


1969

Historical News

Florida Historical Society
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Recommended Citation

Society, Florida Historical (1969) "Historical News," *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Vol. 48 : No. 1 , Article 11.
Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq/vol48/iss1/11>

HISTORICAL NEWS

The new cover format that is being used with this issue of the *Florida Historical Quarterly* was designed by Patricia Thornton Born, art director of Dodson, Craddock and Born Advertising, Inc., of Pensacola. Mrs. Born is a graduate of Florida State University with a degree in fine arts, and she is an active member of the Pensacola Historical Preservation Society. She has won many regional and national awards in advertising.

Florida History Award

The Peace River Valley Historical Society has presented its 1968 Florida History Award to William M. Goza of Clearwater, Florida. Past president of the Florida Historical Society and presently a member of its board of directors, Mr. Goza is an active member of the Pinellas Historical Commission and a member of other local and regional historical societies, and he teaches a course in Florida history on the Clearwater campus of the St. Petersburg Junior College. The presentation to Mr. Goza for "distinguished service in Florida history" was made by Attorney General Earl Faircloth at a dinner meeting in Wauchula on June 14. Previous recipients of the Florida History Award have been Father Jerome (1964), Albert DeVane (1965), Dr. Samuel Proctor (1966), and Colonel Read B. Harding (1967).

Arthur W. Thompson Memorial Prize in Florida History

Dr. Jerrell H. Shofner, professor of history at Florida State University, is the 1968 recipient of the Thompson Memorial Prize. The presentation was made at the annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society on May 10, 1969, in Pensacola. The prize of \$100 is given for the best article appearing in the *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Dr. Shofner's article "Florida in the Balance: The Electoral Count of 1876," appeared in the October 1968 number of the *Quarterly*. Dr. Shofner was also the recipient of the 1967 Arthur W. Thompson Memorial Prize in Florida History. The judges who made the decision were Dr. Dorothy Dodd, Tallahassee; Dr. Gilbert Lycan, Stetson Uni-

versity; and Dr. Thelma Peters, Miami Dade Junior College, North Campus. The award honoring the late Dr. Arthur W. Thompson, formerly a member of the Department of History, University of Florida, was made possible by Mrs. Thompson of Gainesville, and Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Siegel of New York City.

Charlton W. Tebeau Florida History Collection

The University of Miami has received an alumnus gift of \$10,000 honoring Dr. Charlton W. Tebeau, retiring chairman of the Department of History. The gift has been allocated for the expansion of the Floridiana collections of the University library. In appreciation, Dr. Tebeau has himself given \$500 for the development of the Florida History Collection.

Dr. Tebeau has long been recognized as an outstanding teacher and author. He has served as president of the Florida Historical Society, the Florida Anthropological Society, the Everglades National History Association, and the Historical Association of Southern Florida. He has been editor of *Tequesta* since 1946. Last year he was presented the Award of Merit by the American Association for State and Local History for "his contributions as an inspiring teacher, writer and organizational worker in Florida history." *Esquire Magazine* named him as one of the nation's "Super Profs."

The University of Miami's Floridiana collection is one of the largest and most valuable in the state. The Mark F. Boyd collection of manuscripts, maps, and rare books serves as a nucleus for this rapidly expanding research library.

Activities and Events

Florida Conference of College Teachers of History: The seventh annual meeting of the Conference was held in Gainesville, March 28-29, 1969. Vice-President George C. Osborn, University of Florida, was in charge of the program. Major addresses were given by Professor John B. Towes, University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, and A. K. Johnson, regional director of the National Archives and Record Services at Atlanta. Papers were read by Professors Sister Elizabeth Ann, O.P., Barry College; Maurice Vance, Florida State University; Frances J. Stafford, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University; Cecil B. Curry, Uni-

versity of South Florida; Gilbert L. Lycan, Stetson University; Charles J. Kolinsky, Florida Atlantic University; Glenn Hoffman, University of Florida; William F. Marina, Florida Atlantic University; George Winius, University of Florida; Michael Davis, University of Miami; Robert C. Harris, University of West Florida; Eugene Timmerman, University of Florida; and, Thomas A. Parker, Brevard Junior College. The officers for the academic year are George Osborn, president; Ted Carageorge (Pensacola Junior College), vice-president; and Gerald E. Critoph (Stetson University), Secretary-Treasurer. Pensacola will be the site for the next annual meeting in March 1970. Dr. Carageorge will be in charge of the program, and all suggestions for papers should be addressed to him.

Gulf Coast History and Humanities Conference: The University of West Florida, Pensacola Junior College, the Pensacola Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission, and the American Association for State and Local History are sponsoring the first annual Gulf Coast History and Humanities Conference in Pensacola in December 1969. The first conference will concern itself with American, Canadian, Mexican, and European resources of documents and artifacts for the study of the broad West Florida region. The Conference defines West Florida as the Florida, Louisiana, southern Mississippi, and Alabama area, irrespective of existing political and academic boundaries.

Local Historical Societies and Commissions

Jacksonville Historical Society: The Jacksonville Historical Society, at its annual meeting on May 14, 1969, elected Robert P. Smith, Sr., president; John B. Turner, Jr., first vice-president; Brigadier General Stoyte O. Ross, second vice-president; John N. Sewell, treasurer; Mrs. Carl P. Sasnett, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Edward McCarthy, Sr., recording secretary; Audrey Broward, archivist; and Dena Snodgrass, historian. The four Jacksonville University students who won the \$50 award presented by the Society for the best paper on Jacksonville history, presented a condensed version of the paper at the meeting.

Orange County Historical Commission: Recent issues of the "Orange County Historical Quarterly" contain articles on Dr.

John Slade Batlin who was attached to Major Francis L. Dade's command on its tragic march from Fort Brooke in December 1835, and on the history of Rock Springs Park. Commission officers include Donald Cheney, chairman; Kenneth D. Kienth, treasurer; Rolland Dean, editor; and, Jenkins Dolive, Dorothy I. Pratt, Juanita Tucker, Mrs. D. S. Evans, Mrs. E. L. Mathews, Henry A. Porter, and Harry P. Witherington. The Commission is helping to set up a Central Florida Society for Historical Preservation, and is compiling a list of historic buildings in Orange, Seminole, Lake, Osceola, and Volusia counties for possible inclusion in the National Register.

Safety Harbor Area Historical Society: In conjunction with the Safety Harbor Festival, the Society presented a pageant, March 22-23, based on "The Saga of Juan Ortiz." The Society has a full calendar of digs and all are with the authorization of its board of directors. It's newsletter, "Tocobaga," is widely distributed. Gus Nelson is president of the Society, which meets monthly at its headquarters at the Safety Harbor Spa.

St. Augustine Historical Society: Officers elected at the annual meeting in January were W. I. Drysdale, president; N. P. Calhoun, vice-president; W. J. Winter, secretary; R. O. Barnes, treasurer; and, Louis R. Arana, librarian. J. Carver Harris is general manager of the Society. Mr. Arana is editor and Eugena B. Arana is associate editor of *El Escribano*, the quarterly publication of the Society. Its January 1969 number was dedicated to the memory of Doris Coleman Wiles, who at the time of her death, October 11, 1968, was the Society's administrative historian.

St. Lucie Historical Society: The first issue of the "St. Lucie Historical Society Notes," under the editorship of Walter R. Hellier, historian of the Society, was issued in June 1969. The organization has a valuable collection of tapes of its program speakers and interviews with many of the older residents and visitors of the area. It works closely with the St. Lucie County Historical Commission in the operation of the Museum at 414 Seaway Drive, South Beach.

Southwest Florida Historical Society: The Society has secured space in a building at 2312 First Street which will be used for

meetings and to maintain its growing collection of pictures, artifacts, newspapers, and memorabilia. The Society publishes a monthly newsletter which details its active program. Officers are Ernest Hall, president; Robert McKelvey, vice-president; Mrs. Alberta Rawchuck, secretary; and, Kenneth Helper, treasurer.

OBITUARIES

Orlando (Jack) Beater

Orlando (Jack) Beater, well-known author and historian of the lower West Coast of Florida died in Orlando on Friday, May 30, 1969. Born August 1, 1896, in Philadelphia, Mr. Beater was a graduate of Pennsylvania State College and a World War I veteran. He came to Fort Myers in 1920, and after a successful business career he turned to writing. He was the author of many magazine articles and several books, including *The Gasparilla Story: A Life of Jose Gaspar*; *Islands of the Florida Coast*; *The Life and Times of Gasparilla, the Pirate*; *Pirates and Buried Treasure on Florida Islands*; *Tales of South Florida and the Ten Thousand Islands*; *Tales of South Florida Pioneers*; *Tales of the Florida Suncoast*; and *True Tales of the Florida West Coast*. He was a member of the Florida Historical Society, the Authors League of America, and the Writer's Guild.

Florence Fritz

Florence Fritz, the only woman ever to serve as mayor of Fort Myers, died in a hospital in that city on May 17, 1969. A native of Virginia, she visited Florida in the early 1920s and returned to make it her home in 1935. She had majored in art and music at the University of Georgia and Oglethorpe University, but after moving to Florida she gained prominence as a writer. She was the author of *Unknown Florida*; *Bamboo and Sailing Ships: The Story of Thomas Alva Edison and Fort Myers, Florida*; and *Try Florida Ways for Happier Days*. She was for many years editor of *Hello Stranger*, a Lee County magazine. She was active in the Florida Historical Society, and at the time of her death she was president of the Southwest Florida Historical Society.

Doris Coleman Wiles

Mrs. Doris C. Wiles, administrative historian of the St. Augustine Historical Society, died at Flagler Hospital in St. Augustine on October 11, 1968. She was a well-known bibliographer and researcher in English, Spanish, and American manuscript sources as they affected St. Augustine and Florida history. She was also recognized as a specialist on historic St. Augustine house sites and owners, and she devised a guide for research in this field. Shortly before her final illness, Mrs. Wiles completed the background research on four houses which the St. Augustine Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission plan to reconstruct. She was an active member of the Florida Historical Society, and served as associate editor of *El Escribano*, the quarterly publication of the St. Augustine Historical Society. Seventeen of her articles appeared in that journal. Its January 1969 number was dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Wiles.

DUES NOTICE

Acting upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors the membership of the Florida Historical Society voted at the annual meeting in Pensacola, May 9-11, 1969, to increase the annual dues:

Annual member	\$ 7.50
Annual fellow member	15.00
Annual contributing member	50.00
Annual sponsor	75.00
Annual institutional member	150.00
Life member	150.00

All correspondence relating to membership, society business, and *Quarterly* subscriptions should be addressed to Miss Margaret Chapman, University of South Florida Library, Tampa, Florida 33620.

Great expectations

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| Aug. 5-8 | World Conference on
Records | Salt Lake City, Utah |
| Aug. 20-23 | American Association for
State and Local History | St. Paul, Minn. |
| Oct. 9-12 | Association for the Study
of Negro Life and His-
tory | Birmingham, Ala. |
| Oct. 29-31 | Southern Historical
Association | Washington, D. C. |
| Nov. 7-10 | Fourth Annual National
Colloquium on Oral
History | Warrenton, Va. |
| Dec. 5-6 | First Annual Gulf Coast
History and Humanities
Conference | Pensacola, Fla. |
| Dec. 13 | Board of Directors, Flor-
ida Historical Society | |
| March
1970 | Florida Conference of
College Teachers of
History | Pensacola, Fla. |
| May 7-9
1970 | Florida Historical Society | Tampa, Fla. |