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News and Notes

Florida Historical Society
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NEWS AND NOTES

The Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society will be held at West Palm Beach on April 7 and 8. The new 165 room motor hotel, The Town House, located on the lakefront in downtown West Palm Beach, has been selected as the headquarters hotel for the meeting. The annual meeting will begin with the Directors assembling at 10:00 A.M. on April 7, and the first program session will convene at 2:30 P.M. The Friday afternoon and Saturday morning sessions and the Annual Banquet are scheduled for the Banquet Room, Stauffer's Restaurant, in the Town House. For the Saturday luncheon, members will meet in the Poinciana Room of the Palm Beach Towers in Palm Beach. This hotel is adjacent to the Flagler Museum, where the Saturday afternoon program session will be held.

The Committee on Local Arrangements has arranged a garden tour of lake front estates at 4:30 P.M. on Saturday. Members of the Committee are: Mrs. Frederick D. Morrish, Chairman; Mr. Roscoe T. Anthony, Mrs. Leone King (Chairman, Publicity Committee), Mrs. Lloyd C. Netto (Chairman, Registration and Information Committee), Mr. Harold Obst, Mr. T. T. Reese, Jr. (Chairman, Transportation Committee), and Mr. and Mrs. James R. Knott. Members of the Reception Committee are: Mrs. Henry Kohl, Mr. Paul L. Maddock, Mrs. Charles B. Watkins, Mr. T. M. Richards, Jr., Mr. Arthur Liebovit, Mrs. Roscoe T. Anthony, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Winters, Mr. James Y. Arnold, and Mrs. Grace Davis.

Dr. Charlton Tebeau is Chairman of the Program Committee and copies of the program will be sent to members in March. A noted authority in the field of history will be the speaker at the annual banquet at 7:30 P.M. on Saturday, April 8.

Reservations should be made by individuals who plan to attend the annual meeting by writing directly to the Town House, West Palm Beach, Florida.

Former President of the Society is Honored

Dr. Mark F. Boyd of Tallahassee, a former president of the Florida Historical Society and a frequent contributor to the

Quarterly, received an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History for "his leadership in the state and local history movement in Florida." No other Florida historian is more deserving of this national recognition than is Dr. Boyd.

Dr. A. Russell Mortensen, chairman of the Association's awards committee, announced the award on September 2 at the University of Iowa, where members of the group were convened for their twentieth annual meeting.

Designed to pay tribute to those people who promote a better understanding of America's heritage, these awards are 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.

As in previous years, honors went to historical societies, books, newspapers, individuals, and organizations. Entries were judged in eight categories from ten regions in the United States and Canada. The citation presented to Dr. Boyd was the only one received in Florida last year.

The American Association for State and Local History is the professional organization of state and local historical agencies in the nation and in Canada. A non-profit educational institution it represents individuals and institutions striving to expand and improve the study of local history. The Association founded and still sponsors *American Heritage*, an illustrated magazine of American history.

National Historic Sites Registry

Historic landmarks of national significance and interest may be registered by the National Park Service under a plan announced in October by the Secretary of the Interior, Fred A. Seaton.

The National Registry of Historic Landmarks is designed to recognize and endorse the preservation and protection of structures and sites now administered by the states, other public agencies, or historical societies, and to encourage private owners of historic landmarks to maintain such properties.

"The establishment of this *Registry*," Secretary Seaton said, "serves a long-felt need for the Federal Government to give moral

support and recognition to organizations now concerned with the preservation of archeological and historic properties. Because of the number of important historic landmarks in our great Nation, it is manifestly impossible for the Government to acquire or manage these sites or support them financially, although they are an integral part of the American heritage."

The Registry will provide tourists and students a list of the more important of the large number of landmarks recognized by a variety of organizations throughout the country. The *Registry* is an outgrowth of the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings program of the National Park Service. That program, authorized by the Historic Sites Act of 1935, directs "a survey of historic and archeological sites, buildings, and objects for the purpose of determining which possess exceptional value as commemorating or illustrating the history of the United States." Studies of significant historic and archeological sites are submitted to the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments for review and evaluation. The Board then makes recommendations to the Secretary concerning which sites are eligible for *Registered National Historic Landmark* status. (For details, write Fred Sarles, Historian, National Park Service, St. Augustine.)

The National Survey is preparing a number of "theme studies" covering all the major periods of human history in our country. Although many sites are studied, only a few are designated as having "exceptional value." Administrators or owners of any site recommended shall be eligible to receive a certificate issued by the Secretary designating that site as a *Registered National Historic Landmark* upon application and agreement to certain standards of protection and management.

Five theme studies, covering English, French, and Spanish Exploration and Settlement; Development of the English Colonies, 1700-1775; and The Advance of the Frontier, 1763-1830; have been completed. The five theme studies have been approved by the Secretary and may later be published for public distribution.

The list of sites eligible for *Landmark* status, developed as a result of the studies, includes seven in Florida:

1. San Luis de Apalache, Tallahassee. Typifies the Spanish mission system in Florida. San Luis de Apalache became the administrative center of the old Spanish province of Guale. It is privately owned.

2. Fort San Carlos de Barrancas, Pensacola. Built during the last Spanish occupation of West Florida, it was an important defense bastion of Pensacola. It is located on property administered by the United States Navy.

3. De Soto National Memorial at Bradenton.

4. Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, St. Augustine.

5. Fort Matanzas de San Marcos National Monument, St. Augustine.

6. Fort Caroline National Memorial, Jacksonville.

7. Plaza Ferdinand VII, Pensacola. In this square, on July 17, 1821, was consummated the transfer of Florida from the rule of Spain to that of the United States. It is owned by the city.

Additional themes relating to the development of our country are now being studied and it is hoped that a number of other Florida sites can qualify for the *Registry*.

State Marker Program

The first historic marker erected by the Florida Board of Parks and Historic Memorials was dedicated at Chattahoochee on October 27. The marker, which commemorates the old United States Arsenal, was erected on U. S. 90 at the east gate of the State Hospital.

Presentation of the marker to the park service was made by Mrs. C. R. Mayes, Jr., of Pompano Beach, president of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, sponsor of the event.

The arsenal, located on the grounds of what is now the State Hospital, was erected under an Act of Congress in 1832. Parts of the original building are still in use by the hospital.

Although other markers have been erected throughout the state by cooperating groups, with the assistance of the State Board, this marker at the arsenal is the first erected by the Board itself under the new program.

Historical Markers - Editorial Comment

The Tallahassee Democrat, Malcolm B. Johnson, editor, a strong advocate of the importance of historical markers, listed in a long editorial on September 18 many spots which should be

marked in the state's capital city. The need for implementation of a statewide program was stressed. There is an indictment in the last paragraph of Mr. Johnson's article which historical groups in Florida should not take lightly:

"But as of now, we're marking time while we should be marking history-not merely to back up the claims on our billboards and attract more visitors, but also to inform our own people about their heritage. *People who ignore the past don't have much future.*"

St. Augustine Quadricentennial

The Quadricentennial Committee has signed a contract with Paul Green to write a symphonic drama for St. Augustine. The Florida Board of Parks and Historic Memorials has granted use of park property on Anastasia Island where an amphitheatre will be built for the presentation of the drama.

The Florida Anthropological Society

The Society will hold its annual meeting on February 25 in Miami at the Museum of Science and Natural History.

Dr. Charles H. Fairbanks spent nine weeks during the summer conducting excavations into the Fort Walton Temple Mound. This was made possible by a research grant from the Indian Mound Board of the City of Fort Walton Beach. One purpose of this work is to develop plans for reconstruction of the Mound and the design of a suitable museum and downtown park.

College and Personal News

Florida State University - Dr. Victor S. Mamatey will be a visiting professor at Columbia University during the spring semester this year teaching courses in European history. Dr. George A. Lensen will go to Russia this year under the auspices of the Department of State as a post-doctoral researcher. He will do research at the University of Leningrad on Russo-Japanese relations from 1875 to date. A biography of Charles Van Hise by Dr. Maurice M. Vance will be released this month by the Wisconsin Historical Society. Dr. Earl R. Beck has been promoted to the rank of full professor. *Herbs, Hoecakes and Husbandry: The*

Daybook of a Planter of the Old South, by Weymouth T. Jordan, was published last July. This unusually interesting account of rural life is based on daybooks kept by Martin Marshall (1782-1865), farmer-blacksmith-weaver of South Carolina and Alabama. Dr. George A. Lensen and Dr. Weymouth T. Jordan delivered papers at the Southern Historical Association meeting in Tulsa in November. Joseph D. Cushman, Jr., Titusville, who has been a doctoral student in the history department, 1958-1960, has joined the staff as an instructor while completing work on his doctorate. Another Floridian, Dr. James P. Jones, Jacksonville, is a member of the staff. The other members of the department (15 in all) hold degrees from universities throughout the nation, each specializing in a different branch of history. A record total of 3,419 students are registered in history this year and some 135 undergraduates are majoring in history. There are 40 graduate students, 19 of them studying for the Ph.D. degree and 21 for the Master's degree. Twelve graduate students have selected Florida subjects for study. This expansion in the graduate program is the result of ten National Defense Education Fellowships in history, more than at any other university in the nation. This was the first history department in the nation to be awarded these fellowships. The purpose of the fellowships is to train students to become professors of history in view of rapidly increasing college enrollment.

University of Florida - Dr. David Dowd is on a year's leave in France lecturing and conducting research. Dr. Charles W. Arnade is spending this year at Iowa State University as associate professor of history. Dr. Rembert W. Patrick spoke to the Confederate Round Table, Dade City, October 27 on "The Courage of Women in Defeat" and on October 29 to the Martin County Historical Society on "The Adventure of History." Last summer Dr. William E. Baringer taught at Southwestern Louisiana College, Lafayette, Louisiana. Miss Margaret Chapman, librarian, P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History, spent the summer as a member of the staff of King College Library and the University of North Carolina Library. Mr. Julien C. Yonge delighted his friends at the University by returning from his home in Pensacola for a month's stay at the library.

Jacksonville University - Dr. Lawrence E. Breeze, associate professor of history and head, department of history, government, and geography, earned his doctorate last June at the University of Missouri. Dr. Lee Goulding, well known for his long service on the faculty at Florida State University, will be at Jacksonville University for the next two years inaugurating a new departmental program.

University of Miami - Dr. Robert C. Beyer has been promoted to professor of history and Dr. William B. Munson to Chairman of Social Science, division of the newly created University College. Dr. Melvin H. Jackson is on leave to study in England and Dr. C. Harold King, for a writing project. Dr. Thelma Peters, a recent Ph.D. from the University of Florida, and Marshall Shapo, a Woodrow Wilson Fellow in the Harvard University graduate school in history, are new appointments to the faculty. Dr. Christos C. Patsovos visited his native Greece during the past summer. Dr. Gerald G. Govorchin took a class of students on a tour of Russia during the summer session. Dr. Charlton Tebeau was historical consultant to *Florida Fantasy*, a spectacular held during the Rotary International Convention last June. A cast of 1,400 took part in depicting the state's history.

Florida Southern College - "The Living Past," a syndicated column by Robert H. Akerman, appears regularly in the *Tampa Tribune*, the *Jacksonville Journal*, and in six out-of-state papers. The purpose of the column is to relate history to current news events and thereby popularize historical material. Dr. Durward Long has joined the faculty after receiving his doctorate at the University of Florida. Gilbert P. Richardson was on leave last year while campaigning as Republican nominee for the office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

University of Tampa - Dr. Stephen Speronis, associate professor of history, was appointed in June as dean of the newly established MacDill Division. Dr. James W. Covington served as counselor of students at MacDill during the last summer session.

Florida Presbyterian College - Dr. William Wilbur will head the history department at this new institution at St. Petersburg.

University of South Florida - The history staff at this new university (at Tampa) is composed of Robert A. Goldstein, assistant professor, William Habberton, lecturer, and Robert Heywood, assistant professor. John Hicks will serve as chairman of humanities.

Miami Public Library - Dr. Frank Sessa, director of Miami's library system, spent most of August in Sweden as a guest of the International Federation of Libraries. Dr. Sessa was one of fifteen American librarians to be honored with an invitation.

National Park Service - Regional Archeologist John W. Griffin plans to spend several weeks this winter in additional survey of archeological sites in the Everglades National Park. From the work of Dr. John Goggin and others, over fifty sites are known in the park area. Griffin's survey will be aimed at covering portions of the park not included in previous surveys. The eventual aim is to know the locations and cultural affiliations of all sites within the park. Mike Loveless, formerly with Fort Caroline National Memorial, is now at Moore's Creek in North Carolina, a newly developed park.

Local Historical Societies

The interesting and informative *President's News Letter* published by the Historical Association of Southern Florida (1340 DuPont Building, Miami) serves its members in many ways. Of special value are frequent listings of historical publications of recent release, which alone are worth membership in the Association.

"The Adventure of History" was the subject of an address by Dr. Rembert W. Patrick before the Martin County Historical Society on October 29.

Paintings of the Seminole, recently completed by Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hutchinson at the Brighton Reservation, were placed on exhibition in November in the Elliott Museum.

Last summer the Society retained Rush Hughes to tape record interviews with pioneers in the Stuart area. These recordings are part of a plan to collect materials for the publication of a history of Martin County. Mr. Hughes edited the tapes into a "highly informative, interesting and oftentimes humorous account with insights into the pioneer spirit of settlement problems." The tapes were heard at December's "Living History" program.

A precious find? A set of old railroad car wheels has been removed from St. Joseph Bay. The St. Joseph Historical Society holds high hopes that the wheels "date back to the old Baldwin locomotive that gave Florida its first railroad in 1836." This railroad ran from old St. Joseph to Lake Wimico and Iola. The wheels were located by high school history student Bobby Hurst of Panama City and a group of skin-diving friends. Port St. Joe Mayor J. L. Sharit and shrimp boat captain M. C. Woods helped the boys retrieve the wheels. It is planned to display the wheels at Constitution State Park at Port St. Joe.

The Society is working toward the creation of a national park or memorial on St. Joseph Point. This is the site of the French fort, Crevecoeur, dating from 1718. Other projects of the Society include the collecting of data on the lives of the signers of Florida's first constitution, the preservation and landscaping of historic St. Joseph cemetery, and the collecting of materials on the history of the area.

O. C. Harris was reelected president of the Old Settlers Association of Avon Park on October 21. Other officers elected were Mrs. Mary Reed Hopson, vice president; Mrs. T. J. Ward, secretary; Mrs. Jesse Bennett, treasurer; and Mrs. Cora Wray, custodian. More than 75 members, all of whom have spent 20 or more years in Avon Park, attended the meeting, and former residents came from various parts of the state.

Albert C. Manucy, National Park Service, and past president of the Florida Historical Society, spoke before the Jacksonville Historical Society in November on "Spanish Fortifications in the New World." His talk was illustrated with colored slides.

Papers, Volume IV, issued this summer, is a collection of articles on the discovery of Florida and early French and Spanish incidents in northeast Florida. Author Frank Slaughter and Congressman Charles E. Bennett are contributors to this issue, as well as several well-known professional historians. (Copies of this publication are available to non-members for \$3.00. Write the Society at P. O. Box 4343, Jacksonville.)

William M. Jones of Jacksonville, who with John Griffin, now of the National Park Service, excavated (under sponsorship of the Society) the site of Mission San Juan del Puerto on Fort George Island, is making further explorations. The site of an English plantation (now Greenfield Plantation) in eastern Duval County is being worked under the guidance of Dr. John Goggin. A full report of the findings will be prepared later. This is the first British plantation site of record to be excavated in the state, although surface collecting from such sites is not unusual.

The St. Augustine Historical Society has completed restoration work at the Oldest House. The Tovar House, the pre-1763 coquina home adjacent to the Oldest House, will be restored next. This building currently houses the Society's exhibits of Spanish glass and tile, the archeological and building techniques, and the British period exhibits.

Mrs. Harry L. Weedon was elected chairman of the Hillsborough County Historical Commission last summer. Other officers elected to serve with her were Theodore Lesley, vice chairman and curator; Mrs. J. H. Letton, treasurer; Dr. James W. Covington, recording secretary; Mrs. A. B. McMullen, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. George W. Worthington, librarian. Harry McDonald, assistant county attorney and former member

of the Florida House of Representatives, was appointed to the Commission to succeed Mrs. John K. Martin.

More as a public service than to mark a historic site, the Commission placed a metal plaque on one of the brick arches of Woodlawn Cemetery, established in 1888. While the second oldest in the city, the cemetery has been without a name-plate for over twenty-five years. Herein is the Confederate Veterans' plot where some three score of the soldiers of the War Between the States are buried and where annually Southern Memorial Day ceremonies are conducted.

By appropriate resolution, the Commission paid loving tribute to the memory of Honorable D. B. McKay, whose passing is a distinct loss to the cause of history throughout the state. Some of the contributions of Mr. McKay to his native Tampa are mentioned below in a summary of the Commission's resolution.

Honorable Donald Brenham McKay

Born in Tampa on July 29, 1868, Mr. McKay served his community in many capacities as it grew from a small settlement to a leading port city: fourteen years as mayor (a longer service than any other mayor of that city), as owner and publisher of the *Tampa Daily Times*, as champion of civic causes and of the Spanish groups in the city, as trustee of the University of Tampa and of Tampa Children's Home, and as director on many boards, including the Florida State Fair Association's governing body.

Probably Mr. McKay's best known historical activity was his editorship of the *Tampa Tribune's* "Pioneer Florida Page," a position he held from 1946 until his death. He has contributed extensively to history's cause in many ways.

Honors from universities, King Alfonso XIII of Spain, and civic and historical groups, all bear witness to a long life of usefulness.