

# Florida Historical Quarterly

---

Volume 43  
Number 4 *Florida Historical Quarterly*, Vol 43,  
Number 4

Article 12

---

1964

## Historical News

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](mailto:STARS@ucf.edu).

---

### Recommended Citation

Society, Florida Historical (1964) "Historical News," *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Vol. 43: No. 4, Article 12.  
Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq/vol43/iss4/12>

## HISTORICAL NEWS

### *The Annual Meeting*

The 1965 annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society will be held at the Ponce de Leon Hotel in St. Augustine on April 23 and 24. The Board of Directors will meet on the evening of April 22. The program is being arranged by Albert Manucy, chairman, Margaret Chapman, Samuel Proctor, and Luis Arana. Several interesting papers will be read, and the highlight of the meeting will be a tour of the projects of the State Commission for the Preservation and Restoration of St. Augustine.

### *Florida Conference of College Teachers of History*

The third annual meeting of the Florida Conference of College Teachers of History was held at the University of South Florida on March 5 and 6, 1965. A reception at the University Center and an executive session opened the conference on Friday evening. Rembert W. Patrick of the University of Florida was keynote speaker on Saturday morning, and used the conference theme, "The History Profession: Past, Present, and Future," as the title for his talk. Dr. William Wilbur, Florida Presbyterian College, was chairman of the morning session, and Burr Brundage of Florida Presbyterian College; Glenn Hall, St. Johns River Junior College; and Mary Cathryne Park, Brevard Junior College, read papers.

The theme for the afternoon session was "The Meaning of the Other Social Sciences to History," and the chairman was Henry Winthrop, University of South Florida. Speakers included Kenneth H. Beeson, Jr., St. Johns River Junior College; Merlin G. Cox, Daytona Beach Junior College; Robert A. Goldstein, University of South Florida; and William Koelsch, Florida Presbyterian College. Professor Maurice H. Vance, Florida State University, past president of the Florida Conference, presided at the luncheon meeting. The program committee included Robert L. Gold, University of South Florida, chairman, Burr C.

Brundage, Florida Presbyterian College, and Merlin G. Cox, Daytona Beach Junior College.

Robert L. Gold was elected president for 1965-66. Rembert W. Patrick is vice-president, and Ernest H. Jernigan, Central Florida Junior College, is secretary. The conference will meet next spring in Daytona Beach.

*St. Augustine Quadricentennial*

The official quadricentennial year will begin in September, 1965. Many events have already taken place and other activities are planned for the summer to commemorate four hundred years of settlement in Florida. These events range from festivals to religious ceremonies, and many have a Spanish flavor. Since January there have been antique shows, art exhibits, and Hispanic costume showings. The Fiesta de Menendez, honoring the birthday of Don Pedro Menendez de Aviles, and the Fiesta of Four Flags, commemorating the powers which have governed St. Augustine, were held in February. On March 17, the Newcomer Society's dinner meeting honored the Quadricentennial Commission and the St. Augustine Restoration Commission. Ponce de Leon's discovery of Florida was noted in April with special ceremonies.

A highlight of the Quadricentennial is the symphonic drama "Cross and Sword" which will be staged in an amphitheater constructed on the site of the old Royal Spanish quarries. The author, Paul Green, uses the first two years of the settlement of St. Augustine as the basis for the drama.

An extensive restoration program has been underway in St. Augustine for several years. It is carried on principally by the state through the St. Augustine Restoration and Preservation Commission whose executive director is Earle W. Newton. The first phase of the restoration work is in the historic St. George Street area where the "Calle Real" is resuming the identity of a Spanish street. Additional work is also being carried on in the vicinity of the City Gate area southward, Aviles Street, St. Francis Street, and in the Plaza area.

The U. S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, is also actively involved in the restoration program. An important segment of this work is the reconstruction of the Cubo Line, a

Spanish-period log defense which joined the Castillo de San Marcos and the City Gate and continued on to the San Sebastian River. Only the section connecting the fort and the City Gate is being reconstructed. Plans for the development of the City Gate include, in part, a display of the section of the log wall that tied the City Gate with the fort, reconstruction of the folding gate which hung between the stone pillars, and reconstruction of the firing steps behind the stone parapet. The National Park Service has also installed a new museum exhibit at the Castillo to commemorate the Quadricentennial.

A number of local and state organizations, including the Florida Historical Society, have met or are planning to meet in St. Augustine during the Quadricentennial period.

#### *Mission of Nombre de Dios*

The Mission de Nombre de Dios will celebrate the 400th anniversary of its founding on September 8, 1965. On that date the Catholic Diocese of St. Augustine will inaugurate a year of Quadricentennial observances. This will include the dedication of a 200-foot illuminated cross to be erected at the mission, a votive church, and a library and research center. In October 1965, a eucharistic congress will be assembled on the mission grounds, and, on December 8, 1965, the restored cathedral of St. Augustine will be dedicated. Father Michael V. Gannon, director of the mission, announces that a symposium of scholars of Spanish Florida history will be held in conjunction with the dedication of the mission library.

#### *Local and Area Societies and Commissions*

*Historical Association of Southern Florida:* The Association held its eighty-ninth program meeting at the Coral Gables High School auditorium on Thursday evening, January 14, 1965. Robert M. Yutley, chief historian for the National Park Service, Washington, D. C., gave a talk entitled "That the Past Shall Live" which he illustrated with color slides. Mr. Yutley, who was introduced by Superintendent Stanley C. Joseph of the Everglades National Park, described the national historical conservation program that is underway and emphasized the role played by the National Park Service. "Early Miami and Miami Beach"

was the title of the film and slide illustrated talk given by Ralph Renick, vice president for news - WTVJ, at the association's meeting on March 31, 1965.

The Historical Association's museum has maintained an extremely active program throughout the winter season. On November 22, 1964, Admiral I. J. Stephens, Seventh District Commander of the U. S. Coast Guard, dedicated the United States Coast Guard Room at the museum. Highlighting these ceremonies was the showing of the 107 year old, 3,500 pound lens from Carysfort Reef Light. The Association's school program has also been very successful this year. Hundreds of elementary and high school students from Dade County and the surrounding area have visited the museum and have listened to the travelling slide lecture, "Pioneering in South Florida," which has been brought into their schools.

*Hillsborough County Historical Commission:* On Saturday, March 27, the Hillsborough County Historical Commission dedicated a marker at the site of Fort Alafia, the Indian war stockade constructed in 1849. This is the eighth historical marker erected by the Commission in the Tampa Bay area. Theodore Lesley, commission member and chairman of the historical sites committee, arranged the program, assisted by the leaders and scouts from Troop No. 25 (Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd). The scouts earned their historic trails award as a result of this project. Miss Margaret Chapman, executive secretary of the Florida Historical Society, represented the society at the ceremonies.

*Jacksonville Historical Society:* Phillip S. May, Jr., has been elected president of the Jacksonville Historical Society, replacing Dr. Benjamin F. Rogers, member of the *Quarterly's* editorial board and dean of humanities at Florida Atlantic University. At the fall meeting of the Society, Herschel E. Shepard, Jr., Jacksonville architect, gave an interesting talk on "Architectural Problems in Restoration, Specifically at Ft. Clinch." WFGA-TV, Channel 12, Jacksonville, also invited the members of the Society to a special documentary on Ft. Clinch entitled "And Then There Were None." This film dramatized the role played by Ft. Clinch, Fernandina, and Amelia Island at the time of the Federal invasion in 1862.

*Manatee County Historical Society:* Miss Margaret Chapman of the Florida Historical Society spoke to the Manatee County Historical Society in January. Her topic was "History and Resources of the Florida Historical Society." At the meeting of February 18, Mrs. Genevieve Hammer gave the history of the Gamble Mansion at Ellenton. Mrs. Elizabeth Parvin read a paper on the early history of the Manatee County school system at the March 25 meeting. J. L. Harrison, Jr., chairman of historical memorials, has compiled a list of twenty-five sites in the county that need marking. A marker will be placed shortly at Manatee Spring.

*Marion County Historical Commission:* Among the many activities of the Marion County Historical Commission is the publication of a twice-yearly *Bulletin*, edited by Mrs. Roy V. Ott of Oklawaha. In its latest issue, it reports on the fall (1964) meeting of the Commission, at which time Ernest H. Jernigan, former chairman of the Commission, reviewed his recently published reference on Florida. At this meeting, Mrs. Ned Folks presented a short history of Dunnellon and Mrs. W. Elbert DeVore gave a brief talk. John P. Chazal, Sr., outlined the plan of his extensive genealogical research. J. Ed Blocker of Ocala is chairman of the Commission.

*Martin County Historical Society:* John D. Pennekamp, associate editor of the *Miami Herald*, spoke at the Society's meeting on January 9, 1965, held in the Elliott Museum. Speaking informally, Mr. Pennekamp emphasized the need for firm state action to end beach erosion in Florida and to conserve historical and recreational places. He urged the Society "to move heaven and earth" to secure state acquisition of the area south of St. Lucie Inlet as a seashore park.

The Society continues its variety of busy and interesting activities. Throughout December 1964, former director Stephen Schmidt and his wife displayed a series of "retablos," religious paintings on tin, from their own collection. In January, interpretative drawings by Jim Hutchinson of "A Fishing Community" were exhibited at the Elliott Museum. The Evinrude Collection of paintings were displayed during February. There has been extensive renovating, painting, and re-decorating of the House of Refuge Museum. John L. Stoutenburgh is the newly appointed director of the Martin County Historical Society and its two museums.

*Pensacola Civil War Round Table:* At the January meeting of the Round Table, Alan J. Rick read excerpts from the diary of Lieutenant Wesley Rice, Fifteenth Confederate Cavalry, which refers to military action around Pensacola and Milton. It was announced that a reproduction of the original 1859 Pensacola harbor chart has been completed and copies are available for sale.

W. D. Skinner described the Reconstruction Era in Florida at the February meeting, and Civil War centennial films were shown at the March 26 meeting of the Round Table. Plans were also discussed for a three-day field trip to Vicksburg, Mississippi. A special meeting of the Round Table is scheduled for May 1965, to hear Dr. T. Harry Williams of Louisiana State University, who will be lecturing at the Pensacola Junior College.

*St. Augustine Historical Society:* Tom Rahner, general manager of the St. Augustine Quadricentennial Amphitheater and the symphonic drama, "Cross and Sword," spoke at the October 1964 meeting of the St. Augustine Historical Society. Mr. Rahner exhibited some of the props that had been made for the drama and read a resume of the play that was written by Paul Green. The Society held its annual membership meeting on January 12, 1965, and the Reverend Father Michael V. Gannon, director of the Mission of Nombre de Dios, discussed his recently published book, *Rebel Bishop: The Life and Era of Augustin Verot*.

The tenth anniversary issue of *El Escribano*, official publication of the St. Augustine Historical Society, was issued in January 1965. *El Escribano* began as a monthly newsletter, edited by John W. Griffin; it now circulates as a quarterly publication. J. Carver Harris is editor, and Doris Wiles is in charge of memorabilia.

The St. Augustine Historical Society, the St. Johns Historical Commission, the Florida Board of Parks and Historical Memorials, and the Florida Military Department cooperated recently in placing a plaque commemorating the historical significance of the state arsenal building in St. Augustine. State Adjutant General Henry W. McMillan and J. Carver Harris, representing the St. Augustine Historical Society, unveiled the plaque, which was placed on the north wall of the arsenal. The arsenal is one of several buildings comprising the St. Francis Barracks which is on the site that was occupied by a Spanish Franciscan monastery and convent as early as 1588. The church properties

were converted to a military barracks in 1763, by the English when it was discovered that the best well water in St. Augustine was located there. It was utilized by the American government as a military post from 1832 to 1900, and, since 1907, it has been used by Florida for a variety of military purposes. Today it is the headquarters for the State Military Department.

*St. Lucie County Historical Society:* A major project of the St. Lucie County Historical Society and the St. Lucie County Historical Commission has been the establishment of a museum portraying the history of the Jupiter area. In January 1965, the Fort Pierce Chamber of Commerce Resources Development Committee secured city commission approval to set up a temporary exhibit in the lobby of the city utility building. Examples of Spanish treasure that have been recovered off the Florida East Coast made up the nucleus of this exhibit. It is expected that a permanent museum will be created. Serving on the cultural advisory committee sponsoring the exhibit is Walter Hellier, representing the St. Lucie County Historical Commission, and Dewey Crawford of the St. Lucie County Historical Society.

#### *Theodore Pratt Collection*

Florida Atlantic University announces the acquisition of the valuable Theodore Pratt Collection which includes original manuscripts, books, research notes, framed jacket paintings, and various literary memorabilia which covers more than forty years of Mr. Pratt's life as an important novelist, playwright, and screen writer. Mr. Pratt, a member of the editorial board of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, has lived in Florida many years and several of his novels are set in Florida. For the last twelve years he has lived in Delray Beach. The Pratt Collection will be housed in a special seminar room at Florida Atlantic to be called the "Theodore Pratt Room."

#### *Letters and Papers of Jefferson Davis*

An important new series for scholars in the field of American history will be the papers of Jefferson Davis, an estimated fifteen volumes, to be published 'by the Louisiana State University Press. Publication is under the sponsorship of the Jefferson Davis Asso-



ciation, whose headquarters are in Houston, Texas, and the editing will be partially supported by the National Historical Publication Commission. Florida has made a contribution to the publication fund. Dr. Haskell Monroe of Texas A. & M. University is editor of the series, and Rembert W. Patrick, former editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly* is a member of the board of advisory editors.

In addition to the speeches, official papers, and public and private correspondence of Davis, the series will contain pertinent correspondence to Davis, as well as any letters to and from Mrs. Davis, who often handled correspondence for her husband, sometimes signing his name. Florida libraries and individuals who have pertinent letters and documents are asked to write to Professor Monroe, Department of History, Texas A. & M. University, College Station, Texas.

#### *Florida Historical Quarterly*

According to a survey made recently by Margaret Chapman, executive secretary of the Florida Historical Society, the *Florida Historical Quarterly* is at an all-time high. It now goes to subscribers (individuals and libraries) in forty-two states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and nineteen foreign countries: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, England, West Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, India, Iran, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Spain, U.S.S.R., Venezuela, and Wales.

---

#### FATHER JEROME

The Florida Historical Society and the Dade City Confederate Round Table honored Father Jerome Wisniewski, OSB, of St. Leo Abbey, at a surprise birthday party on Friday evening, March 19, 1965. Father Jerome, who has been recognized for years as one of the authorities on Spanish Florida colonial history, was celebrating his eightieth birthday. William M. Goza of Clearwater, vice president of the Society, and Margaret Chapman, presented Father Jerome with a framed certificate making him a lifetime honorary member of the Society.

SPECIAL NUMBER

In honor of the St. Augustine Quadricentennial, the *Florida Historical Quarterly* will publish a special double-number (Volume XLIV, Nos. 1 and 2) early in September 1965. Prominent Florida and American history specialists have written articles for this quadricentennial issue, and photographs of St. Augustine houses and buildings from the collections of the Historic American Buildings Survey will be part of the special picture section.