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The Florida Historical Society: The Annual Meeting

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THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE ANNUAL MEETING

In the January number of the Quarterly was an outline of the plans and program of the annual meeting to be held in Quincy and Tallahassee on March 27, 28, & 29 in cooperation with the Quincy Historical Society and the Tallahassee Historical Society. The program has grown and plans have broadened until it is assured that this meeting will in interest and importance equal any ever held by the Society. Mr. C. H. Curry is chairman in Quincy and Dr. Kathryn T. Abbey in Tallahassee. The exhibit of Floridiana, which has come to hold such a prominent place at our meetings, will be under the direction of Miss Louise Richardson, librarian of Florida State College for Women.

The program throughout features the local historical societies of Florida, and members of a number of these will attend, and several will make addresses.

The public is welcome at all sessions except the business meeting at the Quincy Women's Club at eight o'clock on the evening of the 27th, when members will gather for a general discussion of Society affairs and various committees will report.

Next morning at 9:45 at the same place former president Joshua C. Chase will preside at a program session on "Episodes in Modern Florida." Miss Occie Clubbs, secretary of the Pensacola Historical Society, will present a paper on Stephen R. Mallory, Florida senator and secretary of the navy of the Confederate States. Judge Rivers Buford will speak on Governor Napoleon B. Broward. Mrs. James M. Carson, vice president of the South

Florida Historical Society, will have Florida and the Spanish American War as her subject, and Miss Helen Sharp will tell of William S. Swann.

A presentation of gifts will follow, and Miss Richardson will describe the exhibit of Floridiana.

Mr. Curry, as president of the Quincy Historical Society, will preside at a luncheon conference on cooperation between local historical societies and the Florida Historical Society, when the speakers will be Mr. Spessard L. Holland, director and former vice president, and Mr. Herbert Lamson, our former secretary.

At two o'clock, at the Women's Club, Mrs. Charles W. Ten Eick will preside at a session of local historical societies. Miss Daisy Parker, of the Tallahassee Historical Society, will read a paper on Governor John Milton. Mrs. James Love, of the Quincy Historical Society, will tell of tobacco growing in Florida. Miss Mary Graff, of the Jacksonville Historical Society, will give the story of Picolata; and Judge David R. Dunham, president of the St. Augustine Historical Society, will have that historic city for a subject.

The election of officers and general business will follow.

The annual banquet will be at the same place at half-past seven, with Mr. Phil May as toastmaster. President Hanna's annual address will be "From Prince to Democrat."

Friday, March 29, at Tallahassee

A tour of the Capitol will begin next morning at 9:15 with Mr. A. H. Roberts as guide.

The program session at 9:45 will be in the House of Representatives chamber, with Dr. H. E. Palmer, president of the Tallahassee Historical Society, presiding, Judge E. C. Love, of the Quincy His-

torical Society, will tell of the constitutional convention of 1885; Mrs. Lou E. Miller, of the Tallahassee Historical Society, will read a paper on "Literature by Floridians." Mr. Leon Huhner's subject is Moses Elias Levy Yulee; and Secretary of State R. A. Gray will describe the "Battle of Natural Bridge." Miss Richardson will explain the Floridiana, which will have been on exhibit both days.

The final session will be at Waukulla Springs at one o'clock, where Dr. John J. Tigert, president of the University of Florida, will preside, and Dr. W. Watson Davis of the University of Kansas, native Floridian and author of *Civil War and Reconstruction in Florida*, will make the address. Adjournalment will follow.

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The officers and directors urge all the members, and especially those of the district, to attend one or all sessions of the meeting. Questions affecting the future of the Society will be considered and perhaps decided. The program, as you see, is of unusual interest and wide appeal, and it will probably be a number of years ere our annual meeting is held again in this part of the State. So why not come to this one.

Two matters of importance have been recommended by the Board of Directors for submission to the Annual Meeting

- 1) The City Council of St. Augustine has offered the Society space rent free in the Civic and Cultural Center being developd in the Alcazar building. The space is large and commodious, two rooms, one the old ballroom, and a washroom. The Board favors accepting the offer because

- a) it will enable the Society to expand in suitable physical surroundings and make its collection available,
- b) it will enable the Society to perfect plans for a permanent executive secretary,
- c) it will assist the Society to establish the Publications program mentioned below.

These three objectives have been considered desirable for many years.

2) The Board is recommending the establishment of a Publications program which in effect will be a revival of that started by the Florida State Historical Society some years ago. Such a program will be financed by not less than 300 subscriptions. Mr. John B. Stetson, Jr., of Deland, will be the permanent chairman of this program.

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THE PALM BEACH MEETING

Few regional meetings of the Society have been so successful in every respect as that held by the members of our Fourth District in Palm Beach, January 12 and 13 - there being more than three hundred registrations. In addition to speakers of the district, several came from our other districts and from without the State, and their addresses and papers attracted large and interested audiences. But the greatest attraction was the remarkable exhibit of Floridiana brought together for the meeting by Dr., Edmund LeRoy Dow.

The general chairman was Mrs. Henry Kohl, our vice president, with Mr. Gaines R. Wilson chairman of the program committee, Mr. E. V. W. Jones of the publicity committee, and Mr. Ralph Reynolds that on local arrangements. These were assisted by Mr. James M. Owens Jr. and Mr. A. S. Bussey, president and secretary of the Palm Beach Historical Society.

Our board of directors and members of committees of the Society met in conference on Society affairs on the twelfth, followed by a luncheon at The Villas, at which they were joined by officers of the local society. An account of the conference and decisions will be included in the next issue of the *Quarterly*. The Reverend Tage Teisen presided at the session which followed. Dr. C. W. Tebeau of the University of Miami spoke on the "Function of Historical Societies," and Dr. Dorothy Dodd our treasurer read a paper on the "Relation of the Florida Historical Society to Local and Patriotic Societies."

The afternoon program at The Society of Four Arts was open to the public. The welcome was given by Dr. Daniel J. McCarthy, president of The Four Arts. Mr. Albert C. Manucy, our secretary, gave an illustrated talk on old houses of St. Augustine; and Mrs. Katherine S. Lawson described "Human Landscaping of Old St. Augustine." Mrs. Ruth D. Wilson told of the Bulow plantation, and Mr. J. Marquette Phillips spoke on "The Mission of San Ignacio." Dr. Dow closed the program with an account of the collections of Floridiana.

This exhibit, which was crowded continuously during both days, covered the whole period of Florida's history as well as prehistoric eras, all arranged in chronological series. It began with mastodon bones, with pamphlets from the Smithsonian Institution to tell of them and of the other archaeological specimens. Next were bones of Indians with broken pottery from their mounds, then a complete half-buried skeleton as found, with his necklace of shells. A chain of Florida maps covered the walls with one or more of every period in turn. Flags of the nations holding sovereignty over the Florida of every period were hung above.

First place was held by the Society's relic, our mission candlestick from the ruins at New Smyrna; and a special case was given to the Society's Ferdinand and Isabella letter, told of in the last *Quarterly*. There was a case of ancient atlases with Florida maps, and a section devoted to Jonathan Dickenson's shipwreck on the Florida coast in the 17th century. Another section showed the Seminole Indians and the Seminole War, and another related to Henry Perrine. There was also an exhibit on the Civil War, and one on Palm Beach history. Mrs. Lawson of the St. Augustine Historical Society brought many historical items from their library ; and there were numerous books and other historical pieces from libraries and private collections of the State.

Dinner was at Whitehall, former home of Henry M. Flagler, with President Hanna as toastmaster. Mr. James M. Owens Jr., mayor of Palm Beach, welcomed the members and their friends, and Mr. Watt Marchman described recent donations to the Society's historical collections. Mr. Messmore Kendall, national president, Sons of the American Revolution, made the address which was on "An Adventure in Historical Research."

At the program meeting next morning Mr. Gaines R. Wilson presided. Miss Alma Lu Meerdink of the Palm Beach public schools read a paper on "Early Days," and Mr. George E. Merrick, founder of Coral Gables, spoke on "Pre-Flagler Influences on the Lower East Coast." Mrs. Marian R. Trumbull told next of Hiram F. Hammon, pioneer homesteader, Mrs. Maud Howe Elliott was guest speaker, and Mr. Charles Brookfield described the recovery of relics of a 17th century ship wrecked on the Florida reef.

Dr. Dow commented on the principal items of the extraordinary exhibit which he had arranged; and the meeting ended with lunch at Cluett Memorial Gardens.

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THE REGIONAL MEETING AT LAKE WALES

The regional meeting of the Society in our first district at the Mountain Lake Club, Lake Wales, announced in the last issue of the *Quarterly*, was held on February ninth and tenth, and was notably successful under the general chairmanship of Dr. A. R. L. Dohme, with Mrs. William H. Nichols Jr. as vice chairman.

Mrs. Louise duPont Crowninshield, the Society's director for that district, presided at the first session. Mrs. Frances F. Cleveland Preston spoke on Dr. Henry Perrine, and Mr. E. Barrett Rich, a great-grandson of Dr. Perrine, gave his recollections of his ancestor.

Mr. A. J. Wall, director of the New York Historical Society, came from New York to read a paper on our Florida historian Buckingham Smith, who was closely connected with that Society and deposited his Spanish Florida historical material in their library.

Mr. Samuel E. Cobb, of the staff of The National Archives and a native of Florida, came to present a paper on "The Florida Militia and the Affair at Withlacoochee."

Mr. Theodore Lesley told of the Florida Confederate cattle battalion, and our librarian Mr. Watt Marchman and Mr. John B. Stetson Jr. described the exhibit of Floridiana, Mr. Stetson telling of the series of publications of the Florida State Historical Society, to which tribute has been given often in the *Quarterly*.

A luncheon at the Club was followed by the afternoon program with Dr. Dohme presiding.

Rt. Rev. Francis Sadlier, O.S.B., Abbott, St. Leo Abbey, had for his subject "Benedictine Pioneering in Florida," and Major H. M. Nornabell, director of Mountain Lake Sanctuary, told of Mr. Bok's ideals for the Sanctuary and Singing Tower. A tour of the Sanctuary under Major Nornabell's direction with a special carillon recital followed.

Mr. and Mrs. Milton J. Warner were hosts at tea.

Dinner at the Club preceded the evening session at which Mr. Stetson, a director of the Society, presided. After the announcement of gifts by our librarian Mr. Watt Marchman, and Mr. Carl G. Alvord, which were accepted by Dr. Kathryn T. Abbey, our director, Dr. Doris Stone of Tulane University gave the address of the evening on "Mexican Resemblances in the Southeastern Area of the United States."

President Hanna read a message from Mr. Jefferson Randolph Anderson, president of the Georgia Historical Society, with greetings from that society.

Mr. Samuel H. Fisher presided at the program session next morning, where Julia Ann Smith of the Haines City high school read an essay "Fifty Years Ago in the Ridge," and Miss Dena Snodgrass gave her ideas on "How to Interest Young People in Florida History." The discussion leader was Professor S. G. Coe of Southern College.

That classic of Florida history, the *Journal of Jonathan Dickenson*, was treated fully by Mrs. Evangeline Walker Andrews who has made a study of it.

Mrs. William H. Nichols Jr. was hostess at luncheon to the board of directors and standing committees of the Society ; and a meeting of the board and committees with President Hanna followed.

An exhibit of Floridiana was directed by Mrs. Guy Gannett at the Club and drew continuous interest. There were pieces of pottery and bones from Indian mounds of Florida, all the flags of Florida, maps of various dates from the sixteenth century downwards, manuscripts, volumes on all periods of Florida history from our own library and other collections, items relating to Dr. Perrine, Jonathan Dickenson's shipwreck, Civil War items, Murat material, prints, the series of publications of the Florida State Historical Society, and a file of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*.