

1969

Historical News

Florida Historical Society
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HISTORY NEWS

Sanchez House

The nineteenth-century St. Augustine home of Francis Xavier Sanchez, shipowner and cattleman, has been restored by the Independent Life and Accident Insurance Company of Jacksonville. The home, constructed around 1809, is located on St. George Street, just south of Casa de Hidalgo. Purchased two years ago from Anna Burt, daughter of George Burt, a prominent St. Augustine merchant, the house was restored and furnished under the supervision of Jacob Bryan III, president of Independent Life and a member of the St. Augustine Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission. One of the rooms is an insurance museum. Daily hours of the home are available. The history and illustrations of the Sanchez House by James C. Craig, president-elect of the Florida Historical Society, appeared in the company's house organs, *Password* (May 1969) and *The Field News* (June 1969).

Pensacola News-Journal Certificate of Commendation

The American Association for State and Local History, at its annual convention held in St. Paul, Minnesota, August 1969, recognized the *Pensacola News-Journal* for its outstanding and continuing support for historical programs in the West Florida area. The recommendation for the award was made originally by Earle W. Newton, executive director, Pensacola Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission. The award was presented to Earle W. Bowden, editor of the *News-Journal* at a ceremony in Pensacola, December 5, 1969, by Dr. A. R. Mortensen, president of the American Association for State and Local History, and by Mr. Newton.

Historical Markers

On November 15, 1969, the Gainesville chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution rededicated a marker noting the construction of the Bellamy Road, Florida's first east-west highway, during the 1820s. The marker, originally dedicated in 1944, was moved during the construction of Interstate 75. It is

now located immediately west of the High Springs-Lake Butler interchange. John Bellamy was one of Florida's most prominent planters and political figures during the territorial period.

A marker noting the graves of Prince and Princess Achille Murat in the Episcopal Cemetery in Tallahassee was dedicated on November 23, 1969. The Florida Society of Colonial Dames XVII Century, in cooperation with the Florida Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Recreation and Parks, was in charge of the program. The marker is located at the corner of Call and Boulevard Streets, Tallahassee.

A marker commemorating "Rabbit Hill," the home of Dr. John H. Brelsford of Palm Beach, was unveiled on Sunday, December 7, 1969. The house, built in 1891, is one of the oldest in that area of Florida. The property was acquired by Henry M. Flagler in 1901, and it was purchased in 1944 by James Y. Arnold. It is the site of his famous orchid collection. The Palm Beach chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and Mr. and Mrs. James Y. Arnold were hosts at the marker ceremony.

American Revolution Bicentennial

An American Revolution Bicentennial Office has been established by the Library of Congress in preparation for the observance of the bicentennial of American Independence. The office will compile publications and plan exhibits and other special events that will disseminate knowledge of the Revolution throughout the nation. A staff of professional historians has been assembled, which includes Professor Paul H. Smith, formerly a member of the history faculty at the University of Florida, John R. Sellers, Gerard W. Gewalt, and Robert A. Rutland.

Southern Colonial History Symposium

The South Carolina Tricentennial Commission and the University of South Carolina are sponsoring a three-day symposium on March 19, 20, 21, 1970, on "The Place of the Southern Colonies in the Atlantic World." Slave trade, church attitudes towards war and slavery, West Indian expansion into the southern mainland colonies, an economic comparison of Rio, Brazil, and Charleston, and the transfer of English legalism into the

American colonies are the topics that will be discussed. For further information, write Dr. George C. Rogers, Jr., Department of History, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

Local Historical Societies and Commissions

Jacksonville Historical Society: Dr. Frederick A. Aldridge, chairman of Social Sciences, Jacksonville University, spoke to members and guests of the Society at their November 1969 meeting, on the topic, "Is There Urban History?" The Jacksonville Historical Society *Papers*, Volume V, has been published. It is a compilation of articles by Miss Dena Snodgrass which appeared in the *Florida Times Union*. The *Papers*, edited by James C. Craig, has an index prepared by Miss Audrey Broward. The *Jacksonville Historical Society*, which this year is celebrating its fortieth anniversary, was largely responsible for selecting the name Henry Holland Buckman for the new St. Johns River Bridge. The bridge was dedicated on September 22, 1969.

Orange County Historical Commission: The Commission has added its support to the movement to restore the historic name to Cape Canaveral, and resolutions endorsing this move have been forwarded to Washington. In the September 1969 number of the "Orange County Historical Quarterly," there appeared articles on Orlando's first boom, the origin of Kissimmee's name, and the history of early Winter Park real estate transactions.

Peace River Valley Historical Society: Dr. James W. Covington, professor of history at the University of Tampa, spoke at the September meeting in Arcadia; State Representative William H. Bevis of Fort Meade was the speaker at the October meeting in Fort Meade; and Mitchell Hope of Wauchula presented the program at the November meeting at Bowling Green. An historical essay committee has been appointed, and Vernon Peoples serves as chairman.

Pinellas County Historical Commission: "Fifty-Year Certificates" are being given to the newspapers and other commercial establishments which have operated in Pinellas County for half a century. The Commission has acquired the Old Law Library, and

it is being utilized for added museum space. Three rooms are being furnished as a pioneer bedroom, a late nineteenth century newspaper editor's office, and a general display room.

Safety Harbor Area Historical Society: Recent program speakers included Calvin Taylor and Chris Rasmussen of the Tampa Trident Club; Captain John D. Ware, who described the Florida Historical Society's trip to Spain; and Hampton Dunn, who presented an illustrated lecture entitled, "Florida From Huguenots to the Astronauts." At the annual picnic in November, Walter Fuller of St. Petersburg was the speaker. The Society has converted its workshop into a museum, and on display are artifacts from some of the archaeological digs that the Society has participated in. The major current activity is the archaeological dig at the Stauffer Chemical Company property, Tarpon Springs. Officers of the organization are Gustave A. Nelson, president; Hayes L. Kennedy, vice-president; Alva L. Jones, secretary; and Martha J. Sandstrom, treasurer.

St. Augustine Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission: Joyce Elizabeth Harman, graduate of Ohio State University, has been named Commission historian. Her monograph, *Trade and Privateering in Spanish Florida, 1732-1763*, has been published by the St. Augustine Historical Society. The many and varied activities of the Commission were reported in an illustrated insert in the *St. Augustine Record* (September 10, 1969). Herbert E. Wolfe of St. Augustine recently resigned as Commission chairman and Lawrence Lewis, Jr., has been appointed chairman. Dr. Michael V. Gannon of the University of Florida has also been appointed as a member of the Commission.

St. Augustine Historical Society: At the regular quarterly meeting of the Society in October, J. Carver Harris, the Society's business manager, showed a forty-five minute color movie of some of the recent St. Augustine historical activities, including the dedication of the Mission of Nombre de Dios Chapel, restoration of the Catholic Cathedral, and the work of the St. Augustine Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission. The Society has presented citations to the Independent Life and Accident Insurance Company of Jacksonville for the restoration

of the Sanchez House on St. George Street and to the *St. Augustine Record* for its program of microfilming the newspaper.

Santa Fe River Area Historical Society: Mallie Strickland of Alachua, whose father was a member of the Second Florida Confederate Cavalry, was guest speaker at the November meeting. He related some of his father's recollections and presented family records to the Society for its archives. The members are undertaking a project of tape recording interviews with local pioneers and their descendants.

OBITUARY

George Albert DeVane, Sr.

Recognized for more than half a century as historian of the Florida Seminoles, George Albert DeVane of Lake Placid died Sunday, August 19, 1969. Albert, as he was affectionately called, was one of Florida's best-known researchers, historians, and genealogists. A long-time friend of the late Billy Bowlegs, Seminole hunter and guide, Mr. DeVane began collecting Indian history after returning from service in World War I. Many thought that he knew more about the Seminole and Miccosukee Indians and their ancestry than did any other white man. Mr. DeVane was a native of Plant City, where his great-grandfather settled shortly before the Civil War. While he himself never wrote a book on Florida or the Florida Indians, he shared his information graciously with writers and students of Florida history. Several of his Indian friends attended the funeral services. Mr. DeVane was a member of the Florida Historical Society and a number of other local Florida history organizations. He was the recipient of the Peace River Valley Historical Society's Florida History Award in 1965.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

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| Feb. 20-21 | Historical Architecture Preservation Workshop | University of Florida, Gainesville |
| April 3-4 | Florida Conference of College Teachers of History | Pensacola |
| April 4-5 | Florida Conference of Teachers of History | Pensacola |
| April 15-18 | Organization of American Historians | Los Angeles, Calif. |
| May 7-9 | Florida Historical Society 68th Annual Meeting | Manger Hotel Tampa |
| Nov. 11-14 | Southern Historical Association | Louisville, Ky. |
| Nov. 13-16 | National Colloquium on Oral History | “Asilomar” Carmel, Calif. |