

1970

## History News

Florida Historical Society  
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HISTORY NEWS

*The Annual Meeting*

The Florida Historical Society will hold its sixty-ninth annual meeting in Punta Gorda, May 6-8, 1971 at the Holiday Inn Motel. Vernon E. Peebles, Colonel Read B. Harding, and William Bevis are in charge of local arrangements. The Peace River Valley Historical Society will act as official host. Professors William W. Rogers and Jerrell H. Shofner of Florida State University are program chairmen. Dr. Robert G. Hartje is the banquet speaker Saturday night. He is a professor and chairman of the Department of History, Wittenberg College (Springfield, Ohio) and director of the American Association for State and Local History's American Revolution Bicentennial Project.

Dr. Samuel Proctor, editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, will announce the recipient of the Arthur W. Thompson Memorial Prize in Florida History for 1970-1971, and Milton D. Jones will make the Award of Merit-Excellence in Presentation of Florida History by News Media. The first recipient of the Rembert W. Patrick Memorial Book Award will also be announced at the banquet by Dr. Charlton Tebeau of the University of Miami.

The board of directors will hold its meeting on Thursday evening. The business luncheon will be convened by James C. Craig, 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 scenic boat cruise of the Punta Gorda area, and there-with a reception on Friday evening, May 7, at six o'clock at the Punta Gorda Isles Yacht Club. Registration will begin at nine o'clock on May 7 in the lobby of the Holiday Inn, 300 Retta Esplanada, Punta Gorda.

*Announcements and Activities*

The twenty-third annual meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society was held at the Science Center, St. Petersburg, March 27. Dr. James W. Covington of Tampa University presided as president. Artifact reproductions of the Key Marco and Weedon Island time periods, and artifacts of the Canton street

sites are displayed. Officers elected at the business meeting included: Carl A. Benson, president; William M. Goza, first vice-president; George H. Magruder, second vice-president, and Sara B. Benson, secretary-treasurer. Thomas H. Gouchnour, Cliff E. Mattox, Wilma Williams, James Varner, and Anthony Paredes were elected to the executive committee. Ripley P. Bullen is editor of the *Florida Anthropologist*, and Mrs. Benson edits the Society's newsletter. The Sun Coast Archaeological Society and the Science Center served as hosts for this conference.

The ninth annual conference of the Florida College Teachers of History met at Stetson University on April 2-3. Eighteen college and university professors presented papers. Major addresses were made by Dr. Franklyn A. Johnson, trustee of the William H. Donnor Foundation and former president of Jacksonville University, Francis P. Whitehair, former special assistant attorney general of the United States and undersecretary of the Navy, and Dr. J. Ollie Edmunds, chancellor of Stetson University. Dr. Gerald E. Critoph, Stetson University, was program chairman. He was also elected president of the association for 1971-1972, succeeding Dr. Ted Carageorge of the Pensacola Community College. Professors Evans Johnson and Marc Lovelace, Stetson University, were in charge of local arrangements.

The Indian River Community College has been designated as a Center for Historical Data, and it is collecting material relating to the historical development of the four-county area encompassed by the college. It will include Spanish, French, English and Dutch colonial sources: newspapers, maps, charts, sketches, photographs, personal journals, books, letters and collections of letters, and recorded and taped interviews. The materials will be filed and indexed for use by qualified students. An Advisory Commission on Local History is being appointed from among citizens of the four counties.

The Florida Historical Society's Speakers Bureau has been making available to historical, civic, and community groups individuals who are knowledgeable and who are willing to talk about local and Florida history. Dr. Herbert J. Doherty, Jr., is currently revising the list of speakers, and any member of the Society who is willing to speak on any phase of Florida history

is asked to communicate with him at 352 Little Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville 32601.

Mr. T. T. Wentworth, Jr., former member of the Board of Directors of the Florida Historical Society and director and owner of the T. T. Wentworth, Jr. Museum of Pensacola was recognized as Pensacola's "Man of the Year" by that community's Kiwanis Club in January 1971. Mr. Wentworth was one of the founding members of the Pensacola Historical Society **and** has played an active role for many years in developing the history of West Florida.

A nineteenth-century Florida home and the surrounding gardens have been restored and opened to the public by the Florida Park Boards. It is located at Point Washington, a mile north of U.S. Highway 98 overlooking Choctawhatchee Bay in Walton County. The home was built in 1895 by William Wesley, a lumber entrepreneur, and it was presented to the state in 1968 by Miss Lois Maxon of Pensacola. Furniture of the period has been used to decorate the house.

#### *Local Historical Societies and Commissions*

*Alachua County Historical Society:* In December 1970, members visited the site of Newnansville and inspected a section of the Bellamy Road. A second trip was made in February, and on March 27, 1971, the Society were hosts to the members of the Santa Fe River Historical Society and the Lake County Historical Society on a trip to Newnansville, O'Leno, and the area. Russell H. Robarts spoke on the history of Newnansville at the January meeting. Dr. Ripley Bullen of the Florida State Museum was the speaker at the February meeting.

*Florida Genealogical Society:* Meetings and genealogical workshops are held monthly in the Tampa Public Library. The Society has contributed reference books, genealogical records, and historical publications to the library. Mrs. Wilson L. Baker is president, and Theodore Lesley is editor of the "Florida Genealogical Journal."

*Historical Society of Fort Lauderdale:* On November 23, 1970, the Florida Power and Light Company dedicated a plaque

marking the site 'of Broward County's first and second **schools** and the first county courthouse. The marker was unveiled by Mrs. Frank Stranahan, the county's first teacher, and was formally dedicated by Mayor Peter Clements. Members of the historical society who cooperated with the company in preparing the plaque were Mrs. A. J. Beck, Mrs. Frank Stranahan, James S. Hunt, Sr., N. B. Cheaney, August Burghard, C. P. Weidling, and Mrs. William G. Hardy. The Society also was represented at ceremonies on December 9, 1970, marking the tenth anniversary of the opening of the New River Tunnel. The January 1971 issue of "New River News" included a history of Fort Lauderdale High School.

*Jacksonville Historical Society:* Dr. Samuel Proctor, editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, spoke on "The P. K. Yonge Library of Florida History: A Treasure Trove of History" at the Society's meeting on February 10. He emphasized the source material in the Yonge collection at the University of Florida which relates to Jacksonville history as an aid to the city's sesquicentennial celebration in 1972. The February 1971 number of the Society's newsletter listed several gifts of books, pictures, and historical records. These include an oil painting of the steamship "City of Jacksonville" which was displayed at the February meeting.

*Jefferson County Historical Association:* A number of historic homes in Monticello were open to visitors on April 3-4. This is an annual event of the Society, and several hundred people visited the nineteenth century homes and buildings in the area that were opened to the public. The Association's major project is the restoration of the Wirick-Simmons house. Edwin Finlayson is president of the Association and Mrs. Parkhill Mays is vice-president.

*Orange County Historical Commission:* The commission is occupying its new quarters at 27 East Central Boulevard (upstairs). The museum has also been moved to this location. Several pieces of furniture, books, photographs, and a painting have been added to the collection. The December 1970 number of the "Orange County Historical Quarterly" carried a brief history of the "Rosalind Club" which was organized in Orlando

in 1894. Donald Cheney is chairman of the commission, Kenneth D. Kienth is treasurer, and Rolland Dean is editor of its publication.

*Palm Beach County Historical Society:* Donald W. Curl, chairman of the Department of History at Florida Atlantic University, spoke to the Society on December 17, 1970, on "Pioneer Life in Southeast Florida." This is the subject of his recent book, derived from the Charles W. Pierce manuscript, which has been published by the University of Miami Press. Margaret K. Johns, a film producer and director, spoke at the January meeting and showed some of the color films which she has produced. Dr. John F. Reiger was the speaker at the February meeting, and he discussed "Florida During the Civil War." On display in February at the Henry Morrison Flagler Museum were two exhibits, one on the Seminole Indians of Florida with oil paintings by Anne Tyler of Belle Glade. The other exhibit was artifacts taken from work site number 5 (Haiti) by the Santa Maria Foundation. The published works of Louis Capron and Lawrence Wills were also on exhibit.

*Peace River Valley Historical Society:* At the January meeting, the question of teaching Florida history in the public schools was discussed by Mrs. Susie Brewer, principal of the DeSoto Middle School in Arcadia, and Mrs. Agnes Washington, a member of the school's faculty. The DeSoto Middle School teaches Florida history as a major subject, and Mrs. Washington demonstrated the methods used in teaching the courses. Professor Alvin J. Marrow of the South Florida Junior College at Avon Park was the speaker at the February meeting. He discussed the historical background of the West Florida Panhandle. Vernon Peoples of Punta Gorda, past president of the Society, was named recipient of the Florida History Award for 1970. A presentation will be made at the Annual Meeting of the Florida Historical Society in Punta Gorda in May. The Peace River Valley Historical Society will be the hosts for this meeting. Mr. Peoples, Colonel Read R. Harding, and William Bevis are in charge of arrangements.

*Pensacola Historical Society:* "Law, Order, and Punishment of Indians in the Southeast United States" was the title of the

talk by Dr. Rennard Strickland of the University of West Florida at the February 15, 1971 meeting of the Society. Members appointed to the Pensacola Historic Preservation Board include Robert L. Stone, Henry Cary, and Mrs. H. James Seegers. Recent issues of the "Newsletter" list new members and donors. In addition to several gifts, the Society has purchased microfilm of the *Pensacola Gazette* for the period March 25, 1854-March 8, 1858.

*Pinellas County Historical Commission:* At the January meeting, Lee March described the trek made by Boy Scout Troop 12 of Dunedin from Tampa to the site of the Dade Massacre. The marchers attempted to retrace the route of the Old Fort King Road. They were aided by William M. Goza of Clearwater and Frank Laumer of Dade City who had made a similar trek in 1963. An effort will be made to mark the road at approximately half-mile intervals and to incorporate it into the national trail system.

*Safety Harbor Area Historical Society:* Recent speakers at the regular monthly meetings of the Society have included Bradley Cooley, Basil Yettaw, Sam Prentice, and Margaret Chapman. Mr. Cooley of Riverview, who is president of the Tampa chapter of Peninsular Archaeological Society, displayed his collection of Florida projectile points. The February meeting featured a slide presentation of Florida historic sites. Miss Chapman, vice-president of the Florida Historical Society and special collections librarian, spoke at the March meeting.

*St. Augustine Historical Society.* Dr. Samuel Proctor was the speaker at the annual membership meeting of the Society on January 12, 1971. He presented American Association for State and Local History awards to Mrs. Mary MacRae of Homosassa for her more than fifty years of contributions to state and local history, to Miss Joyce Harmon for her book, *Trade and Privateering in Spanish Florida, 1732-1763*, and to the St. Augustine Historical Society for publishing Miss Harmon's book. Officers elected for 1971 include: N. P. Calhoun, president; Hubert Carcaba, vice-president; W. J. Winter, secretary; Roy C. Barnes, treasurer; Luis R. Arana, librarian; Milton E. Bacon, X. L. Pellicer, Dr. Carlton L. Calkin, and W. I. Drysdale, directors;

and Dr. Michael V. Gannon, director emeritus. The January 1971 issue of *El Escribano* carried an article by John D. Ware entitled "Marino de la Rocque, Military Engineer: Two Files of Documents." St. Augustine sites recently added to the National Historic Landmarks include the Spanish coquina quarries on Anastasia Island and Anastasia State Park.

*St. Petersburg Historical Society:* Officers elected at the annual meeting in January include: William M. Goza, president; Mrs. Frank Golub and Seymour 'Gordon, vice-presidents; Mrs. Cameron Lusty, treasurer; Emily N. Kirbach and Mrs. Robert Massey, secretaries; and Ethel Chapman, historical research secretary. The Society has a total of 396 members. Captain John D. Ware spoke at the January 1971 meeting on "Surveys of Tampa Bay." Work is continuing on the restoration and furnishing, of the Lowe-Condrick House which will be open soon to the public. The Society also operates the Haas Museum at 3511 Second Avenue, South, and the Grace S. Turner House at 3501 Second Avenue, South. Several hundred students and teachers from Pinellas and Hillsborough counties visited the museum exhibits during the past several months.

*Southwest Florida Historical Society:* Joe Dan Osceola was the speaker at the December 1970 meeting, and he discussed the history and the current problems of the Florida Seminole Indians. Stanley Hansom described the Gonzalez family, one of the three original settlers of Fort Myers, at the January meeting. The Society holds its program meetings in the Lee County Courthouse.

#### Notes

Dr. Robert Hemenway, associate professor of English and American Studies at the University of Wyoming, is writing a critical and biographical study of Zora Neale Hurston (1903-1960), the Florida-born black novelist and folklorist. Miss Hurston was born in Eatonville, where her father was mayor, and she spent most of her life as a Florida resident, living in Eau Gallie, Cocoa, and Merritt Island before her death in Fort Pierce in 1960. Professor Hemenway would appreciate hearing from anyone who knew Miss Hurston, corresponded with her, or



had any association with her. He is especially interested in Hurston letters and memorabilia. He can be reached at the University of Wyoming, Box 3334, University Station, Laramie, Wyoming 82070.

Dr. Geraldine M. Meroney of Agnes Scott College is working with the Program of Loyalist Studies and Publications to secure an inventory of all manuscripts and materials on the Loyalists of the American Revolution. The resulting finding-list will be published in the Antiquarian Society Proceedings for the use of scholars. Dr. Meroney is soliciting knowledge of any loyalist papers in private hands. Anyone having information is asked to write to her, Department of History, Agnes Scott College, Decatur, Georgia 30030.

Mr. Jerry W. Weeks of the University of North Carolina is researching "The Development of the the Florida Citrus Industry, 1870-1890." He is seeking material pertaining to citrus varieties, cultivation, packaging, marketing and/or transportation. Citrus culture developed the St. Johns and Indian rivers regions during this period, and material relating to these areas will be of value. Anyone having information or data is asked to write to Mr. Weeks, Box 1131, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 27514.