

1963

## News and Notes

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## NEWS AND NOTES

### *Battle of Olustee Centennial*

The centennial of the Battle of Olustee, the most important military action of the Civil War in Florida, was commemorated at the battlefield site on February 22, under the auspices of the State Library and Historical Commission. Although the actual date of the battle was February 20, 1864, the observance was held on February 22, a Saturday, because of the greater convenience of the day. United States Senator Spessard Holland was principal speaker, and Ed Fraser, secretary of the Florida Senate and former senator from Macclenny, presided at the exercises. A number of state officials and civic leaders were present. Preceding the Olustee rites, a memorial service was conducted in the Old Cemetery at Lake City where many of the soldiers who lost their lives in the battle are buried. Congressman D. R. Matthews spoke here. Two twelve-pound Napoleon cannon, exact replicas of guns used during the Civil War, were presented to the Florida Board of Parks and Historical Memorials for permanent display at Olustee Battlefield. These cast iron cannon were manufactured at the Department of Correction, Division of Industries, Government of the District of Columbia.

### *Constitution Day Celebration*

Ceremonies marking the 125th anniversary of the Constitutional Convention of 1838 were celebrated December 7, 1963, at Port St. Joe. The day also was observed as the 50th anniversary of the founding of that city. Governor Farris Bryant and Congressman Robert Sikes spoke at the afternoon ceremonies held in Constitution Park. The St. Joseph Constitution was Florida's first constitution and it remained in effect from the time of Florida's entrance into the Union in 1845 until shortly after the close of the Civil War.

### *Local and Area Societies and Commissions*

*Florida Methodist Historical Society:* This organization functions as an agency of the Florida Annual Conference of the Meth-

odist church, and it collects and maintains materials relating to Methodism in Florida. The archives are located at Florida Southern College Library, and include church histories, pictures, books, and annual conference and district conference records. The Society meets three times a year; the March and October meetings are business meetings, but the June meeting is an open program meeting at which time a paper or presentation is made. Officers of the Society are J. A. Barley, Pahokee, chairman; Robert H. Carr, Zellwood, vice-chairman; James M. Smith, Gulfport, secretary; O. C. Howell, Plant City, treasurer; and Gordon N. Craig, Green Cove Springs, curator.

*Hernando De Soto Historical Society:* The recently elected officers of this organization are Robert E. Talley, president; David Albright, president-elect; Paul Bartley, vice-president; Jack N. Shinn, treasurer; and Jerome Davis, secretary. These same officers serve also for De Soto Celebration, Inc.

*Hillsborough County Old Timers Association:* The 40th annual assembly of the Old Timers Association was held at Gilchrist Park, Plant City, on October 17, 1963. Almost 500 adults were present. This organization was founded in 1923, and has met annually since to honor pioneer citizens of "original" Hillsborough County. Theodore Lesley, a member of the Hillsborough County Historical Commission, conducted a memorial service at the morning session. The oldest of those memorialized was a former slave, born in Hillsborough County, who died at the age of 109. Major Robert Johnson, U.S. Strike Command, MacDill Air Force Base, delivered the principal address of the day. Officers elected for 1963-64 were County Judge William C. Brooker, president; L. D. Simmons, vice-president; Mrs. Uz Pemberton, secretary; Colonel S. G. Harrison, chairman; and Theodore Lesley, master of ceremonies. Harry G. McDonald, county school attorney and former Florida legislator, was elected president emeritus.

*Historical Association of Southern Florida:* The Association dedicated its Peacock Inn marker at 3 p.m., January 19, 1964, in Coconut Grove Bayfront Park. The marker was placed on the exact site of the inn which was open to the public in the early 1880's and was the first hotel between Key West and Lake Worth. Mrs. Jean Louise Flagler Mook, granddaughter of Henry

M. Flagler, gave the dedicatory address, and the marker was unveiled by Mrs. George E. Merrick, granddaughter of Charles Peacock, and by Wirth M. Munroe, son of the distinguished Coconut Grove pioneer. Gaylord (Lee) Price, chairman of the historic sites and marker committee, was master of ceremonies. Mrs. Ruby Leach Carson was the researcher for the marker text.

The 86th program meeting of the Association was held January 29, 1964. Everglades National Park Superintendent Stanley C. Joseph entitled the program which he presented: "What's Ahead for Everglades National Park." John W. Griffin, regional archaeologist, discussed recent developments in Florida archaeology and told of the Glades' tradition as it relates to the Calusa and Tequesta Indian groups which lived in Southern Florida. Assistant Superintendent Carroll A. Burroughs presented a brief outline of the needs and plans for field research in the Park, and Ernst Christensen, chief park naturalist, described the projected Seven-Mile Road and Tower and the Visitor's Center. A display of the plans of the Seven-Mile Tower was made.

The Carl G. Fisher exhibit opened at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida on December 8, 1963, with special ceremonies sponsored by the Association.

Historical Society of Fort Lauderdale: According to the most recent issue of "New River News," published by the Society, a large number of gifts, including books, manuscripts, and historical papers have been donated to the organization. The Society now has a membership of more than 350.

*Jacksonville Historical Society:* At the regular meeting of the Society, November 13, 1963, Dr. Rembert W. Patrick, former editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly* and research professor of history at the University of Florida, spoke on "The Writing of a Biography, General Duncan L. Clinch." Dr. Patrick related some of the incidents and problems that he had in writing his book *Aristocrat in Uniform* which was published by the University of Florida Press last summer under the auspices of the Florida Historical Society.

The Jacksonville Historical Society cooperated with the Jacksonville Ribault Quadricentennial Celebration Association in ar-

ranging an historical display at the Arts Festival Six last fall. The 300th anniversary of the founding of Fort Caroline, which is being celebrated this year, was the theme of the exhibit. Dr. Charles Fairbanks, head of the Department of Anthropology, University of Florida, is aiding and advising the Society in its investigations of archaeological sites. He replaces the late Dr. John M. Goggin, internationally known anthropologist, who for many years directed the Society's archaeological program.

*Jefferson County Historical Society:* According to a report recently issued by Dr. James S. Sledge, president of the Society, \$5,700 has already been raised toward the \$20,000 that is needed for the purchase of the Wirwick-Simmons-Clements house, one of the oldest in North Florida. The house, originally constructed in 1830, will be restored and used as a meeting place for the Society and as a museum and library. State Senator S. Dilworth Clarke is honorary fund drive chairman, and Richard H. Simpson is finance committee chairman. The Society has 75 members.

*Martin County Historical Society:* Dr. Charlton Tebeau, chairman of the Department of History at the University of Miami and former president of the Florida Historical Society, addressed the Society at its evening meeting on January 24, 1964. Dr. Tebeau spoke on his recently published book *They Lived in the Park* which concerns the early residents of the Everglades Park area. The Society continues its many cultural and social activities, utilizing the Elliott Museum and the House of Refuge Museum for its exhibits and film showings.

*Palm Beach County Historical Society:* On December 6, 1963, Louis Capron, well known author and authority on the Seminole Indians of Florida, spoke on "Things You Don't Know About the Seminoles." Mr. Capron's latest historical novel is *The Red War Pole*. On January 17, 1964, Major Richard E. Paulson, distinguished diplomat and soldier, was the program speaker. The Society's newsletter reveals that its holdings are increasing through gifts made by members and persons interested in preserving the history of the Palm Beach area. The Society meets in "Whitehall" the Henry Morrison Flagler Museum. Recently, the trustees of

the museum authorized the demolition of the upper stories of the hotel building which had been attached to the original Flagler home. Several pieces of the original furniture and art works have been returned to the mansion and every effort is being made to return it to the way it looked when it was used as a residence.

*Pensacola Civil War Round Table:* William Venable discussed the Civil War Battle of Chickamauga at the January 2, 1964, meeting of the Round Table held in the new Liberal Arts Building at the Pensacola Junior College. The Civil War Round Table has been enrolled as a Pensacola Junior College class, and in recent months has presented three specialists: Dr. Bell Wiley of Emory University, who discussed the common soldier in the Civil War at the September, 1963, meeting; Edwin C. Bears, research historian for the Vicksburg National Military Park, who described the Battle of Vicksburg at the October, 1963, meeting; and Dr. Perry Cochran, head of the Pensacola Junior College history department, who described the Old South in his paper delivered at the November, 1963 meeting.

*Pensacola Historical Advisory Committee:* Earle Bowden, president of the Pensacola Civil War Round Table was named chairman of the Pensacola Historical Advisory Committee, which has been organized by the Pensacola City Council to formulate a plan of action on historical restoration and preservation. The committee also includes Occie Clubbs, former director of the Florida Historical Society, and T. T. Westworth, Jr., a former director of the Society and presently a member of the Florida State Library and Historical Commission.

*St. Augustine Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission:* In December, 1963, the Commission announced that agreement had been reached for purchase of two St. Augustine properties on St. George Street for reconstruction of historic homes. Preliminary archaeological work indicates that a large home built during the early 18th century occupied one of the properties located near the Old City Gates. It is believed that the home may have been destroyed by fire during Governor Moore's attack on the city in 1702. The other building was once the

home of the family of the poet Stephen Vincent Benet and was constructed during the second half of the 18th century, likely in the British period.

#### STATE LIBRARY AND HISTORICAL COMMISSION

At a meeting held in Tallahassee, November, 1963, the Commission examined a fourteen-page report which included a number of specific recommendations made by Ralph Blasingame, Jr., Pennsylvania state librarian, for the construction of a building to house properly the Florida State Library and the State's archives. This special study urges the immediate securing of key personnel to begin making arrangements for the proposed expanded library-archives facilities. In addition to providing reference and research facilities for official and state employees and leadership in the development of library services, the Blasingame report strongly urges the establishment of a State Archives so that research into the State's past by historians and scholars can be encouraged and facilitated.

#### FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Society held a meeting on November 16, 1963, at Orlando with the Central Florida Anthropological Society serving as host. The New Maitland Research Center was visited, and during the afternoon session three papers were presented.

#### FLORIDA ARTS COUNCIL

Dr. Karl Kuersteiner, Dean of the Florida State University Music School, was named temporary president at the Florida Arts Council when it was organized in Tallahassee, December 2, 1963. The Council was planned by twenty-five Florida art groups to coordinate cultural activities in the state. Representatives from every state university and junior college were present at this organizational meeting. The first formal session of the Council is scheduled to meet in June, at which time permanent officers will be elected.

## NATIONAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN DAMES

The recently organized Florida Assembly of the National Society of Southern Dames held its first state convention in Jacksonville in November, 1963. Mrs. Murray Forbes Wittichen of Coral Gables, a member of the Florida Civil War Centennial Committee, is honorary president of the National Society. The organization has a three-fold purpose: Members are encouraged to read and understand the history of the South and to examine critically the lives of important Southerners who have made major contributions to the welfare of the country; to maintain a scholarship fund to aid artists and writers working on projects dealing with southern history; and to sponsor an eye bank program. The Florida Assembly voted to present a thousand dollar award every two years to a doctoral student of political science or history at a Southern land grant college or university. The scholarship, the Thomas Jefferson Award, will be presented for the first time in 1966. Mrs. Herbert O. Vance of Coral Gables, a director of the Historical Association of Southern Florida and a member of the Florida Civil War Centennial Committee, is national vice-president for Florida. Mrs. T. Aubrey Morris of Tallahassee, also a member of the Florida Civil War Centennial Committee, is state secretary.

## SOUTHERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY PAPERS INDEX

A committee of scholars, historians, and interested persons, under the chairmanship of J. Ambler Johnston of Richmond, Virginia, is preparing an accurate cumulative index of the *Southern Historical Society Papers* (Richmond, 1876-1959). A "General Index of [the] First Ten Volumes" appeared as an appendix to Volume 10 in 1882, and *An Author and Subject Index to . . . Vols. 1-38* was issued in 1913. These, however, are really more in the nature of guides and do not meet the specifications of an index. Historians using this extraordinary mine of Confederate military chronicles still must spend much time in a page-by-page examination of the fifty-two volumes in the set to find what he needs. It is expected that the cumulative index will be completed in 1965, and it will be published then under the auspices of the Richmond Civil War Centennial Committee.



THE JULIEN CHANDLER YONGE MEMORIAL FUND

This fund was established by the members of the Florida Historical Society as an enduring memorial to the man who edited the *Florida Historical Quarterly* for thirty-one years. During more than three decades Julien C. Yonge was not paid a salary; frequently he used personal funds to cover the material costs of editing the *Quarterly*. The income from this endowment will be used to publish books on Florida. The fund now totals \$3,800 but at least \$10,000 is needed both as a memorial to a great Floridian and to provide a minimum income for publications. Mail your contribution to Margaret Chapman, secretary-treasurer, Florida Historical Society, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida.

You can also help by buying *Aristocrat in Uniform: General Duncan L. Clinch*, for seventy-five per cent of net from sales of this book go to the YONGE MEMORIAL FUND. Send \$5.50 to the University of Florida Press, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, for a copy.

CAPE KENNEDY

Because of the interest generated by the changing of the name of Cape Canaveral to Cape Kennedy, Professor Charles W. Arnade of the University of South Florida and a director of the Florida Historical Society, has prepared the following *Note* for the *Florida Historical Quarterly*: Sixteenth century maps in the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University and in the William Clements Library at the University of Michigan indicate that the name Cape Canaveral was used for the first time in 1545 on a map drawn by Alonso de Santa Cruz, the Spanish royal cosmographer. Santa Cruz accompanied Sebastian Cabot on his expedition to South America in 1526, and remained in America about five years. In 1545, he issued his *Islario - Book of Islands* which contains a Florida map listing Cape Canaveral by that name. The Florida delineation and nomenclature of this map became popular and was used by the seventeenth century Dutch cartographers, William Blaeu and Jan Jansson in their atlases.

It is difficult to determine with absolute accuracy when the Cape was first discovered. There are serious doubts that Ponce de

## NEWS AND NOTES

411

Leon knew of the Cape, but some scholars are convinced that pre-Ponce de Leon voyages by John and Sebastian Cabot passed the Cape and recorded it on their charts. The Cape is clearly sketched for the first time on maps drawn around 1529 by the Italian Girolamo Verrazano, whose brother, Giovanni Verrazano, sailed an expedition to North America in 1523-1524 for the French. The map drawn in 1529 is based upon this voyage.

## THE ANNUAL MEETING

The 1964 annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society will be held in Miami on May 8 and 9. The Board of Directors will meet on the evening of May 7. The program is being arranged by Dr. Rembert W. Patrick, University of Florida. Theodore Pratt, Florida novelist from Delray Beach, is the banquet speaker.

## A PERSONAL NOTE

A little over two years ago, the present editor of the *Quarterly* was elected to his position by the Board of Directors. He succeeded Rembert W. Patrick, who had served for seven years, and Julien C. Yonge, who in more than thirty years as editor had largely made the *Quarterly* what it is today. Much to the regret of the current editor, this is the last number that will bear his name. Though he had no notion of surpassing the record for longevity set by Julien Yonge, he had hoped to pass many more years in the editorial chair. In February of 1963, however, he was appointed chairman of the social sciences department of the University of Florida. The demands of that position are so great as to impair his efficient functioning as editor of the *Quarterly*. He, therefore, submitted his resignation to the Board of Directors in December and that body elected Samuel Proctor to succeed to the editorship on July 1, 1964. The present editor has every confidence in his successor and believes that the Society can look forward to a journal of high quality and distinguished reputation.

H. J. D.