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## History News

Florida Historical Society  
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## HISTORY NEWS

### *The Annual Meeting*

The Florida Historical Society will hold its annual meeting in Tampa, May 8 and 9, at the Manger Inn. Anthony Pizzo and Captain John B. Ware are in charge of local arrangements. The University of South Florida, Tampa University, and the Hillsborough County Historical Commission will act as official hosts. Dr. James W. Covington of Tampa University is program chairman. Presenting papers will be Dr. Robert L. Gold, University of Southern Illinois; Mrs. Bonnie Fennelly, Florida State University; Dr. Wayne Flynt, Samford University (Birmingham); Captain John D. Ware, Tampa; and Dr. Durward Long, University Center System, University of Wisconsin. Hampton Dunn of Tampa will be the discussant at the Saturday morning session which will be devoted to the history of the Tampa Bay area. A special workshop session Friday morning will analyze the problems facing local historical societies and commissions in collecting and preserving archives and making them available to researchers and scholars. Edward N. Johnson, acting archivist of the Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management, Miss Audrey Broward, Jacksonville University Library, Frank Laumer, Dade City, and Clifton L. Paisley, research editor, office of the Dean of the Graduate School, Florida State University, will participate in this workshop.

Mrs. Gloria Jahoda of Tallahassee is the banquet speaker Saturday night. She is the author of *The Other Florida* and *The Road to Samarkand: Frederick Delius and His Music* (reviewed in this number of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*). Dr. Samuel Proctor, editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, will announce the recipient of the Arthur W. Thompson Memorial Prize in Florida History for 1970, and Milton D. Jones will make the Award of Merit-Excellence in Presentation of Florida History by News Media.

The Board of Directors will hold its meeting on Thursday evening. The business luncheon on Saturday will be convened by Dr. Herbert J. Doherty, Jr., president of the Society. Election of officers, committee reports, and adoption of resolutions are important items on the business agenda. The local arrangements

committee is planning a tour of the historic area of Ybor City on Saturday afternoon and will be hosts at a reception before the banquet that evening.

*Florida Historical Quarterly Microfilm*

Microfilm of the first twenty-three volumes of the *Florida Historical Quarterly* (1908-1909; 1924-1945) are available for sale. There are four reels of positive film, each selling for \$9.00. Additional volumes of the *Quarterly* will be microfilmed if there is sufficient interest. For additional information, write Miss Margaret L. Chapman, executive secretary, University of South Florida Library, Tampa 33620.

*Speakers' Bureau*

The Florida Historical Society sponsors a speakers' bureau, and will put historical, civic, and community groups in touch with members of the Society who are knowledgeable about local and Florida history. Members willing to speak on any phase of Florida history and organizations desiring a speaker are asked to communicate with Dr. Herbert J. Doherty, Jr., 352 Little Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville 32601.

*Cape Florida Lighthouse Museum*

The Florida Park system is opening a historical complex in Cape Florida State Park on Key Biscayne at Miami. The Florida State Museum's exhibits department has been working more than a year on the research and the exhibits which will include the lighthouse and a reconstructed lighthouse keeper's residence. The latter contains a museum on the first floor and a second floor restored to the period when it was occupied from 1825 until 1878. The landscaping around this building will include plantings that were similar to the ones that Dr. Henry Perrine shipped up from Indian Key to the lighthouse keeper in the 1830s. The lighthouse was erected in 1825.

The complex will feature an exhibit technique new to the Florida Park museums known as "By-Word." It is a concept of exhibit sound that floats prerecorded material through a magnetic field which the visitor listens to with a wireless head set.

The history of the lighthouse and the story of the two men who were on duty there in 1836, at the outbreak of the Second Seminole War, has been recorded. On July 23, 1836, Indians attacked the lighthouse, killing one man; the other lived to tell the dramatic story of the battle.

*Florida American Revolution Bicentennial Committee*

Governor Claude Kirk, at the request of President Nixon, has appointed Florida's American Revolution Bicentennial Steering Committee. The purpose of this committee is to develop guidelines for Florida's participation in the Bicentennial Celebration by making recommendations to the legislature and the governor. The committee will also serve as liaison with President Nixon's National American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. Lieutenant Governor Ray C. Osborne will serve as the honorary chairman of the Florida committee. Other members are Pat Dodson, member of the Board of Regents and former secretary of the Florida Historical Society, serving as executive chairman; Robert Williams, director of the State History, Archives, and Records Management Division; Dr. Herbert Doherty, Jr., president of the Florida Historical Society; Dr. Stanley Marshall, president of Florida State University; Floyd Christian, commissioner of education; Les Johnson, Miami; John Ring, president of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce; Professor F. Blair Reeves, University of Florida; Allen Morris, clerk of the Florida House of Representatives; and Don Shoemaker, editor of the *Miami Herald*. Also appointed to the committee are four members of the Florida House and Senate: Edmond J. Gong, Miami; Beth Johnson, Cocoa Beach; Harold Wilson, Clearwater; and James Glisson of Lake City.

*Local Historical Societies and Commissions*

*Alachua County Historical Society:* The Society meets monthly, and recent speakers included Professor John Slaughter of the University of Florida who discussed "Early Spanish Weaponry," Father Michael V. Gannon who described some of the early missions in the Alachua area, Dr. John R. Dunkle who talked on St. Augustine, and Dr. Herbert J. Doherty, Jr. who discussed nineteenth century Florida railroads. Dr. Charles A. Hoffman, Jr., is president of the Society.

*Brevard County Historical Society:* The Society held a joint meeting on January 18 with the South Brevard County Historical Society, the Brevard County Historical Commission, and the Brevard County Anthropological Society. Colonel O. Z. Tyler, former president of the Jacksonville Historical Society, was the speaker, and his topic was "Osceola."

*Clay County Historical Society and Clay County Historical Commission:* The Reverend Thomas D. Ryan, Jr., serves as president of the Society and as chairman of the Historical Commission. George Carlisle, clerk of the county court, is the Commission secretary. Mrs. Minnie Lou Clark of Middleburg is vice-president of the Society, and Mrs. Norma Elliott of Green Cove Springs is secretary. Both organizations hold quarterly meetings, and they are cooperating in the writing of a short history of Clay County which they plan to publish this year.

*Collier County Historical Society:* Recent archeological excavations on Marco Island were financed in part by the Collier County Historical Society in cooperation with the Marco Island Development Corporation. L. Ross Morrell, director of the state Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties (Department of Archives, History and Records Management), described the Marco Island findings to the Society membership at a meeting in January 1970. Mr. Morrell and a crew of students were in charge of the excavations during the past three years.

*Dunedin Historical Society:* The first annual meeting of the recently organized Dunedin Historical Society was held on the evening of January 29, 1970, at the Dunedin Country Club. There are more than 140 charter members in the Society. It is making plans to use the railroad passenger station on Main Street as a museum, and the former station master, a member of the Society, will be in charge of the museum.

*Florida Anthropological Society:* At its annual meeting in March in Daytona Beach, the following officers were elected: James W. Covington (Tampa), president; Carl A. Benson (Orlando), first vice-president; William M. Goza (Clearwater), second vice-president; and Sarah B. Benson (Orlando), secre-

tary-treasurer. Ripley P. Bullen of the Florida State Museum is editor of *The Florida Anthropologist*. Two local chapters of the Society have been organized recently in Pinellas county and West Florida (Panama City, Fort Walton Beach, and Pensacola.) The members of the Pinellas County Chapter have been spending their weekends recently in digs in the St. Petersburg-Pinellas Point area.

*Florida Genealogical Society:* The Society, which has its offices in Tampa, reports the following officers: Mrs. Wilson L. Baker, president; Mrs. F. M. Dugger, vice-president; Mrs. Charles Boyer, recording secretary; Mrs. Eddie Coalla, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Don Evans, treasurer. Theodore Lesley, Frank L. Adams, and W. Earl Hall are directors, and Mrs. Overton Ganong is librarian. Mr. Lesley is editor of the "Florida Genealogical Journal." The February 1970 number of the "Journal" carried a listing of burial places of some Florida Confederate soldiers.

*Fort Lauderdale Historical Society:* Officers are Mrs. William G. Hardy, president and director; George W. English, Sr., and Mrs. Frank Stranahan, vice-presidents; Mrs. A. J. Beck, secretary; and James S. Hunt, Sr., R. M. Gardner, N. B. Cheaney, August Burghard, and C. P. Weidling, Jr., and Mrs. Frank Stranahan, directors. "New River News," the Society's publication, has devoted its recent issues to the history of some of the important municipal agencies of the community, including the first burial ground in Fort Lauderdale. The January number carried the reprint of an article on the Seminole Indians written by Mrs. Frank Stranahan. The *Fort Lauderdale Historical Preservation Council* has held meetings recently to study proposed plans for the restoration of the New River Inn.

*Halifax Historical Society:* Elected at its annual meeting in January 1970 were the following officers: Harley L. Freeman, president; Hazelle C. Fenty, vice-president; Elam V. Martin, treasurer; and Mable D. Martin, secretary. The Society maintains the Daytona Beach Historical Museum with Stanley Howe as curator.

*Jacksonville Historical Society:* Mr. Arthur G. Foster was the speaker at the program meeting of the Jacksonville Historical Society on February 11, 1970. His topic was "James D. Burbridge, Theatrical Pioneer," and Mr. Foster illustrated his talk with slides. The Society presented an exhibition of antique dolls and toys at the opening of the Jacksonville Children's Museum.

*Key West, Old Island Restoration Foundation:* "Old Island Days," one of the major Florida events, is presented annually by the Old Island Restoration Foundation. This year the Old Island Parade on January 30, began the activities. There were also house and garden tours, flower, art, antique, and fashion shows, bake sales, a conch shell blowing contest, and a barber shop quartet singing competition, all climaxed with a "blessing of the fleet" ceremony on February 28. Of special interest to Florida historians is the Martello Gallery and Museum and the Lighthouse Military Museum in Key West which are under the supervision of the Key West Art and Historical Society. Construction of Martello Tower was begun in 1861 by the Union forces then occupying Key West. It was used by the United States War Department during the Spanish American War and in World Wars I and II. In 1956 the property was turned over to Monroe County, and it operates as an art and historical museum. The Lighthouse Museum is in the lighthouse tower built in 1846. The tower has been repaired several times since, and in 1894 its height was increased twenty feet. Army, navy, and air space exhibits are featured.

*Lake County Historical Society:* The Society maintains an office and a museum in Tavares, and plans are presently under way for construction of a new and larger museum building. There are quarterly program meetings. Officers are Ben S. Burton, president; Paul H. Reed, vice-president; Frank E. Owens, secretary-treasurer, and Mrs. Lyn Reed, librarian. There is also a research committee and nineteen directors representing various parts of Lake County. The museum and library collect documents, artifacts, pictures, newspapers, and tape recordings relating to the history of the area.

*Madison County Historical Society:* Officers of the organization are Mrs. W. C. Copeland, Jr., president; Harold Bell, vice-

president; Mrs. Van H. Priest, vice-president; and Edwin B. Browning, Sr., historian. The Society meets regularly, furnishes historical information to the area newspapers, and encourages interest and study in the rich history of Madison County.

*Okaloosa-Walton Counties Historical Society:* The inaugural meeting of the Society in November 1969 was addressed by Dr. Herbert J. Doherty, Jr., president of the Florida Historical Society. Speaking in the library of the Okaloosa-Walton Junior College at Ft. Walton Beach, Dr. Doherty discussed the work and importance of local historical societies and commissions and delineated appropriate activities which such organizations might best emphasize. The Society has been organized under the leadership of the Okaloosa County Historical Commission.

*Orange County Historical Commission:* B. A. Cheney is chairman, and Kenneth D. Kienth is secretary of the Orange County Commission. Rolland Dean is editor of the "Orange County Historical Quarterly." Its latest issue carried an article describing "Orange County's Forgotten Fort McNeil." The Commission plans to place an historical marker on State Road 532 marking the site of the fort.

*Palm Beach County Historical Society:* Dr. Susan B. Anthony, great-niece of the leader of the American Suffrage Movement, Miss Dena Snodgrass of Jacksonville, and Hampton Dunn were recent program speakers. Dr. Anthony described her Aunt Susan's visit to Florida (Orange City and Daytona Beach) in 1905; Miss Snodgrass's topic was "Sweet Land by the Sea, Ft. George Island, Florida," and Hampton Dunn gave a talk entitled "Florida, from the Huguenots to the Astronauts." Grover C. Herring is president of the Society; Dr. Samuel M. Lindsey and James R. Knott are vice-presidents; Jane Green is secretary; Arthur E. Barrow is treasurer; and Kenneth I. Van Der Hulse is assistant treasurer.

*Pensacola Historical Society:* The Society meets regularly at its museum in Old Christ Church on Seville Square. Professors A. B. Thomas and Ernest F. Dibble of the University of West Florida and Penn Harvey, were the speakers at a recent member-



ship meetings. The museum's artifacts, books, and manuscripts are being utilized by University of West Florida students who are evaluating the historic sites of Pensacola and Escambia County. The Society has reproduced the June 15, 1863 issue of the *Santa Rosa* (Fort Pickens) *News Boy* for its members.

*Pinellas County Historical Commission:* Plans are underway for a new museum display of charts, maps, and artifacts depicting protohuman and human life in Pinellas County and Florida for the past 10,000 years. These new exhibits are possible because of additional space that has been made available to the Commission. Fifty year service certificates have been awarded to the *Clearwater Sun* and the *St. Petersburg Times and Evening Independent*. The Commission plans to present fifty-year certificates to other Pinellas County enterprises which have been in operation for at least a half century. Ralph D. Reed is executive director of the Commission, and members are E. Reinhold Rodgers, William M. Goza, Frank F. Bushnell, Walter P. Fuller, and Colonel H. M. Salley of Tarpon Springs. A distinguished service award was made to the Clearwater Junior Service League in recognition of its volunteer service with the Pinellas County Historical Museum.

*Safety Harbor Area Historical Society:* The Society's new museum at 123 Main Street, Safety Harbor, was officially opened on January 25, 1970. Some 250 people were present. It features archaeological artifacts found at various Pinellas County sites including Bayview Mound, Boot Ranch, and Philippe Park. Gustave Nelson is president of the Society and Sam Prentice is museum director. Its monthly newsletter is entitled "Tocobaga." The Society, in cooperation with the Pinellas County Historical Commission, held a debate between Walter P. Fuller of St. Petersburg and Warren E. Wilkinson of Jacksonville Beach on February 25, 1970, on the subject of Hernando de Soto's landing in Florida and the route of his march. William M. Goza, former president of the Florida Historical Society, acted as moderator.

*Santa Fe River Historical Society:* The Society has launched an active oral history taping program and interviews with

pioneer settlers and residents of the area. The main concentration will be on the people associated with early railroad and phosphate activities. At a recent meeting, Dr. Samuel Proctor spoke on "Oral History for the Local History Society."

*Southwest Florida Historical Society:* The Society, which has its offices in the Lee County Courthouse, Fort Myers, has resumed publication of its "Newsletter." Alberta Rawchuck and Kenneth Helper are the editors. Harmon Turner of Naples was the speaker at the February 1970 meeting, and his topic was "Early Land Surveys in South Florida." Lloyd Hendry spoke at the March meeting on "Law, Order, and Jurisprudence South of the Caloosahatchee."

*St. Augustine Historical Society:* The annual membership meeting of the Society was held in January, and a color movie entitled *This is Frederica* was shown during the program part of the meeting. It portrayed the daily life of settlers in this small British fortified town of Frederica, Georgia. Established in 1736, Frederica served as a post protecting Savannah from Spanish Florida. Joyce Harman's *Trade and Privateering in Spanish Florida, 1732-1763* has been published by the Society and is available for sale. The Society has awarded citations to past members of the St. Augustine Historical Restoration and Preservation Committee: H. P. Wolfe, W. F. Rolleston, William L. Simms, II, J. Saxtons Lloyd, Leonard A. Usina, Kent S. McKinley, Sam T. Dill, and Mrs. C. D. Powers, Sr. Officers of the St. Augustine Historical Society are W. I. Drysdale, president; N. P. Calhoun, vice-president; W. J. Winter, secretary; Roy O. Barnes, treasurer; Luis R. Arana, librarian; and W. W. Wilson, Father Michael V. Gannon, and Norton Baskin, directors. J. T. Van Campen is director emeritus.

*St. Lucie County Historical Society:* The Society holds regular monthly supper meetings, and individuals who are specialists in the history of St. Lucie County and Florida are invited to speak. In the Society's monthly news letter Walter R. Hellier, county historian, includes interesting and informative historical notes about the St. Lucie County area. Officers are J. D. Almond, president; W. F. Richards, vice-president; Mrs. Clifton D. Davis,

secretary; and Mrs. George O. Cox, treasurer. The Society sponsors an historical essay contest for local high school students, and the prize is a United States savings bond.

*St. Petersburg Historical Society:* The St. Petersburg Historical Museum, the Haas Museum, and the Grace Turner House are sponsored and supported by the St. Petersburg Historical Society. "The Seabreeze," which began publication in 1964, contains information about the historical activities of St. Petersburg and Pinellas County. Officers of the Society are Lorin B. Smith, president; Larry E. Welke, vice-president; Ruth Leatherman, treasurer; Martha Golub, recording secretary; Mrs. Robert R. Massey, corresponding secretary; and Ethel Chapman, historical research secretary.

*Tallahassee Historical Society:* The officers of the Society, which is one of the oldest in Florida, are: P. F. Wallis Prater, president; William Warren Rogers, vice-president; Daisy Parker, secretary; O. Burton Adams, treasurer; and, Mrs. D. Avant, Sr., director.

*Tarpon Springs Historical Society:* Under the presidency of Colonel H. M. Salley, who was also recently appointed a member of the Pinellas County Historical Commission, the Society has sponsored recently a reception and tea. It placed on display at the Tarpon Springs Public Library a valuable collection of pictures and artifacts of the area. The society has a membership of more than 300.

#### Notices

Among those participating in the Hollins Conference on Creative Writing and Cinema, June 15-27, 1970, are Professor W. R. Robinson of the University of Florida. Dr. Robert H. Akerman, Florida Southern College and a member of the board of directors of the Florida Historical Society, and Governor LeRoy Collins are listed as visiting lecturers. For more information write Hollins Summer Conference, Hollins College, Virginia 24020.

## OBITUARY

*Theodore Pratt*

Theodore Pratt, author, short story writer, and essayist, died suddenly December 15, 1969, at Delray Beach, Florida, of a heart attack. Mr. Pratt, a long time member of the Florida Historical Society and a member of the board of editors of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, was the author of thirty-five books. Fourteen of these are about Florida, and include his famed Florida trilogy, *The Barefoot Mailman*, *The Flame Tree*, and *The Big Bubble*, which trace the history of South Florida from 1880 through the collapse of the real estate boom in 1925. *Seminole*, *The Money*, *Mercy Island*, his collection of short stories, *Florida Roundabout*, and several of his mysteries are also about Florida. Five of his books were made into movies, and his play *Big Blow* ran for six months on Broadway. He has frequently been referred to as "the literary laureate of Florida."

A native of Minneapolis, Mr. Pratt lived in New York and in Europe before moving to Florida in 1934. He lived in Lake Worth and Boca Raton, before moving to Delray Beach. Prior to his death, Mr. Pratt gave his collection of letters, manuscripts, first and foreign editions of his books, and other memorabilia to Florida Atlantic University. The collection is housed in the Theodore Pratt Room in the university library.