

Florida Historical Quarterly

Volume 42
Number 1 *Florida Historical Quarterly, Vol 42,*
Number 1

Article 12

1963

News and Notes

Florida Historical Society
membership@myfloridahistory.org



Part of the [American Studies Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Find similar works at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq>

University of Central Florida Libraries <http://library.ucf.edu>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by STARS. It has been accepted for inclusion in Florida Historical Quarterly by an authorized editor of STARS. For more information, please contact STARS@ucf.edu.

Recommended Citation

Society, Florida Historical (1963) "News and Notes," *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Vol. 42: No. 1, Article 12.
Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq/vol42/iss1/12>

NEWS AND NOTES

The editors commend to the careful attention of all of our readers the provocative lead article in this number written by Dr. Charles W. Arnade of the University of South Florida. Few will agree with everything that is said in it, but the editors believe that it is a fair representation of the cavalier disregard for the historical heritage of Florida which is shown by too many of our citizens who should know better.

Two Significant Anniversaries

This year, 1963, marks the 200th anniversary of the transfer of Florida from Spain to England, and also marks the 450th anniversary of the discovery of Florida by Juan Ponce de Leon.

It was in the Easter season of 1513 that three small ships under the command of Ponce de Leon sighted the Florida shore while searching for the riches of the legendary country of Bimini. Between April 2 and April 8, they went ashore on some beach, probably between present-day St. Augustine and the St. Johns River, and established the claims of Spain to the area. Whether or not Ponce de Leon and his men were the first Europeans to set foot upon the soil of Florida is a disputed point among historians and there is some evidence pointing to the fact that they were not; however, there is no clearly established earlier landing upon, or sighting of Florida. Consequently, Ponce de Leon has for centuries received the credit for discovery.

Not until 1565 was a permanent Spanish settlement made in Florida, partially because of the growing threats of other European powers to Spanish claims upon North America. After the establishment of the first permanent British-American colony in 1607, periodic conflict marked the relations between the Spanish and British colonies. In 1761, Spain joined France in the Seven Year's War against England, during the course of which England captured Havana, and with it control of Cuba. In the Treaty of Paris of 1763 which closed the war, Spain ransomed her more valuable Cuban colony by ceding Florida to England. Legal and sovereign control of Florida was acquired by England on February 10, 1763.

The Quarterly

Fifty-five years ago, in April of 1908, the first number of the *Florida Historical Quarterly* was published. With this current number, the *Quarterly* enters its fortieth year of continuous publication. These coincident anniversaries impelled us to a quick survey of the growth of this publication.

The April, 1908, number was largely the result of the efforts of former Governor Francis P. Fleming, the president of the Society. After Governor Fleming prepared the issue of July, 1908, he became gravely ill and the next number was prepared by unnamed Society officers. Governor Fleming died December 20, 1908, and the issue of January, 1909, carried the news of the appointment of the Rev. S. F. Gale to the editorship. The July number of that year, however, brought news of the death of the new editor and no further attempts were made toward keeping the *Quarterly* alive. The scanty evidence seems to indicate, however, that financial difficulties were the main barrier to publication of the *Quarterly* at that time.

These early first two volumes of the Society's journal were edited and published in Jacksonville and each number ran about forty pages in length. Subscription rates, surprisingly, were the same as those which members pay today - \$5.00 per year-but the front and back pages of the *Quarterly* carried advertising material from banks, publishing houses, and jewelry stores in Jacksonville. Due to the fact that Society membership was less than one hundred, such added commercial income was doubtless necessary to meet publication costs.

The first number carried, in addition to a prospectus of the Society and a catalog of its collections, an article by Governor Fleming on George R. Fairbanks; an account of the "Origin of the Shell Mounds," by State Fish Commissioner J. Y. Detwiler; a report on an "Indian Massacre in Gadsden County," by A. L. Woodward, reprinted from a 1902 edition of the Jacksonville *Florida Times-Union*; and the journals of Dr. W. H. Simmons and John Lee Williams published as "The Selection of Tallahassee as the Capital," and reprinted from the *Florida House Journal* of 1903.

The last number of 1909 carried an "Editorial Note" reflecting the economic plight of the Society and the disappointment of

the officers at the lack of interest in state history. Refusal of the legislature to give financial assistance was noted and the editor concluded, "The purposes and objects of the Society are admittedly designed to benefit the State and the public, but the Legislature of the State as a whole seems to take little interest in the matter. We regret the fact and must continue to labor to awaken so much interest among the residents of the State as to require its legislators to take notice and act. Political and local and personal matters receive attention, why not the objects of the Florida Historical Society?" The fifty-four years that have elapsed since this was written have not brought a solution to this problem, as is evidenced elsewhere in the pages of this number.

From July, 1909, until July, 1924, the Society was without a publication. On November 8, 1921, however, Arthur T. Williams of Jacksonville was elected president of the Society, beginning a period of long and notable service. One of his major accomplishments was the resumption of publication of the *Quarterly*. The first two numbers in 1924 were edited by President Williams with the assistance of Emma Rochelle Porter. At the Society's annual meeting in 1924, Julien C. Yonge of Pensacola was elected editor and commenced his duties in 1925. Under his devoted and selfless direction the *Quarterly* became one of the more reputable and meritorious journals of state history in the United States, surviving the crises of both the Great Depression and World War II. In January, 1956, Rembert W. Patrick of the history department of the University of Florida succeeded to the editorship and gave distinguished service until he relinquished the post to the present editors in July of 1962. The *Quarterly* was edited in Pensacola from 1925 through 1944. It has been edited at Gainesville, in cooperation with the University of Florida, since January, 1945.

Though its primary aim remains the same, "to increase and extend the knowledge of our history," the *Quarterly* of 1963 bears little physical resemblance to that of 1908. Today, each number averages more than one hundred pages in length. The articles are, for the most part, original pieces of research and writing produced by skilled amateurs and professional historians from all over the United States-and occasionally from abroad. News of the vigorous, rapidly multiplying local societies is featured in every number, as well as notices of the activities of historians at state colleges and universities. The present editors have also made concerted

efforts to bring to our readers a greater variety of reviews of important books from all areas of American history, written by the most competent reviewers in the country.

At the beginning of April, 1963, the *Quarterly* was received by 695 members and 188 institutional subscribers. It is mailed to members in all parts of the United States and Canada and goes to the Latin American countries of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Peru, and Mexico. In Europe, it has readers in England and Spain, while in the Middle and Far East it is read in Iran, India, and Japan. Even the "Iron Curtain" is no barrier to the *Quarterly*, for it is received by libraries in both Budapest and Moscow.

Dr. Dorothy Dodd is Honored

During National Library Week, the officers and directors of the Florida Historical Society presented a life membership in the Society to Dr. Dorothy Dodd in recognition of her major contributions to Florida history and her work as State Librarian in collecting archival materials which would have otherwise been lost. Presentation of the membership was made to Dr. Dodd in Tallahassee by Mrs. Farris Bryant, wife of the governor. In addition to her many contributions to this *Quarterly* and other scholarly publications, Dr. Dodd is responsible for the important volume, *Florida Becomes A State* (Tallahassee, 1945), which was published as a part of the state's centennial celebration. A former director of the Society, Dr. Dodd is now State Librarian and a member of the editorial board of this *Quarterly*.

Florida Anthropological Society

The fifteenth annual meeting of the Society was conducted at the University of South Florida, Tampa, on February 16, 1963. The morning session was opened with an introduction by Dr. Charles Arnade and the welcoming address was delivered by Dr. Russell Cooper, dean of the College of Liberal Arts at USF. During the day, more than a dozen papers were heard dealing with anthropological subjects.

Elected president of the Society for the coming year was Dr. Charlton W. Tebeau, chairman of the history department at the

University of Miami. Mrs. Tebeau was elected secretary of the organization.

Local and Area Societies and Commissions

Historical Association of Southern Florida: Program meetings in January, February, and March featured talks by Edwin A. Link, noted explorer and inventor; Tally Embry, an advertising executive; Charlton W. Tebeau, University of Miami historian and editor of *Tequesta*; and Daniel B. Beard, assistant director, National Park Service. The talks by Professor Tebeau and Mr. Embry dealt with the "Massacre at Indian Key" and "The Spanish Indians and Fort Poinsett."

Dedication of the Audubon House marker at Key West on February 9 attracted much public attention. The dedicatory speaker was Carl W. Buchheister of the National Audubon Society. Colonel Mitchell Wolfson and his grand-daughter, Linda Louise Wolfson, unveiled the marker.

Historical Society of Fort Lauderdale: At the January meeting of the Society, Philip Weidling gave an illustrated lecture on "The Birth of the Boom." In attendance were 103 members and guests who heard Society president August Burghard report that the historical collections of the organization are rapidly growing in both quality and quantity.

The annual meeting, held on May 6, 1963, was set in the Dwight L. Rogers Room of the Governor's Club Hotel. The featured speaker was the Honorable Spessard L. Holland. The Society took this occasion to pay tribute to the long and distinguished service of Florida's senior United States Senator.

Mr. William Lauderdale, great-great-grandson of the Major Lauderdale from whom the city takes its name, was a recent visitor to the Society. Mr. Lauderdale, now a resident of Nashville, Tennessee, was impressed with the documentary evidence regarding his ancestor which is to be found at the Society. Only a few days before his visit, the Society and representatives of local organizations had gathered at Fort Lauderdale's South Beach to view the actual location of the original Fort Lauderdale.

Jacksonville Historical Society: On February 13, the Society was honored by an address by the postmaster of Jacksonville, Mr. J. E.

Workman. His topic was the "History of the Jacksonville Post Office." For some time Mr. Workman and his staff have been compiling the record of local postal history and his talk was a by-product of this research.

Madison County Historical Society: In the spring of 1962 the Society was organized and, except for a summer recess, has been meeting the second Thursday of each month since then. The North Florida Junior College acts as sponsor of the Society and its meetings are held in the College Library. Plans for the year include the publishing of an annual and the beginning of a long-range project for writing a history of Madison County. Mrs. E. B. Browning has been appointed at the head of a committee to compile an inventory of resources for Madison County historical information.

Current officers of the Society are Mrs. L. A. Almand, president; Mr. E. B. Browning, Mrs. Hyem Kramer, Mr. Carlton Smith, Miss Whittie Dickinson, and Mrs. R. L. Millinor, vice-presidents; Mrs. Carl Sims, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. T. C. Merchant, publicity chairman; Mrs. L. C. Bruner, editor and curator; and Mrs. T. J. Beggs, Jr., social chairman.

Martin County Historical Society: This Society continues to be one of the most active in the state, participating in a wide variety of cultural activities, with extensive popular support in its community. Its activities have included art exhibits, educational and art movies, art classes, museum displays, and lectures. In March and April one of the most successful spring art shows was sponsored, featuring a variety of subject matter and artistic techniques including oil paintings, pastels, photographs, sculpture, enamelled crafts, and ceramics.

Mr. Stephen Schmidt, director of the Martin County museums, participated in January, 1963, in a two-week conference in Washington sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Palm Beach County Historical Society: Recent meetings of the Society have heard a succession of interesting speakers on a variety of topics. Castro's Cuba was the subject of a talk at the February meeting. Mr. Earl E. T. Smith, a previous ambassador to Cuba,

was the speaker. On March 29, Dr. Samuel M. Lindsay lectured on "Major World Personalities in Current History." Mr. David M. Fee addressed the April meeting at the Whitehall, telling of "Sagas of the Indian River Country." At the County Fair early in the year, the Society exhibit of historical items won a special award.

St. Augustine Historical Society: This year marks an important anniversary in the history of the Society. Eighty years ago, in 1883, Dr. Dewitt Webb and a group of interested citizens formed the St. Augustine Institute of Science and Historical Society. This, therefore, marks the eightieth year of public service. At the January meeting the following officers were elected: Mr. J. T. Van Campen, president; Mr. Frank D. Upchurch, Sr., vice-president; Mr. W. J. Winter, secretary; Mr. Otis E. Barnes, treasurer; Mr. Luis R. Arana, librarian. Directors who were elected at this meeting include Mr. W. T. Drysdale, Mr. Milton E. Bacon, Mr. Andrew J. McGhin, Jr., and Mr. Earle W. Newton.

The research staff of the Society has during the past several months furnished the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service with documentary histories and measured drawings of several of St. Augustine's most historic houses. One of these was the Paredes house at 54 St. George Street, owned by the Society. Known locally as the "Old Curiosity Shop," this building was marked with a bronze plaque by the Society several years ago. Extensive research into aged maps and documents was involved in this project.

College News

Florida Southern College: Durward Long, assistant professor of history and government, was program chairman for the 1963 Florida Historical Society meeting at Sarasota. Robert Akerman chaired the opening session of the meeting on Friday morning, May 3.

Florida State University: Weymouth T. Jordan, chairman of the department of history and president of the Agricultural History Society, read a paper on "Folk Medicine in the Old South" at the fifty-sixth annual meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical As-

sociation in Omaha on May 2, 1963. Wayne Flynt, a graduate student in history, presented a paper on "Florida's 1926 Senatorial Primary" at the annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society, May 3, 1963.

Jacksonville University: Benjamin F. Rogers, vice-president of the University and a director of the Florida Historical Society, spent three weeks in May on a cultural tour of western Europe. Samuel Proctor of the University of Florida is visiting professor of history during the summer session.

New College: The featured speaker at the annual dinner of the Florida Historical Society in Sarasota was George Baughman, president of this embryonic institution. Introduced by Society president Frank Sessa, President Baughman's speech was an historic first, signalling the initial participation in the affairs of the Florida Historical Society by a representative of the new school.

Stetson University: Dr. Gilbert L. Lycan, chairman of the history department, has received a Fulbright appointment for the academic year 1963-1964. He will serve as Lecturer in American History at Silliman University, Dumeguete City, in the Philippine Islands. During his absence, Dr. John E. Johns will serve as acting chairman of the history department.

University of Florida: Herbert J. Doherty, Jr., associate professor of history and social sciences and editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, has been appointed chairman of the department of social sciences, effective in September. John A. Harrison, professor of history, has been appointed chairman of the department of history, effective in July.

Donald E. Worcester, national president of Phi Alpha Theta history fraternity, delivered an address, "A New View of the Past -The Intimate History of Early America," at the Mississippi Valley Historical Association meeting in May in Omaha. Kenneth Beeson, a graduate student in history, spoke on "Indigo Production in New Smyrna during the British Period" at the Florida Historical Society meeting at Sarasota. Samuel Proctor, associate professor of history and social sciences, chaired the Friday afternoon session at the Sarasota meeting, May 3, 1963.

E. Ashby Hammond, professor of history and social sciences, is in England doing research under a grant-in-aid awarded by the Wellcome Trust of London, a foundation established by the late Sir Henry Wellcome for the subsidization of medical research. With the collaboration of Dr. Charles H. Talbot of the Foundation, Professor Hammond is preparing a biographical register of medieval English medical practitioners. Arthur W. Thompson, professor of history, is visiting professor during the summer session at Amherst College, Massachusetts.

University of Miami: Charlton W. Tebeau, chairman of the history department, spoke on "White Settlement in the Everglades" at the Florida Historical Society meeting in Sarasota on May 3.

University of South Florida: Charles W. Arnade, associate professor of history, delivered a stimulating and provocative address on the negligence of the state in preserving its historical resources in Sarasota in May. His talk was part of a general discussion of "The Role of the State in Preserving its History" which was featured at the annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society.

Mrs. Alberta Johnson

On February 21, 1963, Mrs. Alberta Johnson passed away at her home in St. Augustine. Mrs. Johnson is affectionately remembered by many members of the Society as our long-time Secretary and Librarian. She assumed this post in 1943 while Society headquarters were located in St. Augustine on Cathedral Place, overlooking the historic Plaza. For the ten years in which she served, this quiet, kindly lady came virtually to personify the Florida Historical Society. The move from St. Augustine to Gainesville late in 1950 was accomplished under the supervisory eye of Mrs. Johnson, and to give continuity to the operations of the organization she moved to Gainesville with the Society and remained there until her retirement in the summer of 1952.

Upon her retirement from office, the late Julien C. Yonge paid tribute to her in words which stand as a lasting testimonial: "Seldom has any work and worker fitted so closely, the one with the other. Few know so much of Florida's long history, and fewer know so well just where to find what might be asked for. Nor

could any take a greater interest in the questions and problems which were continually brought to her in person or by mail. None were turned away when the answer was to be found in her head or in the Society's library-even when, after a long day, she must return to the library in the evening to help some one who could come at no other time. Our Mrs. Johnson will not be forgotten."