

1972

History News

Florida Historical Society
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HISTORY NEWS

Florida College Teachers of History

The Florida College Teachers of History conference this year will be at the University of Tampa, April 12-13, 1973. The program and arrangements are being directed by Dr. J. Ryan Beiser, Department of History, University of Tampa. There will be papers on five major areas: problems in teaching history, European history, history of Florida and/or Latin America, history as a basis for United States domestic and foreign policies, and history of the non-Western world. For information, write Dr. Beiser, University of Tampa, Tampa 23606. Dr. Evans Johnson, Stetson University, is president of the Florida College Teachers of History, and Dr. Beiser is vice-president.

State and Local History Awards

The American Association for State and Local History at its annual meeting in Providence, Rhode Island, recognized state and local history projects, agencies, and publications throughout the United States and Canada which showed superior achievement and quality. Four of these awards were made to Floridians. Dr. Charlton Tebeau, professor emeritus, University of Miami and former president of the Florida Historical Society, received an Award of Merit for his *History of Florida*, published by the University of Miami Press. Professor J. Leitch Wright, Jr., of Florida State University, received a Certificate of Commendation for his *Anglo-Spanish Rivalry in North America*, published by the University of Georgia Press.

Thelma Boltin of White Springs, was recognized for her many contributions to the preservation and popularization of Florida folkways, folklore, and folk music. Walter L. Hellier, Sr., Fort Pierce, received an Award of Merit for his support in writing of history in the Indian River area. Presentations will be made at the annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society in Fort Pierce, May 10-12, 1973. Dr. Samuel Proctor is awards chairman for the state of Florida, and James W. Moody, Jr., director of Historic Pensacola Preservation Board, represents the southeastern region on the national awards committee.

Announcements and Activities

“Back to Ybor City Day” was celebrated October 22, 1972. Sponsored by the Optimists Club of Ybor City, the purpose was to focus attention on the history of the area and to show its potential for preservation and restoration. Part of the activities included ground-breaking for Hillsborough Community College campus in Ybor City. A souvenir booklet commemorating the occasion was published.

The Major Dade Historical Drama Association, Inc., has been organized for the purpose of commemorating the march of Major Francis L. Dade and his military command in December 1835. A meeting was held at St. Leo College campus, San Antonio, in October. Members of the board of trustees include William Goza, former president of the Florida Historical Society, and Frank Laumer, former member of the Society's board of directors. The major activity of the association will be the production of an outdoor drama. Dues are \$5.00 annually. For information, write the Association, P. O. Box 875, Dade City, Florida 33525.

The centennial celebration of Methodism in southwest Florida was held in Fort Myers, November 12. Dr. Hansel H. Tower, First United Methodist Church, Fort Myers, recreated the circuit ride made by the Reverend W. C. Jordan in 1872 from Bartow to Fort Myers, which established Methodism in the area. Dr. Tower arrived in Fort Myers in time for the special commemorative ceremonies in Exhibition Hall. As part of the celebration the Reverend Mr. David N. Shaver, First United Methodist Church of Fort Myers, compiled a booklet, *Methodism of Southwest Florida, 1872-1972*, which sketches the history of the Methodist churches of the area.

As part of the Jacksonville Sesquicentennial activities, the Duval County Medical Society in cooperation with Florida Medical Association dedicated two historic markers in October 1972. The first is a plaque on the building at the corner of Laura and Adams streets, which marks the site of the home of Dr. Abel Seymour Baldwin. The Florida Medical Association held its organizational meeting here January 14, 1874. A second marker

was dedicated at the burial plot of Dr. James Hall, in Plummer's Cove on Scott Mill Road between Beauclerc Road and Mandarin. Dr. James Hall was Jacksonville's first physician and perhaps the first American physician to practice medicine in Florida for an extended period of time. Dr. Dekle Taylor delivered an address at the Hall Memorial dedication. Dr. William M. Straight, Florida Medical Association historian, also spoke.

The Library of Congress will hold the second in its series of symposia on the American Revolution, May 10-11, 1973. The subject will be "The Fundamental Testaments of the American Revolution." Chaired by Julian P. Boyd of Princeton, N. J., editor of *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson*, the 1973 meeting will be devoted to a discussion of five documents essential to an understanding of the American Revolution. Bernard Bailyn, Harvard University, Cecelia Kenyon, Smith College, Merrill Jensen, University of Wisconsin, Richard B. Morris, Columbia University, and J. Russell Wiggins, former United States Ambassador to the United Nations, are the speakers. For information, write to the American Revolution Bicentennial Office, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. 20540.

Beginning in 1973, the Southern Anthropological Society will offer an annual award for the book-length manuscript that best describes and interprets the people or culture of a distinctive New World population. The subject may be pre-historic, historic, or contemporary. Submissions can be about people belonging to major social, racial, or ethnic groups or about people belonging to obscure or heretofore unknown groups. Any interested students of the cultures and societies of the New World are eligible to submit a manuscript in the competition. Judges will welcome works in ethnography, linguistics, archeology, physical anthropology, history, folklore, sociology, and other disciplines, and especially scholarship that crosses the traditional lines separating these areas. The prize will consist of a cash award of \$1,000 by the Southern Anthropological Society and publication by the University of Tennessee Press. Manuscripts are to be sent to the chairman of the awards committee: Dr. Charles Hudson, Department of Anthropology, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia 30601. The award honors Dr. Mooney, the dis-

tinguished ethnologist who was energetic in the advancement of anthropology. Dr. Mooney studied the language, mythology, and material culture of American Indians and was particularly well-known for his work in Cherokee Indian history.

The Regional Federal Records Center at Atlanta (East Point), Georgia, maintains and makes available for research a large collection of federal records. Its holdings consist of approximately 23,000 cubic feet of records dating from 1716 through 1915. Of special interest to Floridians are the records of the Southern District Court (Miami), 1828-1943; Middle District (Jacksonville), 1888-1945; Northern District (Tallahassee), 1837-1943; Confederate District Court (Pensacola), 1861-1865; Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs: Seminole Indian Agency, 1934-1952; Records of the War Manpower Commission: Activities in Florida, 1942-1945; Records of the Committee on Fair Employment Practice: Documentation of Activities of Florida, 1941-1946; Records of the National Recovery Administration: Florida, 1933-1936; Records of the Internal Revenue Service: Florida, 1909-1917; Records of the Selective Service System (World War I), 1917-1918 (partially restricted); Records of the Office of Price Administration: Florida, 1942-1947; Records of the War Manpower Commission: Florida, 1942-1945. The microfilm is available to individuals through their local or university library on a standard American Library Association Inter-Library Loan request. Dr. Herbert J. Doherty, Jr., is the Florida representative on the Southeastern Regional Board.

In the new collections accessioned by the Southern Labor Archives of Georgia State University there are two of special interest to Floridians: Charles L. Cowl Papers (1935-1972), outlining Cowl's career with the steel workers in the South and as director of the CIO in Florida; and the E. Leon Stamey Papers (1951-1972), which deal with the campaigns to organize the AFL-CIO in Tampa.

To promote knowledge, understanding, and use of archival agencies, the Society of Georgia Archivists will publish a semi-annual magazine with articles of interest to archivists and to those who use archives. *Georgia Archive* is included in the \$5.00

annual individual membership. For information, write David B. Gracy II, editor, *Georgia Archive*, Georgia State University, 104 Decatur Street, S.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

Local Societies and Commissions

Alachua County Historical Society— The speaker for the September 26 meeting was Professor George C. Osborn of the University of Florida, who discussed “John J. Tigert, Educator and President of the University of Florida,” the subject of a biography that he is writing. Professor Herbert J. Doherty, chairman of the Social Sciences Department of the University and former president of the Florida Historical Society, talked on the history of Alachua County’s early railroads at the meeting October 17. Dr. U. S. Gordon, pastor emeritus of the First Methodist Church of Gainesville, spoke at the November meeting on the early history of the churches of Gainesville. A Bicentennial Committee is formulating plans for a number of historical activities.

Alachua County Historical Commission— Jess Davis of Gainesville and Marjorie Carr of Micanopy have been named co-chairmen of the reorganized Historical Commission by the Board of County Commissioners.

Dunedin Historical Society— Ray Robinson, president of the Suncoast Archaeological Society, spoke at the September 26 meeting on “Stewards of the Past,” emphasizing the need to preserve state and area archaeological sites. The annual membership meeting was held November 10, and Dr. William Thurston, chief preservation planner, Florida Division of Archives, History and Records Management, discussed “Statewide Preservation Planning and How Dunedin Fits In.” The 1972 History Maker Awards were presented to Mrs. John A. Mease, Jr., for her many civic activities in the community, particularly in school affairs; Sergeant Sam Raney, Dunedin Police Department, for his work with community youth affairs; Elbert Waterson for his church and civic activities and his work with the Dunedin Historical Society; Albert C. Cline for his activities in community beautification and environmental work and with the Dunedin His-

torical Society; and Colonel Frederick B. Smith for his leadership role in local civic and athletic organizations. Members of the Society, directed by A. B. Cline, are providing data for a feature newspaper column entitled "Did You Know?" Dr. Willis Stanley Blatchley, the noted scientist, spent many winters in Dunedin beginning in 1913. The Society has acquired several of his books, including those written in Dunedin, and they are available for sale through Mrs. Clair L. Miller, 94 Diane Drive, Dunedin.

Historical Association of Southern Florida— The Historical Museum of Southern Florida was dedicated November 4. The Association and Junior League of Miami held a preview reception November 1. To mark this event, a historical exhibit developing twenty-five centuries of Florida is on display. David T. Alexander is director of the Museum. The Historical Association's program series began in October with a talk by Lester Pancoast of Coconut Grove on "South Florida Architecture."

Historical Society of Okaloosa and Walton Counties— "The History of Laurel Hill" was the subject for the program September 24 in the Laurel Hill High School auditorium. Mrs. T. J. Reardon was in charge of the October meeting which commemorated the founding of DeFuniak Springs in 1882. The program included a tour of the historic buildings, homes, and sites in the community. Officers of the Society are Mrs. James N. LaRoche, president; Harold Lucas, Mrs. Louis Vagias, and Mrs. T. J. Reardon, vice-presidents; Mrs. Dee Parkton, recording secretary; Mrs. Carlos Gallegos, corresponding secretary; and Alan Campbell, treasurer. The Choctawhatchee-Pryor Young Historians held its meeting on October 9 and elected Alan Gantzhorn, president; Anne Tinker and Kay Sills, vice-presidents; Wes Daniell, secretary; Jim Campbell, treasurer; and David Fitzpatrick, historian. Young Historians are preparing exhibits for the museum and are continuing their project of plotting county cemeteries. They also made a field trip to the Pensacola historic district in November.

Jacksonville Historical Society— Edward Mueller, authority on Florida steamboats, spoke at the November 8 meeting on

“Steamboating on the St. Johns.” He is currently writing an illustrated history, to be entitled “St. Johns Steamboat Days.” The list of gifts to the Society, in the November 1972 number of the Newsletter, included photographs, post cards, letters, abstracts and deeds, and other memorabilia. The Society has placed a historical marker in Friendship Park commemorating the history of the St. Johns River. Brigadier General Stoyte O. Ross is president of the Society. Other officers are John Tillman and William M. Bliss, vice-presidents; Francis C. Nixon, treasurer; Mrs. Carl P. Sasnett, corresponding secretary; Mrs. W. E. Perkins, recording secretary; Audrey Broward, archivist; and Dena Snodgrass, historian.

Madison County Historical Society— An historical marker, the eleventh in the county, was dedicated November 26. It records the activities of John Hicks (Tuckose Emathla) during the Second Seminole War and notes the settlement of Hickstown, west of Madison. Ernest Page, Jr., was the main speaker, and Mrs. W. C. Copeland, president of the Madison County Historical Society, represented the organization at the dedication.

Orange County Historical Commission— Rolland Dean has retired as editor of the Commission’s newsletter and Harry Witherington has resigned as a member of the Commission. Edward A. Miner of Piedmont, who has been active in the organization of the Apopka Historical Society and Museum, has been appointed to the Commission. The Orange County Historical Museum has acquired additional photographs, books, maps, phonograph records, and artifacts. Historical articles on the Winter Park Country Club and Orange County Place Names appeared in the September number of the “Orange County Historical Quarterly.”

Palm Beach County Historical Society— Dr. W. H. Sears, chairman, Department of Anthropology, Florida Atlantic University, spoke at the December 12 meeting in Whitehall, the Henry Morrison Flagler Museum. His subject was “Florida Before Columbus.” Judge James Knott, former president of the Palm Beach Historical Society and the Florida Historical Society,

gave an illustrated talk on local Florida history at the January 9 meeting.

Peace River Valley Historical Society— J. Carl Baird, executive director, DeSoto County Agriculture Conservation Service, described the history of soil conservation in the Peace River Valley at the October meeting at Zolfo Springs. Dr. James W. Covington, University of Tampa, spoke on the history of the Seminole Indians and the Third Seminole War at the November 28 meeting. The Society is planning to erect in the near future an historical marker honoring “Bone” Mizell.

Pensacola Historical Society— After a “safari” tour of the Hickory Farms Store in Pensacola, September 18, the members heard a talk by Art Graham, project director, Florida District, Gulf Islands National Seashore. Mrs. Jack Moore described the founding of the Pensacola Historical Museum at the October 16 meeting. At the November 20 meeting, Dr. Lucius Ellsworth of the University of West Florida, spoke on “Abercrombie & Co.— An Antebellum Business in Pensacola.” The Historical Museum has featured three special exhibits: “Art on Covers” (envelopes, painted, drawn, and/or painted by the members of the Art Cover Exchange Club during the 1930s); “Fall Fashions, 1870-1890”; and “Toys and Dolls.” The museum and library lists its acquisitions in its monthly newsletter. Norman Simons, a member of the Board of Directors of the Florida Historical Society, and Cindy Majeski edit the newsletter. *Mardi Gras, A History from 1900 to 1930* by Barbara L. Fisher is the Society’s latest publication. It is available from the Museum, 405 South Adams Street, Pensacola 32501.

Pinellas County Historical Commission— The Pinellas Pioneers Association’s picnic in Safety Harbor, October 14, drew a crowd of some 400 people. Persons living in the county in 1912 or earlier are classified as Gold Star Pioneers; those living in the county for fifty years are members of the Half Century Club. The Commission cooperated with this activity again this year.

Safety Harbor Area Historical Society— The sixth annual picnic of the Society, held October 29, honored Mrs. Milton D.

Jones, secretary. To celebrate "Alva Jones Day" there were people from Safety Harbor, Dunedin, Clearwater, St. Petersburg, Oldsmar, Tampa, and elsewhere. Mrs. Jones is also recording secretary of the Florida Historical Society. The Society's historical museum was rededicated on December 3. It is exhibiting Indian artifacts from the James Miller collection.

St. Lucie Historical Society— At the October 17 meeting, Mrs. Addie Emerson showed slides and described the restoration projects that she had visited recently. Rollin Rogers was the speaker at the dinner meeting, November 21.

Southwest Florida Historical Society— Bill Hammond, director of the Lee County Environmental Education Program, spoke at the October 12 meeting on the "Ecological History of Lee County." Charles E. Foster and Alice English presented a slide story of Alva School on November 9, and William Boles described historic sites in Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Hendry, and DeSoto counties at the December 14 meeting.

Tampa Historical Society— The first annual presentation of the D. B. McKay Award was made to Frank Laumer of Dade City. It recognizes a person who has contributed distinguished service in the cause of Florida history. Mr. Laumer is author of *Massacre!* published by the University of Florida Press, and he is editing one of the volumes in the Bicentennial Floridiana Facsimile Series to be published by the University of Florida Press under the sponsorship of the Bicentennial Commission of Florida. The presentation was made by Anthony P. Pizzo, former president of the Society. In cooperation with the University of Tampa, Merl Kelce Library has been designated as a depository for the books, letters, and artifacts of the Society. The Society has erected a historical marker designating "Courthouse Square" at the corner of Franklin and Madison streets. It also assisted in assembling the historical data for the Tampa and Ybor City sites that have been nominated for the National Register of Historic Places. Dr. James W. Covington of the University of Tampa, Florida Senator David McClain, and Hampton Dunn have been speakers at recent program meetings. Officers are Mrs. William E. Henson, president; Anthony Pizzo and Hampton

Dunn, vice-presidents; Mrs. Samuel Latimer, treasurer; Mrs. Aaron Melton, recording secretary; Herbert G. McKay, corresponding secretary, and Dr. James W. Covington, historical research secretary. Directors are Carl C. Durrance, Leland Hawes, Jr., Harris H. Mullen, Jim E. Wall, Jr., John Ware, Paul W. Danahy, Jr., James W. Warren, Jr., Charles L. Knight, and Stanford J. Newman.

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1973		
Jan. 6	Florida Historical Society Board of Directors	University of South Florida
April 12-13	Florida College Teachers of History	University of Tampa
April 11-14	Organization of American Historians	Chicago, Ill.
May 10-12	FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY— 71st ANNUAL MEETING	Port St. Lucie Hilton Fort Pierce, Fla.
June 1-2	Florida American Revolution Bicentennial Symposium	Florida International University
Sept. 18-21	American Association for State and Local History	Edmonton, Alberta
Sept. 25-28	Society of American Archivists	St. Louis, Mo.
Oct. 11-14	National Trust for Historic Preservation	Cleveland, Ohio
Nov. 7-10	Southern Historical Association	Atlanta, Ga.
Dec. 27-30	American Historical Association	San Francisco, Calif.