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Historical News

Florida Historical Society
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HISTORICAL NEWS

The Annual Meeting

The 1966 annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society will be held in Clearwater at the Lagoon Motel on May 6 and 7. The Board of Directors will meet on the evening of May 5. The chairman of the program committee is Dr. James W. Covington of the University of Tampa. Several papers will be read. William Goza and Milton D. Jones of Clearwater are in charge of arrangements.

Tampa Bay Hotel Diamond Jubilee

The seventy-fifth anniversary of the Tampa Bay Hotel (now the University of Tampa) was noted in ceremonies held in Tampa on January 22, 1966. Florida veterans of the Spanish-American War were guests of honor at the rededication of the Spanish-American War cannon. State Representative Sam Gibbons spoke on this occasion. The hotel building was renamed Henry Bradley Plant Hall in honor of its founder. Mrs. A. Sidney Roberts of Palm Beach, Plant's great-granddaughter, was present as guest of honor. On January 31, the Rough Riders Room was dedicated in honor of Colonel Theodore Roosevelt who stopped at the hotel in 1898 while en route to the fighting in Cuba. Morris White, prominent Tampa attorney and a member of the Board of Directors of the Florida Historical Society, received an honorary degree from Tampa University on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee.

National Library Week

Warren H. Pierce of the *St. Petersburg Times* was state chairman of National Library Week celebrated April 17-23. In Florida, the occasion was used to focus attention on the needs of Florida's libraries. The Florida Library Association's president is Miss Margaret Chapman, executive secretary and librarian of the Florida Historical Society. The Florida Library Association's goals include local library service available to every resident within fifteen minutes of his residence, a large library source in an hour's

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drive, and a resource center within a day's round trip from his home.

According to Florida Library Association statistics, only seven of Florida's 138 libraries have a book collection of over 1,000. One out of every five citizens has no public library service. Statewide, libraries have less than one book per capita while minimum standards set by the American Library Association call for at least two. Personnel, both professional librarians and clerical staff, are inadequate; only forty-three libraries in Florida have sufficient staff to meet minimum standards. At least 2,000 trained librarians are needed in Florida today to provide adequate service.

Honorary chairman of this year's National Library Week was James W. Walter, board chairman of the Jim Walter Corporation of Tampa. Miss Julia L. Schwartz of the University of South Florida Library was executive director of the educational campaign in Florida.

Local and Area Societies and Commissions

Bradford County Historical Society: A group of interested Bradford County citizens met in February 1966 to organize the Bradford County Historical Society. County Judge T. A. Yawn was named chairman, and he is being assisted by Eugene Matthews, Mrs. Fremont Tolles, and Connie Clark. The membership hopes to encourage the study and preservation of the rich history associated with its area of Florida.

Clay County Historical Society: Recently organized, the Clay County Historical Society held a meeting on February 17 at the Women's Club in Green Cove Springs. Residents of Green Cove Springs, Orange Park, and Doctors Inlet organized the society in January. Mrs. Virginia Denton was named temporary chairman. Mrs. Joe Hayes, Green Cove Springs Junior High School art instructor, presented a program using photographic slides of the area at the meeting.

Florida Anthropological Society: The Florida Anthropological Society held its annual one-day meeting on February 19 on the Clearwater campus of the St. Petersburg Junior College. Among

those giving papers at this conference were James Covington, University of Tampa; L. Ross Morrell, state archaeologist; David White, R. Smith, P. Stacy, D. Phelps, Florida State University; William Verity, Fort Lauderdale; Carl J. Clausen, state underwater archaeologist; Ripley P. Bullen, Florida State Museum; D. Bartels, Fernandina; Charles H. Fairbanks, University of Florida; Charlton W. Tebeau, University of Miami; C. Hoffman, Florida Atlantic University; and Charles W. Arnade, University of South Florida.

Dr. Arnade is president of the Florida Anthropological Society. Dr. William H. Sears, Florida Atlantic University, was chairman of the nominating committee.

Jacksonville Historical Society: The society held two important meetings during February 1966. On February 9, Dr. Charles H. Fairbanks, head of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Florida, discussed "Spanish Gold from Florida Waters" at the regular program meeting. Dr. Fairbanks, editor of the *Florida Anthropologist* and assistant editor of *American Antiquity*, has been serving as advisor to the Jacksonville Historical Society's archaeological program. Dr. Fairbanks used color slides to illustrate the treasure that is being salvaged off Fort Pierce. The second program, February 16, was a special showing of early films of Jacksonville and Duval County in the screening room of the Florida Theatre Building.

Martin County Historical Society: Both the Elliott Museum and the House of Refuge Museum continue active and varied programs. In addition to many visitors, the museums, operated by the Martin County Historical Society, have received a number of church, school, and Scout groups so far this year. On December 31, 1965, the society was host to the participants of the Florida Science Study Program. Fifteen science teachers and 120 honor students, representing seventy schools in seven states, were present.

Palm Beach County Historical Society: Ralph Renick described early Miami and Miami Beach at the December meeting of the society. At the January meeting, Dr. Richard D. Mudd of Saginaw, Michigan, grandson of Dr. Samuel D. Mudd, was the

speaker. He discussed the subject "Dr. Mudd-Conspirator or Good Samaritan?" At the program meeting on March 24, 1966, Colonel Harry E. Cannon, U. S. Air Force (Ret.), of Melbourne, spoke on "Spanish Gold From Florida Waters."

The Board of Governors of the Palm Beach County Historical Society and Mrs. Marjorie Merriweather Post honored the directors of the Florida Historical Society at a reception at Mar-a-Lago, Mrs. Post's Palm Beach home, on Saturday, February 12. The officers and directors of the society were in Palm Beach for their regular winter business meeting. They met at "Whitehall," the Henry Morrison Flagler Museum.

Peace River Valley Historical Society: Among the speakers at recent meetings of the Peace River Valley Historical Society have been the Honorable J. Hardin Peterson of Lakeland, former United States Congressman, and Vernon E. Peeples of Punta Gorda. Mr. Peeples, vice-president of the society, spoke at the January meeting held in Arcadia. Colonel Read D. Harding, secretary of the society, reports a membership of eighty-four.

The Peace River Valley Historical Society and the Polk County Historical Commission sponsored the dedication of a memorial to the late Billy Bowlegs III in the Glades County Ortona Cemetery on February 19, 1966.

Pinellas County Historical Commission: At the November 1965 meeting of the Pinellas County Historical Commission, E. Reinhold Rogers, Jr. announced that two historical places in the county have been marked: the Gandy Bridge and the site of the William Miranda House. At the January meeting, Walter Fuller, member of the Board of Directors of the Florida Historical Society, described the marker dedication at the place where Father Luis Cancer was martyred in the sixteenth century. It was noted that the Boca Ciega Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution had dedicated a marker at the Calusa Indian Mound at Pinellas Drive South near 19th Street.

The commission is supporting a move to preserve the old courthouse building and develop it as the historical museum. Harvey L. Wells reports that the study that he is making of the 1830 census of Florida is progressing satisfactorily.

St. Augustine Historical Society: Albert Manucy, former president of the Florida Historical Society, discussed his recently published biography, *Florida's Menendez: Captain General of the Ocean Sea*, at the annual meeting of the St. Augustine Historical Society on January 11, 1966. At the business meeting preceding the program, W. W. Wilson was elected president; A. J. McJhin, Jr., vice-president; W. J. Winter, secretary; Roy Barnes, treasurer; and J. Tyler Van Campen, librarian. Milton E. Bacon, W. I. Drysdale, and Frank D. Upchurch, Sr. were elected directors.

Mr. Manucy and X. L. Pellicer, former president of the St. Augustine Historical Society, recently received George Morgan Ward Medals from Rollins College in recognition of their outstanding contributions to Florida, particularly in the writing of Florida history and the preservation of historical sites.

College News

Central Florida Junior College: The Florida History Club, organized by Dr. Ernest H. Jernigan of the Central Florida Junior College, is continuing its active program. On February 18, Mrs. Elaine Steinberg of the geography department, spoke on the "Geography of Florida." At the March meeting, Lowell Wikoff gave a paper entitled "Demographic Aspects of Florida," and Edward Simonds discussed "John Jackson Dickison - Symbol of the Confederacy in Florida" at the April meeting. Officers include George Green, president; Nanci Hord, vice-president; Jessica Haymaker, secretary; and Ann Denson, treasurer. Florida Supreme Court Justice Richard E. Irvin, Ross Allen, Ben Waller, and Dr. Jernigan have spoken to the Florida History Club in the past few months.

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University: James N. Eaton is returning to the history faculty of the university after a two-year leave of absence. He has been studying at Duke University under a Danforth Teacher Study Grant. Joseph A. Jones, associate professor of history, will serve as assistant director for the Summer Institute in American History at Miles College, Birmingham, Alabama. Dr. Leedell W. Neyland, professor of history, is working on a history of the Negro in Florida.

Florida Atlantic University: The University of Florida Press has recently published *Independence or Death: The Story of the Paraguayan War* by Charles J. Kolinski, associate professor of history. Robert Schwarz, chairman of the Department of Philosophy and professor of history, has contributed several chapters to the recently published *Problems in Western Civilization: The Challenge of History*. Professor Schwarz participated also in the seventh annual Social Studies Workshop at South Carolina State College in March and will be discussion-coordinator at an NDEA Institute at Georgetown University this summer. Dr. Samuel A. Portnoy, chairman of the Department of History, is advisor to the recently organized History Society on campus. He was also lecturer and coordinator of a lecture-discussion series at Temple Israel, West Palm Beach, on the subject of "Jewish Life in the United States." Dean Benjamin F. Rogers of the College of Humanities and a former member of the Board of Directors of the Florida Historical Society and Dr. Portnoy participated recently in a one-day conference on world peace sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee in West Palm Beach.

Florida Atlantic University sponsored a Model United Nations on April 8-10. William Marina, assistant professor of history, was coordinator, and representatives from colleges and universities throughout the South were present.

Jacksonville University: Dr. Frederick Aldridge, a graduate of American University, has joined the history faculty and is teaching courses in United States history and American foreign policy. Dr. Aldridge formerly held the rank of marine colonel and served as a member of the United States delegation to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Dr. Lawrence Breeze, professor of history, was recently named Professor of the Year and was honored at a university convocation.

Miami-Dade Junior College: The college's new class in Florida history is being taught jointly by Professor Leon Prior and Mrs. Marjory Stoneman Douglas. Dr. Thelma Peters, member of the Board of Directors of the Florida Historical Society and chairman of Miami-Dade Junior College's Department of Social Sciences, reports a sizeable enrollment in the course.

Stetson University: Dr. Serge Zenkovsky of the history department is at Heidelberg, Germany this year on a Guggenheim grant and is completing his book *The Old Believers*. Dr. Evans C. Johnson is developing a history institute, focusing on a series of problems in United States history, to be presented at the university this summer. Dr. Malcom W. Wynn is studying the Huguenot movement in seventeenth-century France. Dr. Harold Schultz will take a group of students from Stetson and other Associated Mid-Florida Colleges to Europe this summer. William R. Carden, who is receiving his doctorate from Emory University, and Dr. Gary L. Maris, a graduate of Duke University, are new members of the history and political science faculty at Stetson.

University of Miami: Dr. Nathan D. Shappee, a member of the Department of History since 1945, died on February 14. Dr. Shappee's articles on Florida history have appeared in the *Florida Historical Quarterly* and in *Tequesta*.

Dr. Robert E. McNicoll, a graduate of the University of Miami, has joined the history faculty. He will also be associated with the Center for Advanced International Studies. Dr. John A. Harrison, former chairman of the Department of History of the University of Florida, was named dean of the Graduate School of the University of Miami in February.

University of Tampa: The University of Tampa celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of the Tampa Bay Hotel Building in January 1966, and President David Delo renamed the building the Henry Bradley Plant Hall. Dr. J. Ryan Beiser participated in the NDEA History Institute at Chadron State College, Chadron, Nebraska. Dr. James Covington, also of the history department, is program chairman for the 1966 annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society.

Florida Conference of College Teachers of History

The fourth annual meeting of the Florida Conference of College Teachers of History was held at the Daytona Beach Junior College on March 4 and 5, 1966. A reception at the Holiday Inn and an executive session opened the conference on Friday

evening. The theme of the Saturday morning session was "The Historian and Community Service," and the Honorable Fred Karl spoke. Professors Duane Koenig of the University of Miami, Miles Malone of the Daytona Beach Junior College, and Robert Schwarz of Florida Atlantic University participated in the panel. The luncheon speaker was Dr. Dumas Malone of the University of Virginia who talked on "Jefferson and Education." The theme for the afternoon session was "Articulation," and the chairman was Dr. Ernest Jernigan of the Central Florida Junior College. The panel included Professors Thelma Peters of Miami-Dade Junior College, Kathleen Montpelier of Mainland Senior High School, Gilbert Lycan of Stetson University, and John Mahon of the University of Florida.

Dr. Robert L. Gold, president of the Florida Conference presided at the luncheon meeting. The program committee included Rembert W. Patrick, Merlin G. Cox, and Ernest Jernigan. Merlin Cox, Henry B. Watson, and W. Lawrence Reynolds were in charge of local arrangements.

San Marcos Museum

The Florida Park Board, the Florida State Society, and Dominic Everardus Bogardus Chapter of the Colonial Dames of the Seventeenth Century dedicated the San Apalache State Museum at St. Marks on January 11. Mrs. Aubry Morse of Tallahassee was in charge of arrangements. N. Earl Jones of Titusville, chairman of the Park Board, presided, and State Supreme Court Justice B. K. Roberts was the main speaker.

The fort, built by the Spaniards at the junction of the St. Marks and Wakulla rivers, played a key role as European powers struggled among themselves for colonization and control of Florida. The fort was utilized until after the Civil War when it was allowed to crumble. Now, the state has constructed a road to provide easy access to the installation and the museum.

Florida Park Board Marker

An historic marker was recently rededicated by the Florida Park Board noting where Christmas was first celebrated in America. State Park Board Director Bill Miller and Secretary of State

Tom Adams were present at the ceremony on December 21, 1965. The marker is located near what was once the Indian village of Anhayea on Lake Jackson. Ney Landrum, director of the State Outdoor Recreational Planning Committee, announced that Florida is attempting to purchase the 120-acre tract covering the historic site, so that it can be utilized as a state park.

Webster Merritt Collection of Floridiana

The Jacksonville Public Library has recently acquired the Webster Merritt Collection of Florida History. The late Dr. Merritt, a well-known Jacksonville physician, was an important collector of Floridiana and a noted Florida author. His large and valuable library of rare books, pamphlets, and manuscripts have been added to the already important collection of material dealing with Jacksonville and Florida history in the Jacksonville Library. Miss Audrey Broward is the librarian in charge of the Florida collection.

Lucius S. Ruder

Lucius S. Ruder, honorary vice-president and member of the Board of Directors of the Florida Historical Society, died on December 3, 1965 at the Emory University Hospital in Atlanta. A native of Hamilton, Ohio, where his family was associated with the steel and banking businesses, Mr. Ruder came to Florida in the early 1930s. He served for many years on the Morton F. Plant Hospital Board of Directors, and at the time of his death was secretary-treasurer of the Cincinnati Sheet Metal Company. His hobby of growing rare orchids resulted in his becoming one of the largest commercial suppliers of orchids to florists in Florida.

Quiet, retiring, never seeking the glare of public attention, Mr. Ruder was a major figure in the development of the Tampa Bay area. He had extensive real estate holdings in Tampa and Clearwater. A true intellectual, Mr. Ruder had a particular interest in American and Florida history. His collection of early American papers and documents is extremely valuable. His holdings in Florida history, particularly the nineteenth century period,

are especially important. Mr. Ruder was an ardent enthusiast and supporter of local history. Interested in seeing that important Floridiana was published so that it would be available to the scholar and researcher, Mr. Ruder was a generous contributor to the Julien Yonge Research Fund.

Colonel William Morrison Robinson, Jr.

On September 24, 1965, Colonel William Morrison Robinson, Jr., historian, engineer, and retired Army officer, died at his home in Quincy, Florida. Colonel Robinson was a graduate of the Georgia School of Technology, with degrees in science and civil engineering. He had received the honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities from the Florida State University. Colonel Robinson was regarded as an authority in Confederate history. Two of his books, *The Confederate Privateers* and *Justice in Gray, a History of the Judicial System of the Confederate States*, are considered primary sources in historical writing. His most recent publication was *The First Coming to America of the Book of Common Prayer, Florida, July 1565*, the first part of a contemplated history of the Episcopal church in Florida. Since 1961, Colonel Robinson had served as registrar-historiographer of the Diocese of Florida. He was a member of the Florida Historical Society and often contributed to the pages of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*.

Arthur W. Thompson Memorial Prize

Mrs. Arthur W. Thompson and Miss Margaret Thompson of Gainesville and Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Siegel of New York have established the Arthur W. Thompson Memorial Prize in Florida History as a memorial to the late Professor Thompson, distinguished American historian and writer and Director of the American Studies Program at the University of Florida. Dr. Thompson, a nationally known authority on American intellectual history, had done considerable research and writing on Southern and Florida history. His articles appeared in the *Journal of Southern History* and the *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Dr. Thompson was editor of the University of Florida's Social Science Monograph Series, and he edited and wrote an introduction for the Quadri-

centennial Edition of *The Exiles of Florida* in the University of Florida Press's Facsimile and Reprint Series. Dr. Thompson's study of Senator David Levy Yulle has been recognized as a major contribution to American and Florida scholarship and history.

The Arthur W. Thompson Memorial Prize will be given annually to the author of the best article appearing each year in the *Florida Historical Quarterly*. The recipient of the award will receive a check for \$100. The judges will announce their selection at the annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society.

CONTRIBUTORS

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