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## Local Historical Societies of Florida

Florida Historical Society  
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## LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES OF FLORIDA

### QUINCY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

#### TALLAHASSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

It is at the invitation of these societies and in cooperation with them that our annual meeting on March 27, 28 & 29 will be held there. Unusual and interesting programs have been arranged for both places. The Society is appreciative and grateful for their hospitality and assistance.

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#### PALM BEACH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The meeting of the Florida Historical Society in Palm Beach, January 12 and 13, was held jointly with the local society, and its notable success was due in large part to their cooperation. Mr. James M. Owens Jr. is president and Mr. A. S. Bussey is secretary.

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#### SOUTH FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Influenced or encouraged perhaps by the preparations for our district meeting at Palm Beach in which they took a large part, a number of the historically minded of Miami and its vicinity met early in January at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James M. Carson in Coral Gables and organized the South Florida Historical Society. Its objects are: "to preserve historic sites and historical material, to publish articles, to promote public interest in and further in every way the memory of South Florida's past."

Mr. George Merrick was elected president, and the vice presidents are Mr. F. M. Hudson and Mrs.

Carson. Mr. Gaines R. Wilson is secretary, and Mr. Lewis Leary is librarian, with Mrs. Leonard Freeland as chairman of the membership committee. Addresses were made by Mrs. Charles Watson Ten Eick, a director of the Florida Historical Society; Mr. John G. McKay, a former director; Mr. Thomas P. Caldwell, Mr. Hervey Allen, and Dr. C. W. Tebeau. Committees were appointed and plans made to build upon a solid base.

The Florida Historical Society gives a cordial welcome to this strong organization and offers a helping hand. A worthy field awaits it, for the present is so alive in the Miami district that the past might be forgot until it is too late to record its beginnings.

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#### **THE PENSACOLA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Pensacola Historical Society is actively engaged in a membership campaign and in planning for further markers for historic spots in the vicinity. Their projects focus about the Dorothy Walton Museum whose collections are housed in the former home of the widow and son of George Walton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, from the state of Georgia. This building is owned by Mr. T. T. Wentworth, Jr., treasurer of the Society and a leader in local historical activities.

Mr. Wentworth has just completed a series of radio talks on Pensacola history over the local station. Information is also given tourists through an information booth sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce. The Senior Chamber, through the Agnes McReynolds school, maintains correspondence with other schools over the United States. The Junior Historical Society directed by Miss Margaret Ray has the funds and is planning a tablet to mark the last home site of Stephen R.

Mallory the elder, U. S. Senator and Secretary of the Confederate Navy, and his son of the same name who represented Florida in the United States Senate, 1897-1907. The Angela Moreno Chapter, Children of the Confederacy, is doing good work in keeping the younger generation informed of the South's historical heritage. The local chapter of the American Association of University Women at its January meeting was treated to items taken at random from *The Pensacola Gazette* from issues beginning more than a century ago. Mrs. W. W. Barr, the speaker, culled some particularly interesting items giving bird's-eye views of early Pensacola. All of these activities spring more or less from the Pensacola Historical Society of which Mr. Ben R. Smith is president.

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#### THE ST. AUGUSTINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The first issue of the *Bulletin* of the St. Augustine Historical Society and Institute of Science has recently appeared. Its sixteen pages contain descriptions and notes on certain material in the library of the society, as well as mention of their activities, and the results of recent research. It was compiled and written by Mrs. Katherine S. Lawson, secretary and librarian of that society. This publication marks another step in the growth of the organization. It is hoped that it will appear at intervals to tell what the Society is doing and disseminate historical information.

With the acquisition of an Argus micro-film reader, a new phase of research has begun in the Webb Memorial Library. A series of legajos of the first Spanish period can be studied at a small expense compared to the old photostat method, and much

long needed material is expected to be obtained during the coming year.

The Society will be represented by its president, Judge David R. Dunham, at the coming annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society. He will make an address at the session for local historical societies.

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#### CONFERENCE OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The Conference of Historical Societies held a joint session with the American Historical Association in Washington on December 28, 1939. \* Dr. C. C. Crittenden of The North Carolina Historical Commission presided. Dr. Harlow Lindley of the Ohio State Archeological and Historical Society reviewed the work of the conference since its inception in 1904, and Dr. S. K. Stevens of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission told of the excellent results in Pennsylvania from publishing information about their various historical agencies. A similar plan might be utilized on a national scale.

Dr. James W. Moffitt, of the Oklahoma Historical Society discussed the benefits to be obtained by closer cooperation. It was suggested that the scope of the conference be so enlarged as to bring in all historical agencies and organizations interested in local, state and sectional history, and to extend the membership to all organizations as well as individuals. Consideration was given to the possibility, of issuing an enlarged publication of a quarterly news sheet and a reissuance of the handbook of historical agencies.

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\*The Florida Historical Society is a member of the Conference, and President Hanna attended this meeting. Mr. Samuel E. Cobb, formerly of Madison and now of the National Archives, Washington, represented the Society and gave us this report.