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Regional and Local Historical Societies

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REGIONAL AND LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The recording of local history is of more importance in the aggregate than that of the State as a whole. It is more interesting as well as of greater historical value, to know what the people of a period were thinking of and doing than any records of their rulers and representatives. Florida is behind many other states in historical effort at the county, town, and community level. But the recent organization of several county historical societies and commissions, which have been noted in the *Quarterly*, in addition to those already active, shows a realization of this lack in our State and the effort to fill the need.

Numerous other counties and localities have a long and interesting history still unrecorded and steadily and rapidly being forgotten.

Historical markers. A foremost activity of these societies should be the marking of historic sites in their areas. It is often surprising that many, even of the older residents of a region, do not know of these sites, and sometimes are quite ignorant of the events occurring there. There is no better way of increasing or arousing interest in the past of a community among its own people than by markers commemorating what has happened right here where perhaps they pass every day. Many visitors look for these markers, and when none are to be found, often inquire why.

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TALLAHASSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Apalachee

The third of the present series of publications of the Tallahassee Historical Society is a double number: *Apalachee, 1948-1950*. This issue, which includes a selection of the papers read at the program meetings of that organization during the past two years, was assembled and edited by Dr. Dorothy Dodd who has served on the editorial board throughout the series. The contents

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of this volume is of the same high interest and historical worth which have characterized the former publications of that organization. The papers and their authors are:

Battle Flags of Florida Troops in Confederate Service

Daisy Parker

The Tallahassee Fire of 1843

Fred P. Ley Jr.

Horse Racing in Middle Florida, 1830-1843

Dorothy Dodd

The Leon County Court, 1825-1833

Daisy Parker

*Social Aspects of Leon County Wills and Inventories,
1826-1845*

Arthur R. Seymour

Ring Tournaments in Tallahassee

William G. Dodd

Confederate Post War Organizations and History of

Anna Jackson Chapter, U.D.C.

Clara Ryder Hayden

The Corporation of Tallahassee, 1826-1860

Dorothy Dodd

JACKSONVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Number Four of the *Jacksonville Historical Society Newsletter* was issued in May last by Miss Dena Snodgrass, with notes of their activities and the announcement of the annual meeting which was held on May 9, when a historical program was presented and the annual election of officers held. Officers elected were: Frank H. Elmore, president; James A. Austin, 1st vice president; Joseph E. McCarthy, 2nd vice president; Margaret

Segui, recording secretary; Mrs. James R. Stockton, corresponding secretary; Dena Snodgrass, treasurer; Audrey Broward, archivist; Herbert Lamson, historian.

The feature of the program was a historical narrative "The Voice of St. Augustine" written by Mrs. Eleanor Philips Barnes. The cast, representing four notable historical characters in St. Augustine history, included Judge David R. Dunham, Felix de Ron Solla, Harold Colee, and Albert C. Manucy, all of whom are descendants of early St. Augustine residents.

THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

The Historical Association of Southern Florida has begun a Historical Markers Program. On August 3 there was dedicated the first marker in Miami Bayfront Park, commemorating the Indian village of Tequesta which occupied the site of present-day Miami, where a number of mounds, both dwelling and ceremonial, survived into the historical era.

Oliver Griswold is chairman of the Committee on Historical Sites and Markers, with Mrs. Roy V. Ott, George J. Deedmeyer, and Justin P. Havee. Adam G. Adams, president of the Association, presided, and the plaque was unveiled by Mrs. Frank Stranahan and Mrs. George E. Merrick.

The address was made by Hon. Frederick M. Hudson.

Several program meetings were held during the past season by the Association, the last on June 22 was featured by an address of John W. Griffin, Florida State Archeologist, on "Missions and Mills," in which he carefully explained why and how it has come to be known that several surviving ruins in Florida are not the remains of Spanish missions, as formerly thought, but sugar mills of a later era. A color-sound film was shown, "Our Heritage," relating to the effort now being made in Florida to conserve wild life.

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AN OLUSTEE MARKER

During the War for Southern Independence only one large-scale battle was fought in Florida. At Olustee, hastily gathered Confederate forces under General Joseph Finegan roundly defeated a Federal army coming from Jacksonville with the purpose and expectation of cutting Florida in half and halting the flow of food on which the Confederate armies to the north were partly dependent, and the further hope of the administration in Washington of bringing Florida back into the Union.

A marker was placed in Olustee Battlefield Park on March 5 last, the gift of the United Daughters of the Confederacy of Florida. The address was made by Miss Dena Snodgrass who told of General Finegan's life.