

1971

History News

Florida Historical Society
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HISTORY NEWS

Announcements and Activities

The third annual Gulf Coast History and Humanities Conference will be held in Pensacola, Florida, on December 3-4, 1971. The theme of the conference this year is "The Americanization of the Gulf Coast." Professors Bertram Wyatt-Brown, Case Western Reserve University; Robert Brent, University of Southern Mississippi; Father James Pillar, Loyola University; Clement Eaton, University of Kentucky; John G. Clark, University of Kansas; Thomas Abernathy, University of Virginia; Herbert J. Doherty, Jr., University of Florida; Seymour Conner, Texas Tech University; Julia F. Smith, Georgia Southern College; and John Tregle, Louisiana State University, will deliver papers. The social character of the frontier, religious attitudes, economic experiences, and the impact of territorial acquisition and manifest destiny in the period 1800-1850 are the topics to be covered. There will be a pre-conference workshop on "Archaeology and the Historical Agency," on December 2. The conference is being sponsored by the University of West Florida, Pensacola Junior College, the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board, and the American Association for State and Local History. Further information and copies of the Proceedings of the two earlier conferences are available by writing Dr. Lucius F. Ellsworth, John C. Pace Library, University of West Florida, Pensacola 32504.

The National Archives and Records Service is making available copies of microfilm publications in its regional archival branches. Many of these will have relevance for the American Revolution Bicentennial. The microfilm may be used in the research room of the Federal Records Center or it may be borrowed through inter-institutional-loan (university, college, or public libraries). The Federal Records Center, East Point, Georgia, serves the southeastern region, including Florida. Dr. Herbert J. Doherty, Jr., immediate past president of the Florida Historical Society, is a member of the Regional Federal Archives Council. For information on the archives and its

holdings, write Federal Records Center, 1557 St. Joseph Avenue, East Point, Georgia 30344, or call 404 526-7477.

The Society for the History of Discoveries, formed for the purpose of stimulating interest in teaching, research, and publishing in the history of geographical exploration, will hold its 1971 meeting at Yale University, November 12-13. The sessions will interest southern and Florida historians. For further information, write John Parker, University of Minnesota Library, Minneapolis 55455.

The Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society of Jacksonville will hold its annual work shop, October 22-23, 1971, in the Concourse Room, Gulf Life Towers, Jacksonville. Speakers are George B. Everton, Jr., Logan, Utah; Mrs. Harry Joseph Morris, Dallas, Texas; Walter C. Hartridge, Savannah, Georgia; Robert Williams, director, Florida Division of Archives, History, and Records Management; and Edward N. Johnson, Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management. Catalogs, leaflets, brochures, publications, and yearbooks may be displayed. Registration for the work shop is \$5.00. For information write P. O. Box 2801, Jacksonville 32203.

Local Historical Societies and Commissions

Alachua County Historical Society: The Society held its first fall meeting September 21, with Mrs. Elizabeth Ehrbar as program speaker. She described the preparation of museum exhibits for Florida's state parks. A business meeting preceded the program. Officers serving this year include John Opdyke, president; Merlin Cox, vice-president; and M. H. Latour, secretary-treasurer. Mrs. Helen Ellerbe, Gerry Evans, Charles Hoffman, Jr., Mrs. Chris Matheson, and Robert Smith are directors.

Historical Association of Southern Florida: The new headquarters of the historical museum which will adjoin the Museum of Science on South Miami Avenue is under construction. Although the historical museum was closed during the summer to prepare the collections for moving, several displays appeared in the Miami area. For Pan American Month, a selection of paintings was shown at the Miami Public Library in coopera-

tion with the Cultural Alliance of Greater Miami. The Miami Public Library also had an exhibit on the history of Miami Beach in recognition of Mrs. Polly Redford receiving the Rembert W. Patrick Memorial Book Award from the Florida Historical Society for her book *Billion Dollar Sandbar*. The historical museum prepared an "Americana" exhibit featuring pioneers, early Miami buildings, and Seminole Indians which was displayed at the Brickell Bank. Officers elected at the Association's annual meeting include: John C. Harrison, president; Mrs. Richard A. Beare, vice-president; Mrs. Edward C. Grafton, executive vice-president; Leonard G. Pardue, recording secretary; Mrs. Charles Broward, Jr., corresponding secretary; and John G. Admire, treasurer. Directors are William McHale, Dr. Thelma Peters, Mrs. Lucien Proby, Jr., Ralph Renick, Mrs. Stanley E. Ross, Mrs. Herbert O. Vance, Wayne E. Withers, James Deen, Dr. Charles A. Gauld, Mrs. Finlay L. Matheson, Kenneth N. Sellati, W. Fred Shaw, Dr. Gilbert L. Voss, Mrs. James S. Wooten, Adam G. Adams, Mrs. Gwendolyn S. Sherry, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, George B. Hardie, Jr., Dan D. Laxson, Mrs. Robert McCabe, Ed Thompson, Dr. Charlton W. Tebeau, and Jacqueline Cravens.

Historical Society of Fort Lauderdale: As indicated by its annual report, the Society continues an active program of collecting, preserving, and disseminating Fort Lauderdale's history. Its collection of books, newspapers, photographs, maps, documents, letters, and artifacts is growing, and more than 1,000 visitors and researchers utilized its facilities in recent months. The Society has marked important historic sites in Fort Lauderdale and has established the Courthouse Bell and Cooley monuments. It also maintains an active publications program. "New River News" is issued quarterly, and the Society has published several books and monographs.

Historical Society of Okaloosa and Walton Counties: The Society continued its active program throughout the summer. W. B. Woody Skinner of Pensacola spoke at the September meeting on the history of the area. A recent issue of the Society's newsletter carried an article, "Florida Chautauqua and its Leaders" by Mrs. T. J. Reardon. The Young Historians are help-

ing to convert the old bank building into an historical museum. They also have plotted over a dozen cemeteries in the counties. Besides the recording of grave inscriptions, they have prepared histories, maps, descriptions, and photographs of each cemetery. The Society has also begun a genealogical file of early families of the area. Officers elected for 1971-1972 include Mrs. James N. LaRoche, president; Mrs. Allen E. Kelly, second vice-president; Mrs. Louis Vagias, recording secretary; and Mrs. Mavis Gallegos, corresponding secretary.

Orange County Historical Commission: While temporary facilities for the Commission and its holdings have been located at 27 East Central Avenue, plans are underway for a historical museum in Loch Haven Park. The city of Orlando will donate a site for the museum if sufficient funds can be raised to provide for construction of a building. In the meantime the museum is open to visitors Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons.

Pensacola Historical Society: The major event of the summer for the Society and for Pensacola was the Jackson Day Celebration, the week of July 17, marking the 150th anniversary of Florida becoming an American territory. The silver and bronze sesquicentennial medals and copies of *Andrew Jackson and Pensacola*, edited by James A. McGovern (\$1.00), are available for sale from the Pensacola Historical Museum, Seville Square, Pensacola 32501. Richard Hagen gave an illustrated talk in September on the subject "Making the Presidents Feel at Home." Mr. Hagen is an archaeologist and preservationist and is now associated with the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board.

Pinellas County Historical Commission: Frank F. Bushnell reported recently on the archaeological excavations being carried on by the St. Petersburg Anthropological Society at Bay Pines Hospital. The shell ridge has revealed twelve burials in a cemetery which likely dates to the period 800-1450 A. D.

Putnam County Historical Society: The major activity of the Society is the preservation and restoration of the Bronson House, one of Florida's important historic buildings. The So-

ciety will also hold its annual antique show, October 29-31 at the Civic Center, Ravine Garden State Park. Mrs. W. H. Griggs is corresponding secretary of the Society, and information on membership can be secured by writing P. O. Box 35, Palatka 32077.

Peace River Valley Historical Society: Plans are underway to mark the grave of James Mitchell (Acrefoot) Johnson who in the 1870s walked the Star Route from Fort Meade to Fort Ogden and return, a distance of 130 miles, three times a week. Acrefoot's unmarked grave is in Kabrich Cemetery northeast of Nocatee, Florida. The Society has also presented an oil portrait of former Governor Cary Hardee to the Hardee County Commission. The Society held its first meeting of the fall season on September 28. The speaker was Claude C. Jones who described land ownership in early Florida.

Safety Harbor Area Historical Society: The first fall meeting of the new season was held September 22, and the speaker was James R. Miller, teacher and naturalist associated with the Hammock Institute of Dunedin. The Society cooperated with the Pinellas County school system in its summer enrichment program, and an historical exhibit was set up in a trailer in Anderson Park. Some 1,500 elementary-age children attended. Society officers include Charles H. Lister, Jr., president; Newman Hoopingarner, vice-president; Gustave A. Nelson, treasurer; and Alva L. Jones, secretary. Other members of the board are Sam Prentice, Bernard Raymund, and Victor Sellers.

St. Luke Historical Society: Harry Jennings spoke on "Rum-running in the Prohibition Era" at the July meeting of the Society. Eugene Lyon of the Department of History, Indian River Community College, and a director of the Florida Historical Society, spoke at the September meeting. His title was "Spanish and Early History of the Two Floridas."

GREAT EXPECTATIONS.

1971

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| Oct. 8-11 | National Oral History
Coloquium | Bloomington, Ind. |
| Oct. 13-16 | American Society for
Ethnohistory | University of Georgia |
| Nov. 12-13 | Society for the History
of Discoveries | Yale University |
| Nov. 17-20 | Southern Historical
Association | Houston, Texas |
| Dec. 3-4 | Third Annual Gulf Coast
History and Humanities
Conference | Pensacola |
| Dec. 28-30 | American Historical
Association | New York City |

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| Jan. 8 | Board of Directors
Florida Historical Society | Stetson University |
| Feb. 18-19 | Workshop: Architectural
Preservation, "Preservation
for Profit" | University of Florida |
| March 2-4 | Conference of Southern
Historical Societies | Jackson, Miss. |
| May 11-13 | FLORIDA HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
70th ANNUAL MEETING | Robert Meyer Hotel
Jacksonville |

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SIXTY-NINTH ANNUAL
MEETING OF THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Punta Gorda
1971

P R O G R A M

THURSDAY, MAY 6

REGISTRATION: Holiday Inn Lobby, 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

MEETING OF THE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:
8:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 7

Morning Session: Charlotte County Memorial Auditorium,
10:00 a.m.

Presiding: James C. Craig, president, *Florida Historical Society*

Invocation: Reverend Joseph W. Howell, pastor, Charlotte
United Methodist Church

Welcome: William H. Bevis, president, *Peace River Valley
Historical Society*

THE LOWER GULF COAST IN THE NINETEENTH
CENTURY

Chairman: Gilbert L. Lycan, *Stetson University*

Terrence H. Nolan, *Florida State University*

"Jacob Summerlin: South Florida Cattle Baron"

Vernon E. Peeples, *Punta Gorda*

*"The Charlotte Harbor Division of the Florida Southern
Railroad"*

Commentator: Robert R. Rea, *Auburn University*

Afternoon Session: Charlotte County Memorial Auditorium,
2:00 p.m.

THE NEGRO IN POST-CIVIL WAR FLORIDA

Presiding: Herbert J. Doherty, Jr., *University of Florida*

Chairman: Ernest F. Dibble, *University of West Florida*

Robert L. Hall, *Florida State University*

"The Influence of the Church on Negro Life"

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Joseph Tomberlin, *Valdosta State University*
"Education for the Black Man"

Commentator: James Eaton, *Florida Agricultural and
Mechanical University*

Punta Gorda Isles Yacht Club, Punta Gorda Isles
Corporation, hosts, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Evening Session: Charlotte County Memorial Auditorium,
8:00 p.m. Historical films

SATURDAY, MAY 8

Morning Session: Charlotte County Memorial Auditorium,
10:00 a.m.

FLORIDA HISTORY AND ECOLOGY

Presiding: John E. Johns, *Stetson University*

Chairman: Perry Snyder, *Florida Southern College*

Augustus M. Burns, *University of Florida*
"The Historian and Ecology"

Robert M. Ingle, *Florida Department of Natural Resources*
'Let's Be Objective'

Commentator: George E. Buker, *Jacksonville University*

Annual luncheon and business meeting: Holiday Inn, 1:00 p.m.

Presiding: James C. Craig

Invocation: Reverend Edward G. Pick, pastor, Sacred Heart
Church

Boat tour of Charlotte Harbor

Reception: Ramada Inn, Port Charlotte, 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.,
General Development Corporation, hosts

Annual Banquet: Ramada Inn, Port Charlotte, 8:00 p.m.

Presiding: James C. Craig

Invocation: Reverend Robert Caldwell, rector, Episcopal
Church of the Good Shepherd, Punta Gorda

Presentation of Awards:

*Arthur W. Thompson Memorial Prize in Florida
History*

Presented to Dr. Durward Long, University of
Wisconsin, by Samuel Proctor, editor, *Florida
Historical Quarterly*

*Award of Excellence for Presentation of Florida
History in the News Media*

Presented to Edwin P. Browning, Sr., Madison, by
Milton D. Jones, Clearwater

Rembert W. Patrick Memorial Book Award

Presented to Polly Redford, Coconut Grove, by
Dr. Charlton W. Tebeau, University of Miami

Address: "Festival of '76," Dr. Robert G. Hartje, American
Association for State and Local History, director of
the Association's special American Revolution Bi-
centennial project, and professor of history, Witten-
berg University.