


1964

Historical News

Florida Historical Society
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HISTORICAL NEWS

Local and Area Societies and Commissions

Civil War Round Table of Pensacola: Alan J. Rick described Federal General Alexander Asboth's raids out of Fort Barancas and the engagements along the Escambia River during the Civil War at the March meeting of the Round Table, held at the Pensacola City Library. At its April program meeting, the Round Table presented a number of film strips including many of the rare Mathew B. Brady photographs of the war. On May 16, the members of the New Orleans Civil War Round Table, on a field trip to Fort Pickens and Fort Morgan, were guests of the Pensacola Round Table.

Arrangements were made with officials of the L. & N. Railroad Company to have the famous Civil War steam engine "General" on display during three days of the Fiesta, June 6-8. Officers of the Pensacola Round Table are Earle Bowden, president; Norm Simons, vice-president; and Alan Rick, secretary-treasurer.

Duncan Lamont Clinch Historical Society: The restoration of "Old Town" in Fernandina is the major project of the Society. Earlier this year, Mrs. Jay Bartels, president, announced that an anonymous donor had turned over the historic Captain R. J. Downes property, and it is hoped that it will be the start of a general restoration program. An historical drama, "The Romance of Eight Flags," depicting excerpts from Fernandina's past, was presented on the parade ground at Fort Clinch on June 5 and 6, as a benefit for the Old Town Restoration Fund. On May 9, the Society also sponsored a wild game barbeque and square dance for the benefit of the fund.

Gulf County Historical Commission: The Commission met on March 9 in Wewahitchka and held its April 6 meeting at Port St. Joe. Plans for the dedication of the Fort Crevecoeur marker were discussed, and it was decided that the marker should be placed near the crest of the hill at the Old Beacon Hill Lighthouse site. The history of Dead Lakes is being researched so that a marker can be placed there, and the Commission is also attempt-

ing to identify the Old Ship Yard site so that a historical marker can be properly placed. The Commission sponsored an interesting display of old currency in the Wewahitchka State Bank and Port St. Joe Bank which attracted considerable attention. Mrs. Ned S. Porter is chairman of the Gulf County Historical Commission and George Y. Core is secretary.

Historical Association of Southern Florida: The eighty-seventh program meeting of the Association was held March 18, 1964, at which time Mel Miller, curator of the Ringling Museum in Sarasota spoke on "The Circus from Rome to Ringling." Mr. Miller traced the history of the circus from ancient times to the present, stressing its growth as an American institution under the leadership of John Ringling. The eighty-eighth program meeting and the election of officers and directors of the Association was held April 30. The well-known writer, Dr. Frank G. Slaughter, spoke on "The Right To Be Wrong: A Novelist Looks At History." In his talk, Dr. Slaughter stressed the novelist's view of history.

Roland A. Saye, Jr., president of the Association, gave a talk on Fort Jefferson, Dry Tortugas, at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida on April 24. He announced the Association's plans for an expedition to Fort Jefferson over the July 4 weekend. The Association's Historical Museum, directed by David T. Alexander, is open Tuesday through Sunday each week.

Jacksonville Historical Society: Mr. and Mrs. Albert C. Manucy and their two children, Evalina and James Manucy, spoke on "Our Wonderful Year in Spain" at the regular meeting of the Society on February 12, 1964. Last year, Mr. Manucy was a Fulbright Research Scholar studying Spanish architecture and its influence on St. Augustine. Utilizing slides and colorful costumes, the Manucy family described their trip. Mr. Manucy is historian with the National Park Service in St. Augustine, a past president of the Florida Historical Society, and author of a number of important books, monographs, and papers dealing with Spanish Florida.

Madison County Historical Society: Dr. Daisy Parker, professor of political science at Florida State University, was guest speaker at the annual dinner meeting of the Society on March 19, 1946. The meeting was held at the Student Center of the North Florida

Junior College. Mrs. Hyman Kramer is president of the Society. Other officers are Edwin B. Browning, Mrs. T. J. Beggs, Jr., and Mrs. L. C. Bruner, vice-presidents; Mrs. Carl Sims, secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. A. D. Reams, director. The Society notes with sorrow the passing of its founder, Carlton Smith, on December 31, 1963.

Manatee County Historical Society: At the regular meeting of the Society on February 20, 1964, Walter S. Hardin talked about the early history of Bradenton, showing pictures of some of the first buildings. W. G. Gaar read a paper written by Jack Leffingwell about Fort Braden (Braden Castle). A. Klein Whitaker, a member of the Society and grandson of William H. Whitaker, one of Manatee County's first settlers, underwrote the publishing of the second edition of *The Lures of Manatee* by Lillie McDuffee. This important volume, which had become a rare and hard-to-find book, is again available to librarians and Florida historians through Mr. Whitaker's generosity and the interest of the Society.

Marion County Historical Commission: On Sunday, April 26, 1964, the Commission dedicated a marker at the Taylor Street entrance of the Old Evergreen Cemetery in Ocala. State Senator L. K. Edwards, Jr., chairman of the program committee, was master of ceremonies, and J. Ed Blocker, Commission chairman, presented the marker. Mrs. Roy C. Ott, authoress, former director of the Florida Historical Society, and organizing chairman of the Marion County Historical Commission, wrote the inscription appearing on the bronze marker.

Martin County Historical Society: The monthly newsletters published by the Society reveal its usual large number of cultural and social activities. On April 11, a dinner was held honoring life members of the Society whose names have been placed on special plaques, which hang at both the Elliott Museum and the House of Refuge Museum, in appreciation of their support and generosity toward the Society. The Society sponsors monthly historical exhibits in the Bank of Indiantown and has inaugurated traveling exhibits for use of the schools, hospital, library, civic organizations, and youth groups.

Palm Beach County Historical Society: Dr. John E. Johns of Stetson University spoke at the program meeting on March 20.

His topic was "The Battle of Olustee and its Political Ramifications." Dr. Johns is the author of *Florida During the Civil War*, published recently by the University of Florida Press. Myron D. Sutton, assistant chief of the National Park service, Washington, spoke to the members of the Society and their guests at the program meeting on April 24, held in the Henry Morrison Flagler Museum, "Whitehall." Mr. Sutton's topic was "Guarding the American Heritage," and he described the historic importance of our national parks, illustrating his talk with large color slides. This was the last program meeting of the Society for the season.

A historical marker was unveiled by the Society on January 22, 1964, commemorating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea. The Society announces that it has received as a gift microfilmed copies of the *Post-Times* for the years 1933-1956, and a viewing machine. The original issues of the newspaper are also being donated to the Society. These are being placed in a special area of the Flagler Museum to be known as the John H. Perry Publications Room.

St. Johns County Historical Commission: A marker was dedicated in February by the Commission, in cooperation with the St. Augustine Historical Society, at Lighthouse Park on Anastasia Island near the site of the Old Spanish Watchtower. A wooden lookout was first built here in 1586, which enabled Spanish sentries to warn of approaching English raiders. Later, a stone tower was built which was converted into a lighthouse in 1823. The original tower was lost to the sea due to storms and erosion and was replaced in 1874, by the lighthouse which is still standing.

St. Augustine Historical Society: A business meeting of the Society was held Tuesday, April 14, 1964, at the Art Association Building. A Minorcan supper was served. Frank Upchurch, Sr. is president of the society; W. W. Wilson is vice-president and chairman of the board; Odyss Barnes is treasurer; W. J. Winter, secretary; and Luis Arana is historian. The Reverend Michael V. Gannon, director of the Mission of Nombre de Dios Library, was recently elected to the Society's board of directors.

College News

Central Florida Junior College: At the annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society in Miami, Ernest H. Jernigan, chairman of the department of history, presented a paper entitled "LeRoy Collins: Southern Moderate." Martin La Godna and Ira Holmes of the history department faculty are taking leaves of absence to continue their graduate work at the University of Florida.

Daytona Beach Junior College: Merlin G. Cox presented a paper entitled "David Sholtz: New Deal Governor of Florida" at the May meeting of the Florida Historical Society.

Florida A. and M. University: James N. Eaton, assistant professor of history, has received a grant from the Danforth Foundation to continue his graduate studies at Duke University. Leedell Wallace Neyland, professor of history and co-author of the recently published *History of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University*, was given a grant-in-aid from the American Association for State and Local History to do a study of the economic, social, and political history of Negro life in Florida from 1845 to the present.

Florida State University: Maurice Vance, a former director of the Florida Historical Society, was elected president of the Florida College History Teachers Conference at its organizational meeting in Gainesville on March 7. Wayne Flint, a Florida State University graduate student, has received a Woodrow Wilson grant to write a critical study of the political life and philosophy of former United States Senator Duncan U. Fletcher. The Strozier Library announces receipt of a gift of the personal and business correspondence of Confederate Army Captain Hugh Black and Tallahassee merchant Julius Diamond.

Jacksonville University: Robert H. Spiro, Jr., is the new president of Jacksonville University, replacing Dr. Franklyn A. Johnson who resigned last year to accept the presidency of Los Angeles State College. Dr. Spiro is a native of North Carolina. He studied at Wheaton (Illinois) College and the University of North Carolina before receiving his doctorate in history from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. He was dean of the College of Liberal Arts and professor of history at Mercer University before coming to

Jacksonville. Dr. Spiro has written a critical biography of John Loudon McAdam and a number of articles which have appeared in the *Journal of Transportation History*, the *New York Historical Quarterly*, and *Encyclopedia Americana*. He is a member of the North Carolina Charter Tercentenary Commission.

University of Florida: Dr. Rembert W. Patrick spoke on "The Deep South, Past and Present" at the Conference on the Social Sciences and the Development of the Deep South held at the University of Alabama in April. Arthur W. Thompson, professor of history, was chairman of the session. Dr. Samuel Proctor, editor of the *Quarterly*, attended the sixty-second annual meeting of the American Jewish Historical Society in Charleston in March. There were a number of Florida items in the exhibition of "American Jewish Art and History in the South, 1697-1900," held in conjunction with this meeting.

The Citadel Press has recently published *The Social and Political Ideas of the Muckrakers* by David Chalmers, associate professor of social sciences. At the annual meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association in Cleveland in late April, Professor Chalmers was a member of a session discussing "The Progressive Mind." Also in attendance at the meeting of the Association were Herbert J. Doherty, Jr., former editor of the *Quarterly* and chairman of the department of social sciences, John V. Mering, Selden Henry, George Osborn, and John K. Mahon. In attendance at the Florida Historical Society meeting in Miami in May were Herbert J. Doherty, Jr., Samuel Proctor, John K. Mahon, E. Ashby Hammond, and Miss Elizabeth Alexander, director of the P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History. Professor Hammond also attended the annual meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine in Washington in May.

University of Miami: Charlton W. Tebeau, head of the history department, presided at the Conference of the Southeastern American Studies Association at the University of Alabama, April 23-25, 1964. Dr. Tebeau is president of the Association. At the Florida Historical Society meeting in May, he read a paper on "Vanishing Historical Landmarks of Southwest Florida." Dr. Tebeau's book, *They Lived in the Park*, recently published by the University of Miami Press and the Everglades National History Association, is another in the Copeland Studies in Florida History.

University of South Florida: Robert L. Gold, professor of history, was chairman of one of the sessions of the Florida Historical Society annual meeting. Charles W. Arnade, a former director of the Florida Historical Society, is teaching history at the University of Rhode Island this summer. He spoke recently to the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society. Miss Margaret Chapman, executive secretary of the Society, was elected president of the Florida Libraries Association at its annual meeting in West Palm Beach in April. Ovil Futch attended the Mississippi Valley Historical Association meeting in April.

Fort Caroline

The reproduction of Fort Caroline on the bank of the St. Johns River adjacent to the Fort Caroline Memorial Building was opened to the public by the National Park Service on April 15. A formal dedication was held on June 28, in conjunction with the observance of the 400th anniversary of the founding of the fort. The cost of reconstructing the fort was more than a hundred thousand dollars. It is not an exact replica, according to John R. DeWeese, superintendent of the Memorial, since there are no complete records of the specifications of the original fortification. It was rebuilt, however, after painstaking study and interpretation of available information, including a drawing by Jacques LeMoynes, and documents left by early chroniclers. The nine-foot high wooden wall facing the river is constructed of native pine planking; the other two sides facing land are built up of mounded dirt, topped by a parapet. They are protected by a moat filled with water from the river and controlled by a series of valves. A building will be constructed inside the fort to house artifacts and interpretative devices.

Indian War Monument Dedication

A monument was dedicated on April 4, in Wildwood Park, Fort Meade, marking the site where five Florida volunteers are buried who were killed in a fight with a group of Indians in June, 1856. W. H. Bevis was general chairman and Doyle E. Carlton, Sr., served as master of ceremonies and unveiled the monument.

Florida College History Teachers Conference

The organizational meeting of the College History Teachers Conference was held at the University of Florida on March 7. More than a hundred representatives from Florida's state and private universities, colleges, and junior colleges attended. The program and arrangements chairman was Dr. Rembert W. Patrick of the University of Florida. The Florida Historical Society members on the program included Herbert J. Doherty, University of Florida; Merlin G. Cox, Daytona Beach Junior College; Ernest Jernigan, Central Florida Junior College; Arthur W. Thompson, University of Florida; and Maurice Vance, Florida State University. Dr. Vance was elected president of the Association.

Mississippi Valley Historical Association

The members of this organization have long been cognizant of the fact that laymen do not recognize it as a national organization of American historians, due to the apparent regional connotations of its name. To remedy this situation, the half-century old Association at its annual meeting in Cleveland, April 30-May 2, 1964, decided to change the name of its journal from the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* to the *Journal of American History*. The change will be effective with the first number of volume fifty-one. Members will be asked to approve by mail ballot a change in the name of the Association to "Organization of American Historians."

Personal

Mrs. Anita Otto Geiger, Assistant Special Collections Librarian at the University of South Florida, was appointed Assistant Executive Secretary of the Florida Historical Society by the Board of Directors at its annual meeting in Miami in May. Mrs. Geiger, a native of Pensacola, is a graduate of the University of Florida and has a library degree from Florida State University. She has been a member of the University of South Florida Library staff since July, 1963.