

1937

## The Annual Meeting

Florida Historical Society  
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The Governor R. K. Call papers, purchased recently by the Society, are now in process of being catalogued and placed in a permanent state of preservation. They consist of several original letters written between 1819 and 1865 to Governor Gall, numerous copies of Governor Call's public addresses, legal papers, pamphlets, documents, newspaper clippings, etc., and several hundred pages of handwritten manuscript consisting of a history of early Florida written by Governor Call's daughter, Ellen Call Long. There is also a well-preserved bound volume of Governor Call's *Journal*, beginning with his campaigns with Jackson and coming down to the territorial period in Florida. The first portion of this *Journal* is in Call's hand-writing; the second portion was dictated to his daughter, Ellen Call Long, on account of his failing health. Except for the bound *Journal* and the manuscript history of Florida, much of the Call material is in a damaged condition. A great deal of care and time has been and must yet be expended upon it to place it in good condition so that it may be safely examined by historians or writers.

#### THE ANNUAL MEETING

There will be two sessions of the next annual meeting of the Society, on consecutive days of the fourth week of January in Tampa and St. Petersburg. As it is expected that these meetings will be outstanding preparations have already begun under the direction of Professor A. J. Hanna, chairman of the program committee. This early notice is given the membership with a plea from the officers and directors of the Society for a large attendance. The program will be notable in interest and the west coast is most attractive at that time. Why not come.

The hosts will be the Junior College of St. Petersburg with President Robert B. Reed as chairman of the local committee; and the University of Tampa, with Mr. D. B. McKay, trustee of the University and director of the Society, as chairman of the Tampa committee.

The historical exhibit will be directed by Mrs. Charles W. Ten Eick, a former Tampan, who gathered such a noteworthy loan collection of Floridiana for the last annual meeting. A plea goes also to everyone who owns, or can obtain the loan of, any kind of historical material relating to Florida—to bring with them or send such material for the exhibit.

The program will be told of in the January issue of the Quarterly.

### **ST. AUGUSTINE RESTORATION**

Members of the Society and other readers, of historical bent, are doubtless already interested in the St. Augustine Historical Restoration and were glad to know what Dr. Chatelain and Miss Beeson has told them of its plans and progress. The project should not be, and is not, only a local undertaking. It is so broad and many-sided that outside cooperation is essential. All Florida should take part—and the Legislature at its recent session appropriated \$50,000 towards its cost. The founding of St. Augustine was the first permanent European settlement in the limits of the United States, so the nation should take part—and the Carnegie Institution of Washington is sponsoring and directing the restoration.

The National Committee, which includes several foremost historians of the country as well as President Tigert of the University of Florida and Hon. Scott M. Loftin - this committee and its announced

plans inspire confidence that the restoration will be based on the results of archeological and historical research and investigation, and the beginnings and progress of the work reaffirm that confidence.

The Florida Historical Society is lending its aid through President Chase who is a member of the committee; and the members of the Society, covering the State as they do, can with assured confidence, aid the restoration materially and in numerous ways.

As it is not historical, the fountain of youth is not mentioned. But the myth of the fountain is the most charming as well- as the most famous of all Florida romances, and its present-day import adds to that charm. Perhaps in its origin, as it is today, the fountain-head was the sun-for legend often comes to be symbolical - and instead of water, Florida sunlight, as today, was the medium of the miracle. It is recorded history that in every period St. Augustine has been noted for its salubrity, and notwithstanding its isolation and difficulty of access it has been a mecca for a century for those seeking rejuvenation.

The Florida Historical Society and other well-wishers of the restoration may feel sure that the research being carried out by the committee and its staff will not result in any implication of reality to the fountain, and they may be confident that any local beliefs without historical or other foundation will have no place in the restoration. (The editor.)

CAPTAIN SETON FLEMING

Captain C. Seton Fleming, former vice president of the Florida Historical Society, died at his home in Jacksonville on August 3. His long interest in the Society is natural, for he was a son of Governor

Francis P. Fleming who was the spirit in the re-establishment of the Society in 1902, was its president from 1906 to his death in 1909, and was the founder of the *Quarterly* and of the Society's library.

Captain Fleming was born in Jacksonville on August 24, 1875. He received his education at Florida State College, Lake City, and at Virginia Military Institute; and was admitted to the bar in 1900. His first military service was as a volunteer in the Spanish-American War. Later he held the rank of captain in the Florida National Guard, of colonel on the staff of Governor Gilchrist, and captain in the Reserve Officers Corps. In 1915 he was a member of the Executive Council of the national organization of Sons of Confederate Veterans. He served in France in the World War as judge advocate, 38th Artillery Brigade, C. A. C.