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Local Florida Historical Societies

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LOCAL FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

THE JACKSONVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The last program meeting of the Jacksonville Historical Society was devoted to the Confederate States Navy. Mr. D. J. Carrison read a paper on Secretary Mallory, and Mr. Herbert Lamson one on Admiral Semmes. A picnic is planned for mid-March at Palm Valley near the site of old fort San Diego which will be visited and recalled. In the same month a program meeting will be held at which Dr. Kathryn T. Abbey will make the address. The present offices are: Mr. D. J. Carrison president, Mr. Charles E. Bennett and Miss Margaret Fairlie vice presidents, Miss Dorothy Knoeppel and Miss Fannie W. Holt recording and corresponding secretaries, Mr. J. D. Holmes treasurer.

The publication of an annual later this year is under consideration, We shall all look with interest for its appearance. Perhaps the local societies do not fully realize this interest which is always aroused outside their own circle, and even throughout the State among those who care for the State's history. Our own *Quarterly* with its limited space must limit its treatment of local history to a far greater extent than its importance warrants. Many of the papers prepared for local meetings because of research, of interest, and of historical value are well worthy of preservation through publication. The last issue of the Jacksonville Historical Society's Annual has taken a place in the bibliography of Florida's history, such as future issues will.

THE ST. AUGUSTINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On January 22 the St. Augustine Historical Society and Institute of Science honored Stephen Vincent Benet with a luncheon and program on his first

visit to the home of his ancestors. He came with his uncle, Mr. Laurence V. Benet of Washington, who is a member of the executive board of the Society. Among the speakers was Dr. Robert McElroy, Oxford professor emeritus of American history, who told of the recognition given by English authorities to Benet's poem, "John Brown's Body." Later Mr. Benet gave his lecture "The Human Side of History" which he had prepared for the occasion. The day was also in commemoration of General Laurence V. Benet, an ancestor, born in St. Augustine more than a century ago.

At the annual meeting of the Society on January 11, Judge David R. Dunham was reelected president, Mr. X. L. Pellicer, vice president, and Mr. Milton Bacon Jr. was added to the executive board.

THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

Such was the spontaneous and widespread response shown by the history-minded in South Florida at the regional meeting of the Florida Historical Society in that district last year which resulted in the organization of their Association, and such has been the continuous interest in, and the well-planned work of the body, that the Historical Association of Southern Florida seems almost to have been born fullgrown. Within the year it has reached a membership of two hundred. It has already held two notable program meetings, the last one on March 1 at the University of Miami, at which several original papers were read including one on "The Mission of San Ignacio" by J. Marquette Phillips, and "The Food Plants of DeSoto" by Adin Baber.

While this issue of the *Quarterly* is in press the Association will be hosts to the annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society (March 26-28). The program for the meeting appeared in our last issue, and an account of it will be in our next.

Crowning this successful year an annual will be issued by the Association in April, in cooperation with the University of Miami : *Tequsta; The Journal of the Historical Association of Southern Florida*. Professor Lewis Leary of the University staff is editor, and the advisory editorial board includes Hervey Allen, Pauline Corley, Ruby Leach Carson, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, John C. Gifford, and Robert E. McNicoll. Subscription is one dollar. Nine historical articles have been prepared relating to the region and there will be a column of Notes and Queries. We look eagerly for the first number; it will be cordially welcomed throughout Florida.

The council of the Inter-American Bibliographical and Library Association has determined to begin the publication of a bibliographical *Quarterly*, in the place of its *Proceedings*, as soon as the necessary subscribers (300) are secured. Those interested should write to the president, Professor A. Curtis Wilgus, George Washington University, Washington, D. C. The publication will include articles, reviews, notes, abstracts of pertinent works, and other information of value to teachers, students, librarians, and others interested in the field of Inter-American literature.

The Irving Bacheller Essay Contest, which has been familiar to our readers for many years, was held under the auspices of Rollins College on February 21. This is open to all Florida high school students and the essays are written on some subject of Florida's history. This year the subject was "A Notable Personality of Florida." Eighty-five essays were submitted from fifteen high schools throughout the State. The winners were: Eleanor Struble, Orlando ; who wrote on Dr. John Gorrie ; and Bettie Blanchard, Mt. Dora High School, who wrote on Henry M. Flagler.