


1971

## History News

Florida Historical Society  
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## HISTORY NEWS

### *The Annual Meeting*

The Florida Historical Society will hold its seventieth annual meeting in Jacksonville, May 12-13, 1972, at the Robert Meyer Hotel. Members of the Jacksonville Historical Society are hosts, and John B. Turner, Jr., and Frank Taylor are in charge of local arrangements. Miss Dena Snodgrass of Jacksonville and Dr. Charlton W. Tebeau of Miami are program chairmen. Dr. Jack D. L. Holmes (University of Alabama at Birmingham), John Griffin (Historic St. Augustine Preservation Board), Dr. Herbert J. Doherty, Jr. (University of Florida), Edward A. Mueller (Florida Department of Transportation), and Dr. Clyde A. Haulman (College of William and Mary) will present papers at the Friday sessions. Professor F. Blair Reeves (University of Florida) will serve as the chairman of an architectural preservation symposium Saturday morning. Herschel Shepard (Jacksonville), Professor Carl Feiss (University of Florida), and Randy Nimnicht (Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management, Tallahassee) are panel members.

Dr. Samuel Proctor, editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, will announce the recipient of the Arthur W. Thompson Memorial Prize in Florida History for 1971-1972, and Milton D. Jones will make the Annual Award of Merit-Excellence and Presentation of Florida History by News Media at the banquet Saturday evening. The Rembert W. Patrick Memorial Book Award will also be announced at that time by Margaret Chapman, Queens College, Charlotte, North Carolina. Certificates of Commendation from the American Association for State and Local History will also be given to the Independent Life and Accident Insurance Company of Jacksonville, to Dr. Donald Curl, Florida Atlantic University, and the University of Miami Press.

On Friday evening the Jacksonville Sesquicentennial Players will present a play on the history of Jacksonville at the Civic Auditorium for members of the Society and their guests. A movie on the history of Jacksonville will also be shown. There will be a sightseeing trip the following afternoon to Fernandina Beach. St. Peters Episcopal Church, the First Presbyterian Church, sev-

eral antebellum homes, a residence dating to the 1880s, and the Palace Bar are on the tour. There will be a reception prior to the Saturday banquet. Registration will begin at nine o'clock on May 12 in the lobby of the Robert Meyer Hotel, 315 Julia Street, Jacksonville. The board of directors will hold its meeting on Thursday evening. The business luncheon Saturday 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.

### *Jacksonville Sesquicentennial*

Jacksonville was founded in June 1822, and to commemorate the sesquicentennial many events are scheduled. The celebration began during the half-times ceremonies of the Gator Bowl game December 31, 1971. A music festival in January at Jacksonville University honored the composer Frederick Delius, and golf tournaments, decorator and home shows, a black fine arts festival, a Florida fine arts day, historical pageants and plays, and special musical events are some of the other activities taking place. The Florida Historical Society selected Jacksonville as its convention site this year because of the sesquicentennial. June 15, 1972, is founding day, and it will open a special week of celebration. James Weldon Johnson Day is scheduled for June 17, and a religious heritage program with churches of all faiths involved will take place the following day. The sesquicentennial celebration ends July 4. Dr. Robert H. Spiro, president of Jacksonville University and a member of the board of directors, Florida Historical Society, is chairman of the Sesquicentennial Commission.

### *Key West Sesquicentennial*

A champagne reception on the evening of January 18, 1972, marked the beginning of the ceremonies noting the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the founding of Key West. Several historical exhibits were also opened at the time, and a movie depicting Key West history was shown. At Commemoration Day ceremonies, January 21, at the Audubon House, Rear Admiral John H. Maurer, commander, Key West Force, spoke on "The Navy's Role in Key West's History," and Lieutenant Governor Tom

Adams described "Key West's and Florida's Historical Preservation." Two commemorative markers were unveiled by Mrs. John H. Maurer and Mrs. Charlton W. Tebeau. Dr. Tebeau, professor emeritus, University of Miami, spoke on "The First Settlement of Key West and South Florida." Mitchell Wolfson, a descendant of early Key West settlers and the restorer of Audubon House, was recognized along with other descendants of Key West pioneers at the ceremonies. A reception and dinner was held at the Fort Taylor Officers Club that evening. The three addresses were: "The Navy's Future in the Caribbean Area" by Admiral Ralph W. Cousins, vice-chief of Naval Operations; "Key West and Its Economy," by Congressman Dante Fascell; and "State Archives and Preservation Divisions Role in Key West Historic Preservation," by Robert Williams, director of the Division of Archives, History and Records Management. The Key West celebration was climaxed January 22 with a fireworks display presented at the pier at the foot of White Street and a coronation ball.

#### *Florida History Award*

The Peace River Valley Historical Society presented its 1971 Florida History Award for Distinguished Service in Florida History to Dr. Charlton W. Tebeau of Miami at a dinner meeting in Wauchula, February 22. Dr. Samuel Proctor, an earlier recipient of the award, made the presentation.

Dr. Tebeau is professor emeritus and former chairman of the department of history, University of Miami. He is the editor of *Tequesta*, which is published by the Historical Association of Southern Florida, and of the *Carrel*, the literary publication of the Friends of the University of Miami Library. He is also the author of five books and many articles and essays on Florida history. His *A History of Florida*, published in 1971 by the University of Miami Press, has been acclaimed as the most authoritative history of the state ever written. Professor Tebeau has been recognized often for his achievements as a scholar and a teacher; *Esquire Magazine* named him one of the nation's "Super-Profes." He is former president of the Florida Historical Society and serves on the board of editors of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*.

*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 Professor Helen Hornbeck Tanner, University of Michigan; John TePaske, Duke University; Robert R. Rea, Auburn University; and Louis De Vorsey, Jr., University of Georgia. On Saturday morning a session will be devoted to humanities and the arts on the eighteenth century Florida frontier. Samuel Wilson, Jr., Tulane University, and Jessie Poesch, Sophie Newcomb College, are on this program. Dr. Paul Smith of the Library of Congress, Charles Van Ravensway, director of the Henry Francis DuPont Winterthur Museum, and Dr. William Sturtevant of the Smithsonian Institution are commentators. All sessions will be open to the public.

There will be a special showing of the paintings and sketches of Larry Rivers and a reception at the Gallery on the University of Florida campus on Thursday evening, May 18, at eight p.m.

*Announcements and Activities*

The St. Lucie Historical Society, at a meeting in Fort Pierce, November 16, 1971, honored Walter Hellier, pioneer St. Lucie County resident and a former member of the board of directors of the Florida Historical Society, with an honorary membership in the Society. Vivian Davis, president of the St. Lucie County group, cited Mr. Hellier's historical writings and his lifetime interest in the affairs and history of his county. Mr. Hellier is the author of *Indian River, Florida's Treasure Coast*.

The tenth annual conference of the Florida College Teachers of History met at Jacksonville University on March 24-25, 1972. Presenting papers were Professors Neil Betten (Florida State University), Raymond A. Mohl (Florida Atlantic University), Edward F. Keuchel (Florida State University), Carolyn S. Griffis (University of Florida), Stephen Kerber (Florida Atlantic Uni-

versity), John E. Moore (Jacksonville University), Jan Karl Tanenbaum (Florida State University), Cecil B. Currey (University of South Florida), Richard T. Chang (University of Florida), Ernest H. Jernigan (Central Florida Junior College), Joan Carver (Jacksonville University), and Richard Martin (Jacksonville). Chaining sessions were Charles Douglass (Florida Junior College at Jacksonville), George Osborn (University of Florida), Richard S. Cromwell (Jacksonville University), Marvin Whiting (Jacksonville University), and Ernest Dibble (University of West Florida). Professor Gerald Critoph (Stetson University), president, F.C.T.H., presided at the business session. Walker Blanton (Jacksonville University) introduced Professor Bernard Mayo (University of Virginia) luncheon speaker. Professor Samuel Proctor (University of Florida) and President Robert H. Spiro of Jacksonville University were speakers at the breakfast session. Professor Frederick S. Aldridge, program chairman of this conference, was elected president for 1972-1973.

The annual Rembert W. Patrick lecture will be delivered on April 25, 1972, at Guilford College, Greensboro, North Carolina, by Dr. George B. Tindall, Kenan Professor of History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The lecture is a memorial to Dr. Patrick, former editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly* and a member of the faculty of history at the University of Florida and the University of Georgia. The lecture is open to the public.

The Library of Congress has announced that the first of five symposia on the American Revolution, made possible by a grant from the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafrietz Foundation of Washington, D.C., will be held at the Library, May 5 and 6. The two-day meeting in the Coolidge Auditorium of the Library, will be on the theme of "Development of a Revolutionary Mentality." Persons wishing to attend the May meeting should write for registration and admission to the American Revolution Bicentennial Office, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540.

The Georgia State University Library has established the Southern Library Archives. The Archives will collect and pre-

serve, and will make available to researchers personal papers and business records illuminating the course of organized labor in the South. Inquiries concerning the archives and its holdings should be addressed to Dr. David B. Gracy, Georgia State University Library, 104 Decatur Street, S.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

The National Archives is sponsoring a conference on Research in the History of Indian-White Relations in Washington, June 15-16, 1972. The program will be broadly concerned with Indian matters including civilization and acculturation programs, role of the military, significant Indian record collections, and aspects of twentieth century federal Indian policy. Admission to the conference will be by invitation. For information write Jane F. Smith, conference director, National Archives Building, 8th and Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W., Washington, D.C. 20408.

#### *Local Societies and Commissions*

*Alachua County Historical Society:* Miss Natalie Lamb and Mrs. William Gillespie of the Volusia County Historical Society described the activities of their organization at a recent program meeting. Peter D. Klingman, editorial assistant for the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, discussed the career of Congressman Josiah T. Walls at the January 18, 1972, meeting. Walls was a black mayor of Gainesville during the Reconstruction period and served in the United States Congress. On February 15, Robert R. Rockhold, executive director of the Jacksonville Sesquicentennial Commission, described the activities relative to the celebration. The program meeting in March heard a talk by Dr. Arthur White, University of Florida, on William N. Sheats, former Florida Superintendent of Public Instruction. In February, the Society made a field trip to Paynes' Prairie and Boulware Springs.

*Dunedin Historical Society:* Walter Fuller of St. Petersburg was the speaker at the annual meeting of the Society, and H. Donald Kirkland, Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management, was a special guest. The following serve as officers: Clair L. Miller, president; Kenneth L. Atchley and Mrs. Charles D. McDaniel, vice-presidents; Mrs. C. L. Miller, secretary; Mrs. R. A. Sexton, treasurer; and Albert Cline, Elbert Waterson, Mrs.

W. F. Register, Alfred Boyd, R. L. Carter, Mrs. Syrus Falls, Mrs. Philip Turnure, Mrs. E. R. Rogers, and Ernest Troke, directors. The Society has been selling two out-of-print books by W. S. Blatchley and using the proceeds for its various historical activities

*Historical Society of Okaloosa and Walton Counties:* An exhibit in the renovated museum building was opened in February, and one showing the history of the Fort Walton Beach-Eglin Field area is being assembled. The Society is also sponsoring an essay contest in cooperation with the National Historical Society. Dr. Y. L. Anthony spoke at the January meeting. He gave the history of his family, and used items from his family papers covering the period 1820-1850 to illustrate his talk. Bill Tennis, news editor of the *Pensacola Journal*, is serving as editor of the Society's monthly news letter. The Young Historians, with a membership of more than fifty-five junior and senior high school students, have plotted and inventoried the cemeteries in the two counties. The members have also taken several field trips, including one to Tatum Bedsole's Museum at Hacoda, Alabama, in January. The Society is developing an oral history program, and has already taped the reminiscences of several local pioneers. Mrs. James N. LaRoche is president of the Society. Henry Dobson is chairman of the Okaloosa County Historical Commission. Allen Gantzhorn is serving as president of the Young Historians.

*Historical Association of Southern Florida:* Dr. William M. Straight of Miami spoke on the life and career of Dr. James M. Jackson at the February meeting of the Association. Dr. Donald W. Curl, chairman of the Department of History, Florida Atlantic University, and Dr. Thelma P. Peters, Miami-Dade Community College, were also recent program speakers. The Association is actively engaged in a campaign to raise \$200,000 to furnish its new facilities in the Museum of Science complex.

*Jacksonville Historical Society:* February 9, four members of the Society— Carl Sasnett, Robert P. Smith, George W. Simons, Jr., and O. Z. Tyler— presented the program. They are members of the Speakers Bureau which has been organized as one of the Society's contributions to the Jacksonville Sesquicentennial cele-



bration. John Powell is in charge, and he is arranging talks for civic clubs and other organizations on Jacksonville and Florida historical subjects.

*Madison County Historical Society:* Daniel Penton, a state archaeologist, described the discoveries made in a Madison County excavation along the route of Interstate 10 at a meeting of the Society in January. The session was held in the hunting lodge of Mrs. W. C. Copeland, Jr., president of the Society. Penton displayed artifacts and pictures of the excavations along the banks of Hutto Pond.

*Palm Beach County Historical Society:* Dr. Thelma Peters, speaker at the January meeting of the Society, described the "Historical Links between Florida and the Bahamas." Relationships between Florida and the Bahamas in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries was the theme of her lecture. N. E. Bill Miller, executive director of the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission of Florida, was the speaker in December 1971. The Society has opened a research room in the southwest portion of the Flagler Museum, and it also had an exhibit at the South Florida Fair and Exposition in January. Members have launched a Florida history discussion program on channel twelve, West Palm Beach, and Mrs. Maxine Banash and Kathy McElroy, curator for the Flagler Museum, are in charge.

*Peace River Valley Historical Society:* Ernest W. Hale, history teacher in the Fort Myers High School, spoke at the Society's meeting in Pioneer Park, Zolfo Springs, in January on the Peace and Caloosahatchee rivers. The Society held a dinner meeting in Wauchula on February 22, and presented its annual Florida History Award to Dr. Charlton Tebeau, professor emeritus of the University of Miami. Dr. Samuel Proctor, University of Florida and editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, made the presentation to Dr. Tebeau.

*Pensacola Historical Society:* Lewis Pollak, vice president of the Lewis Bear Company, described the company's Pensacola history and the history of the Bear family at the January 17 meeting of the Society. Pat Dodson, chairman of the American Revolution

Bicentennial Commission of Florida, discussed early Jewish settlement in Pensacola at the February meeting. The Pensacola Historical Museum reports that it accessioned 1,159 new items during the previous year. The Society has also added substantially to its membership.

*Pinellas County Historical Commission*; Mrs. Wendell Sawyer has been appointed to the Commission, and William M. Goza is now serving as vice-chairman. The Commission is cooperating with the historic preservation program of the Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management. The McMullen log cabin on Coachman Road, the Belcher homestead on Belcher Road, and St. Andrews Memorial Chapel in Dunedin will be recommended for inclusion in the survey that is underway by the Division. The University of South Florida's Department of Anthropology is surveying prehistoric sites in the tri-county area with the Commission's cooperation and support. The popular country store museum, which opened in December 1971, is displaying antique tools and furnishings.

*Safety Harbor Area Historical Society*: Gerald T. Brown, project director of research and graphics with the Pinellas County government, presented a slide program at the January 22 meeting of the Society at the Safety Harbor City Hall. The Prentice family—Sam, Carol, and Ricky—were the recipients of the Society's annual "Historian of the Year Award." The presentation was made at the annual picnic of the Society. The Prentice family received an inscribed plaque.

*St. Augustine Historical Society*: John W. Griffin, director of the Historic Saint Augustine Preservation Board, spoke at the fall meeting of the Society on "The Search for Osceola." He described National Park Boards efforts to secure information on the alleged stolen remains of the Seminole chief. The October 1971 number of *El Escribano* carried an article, "Vicente Manuel de Cespedes and Carlos Howard: Service Records and Related Documents," by John D. Ware, member of the board of directors of the Florida Historical Society. There were also articles on "Fort San Diego," "Spanish Dragoons Barracks," and "A Private Library in St. Augustine, 1680," written by members of the editorial staff of the quarterly.

*St. Lucie Historical Society:* When the Florida Historical Society holds its seventy-first annual meeting in Ft. Pierce in May 1973, the St. Lucie Historical Society will serve as host organization. It has begun making plans for that convention. Sawyer Lennard and Floyd Abstein spoke in January at a dinner meeting and Billy Osceola of the Brighton Reservation and great grandson of Chief Osceola of Second Seminole War fame was the speaker February 15. He displayed Indian craft items. The Society sponsored historical tours at the Sandy Shoes Festival in January.

*Southwest Florida Historical Society:* The "Caloosa Quarterly," revised newsletter of the Society, issued its first number in February. Mrs. Alberta Rawchuck is editor. In addition to current news, it contained a description of a three-day festival, "The Conquest of Florida," celebrated in Fort Myers in February 1917. Robert E. Halgrim, curator of the Edison Home and Museum, described the life and work of Thomas A. Edison in Fort Myers at the February 1972 meeting of the Society. Dr. Charlton W. Tebeau, professor emeritus at the University of Miami, spoke at the March 9 meeting. The Society has its headquarters at 2312 First Street, Fort Myers, where it has available pamphlets, programs, photographs, books, and other materials relating to Southwest Florida it's collecting. Officers are Ernest Hall, president; Robert McKelvey, vice-president; Alberta Rawchuck, secretary; and Kenneth Helper, treasurer. Marian B. Godown is chairman of the publicity committee.

*Tarpon Springs Historical Society:* Anthony Pizzo of Tampa, a member of the board of directors of the Florida Historical Society, spoke at the February 21 meeting in the First Federal Bank Building. Mr. Pizzo is the author of *Tampa Town*.

## O B I T U A R Y

*Louis Bishop Capron*

Louis Bishop Capron, noted author, anthropologist, and friend to the Seminoles of Florida, died December 16, 1971, at his home in West Palm Beach. Mr. Capron was born in Albany, New York, in 1891, and became interested in Indian lore and customs at an early age. He moved to Florida in 1925 and was associated with the Palm Beach Mercantile Company until his retirement in 1952. Thereafter, he devoted himself to writing and research of the Seminole Indians. He was an active member of several Florida historical groups, including the Florida Historical Society, the Historical Association of South Florida, and the Florida Anthropological Society. He was past vice-president and member of the board of governors of the Palm Beach Historical Society, and he served on the Florida Advisory Committee on Seminole Indian Affairs.

He was the author of several books and articles on Seminole customs. Two books, *White Moccasins*, published by Holt in 1955, and *The Red War Pole*, published by Bobbs-Merrill in 1963, were written for children. He contributed articles to the *National Geographic* magazine and to other national, regional, and state publications. His "Medicine Bundles of the Florida Seminoles and the Green Corn Dance" was published by the Bureau of American Ethnology in 1953. Mr. Capron was interviewed for the University of Florida's Duke Southern Indian Oral History Program.