

1973

History News

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HISTORY NEWS

Announcements and Activities

The Board of Trustees of the Wentworth Foundation, Inc. voted to make a gift of \$500 to the Florida Historical Society to be used for the *Florida Historical Quarterly*. The money will be for art work and additional photographs for the journal. Fillmore Wentworth, a New York native, lived for many years in Clearwater. The Fairmont Canning Company of Minnesota developed into a major American industrial enterprise under his direction. The plant canned almost a score of products and was a pioneer in the field of frozen foods. In Clearwater, Mr. Wentworth developed the instant quick freezer for sea foods and acquired the capital stock of the Gulf Gold, Inc., a frozen food processing company. He was actively involved in this business at the time of his death, September 8, 1967. His will provided for the creation of the Wentworth Foundation to provide funds for the education of worthy young people and to carry on philanthropic and educational activities.

The fifth annual Gulf Coast History and Humanities Conference will meet in Pensacola, February 7-8, 1974. The theme is "Indians of the Lower South." The workshop Thursday, February 7, will focus on "Teaching of the Indian Past in History Courses." Speakers will discuss "Resources for the Study of Indian Cultures of the Lower South" and "American Indian Studies in the Classroom: Problems of Interpretation." Speakers on the panel, "Whiteman's Image of the Indian: A Rebuttal," will be Buffalo Tiger, Chairman of the Florida Miccosukee Tribe; Mary Francis Johns, Florida Seminole Tribe; Adolph L. Dial, Director of Indian Studies, Pembroke State College; and Phillip Martin, Chief, Choctaw Tribe East of the Mississippi. Other participants of Thursday's sessions are Dr. Samuel Proctor, University of Florida; James A. Servies, University of West Florida; Mrs. Harriet Deissler, Pensacola; Dr. John K. Mahon, University of Florida; Dr. John Peterson, Mississippi State University;

Robert Ferguson, Southeastern Institute of Anthropological Studies; Dr. Jack Gregory, University of West Florida; Wayne L. Perkins, Escambia County Board of Education, Pensacola; and Thomas LoGuidice, Pensacola. Speakers on Friday will discuss "Southeastern Indians Who Stayed" and "Indian Removal Policy." Speakers are Professor Adolph L. Dial, Dr. J. Anthony Paredes, Florida State University; Dr. Charles H. Fairbanks, University of Florida; C. B. Clark, University of Oklahoma; Dr. Mary Young, Ohio State University; and Dr. Harry Kersey, Florida Atlantic University. Dr. Angie Debo, Emeritus Professor of History, University of Oklahoma, will deliver the banquet address.

Further information and copies of the proceedings of earlier conferences are available by writing James Moody, Historic Pensacola Preservation Board, 200 East Zaragoza Street, Pensacola, Florida 32502.

The T. G. Wentworth Junior Museum of Pensacola has published its twenty-third *Pensacola Picture Book*. It includes photographs and sketches made in the Pensacola area during the Civil War. The booklet sells for twenty-five cents and can be ordered from the Museum, Box 806, Pensacola 32502. The Museum, Palafox Highway at Ensley, is open each Saturday and Sunday afternoon with free admission.

The United States Department of the Interior has designated the St. Augustine town plan, the Gonzalez-Alvarez House, and the Lambias House, as Registered National Historic Landmarks. A plaque recognizing the town plan was unveiled July 26 by Bruce Miller, Deputy Director, Florida-Caribbean District of National Park Service. Other plaques were unveiled in a ceremony in the patio of the Oldest House, August 28, 1973.

A Museum of Medical History has been opened in St. Augustine on the second floor of the Historic Spanish Military Hospital as a cooperative project of the Historic St. Augustine Preservation Board, Florida Medical Association, and the Women's Auxiliary of the Florida Medical Association. It houses antique medical instruments, books, historic photographs, and other examples of the development of medicine.

Mrs. Rose C. Ward of Floral City, a student at the Florida Community College, Ocala, received the 1973 Mary MacRae History Award for her paper, "Henry Hampton Dunn: A Man of Integrity." It was presented by Tom Knotts, chairman of the College's board of trustees. The award recognizes the late Mrs. Mary MacRae, long-time member of the Florida Historical Society and the outstanding citizen-historian of Citrus County.

The tenth annual *Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society* workshop is scheduled to be held in Jacksonville October 19-20, 1973 at the Holiday Inn, I-95, South Jacksonville. Walter Hartridge of Savannah, Georgia, will serve as moderator and will also participate in a panel discussing the southern "Ports of Entry." He will describe Savannah, St. Augustine, and New Orleans. Mrs. Mary Warren of Athens, Georgia, and Bill R. Linder of Virginia are also on the program. Registration is \$6.50. For information write P.O. Box 2801, Jacksonville, Florida 32203.

Local Societies and Commissions

Alachua County Historical Commission: At its meeting on July 12, 1973, Commission members reviewed the historical markers program and approved the erection of markers in Newberry, Hawthorne, and Waldo. An inventory of historic county sites is underway, and 1,416 structures have been listed. Twenty-six sites may meet the criteria for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. At the Commission's meeting August 9, Jack Opdyke, Helen Ellerbe, and Sara Drylie were appointed committee chairpersons. Plans for the publication of a survey history of Alachua County as part of the sesquicentennial were announced. The county sesquicentennial will be celebrated in December 1974.

Alachua County Historical Society: Thelma A. Boltin of White Springs presented a program entitled "Florida Lore in Song and Story" at the September 18 meeting of the Society. The American Association for State and Local History presented an Award of Merit to Mrs. Boltin at the annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society in May 1973 for her contributions to Florida folklore and music. Mrs. Chris Matheson was the speaker on

October 16, and the subject of her talk was "Augustus Steele: Pioneer Developer." Mrs. Matheson displayed letters and heirlooms belonging to the Steele family.

Central Florida Society for Historic Preservation: The major project of the Society is restoration of an area of Longwood, one of the oldest communities in Central Florida. The historical district, created by the City Council, includes Christ Episcopal Church, built in 1789, the Bradlee-McIntyre (on the National Register of Historic Places), and the Inside-Outside House. Exterior restoration has begun on the latter two buildings supported by a \$25,000 grant from the United States Department of the Interior. The partially-restored Longwood Hotel was placed on the Florida Bicentennial Trail in July in conjunction with a meeting there of the Florida Bicentennial Commission. The Society's officers are Betty Jo McLeod, president; Joseph Cardilli, vice-president; Fred Bistline, treasurer; and Dorothy Pearson, secretary.

Florida Baptist Historical Society: Dr. E. Earl Joiner has been named curator and secretary-treasurer of the Society. His address is Stetson University, DeLand, Florida 32720.

Florida Genealogical Society: The following officers have been elected for the year 1973-1974: Frank L. Adams, president; Mrs. Charles S. Tidwell, vice-president; Mrs. Kenneth T. Jones, treasurer; Virginia Carte, recording secretary; Eliger Beach, corresponding secretary; and J. B. Singley, librarian. Theodore Lesley, Virginia Sloan, and Mrs. Charles Boyer are directors. Theodore Lesley is also editor of the Society's journal. Its latest issue includes an article "Mickler and the Seminoles" and a list of Revolutionary War pension certificates paid in Florida.

Fort Lauderdale Historical Society: At the first Pioneer Days program at the American Heritage School, the Society exhibited a replica of the original Fort Lauderdale, old flags, papers and rare books on Florida history, and paintings of early buildings. A group of Seminole Indians constructed a chickee and demonstrated Indian crafts. Dr. Charlton W. Tebeau, University of Miami, was the speaker. A booklet, *First Annual Broward Coun-*

ty's Pioneer Days, has been published by the Mental Health Association of Broward County and the Broward County Historical Commission. The July number of the *New River News* included material on the House of Refuge. During the past year the Society dedicated several historical markers, including one at the King-Cromartie House. A marker at Snyder Park will be erected this fall. The Fort Lauderdale Historical Society is in its eleventh year of operation: its library contains newspapers, magazines, photographs, documents, maps, letters, books, and artifacts relating to the area.

Halifax Historical Society: The Mary McLeod Bethune Anniversary was celebrated by the members at its meeting July 10 at the Halifax Historical Museum. Dr. Florence Roane, who served with and was closely associated with Mrs. Bethune, was the leader. Mrs. Eileen Butts spoke on "Our Least Known Plantation" at the program meeting August 5, and Mrs. Cherie Gardner described "Harbor Oaks and Sugar Mill Gardens" at the meeting September 4. The Society meets monthly, maintains its museum at 224½ S. Beach. Street, and publishes the *Halifax Historical Herald*. Officers are Hazelle L. Fenty, president; Mrs. W. K. Ellenwood, vice-president; Elam V. Martin, treasurer; and Mabel Martin, secretary. Information on membership is available from Mrs. Fenty at 432 South Palmetto Avenue, Daytona Beach, Florida 32014.

Hillsborough County Historical Commission: At its June 18 meeting the Commission discussed its historical markers program, and ordered a marker for the Fort Brooke cannon on the University of Tampa campus. The Tampa Historical Society, it was announced, will place a marker at the Francis Bellamy home. He wrote the Allegiance to the Flag. L. Glenn Westfall and Don Barnes described to Commission members their activities on the Historic American Building Survey project in Ybor City, sponsored by the National Park Service and the Florida Bicentennial Commission. Members of the Commission are Mrs. Harry L. Weedon, chairman, Margaret L. Chapman, Mrs. Buford W. Council, Dr. Thomas B. Mitchell, Judge Harry G. McDonald, Anthony P. Pizzo, James F. Taylor, Jr., Captain John

D. Ware, Mrs. Agnes R. Worthington, and Theodore Lesley, county historian.

Lake City Historical Society: After a county-wide survey, a committee designated the Philip Moore House, built in 1870, as the oldest in Columbia County. The George Cline House standing in Lake City on Davis Street, is also of this era. Other prizes were awarded as part of the drive to stimulate interest in local history. Mrs. Netti Ozaki is president of the Society.

Mount Dora Historical Society: The Society's activities in establishing Chautauqua Park as the site of the nineteenth-century South Florida Chautauqua were described in a recent issue of *The Chautauquan Daily*. The Chautauqua met for the first time on the property of Dr. W. P. Henry, between Lake Dora and Lake Gertrude, April 5, 1887. The Mount Dora Lakes and Hills Garden Club is landscaping the park.

Okeechobee County Historical Society: Twenty charter members met in Okeechobee on September 20, 1973, to organize a four-county historical society. Mrs. Hiram Raulerson was elected president. The Society hopes to secure a school building for a museum. Mrs. Addie Holmes Emerson and Mrs. Vivian Davis of Fort Pierce helped organize the group. In addition to Mrs. Raulerson, Glenda Davis is secretary and Marilyn Bass is treasurer. A second meeting was scheduled for October 11.

Orange County Historical Commission: The offer by the John Young Museum to erect a historical museum as a unit in the complex in Loch Haven Park is under consideration. The historical museum, begun in 1942 by the Antiquarians (a group of ladies interested in antiques), was taken over by the Historical Commission in 1957. The Commission organized the Orange County Historical Society in 1971, and its members serve as Society directors. The Commission has been publishing the "Orange County Historical Quarterly" since 1959. Its latest issue includes articles on the Central Florida Civic Theater and the West Central School.

Peace River Valley Historical Society: Mrs. Bonita R. Swann of Wauchula spoke at the September 21 meeting on the history of the Valley. Dr. Thaddeus M. Moseley, III, of Jacksonville, and Carl D. King, of Bradenton, will speak at the November program meetings. Meetings are scheduled for the Assembly Building, Pioneer Park, Zolfo Springs, Florida.

Pensacola Historical Society: At its meeting, September 17, 1973, at the Historical Museum, Mrs. William R. Turner described the development and future plans of the North Hill Preservation District. The Museum celebrated its thirteenth annual anniversary August 15, and Miss Lelia Abercrombie, Curator Emeritus, was honored for her devotion and contributions to the museum. A painting, "Consecration of Christ Church, 1838" by Herbert Rudeen of Pensacola, was unveiled. The painting was sponsored through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Blanchard.

Pinellas County Historical Commission: At its June 20 meeting, E. Reinhold Rogers, Jr., chairman, described his two-column article in the *Clearwater Sun* about the fort at Fort DeSoto Park and about his recent talks on Pinellas County history. The Historical Museum has received a collection of books and journals from the family of Lew B. Brown of St. Petersburg.

Safety Harbor Area Historical Society: Tim Baughman, consultant to the Florida Board of Archives, History and Records Management, described a survey of historic buildings and sites which he is coordinating for Pinellas County, at the September 26 program meeting. A drive is underway to collect historical items and pictures for a history of Safety Harbor and the area. Officers of the Society are Gustave A. Nelson, president; Newman Hoopingarner, vice-president; Alva L. Jones, secretary; and James F. Morgan, treasurer. Directors are Maybelle Lister, Restituto Rios, Bill Edson, Alva Jones, Edna Nelson, and James Miller.

St. Lucie Historical Society: A book review of *Jonathan Dickinson's Journal* was presented by Olive Dame Peterson at the August 21 meeting. Marion Ramsey of Fort Pierce spoke at the

September 18 meeting, and he described the historical development of the harbor and port since the close of World War I. Mr. Ramsey also showed slides and a Fox Movietone News film from the period. Isabelle McClintock is president of the Society.

Southwest Florida Historical Society: Elinore Dormer spoke on "Sanibel and Captiva— Our Very Special Islands" at a meeting, October 12. Lawrence E. Will of Belle Glade is scheduled as the November program speaker, and he will describe Okeechobee waterways and hurricanes. The latest issue of the *Caloosa Quarterly*, published by the Society, announces the gift by Ernest M. Hart of Tampa of a valuable collection of photographs of Fort Myers people and places dating to 1913. The Society has also acquired seventeen colored slides of Punta Rassa. A short sketch of Abraham Charles Myers was also included in the publication.

Tarpon Springs Area Historical Society: The Safford House and other Tarpon Springs area residences and public buildings are being studied for possible inclusion on the National Register for Historic Places. Photographs, newspapers, and books have been added to the Society's collection. A speakers bureau will supply program needs of local civic clubs and other organizations.

West Pasco Historical Society: Organized in May 1973, officers are Julia Obenreder, president; Della Shaver, vice-president; Ida Brunner, treasurer; Lois Neubrand, secretary. Members of the board of directors are Roscoe Henderson, C. A. Clayton, Richard Milbauer, and Dr. Wilfred T. Neil.

West Volusia Historical Society: Dr. John E. Johns, president of the Florida Historical Society, was the speaker at a meeting of the Society in the DeLand Museum. Brinley Carter is serving as president of this newly-formed organization, and other officers are Mrs. A. H. Gaede, vice-president; Pamela Pierson Rintz, secretary; S. Dick Johnston, treasurer; and Mrs. Millaine O'Brien, executive secretary. Approximately fifty members are enrolled. The first project of the society will be an exhibit featuring part of the Rich Cabin, the first permanent home in DeLand. An

effort will be made also to locate and mark the oldest house in the West Volusia area.

Notes

Allen Morris, Clerk, Florida House of Representatives, Tallahassee is assembling material for publication of a history of the Florida Legislature. His need is for photographs, and he is interested in any pictures, especially those showing all or any part of the chambers of the Florida Senate and House and the Capital, and photographs of members of any Florida Legislature. The pictures can be copied, and, upon request, the original will be returned. Otherwise, it will be preserved in the Florida Photographic Archives in the names of the contributors. Responses should be addressed to Mr. Morris, House of Representatives, Tallahassee, Florida 32304.

Dr. Peter Klingman, professor of social sciences, Daytona Beach Community College, is writing a history of the Republican Party of Florida. He would welcome any information or data (letters, diaries, etc.) relating to the Florida Republican Party from its formation in 1867 to the present. Professor Klingman is desirous of interviewing individuals who have played a role in the party's activities on the local and state level in the twentieth century. One may write him at 629 Winston Drive, Holly Hill, Florida 32017.

OBITUARY

Mary Isabel MacRae

Mary Isabel MacRae, one of the most devoted members of the Florida Historical Society, died at the Citrus Memorial Hospital in Inverness September 16, 1973.

Mrs. MacRae was a longtime resident of Homosassa and was widely known for her activities in the field of historic preservation. She was past chairman of the Citrus County Historical Society, an organization which she helped organize almost single-handedly. Mrs. MacRae was credited with doing more than any other single individual to preserve the historic Yulee Sugar Mill in Homosassa. The American Association for State and Local History recognized her more than fifty years of exemplary action in the causes of Homosassa, Citrus County, and Florida history when they presented her with an Award of Merit in 1971. She was one of eight individuals in the nation who at that time received this recognition.

Mrs. MacRae had been an active member of the Florida Historical Society for more than three decades, and had attended more of the annual meetings of the Society than any other person. She was recognized for her activities on behalf of the Society at the convention at Port St. Lucie, Florida, May 1973. Mrs. MacRae had served as a member of the Board of the Florida Historical Society. She was also a member of the Board of the Central Florida Community College, Ocala, and in recognition of her work, the College annually presents the Mary MacRae History Award for the best essay on some aspect of Florida history.

A native of Plymouth, England, she settled in Homosassa in 1914. She and her family operated MacRae's Cottages there for many years. She was a member of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Inverness. Mrs. MacRae was interested in the life of David Levy Yulee, and she collected much primary source data on Senator Yulee and members of his family. Mrs. MacRae's many friends throughout Florida will feel her death as a deep personal loss.