

1959

News and Notes

Florida Historical Society
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NEWS AND NOTES

The Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Society will be held at the Lakeside Inn in Mount Dora on April 8 and 9, 1960. It has been many years since the Society met in the central part of the state. This meeting is designed to afford the many members and friends in the area the opportunity to attend a meeting near at hand.

Ben F. Rogers, program chairman, reports that three sessions will be held on the morning and afternoon of April 8 and the morning of April 9. In addition, there will be a luncheon meeting on April 8 and the annual banquet the evening of the same day. A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Society is scheduled for Thursday evening, April 7.

All program sessions are open to the public and persons interested in the history of the state are invited to attend.

Tentative costs at Lakeside Inn have been quoted as: single room and bath, \$7.00 per day; double \$10.00; suite for three, \$6.00 per person, all European plan; luncheon \$2.50 and dinner \$3.75, tip and tax included.

Please write directly to Mr. James W. Carr, Manager, Lakeside Inn, Mount Dora, for room reservations.

Centennial Commission for The War Between the States

In creating a state commission to work with the national body of serving the 1961-1964 centennial of the War Between the States, Governor LeRoy Collins said: "Commemoration of Florida's participation in the Civil War is of genuine historic interest and value that may inspire and enrich young and old alike, and provide a fitting tribute to all Floridians who served their principles so well in the gravest hour of crisis our country ever faced."

Members of the Florida commission appointed by the governor are Dr. Weymouth T. Jordan, Florida State University; Miss Roumelle Bowen, Tallahassee chapter of the UDC; Mrs. Murray Wittichen, Miami, UDC president general; Mrs. Herbert Vance, Coral Gables, state UDC president; Mrs. Aubrey Morse, Tallahassee, state UDC chaplain; Guyte McCord, Tallahassee; Mrs. L. A. Davis, Starke; Dr. A. J. Hanna, Vice President, Rollins College, Winter Park; Mrs. Harry Wood, Tallahassee, and Walter A. Coldwell, Tallahassee, Florida Board of Parks and Historic Memorials.

Polk County Centennial

Plans are being made to observe the centennial of the formation of Polk County in 1861. Robert J. Eastman of Winter Haven is chairman of the celebration committee.

The Southern Historical Association

The twenty-fifth anniversary meeting of the Southern Historical Association was held in Atlanta last November. Dr. Kathryn Abbey Hanna, who has served as president of the Association, and Dr. A. J. Hanna, Vice President, Rollins College, represented the college at the meeting. The history departments of Florida State University, Stetson, Miami and Tampa Universities and the University of Florida were also well represented at the meeting.

Flight Into Oblivion

Long out of print, this excellent history of the flight of the Confederate Cabinet by Alfred Jackson Hanna has been republished by the Indiana University Press in its Civil War Centennial Series.

Dr. Hanna is to be congratulated on this recognition of his work. The book was first published in 1938.

Dr. Samuel Alexander Mudd

The Congress has provided for the erection of a memorial tablet on Garden Key honoring Dr. Samuel Alexander Mudd for his service to yellow fever victims at Fort Jefferson during his imprisonment there.

Historians are in general agreement that Dr. Mudd was innocent of conspiracy in connection with President Lincoln's assassination. Although the legislation for the tablet, signed into law by President Eisenhower on September 21, 1959, skirted the question, its passage is tantamount to recognition of Dr. Mudd's innocence.

The St. Petersburg Times

At its annual meeting in Philadelphia last October, The American Association for State and Local History gave an Award of Merit to the *St. Petersburg Times*. The citation is: "*St. Petersburg Times*, St. Petersburg, Florida. Dodd Vernon, editor. For its significant support of local history through editorials, feature articles, and publication of old photographs bearing on the history of the area."

The newspaper was one of three in the nation in cities of under 300,000 population to receive an award. The Merit Award is designed to pay tribute to those people who promote a better understanding of America's heritage at the local level, and is given annually to individuals and groups deemed worthy by reason of outstanding achievement or significant new projects in the field of state and local history.

The Suwannee Democrat

The Suwannee Democrat of Live Oak observed its 75th anniversary in October of last year by the publication of a special edition. The history of the newspaper and of the area, well illustrated, were featured in the anniversary issue.

The Forest History Foundation

The P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History at the University of Florida became an "Approved Repository of North American Forest History" when Albert Ernest, Jacksonville, vice president of St. Regis Paper Company, presented a certificate of recognition of the Forest History Foundation to Dr. R. W. Patrick, research professor in the department of history, on November 3, 1959.

The presentation was made at a luncheon attended by Dr. Wayne Reitz, University president; Dr. C. M. Kaufman, director of the School of Forestry, Mr. Stanley West, the director of the University's libraries, and members of the library staff.

"The story of the forest is intimately woven into all the developments of American business and industry," Mr. Ernest said in making the presentation. "If we businessmen expect fair treatment from the historian, then we must make our records available to the historian. That is one of the purposes of the Forest History Foundation. No effort is made to pull source material together in one central library. Instead, the Foundation attempts to find such materials and place them in reputable libraries located in the area to which they specifically relate. The P. K. Yonge Memorial Library is one of two such in the state of Florida."

College News

Benjamin F. Rogers of Florida State University has been appointed vice president and dean of Jacksonville University. He will begin his new duties in February. Dr. Rogers is a member of the board of directors of the Society and a contributor to the *Quarterly*.

At Florida State University, George A. Lensen and Victor S. Mamatey have been promoted to the rank of full professor and Wallace W. Reichelt has been made an assistant professor. William W. Rogers, a recent doctoral graduate of the University of North Carolina, has joined the history department with the rank of instructor. Victor S. Mamatey, recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, is on leave for study in Vienna, Rome, Paris and London. The project on which he is working is "Russia and East Central Europe, 1914 - 1918."

At the University of Florida, Arthur Thompson, who has been a contributor to the *Quarterly*, has returned after a year of lecturing and teaching in Japanese universities. Herbert J. Doherty has a leave of absence for one year for teaching in Japan. His headquarters will be in Tokyo but he will visit universities and colleges throughout Japan. David Dowd has returned after a year's leave for research and writing on a phase

of the French Revolution. Lyle N. McAlister has been appointed head of the department of history, succeeding Donald M. Worcester, chairman since 1955. The history department's chairmanship rotates among the members of the department. McAlister will continue to edit the University's monograph studies in social sciences. Julien C. Yonge has returned after a two-month vacation with his sister in the Yonge ancestral home in Pensacola. The former editor of the *Quarterly* and director emeritus of the P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History is happiest when he is working in the library and being of service to students.

News of Local Historical Societies

The Martin County Historical Society at Stuart is an unusually active group. It maintains the House of Refuge Museum where many types of exhibits are on display and a wide variety of community activities take place. Carl Schmidt is museum director. The publication of a local history is a project in which the Society is interested, and requests the aid of historians in its compilation.

Mrs. Schmidt, who assists her husband, has written: "Of greatest importance is the present construction of a new quarter million dollar museum donated by Mr. Harmon P. Elliott. This building will be called the Elliott Museum of Vehicular Evolution and will include over 70 exhibits of various cars through early development to the most modern achievements. Mr. Elliott has also generously provided a trust fund to maintain the exhibits. Present plans are to restore the House of Refuge Museum to its original state and to maintain nautical displays along with the turtle aquarium on the premises. Most of our historical exhibits and valuable Seminole costumes will be transferred to a wing in the new building when it is completed." The museum will be dedicated shortly after the first of the year. The October issue of the MUSEUM NEWS, published by the Smithsonian Institute, carried a story and illustrations of the new museum.

The Lake County Historical Society has purchased a permanent home in Tavares to house a museum and to serve as a

depository for records and historical items belonging to the county. Mrs. Charles Edgar Shaw of Eustis is president of the Society.

The Pensacola Historical Society unveiled a new marker in September on the site of the Alexander Stoddard home where the first azaleas were grown in northwest Florida. Mr. Stoddard was the founder of the New York Underwriters Agency for which the late A. V. Clubbs was the Pensacola representative. The marker was unveiled by Caroline Beggs and Dixie Beggs III, great grandchildren of Mr. Clubbs.

The Palm Beach Historical Society recently heard an address by Dr. George T. Rahilly whose subject was "American Railroad and Street Car History." Judge James R. Knott is president of the Society.

The St. Joseph Historical Society was organized at Port St. Joe in 1958. Mrs. Ned S. Porter is the Society's president. The restoration and preservation of the old St. Joseph cemetery, the last remaining evidence of that once-thriving city, was among the first projects of the group. Several vaults in the cemetery have already been restored. The collecting of documents, both original and copies, relating to the history of the area is well under way and plans are being made for the expansion of Constitution Park Museum to house the fast growing collection.

A Correction

The October number of the *Quarterly* incorrectly identified Frank F. White, Jr., as Project Associate in the National Records Management, New York, N. Y. Mr. White was formerly associated with the National Records Management, but is now Junior Archivist at the Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland. He is interested in the Seminole War and a number of his articles have appeared in the *Quarterly*.

The Century Gazette

Mill by the Stream Publishers, Old Mill, Morrison, Illinois, will produce a unique newspaper as a part of the Civil War Centennial. "The Century Gazette" will be published every two weeks and will contain accounts of life as reported in newspapers a century ago. These accounts will be reprinted from newspapers of the North and South and should be of interest to individuals and schools. Charter member subscriptions for schools and libraries are \$3.00 for one year and \$7.00 for three years.

The Lincoln Essay Contest

The American Association for State and Local History Association reports that fifty entries were received from residents of Florida. The judges awarded first places for Florida to the following: professional class, Mary Jo Ericson, 5511 N.W. Court, Miami; non-professional class, Judith Rose Armayor, 6228 Autlan Drive, Jacksonville. These winning essays of Floridians will compete with winners of other states for the national prizes.

The Pensacola Quadricentennial Issue

The Society has a limited number of bound copies of Volume XXXVII, numbers 3 and 4, of the *Quarterly*. This 275 page Pensacola Quadricentennial number has a permanent binding with the five flags of Florida reproduced in color on the inside cover page. Copies may be secured from Lois J. Settee, P. O. Box 3645, University Station, Gainesville, Florida, for \$3.50 post-paid.