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Tequesta: Journal of the Historical Association of Southern Florida

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TEQUESTA

The fourth issue of *Tequesta*, "The Journal of the Historical Association of Southern Florida" appeared while the last number of our *Quarterly* was in press. This one was edited by Professor Leonard R. Muller, of the University of Miami, with an advisory board of Harold E. Briggs, David O. True, and H. Frank Williams.

The first article is a biographical sketch of Frank Bryant Stoneman. There follows a paper on "Archaeological Investigations on the Upper Florida Keys" by John M. Goggin; "Five Plants Essential to the Indians and Early Settlers of Florida" by John C. Gifford; "Recent Economic Trends in South Florida" by Reinhold P. Wolff; and "The Freducci Map of 1514-1515" by David O. True. There are obituaries of Edmund LeRoy Dow, Mrs. Robert Morris Seymour, and Claude C. Matlack.

The biography of Editor Stoneman, by his daughter Marjory Stoneman Douglas, is reprinted with revisions from *The Miami Herald*. A native of Indianapolis, he came to Orlando in time ". . . to see the freeze of 1894 devastate the country, houses left standing unpeopled, food on the tables, with the exodus of the ruined. There was talk of the railroad going farther south than Palm Beach and a frostless country below there where the town of Miami huddled, a few shacks among the palmetto. It was the real pioneer country, in contrast to the leisured laffy streets of Orlando.

"When the railroad reached Miami, Stoneman did too, and began publishing the *Record*. There is a description of Miami in those days with surries under fringed canopies waiting for the not abundant tourist, when the Sewall, Brothers were going

into business and Isidor Cohen had dried out that first stock of goods he had dumped into Miami River'."

Then came the founding of *The Miami Herald*, the story of which Mrs. Douglas leaves to the files of that newspaper.

John M. Goggin's Archaeological Notes

The studies of archaeology and of history are two parts of a whole. So, though it is minor, archaeology is by no means out of place in a historical magazine.

As a Miamian, and with the training in archaeology he has had, doubtless no one else could tell us better than Mr. Goggin about the locations of mounds on the upper keys and what has so far been found in and about them. The area he covers is from Virginia and Biscayne keys to lower Metacumbe. These were inhabited by the Tekesta (Tequesta, Tegesta) Indians, "a political confederation of small local groups," who were, says Bishop Calderon in 1675 "very savage tribes living on fish and roots of trees."

"By 1800" says Goggin "all the Indians had disappeared from this area;" and Romans states that Metacumbe was one of the "last habitations of the savages of the Calusa nation." It may have been earlier, "for by the last quarter of the 18th century mahogany cutters from the Bahamas overran the keys after skirmishes with dwindling remnants of the aborigines."

The typical key is a wind-swept, coral-sanded beach, a rocky ridge with stunted hammock growth and on the west a thick mangrove swamp. "On the edge of the mangroves are found most of the (archaeological) sites.

"The mammalian fauna is limited. Bears were formerly common. Romans says deer were found on Biscayne Key and 'small deer' on Lower Metacumbe. The most common animal was the raccoon. Wading and sea birds were found in great numbers." All fresh water was obtained by digging wells in sandy beaches or from . . . rain water.

"A few early anthropologists may have visited the keys, but we have no published data. Moore, despite his many travels, did not explore the Keys. Stirling visited the Keys on various occasions but as yet has not published his work."

Mr. Goggin begins his survey on Biscayne Key, where he locates a midden and a sand burial mound. On Key Largo he describes a midden "175 feet long and more than three feet deep, composed of black soil and ashes with a mixture of shell and bones, in some parts a strata of fish bones over a foot thick . . . other sections composed of pure ash from an inch to two feet thick . . . only a small percentage of the total is shell. A large number of artifacts, mostly shell picks and potshards, were collected on the surf ace."

A larger midden was found more than 200 yards from the closest water. "A few shell tools were found here, but potshards composed the major portion of the artifacts collected."

Near this midden is ". . . the famous rock mound . . . the best known of all the Key sites, mainly because of Stirling's visits in the 1930s."

The Rock Mound - "The most conspicuous section of this site is the rock mound itself. However, it is apparently only a part of a large area which includes a number of features. There is no question that it is similar to the intricate sites of the Ten Thousand Islands area. Here, however, the material used is limestone fragments instead of shell.

The large mound is built of limestone rocks 10 or 12 inches in diameter, laid in rough courses. The elevation of the mound is about 8 or 9 feet. A few holes have been dug in this mound by treasure seekers, but the damage is slight. These do reveal the interior construction of the mound and show that it was apparently all made of stone . . . it appears roughly to be kidney shaped, about 100 feet long by 55 feet at the widest. There was apparently a sloping ramp which led down to a stone causeway traceable for at least 25 feet. This path is one foot high, about 14 feet wide, and made of the same stone as is the mound. Some 130 feet from the mound is a wall or ridge made of limestone, two and one-half feet high, eight feet wide and 70 feet long . . . It is quite possible there are other structures in the immediate vicinity but the thick forest makes it difficult to find them. No potshards were seen at this site and the only artifact collected was a broken shell pick.

“Without doubt this site was primarily used for ceremonial purposes . . . As far as known, there are no similar sites on the upper Keys, although there are rumors of one in the Everglades. The absence of potshards or other artifacts also tends to indicate that it was of special importance.”

There are two mounds on Plantation Key where pottery or cultural materials were found, but it is not known whether or not they are artificial. There are also two middens where potshards and shell artifacts were found. On Upper Metacumbe Key is a sizable midden which is about four feet deep at the deepest part. Potshards and shell artifacts are common on the surface.

“On Lower Metacumbe are several sandy ridges . . . covered to an unknown depth with midden material composed of shells and black soil. Some shards

Subsistence. There is shown here: ". . . the utiliza-
tion in large quantities of shell fish not used in the
nearby Florida areas ; large pockets of broken
Nerita shells were found . . . all cracked in a similar
manner to extract the snail. At the present time the
snails are not eaten in Florida, although they are

A few ornaments were collected and these are il-
lustrated by a plate. One is a perforated shark's
tooth. Another, a pendant, is a long narrow triangle
made of limestone.

The probable methods of the manufacture of the
tools are also described, as well as their uses. There
are relics of picks, adzes, shell dippers, shell dishes,
and others. Bone artifacts are rare because there
was no excavation.

A table classifies the pottery wares and indicates
the numerical occurrences of each article at each
site. Typical, as well as unusual ones are described.
show the design pattern clearly.

There are several carefully executed plates by
Dorothy F. Goggin showing about a score of the
shards found. These are mere fragments, but they
and none were found.

Material Culture - Pottery, represented by
shards, ranks first in whole numbers of artifacts
found. Following this come articles of shell and
bone, with occasional artifacts of stone. Wooden
objects are rarely recovered from muck deposits,
and none were found.

On Lignumvitae Key is ". . . a coral sand burial
mound about 50 feet in diameter and three and one-
half feet high. The presence of small fragments of
human bones on the surface would indicate its use
as a burial mound. No shards or other artifacts
were seen."

were found. The ridges may have been used for
burial purposes."

great favorites of the Greek people and the Polynesians.

“Of the three large conchs found in the mounds, only one is popular for food at the present time. The presence of great quantities of fish bones would indicate a large utilization of such food.”

“Summary and conclusions. - The sites and material examined seem to belong to the Glades area beyond question There is no evidence of contact with the Antillean area despite the close proximity to Cuba and the Bahamas. Various writers have postulated Mayan connections with southern Florida and in particular the site on Key Largo. There is absolutely no evidence of such relationships. The stone mound on Key Largo does not resemble any Mayan structure and the pottery in the area is in no way similar to Mayan ceramics as has been claimed Complete cultural connections must be based on high percentile similarity of exhaustive cultural trait lists comprising subsistence, religion, social and linguistic, and artifactual material. So far, we have certain similarities and a few common traits of material culture and little else

“The religious and social systems are not thoroughly known as yet in the Antilles, but at the present time there appears to be little similarity to the Southeastern United States. Language appears to have no similarity at all. The Calusa, who may have had the majority of contacts with the Antilles, speak a little known language which appears to be related to the Choctaw. The most important item of material culture-pottery-refutes by direct evidence the possibility of important connections. No example of West Indian pottery is known to have been found in south Florida, although slightly similar pieces are found in West Florida and Georgia.

“No European material was seen, perhaps indi-

eating that most of the sites were not occupied in Post-Columbian times, although aborigines are referred to by Spanish writers."

Dr. John C. Gifford, Professor of Tropical Forestry and Conservation of Natural Resources at the University of Miami, writes of five Florida native or naturalized plants which ". . . served the Indian and early settler well; *Koonti*, a starch; *Black-drink*, *Florida-mate*, a beverage; *Seminole-pumpkin*, a vegetable; *Guava*, a fruit; *Georgia fever-bark* or *Florida quinine*, a medicine."

Koonti or *comtie*, a cycad with a large amount of starch in its root, is often used for food. It was a principal article of commerce in South Florida in the early days.

Ilex vomitoria from which *Florida-mate* is drawn is called *yaupon* in Florida. It grows into a small tree but is more often seen as a sturdy shrub covered with small red berries ripening in early winter. Dr. Gifford says of it: "The *yaupon* was regarded by the southern Indians as a holy plant being used by them during their religious rites and solemn councils to clear the stomach and the head . . . restore lost appetite and give them agility and courage in war."

"The Indians of South Florida raised a pumpkin . . . which is different from ours, by planting it at the foot of a tree that had been deadened" and so furnished a support for the vine and "kept the fruit away from pigs and cattle." It is small and hard and greenish but "has an excellent flavor."

"When Canova visited Miami in 1858 he found the guava bushes full of delicious fruit excellent in quality and similar to the most delicious peaches;" and Dr. Gifford wonders "if the quality of the guava has actually deteriorated or if the improve-

ment in other fruits has left it far in the background." But he adds, "There is no finer fruit jelly in the world."

During the War for Southern Independence quinine was almost unobtainable in the Confederacy, and the bark of the native *Pinckneya pubens* or Georgia-fever-bark or Florida quinine was largely used in its stead, which Dr. Gifford says is a close relative of the cinchona tree of South America which furnishes the quinine of commerce. He tells of another tree on the Florida Keys called princewood (*Exostema cariboenum*) the bark of which contains active tonic properties and has long been used as a fever fighter by the natives.

Dr. Reinhold P. Wolff, who is Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Miami, emphasizes the connection between transportation and the growth of South Florida. The region's development began with its first railroad. A new phase opened with the coming of motor transportation, and a third comes with the rapid growth of air transportation.

The beginning of development ". . . was agricultural with a very modest share of resort trade . . . and the real beginning of South Florida's growth into a major resort area did not come until popular-priced automobiles made motoring the most widespread and popular of all recreation activities."

Dr. Wolff concludes, "The effects of air transportation will be not less revolutionary than was the development of popular motoring."

Mr. David O. True, of the Advisory Board of *Tequesta* and editor of the recent reprint of Fontaneda's *Memoir*, discusses the Freducci map.

This map was brought to notice by Dr. L. D. Scisco in an article on "The Track of Ponce de Leon in 1513" in *Bulletin of the America Geographical Society*, the issue of October 1919; who says, "That the charts of Ponce de Leon reached Spain and were used in the constitution of other maps is evidenced by the cartographic appearance of Florida soon after his discovery." He adds, ". . . in the Florida of the Freducci map appear nomenclature and geographic outlines that unmistakably derive from the charts of Ponce de Leon It is now without date, but Casanova [who published a photographic reproduction and accompanying monograph in 1894] fixes its time as 1514 or 1515 So soon was this map made after the Florida discovery of 1513 that there had not been time for any considerable recopying of Ponce de Leon's records. The Freducci Florida must have been derived almost directly from the explorer's charts, and it may consequently be ranked as a source document supplementing the text of Herrera."

A portion of the Freducci map is reproduced in Mr. True's article from a copy of the Casanova monograph in the Library of Congress. This includes Cuba, the lower part of the peninsula of Florida, and northwards along the Atlantic coast an indefinite distance. There are, as Dr. Cisco says, no lines of latitude indicated on the Feducci map. Mr. True indicates them where he thinks they should be and makes some interesting deductions based on them.

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A REPRINT OF FONTANEDA

There has been issued under the direction of the University of Miami and the Historical Association of Southern Florida a reprint of Buckingham Smith's translation of *Memoir of Hernando de Es-*

calente Fontaneda Respecting Florida, published in 1854.

As that edition was of but one hundred copies it is rare, and the University and the Association have rendered a service to the student and all who are interested in Florida's history in making this important work available.

The volume includes a Foreword by David O. True who has also written a chapter of Editorial Comment (13p.). The Spanish text of the *Memoir*, from a transcript in the Library of Congress placed there by Jeannette Thurber Connor, is included. Buckingham Smith's translation and his numerous notes are given in full, with additional notes and comment by Mr. True and his assistants, and there is further comment by John R. Swanton. Angela del Castillo suggests certain "corrections in Buckingham Smith's translation," and there is a bibliography, and a map of Florida with suggested locations for the Indian names which have come down to us.

The whole comprises seventy-seven pages, and copies may be had from the Association, P. O. box 537, Miami 4, at two dollars for the board binding, and two and one-half dollars for cloth.

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FLORIDA'S CENTENNIAL AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library of Congress is presenting an exhibition to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of Florida's entrance into the Union. Two special exhibits are on display from March 3 (the anniversary day) until June 1. They are limited to material in the Library's collections.

In the rotunda on the second floor is an extensive display of documents : manuscripts relating to De-Soto, old maps and views made by European cartog-

raphers, letters of Andrew Jackson relating to Florida, transcripts from Spanish archives, and numerous others; also early Florida newspapers, early travel books, Civil War material, and books by Florida authors. The contributions to Florida history by the late James Alexander Robertson are a feature.

In the downstairs galley is a photographic exhibition of enlargements of colonial maps and views of the landscape and of the architecture of St. Augustine and Pensacola. The Library's "Exhibit-of-the-Week" of March 3 was an early map of Florida.

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES IN THE UNITED STATES

The American Association for State and Local History has issued: *Historical Societies in the United States and Canada. A Handbook*. Washington, D. C. 1944, 261 p.

This useful volume was compiled and edited by Christopher Crittenden, editor, and Doris Godard, editorial associate. Five hundred eighty-three historical organizations are listed, which is an increase of more than fifty per cent over those in the last edition (1936). Ten organizations are listed in Florida: The Florida Historical Society, St. Augustine; Historical Association of Southern Florida, Miami; Jacksonville Historical Society; Madison County Historical Society, Madison; Palm Beach County Historical Society, West Palm Beach; Pensacola Historical Society; St. Petersburg Memorial Historical Society; Tallahassee Historical Society; Polk County Historical Commission, Bartow; St. Augustine Historical Society and Institute of Science.