


1974

History News

Florida Historical Society
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HISTORY NEWS

The Annual Meeting

The Florida Historical Society will hold its seventy-third annual meeting in Gainesville, May 9-10, 1975. The Board of Directors will convene its semi-annual meeting the evening of May 8. The Alachua County Historical Society, Alachua County Historical Commission, Historic Gainesville, Inc., Alachua County Bicentennial Commission, and other historical and preservation groups will be hosts. The history faculties at the University of Florida and Santa Fe Community College are also assisting. Dr. Merlin Cox, president of the Alachua County Historical Society, is chairman of local arrangements. Dr. George E. Buker, department of history, Jacksonville University, Jacksonville, and Dr. J. Leitch Wright, department of history, Florida State University, Tallahassee, are program chairmen, and they invite anyone interested in reading a paper to correspond with them.

Arthur W. Thompson Memorial Prize in Florida History

Dr. Robert L. Gold, associate professor of history, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, is the 1973-1974 recipient of the Thompson Prize for his article, "That Infamous Floridian, Jesse Fish," which appeared in the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, July 1973. The presentation was made at the Florida Historical Society's annual meeting, May 4, in Tallahassee. The prize of \$100 is given annually for the best article appearing in the *Quarterly*. Professor Gold is a specialist on eighteenth-century Florida. His articles have appeared in scholarly and professional journals, including the *Florida Historical Quarterly*. His book, *Borderland Empires in Transition: The Triple-Nation Transfer of Florida*, was published by Southern Illinois University Press in 1969 (reviewed, *Florida Historical Quarterly*, January 1970, pp. 319-21). The judges were Dena Snodgrass, Jacksonville; Dr. Merlin G. Cox, University of Florida, Gainesville; and Dr. J. Leitch Wright, Florida State University, Tallahassee. The award honors the late Professor Arthur W. Thompson, a member of the history faculty,

University of Florida, and it was made possible by an endowment established by Mrs. Arthur W. Thompson of Gainesville and her family.

Rembert W. Patrick Memorial Book Award

Dr. Julia Floyd Smith, professor of history, Georgia Southern College, Statesboro, is the 1973 recipient of the Rembert W. Patrick Award for her book, *Slavery and Plantation Growth in Antebellum Florida, 1821-1860*, published by the University of Florida Press. The award, which carries with it a check for \$100, is for the best book on Florida history published in 1973. Dr. Smith received all of her degrees from Florida State University, and she was the first woman to be awarded a Ph.D. in history from that institution. She has published reviews and articles in scholarly journals, including the *Florida Historical Quarterly*. The award memorializes Professor Patrick, who served as editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*. The judges were Dr. Martin M. LaGodna, University of South Florida, Tampa; Dr. Joe M. Richardson, Florida State University, Tallahassee; and Dr. George E. Buker, Jacksonville University, Jacksonville.

Charlton W. Tebeau Junior Book Award

Hunted Like a Wolf: The Story of the Second Seminole War, by Milton Meltzer of New York, was selected by the judges to receive the Charlton W. Tebeau Junior Book Award as the best book published in 1973 on a Florida subject for young adult readers. It was published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux of New York. The judges were Mrs. Milton Jones, Clearwater; Dr. Thelma Peters, Miami; and Mr. John W. Griffin, director, Historic St. Augustine Preservation Board, St. Augustine. The award honors Professor Charlton W. Tebeau, former president of the Florida Historical Society, in recognition of his many contributions to Florida history. Professor Tebeau made the presentation of the award, a check for \$100.

Wentworth Foundation Grant

The Trustees of the Wentworth Foundation, Inc., have authorized a grant of \$500 to the Florida Historical Society to be

used for the *Florida Historical Quarterly*. This is the second successive year that the Foundation has made a gift of \$500. The money will be used for art work and additional illustrative material for the journal. Fillmore Wentworth lived for many years in Clearwater, where he died in 1967. His will provided for the creation of the Foundation to provide funds for the education of worthy young people and to support philanthropic and educational activities.

Dues Structure

The Florida Historical Society's Board of Directors at its meeting in Tallahassee May 9, 1974, unanimously voted to adopt a new dues structure. Beginning July 1, 1974, the price of each annual membership is increased to \$10.00, and each annual fellow membership to \$20.00. Contributing and/or institutional memberships cost \$50.00, \$75.00, and \$150. Life memberships are increased to \$350. A new membership, Memorial, has been established for \$350. For this amount, the *Florida Historical Quarterly* will be sent for twenty-five years to any designated school or library. The recipient will be selected by the donor. All members of the Florida Historical Society receive the *Florida Historical Quarterly* and all other services and privileges provided by the organization.

Florida History Award

The Peace River Valley Historical Society held a dinner meeting in Pioneer Park, Zolfo Springs, in May, and presented its 1973 Florida History Award for Distinguished Service in Florida History to Hampton Dunn of Tampa. Former managing editor of the *Tampa Times*, Mr. Dunn is a civic and church leader. He writes a monthly history article for *Florida Trend*, and is the author of several books, including the recently published *Yesterday's Tampa* and *Yesterday's Tallahassee*.

Activities and Events

This year, 1974, marks the 450th anniversary of the explorations of Giovanni da Verrazzano along the east coast of what is now the United States. In April 1524, Verrazzano, a Florentine

navigator sailing for the French king, Francis I, sailed along the coast from Florida to Newfoundland and left an account of his observations, and later, through the efforts of his brother, Gerolamo, a map. Buckingham Smith of St. Augustine in 1864, and Henry C. Murphy in 1875, published denials that Verrazzano had ever lived and stated that his report to the King was fraudulent. However, credence was restored with the discovery of a copy of the letter, the Cellère Codex, now in the Pierpont Morgan Library, and its publication in 1909. Verrazzano, on the 1524 voyage, first sighted land a short distance below Cape Fear. His caravel, the *Dauphine*, sailed south fifty leagues, into the waters off Spanish Florida. *The Voyages of Giovanni da Verrazzano, 1524-1528*, by Lawrence Roth, published by Yale University Press, 1970, details the account of the 1524 voyage and Verrazzano's travels along the coastal area north from Florida.

In Memoriam: Stephen Foster had its world premiere at a Sesquicentennial Concert in Tallahassee, April 4, 1974, under the auspices of Springtime Tallahassee. The State Symphony of Florida, conducted by Philip Spurgeon, played this composition for orchestra and chorus by Percy Grainger. The program also included the *Tallahassee Suite*, for violin and piano, by Cyril Scott, *Florida Suite* by Frederick Delius, and *Backward Tracings*, a group of original poems by Gloria Jahoda of Tallahassee set to music by Ralph Stang, who sang his own compositions. Another group of Ms. Jahoda's poems had been set to music by John Boda, and they were sung by Yvonne Cianella.

A historic marker was dedicated May 26, 1974, honoring Dr. James Hall, who settled near present day Jacksonville in 1790. It was placed on the James Hall Memorial Site, on Scott Mill Road in Jacksonville, by the Duval County Medical Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, and Sons of the American Revolution. The occasion also marked the 121st anniversary of the Duval County Medical Society, the oldest such organization in Florida, and the 100th anniversary of the Florida Medical Association.

The Southern Labor Archives of Georgia State University has published a list of its manuscript holdings. The Archives collects,

preserves, and makes available for research the documentary heritage of organized labor, particularly of the trade union movement in the South. It is endorsed by the Georgia and Florida AFL-CIO. David B. Gracy II is archivist. For information on holdings and the catalog, write the Archives, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia 30383.

The South Atlantic Archives and Records Conference was held in Atlanta, May 2-3, 1974. The Florida Division of Archives, History, and Records Management is a member of the Conference. Ed Tribble of the Division of Archives and History took part in one session dealing with "Finding Aids for Non-Textual Records: Photographs, Audio Recordings, and Motion Pictures."

Bicentennial Activities

The Bicentennial Commission of Florida wants to involve all students of Florida in Bicentennial activities and projects. Schools which have programs underway or want to get something started are encouraged to send progress reports or requests to the Commission's office, 504 East Jefferson Street, Tallahassee 32301 (904: 222-1776). The Bicentennial Commission has prepared a fourteen-minute color film, *A Declaration of Interdependence*, which is available to the public, together with a representative from the Commission.

Some 2,700 college students will work on Bicentennial programs throughout the United States in the next three years. Titled the National Bicentennial Internship Program, it will make use of ideas generated in communities. Program details may be obtained from Ned Moomaw, Southern Regional Education Board, 130 Sixth Street N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30313.

To encourage student interest in the Bicentennial, the National Geographic Society will produce twelve films with public television station WOED of Pittsburgh. They will be filmed on location in the original thirteen states for release in 1975.

Awards for the best plays dealing with the Revolution are being offered by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington. In addition to a total of \$5,000 in prize money, the awards include presentation of prize-winning plays at the Kennedy Center in April 1975, on the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Lexington. Applicants should write Frank Cassidy, executive producer, American College Theatre Festival, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C. 20566.

Local Societies and Commissions

Alachua County Historical Society: "Architectural Heritage of Alachua County" was the subject for a Society meeting, April 16. Speakers were Susan Tate and Bill Reeves, University of Florida students who conducted an inventory of historic architecture in the county. They showed pictures and slides to illustrate their work. Sigsbee L. Scruggs, a Gainesville attorney, discussed the "Legal Profession in Alachua County Then and Now," at the meeting on May 20. Dr. Merlin Cox, president, who will serve as chairman of local arrangements for the seventy-third annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society, May 9-10, 1975, in Gainesville, has appointed a committee representing local and area historical societies and preservation groups who will help plan the conference.

Boynton Beach Historical Society: Facilities in the local library have been provided by the Boynton Beach City Council for use as a museum room. The Society's membership of 230 covers an area which includes Ocean Ridge, Manalapan, and Hypoluxo. It conducts four program meetings a year and a picnic in May. Mrs. Henry K. Harding is president.

Calusa Valley Historical Society: Monthly program meetings are held in Clewiston, LaBelle, and Moore Haven. Plans are underway to place markers at historic sites in the area. The Society is selling copies of *Pioneering in the Everglades*, by Ruth Robbins Beardsley. Its officers are Mrs. Beryl Bowden, president; Glenn Dyess and Joe Thomas, vice-presidents; T. E. Hedges, recording

secretary; Josephine Mener, corresponding secretary; and Walter P. Vaughn, treasurer.

Hillsborough County Historical Commission: A resolution lamenting the death of Captain John D. Ware, a member of the Commission, was adopted at the February 1974 meeting and a copy was sent to Mrs. Ware. Mrs. Bert Dekle has donated a plat book of the city of Tampa, ca. 1922. The Commission is assisting with Tampa's Sesquicentennial celebration, and a bronze marker will be placed adjacent to the Fort Brooke cannon on the riverfront of the University of Tampa campus. A historical map display, arranged by Theodore Lesley, is exhibited in the Historical Room, and an updated edition of the brochure given to visitors is being prepared.

Historical Association of Southern Florida: A Bicentennial Commemorative Marker memorializing the landing of Pedro Menéndez near the mouth of the Miami River in 1567 was dedicated May 9, 1974. The Association, on May 18, held its annual benefit, "Downtown, Old Town, New Town." The Association is publishing a series of Facsimile and Reprint volumes. The first two are *Memoir of Do. d'Escalente Fontaneda Respecting Florida* (1575), with an introduction by Marjory Stoneman Douglas, and *The Official Directory of the City of Miami, 1904*, with an introduction by Charlton W. Tebeau.

Historical Society of Okaloosa and Walton Counties: Mrs. Louise Cox traced the history of the Peter and Sarah Steele family, a pioneer Northwest Florida family, at the meeting, March 24, 1974, at the Laurel Hill School. James Lamar Ward described "Early Freeport Industries" at the April meeting at Freeport High School. Ronald Dean spoke on Indian artifacts at the May 26 meeting in Paxton Town Hall. The major project of the Society is a new museum and a building fund for this purpose was started in 1973. A story hour for young children and country craft classes for high school students are being held at the museum this summer. The Society's recent acquisitions include tools, household utensils, books, pamphlets, historical papers, photographs, and artifacts. Members of Young Historians serve as museum docents.

Jacksonville Historical Society: Dr. Thomas H. Gouchnour spoke on "Diving Into Florida's Pre-History," at the May 8, 1974, meeting in the Friday Musicale Auditorium. Two history leaflets have been compiled by C. H. Harris, curator of the Florida Collection at the Haydon Burns Public Library, Jacksonville. One lists rare books in the library's collection and the other lists historical markers, mainly those placed by the Society. The Society has received as gifts several books and five oil paintings.

Key West Art and Historical Society: The annual Artist Members' Spring Art Festival and Summer Fair opened at East Martello Towers on the evening of May 7, 1974.

Lake Alfred Historical Society: One of the state's youngest historical organizations, it was created by city ordinance, December 10, 1973. Members of the Board are Maude Telford, chairman; Bernice Goodman, Thomas E. Evans, George Gardner, Nena M. Burton, H. Monroe Messer, Ann McNeer, Louise Garrett, and Joseph McD. Mitchell. The Society is gathering data for a history of Lake Alfred. Monthly meetings are held at City Hall.

Orange County Historical Society: The May 1974 issue of the "Orange County Historical Quarterly" contains a sketch and description of plans for the first unit of the historical museum and library. The building site was provided by the city of Orlando and the Loch Haven Park Board. It is adjacent to the John Young Museum and Planetarium.

Palm Beach County Historical Society: The American Revolution Bicentennial and Florida's plans for participating in the celebration were discussed at the meeting, April 9, at Whitehall, the Henry Morrison Flagler Museum in Palm Beach. The Society will participate in the Bicentennial celebration. At its February program meeting, Mrs. Leigh Conover used "From Coconut to City" as the subject for her slide program on the early history of West Palm Beach.

Peace River Valley Historical Society: A memorial to the late Bone Mizell was held at Pioneer Park, Zolfo Springs, on March 10, 1974. William Bevis, former president of the Society and a

member of the Board of Directors of the Florida Historical Society, gave the dedicatory address and a monument was unveiled by James Mizell, Jr. Mrs. J. W. Thrailkill read a memorial poem. Hampton Dunn served as master of ceremonies. Mabry Carlton is president of the Society.

Pensacola Historical Society: Mrs. Jean Mayo used as the title of her talk at the March 18 meeting of the Pensacola Historical Society, "Salute the Past, Shape the Future: the History of the Girl Scouts in Pensacola." Captain Grover Walker, curator of the Naval Aviation Museum, described the Museum that he is associated with and showed a movie, "Flight from Yesterday," at the April 15 meeting. Mrs. D. Paul Parks spoke on "Your Most Obediant and Humble Servant, George Johnstone" (Pensacola's first British Governor) at the May 20 program meeting. The 1974 Fiesta of Five Flags was held June 1-9, and "Hail Britannia!" was the theme for the celebration. Officers are Mrs. Wendall G. Switzer, president; Luciam Tryon and Vern Moss, vice-presidents; Frank Nusome and Mrs. E. R. Moffett, secretaries; Mrs. J. Holiday Veal, treasurer; and W. B. Skinner, historian. Board members are A. C. Blount, Henry Gary, Leslie Bogan, and Mrs. S. N. Vickers. *The Golden Dream: Pensacola in the 1870s*, by Mrs. D. Paul Parks and Mrs. S. N. Vickers, is the theme of the recently-issued *Pensacola Historical Quarterly*. Norman Simons and W. B. Skinner assisted with the publication, and David Blue did the art work. Copies are available from the Society, Seville Square, Pensacola, for \$1.25.

Pinellas County Historical Commission: Timothy H. Baughman has been selected as director of the Pinellas County Historical Museum. Mr. Baughman had served as director of the Pinellas County Historical Survey.

Safety Harbor Area Historical Society: Dr. Wilburn A. Cockrell, Florida Underwater Archeologist, described the archeological work in progress at Warm Mineral Springs, Sarasota County, under the direction of the Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties, State Division of Archives, History, and Records Management, at the April 3 meeting at Safety Harbor Spa. Don Lambert, speaker at the May 22 meeting, showed slides on archeology.

St. Lucie Historical Society: On March 19, the Society held its regular monthly dinner meeting and heard a program presented by Mrs. W. H. Reed on the early history of her family, the W. R. Jacksons, who were pioneer settlers in the St. Lucie area. At the April 16 meeting, Sam Lawder narrated an account of the Seminole uprising of 1907, based on information compiled by Dr. Harry A. Kersey of Florida Atlantic University. The annual local history essay contest was sponsored in the public and private schools of the county, with students in the ninth grade participating. Mrs. O. C. Peterson was chairman of the essay contest committee; other members were Mrs. Ed Hawkins and Mrs. Clifton Davis.

Southwest Florida Historical Society: "The Story of Names" was the topic for a genealogical talk by Arleta Dunning at the program meeting, April 12, in Fort Myers. Colonel Michael Hansinger of Gainesville described oral history techniques and the Oral History Program at the University of Florida at the meeting, May 10. Members of the Society helped with the Pioneer Club Dinner at Buckingham Community Center, April 17. The Society has added books, prints, photographs, lithographs, and artifacts to its collection. The April 1974 number of the "Caloosa Quarterly," published by the Society, contains information of its activities.

Tarpon Springs Area Historical Society: The program for the March meeting was entitled "The Old Times in School at Tarpon Springs." At the May meeting, the program subject was the development of railroads in Pinellas County, and several former railroad employees who were present described their early experiences.

Winter Park Historical Society: Organized May 1, 1974, the Society will hold five meetings a year at the Winter Park Library. Materials are being gathered on old residences and the histories of pioneer families. Pictures and other memorabilia will be collected, and a facility to house the historical collection is being sought. Eighty members joined the Society at its organizational meeting. Officers are Donald Vincent, president; Florence Stone, vice-president; Ernest Zoller, treasurer; Claire Kent, secretary;

and Evelyn Draper, archivist. Eve Bacon is serving as publicity chairman.

Announcements

The Southern Antiques Society, Inc., is soliciting members from the membership of the Florida Historical Society. This organization is dedicated to the dissemination of information about historic restoration and preservation work of southern homes, public buildings, and their furnishings and gardens. It supports all activities aimed at enlightening the general population on the importance of historic preservation. Its quarterly publication, *Southern Antiques and Interiors*, includes some articles on Florida. Annual individual membership is \$8.00; couple, \$10.00; two-year individual, \$12.00; two-year couple, \$15.00. A one-year subscription for libraries is \$6.00 and a two-year subscription, \$10.50. Membership carries a subscription to its Quarterly. The address is Southern Antiques Society, Inc., P.O. Box 26, High Point, North Carolina 27261.

Information and pictures on the 157th New York Regiment and Colonel P. P. Brown are being solicited by William Gooding of the Fort Clinch State Park, Fernandina Beach, Florida 32034. The Regiment was stationed at the Fort in 1864, and material is being gathered for a museum exhibit.

Grants of up to \$1,000 are offered to individuals and groups for new and useful plans to stir community interest in local history. The program is "Rediscover America." Applications involve a letter to explain the project, qualifications of project personnel, and a listing of other community support, plus financial and public interests. Applications should be sent to America the Beautiful, 219 Shoreham Building, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

The index to the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, covering the fifty-year history of the *Review*, is available. It is priced at \$25.00 for individuals and \$35.00 for institutions. Those interested should write to Dr. Richard S. Kirkendall, Executive Secretary, Organization of American Historians, Indiana University, 112 North Bryan Street, Bloomington, Indiana 47401.

The *Western Historical Quarterly* announces the Herbert Eugene Bolton Award in Spanish Borderlands History. A cash prize of \$300 is awarded to the author of the best article submitted to the *Western Historical Quarterly* on any phase of the history of the Spanish Borderlands, that region reached by the northern thrust of the Spanish in North America, from the Floridas to the Californias, from the fifteenth century to the present day. The winning essay will be published in the *Western Historical Quarterly*. Manuscripts should be from 5,000 to 7,500 words, typewritten in conformity with the editorial style of the *Quarterly*, and submitted by September 1, 1974. Manuscripts should be sent to the *Quarterly*, Utah State University, Logan, Utah 84322.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS.

1974

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| Sept. 12-15 | Oral History Association | Grand Teton
National Park,
Wyoming |
| Sept. 25-28 | American Association for
State and Local History | Austin, Texas |
| Oct. 1-4 | Society of American
Archivists | Toronto, Ontario |
| Oct. 2-6 | National Trust for Historic
Preservation | Portland, Oregon |
| Nov. 6-9 | Southern Historical
Association | Dallas, Texas |
| Dec. 28-30 | American Historical
Association | Chicago, Illinois |

1975

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| March
21-22 | Fourth Annual Florida
Bicentennial Symposium | Tallahassee |
| May 9-10 | FLORIDA HISTORICAL
SOCIETY- 73rd
ANNUAL MEETING | Gainesville |