

1972

History News

Florida Historical Society
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HISTORY NEWS

The Annual Meeting

The Florida Historical Society will hold its seventy-first annual meeting in Fort Pierce, May 11-12, 1973, at the Port St. Lucie Hilton Hotel. Members of the St. Lucie Historical Society, Martin County Historical Society, and Indian River Area Historical Commission are hosts. Mrs. Addie Emerson and Mrs. Clifton Davis of Fort Pierce are the chairpersons in charge of local arrangements. Dr. E. Ashby Hammond, University of Florida, and Dr. Thelma Peters, Miami, are program chairpersons. Reading papers are Professors Harry A. Kersey, Jr., Florida Atlantic University; Lucius F. Ellsworth, University of West Florida; Peter Klingman, Daytona Beach Community College; Arthur O. White, University of Florida; Jerry Weeks, Palm Beach Atlantic College; James W. Covington, University of Tampa; and Eugene Lyons, Indian River Community College; and William Cockrell, State Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties, Division of Archives, History, and Records Management. Professors Edward C. Williamson, Auburn University, and Charlton W. Tebeau, University of Miami, will serve as commentators.

Dr. Frank Slaughter of Jacksonville will be the banquet speaker Saturday evening. Dr. Samuel Proctor will announce the recipient of the Arthur W. Thompson Memorial Prize in Florida History for 1972-1973. Milton D. Jones will present the Presentation of Florida History by News Media Award. The winners of the Rembert W. Patrick Memorial Book Award and the Charlton W. Tebeau Junior Book Award will also be announced at the banquet.

Certificates of Commendation and an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History will be given to Miss Thelma Boltin of White Springs, William R. Hellier of Fort Pierce, Dr. Leitch Wright of Florida State University, and Dr. Charlton W. Tebeau, University of Miami, for the work that they have done in recording, interpreting, and disseminating local, state, and regional history.

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On Friday evening a dramatization, "Song of the Indian River," which has been written and produced by Mrs. Ada Coats Williams especially for this occasion will be presented at the convention center. There will be sightseeing trips on Saturday afternoon to the historic sites in the area and to the historic museums. There will be a reception prior to the Saturday evening banquet. Registration begins at nine o'clock on May 11 in the lobby of the Port St. Lucie Hilton Hotel. Program sessions will be in the convention center.

The board of directors will hold its meeting on Thursday evening. The business luncheon Saturday will be convened by Dr. John E. Johns, president of the Society. The convention is open to the general public.

Florida Bicentennial History Symposium

"Eighteenth Century Florida and the Caribbean Community" is the theme of the second in a series of symposia sponsored by the Bicentennial Commission of Florida relating to the Bicentennial of American independence. The 1973 conference is being held with Florida International University, June 1-2, 1973, at the Deauville Hotel, Miami Beach. It was planned by the Bicentennial research and publications committee. Among those reading papers will be Richard B. Sheridan, University of Kansas; William M. Coker, University of West Florida; Jack C. Greene, The Johns Hopkins University; Barry Higman, The University of the West Indies; Orlando Patterson, Harvard University; Charles Fairbanks, University of Florida; R. Duncan Mathewson, The Institute of Jamaica; and Thomas Mathews, Institute of Caribbean Studies, University of Puerto Rico. Sir Philip Sherlock, Secretary General, Association of Caribbean Universities and Research Institutes, will deliver the luncheon address, June 1. All sessions will be open to the public. For information and programs write University Services and Continuing Education, Florida International University, Tamiami Trail, Miami, Florida 33144.

Announcements and Activities

The Florida Anthropological Society held its twenty-fifth annual meeting in Government House, St. Augustine, March

17-18, 1973. John W. Griffin, director, Historic St. Augustine Preservation Board, was program chairman. Subjects discussed included Seminole Indian ethnohistory, Creek Indian crafts, Seminole costumes, and historic archeology. Dr. Charles Fairbanks, University of Florida, was the banquet speaker. At the business meeting, the following officers were elected for 1973: George H. Magruder, president; John W. Griffin, vice-president; Benjamin I. Waller, second vice-president; Donald Crusoe, treasurer; Nan D. Magruder, secretary; Ripley P. Bullen, editor. Members of the Executive Committee are Dan Laxson, T. H. Gouchnour, Richard D. Hagen, Wilma Williams, Yulee Lazarus, and Wes Coleman.

The Council on Abandoned Military Posts— U.S.A. organized its Department of Florida at a meeting in Tampa, February 17, 1973. Dr. James W. Covington, University of Tampa, Theodore Lesley, Frank Laumer, and Randy Nimnicht of the Florida Division of Archives, History, and Records Management were the speakers. Thomas B. Mitchell, Treasure Island, was in charge of arrangements. For membership information write to the secretary, P.O. Box 194, Quantico, Virginia 22134.

Summer programs of the Nantucket Preservation Institute are sponsored by the Nantucket Historical Trust, the University of Florida, the National Park Service, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Summer pre-professional programs for undergraduate and graduate students in architecture, interior design, urban studies, and architectural history are administered by the Department of Architecture, University of Florida. Using courses regularly scheduled at the University, but applicable to special studies on the island, students are able to earn credit hours during each summer quarter. Faculty from the University of Florida and consultants from the National Trust, National Park Service, and other preservation organizations provide instruction. Paralleling the pre-professional program are professional workshops, one of which is a two-week workshop to be held July 16-27. Participants are recruited from the federal and state agencies which are responsible for inventories and nominations to the National Register. Nantucket is used as a case study in recognition of its architectural styles and

their significance and in developing the concepts of district recognition. Recognizing the rapid growth throughout the United States in the number of established historic districts, the Preservation Institute will cosponsor with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a Legal Symposium, August 5-8, on the legal issues encountered in the administration of historic district ordinances. This symposium is intended primarily for the practicing attorney associated with the administration of historic district ordinances. Inquiries about the 1973 summer program should be addressed to Professor F. Blair Reeves, Department of Architecture, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32601.

The John M. Goggin Award for Method and Theory in Historical Archeology has been created by the Conference on Historic Site Archeology as a memorial to Professor Goggin who helped organize the conference in 1959. The award of \$500 is offered to encourage scholarly research in method, theory, and interpretation in historical archeology. The winning manuscript will be published in the *Conference on Historic Site Archeology Papers*, and the prize will be presented at the annual meeting of the conference. The manuscript should be an original, unpublished work, not over 30,000 words. Stanley South, Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina 29208, is chairman of the award committee, and manuscripts should be sent to him.

The second annual meeting of the Southern Region of the Popular Culture Association will be held September 27-29, 1973, at the Americana Motor Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia. For further information, write Henry S. Marks, 301 Terry-Hutchins Building, 102 Clinton Avenue W., Huntsville, Alabama 35801.

"Fundamental Testaments of the American Revolution," the second in a series of Library of Congress symposia relating to the Bicentennial of American independence, will be held May 10-11, 1973, at the Library of Congress, Washington. There is no admission fee for the symposium, but because seating is limited, advance registration is required. For information write

to the American Revolution Bicentennial Office, Library of Congress, Washington 20540.

The America the Beautiful Fund of the Natural Area Council, Inc., is offering seed grants up to \$1,000 to innovate community-based historical projects. The Fund is seeking to aid "participatory programs to revitalize community interest in local history and town environment." Grants are contingent on matching funds from local sources. For information write 219 Shoreham Bldg., Washington 20005.

The Talquin Electric Cooperative, Inc., has purchased and restored the historic Bruce House in Quincy. The house is located on land once owned by Robert Forbes, the first sheriff of Gadsden County. The structure, which dates to the nineteenth century, is a good example of the raised cottage type of architecture characteristic of the Louisiana-Mississippi gulf coast. The residence was originally brick, but it was stuccoed to waterproof the outside walls. Some exterior changes have been made to the property, and plumbing and electricity have been added. The Talquin Electric Cooperative uses the building for its offices, and an upper floor room has been furnished in the style of the 1800s.

Local Societies and Commissions

Alachua County Historical Commission— Jack Opdyke, Jess Davis, Sara Drylie, Ron Stalvey, and Marjorie Carr were appointed committee chairpersons at the January 9 meeting at the County Courthouse. Norm La Coe was elected secretary. He also serves as chairman of the Alachua County Action '76 Steering Committee. Sam Gowan reported that Historic Gainesville, Inc., with county support, has organized approximately 120 volunteers to make an inventory of significant Alachua County structures more than fifty years old. The commission will support an oral history project under the direction of Barbara Gallant.

Alachua County Historical Society— The reconstruction era in Florida and Alachua County was discussed by Dr. Ralph Peek of the University of Florida at the January 16 meeting in

the First Presbyterian Church. Dr. Carolyn Griffis spoke at the February program meeting. Dedication ceremonies were held February 17 for historical markers at Fort Clarke, Archer, Micanopy, and Alachua. The Society is also making an effort to secure publication of a commemorative stamp honoring Thomas G. Pearson, the famed naturalist who did much of his important work in Alachua County.

Dunedin Historical Society— The Society met with other area historical societies and commissions in a joint meeting in Clearwater on January 24, 1973 to hear N. E. Bill Miller of the Florida Bicentennial Commission discuss the state and national program for the Bicentennial celebration in 1976. The Society also held a “Wearing of the Green” dance for the benefit of its restoration program March 16.

Fort Lauderdale Historical Society— In cooperation with the Himmarshee and Francis Broward Chapters, Daughters of the American Revolution, the Society placed a marker on the entrance gates to Evergreen Cemetery showing its establishment in 1910. The most recent issue of “New River News” is dedicated to Mrs. Erma N. Sykes Abbey who has been involved actively since the early 1930s in the education of Florida Seminole children.

Historical Association of Southern Florida— Dr. Thelma Peters, vice-president of the Florida Historical Society, is organizing the Society’s library and archives on a volunteer basis. Dr. Charlton W. Tebeau spoke at the December program meeting, and Arva Moore Parks gave an illustrated lecture on Coconut Grove, using pictures from the Munroe Collection, at the January 8 meeting. At the February meeting, Dr. Peters described “Lemon City, Pioneer Community” and showed a number of historic photographs. “New Data on Southwest Florida Indians” was the subject of an illustrated lecture by Dr. Wilburn A. Cockrell, underwater archeologist, State Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties, Division of Archives, History and Records Management, at the March 6 meeting. The Association’s activities and meetings are held in the new historical museum which adjoins the Museum of Science. David T. Alexander serves as museum director.

Jacksonville Historical Society— J. Edwin Gay discussed “The History of the Courts and the Bar in Duval County” at the February 14 meeting in the Friday Musicale Auditorium. The Society and the Jacksonville Art Museum presented a joint program on March 20. Max Huig of Amsterdam discussed lithography; his topic was “The Talking Stones.” Joseph E. Lee, Jacksonville’s first black lawyer, who served in the Florida legislature in the 1870s, was honored January 21, when a community center in Jacksonville was named for him. Ike Williams took part in the ceremonies. Among recent new gifts accessioned for the Society’s library are first-day covers, postcards, photographs, newspapers, newspaper clippings, and letters. A collection of papers relating to the Daniel Memorial Home for Children was given to the Society by Mr. and Mrs. Chester Bedell. Brigadier General Stoyte O. Ross is president of the Society.

Jefferson County Historical Society— Dr. Samuel Proctor, University of Florida, described national and state plans for the Bicentennial at a program meeting held in the Wirick-Simmons House, Monticello, February 26. He suggested a program emphasizing historical record collecting and preservation and architectural preservation and restoration. The annual Monticello Tour of Homes took place March 31-April 1, and on display in Monticello were the Carr Settle House, Presbyterian Church, Edgewood Plantation, Dixie Plantation, W. L. Oliver House, S. D. Clarke House, and the Wirick-Simmons House. In Lloyd, the Bond House and the Lloyd Railroad station were on the tour. Mrs. Frederick Connally is president of the Society.

Madison County Historical Society— A marker noting the site of the Seminole Indian War blockhouse was dedicated February 25 in Confederate Memorial Park, Madison. This is the thirteenth historical marker in the county. Mrs. Carlton Smith, Ruth Reams, and Mary Jane Pfell represented the Society at the ceremonies. Mrs. W. C. Copeland, Jr., is president of the Society.

Orange County Historical Commission— An historical marker has been placed to commemorate original Pine Castle and its builder, William Wallace Harney, who built his home on the western shores of Lake Conway about 1870. The historical mu-

seum has accessioned a number of books, clippings, photographs, postcards, maps, and assorted memorabilia.

Palm Beach County Historical Society— Judge James R. Knott, former president of the Florida Historical Society, presented a slide lecture depicting Palm Beach's historical past at the January 9, 1973, meeting at the Henry Morrison Flagler Museum. Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry, editor of *Lincoln Lore* and an expert on Abraham Lincoln, spoke at the February meeting. His subject was "The Lincoln Saga." On March 13, David T. Alexander, museum director, Historical Association of Southern Florida, gave a talk entitled "Pioneering in South Florida." The Morris Holley family has donated the original architectural plans and drawings of Addison Mizner and other local architects to the Society's library.

Peace River Valley Historical Society— Hampton Dunn, Florida author and newsman, spoke on the "Pollution of Florida's History and Heritage" at the January 26 meeting at Pioneer Park, Zolfo Springs. Vernon Peeples of Ponta Gorda described the Boca Grande settlement of southwest Florida at the February 23 meeting. Marjory Stoneman Douglas received the 1972 Florida History Award at a dinner meeting, March 30. Mrs. Douglas is an authority on Florida history. She is a noted newspaper correspondent and has been active on the state, regional, and national level in organizations and movements dedicated to preserving the environment. She was one of the major forces in the establishment of Everglades National Park. She has also written several books about Florida including *The Everglades: River of Grass* and *The Long Frontier*. William M. Goza of Clearwater, former president of Florida Historical Society and a recipient of the 1968 Florida History Award, made the presentation. The Society is planning to unveil a historical marker honoring "Bone" Mizell, Florida's prairie philosopher and humorist, on May 20 at Zolfo Springs.

Pensacola Historical Society— According to its annual report, the Museum accessioned 156 gifts during the past year, including the Occie Clubbs Papers. The genealogy collection housed in the Lelia Abercrombie Historical Library, some 2,000 family data sheets, represents more than 10,000 people who have lived in the

Pensacola and Escambia County area. "The Battle of Pensacola" was the subject for a paper presented by Mrs. Lawrence Andrus at the February 19 meeting.

Pinellas County Historical Commission— The Junior Service League of Clearwater is gathering data for a history of the community with the cooperation of the Commission. A joint meeting with other area historical societies was held on January 24 for the presentation by N. E. Bill Miller of the Florida Bicentennial Commission. Recent acquisitions include books, post-cards, daguerreotypes, and a variety of artifacts.

Safety Harbor Area Historical Society— N. E. Bill Miller, executive director, Bicentennial Commission of Florida, spoke at a joint meeting of the Pinellas County Historical Commission, Dunedin Historical Society, Tarpon Springs Historical Society, and the Safety Harbor Area Historical Society on January 24, 1973 in Clearwater. Mr. Miller showed the color film, *A Declaration of Independence*, and described the plans for celebrating the Bicentennial in Florida. Professor Clyde Reed, Museum of Science and Natural History, Tampa, spoke on American Indian archeology at the February 27 meeting, which was held jointly with the Dunedin Historical Society, Mease Manor, Dunedin. The Society participated in the Count Phillipe Festival, sponsored by the Safety Harbor Chamber of Commerce, April 7.

St. Augustine Historical Society— At a ceremony in October at the Castillo de San Marcos, N. Putnam Calhoun, president of the Society, was the main speaker. A marker, the gift of Mrs. Thomas J. McCahill III of Ormond Beach, was dedicated memorializing Governor Manuel de Cendoya who broke ground on October 2, 1672, for the Castillo. Mrs. McCahill is a direct descendant of Governor Cendoya. On behalf of the Cendoya family of Spain, Sr. Pedro Cendoya Oscoz of Barcelona, presented a standard bearing the Cendoya arms. Sr. Pedro Cendoya Martinez represented his father at this presentation. Bruce Miller, deputy director, National Park Service Florida Caribbean District, and Sr. Don Vincente Ramírez Montesinos were also on the program. At its fall quarterly meeting, Manuel A. Morales, chief park historical interpreter of the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, was the speaker.

St. Lucie Historical Society— L. C. McDaniels of Micco, Florida, was the speaker at the January 16 program meeting. Mr. McDaniels was responsible for all mail delivery at the U. S. Navy amphibious training base at Fort Pierce during World War II, and his talk related to that activity. John Durham, local artist and Indian painter, was the speaker at the February 20 meeting. His topic was “Indians, Spears, and Archery.”

Southwest Florida Historical Society— The medical history of the Caloosahatchee Valley was the topic of the talk by Ernest Hall, president of the Society, at the program meeting, February 8, in the Lee County Courthouse. William Bolz, who is photographing landmarks and historic sites in southwest Florida, gave an illustrated lecture at the January meeting. A pageant based on the history of Collier County was presented in Everglades City, Naples, and Immokalee as part of the County’s fiftieth birthday. Volunteers from the Southwest Historical Society and the Collier County Historical Society staffed a booth honoring Collier County’s semi-centennial at the Southwest Florida Fair in January. An article, “Discovering the First Floridians,” by Alberta Rawchuck, appeared in the February 1973 number of the *Caloosa Quarterly*.

Tarpon Springs Historical Society— The histories of the James Washington Alderman, George N. Cretekos, and Gause families were presented at the Remembrance Tea, an annual event for the Society. “Some Early Reminiscences of Tarpon Springs,” by J. C. Boyer, was also part of that program. The Society sponsored an essay contest for high school students, and Jan Nelson was first prize winner with an essay entitled “Sponge: the Golden Fleece.” The presentations were made by Gertrude Stoughton, Society president. “Old Houses in the Tarpon Springs Area” was the subject for the program meeting, February 22. “Old Home Week” was held in Tarpon Springs in March when several of the local homes were opened to the public. Efforts will be made to convert the Sponge Exchange into an historical museum.