

1948

Local Historical Societies of Florida

Florida Historical Society
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LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES OF FLORIDA

JACKSONVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

There appeared in May last the first number of a *News Letter* to be published at intervals by the Jacksonville Historical Society.

This number, issued by Miss Dena Snodgrass, chairman, included an account of the Quarterly Program Meeting of the Society on May 12. The principal address was on "The Early History of Fernandina" by Dr. Frank G. Slaughter, who made a study of that district as background for his historical novel *The Golden Isle*, published last year.

There is also an announcement that the Jacksonville Public Library has provided a permanent home for the archives of the Society. These will be in charge of Miss Audrey Broward of the Library staff. Miss Broward is chairman of the Society's Archives Committee. Any one who has rare historical material relating to Jacksonville which they will lend or donate should see or write to Miss Broward. Such material should be put in a safe place, now, where it would be cared for and would be of service, for not much survived the Jacksonville fire.

The *News Letter* also stated that Dr. Carita Doggett Corse has completed a history of St. Luke's Hospital of Jacksonville to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Hospital.

THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

The annual meeting of the Historical Association of Southern Florida, was held at Miami on March 24 last, featuring Fort Jefferson. Mr. John K. Pennekamp, associate editor of *Miami Herald*, read a paper "Forty Million Bricks and a Moat" descriptive of that huge and romantic fortification, and its most noteworthy character Dr. Samuel A. Mudd. Mr. C. Ray Vinten of St. Augustine, Coordinating Superintendent, Southeastern National Monuments, National Park Service, showed a

color film with comments on the fort and its island, including the marine and bird life of the area.

The Association also arranged an interesting and successful show-window exhibit of historical material relating to Southern Florida on one of Miami's main thoroughfares which attracted much attention.

ST. AUGUSTINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At the Quarterly meeting of the St. Augustine Historical Society on April 13 Mr. X. L. Pellicer, vice-president and executive chairman, made several interesting reports upon the activities of the Society:

The old building on St. George street, not far from the city gates, known at one time as the Whitney house, and in recent years called the Dodge house, owned by the Society, is being restored as far as possible. This old building figured in the second Spanish period, and has been used as shop-and-dwelling to the present time. Great care and study is being taken to put it in condition and it will be made ready once again as a shop-dwelling and continue to play its part in the life of the city.

A Translation of Barcia

The Society, through the Publications Committee, endorsed by the Executive Committee, has begun the translation of one of the most important and authoritative works on ancient Florida - a Florida then comprising a large part of the present United States. This is Barcia's *Ensayo Chronologico para la Historia General de la Florida*, Madrid, 1723. The services of Mr. Anthony Kerrigan have been secured for this translation. Mr. Edward Lawson and Mr. Albert Manucy will serve at all times in checking and giving the manuscript careful annotating. This was long the dream of Miss Emily L. Wilson, whose vast amount of research, notes and other contributions to the Society has enabled it to take its place as an authoritative organization. The publication will be dedicated to Miss Wilson.

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The Society with the cooperation, of WFOY radio station of St. Augustine has broadcast a series "WFOY is There," similar to the "CBS is There" programs. The first was "The Founding of St. Augustine, 1565"; then "The Drake Attack, 1586"; followed by "The Installation of Gov. Tonyn, 1774"; and "The Return of the Spanish, 1784."

The Program Committee is outlining and preparing programs covering various periods, episodes and people in the life of St. Augustine and vicinity. Mr. Harris is now preparing a group "Travelogue in St. Augustine, 19th century" for illustrated lectures in the fall and winter.

TALLAHASSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At the May meeting of the Tallahassee Historical Society officers for the following year were elected. These are: R. L. Goulding, president; Mrs. Mabel Hamilton, vice president ; D. A. Avant Sr., treasurer ; Dorothy Dodd, secretary; the new directors are A. R. Seymour, Ruby Diamond, and Mary Lamar Davis.

The next issue of *Apalachee*, the annual publication of the Society, was discussed, and it was announced that the papers for that issue are all in hand.