

1978

History News

Florida Historical Society
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HISTORY NEWS

Florida Confederation of Historical Societies

The Florida Confederation of Historical Societies, Museums, and Historical Agencies will hold a two-day workshop at Heritage Park in Largo, November 3-4, 1978. Genealogy, archeology, and museum security are among the topics that will be discussed. There will also be an audio-visual presentation of slides and photographs supplied by Confederation members, which will show their museum and historical projects. All members of historical societies, museums, and agencies in Florida are invited to participate in the workshop. For information write Bob Harris, Pinellas County Historical Museum, Heritage Park, 11909 125th Street North, Largo, Florida 33540.

Glenn H. Curtiss Memorial Dedication

The city of Opa-Locka, on May 21, 1978, in cooperation with the cities of Hialeah and Miami Springs, celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Glenn H. Curtiss with the dedication of the Glenn H. Curtiss Memorial Garden in the Opa-Locka city hall courtyard. Mr. Curtiss played a major role in the development of American aviation. He was also an important developer in Florida during the 1920s. He was the founder of Opa-Locka, Miami Springs, and Brighton, Florida, and co-founder with James H. Bright of Hialeah. Secretary of State Brue A. Smathers was the main speaker at the dedication. A plaque was unveiled by Mrs. Glenn H. Curtiss, Jr., Opa-Locka Mayor W. L. Young, and Frank Fitzgerald-Bush, author of *A Dream of Araby, Glenn H. Curtiss and the Founding of Opa-Locka*. Dr. Thelma Peters represented the Florida Historical Society at the ceremonies.

Announcements and Activities

The Florida State Genealogy Society will hold its second annual conference at the Langford Hotel, Winter Park, November 17-18, 1978. William Lind of the National Archives and Gill Bodziony of the Florida State Library, Division of Archives, His-

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tory and Records Management, will be keynote speakers. Local and family genealogical societies are encouraged to have displays. Conference chairperson is Barbara M. Dalby, 204 Willowick Avenue, Temple Terrace, Florida 22671, and inquires should be addressed to her. The Society publishes the *Florida Genealogist*, a quarterly devoted to Florida genealogy and the needs of genealogists in this state. It is also compiling a file of pioneer Florida lineages, and is helping to develop the genealogy section of the Florida State Library in Tallahassee. For information on membership, write the Society at 1660 Harmony Drive, Clearwater, Florida 33516.

The East Florida Gazette, the title of Florida's oldest newspaper, is the name of the new history journal being published by the St. Augustine Historical Society. It replaces *El Escribano* as the Society's news organ. *El Escribano* is now an annual scholarly publication. Mark E. Fretwell is editor, and the editorial board includes Luis R. Arana, Charles S. Coomes, Thomas S. Graham, J. Carver Harris, Albert C. Manucy, and W. W. Wilson.

The American Association for State and Local History provides a consultant service for any museum with an active program requiring general assistance. This service is available to any museum regardless of its size or its budget. Consultants will advise on varied problems, including conservation, exhibit planning and fabrication, record keeping, and general admission. Museums which have an operating budget of less than \$50,000 per year will only have to pay lodging and meal expenses for consultants; institutions with operating budgets larger than \$50,000 will be asked to assume one-half of the transportation expenses in addition to local expenses. Consultation will take place over a one- or two-day time span, depending on the nature of the problems or the needs of the museum. Consultants are selected by the AASLH, 1400 8th Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee 37203.

The Association for Gravestone Studies proposes to promote the study and preservation of early gravestones and cemetery markers. The first issue of their newsletter solicited membership from "amateurs" and professional students of archeology, anthropology, history, genealogy, art history, iconography, and other

fields who share an appreciation of the importance of gravestones and a concern for their preservation in the face of the many forces that threaten them today. Inquiries should be addressed to the Association for Gravestone Studies, Dublin School, Dublin, New Hampshire 03444.

Plans are underway for compiling a dictionary of American military biographies which will include 300 to 400 biographies of important figures in American military history from the colonial period to the present. Professor T. Harry Williams of Louisiana State University is the consulting editor for the project. Those interested in contributing biographies to the dictionary should write to the editor, Roger J. Spiller, Department of History, Southwest Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas 78666, and indicate fields of interest.