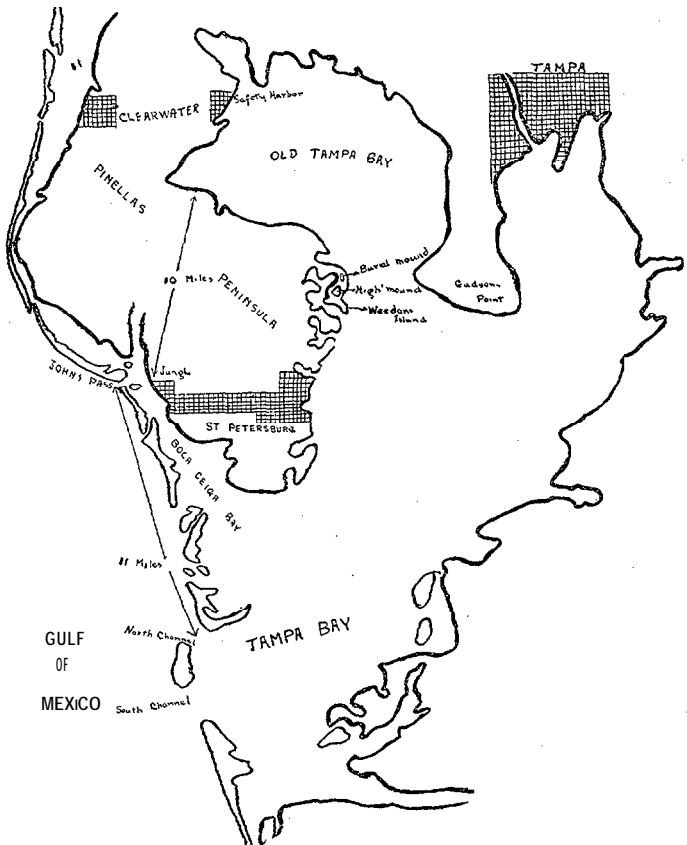
The historian described the start from Spain, the troubles of the winter spent in the West Indies; and follows with the journey to our shore. I shall quote a few passages from the story, relative to their landing place.

"We coasted the way of Florida and on Holy Thursday, cast anchor at the mouth of a bay at the head of which we saw certain houses or habitations of Indians."

The outline map of Tampa Bay and vicinity, printed herewith, follows the shore lines as given by the chart of Tampa Bay published by the United States Coast Survey. The pilot of the expedition, Miruelo, had, evidently, some knowledge of this bay but failed to notice the channels by which it is entered, and passing by it, entered into Boca Ceiga Bay through John's Pass. This bay is here about a mile and a half wide. Just within the bay is an island on which is a shell mound. On the eastern shore of the bay opposite the Pass are large shell

mounds. On account of the dense tropical growth there it is locally known, in St. Petersburg, as the "Jungle". Standing on the dock at the Jungle one can look across the bay and through John's Pass see the Gulf of Mexico.

I continue the author's story, "On that same day the Clerk Alonzo Enriquez went to an island in the Bay and called the Indians who came to him and were with him a good while and by way of exchange gave him fish and venison. The day following, which was Good Friday [April 15, 1528] the Governor landed with as many men



TAMPA BAY AND ADJACENT GULF SHORES

as his small boats would hold and as we arrived at the huts or houses we had seen we found them deserted, the Indians having fled in the night in their canoes.

“After another day the Governor resolved to penetrate inland to explore the country and see what it contained. We went with him, the Commissary, the Inspector and myself, with forty men and six horses. We took the direction of the north and at the hours of vespers reached a very large bay which appeared to sweep very far inland. After remaining there that night we returned to the place where the vessels were.”

One of the ships had failed to arrive. One of the smaller vessels was sent to look for this ship, to look for the harbor which they had missed and if not found to go to Havanna for supplies. It is probable that Juan Ortiz was on this boat and that it returned after Narvaez and his force had left for the north. Ortiz and three others from the vessel were taken prisoners by the Indians.

Continuing the account the author writes, “We again penetrated inland the same persons as before, with some more men. We followed the shore of the Bay and after a march of four leagues captured four Indians, and they led us to their village at the end of the Bay nearby.”

The Spanish league in use at that time is two and six-tenths of our miles. Using the scale on the Gulf Coast Survey's chart we find that it is ten miles from the Jungle to the west end of the Bay which is north of the Jungle.

Old Tampa Bay at which they arrived after crossing the Pinellas Peninsula is twelve miles in its greatest length and they were not able to see the eastern shore. There is a shell mound a little north of the west end of the Bay.

Narvaez called a council of his officers on May first and it was decided that they would move north overland to the supposed port which they believed they had not found. The ships were sent north to meet the soldiers

at the harbor. As to what befell Narvaez on this journey is no part of this story. Suffice it to say that eight years later Nunez and three companions reached Mexico from whence the historian went to Spain and there wrote the book.

I have one other quotation to make. He writes it as a postscript after he had completed and signed his name to the account of his travels. It is as follows, "Since in the foregoing narrative I have related the journey, the arrival and the departure from the country and return to this realm, I now wish to tell what happened to the ships and to the people on them. After our return we learned of everything that occurred to them. The vessels set sail and went on but did not find the port in the direction they were proceeding so turned back where, five leagues [thirteen miles] further down from our landing place they struck the harbor. It stretched inland for seven or eight leagues and was the one we had already discovered. The water is six fathoms deep at its mouth and five fathoms near the shore. Its distance from it to Havanna is one hundred leagues, on a line from north to south."

It is eleven miles from John's Pass to the north channel of Tampa Bay and fourteen miles to the south channel. The chart shows fully as much water as he relates.

Narvaez anchored at the mouth of and near the head of a small bay across which he could see houses. He went to the north about eleven miles to a large bay, there crossing a peninsula. No place other than the one given can be found on the shores of Florida that will match this very clear history of the earliest known landing place of white men on the shores of our country.

Eleven years later came DeSoto with authority to conquer and settle Florida. He named the bay, Espirito Santo, a name it retained until after the United States built Fort Brooke at its eastern extremity. On the shore

of that portion of the bay, called Old Tampa Bay, he made the first settlement that was made on the soil of the present United States. He gave the town the same name as the bay, Espirito Santo. "It was so called from the first", wrote Ranjal.

There are four accounts of the coming of DeSoto. Three of them by men who were with him on the expedition. These three are grouped in a two volume work by Bourne. The story of Rodrigo Ranjal, DeSoto's Secretary, is there given in English for the first time.

The fourth account was written about fifty years after the expedition, by Garcilaso de la Vega. It is included in Shipp's history of DeSoto.

Considering these four writings as a whole, and reconciling their differences as far as we are able, we learn that DeSoto sailed into shallow water and anchored his vessels a league from the shore. Five days later, on the thirtieth of May, he landed his troops. DeSoto, on the same day in one of the smaller vessels, sailed five miles farther and took possession of an Indian town of seven or eight houses, from which the inhabitants had fled. In the town was a high mound "built by hand for defense". At the other end of the town was another mound on which there was a temple.

The following day the soldiers started overland for the town. The march required more than a day "by reason of the great inlets that extended out from the bay".

Several places have been named as DeSoto's landing place. One author says Gadsen's Point, another Tampa, and another thinks Safety Harbor was the location.

We know that it was near Narvaez landing place. The Chief Hirrighua who captured Ortiz and who was so cruelly misused by Narvaez was asked to visit DeSoto. He refused to do so, saying that all he wanted of the Spaniards was their heads. When Ortiz escaped from this chief, in one night's travel he reached the town of

Chief Mucoco, with whom he lived for eight years. When DeSoto asked Ortiz if he knew of any place where gold could be obtained he replied that he had never been ten leagues away. It follows that he had never been to the south side of the bay and we are limited to the north side in our search.

Five miles north of St. Petersburg there is a peninsula that is known locally as Weedon's Island. On it is a high mound that covers nearly an acre. Its broad summit is forty feet above the water of the bay. A cut was made into this mound the past winter and it was found that at least the upper twenty feet is artificial, being made of alternate layers of shells and soil. It is "a high mound built by hand". About forty rods farther from the bay is another elevation that was found to be a burial mound. From it, the past winter, representatives of the Smithsonian Institution exhumed over four hundred more or less perfect skeletons.

The three bayous between this peninsula and St. Petersburg fill the requirements of "great inlets extending out from the Bay". In the rear of these bayous are seven lakes, and the land is low and in places marshy. It is easy to see that it would be difficult to move an army over this ground as no road had been built. I can find no other location on the shore of Tampa Bay that will agree with the facts as given by the historians.

On the arrival of the soldiers at the town the trees nearby were cut down and the soldiers built houses. The ships were floated up by the tide as the bay is shallow and the channel too narrow for sailing by inexperienced pilots. The supplies were placed in the Indians' houses and the larger vessels were sent to Havana to be sold. Gardens were planted and attempts were made to make friends of the Indians.

DeSoto remained at Espirito Santo for six weeks. He started the middle of July on an exploring trip to the north, leaving a force of about one hundred at the village

under an officer named Caleron and leaving also sufficient provision for two years. By November he had reached a good harbor in a fertile country, probably at Apalachicola Bay.

There was no good reason for continuing the settlement at Espirito Santo. Nothing had been found there that would be of any use to the Spaniards excepting game and fish. Of the five nearby Indian tribes, four were in a fierce opposition. DeSoto decided to abandon the town. He sent a message to Caleron to send the ships north, to give the friendly Chief Mucoco such supplies as could not be moved and to march north to join him. Thus ended the town of Espirito Santo which antedated by twenty-three years the coming of the French to Fort Caroline, by twenty-six years the settlement of St. Augustine and by forty-six years the English settlement at Roanoke Island.

Dr. L. R. Weedon of Tampa was the first to suggest that DeSoto landed on the peninsula. He purchased the property as a place for recreation for his sons and friends, reaching it by a launch from Port Tampa.

A. H. PHINNEY

ADDRESS BEFORE THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The history of Florida is more interesting than the most entertaining novel. Sir Walter Scott, Bulwer Lytton and J. Fennimore Cooper might have collaborated in its making. It stirs at times like a beautiful poem. Kipling and Edgar Allen Poe could have combined in its production. It thrills again with all the emotions of a Shakesperian tragedy. There are deep impressions of wild adventure, sordid motives and terrible ordeals in the earlier days. On the other hand, there is found tender romance, as in the search for the Fountain of Youth, the beautiful palms, the flowers, the tropical green, the calm sea and the rippling waves of bay and rivers. There are times of exquisite pathos, like unto the last notes of the dying swan, and I have in mind the treatment of those who were found here in possession, particularly to the orders to execute by the bayonet, if they failed to leave their homes and take up their abode in a strange land beyond the Father of Waters.

Fanaticism, persecution and religious intolerance were exemplified in the earliest days to a degree inconceivable in human beings. All in the name of the King and the Church of God.

Witness the slaughter of the Huguenots at Fort Caroline by Menendez in 1565. Witness again the acts of De Gourgues in 1567, when he hung prisoners "not as Spaniards but traitors, thieves and murderers".

Some came in search of silver, gold and pearls ; others for slaves. Mingled with thugs and ruffians were a few men of the best blood. Missionaries, desirous of introducing Christianity to the savage mind and heart also came.

From religious persecution, some found a refuge-

such as Ribaut and Laudonniere - only to be slaughtered in the name of religion.

Explorers like de Narvaez, de Vaca and discoverers like Hernando de Soto, were attracted to this favored land and traversed it.

Examples of courage, such as displayed by the French Huguenots, by Juan Ortiz, by de Soto, by Don Tristan de Luna, and the Franciscan missionaries, during the period from 1539 to 1560, stand out as unsurpassed.

We can scarcely realize that such a record of cruelty and vindictiveness could be possible as that made from 1513 to 1580, and the most of it by professedly Christian people, invoking the blessings of Deity upon their acts. We must, to understand it, recall that at that stage of civilization and development, certain differences of faith were considered a crime punishable by death. In these days of liberty of conscience and freedom of worship it is difficult to get the viewpoint of these pioneers.

When reflecting upon the fact that on April 12, 1513, on Palm Sunday (Pascua Florida) Ponce de Leon planted a cross, unfurled the royal banner of Spain and took possession of the land in the name of the King of Spain and named it Florida, the name of the locality where he landed being subsequently given by Menendez, August 28, 1565, as St. Augustine; that the founding of St. Augustine occurred forty-two years before Jamestown, in Virginia, was settled by the English, in 1607, and fifty-five years before the Plymouth Colony landed on the shores of New England, in 1620; that at the beginning of the seventeenth century no European colony existed on the Atlantic Coast of North America except at St. Augustine; that from 1620 to 1670 settlements were made on the coast by the French, English, Dutch and Swedes from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to Port Royal, South Carolina; that in 1696 Pensacola was occupied by a Spanish force which built and garrisoned a fort there; noting the rapid strides made by these other

settlements and portions of the country, we are inclined to wonder why this oldest in point of discovery and settlement seems now to be the newest in development. But Florida never got fully started on her career until 1876, - less than fifty years ago, which is a brief time in the life of a state.

Mexico, Peru and the Spanish Main had been occupied and exploited in search of gold, silver and pearls, but for fifty years after Ponce de Leon, not a single settlement of the white race, appeared from Mexico to the Polar Seas or from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Let us get a glimpse of what occurred.

The French expedition fitted out and sailed February 1562, under command of Captain Jean Ribaut, entered the river they named the May, because they reached it May 1st, landed and put up a stone, on which was engraved the Arms of France. This was at the entrance to the St. Johns River. Their purpose was to extend the possessions of France, found a new empire and afford a place of refuge for oppressed Huguenots. They sailed away. On June 29, 1564, came Laudonniere with three vessels and built a fort on a high bluff a little farther up the river, and named it Fort Caroline. You recall his fate and that of his associates.

You recall the work of the avenger, de Gourgues, in September 1565.

By treaty between England, Spain and France, in February 1763, the Provinces of East and West Florida were ceded to Great Britain and Havana was restored to Spain. The Spanish flag had floated over St. Augustine for one hundred and ninety years. It was now changed to British. English colonies extended along the Atlantic seaboard, comprising a population of nearly three million, while the population of Florida was then, 1763, not counting Indians and slaves, about seven thousand, Spanish inhabitants, principally in St. Augustine and Pensacola. In the midst of wars, conflicts, desperate,

cruel, unceasing attacks, raids among contending nationals and between them and the Indians - there could be no development, no-growth, no expansion, beyond small, precarious settlements.

When General James Grant became the first English Governor of East Florida in 1763 and Commodore George Johnson of the British Navy became the first Governor of West Florida in 1764, the one located in St. Augustine and the other at Pensacola - there was promise of some progress in development. Immigration for the first time was invited and settlers encouraged. The King's road was constructed in 1765 - from Fort Barington on the Altamaha River, to St. Augustine, by subscription of several public spirited gentlemen. Dr. Andrew Turnbull, a Scotchman; brought from Smyrna, the Greek Islands, Italy and Minorca, about fifteen hundred people and formed a settlement they named New Smyrna, in 1767. Royalists in Georgia, South Carolina and elsewhere, were invited to Florida and some seven thousand came, in 1776.

But the American Revolution was now upon us and adversely affected the Colony of Florida. September 3, 1784, a treaty was promulgated ceding by Great Britain East and West Florida to Spain. In 1795 Spain ceded to France all that portion of West Florida lying west of the Perdido River. In 1803 France ceded the territory of Louisiana to the United States for fifteen million dollars, being the last of her possessions in North America-at the end of two hundred and thirty years.

The war of 1812 came on. In August 1814 a British fleet entered the harbor of Pensacola, placed troops in garrison and with the assent of the Spanish governor, Maurique, the British flag was raised. General Jackson promptly moved against Pensacola and captured it and the forts. Pensacola was restored to Spanish authorities in September 1818.

In February, 1819, a treaty of peace was negotiated

between Spain and the United States, ceding the Floridas to the United States in consideration of five million dollars. The treaty was ratified February 19, 1821. The change of flags took place at St. Augustine, July 16, 1821, and at Pensacola, July 21, 1821. The military authorities conducted affairs until the Act of Congress, March 3, 1822, establishing a territorial government. General Andrew Jackson was the first military governor. Wm. P. Duval of Kentucky was appointed the first civil governor.

In the Congressional Cemetery at Washington a stone monument nine to ten feet high, rough and darkened by age and elements, marks the resting place of his body. The only inscription thereon is, in legible sunken letters, on the east side of the middle section, simply the name, "William P. Duval." It is located on Site Five, Range Forty-six, of the cemetery as platted.

Is it not now in order to give some attention to the monument and add the date of birth and death and the words, "First Governor of the Territory of Florida, 1822-1834".

The first legislative council was held at Pensacola in June, 1822, and West Florida was divided into two counties, Escambia and Jackson, and East Florida into the counties of St. Johns and Duval. The second session was held in St. Augustine in June 1823.

Messrs. W. H. Simmons and J. L. Williams were appointed Commissioners to select a location for the seat of government, "Which they chose near the old Fields of the Tallahassee". This choice was approved and here, in a log cabin, on November 8, 1824, met the next session of the Legislative Council. The first house was erected in 1824 and the Capitol was begun in 1828. The first building, was torn down and a new Capitol completed in 1841.

The Miccosukee Indians were the original occupants

of Florida. The Seminoles, runaways from the Creeks, lived mainly along the Apalachicola River.

A treaty was made with the Indians at Payne's Landing, whereby certain chiefs were to go with the agent, Major John Phagan, to examine a location in Arkansas and make a selection of lands to which the Indians were to remove, in 1834 and 1835, in consideration of \$15,400.00 and \$3,000.00 per annum for ten years. The chiefs went to Arkansas and made selection and agreed to go, but many younger Indians were opposed. The treaty was ratified by the Senate and proclaimed by President Jackson, April 12, 1834.

At a council April 6, 1835, the Indians were notified that force would be employed if they did not go by July 1, 1836. It was estimated the whole number of Indians in Florida at that time was 2,000, of whom 500 were warriors. Billy Bowlegs in an interview at New Orleans January 12, 1858, said that there were 4,000 Indians, with 800 negro slaves. This is more nearly correct. They refused to carry out the treaty because the slaves refused to go to Arkansas. Micanopy became the Chief, succeeded by Osceola, then Billy Bowlegs.

War ensued and lasted for seven years. It cost \$40,000,000 and 3,000 lives. The Indians who removed to Arkansas and those killed numbered, it was reported, 1,500. The war was declared ended August 14, 1842.

On December 3, 1838, a convention assembled at St. Joseph for the purpose of adopting a constitution and finished its work January 11, 1839.

Application for statehood was postponed by reason of the war with the Indians and the subject remained quiescent until 1845. Florida and Iowa were admitted as states of the Union, respectively, by Act of March 3, 1845.

A supplemental act gave Florida a grant of eight entire sections of land to establish a seat of Government, also the sixteenth section in every township or its equi-

valent for the support of public schools and two entire townships, in addition to the townships already reserved, for the establishing and maintenance of two seminaries of learning, one to be located east and one west of the Suwannee River, and 500,000 acres for internal improvements, besides five per cent. of the net proceeds of the sale of public lands within the state and to be devoted to the purposes of education.

At the election held under the new constitution in 1845, William D. Moseley was elected governor and a legislature was also elected, which convened at the Capitol in Tallahassee the 23rd day of June, 1845. David Levy had been elected Member of Congress. He subsequently resigned and was elected to the United States Senate for the long term and James D. Westcott for the short term. In December 1845 Mr. Levy's name was changed to Yulee, his ancestral name.

By Act of Congress, September 28, 1850, all the swamp and overflowed lands belonging to the United States in Florida, were donated to the State for the purpose of being reclaimed, estimated at twelve million acres. This was an underestimate. They amounted to about twenty million acres.

With the exception of twenty miles from Tallahassee to St. Mark's, there was not a railroad in the state in 1855. But by 1857 a railroad was completed between Fernandina and Cedar Keys, one graded between Waldo and Ocala and another completed between Jacksonville and Tallahassee. By 1895, we had 2,736 miles of railroad. We now have 9,500 miles and are adding more.

There was an Indian outbreak in 1857 which the state had to suppress, and its claim against the Federal government was subsequently paid, amounting to \$692,948.00.

On January 10, 1861, the Ordinance of Secession was passed, declaring "The State of Florida is hereby declared a Sovereign and independent Nation". Later

Florida joined the other states in the formation of the Southern Confederacy.

Florida sent more soldiers into the field to maintain its position, than it had registered voters. This evidences its sincerity and heroism. I add nothing but to quote from the inscription on the monument to the women of the Confederacy at Rome, Georgia, written by Woodrow Wilson-

“To the Women of the Confederacy whose fidelity, whose purity, whose courage, whose gentle genius in love and ‘in counsel, kept the home secure, the family a school of virtue, the State a court of honor; who made war a season of heroism and of peace a time of healing; the guardians of our tranquility and of our strength.”

The Supreme Court of the United States sustained, in the name, the principles contended for by those who sacrificed and suffered in defending what was called “the Lost Cause.”

On May 20, 1865, the Confederate forces made formal surrender to General McCook.

The Florida of the early Territorial days was sparsely settled, was unsafe for domicile or travel, there being no highways or means of transportation. Compare that condition with the realities of today and we can understand why Florida has become the most inviting area under the bending sky. When we contemplate what the next century will show, the imagination is taxed.

From a population of a hundred million north of us, people are coming in ever increasing numbers to make Florida their home, having found that this climate means comfort and joy, this sunshine health and pleasure, this air rejuvenation and prolonged life. They have but recently discovered the hills, lakes, bays, rivers and springs with their wealth, the forests with their rich semi-tropical and tropical growth; the treasures of clays, rock and phosphate underneath the surface; the great variety of soil, yielding freely abundant products of every kind,

from staple crops to choicest fruits and vegetables, as well as opportunities and conditions favoring multitudinous industries and successful enterprises. Bountiful nature, including the favorable seasons, have blessed this land, whose shores are bathed by the heaped waves of the Atlantic on the East as they follow the moon and by the calmer blue waters of the Gulf on the West and South.

As this choicest portion of the earth becomes better known and appreciated, and intelligence and energy supplement the work of Providence by making fruitful use of what is laid before us and by beautifying and improving and developing where indicated, our vision thrills as we glimpse "a future splendid and the glory that is to be".

History will continue to be a recital of human behavior. Upon that record will depend the prosperity of the state, the happiness and welfare of the people.

If we keep our face ever towards the sunlight the shadows will fall behind.

DUNCAN U. FLETCHER

SOME OFFICIALS OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT
OF PENSACOLA ¹

MAYORS	A L D E R M E N
1821 (Aug.) George Bowie	William Barnett, John Keyser, George Fisher, Henry Michelett, John Innerarity, John Brosnaham.
1822 John de la Rua	P. Alba, President, Board of Aldermen.
1823 Sept. 8, Peter Alba (Don F. Pedro de Alba)	F. H. Nisbet, Pres. Bd.; John Innerarity, T. Twitchell, Alex. Scott, Jr., Henrique Grandpre, Saml. Patterson, Adam Gordon, Francis Bouquiet ; Julius Pescay, Secretary.
1824 (Feb. & Oct.) Peter Alba	F. H. Nisbet, Pres. Bd.; Joseph Noriega, John Miller, Pablo Palmes, Saml. Patterson, Eugene Lavalle, Joseph Bonifay.
1825 Jan. 3, John Jerrison	Ferguson H. Nisbet, Pres.; John de la Rua, Henry Michelet, Joseph Noriega, Francisco P. Palmes, Jos. E. Caro, Henry Ahrens, Noah H. Allen, Wm. Davison, Saml. Patterson, John Lee Williams, Benj. Wyman.
1825 Oct. 3, John Jerrison	Timothy Twitchell, William Davison (died Dec. 1, 1826), Thomas Wright, Joseph Noriega, John de la Rua, Peter Alba, Henry de Grand Pre, Francisco Moreno.
1826 (May) John Jerrison	Peter Alba, Pres. Bd. of Ald.
1827 April 2, John Jerrison, Sen.	B. D. Wright, Pres.; Saml. Patterson, John de la Rua, N. H. Allen, William Sebree, Adam Gordon, Henry Michellet, D. C. Pinkham, Jos. Noriega (died July 10, 1827).
1828 April 7, John Jerrison	B. D. Wright, Pres.; John de la Rua, F. H. Nisbet, Francisco Moreno, Noah H. Allen, Pablo Palmes, Henry Michelet, John Campbell, John Garnier.

¹ "The early official records of the city government of Pensacola have long since been destroyed. The incomplete check list here given has been compiled from other sources. Any records of officials other than those listed are asked for by the Editor.

1829 April 6, John Jerrison	Celestino Gonzalez, M. Crupper, S. P. Haines, John Jerrison, Jr., John Campbell, B. D. Wright, Joseph Gonzalez, Henry de Grand Pre, Joseph Sierra.
1830 (July) P. Alba	John de la Rua, Pres. Bd. of Aldn.
1834 April 7, Charles Evans	Jno. Brosnaham, Jno. Jerrison, Sen., Francis (!) Moreno, Jos. Bonifay, Jos. Sierra, Jos. Gonzalez, Antoine Collins.
1835 April 6, Charles Evans	Jos. Sierra, Pres. Bd.
1836 Charles Evans	Jos. Sierra, Pres. Bd.
1837 (June) Charles Evans	Jos. Sierra, Pres. Bd.
1837 (Nov.)	John Jerrison, Pres. Bd. and Acting Mayor.
1838 (Feb.)	Hanson Kelly, Pres. Bd. and Acting Mayor.
1838 April 6, Hanson, Kelly	Jos. Sierra, Pres. Bd.
1839 April 1, Hanson Kelly	Jos. Sierra, Jno. Campbell, F. T. Commyns, R. A. Mitchell, A. Collins, W. A. Bell, F. de la Rua.
1840 April 6, Chas. LeBaron	Chas. Evans, Pres. Bd.
1841 April 5, Benj. D. Wright	John (!) Brosnaham, Chas. Evans, F. de la Rua, Jno. Campbell, Francisco Commyns, F. Moreno, F. Bobe.
1842 April 4, Chas. Evans	Juan (!) Brosnaham, Francis de la Rua, Francis Bobe, Francis (!) Moreno, Florencia T. Commyns, Jno. Campbell (One vacancy).
1843 (April) Chas. Evans	Jno. Brosnaham, Francis Moreno, Francis Bobe, M. D. Hernandez, Francis de la Rua, F. T. Commyns, J. O. Smith.
1844 April 1, Chas. Evans	
1845 April 7, Chas. Evans	Henry Hyer, Francisco (!) de la Rua, Wm. McVoy, M. D. Hernandez, H. F. Ingraham, F. Bobe, Jos. Quigles (Hyer declined to serve).
1846 April 6, Chas. Evans	Francis de la Rua, F. Bobe (Pres. of the Bd.), Jos. Quigles, W. W. J. Kelly, O. M. Avery, J. O. Smith, Geo. G. Pattison.
1847 April 5, F. E. de la Rua	B. D. Wright, Jno. Campbell, Jno. Jerrison, Antoine Collins, Sr., Francisco Commyns, H. F. Ingraham, Jos. Quigles.

- 1848 April 3, Chas Evans
 1849 April 2, Chas. Evans
- 1850 April 1, Chas. Evans
- 1851 April 7, Chas. Evans
- 1852 April 5, Jos. Sierra
- 1853 April 4, Jos. Sierra
- 1854 April 3, Sam'l A. Leonard
 (Resigned July, 1854).
 H. F. Ingraham (Acting)
 Jos. Sierra elected.
- 1855 April 2, F. B. Bobe
- 1856 April 7, Francis B. Bobe
- 1857 April 6, Francis B. Bobe
- 1860 July, C. Gonzalez
 1862 (May) - Bobe
- 1867 (July) - Anderson
 1867 S. C. Cobb
 1868 S. C. Cobb
 1869 (Nov.) S. C. Cobb
 1870 (Dec.) F. C. Humphreys
 1871 F. C. Humphreys
- 1873 Royal Putnam
 1875 J. P. Jones
- O. M. Avery, Alex. McVoy, A. W. Nicholson, F. Bobe, A. Collins, B. F. Magee, W. H. Baker.
- B. D. Wright, Jno. Campbell, O. M. Avery (Pres. of the Bd.), Alex. McVoy, W. H. Baker, G. G. Pattison, Jos. Gonzalez.
- O. M. Avery, J. Brosnaham, Geo. G. Pattison, Wm. H. Baker, Francis Bobe, Jos. Quigles, Jos. Riera (Vote: Evans 79, J. Q. Guild 61).
- Jno. Campbell, O. M. Avery (Pres.), Francis Bobe, Jos. Riera, H. F. Ingraham, Wm. H. Baker, Alex. McVoy.
- Jno. Campbell, Francis Bobe, Alex. McVoy, H. F. Ingraham (Pres.), Jos. Riera, Wm. H. Baker, A. L. Avery.
- H. F. Ingraham, Jos. Quigles, Jno. Campbell, Wm. H. Baker, Jos. Riera, Francis Bobe, A. L. Avery.
 (Vote: Bobe 85, Wm. H. Baker 74).
- Henry F. Ingraham President, Francis Bobe, Geo. W. Hutton, Francis Moreno, Manuel H. Hernandez, O. M. Avery, C. F. Quina.
- Wm. H. Chase, President, G. W. Hutton, O. M. Avery; F. Bobe, M. H. Hernandez; C. F. Quina, Jos. Riera.
- W. E. Anderson, J. C. Whiting, Geo. Pfeiffer, Geo. H. O'Neal, A. B. Munn, G. E. Wentworth, H. Hernandez, A. Dupont. D. Tobin.

MIAMI IN 1843 ¹

From Indian River to Cape Florida, there is but one site suitable for a town, combining the exquisite advantages of proximity to the ocean, and a communication with the interior of the country. The banks of the Miami River present this eligible spot, affording a safe and convenient harbor, of easy access, and from whence vessels may always depart without delay. The natural capacities of the country are favorable to the spirit of enterprise ; and in the falls of the river as a motive power for machinery, and the extraordinary fertility of the soil, every inducement is presented to active industry. Simply viewed as a section of Florida, for the successful cultivation of tropical fruits, its importance is of considerable moment; but when it is known that Tobacco, rivalling the celebrity of that of Cuba, is grown with but little labor, the production of so valued a staple, becomes a matter of the highest importance. Every variety of fruit, from the pine apple to the Avocada pear-corn, all the year round ; and fish, turtle, and wild game are in greatest profusion. These capabilities, we are gratified to learn, are being properly appreciated, and an activity already prevails at that River, giving an earnest of what will farther take place. A town is laid off on its Southern banks, opening in front upon Key Biscayne Bay, and saw and coonti mills are in progress of rapid completion. The settlers, already numerous, are every day increasing, and there is no doubt that at no very distant day the inhabitants of the new city in Dade County will be more numerous than this, the first settled spot in the United States.

A light-house is at Key Biscayne, which, when it shall have been repaired, will serve to guard against- any danger apprehended by those unacquainted with the coast. It was at one time thought that Key Biscayne would be

¹ From The News, St. Augustine, Florida, December 30, 1843.

the place for the building of a town, and we confess we thought so too, but the golden moment has passed, and, from the activity of the settlers on the Miami, we fear that the Key is only destined to serve as a site for the useful purpose of a light-house.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY AT
TALLAHASSEE, THURSDAY, NO-
VEMBER 13TH, 1924

The twenty-second annual meeting of The Florida Historical Society was called to order in the Methodist Church of Tallahassee at 10.30 A. M., November 13th, 1924. Dr. Edward Conradi of The State College for Women delivered the invocation.

This was Capitol Week at Tallahassee, and the meeting was favored with an interested audience of more than fifty persons.

Members of the Society present were:

Mrs. W. L. Cawthon	DeFuniak Springs
Mrs. John M. Cook	Tallahassee
Mrs. John Chipman	<i>Corinth</i> , Miss.
Dr. Edward Conradi	Tallahassee
Dr. J. G. DuPuis	Lemon City
Hon. John Y. Detwiler	New Smyrna
Dr. Horace Drew	Jacksonville (proxy)
Dr. J. H. Durkee	Jacksonville, (proxy)
Sarah A. Durkee	Jacksonville (proxy)
Hon. Duncan U. Fletcher	Washington, D. C.
Hon. R. L. Eaton, Sr.	Monticello
Captain C. Seton Fleming.	Jacksonville
Judge J. B. Gaines	Tallahassee
Mr. Ray C. Green	Daytona (proxy)
Hon. H. L. Grady	Apalachicola
Dr. Jas. O. Knauss	Tallahassee
Miss Mary D. Lewis	Tallahassee
Hon. W. H. Milton	Marianna
Dr. A. H. Phinney	St. Petersburg
Hon. Guyte P. McCord	Tallahassee
Hon. John G. Ruge	Apalachicola
Hon. A. H. Roberts	Tallahassee
Dr. Jas. A. Robertson	Stetson University, Deland
Mr. Arthur T. Williams	Jacksonville
Prof. Arthur Williams	Tallahassee
Mr. Francis M. Williams	<i>Jacksonville</i>
Miss Lucy M. Williams	Jacksonville
Miss Isabella M. Williams	Jacksonville
Mrs. A. M. Williamson	Tallahassee
Hon. J. B. Whitfield	Tallahassee
Mr. J. C. Yonge	Pensacola (proxy)

Hon. Arthur T. Williams, President of the Society, announced a quorum present, and stated that the meeting would be opened by the three speakers of the day, after which the regular order of business would be taken up, and that all present were invited to remain until the close. He introduced the first speaker, Professor James O. Knauss, of the Florida State College for Women. The Professor chose as his subject "Historical Societies ; their Influence and Possibilities".

He had been unable, he said, to ascertain the exact number of historical societies in the United States, but thought that over a thousand were now active. There are several kinds of historical societies : those interested in the widest fields, exemplified by The American Historical Association, which is the apex and pinnacle of all historical societies, anywhere ; those interested in a specific event, as the D. A. R.; regional societies, like the Mississippi Valley Association ; State Societies, like our own, and like the California Pioneers Association which, starting in 1850, only one year after the eventful '49, indicates, said the Professor, that those old pioneers knew they were historical figures.

Enlarging upon this form of Society, and its value, he stated that the eminence of the New England States. in our country's history was largely due to their early creation of societies to preserve their records. To all parts of the country New England has contributed men trained in this work ; to our own State she sent William A. Whitehead, who sojourned among us as an editor of renown, at Key West, and who was sent from Florida to help organize the great New Jersey Historical Society. Searching the rolls of most of our historical societies, Mr. Knauss had found that none were without inspiration from New England.

Then there are local societies, such as those interested in the history of a particular church, or parish, or other institution; and societies interested in certain groups of

people, like the immigrant societies, the Scottish-American and German-American societies.

All of these are trying to collect material and make it available for our use, and preserve it for posterity. A recent important history, for instance, could not have been written if certain old books and papers had not been found in an old farmhouse.

And all these various kinds of societies co-operate in the great work; they publish their discoveries. When the American Historical Association meets, there is a meeting of all historical societies. That Association helps and encourages the smaller societies, and our society can do the same by forming local chapters and groups and encouraging them, and by stimulating the common interest in history and the value of historical material.

Collect, preserve, and publish, is the ideal aim, briefly stated. It is not necessary to build a palatial structure; organize many local societies, get them interested in the material around them and in collecting and preserving it, and get the legislature interested enough to make an appropriation for the work.

Dr. Knauss' address was intensely interesting and inspiring. It was lightened now and then by a delightful humor so that pleased interest was maintained throughout. The applause he received at the close was an honorable and deserved tribute.

Captain C. Seton Fleming paid gentle homage to the people of Tallahassee and brought it home by dwelling upon the names of those connected with its early history and development, giving occasional intimate and interpretive touches.

His contribution was warmly received.

Senator Duncan U. Fletcher took the opportunity to record his impressions of the Centennial. Expressing deep personal gratification at the enthusiastic rallying of so large a number to this celebration, he admired the good

taste and efficiency of the management, and considered the event a marked success.

He then delivered a remarkably comprehensive sketch of the history of Florida, adorning it here and there with generalizations that were exceedingly interesting. "The State of Florida," he said, "is the oldest in discovery ; the youngest in development. Much romance and beauty have been hers, but cruelty, fanaticism and incessant warfare have retarded and stunted her growth until quite recent times." Two centuries after the first settlement, she had accumulated a population of but seven thousand. He then contrasted those dark periods with the present and the future and impressed his hearers with the blessings of their daily life in Florida today, and the soundness of the foundations upon which to build their hopes for the future.

After inviting all present to remain, President Williams in the chair began the regular order of business.

His report as presented was received with commendation and ordered filed in the minutes.

The report of Dr. Robinson, Treasurer, was read and accepted ; it showed a balance on hand of \$86.76.

Under New Business, Mr. Fleming suggested a discussion of the expediency of increasing the annual membership dues from \$2.00 to \$5.00. Dr. A. H. Phinney, who came with credentials as representative of The St. Petersburg Historical Society and was admitted to our membership, moved that the subject be referred to a committee. Mr. McCord thought that the membership could be increased more easily than the dues and promised to get fifty new members from his own field. Mr. Phinney then withdrew his motion and promised to equal Mr. McCord's achievement.

Professor Arthur Williams moved the formation of a committee¹ to persuade the State Legislature to appoint a commissioner of archives. The motion prevailed.

¹ Committee - Arthur Williams, J. B. Gaines, Guyte P. McCord, J. C. Yonge, C. Seton Fleming, Arthur T. Williams.

Mr. McCord moved that a membership committee² of five be appointed. Carried.

The Chairman stated that after careful consideration he would appoint the personnel of these committees.

Mr. Phinney, in behalf of The St. Petersburg Historical Society tendered an invitation to The Florida Historical Society to hold its next annual meeting in St. Petersburg. It was heartily accepted.

The election of officers then proceeded, and the secretary was instructed to cast a ballot to fill the offices as follows :

President	Arthur T. Williams
1st Vice-President	C. Seton Fleming
2nd Vice-President	P. K. Yonge
Treasurer	Fred W. Hoyt
Secretary	Francis M. Williams
Assistant-Secretary	Emma Rochelle Williams
Editor of Quarterly	J. C. Yonge

and for four Directors as follows:

A. H. Phinney	J. C. Yonge
Guyte P. McCord	Philip S. May

Mr. Fleming moved the appointment of a committee to consider the advisability of amending the charter to permit a larger directorate. The motion carried and the chair appointed Messrs. Fleming, Phinney and McCord.

Three members of the Society having died during the year the chair appointed Messrs. Fleming, McCord and Professor Arthur Williams a committee on resolutions to prepare suitable memoria on behalf of the Society.

The minutes of this meeting were read and approved and the meeting adjourned.

FRANCIS M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

*Approved by the members in session
November 13, 1924.*

² Committee - Guyte P. McCord, J. C. Yonge, A. H. Phinney, Agnew Welsh, Joseph Y. Porter.

REPORT OF ARTHUR T. WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT, TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, TALLAHASSEE, NOVEMBER 13TH, 1924

Members of The Florida Historical Society:

The By-Laws of the Florida Historical Society require the officers of the Society to submit in annual meeting for the information of its members, the reports, activities, and condition of the Society for the past twelve months ; but before entering into the regular routine of business, I desire, personally, and in behalf of the Florida Historical Society, to thank the citizens of Tallahassee and those patriotic men and women having charge of the Centennial now being celebrated here for their courtesy in inviting us to assemble in this city for our annual meeting and for their thoughtfulness in providing the place of meeting. It is an honor which the Florida Historical Society greatly appreciates. We feel that the featuring of our meeting on the attractive program of the Centennial Celebration will, in itself, be of great benefit to the Society and it is with deep appreciation that we acknowledge your courtesy. We wish to offer our felicitations on the great success of the Celebration. The program for the occasion is a fine visual lesson in Florida history and has been, not only instructive and intensely interesting, but very greatly enjoyed by all fortunate enough to attend.

I am glad to report that flagging interest in the Society has been greatly stimulated and new members are added weekly to our roll. Our membership now includes 5 Life Members, 4 Honorary Members and 117 Active Members.¹ During the past year we have enrolled fifty-eight new members.

I wish to acknowledge in behalf of the Society the receipt of \$4.00 donation from an honorary member, Hon.

¹ There are now 168 members.

John Y. Detwiler of New Smyrna. The Society is also in receipt of a very valuable contribution from Miss Hazel Barsa of Daytona, through the courtesy of Mr. E. W. Bailey, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce of Fernandina, in the form of a letter written by one "G. I. F. C.", describing in detail the capture of Fernandina by the Patriots in 1812. This letter is dated March 1812 and was written only a few days after this historic event. We regard it as a very valuable addition to our records.

In the year 1920 it was decided by a vote of the members of the Society to send to the University of Florida at Gainesville, all records and relics of the Society, in the hope and belief that by so doing an interest in our work would be aroused among the students of the University. An additional reason was the expectation of help from the University in publishing our quarterly magazine. Neither of these expectations was realized, and at a meeting of the Directors held in Jacksonville in September last, it was decided to remove these records and relics from the University to Jacksonville into a fire-proof building at 7 West Forsyth Street where they will be accessible to the officers and members of the Society and to the general public. Captain C. Seton Fleming, the First Vice-President of the Society, personally superintended the removal of these valuable properties and we are greatly indebted to him for his painstaking and careful work.

We are happy to report that The Lion's Club of Jacksonville, acting on the motion of our Secretary, Mr. Francis M. Williams, has started a movement to erect a building in one of the parks of the city for the permanent home of the Florida Historical Society. This movement, I believe, will be carried out successfully and all who are interested in the preservation of our State's historical data will appreciate Mr. Williams' interest in this greatly needed phase of our work.

In the year 1908, under the Presidency of Governor

Francis P. Fleming, the publication of a quarterly magazine was started. Six numbers were issued between April 1908 and July 1909. The publication of this quarterly was suspended owing to lack of funds after the death of Governor Fleming. Last Spring, your Officers and Directors, realizing the great necessity of a publication to serve as a medium of intercourse between the members of the Society, and to properly bring to the attention of the public the work of the Society, decided to resume the publication of the quarterly magazine. The first issue was printed in July and the second issue in October. While not a pretentious publication it has aroused fresh interest in the Society and the work it is trying to accomplish. If the Society is to succeed the publication of the quarterly magazine must be continued and must become more interesting, more voluminous, and more beneficial to its members and to the general public with each succeeding issue. There were sufficient funds in the Treasury to pay for the July issue and the additional funds for the October issue and for the issue of January, next, have been provided. The cost of the quarterly will be, approximately, from \$750.00 to \$900.00 per year, depending, of course, upon the number of pages it contains. Our present membership is 117 at \$2.00 per year, or \$234.00, which will leave a deficit of \$516.00 or \$766.00. If the publication of the quarterly magazine is to continue additional revenue must be provided. The continued publication is vital to the life of the Society and I earnestly urge that the question of the best manner of raising the additional revenue required to continue it be considered at this meeting. Also I would suggest that an Editor be chosen for the publication of the quarterly magazine, either by the members or the selection be left to the discretion of the Directors.

During the past year we have lost through death two of our most valued members, Mrs. Mina Reid of Jacksonville, and the Treasurer of the Society, Dr. H. Rob-

inson, also of that city. Mrs. Reid was the daughter of a Florida pioneer developer, Major T. J. Burrin, and took great interest in the work of the Society. Her death is deplored by many who have the history of our State at heart and the Florida Historical Society feels her passing to be a personal loss. On last Sunday morning, November 9th, we received the sad news of Dr. Robinson's death. The Society feels that it has lost not only a most faithful officer but an actively interested member and friend whose place will be difficult to fill. Though well advanced in years, Dr. Robinson gave to the financial phase of our work efficient and unfailing consideration. Two days before he was stricken in his last illness he compiled the report of the Treasurer which will be read here this morning. It is with deep and sincere regret that we thus publicly acknowledge his loss.

Arthur T. Williams.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF THE
FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

I have the honor to report that the funds of The Florida Historical Society are placed in a Savings Account in the Atlantic National Bank, Jacksonville, Florida.

On January 1st, 1924, there was a balance on hand of	\$197.73
Received for dues since January 1st, 1924 . . .	164.70
Interest from January 1st to October, 1924 . . .	5.93
	<hr/>
TOTAL	\$368.36

January 28th, 1924, a check was issued to Mr. Francis M. Williams, Secretary, for . . .	\$ 25.00
By Order of the President, Mr. Arthur T. Williams, was paid to H. & W. B. Drew Co., for printing the quarterly magazine.	256.60
	<hr/>
	\$281.60

TOTAL RECEIPTS . . .	\$368.36
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$281.60

BALANCE IN BANK NOVEMBER 4TH, 1924 . . .	\$ 86.76
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Respectfully submitted,

DR. H. ROBINSON, Treasurer
By Jessie Robinson Fritot

NOTES AND COMMENT

No meeting of the Society has been more successful than that held in Tallahassee on November 13 last, as will appear from a reading of the minutes which are included in this issue of the Quarterly. Never before had there been a like gathering of members from distant parts of the State - there were representatives present from eight counties. It is believed that this meeting will prove to be the first mile-stone in the progress of the *Society* since its renaissance. Nothing done there is more vital to the welfare of the body than the reelection of Arthur T. Williams as president. Not only has Mr. Williams served as chief executive for several terms but he has taken a leading part during the years since its reorganization.

The interest of Captain C. Seton Fleming, who was reelected vice-president, is also measured by years. The name will always be an honored one with us, for his father, Francis P. Fleming, was one of the two foundation-stones of the Society. During the second period of activity, under Governor Fleming's guidance and due largely to his labors, the body reached its highest point of prosperity and usefulness. The other stone was George R. Fairbanks, whose name is inextricably interwoven with the writing of Florida history and, to a degree, with that history itself.

The place and the time were auspicious for the annual meeting. Tallahassee is steeped in the essence of Florida history and not even St. Augustine has seen so great a number of its stirring events. Though no meeting of the *Historical Society* is known to have been held there before, its residents have always taken a full share in its activities. After the reorganization Robert W. Williams was vice-president, and Governor Bloxham was a director, while during both periods many Tallahasseeans

were members. During the past year more than one-third of all new members have been enrolled from Tallahassee.

It was there, now nearly one hundred years ago, that the first body of this kind was organized: *The Florida Institute of Agriculture, Antiquities and Science*. A copy of an address delivered before this body, at its first anniversary, by Colonel James Gadsden has come down to us. In discussing the purpose of the association he says

"* * * and to excite a spirit of inquiry among our citizens at large, with a view of shedding light on the history of Florida, are the objects aimed at. * * * The last object of the Institute, is essentially historical. The importance of historical societies in our country cannot be too highly appreciated. The researches of individuals fortunately excited and judiciously directed by them have already effected much in recording traditions and in rescuing from oblivion valuable manuscripts shedding light on that subject of deep curiosity: the early history of the new world. * * * It cannot yet be too late to be enlightened on those indications of former settlements, which are to be found in every part of Florida, and particularly in the vicinity of Tallahassee - 'Who reared these fortifications, who constructed these roads, for what purpose or by what means are questions which should not be propounded by idle curiosity alone, or answered by conjecture, as vague and as distant from the truth, as the present time is remote from the era when these works were made - To enquire therefore into the past, to preserve the materials of the present day, and to treasure up facts relating in any degree to the history of our Territory cannot be otherwise than considered as objects of deep interest and worthy of attention."

To those far-away members who do not know

¹ *Oration, Delivered by Col. James Gadsden to the Florida Institute of Agriculture, Antiquities and Science, at its First Public Anniversary, on Thursday, the 4th January, 1827. Tallahassee, 1827.*

Guyte P. McCord: At the annual meeting Mr. McCord was elected a director of the Society, and is chairman of the Committee on Membership. He is a lawyer of Tallahassee, and as Mayor and as Commissioner has taken a leading part in the metamorphosis of the place. Though some must regret that change, it had to come, for the old towns cannot exist as they were under modern conditions. - As in his other public activities, Mr. McCord takes a sincere interest in the affairs of the Society and brings to them a like force. To his enthusiasm is due much of the success of the late meeting.

Even the far-away members know Joseph Y. Porter, as their fathers did - for Dr. Porter's public activities are reckoned by decades instead of years and his membership in the *Society* now spans near two of those. He is one of the Committee on Membership and is as active in this work as is its youngest. For an unbelievable number of decades Dr. Porter has led the public health forces of the State, as well as most of the popular movements of that nature. His *Reminiscences*, which he is now writing, and a portion of which it is hoped he will allow to be published in the *Quarterly*, will be a record of all important health matters in Florida for the past half-century.

As it is with countless other questions relating to Florida history, we all seem to be quite ignorant of the age of St. Petersburg. The town is looked upon as one of the vigorous striplings of the State, but perhaps we are all wrong - it may be only that the fountain of youth is thereabouts. Dr. A. H. Phinney, one of the vigorous striplings, has been doing a bit of good and painstaking research work in digging into that question and gives us the result in this number of the *Quarterly*. Doubtless his article is preliminary to a claim that St. Petersburg is the oldest town in the State - and hence

in the United States. After reading his arguments one must surely be ready to agree with his conclusions were it not for the claims of St. Augustine, Pensacola, and New Smyrna. It has been suggested that this question of priority be decided by vote of the members of the Society in these four towns. Dr. Phinney, as one of the Committee on Membership, has been hard at work, hence at this time the evidence seems to show that St. Petersburg is the oldest town in the United States.

Mr. A. H. Roberts, of Tallahassee, a member who has taken an active interest in the *Society*, and General J. Clifford R. Foster have been digging (historically) into the vaults under the *Dade Pyramids* in the National Cemetery at St. Augustine. Their research so far has been successful, and we trust the result of their investigation will be made known in the next number of the *Quarterly*.

*With the annual dues at two dollars, two hundred additional members must be secured to support the **QUARTERLY**. That our journal may not fail and that other work be undertaken, all who feel an interest in Florida and her history are earnestly asked to become members of the Society.*

THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HONORARY MEMBERS

The New York Public Library	New York City
Jacksonville Public Library	Jacksonville
Florida State College for Women	Tallahassee
Detwiler, John Y.	New Smyrna
Fletcher, Duncan U.	Washington, D. C.

LIFE MEMBERS

Coachman, Walter F.	Jacksonville
Lee, Ambrose	New York City
Rogers, C. B.	Jacksonville
Taliaferro, James P.	Jacksonville

ACTIVE MEMBERS

Alexander, James E.	DeLand
Appleyard, Paul S.	Tallahassee
Appleyard, T. J.	Tallahassee
Andrews, C. O.	Orlando
Anderson, Annie L.	St. Petersburg
Apple, Mrs. Mary E.	St. Petersburg
Barnett, Bion H.	Jacksonville
Barnett, Mrs. Bion H.	Jacksonville
Bartlett, A. F.	St. Petersburg
Barnhill, E. G.	St. Petersburg
Bowen, L. J.	Berlin, Maryland
Bright, Mary	St. Petersburg
Brown, L. C.	St. Petersburg
Cay, Raymond	Jacksonville
Cary, R. M.	Pensacola
Call, Rhydon M.	Jacksonville
Carter, W. R.	Jacksonville
Carter, John H.	Marianna
Cawthon, Mrs. W. L.	DeFuniak Springs
Coffee, Mrs. W. P.	St. Petersburg
Collins, J. H.	Milton
Connor, Mrs. W. E.	New York City
Cook, Mrs. John M.	Tallahassee
Corry, W. M.	Quincy
Conoley, Douglas F.	Tampa
Cockrell, Alston	Jacksonville
Covington, R. V.	Jacksonville
Chipman, Mrs. John	Corinth, Mississippi

Crawford, H. Clay	Tallahassee
Crawford, W. Bloxham	Orlando
Cubberly, Fred	Gainesville
Currie, George C.	West Palm Beach
Conradi, Edward	Tallahassee
Doggett, John L.	Jacksonville
Davis, T. Frederick	Jacksonville
Davis, E. T.	Tallahassee
Davis, William B.	Perry
Dawe, Grosvenor	Tallahassee
DuPuis, J. G.	Lemon City
Drew, Horace	Jacksonville
Drew, Frank	Live Oak
Drew, William B.	Jacksonville
Durkee, J. H.	Jacksonville
Durkee, Mrs. J. H.	Jacksonville
Dozier, Mrs. Thomas M.	Atlanta, Ga.
Dorman, J. T.	Tallahassee
Dismukes, John T.	St. Augustine
Edwards, L. B.	Tallahassee
Eaton, Robert L., Sr.	Monticello
Eaton, Robert L., Jr.	Tallahassee
Emerson, Sarah O.	St. Petersburg
Eaton, Mrs. W. T.	St. Petersburg
Fleming, C. Seton	Jacksonville
Fleming, Mrs. Francis P., Sr.	Jacksonville
Frink, Carroll H.	Jacksonville
Furchgott, Leopold	Jacksonville
Filer, D. Z.	Key West
Gaines, J. B.	Tallahassee
Gibbs, George Couper	Jacksonville
Gray, Frank S.	Jacksonville
Grady, H. L.	Apalachicola
Green, Raymond C.	Daytona
Grisener, Karl	St. Petersburg
Gilchrist, A. W.	Punta Gorda
Gunn, Hugh	Key West
Gomez, Arthur	Key West
Glass, Rev. James G.	Orlando
Hampton, B. F.	Gainesville
Hampton, Hilton S.	Tampa
Hampton, W. W.	Gainesville
Hamilton, Mrs. F. P.	Jacksonville
Hanna, A. J.	Winter Park

Hanna, Roy S.	St. Petersburg
Harmon, Mrs. George C.	Jacksonville
Hathaway, Fons	Jacksonville
Hartridge, J. E.	Jacksonville
Hoyt, Fred W.	Jacksonville
Hunter, Kenneth	Jacksonville
Harris, Minnie Porter	Key West
Hunt, ReINETTE L.	Tallahassee
Harris, J. Vining	Key West
Jennings, Frank E.	Jacksonville
Jennings, Mrs. Frank E.	Jacksonville
Jones, Lake	Tampa
Jones, Frank S.	Bainbridge, Ga.
Jacobi, Gertrude F.	Jacksonville
Knauss, James O.	Tallahassee
Knight, Peter O.	Tampa
Knowles, William H.	Pensacola
Larzelere, L. J.	Jacksonville
Lamar, W. B.	Thomasville, Ga.
Leake, James M.	Gainesville
Leonard, John C.	St. Petersburg
L'Engle, E. J.	Jacksonville
L'Engle, E. M.	Jacksonville
L'Engle, C. S.	Jacksonville
Lewis, Mary D.	Tallahassee
Lester, J. Lancelot	Key West
Lewis, G. E.	Tallahassee
Mangle, E.	St. Petersburg
Massey, John	Pensacola
May, Philip S.	Jacksonville
Mayo, Nathan	Tallahassee
Massey, L. C.	Orlando
Meginnis, B. A.	Tallahassee
McCord, Guyte P.	Tallahassee
Milton, W. H.	Marianna
Milton, Mrs. W. H.	Marianna
Mitchell, Ernest W.	Jacksonville
Mizell, Everett	Fernandina
Mucklow, Walter	Jacksonville
Murphree, A. A.	Gainesville
Maloney, William F.	Key West
Merrell, Mrs. Herman	St. Petersburg
Oliver, H. L.	Apalachicola
Pettijohn, J. W.	Jacksonville

Pierce, J. L.	Marianna
Porter, Joseph Y.	Key West
Porter, Jessie Louise	Key West
Phinney, A. H.	St. Petersburg
Pierce, Mrs. E. L.	Marianna
Roberts, Albert H.	Tallahassee
Robins, Margaret Driver	Brooksville
Ruge, John G.	Apalachicola
Robertson, James A.	Washington, D. C.
Roser, C. M.	St. Petersburg
Reynolds, W. W.	Cassopolis, Michigan
Sherman, Joe	Highland Park, Michigan
Sanderson, E. M.	Jacksonville
Smethurst, Mary G.	St. Augustine
Stetson, John B., Jr.	Elkins Park, Pa.
Shine, W. H.	Tallahassee
Shields, Rev. Van Winder	Jacksonville
Shores, Venila Lavina	Tallahassee
Smith, Jonathan P.	St. Petersburg
Smith, Marian C.	Jacksonville
Sutton, John B.	Tampa
Sloan, D. H.	Lakeland
Smith, S. A.	Madison
Straub, W. L.	St. Petersburg
Smitz, H. B.	St. Petersburg
Strawn, Mrs. Theodore	DeLand
Thorpe, E. W.	DeFuniak Springs
Tourist News, The	St. Petersburg
Warrington, Mrs. Emily A.	St. Petersburg
Waties, Mrs. M. B.	Tallahassee
Watson, Ernest N.	Jacksonville
Watson, W. H.	Pensacola
Welsh, Agnew	Miami
West, G. M.	Panama City
West, George M.	St. Andrews
Weeks, J. M.	Punta Gorda
Wideman, Frank	West Palm Beach
Williams, Arthur	Tallahassee
Williams, Arthur T.	Jacksonville
Williams, Emma Rochelle	Jacksonville
Williams, Lucy M.	Jacksonville
Williams, Isabella M.	Jacksonville
Williams, Francis M.	Jacksonville
Williams, Ileen	Key West

Winthrop, Francis B.	Tallahassee
Williamson, Mrs. A. M.	Tallahassee
Whitfield, James B.	Tallahassee
Woman's Club	Public Library, Key West
Yonge, Julia J.	DeFuniak Springs
Yonge, J. C.	Pensacola
Yonge, P. K.	Pensacola
Yonge, J. E. D.	Pensacola