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Local Historical Societies

Florida Historical Society
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THE JACKSONVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The fourth meeting of the Jacksonville Historical Society for the 1942 season was held in the Floridan Room of the Roosevelt Hotel at 8 P. M., May 11th. In his opening address President D. J. Carrison told the society that he had greatly enjoyed his two years' term as president and pledged continued support to its work as a member of its advisory board. He then introduced Miss Mattie Burtchaell, granddaughter of John Lee Williams, one of the two commissioners appointed by Governor Duval to select the site of Florida's capital, Tallahassee. Miss Burtchaell's father, he said, had also served Florida, as one of the Flagler system's engineers in building railroads.

Miss Burtchaell gave a sketch of John Lee Williams, the man, at Picolata while his children were still young and living there with him. She based her information on the memories of her aunt, a

child who had been born in the Army barracks there when her family had sought refuge from the Indians. In conclusion she presented the society with a photostat of Governor Duval's commission to Williams, appointing him to select the site of Florida's capital, "because of his knowledge and discretion." She also presented the society with a copy of her aunt's memoirs.

Miss Mary Graff spoke on another St. Johns river community, Mandarin, selecting amusing excerpts from Mandarin's early newspapers; she gave a description of the simple, highly personal viewpoint of the Mandarin community.

The meeting ended in an informal discussion. The members asked questions of Miss Burtchaell, who invariably replied with some valuable information about her grandfather. John Lee Williams's books and maps, lent by the Jacksonville Public Library, were examined with much interest.

THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

The sixth meeting of this association was held at the Miami Workshop of the University of Miami on the evening of March 31 with an attendance of one hundred. A memorial service first paid tribute to the memory of the founder president of the Association, George E. Merrick, who contributed so much to the building and advancement of that part of Florida. Several pioneers, members of the Association, gave their memories of him, among whom were Mrs. W. L. Freeland, Mrs. Ruby Leach Carson, F. M. Hudson, William Mark Brown, and Claude Matlack.

Dr. Robert E. Nicholl gave a scholarly talk on "Spanish Government in Florida, 1781-1821" from a paper by Professor D. C. Corbett of Candler College, Havana. He told of the research being done

in the archives at Havana from which he had just returned, but stated that much work is still to be done on the period of the second Spanish occupation of Florida.

Mrs. Carson gave a summary of her new book *Fabulous Florida*, showing the difficulty encountered in adapting a book of this kind to both child and adult, and how she overcame this through the criticism of her own children.

Dr. C. W. Tebeau concluded the program with a talk on "Some Southern Characteristics and their Origin" in which he exploded some legends and fallacies of the South.

THE FLORIDA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The library fights for freedom was the theme of the 22nd. annual meeting of the Florida Library Association held at Vero Beach, April 30, May 1-2. Our librarian, Watt Marchman, was speaker for the afternoon program of May 1. He spoke on "History is in the Making." At the business session he was elected treasurer of the Association for the next term. Wesley Summers of the Jacksonville Public Library is the new president.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

PREHISTORIC CULTURES OF THE SOUTHEAST

This is the title of a new issue (History No. 4) of the National Park Service Popular Study Series. Its thirty-one pages contain a map of the region with the locations of some important archeological sites ; The Coordination of Southeastern Archeological Studies; Ocmulgee's Trading Post Riddle, with illustrations, notes, and a bibliography and map of the trails of colonial Georgia and South Carolina; and Indoor Archeology. The publication is avail-