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## History News

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## HISTORY NEWS

*American Association for State and Local History Awards*

At its annual meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, September 1970, the American Association for State and Local History recognized a number of state and local historical projects, agencies, and publications in the United States and Canada which showed superior achievement and quality. It was unanimously voted to give an *Award of Merit* to Mrs. Mary MacRae of Homosassa for her more than fifty years of exemplary action in the causes of Homosassa, Citrus County, and Florida history. Mrs. MacRae, a former member of the board of directors of the Florida Historical Society, was one of only eight individuals who received this national recognition. A *Certificate of Commendation* was given to Joyce E. Harman for her work, *Trade and Privateering in Spanish Florida, 1732-1763*, published by the St. Augustine Historical Society in 1969. The Society was also recognized for its role in making Miss Harman's work available. *The St. Petersburg Times*, the only newspaper recognized this year for its work in interpreting state and local history, was recognized for the historical articles appearing in *The Floridian*, its weekly news magazine.

*Gulf Coast History and Humanities Conference*

The second annual Gulf Coast History and Humanities Conference was held in Pensacola on December 4-5, 1970. The theme for this year's conference was "Spain and Her Rivals." Reading papers were John J. TePaske (Duke University), J. Preston Moore (Louisiana State University), Alfred B. Thomas (University of Alabama and the University of West Florida), Hale Smith (Florida State University), and Sam Wilson, Jr. (New Orleans and Tulane University). Round table participants included William Coker (University of West Florida), John Mahon (University of Florida), Jack Gregory (University of West Florida), J. Leitch Wright (Florida State University), Ted Carageorge (Pensacola Junior College), John Ramsey (University of Alabama), Donald E. Worcester (Texas Christian University), Samuel Proctor (University of Florida), Earle Newton (Historic

Pensacola Preservation Board), James Schaeffer (Historic Pensacola Preservation Board), Duncan Stewart (University of West Florida), Lucius Ellsworth (University of West Florida), Charles Branch (Escarosa Humanities Center), John Rees (Pensacola Junior College), Charles Summersell (University of Alabama), Donald Brogaw (University of West Florida), and Jean Hiles (Brentwood Middle School). The first annual Gulf Coast Conference was held in December 1969, and its proceedings, *In Search of Gulf Coast Colonial History*, have been published and are available for sale. Dr. Ernest F. Dibble of the University of West Florida and Earle F. Newton of the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board served as chairmen of the 1970 Conference. The sessions were held at the University of West Florida, the Pensacola Junior College, and the Escarosa Humanities Center.

"Spain and Her Rivals," the conference theme, was the title of a special exhibit at the Hispanic Museum in the Historic District. It was prepared by Thomas G. Baker, chief curator for the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board.

### *National Register of Historic Places*

The National Park Service, United States Department of Interior, has added the following eleven Florida sites to the National Register of Historic Places:

*Pensacola Historic District* — a thirty-six block area stretching from Plaza Ferdinand (already on the National Register) past Seville Square to Ninth Avenue on the east, and from the waterfront to St. Michael's Cemetery on the north. The district is being preserved and restored according to a master plan under the supervision of the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board.

*Olustee Battlefield*, (US 90, two miles east of Olustee, Columbia County) major engagement of the Civil War in Florida.

*Everglades and Seminole Indian Reservations* (US 41, seventeen miles south of Naples, Collier County) — 6,423 acre tract of semi-tropical wilderness and the home of many Florida Indians.

*Gamble Mansion* (US 301, two and three-quarter miles east of Palmetto, Manatee County) — antebellum home that served as a refuge for Judah P. Benjamin, Confederate cabinet officer, after the Civil War.

*Madeira Bickle Mound* (US 19, Terra Ceia Island, Manatee County) -site of extensive Indian habitation and the first archaeological location in Florida to become a state historic memorial. It is named for Mrs. Karl A. Bickle who, together with her husband, donated the property to the state.

*Mound Key* (Estero Bay, Lee County) — part of Koreshan State Park and allegedly the site of the Calusa Indian town visited by Pedro Menéndez in 1565.

*McLarty State Museum* (A1A, south of Sebastian Inlet, Indian River County)-site of the salvage camp for the recovery of the treasure from the Spanish Plate wrecks of 1715. It is named for Robert P. McLarty who deeded the site to the state.

*Fort Pickens State Park* (US 98, 21A, west of Pensacola Beach, Escambia County)-the brick nineteenth-century fort was actively involved in the Civil War.

*Yulee Sugar Mill Ruins* (Fla. 480, Old Homosassa, Citrus County) — once part of the plantation belonging to David Levy Yulee, Florida's first United States senator. Much of the machinery is still intact, although the place was burned by a Federal landing party during the Civil War.

*Spanish Coquina Quarries* (A1A, St. Augustine Beach, St. Johns County) -contains the original coquina shell rock veins from which the Spaniards quarried the material used in constructing many of St. Augustine's oldest buildings.

*New Smyrna Sugar Mill Remains* (US 1, Fla. 90, New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County) -constructed around 1831, it is typical of the mills that were part of the plantation economy of Territorial Florida.

*Florida Junior Historian*

The Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management has begun publishing the *Florida Junior Historian* magazine. The first issue contains a collection of essays on Florida history written by fourth and fifth grade school children from the Tallahassee area. Copies are available from the Division of Archives, History and Records Management, the Capital, Tallahassee 32304.

*Speakers Bureau*

Dr. Herbert J. Doherty, Jr., former president of the Florida Historical Society, has compiled a list of persons who are willing to speak to interested groups on Florida history subjects. It includes the following: Margaret L. Chapman (University of South Florida), Merlin G. Cox (University of Florida), Glenn H. Dill (New Port Richey), Herbert J. Doherty, Jr. (University of Florida), John R. Dunkle (University of Florida), Hampton Dunn (Tampa), Charles H. Fairbanks (University of Florida), Walter P. Fuller (St. Petersburg), Father Michael V. Gannon (University of Florida), William M. Goza (Clearwater), Walter R. Hellier (Ft. Pierce), Baynard Kendrick (Leesburg), Judge James R. Knott (West Palm Beach), Frank Laumer (Dade City), John K. Mahon (University of Florida), Leedell W. Neyland (Florida A & M University), Ralph L. Peek (University of Florida), Vernon Peebles (Punta Gorda), Samuel Proctor (University of Florida), F. Blair Reeves (University of Florida), William Warren Rogers (Florida State University), Jerrell H. Shofner (Florida State University), Alice Strickland (Ormond Beach), Claude C. Sturgill (University of Florida), Charlton W. Tebeau (University of Miami), John Ware (Tampa), Warren H. Wilkinson (Jacksonville Beach), and Judge Ben C. Willis (Tallahassee).

Arrangements should be made directly with the speaker. Dr. Doherty has prepared a list showing qualifications, topics, and the conditions set by the speakers for accepting an invitation. This list of speakers has been sent to all of the historical societies and commissions in Florida, but additional copies are available from Dr. Doherty, Department of Social Sciences, Little Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville 32601, and from

the Florida Historical Society, University of South Florida Library, Tampa 33620.

*Announcements and Activities*

The Florida Anthropological Society will hold its annual meeting March 20, 1971, at the Science Center, St. Petersburg. Dr. James W. Covington, University of Tampa, is president of the Society and program chairman. Persons interested in presenting papers on historical or anthropological topics are asked to communicate with Dr. Covington.

The Florida Academy of Sciences will hold its annual meeting March 25-27, at the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne. Anyone interested in presenting a paper or acting as a discussant in the fields of economics, political science, history, psychology, sociology, anthropology, geography, or philosophy is asked to write Professor Jack E. Vincent, Political Science Department, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, 33432.

The 1971 Conference of the Florida College Teachers of History will meet on the campus of Stetson University, DeLand, on April 2-3, 1971. Dr. Gerald E. Critoph of Stetson is vice-president of the association and program chairman. For information on the program and participants, communications should be directed to Dr. Critoph, History Department, Stetson University.

*Local Historical Societies and Commissions*

*Alachua County Historical Society:* Colonel Harold B. Bachman, director emeritus of the University of Florida band, was the speaker at the opening fall meeting of the Society in September. His topic was "The Role of Band Music in American Culture." Dr. Ronald J. Cutler, professor of English, University of Florida, spoke at the October meeting on "The Impact of Literature on Florida Culture and Development." Professor Roy C. Craven, Jr., of the University of Florida's art department, discussed the impact of art on Florida history at the November meeting. The Society issues a regular news letter.

*Historic St. Augustine Preservation Board:* Mr. and Mrs. Walter

S. Crawbuck of Ponte Vedra were cited recently in a resolution by the Commission for their work in restoring the Rodriguez-Avera-Sanchez House which was first opened to the public in 1957. The Board is sponsoring an exhibit of pre-Columbian aboriginal artifacts dating from about 600 B.C. to 1500 A.D. and representing archaeological sites and cultures from Mexico, Central, and South American in the Pan-American Center. The exhibition represents a cross-section of the principal Indian cultures and their art as seen by the first Spaniards in the New World. The exhibits include textiles, jewelry, and various art objects.

*Jacksonville Historical Society:* Dr. Gordon E. Bigelow, University of Florida, was the speaker at the November meeting of the Society. His subject was "The Literary Career of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings," taken from his published biography of Mrs. Rawlings. The Society dedicated a historical marker at the site of Mission San Juan del Puerto on Fort George Island at a ceremony in October. General Stoyt Ross is chairman of the committee which has placed a number of markers throughout the area. The Carl S. Swisher Library, Jacksonville University, has set aside a special room for the Society's collection of manuscripts, books, maps, and memorabilia of Jacksonville, Duval County, and Florida. Audrey Broward, Jacksonville University reference librarian, is in charge of the collection. It is available for use by scholars and researchers. John B. Turner, Jr. is president of the Society. Other officers include Stoyt O. Ross and John Tillman, vice-presidents; William M. Bliss, treasurer; Mrs. Carl P. Sasnett and Mrs. Everett McCarthy, secretaries; Audrey Broward, archivist; and Dena Snodgrass, historian. Directors are Robert C. Hall, Malachi Houghton, Jr., Frank L. Harris, Mrs. Robert H. Paul, Jr., C. Harvey Peacock, John J. Powell, George W. Semmes, John N. Sewell, and Mrs. Herbert E. Williams.

*Key West Art and Historical Society:* The Society held a **reception** on November 24, 1970, at East Martello Tower marking the opening of its annual juried art exhibition.

*Historical Society of Fort Lauderdale:* The October 1970 number of "New River News," the Society's publication, lists recent

donations to the Society's history collection. There is also an article on the city attorneys of Fort Lauderdale dating back to March 1911, when the community was first incorporated. Mrs. William G. Hardy is president of the Society, George W. English and Mrs. Frank Stranahan are vice-presidents, and Mrs. H. A. Beck is secretary. The board of trustees include August Burchard, N. V. Cheaney, R. M. Gardner, James E. Hunt, Sr., and C. P. Weidling, Jr.

*Orange County Historical Commission:* Historical markers have been placed at the Fort McNeil and Council Oak sites, and special ceremonies dedicating the markers were held in the fall. The Society's historical museum has moved its collections from the courthouse annex to the second floor of the Christ Building, northwest corner of Central Boulevard and Court Street. Show-cases are being refurbished, and the museum is being reopened to the public.

*Peace River Valley Historical Society:* Vernon E. Peeples of Punta Gorda, past president of the Peace River Valley Historical Society, was the speaker at the September meeting held at Pioneer Park, Zolfo Springs. Dr. Herbert J. Doherty, Jr., of the University of Florida and former president of the Florida Historical Society, was the speaker at the October meeting. His subject was Andrew Jackson's activities in Florida. The November meeting was devoted to consideration of the Society's sponsorship of the Florida Historical Society meeting on May 7-8 in Punta Gorda. The local arrangements committee includes Vernon E. Peeples (chairman), William M. Goza, William H. Bevis, and Colonel Reed B. Harding.

The Pioneer Museum at Zolfo Springs, operated jointly by the Society and the Hardee Pioneer Park Board, displays pictures of the recipients of the Florida History Award, given annually by the Society to persons who have made important contributions to the understanding and interpretation of Florida history. These include Albert DeVane, Father Jerome of St. Leo Abbey, Dr. Samuel Proctor, Colonel Reed B. Harding, and Dr. James Covington. A collection of reprints and original pictures of pioneer and Seminole days in Florida is being assembled for inclusion in the expanding museum. Park DeVane is in



charge of the Society's plan to create a historical map of the Peace River Valley.

*Peninsula Archaeological Society, St. Petersburg Chapter:* Alfred ing launched a major membership drive and is soliciting donations. Many generous contributions from individuals and Pensacola business firms and clubs have been received. As a result the historical museum in Christ Church is now open three days a week. Woody Skinner spoke at the November meeting on

"The Story of Pensacola Bay." He used colored slides and a film to illustrate his talk. The film was made for the Escarosa Humanities Center to be used in schools in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties.

*Peninsula Archeological Society, St. Petersburg Chapter:* Alfred H. Robson of Anna Maria spoke on Florida's maritime history at the opening fall meeting of the Society, held in the Humanities Building, Florida Presbyterian College, St. Petersburg. Mr. Robson illustrated his talk with ship models, photos, drawings, and maps. Richard Blitz is president of the Society.

*Pinellas County Historical Commission:* Dr. J. C. Dickinson, director of the Florida State Museum at Gainesville, was the speaker at a meeting in Clearwater, November 18, sponsored by the Commission and other Pinellas County historical groups. Dr. Dickinson described the new museum and the Florida history exhibits which it will house. The Commission has secured a number of new acquisitions, including pioneer tools and equipment found in a century-old barn belonging to William F. Nigels, a settler of the 1870s. William M. Goza, former president of the Florida Historical Society and member of the Pinellas County Historical Commission, is vice-chairman of the Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board of Trustees which was created by the 1970 Florida legislature.

**Safety Harbor Area Historical Society:** William M. Goza, former president of the Florida Historical Society, has been named Historian of the Year by the Safety Harbor Area Historical Society. He was honored for his help, work, and encouragement to the Society, and because of his many contributions to all areas of local and state history. Mr. Goza received a plaque from

the Society. Don Ball of the Pinellas County Boy Scout Council spoke at the September 1970 meeting on "American Military Edged Weapons: Past and Present." Robert Williams, director of the Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management was the speaker at the October meeting. He described the work of his division and showed slides of archaeological investigation being carried on by members of his staff. The Society held a dig on September 5 on the Spa property, just north of Barth's Baths, and a number of bottles and worked flint and pottery sherds were unearthed. The Society held its annual picnic on Sunday, November 29, in Philippe Park.

*St. Lucie County Historical Society:* Recent speakers at monthly supper meetings of the Society have been Mrs. Addie Emerson, director of the South Beach Museum, Sam Purdue, Mrs. Ada Tyre, and Hood Ditman. The Society's historical museum on Seaway Drive, South Beach, is displaying a scale model of Fort Pierce, the fortification constructed during the Second Seminole War, and artifacts excavated from the fort site.

*St. Petersburg Historical Society:* In May 1970, the Society received as a gift the antebellum house of Captain John T. Lowe which was originally constructed at Anono on Boca Ciega Bay between Indian Rocks and Belleaire. The house has been moved to a site next to the Haas Museum, 3511 Second Avenue, and it is being refurbished and restored. It will be known as the Lowe-Condricks House, and it will be operated as a house-museum.

*Southwest Florida Historical Society:* Lloyd Hendry was the speaker at the October meeting in the Commissioner's Room, Lee County Courthouse, Fort Myers. He spoke on his ancestor, Francis Asbury Hendry. Betty Hawkins, author of "Twice Upon A Time," a weekly column dealing with Lee County pioneer families, appearing in the *Fort Myers News-Press*, was the speaker at the November meeting. She described her research and the writing of her column. The Society is supporting the effort to preserve the Boca Grande Lighthouse. The Society's office is at 2312 First Street, and it is open on Tuesday afternoons..

*Notes*

The Pennsylvania State University, with the endorsement of the National Historical Publications Commission, has undertaken a project to locate and record correspondence and other manuscript writings of former President Martin Van Buren. The final objective is the publishing of a letterpress edition of the Van Buren Papers. A national search for Van Buren material is presently underway, and anyone who owns or who has knowledge of where pertinent data is located is asked to write to Dr. Walter L. Ferree, editor, the Papers of Martin Van Buren, Pennsylvania State University, Department of History, Oogontz Campus, 1600 Woodland Road, Abington, Pennsylvania 19001.

## OBITUARY

*Charles Loch Mowat*

Charles Loch Mowat, professor of history at the University College of North Wales, Bangor, died at his home in Llanfairfechan on June 23, 1970. The eldest son of another distinguished historian, R. B. Mowat, he was born on October 4, 1911, at Oxford, where his father was Fellow of Corpus Christi, and he was educated at Marlborough and St. John's. Professor Mowat taught for many years in the United States, holding posts successively at the universities of Minnesota (1934-1936), California at Los Angeles (1936-1950), and Chicago (1950-1958). In 1956 he became editor of the *Journal of Modern History*. Two years later he returned to Wales and was appointed to the chair of history at Bangor.

His earliest work was *East Florida as a British Province, 1763-1784*, published in 1943. It was republished in 1964 by the University of Florida Press in its Floridian Facsimile a Reprint Series, with an editorial preface by Dr. Rembert W. Patrick. In 1961 Professor Mowat published a short history of the Charity Organization Society, of which his grandfather, Sir Charles Stewart Loch, had been the secretary, and in 1964, *The Golden Valley Railway*, a study of the impact of railway enterprise on a remote rural community in the Welsh border country. He was best known, however, as the author of *Britain between the Wars, 1918-1940* (1955). His eminence in his field was acknowledged by the invitation to edit the second edition of volume XII of the *New Cambridge Modern History* (1968). He was also the author of several articles dealing with British East Florida, and his book reviews appeared frequently in the *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Professor Mowat's many friends both in America and Britain will feel his death as a deep personal loss.

**G**REAT EXPECTATIONS . . . . .

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|-------------------|--|---|
| February<br>25-27 | Library History Seminar  | Florida State Uni-<br>versity, Tallahassee      |
| March 20          | Florida Anthropological<br>Society                             | Science Center,<br>St. Petersburg               |
| March<br>24-27    | Florida Academy of<br>Sciences                                 | Florida Instiute of<br>Technology,<br>Melbourne |
| March<br>26-28    | Fifth Annual Conference<br>of Southern Historical<br>Societies | Mobile  |
| April 2-3         | Florida College Teachers<br>of History                         | Stetson University,<br>DeLand                   |
| April 2-3         | South Atlantic States<br>Archives and Records<br>Conference    | Tallahassee                                     |
| April<br>14-17    | Organization of Amer-<br>ican Historians                       | New Orleans                                     |
| May 7-8           | FLORIDA HISTORI-<br>CAL SOCIETY —<br>69TH ANNUAL<br>MEETING    | Punta Gorda                                     |