


1971

History News

Florida Historical Society
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Recommended Citation

Society, Florida Historical (1971) "History News," *Florida Historical Quarterly*: Vol. 50 : No. 3 , Article 12.
Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq/vol50/iss3/12>

HISTORY NEWS

Dr. John E. Johns

Dr. John E. Johns, president-elect of the Florida Historical Society, was officially inaugurated as the sixth president of Stetson University in DeLand on November 15. A native of Alabama, Dr. Johns received his bachelor of arts degree from Furman University in 1947, and his masters and Ph.D. degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was appointed to the history faculty at Stetson in 1948, and later he became the chairman of the department. His book, *Florida During the Civil War*, was published by the University of Florida Press in 1963. He has played an active role in the Florida Historical Society and has contributed articles and book reviews to the *Florida Historical Quarterly*. He will be installed as president of the Florida Historical Society at the annual meeting in Jacksonville May 13, 1972.

Nantucket Institute

In cooperation with the University of Florida, the National Register of the National Parks Service, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Nantucket Institute has been established as a non-profit educational institution to exploit for educational purposes the unique physical environment and cultural heritage of Nantucket Island, Massachusetts. The Institute will function as an agency to coordinate existing educational programs and to work with cooperating institutions in sponsoring new programs in continuing education, professional development, technical training, and special projects of general education. Nantucket, with an unusually rich architectural heritage and unique social history, has an outstanding record of historic preservation reflected in the work of individuals, associations, and institutions. In 1970 the entire island of Nantucket was declared an historic district,

The University of Florida will serve as academic agent for the Nantucket Institute. Each summer there will be programs dealing with preservation, conservation, the creative arts, and the

physical and social sciences. Four preservation courses currently available at the University of Florida will be offered to students from accredited schools of architecture, interior design, landscape architecture, and urban design and planning. The purpose of the first summer program schedule for 1972 is to allow pre-professional students to become familiar with historic preservation, to learn techniques of historical research and documentation, and to practice their specialization in the laboratory situation offered by Nantucket. Paralleling this pre-professional program will be a two-week workshop available to participants recruited from the professional staffs of federal, state, and local agencies responsible for nominations to the National Register and for developing statewide plans and inventories. Professor F. Blair Reeves of the College of Architecture and Fine Arts, University of Florida, is coordinating the activities of the Nantucket Institute. Inquiries and communications should be addressed to the Office of the President, Nantucket Institute, Inc., Box 576, Nantucket, Mass. 12554.

American Association For State and Local History Awards

The American Association for State and Local History, at its annual meeting in Portland, Oregon, September 13-14, 1971, voted Certificates of Commendation to the Independent Life and Accident Insurance Company of Jacksonville, to Dr. Donald W. Curl, Department of History, Florida Atlantic University, and to the University of Miami Press. Each year the Association recognizes state and local historical projects, agencies, organizations, and publications in the United States and Canada which have shown superior achievement and quality in advancing the cause of state and local history. A Certificate was given to the Independent Life and Accident Insurance Company for "its sense of public responsibility in restoring the nineteenth-century Sanchez House in St. Augustine." The property, constructed by Francis X. Sanchez sometime after 1809, was purchased in 1968, and after extensive renovation and refurnishing it was opened to the public the following year. It operates as a free museum. The house is in the Historical American Buildings Survey.

The award to Dr. Curl, a member of the board of directors of the Florida Historical Society, was for his editing of the

Charles Pierce manuscript, which was published by the University of Miami Press under the title *Pioneer Life in Southeast Florida*. The University of Miami Press was also recognized because it published the book.

Gulf Coast History and Humanities Conference

The third annual Gulf Coast History and Humanities Conference was held in Pensacola on December 3-4, 1971. There was also a workshop December 2 at the Hispanic Museum in the Historic Pensacola district. Its theme was "Archeology and the Historical Agency." Reading papers for the workshop were Ross Morrell (Florida Division of Archives, History, and Records), B. Calvin Jones (Florida Division of Archives, History, and Records), John W. Griffin (Historic St. Augustine Preservation Board), Carl Clausen (Florida Division of Archives, History, and Records), and Cary Carson (St. Mary's City Commission and the Smithsonian Institution). G. Norman Simons of the Pensacola Historical Museum, and Earle W. Newton, Richard S. Hagen, and Frank M. Turner, III, of the Historical Pensacola Preservation Board, presided at the workshop session.

The theme for this year's conference was "The Americanization of the Gulf Coast, 1803-1850." Reading papers were Bertram Wyatt-Brown (Case Western Reserve University), Robert Brent (University of Southern Mississippi), James Pillar (Loyola University at New Orleans), Clement Eaton (Old Dominion University), Julia Smith (Georgia Southern College), Joseph G. Tregle, Jr. (Louisiana State University in New Orleans), John G. Clark (University of Kansas), Thomas Abernethy (University of Virginia), Herbert J. Doherty, Jr. (University of Florida), and Seymour Connor (Texas Tech. University). The conference was sponsored by the University of West Florida, Lyceum Committee of the University of West Florida, Pensacola Junior College, Historic Pensacola Preservation Board, and the American Association for State and Local History. Administering the conference were Ted Carageorge, William Coker, Earle Newton, James A. Servies, Lucius F. Ellsworth, and Grace Earnest.

The 1969 and 1970 Gulf Coast Conferences were also held at Pensacola, and the published proceedings of these are available for sale from the John C. Pace Library, University of West Florida, Pensacola 32504.

Tequesta

The Historical Association of Southern Florida has reprinted out-of-print issues of *Tequesta*. The first thirty issues are available in single copies or full sets. Single copies are \$4.00; the set of thirty is \$100.00, with tax and mailing charges included. Bound in buckram in six volumes, the price is \$130.00. Address orders and inquiries to Historical Association of Southern Florida, c/o Dr. Charlton W. Tebeau, 307 Aledo Avenue, Coral Gables 33134.

Local Societies and Commissions

Alachua County Historical Society: James Bloodworth, president of the Bradford County Historical Society, spoke at the October meeting on the efforts of his own organization to find the remains of Fort Harlee on the Santa Fe River. Historical data on Newnansville is being gathered so that it can be recommended to the National Register of Historic Places. The Society is also cooperating with the Alachua County Historical Commission in securing historical data for the placing of a marker on the Court-house Square in Gainesville.

Historical Association of Southern Florida: John Harrison, president of the Association, participated in the groundbreaking ceremonies for the addition to the Museum of Science which will have the Association's library, historical museum, and business offices. A program series was inaugurated in October with Dr. Thelma Peters and Dr. Charlton W. Tebeau, both directors of the Florida Historical Society, as co-chairmen. Lectures are in the Museum of Science auditorium. Mrs. Arva Moore Parks spoke in October on the topic "New Light On the Early History of Coconut Grove." In November Dr. Evelyn Thomas Helmick, Department of English, University of Miami, discussed Zora Neal Hurston, the Florida authoress and anthropologist. Dr. Donald W. Curl of Florida Atlantic University described the architectural influences in South Florida at the December meeting.

Jacksonville Historical Society: "The Lighthouse by Eugenia Price" was the title of the interpretative review presented at the November 10 meeting of the Society. Mrs. Marian Conner was

the speaker. The first prize in the history essay contest sponsored by the Society was given to J. Atwater Jackson of Jacksonville University. His subject was "How Jacksonville Built Road Bridges." The society's recent gifts include photographs, commemorative first-day stamp covers, theatre programs, oil paintings, and a notebook describing Florida agricultural production, 1914-1917. The Society will sponsor an historical marker at Miller's Creek and Atlantic Boulevard during the Jacksonville Sesquicentennial. Brigadier General Stoyte Ross is chairman of the marker committee.

Orange County Historical Commission: The organization of a corporation to raise funds for the construction of a historical museum have begun. The museum will be on a site to be provided by the city or county. Recent gifts and acquisitions include furniture, photographs, clothing, newspapers, and assorted memorabilia.

Peace River Valley Historical Society: Vernon Peeples of Punta Gorda was the speaker at the October meeting of the Society. He read his paper on early railroad operations in the valley between Bartow and Punta Gorda that was given at the annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society. On November 14 a memorial headstone was dedicated at the gravesite of James Mitchell (Acrefoot) Johnson in the Kabrich Cemetery south of Arcadia. The memorial address was delivered by United States Senator Lawton M. Chiles, Jr. Mr. Johnson, a cross-country walking mailman of the 1870s and 1880s, was one of the Valley's historic figures. He carried the mail between Fort Meade and Fort Odgen, walking the sixty-five miles twice weekly. Stephen M. Johnson of Arcadia, great-grandson of Mr. Johnson, unveiled the monument.

Pensacola Historical Society: Charles Fairchild of the Fiesta of Five Flags Committee discussed plans for the 1972 Fiesta at the October meeting. Francis Taylor described the history of the fishing industry in the Pensacola area at the November 15 meeting. Several new members have joined the Society, and it has received several gifts for its museum and library. The October newsletter reprinted a letter written from Pensacola, October

27, 1839, describing the final illness and death of the Reverend Mr. Joseph H. Saunders, Rector of Christ Church, Pensacola. The "History of Mardi-Gras in Pensacola, 1900-1930" has been written by Mrs. William Fisher, III. It will be published in the "Pensacola Historical Society Quarterly."

Pinellas County Historical Commission: Upon the request of Judge James R. Knott, former president of the Florida Historical Society, a resolution was adopted October 20, 1971, reaffirming the Commission's sentiments for the restoration of the name Cape Canaveral for that of Cape Kennedy. The Junior Service League of Clearwater is again working at the historical museum, and its members are setting up a country store. The annual Christmas reception was held December 7.

Safety Harbor Area Historical Society: Captain Ray Robinson, president of the Suncoast Archaeological Society, described the Bay Pines dig at the October meeting. The Society's annual picnic was held at Phillipe Park, November 28, 1971. A large contingent of students and teachers from Safety Harbor Elementary School visited the museum on September 28.

Santa Fe River Area Historical Society: Camp Kulaqua at High Springs was the setting of the October 28 meeting of the Society. Working with the Alachua County Historical Society and the Florida Division of Archives, History, and Records, efforts are being made to add the Newnansville site to the National Register for Historic Places. The Bellamy Road will also be recommended to the National Register. Research data is being collected by Arthur Spencer and his committee.

St. Petersburg Historical Society: "Sea Breeze" in its new format is being distributed monthly to the membership. Dr. Lyman Warren and his fellow archaeologists are arranging a display of the artifacts dug up from the Bay Pines site for the museum. William M. Goza of Clearwater has resigned as president of the Society, and Martha Golub will serve until election of new officers in January 1972.

Southern Genealogist Exchange Society: The eighth annual

workshop of the Society was held in Jacksonville, October 21-23. Senator Robert Williams and Edward N. Johnson, Division of Archives, History, and Records, Tallahassee, were on the program.

Tarpon Springs Historical Society: On November 14, 1971, the Society held its annual Remembrance Tea at the Youth Center in Tarpon Springs. There was a display of books, pictures, and historic memorabilia. Tom Craig was master of ceremonies. The Society has received as a gift a number of historical pictures of the area.

Florida Bicentennial History Symposium

The American Revolution Bicentennial Commission of Florida in cooperation with the University of Florida's Department of History will sponsor a symposium at the University, May 18-20, 1972. The theme will be "Eighteenth-Century Florida and its Borderlands." This is the first of five planned historical meetings to be sponsored by the Commission in connection with Florida Bicentennial activities. Among those reading papers at the May 1972 meeting will be Professors Helen Hornbeck Tanner, University of Michigan; John TePaske, Duke University; Robert R. Rea, Auburn University; and Louis De Vorse, Jr., University of Georgia. All sessions will be open to the public.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS.

1972

January 8	Board of Directors Florida Historical Society	Stetson University
January 13-15	Society for Historical Archaeology	Tallahassee
February 18-19	Architectural Preser- vation Workshop: "Preservation for Profit"	University of Florida
March 2-4	Conference of Southern Historical Societies	Jackson, Miss.
March 18	Florida Anthropological Society	Orlando
March 24-25	Florida College Teachers of History	Jacksonville University
April 5-8	Organization of Ameri- can Historians	Washington, D.C.
May 11-13	FLORIDA HISTORI- CAL SOCIETY – 79th ANNUAL MEETING	Robert Meyer Hotel Jacksonville
May 18-20	Florida American Revo- lution Bicentennial Commission Sympos- ium: "Eighteenth Cen- tury Florida and Its Borderlands"	University of Florida