

1966

## 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 (1966) "Historical News," *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Vol. 45 : No. 1 , Article 11.  
Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq/vol45/iss1/11>

## HISTORICAL NEWS

*Arthur W. Thompson Prize*

Michael V. Gannon, director of the Mission of Nombre de Dios in St. Augustine, is the first recipient of the Arthur W. Thompson Prize in Florida History. The presentation was made by Dr. Samuel Proctor during the annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society in Clearwater on May 6. Father Gannon received the award for his article, "Altar and Hearth: The Coming of Christianity, 1521-1565," which appeared in the special Quadracentennial number of the *Florida Historical Quarterly* issued last fall.

The award is named in honor of the late Professor Arthur W. Thompson, distinguished American historian and writer, director of the American Studies Program at the University of Florida, and editor of the University's Social Sciences Monograph Series. Dr. Thompson, a nationally known authority on American intellectual history, had done considerable research and writing on Southern and Florida history. Mrs. Arthur W. Thompson and Miss Margaret Thompson of Gainesville, Florida, and Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Siegel of New York established the endowment so that an annual presentation can be made for the award-winning article, to be chosen by a panel of judges from articles published during the previous year in the *Florida Historical Quarterly*. The prize will consist of \$100, and the award will be announced annually at the meeting of the Florida Historical Society.

Judges for this year's award were Dr. Rembert W. Patrick, formerly of the University of Florida and now Graduate Research Professor of the University of Georgia, Dr. Charlton W. Tebeau, Chairman of the Department of History at the University of Miami, and Miss Margaret Chapman, Executive Secretary of the Florida Historical Society and Special Collections Librarian at the University of South Florida Library.

### *Florida Library and Historical Commission*

An index to *Florida a Hundred Years Ago*, compiled by Dr. Samuel Proctor, editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, was

released by the Historical Commission in April. Dr. Proctor edited the monthly publication "Florida a Hundred Years Ago," which was sponsored by the Florida Civil War Centennial Commission and the Florida Library and Historical Commission.

Mrs. J. D. Bruton, Jr., of Plant City, has been reappointed to the Library and Historical Commission. Mrs. Bruton was for many years a member of the Florida Library Board.

The Commission has voted to accept an offer of space in the legislative building to be constructed in Tallahassee to house the state library. The 18,000 square feet is much less than the Commission's consultant had indicated was minimal, but the Commission hopes to continue utilizing space in the sub-basement of the Supreme Court Building. It will also request the Capitol Center Planning Committee to designate a site in the Capitol Center for the building of a state library building. The new quarters in the legislative building will be used for the extension division, interlibrary loan, circulating book collections, reference department (including the U. S. government documents and the Florida collection), technical processes, and administrative offices. Facilities in the Supreme Court Building could then be used for an enlarged archives program, a documents depository program, storage for lesser-used materials, and a place for storage and printing, mailing, and shipping operations.

#### *Florida Library Association*

The forty-third annual meeting of the Florida Library Association was held in Clearwater, April 28-30, 1966. The theme of the meeting was "The Enlightened South," and Dr. John Van G. Elmendorf, president of New College, Sarasota, utilized the topic "What Is South?" as the speech at the Thursday evening meeting. Miss Evelyn Day Mullen, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, spoke on "State and Federal Cooperation in Library Development in the South," at the first general session. Mrs. Frances Gray Patton was the banquet speaker. Miss Margaret Chapman, Executive Secretary of the Florida Historical Society, was president of the Florida Library Association and presided at the meeting. Mrs. Elizabeth B. Mann of Tampa was elected as the new president.

*National Park Service Projects*

According to a report of its activities since May 1965, the National Park Service in Florida reveals that a program of research and development under the direction of Vincent Gannon is in progress at the De Soto National Memorial in Tampa Bay near Bradenton. At the Fort Caroline National Memorial on the St. Johns River near Jacksonville, armament reconstruction is providing replicas of sixteenth century French weapons. These include four half-culverins with their carriages. A generous donation of land by Mr. and Mrs. Howard M. Johnson has significantly enlarged the historic-site holding at the Fort Matanzas National Monument at the south inlet of the Matanzas River, and an archeological survey is in progress at this area. At the Fort Jefferson National Monument, plans for stabilization of the massive brick walls of the fort are at the project stage.

In St. Augustine, the National Park Service has completed reconstruction of the town wall between the Castillo de San Marcos and the City Gate. It has also restored a lost portion of the earthwork surrounding the Castillo. Inside the Castillo are extensive new museum exhibits. Armament restoration progresses with completion of construction drawings for period carriages which are needed for mounting the cannon on hand.

*Local and Area Societies and Commissions*

*Alachua County Historical Commission:* With the cooperation of the Gainesville Public Library, the Alachua County Historical Commission has launched a project of collecting manuscripts and pictures and of recording interviews with "old time" residents. Using some of the historical data collected, a half-hour television program was produced by students in the School of Journalism and Communications. "The Heritage We Live" was broadcast by WRUF-TV.

*Bradford County Historical Society:* On May 23, 1966, Dr. Samuel Proctor, editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, spoke to the members of the recently organized Bradford County Historical Society. The meeting was held in the public library. Dr. Proctor discussed the need of preserving local history and making it available to the scholar and researcher.

*Halifax Historical Society:* "Potpourri," the Halifax Historical Society newsletter issued in March, carried the announcement of the series of Florida history lectures held in the Museum Building at 145 N. Halifax Avenue, Daytona Beach. Elam Martin, director of the Educational Media Center, Daytona Beach Junior College, was the program speaker at the March 21 meeting. The Halifax Historical Society's Museum has been exhibiting artifacts from the Civil War gunboat *Cairo*, the Union vessel sunk in the Mississippi in 1862. The Museum is open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday afternoons. William L. Corsen is president of the Halifax Historical Society and curator of the Museum.

*Hillsborough County Historical Commission:* The Hillsborough County Historical Commission has held two program meetings during the past few months. Congressman Charles Bennett spoke on his book *Laudonierre and Fort Caroline* at the first meeting. Harris H. Mullen showed slides of the Tampa Bay Hotel and early Tampa at the second program meeting. The Commission reports that more than 3,000 visitors, including many student and Scout groups, visited its museum this year. A number of gifts have been received, including replicas of Indian pottery which are exact copies of originals found on Weedon Island.

Mrs. Harry L. Weedon is chairman of the Historical Commission, and its members are Margaret L. Chapman, James W. Covington, Theodore Lesley, Mrs. J. H. Letton, Harry G. McDonald, Mrs. Alonso McMullen, James F. Taylor, Jr., Anthony P. Pizzo, and Mrs. Agnes R. Worthington.

*Historical Association of Southern Florida:* United States Congressman Charles E. Bennett was the featured speaker at the ninety-eighth program meeting of the Historical Association of Southern Florida on April 13 at the Coral Gables High School. Congressman Bennett presented a colored slide-illustrated talk entitled "The French in Florida." In addition to describing the 1564 French founding of Fort Caroline on the St. Johns River, Congressman Bennett recounted his findings relating to the various other French activities in Florida.

New officers elected at the meeting were Charlton Tebeau, president; Robert McKew, first vice-president; Ben Archer,

second vice-president; Virginia Wilson, corresponding secretary; and Adam G. Adams, executive secretary.

*Jacksonville Historical Society:* Dr. Joseph Cushman, Jr., professor of history at Florida State University, was the speaker at the annual meeting of the Jacksonville Historical Society held in the Friday Musicale Auditorium on Wednesday evening, May 11. Dr. Cushman used the title of his recently published book *A Goodly Heritage* as the subject of his talk on the history of the Episcopal Church in Florida from 1821 to 1892. A short business meeting was held, and officers for the coming year were elected.

The Jacksonville Historical Society cooperated with the city of Jacksonville in the ceremonies held on June 15, marking the 144th year of Jacksonville's founding.

*Marion County Historical Commission:* Louis O. Gravely of Ocala has been appointed chairman of the Marion County Historical Commission, succeeding the late J. Edgar Blocker. Wilbur A. Willis is vice-chairman and John F. Nicholson is secretary. Research on pioneer settlers and compilation of genealogical records continues under the direction of John T. Chazal, Sr. The Commission regularly publishes a newsletter.

*Palm Beach County Historical Society:* Thomas L. Bohne spoke to the members of the Palm Beach County Historical Society on Thursday evening, April 21, 1966. His topic was "Colonel E. R. Bradley and His Famous Beach Club." For many years, Mr. Bohne was Colonel Bradley's aide and served as secretary for the Beach Club of Palm Beach for twenty years. At the business meeting, officers and the board of governors for the coming year were elected.

*Peace River Valley Historical Society:* The April 19 meeting of the Peace River Valley Historical Society was held in the Polk County courthouse in Bartow. Following the business meeting, the membership visited the official library of the Polk County Historical Commission which contains one of the largest genealogical libraries in southwest Florida. On May 28, the member held a dinner meeting at Saint Leo's Abbey. Father Jerome, the

noted Florida historian, was guest of honor, and William M. Goza, president of the Florida Historical Society, spoke on "Botany of Early Florida."

*Pinellas County Historical Commission:* At the March meeting, Walter P. Fuller described the unveiling of the Bayview Indian Mound Marker, March 12, and noted that sixteenth-century Spanish and Indian artifacts were displayed. It is reported that some years ago the Smithsonian Institution excavated the mound, but materials that were taken at the time have never been classified or studied. The Commission hopes that the Smithsonian Institution will return items excavated from the mound some years ago so that they can be properly assembled and identified. Efforts are being made to establish an archeological museum in Pinellas County, with the cooperation of the Safety Harbor Historical Society, the Clearwater Historical Society, the St. Petersburg Historical Society, and The Searchers.

At the April 20 meeting of the Commission, William Goza reported that he and Mr. Fuller had attended the ceremony at A. L. Anderson Park, marking the reopening of Lake Tarpon outfall canal. Part of the ceremonies took place by Boot Ranch which, according to an article in a recent issue of *Florida Anthropologist* by Lyman Warren, is a possible Paleo Indian site. Mr. Fuller announced that four charts of Tampa Bay and the Gulf coast from Boca Grande to Mobile have been secured from the Naval Library in London, England.

Mayor George McGonegal, president of the Safety Harbor Historical Society, who was a guest at the meeting, reported that Philippe Park has been named a national historical site and that a plaque will be placed in the park by the federal government shortly. At the May 18 business meeting, it was announced that efforts to preserve the McMullen log cabin on Coachman Road were being started.

*Polk County Historical Commission:* In collaboration with the Peace River Valley Historical Society, the Polk County Historical Commission erected a marker on the grave of Billy Bowlegs at the Ortona Cemetery and a road marker noting the burial site recently. Senator Spessard L. Holland was the speaker at the cemetery dedication. Another marker will be erected at the site of Fort Cummings to note its establishment in January 1839.

*St. Augustine Historical Society:* The St. Augustine Historical Society held its regular quarterly membership meeting on April 12 in the Art Association building. Following a brief business session, the members watched "*El Ultimo Suspiro del Moro*" (The Last Sigh of the Moor), an original one-act play by Thomas P. Rahner. The author is general manager of St. Augustine's 400th anniversary "Cross and Sword." On Easter Monday, April 11, the annual Minorcan Day reception was held in the gardens of the St. Augustine Historical Society. Mrs. Allen F. Powers and Mrs. Leonard J. Shugart were in charge of arrangements.

In the April 1966 number of *El Escribano*, tribute was paid to the late Leander McCormick-Goodhart, honorary citizen of St. Augustine and benefactor of the St. Augustine Historical Society. Among the many gifts of Mr. McCormick-Goodhart to the Society was an original letter from Queen Marianna of Spain, dated 1674, authorizing the expenditure of funds for the construction of the Castillo de San Marcos. In 1964, Mr. McCormick-Goodhart sponsored the reprint by the University of Florida Press of *East Florida as a British Province, 1763-1784* by Charles Mowat. Mr. McCormick-Goodhart passed away on December 20, 1965.

The Society, which published *Florida's Menendez* by Albert Manucy, has contracted to aid in the publication of Fredrik deCoste's new work, *True Tales of Old St. Augustine*, and *The Story of New Smyrna*, the history of the Turnbull colony, by Dr. E. P. Panagopoulos.

The Society's library is used by researchers and writers of many interests, such as staff members of the *National Geographic Magazine*, whose article on the St. Augustine Quadricentennial appeared in February 1966.

In furtherance of the restoration program, the Society has reconstructed another house in the traditional architectural style of St. Augustine. This is the third reconstruction of this nature intended to re-create the historic scene in the vicinity of the Oldest House. Two of these reconstructions, with modern interiors, are rental residences. The third is the new library and administration building. Another residence is in the planning stage.

On April 2, the Society presented its Citation for Achievement in Historical Education to Professor A. J. Hanna of Rollins



College, at a luncheon held at the Ponce de Leon Hotel. A. J. McGhin, Jr., vice-president and chairman of the board of directors made the presentation.

*Mariana Bonifay Fund*

A campaign to secure funds to erect a memorial to Mariana Bonifay, one of the earliest pioneers of the Pensacola area is announced by T. T. Wentworth, Jr. of Pensacola. Mrs. Bonifay lived in Pensacola from 1781 until her death in 1829. Many of the early citizens of Pensacola are her descendants, and the town of Bonifay, Florida is named for her great-great-grandson, Judge Frank B. Bonifay. Mrs. Bonifay pioneered in the brick and construction industries of west Florida and was an early real-estate developer in that part of the state. Those desiring to make a contribution to the Mariana Bonifay Fund can send them to Box 806, Pensacola, Florida 32502.