

1978

## History News

Florida Historical Society  
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## HISTORY NEWS

### *Historic Capitol Restoration*

The state of Florida has recently undertaken restoration of its Historic 1902 Capitol in Tallahassee. The original building, which is the core of the Capitol, was completed in 1845, shortly before Florida entered the Union. At first, because frontier government required few offices, basement rooms were rented out to private citizens. The dislocations of the Civil War and Reconstruction were mirrored in the physical neglect and deterioration of the building. Returning prosperity brought fresh paint and modern improvements, such as gas lighting and running water.

As government expanded, the Capitol became increasingly overcrowded. This prompted the first major enlargement of the building. In 1901, architect Frank Pierce Milburn was engaged to alter the Capitol. New north and south wings were added, along with an Italian Renaissance dome. Masonry staircases replaced the old wooden stairs to the porticoes, and the roof line was adorned with a dentiled cornice and balustrade and set metal reliefs of the state seal over the porticoes.

The interior of the building also underwent changes. The Senate, House, and Supreme Court moved to more spacious chambers in the new wings. By cutting an opening in the second-story floor, Milburn converted the main lobby into a rotunda. A new wooden grand staircase swept upward to a landing, divided, and continued to the second floor. Under the dome, an interior dome heightened the rotunda ceiling.

Although later architects retained many of Milburn's stylistic elements, three successive enlargements greatly altered the building. Accurate restoration of the 1902 statehouse requires the most complete record possible. While the standard research sources contain considerable information, there remain certain gaps in the historical evidence. The Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board is requesting the assistance of Florida citizens in its search for historical data. Old photographs of the interior or exterior of the building, letters or other documents, and information regarding furniture from the Capitol are of particular interest.

[395]

Anyone who has such materials should contact Christine Galbraith or Barbara Miller, Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board, 329 North Meridian, Tallahassee, Florida 32301, telephone (904) 488-4063.

### *Museum Openings*

The Fort Lauderdale Historical Society opened its historical museum at 219 S.W. Second Avenue, on October 5. The inaugural exhibit was "People in Fort Lauderdale, 1870-1930," and featured items from the museum's antique clothing collection. Museum hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The archives are open Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., but advance appointments are desirable.

The Fernandina Historical Museum was formally opened to the public on November 4, 1978. Its first exhibition is a display of nineteenth-century clothing entitled "Suiting America." The museum occupies the old Fernandina Railroad Depot at the foot of Center Street. Barbara Stidfole serves as director. The museum is open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### *Awards*

The American Association for State and Local History, at its annual meeting in Springfield, Illinois, in September 1978, voted a Certificate of Commendation to Arva Moore Parks of Coral Gables for the contribution she made to an understanding of South Florida history through her book, *The Forgotten Frontier, Florida Through the Lens of Ralph Middleton Munroe*. It was published by Banyan Books of Miami. Ms. Parks is past president of the Historical Association of Southern Florida and a former member of the board of directors of the Florida Historical Society. She is also chairperson of the program committee for the 1979 annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society.

The AASH also voted an Award of Merit to Dr. Jack D. L. Holmes of the University of Alabama, Birmingham, in recognition of his distinguished career as an historian, writer, and teacher. Holmes research activities have illuminated important aspects of the history of the American Gulf Coast and

of West Florida. He has presented papers at Florida Historical Society meetings, and his articles and book reviews have appeared in the *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Both awards will be presented at the annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society, West Palm Beach, in May 1979.

The Tampa Historical Society presented its D. B. McKay Award for 1978 to Hampton Dunn, former managing editor of the *Tampa Daily Times* and now vice-president of Peninsular Motor Club (AAA), for his writings and contributions to an understanding of the history of the Tampa Bay area and of Florida. Mr. Dunn, the author of several books on Florida, has spurred interest in architectural preservation in both Tampa and Hillsborough County, and he has been active in the affairs of the Tampa Historical Society and the Florida Historical Society. The Tampa Historical Society annually presents the D. B. McKay Award to a person who has made important contributions to the understanding and interpretation of Florida and community history. Previous recipients are Frank Laumer, State Senator David McClain, Judge James R. Knott, Gloria Jahoda, Harris H. Mullen, and Dr. James W. Covington. Mr. Dunn received his award at the annual banquet of the Tampa Historical Society on November 17, 1978.

Herschell E. Shepard, Jr., AIA, received the President's Award of the Florida Association of Architects "in recognition of his significant contribution to outstanding achieving of the preservation of historic architecture of Florida." It was presented at the FIAI annual awards banquet in Miami in September 1977. Mr. Shepard has been involved as consultant architect for a number of restoration projects in Florida, and currently is architect for the restoration of the Historic Florida Capitol.

#### *Announcements and Activities*

The Pensacola Historical Society is the recipient of two grants. One for \$5,000 was awarded by the Institute of Museum Services to support the museum's operations. The other, a \$10,000 gift from the Gannett Foundation, will be used to complete the society's historic photograph collection and to redesign the interior of its museum.

The Florida College Teachers of History will hold their annual meeting, February 16-17, 1979, at Florida International University, Miami. For information, write: Dr. Darden A. Pyron, Department of History, FIU, Miami, Florida 33199.

Richard A. Nelson, a doctoral student at Florida State University, is gathering material on the history of the movie industry in Florida. He is particularly interested in the period prior to World War II. Anyone having information, documents, pictures, or other data is asked to write him at 2309 Delgado Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32204.

State historic preservation officers will hold their annual conference in Tampa, April 8-11, 1979. Officers and their staff, meeting outside of Washington for the first time, will attend sessions in three Tampa landmarks—University of Tampa (Tampa Bay Hotel), Tampa Theater, and Ybor Square.

The Florida Trust for Historic Preservation will hold its annual preservation conference in Tallahassee on March 8-11, 1979. The Florida Trust solicits membership from all those interested in helping to preserve the state's architectural heritage. Individual memberships are \$15.00; family, \$20.00; student, \$5.00; and organization, \$25.00. There are also contributing, sustaining, business, and benefactor memberships available. Items for *Florida Preservation News*, the organization's newsletter, should be received no later than the twenty-fifth of each month. For information on the meeting in Tallahassee, membership, or the newsletter, write Box 10368, Tampa, 33679.

Miss Thelma Bolton has donated her personal collection of folklore material and publications to the Florida Folklife Archives at the Stephen Foster Center, White Springs. Her collection covers the years that she has worked as a leader in Florida folklore and folk music. She became the director of the Florida Folk Festival in 1954, and has directed the festival and been involved in folklore programming ever since. Miss Bolton's materials are being cataloged and will be available for research. Contact Florida Folklore Archives, Stephen Foster Center, Box 265, White Springs, 32096.

The Florida Folk Art/Folklife Conference will be held January 26-28, 1979, at Stephen Foster Center, White Springs, Florida. This is a three-day intensive forum on folk arts, folklife, and ethnicity in Florida. Professionals and lay persons will discuss major issues surrounding folk and ethnic cultural programming in Florida. In addition to a regional foods banquet, an evening of traditional music, and media presentations, there will be a dramatic production of Zora Neale Hurston's "Color Struck." For information, write Stephen Foster Center, Box 265, White Springs, 32096, or call (904) 397-2192.

There are a number of genealogical societies in Florida which publish material useful to state and regional historians. The *Florida Genealogical Journal* is published by the Florida Genealogical Society, Box 18624, Tampa, Florida 33679, semiannually in March and October. Annual subscriptions are \$3.00. The *Genealogical Society of Okaloosa County Journal* is a quarterly publication mainly devoted to material relating to the Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Walton counties area. The society's annual dues are \$6.00. Inquiries may be directed to Box 1175, Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548. The Central Florida Genealogical and Historical Society publishes a newsletter, and its address is Box 177, Orlando, 32802. Ancestry is a quarterly bulletin issued by the Palm Beach County Genealogical Society, Box 1746, West Palm Beach, Florida 33402.

Charles T. Thrift, Jr., Chancellor of Florida Southern College, and former president of the Florida Historical Society, has been appointed editor of the *Polk County Historical Quarterly*. He is soliciting articles relating to Polk County. Articles should be submitted to Dr. Thrift at 48 Lake Hollingsworth Drive, Lakeland, Florida 33802.

The Palm Beach County Commissioners have established a historical commission to gather information about the county's history. It will survey local historical sites in the county and prepare a tour map of the area. The commission's work is being supported by the historical societies of Palm Beach County, Boca Raton, Delray Beach, Everglades, and Loxahatchee.

"Cuba and the Caribbean: Twentieth-Century Perspectives" will be the theme for the annual meeting of the Southeastern Council on Latin American studies to be held at the University of South Florida, Tampa, April 19-21, 1979. Program chairman is Louis Perez, Jr., Department of History, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida 33620.

The Confederate Memorial Literary Society is accepting entries for the 1978 awards for historical research and writing on the period of the Confederate States of America. Deadline for entries is March 1, 1979, and the awards will be presented on June 3 at the Museum of the Confederacy, Richmond, Virginia. The Jefferson Davis Award is given for a book-narrative history; the Founder's Award for work in the area of research or editing a primary source resulting in publication of one or more volumes; and the Award of Merit for a published article or monograph. For additional information, write Museum of the Confederacy, 1201 East Clay Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

The seventh annual Major General Wilburt S. Brown Memorial Military History Conference will be held at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa on February 10, 1979. The theme will be "Guerillas: Soldiers Out of Uniform." For information, write John H. Burton, P. O. Box 2967, University, Alabama 35486.

The Citadel's Department of History will host a conference on the "Old South to the New," on April 19-21, 1979. The conference will feature approximately fifteen panel sessions where visiting historians will present and comment on papers dealing with aspects of southern history from the 1830s to the 1970s. Direct all correspondence relating to the conference to Dr. Walter J. Fraser, Jr., Department of History, The Citadel, Charleston, South Carolina 29409.

The Georgia Department of Archives and History will hold its thirteenth annual institute in Atlanta, July 23-August 17, 1979. The institute offers a comprehensive training experience covering all aspects of archival work. Instructors are archivists and records managers from a variety of institutions. Enrollment is limited to eighteen participants. A certificate is awarded to

those who successfully complete the course. Application deadline is May 15, 1979. For further information, write: Institute Coordinator, Georgia Department of Archives and History, 330 Capitol Avenue Southeast, Atlanta, Georgia 30334.

The Bicentennial Council of the Thirteen Original States Fund has established two annual history book awards honoring the late John D. Rockefeller III. Prizes will be given for books which best reflect the values, ideals, and principals of America's Revolutionary era. Awards will go for a book on a particular event, location, or movement which occurred between 1765 and 1790, or about an individual who lived during those years. One award will go to a senior scholar or writer, and will include a certificate and a check for \$1,000. The second award is to encourage young scholars and will be for a first book or a manuscript accepted for publication. It will result in a certificate and a check for \$1,000 to help defray the cost of publication. The Council also presents annually the Torch Award to individuals or organizations who have shown outstanding participation in the continuing celebration of the Bicentennial era. For more information, write Great American Achievements Program, 901 N. Washington Street, Suite 300, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

A recently updated inventory of bibliographies and other finding aids is available for the asking from the Library of Congress. The inventory includes a directory of archives, bibliography of recent articles on archiving, recordings of slave narratives, and lists of material collected by the WPA. Write Joseph C. Hickerson, Archive of Folk Song, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540.

The Oral History Association has begun an advisory service to assist individuals, institutions, foundations, or groups beginning an oral history program or assessing current programs. Thirty-six experienced oral history practitioners from all parts of the country will serve as advisors. No charge is made for the service, but requesting groups must pay all expenses of the evaluation. After an on-the-spot consultation, the advisor will send a confidential written report to the requesting agent. Inquiries should be addressed to: Oral History Association Evalua-



tion Service, North Texas State University, Box 13734, NT Station, Denton, Texas 76203.

The University of South Alabama has established a photographic archive which documents life in southern Alabama between 1876 and 1963. The archive consists of approximately 65,000 negatives, both glass and film, and includes studio portraits, port scenes, industrial photographs, images of landmarks and buildings, and landscapes. Prints from the collection's negatives will be made available. For more information write: Michael Thomason, University of South Alabama Photographic Archives, History Department, HUMB 344, University of South Alabama, Mobile 36688.

*The Caribbean Review*, published at Florida International University, Miami, is soliciting articles, essays, reprints, excerpts, translations, book reviews, poetry, etc., on the Caribbean, Latin America, and emigrant groups. Submit material, with a self-addressed stamped envelop, to *Caribbean Review*, Florida International University, Tamiami Trail, Miami, Florida 33199.

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**G**REAT EXPECTATIONS. . . . .

1978

Dec. 28-30	American Historical Association	San Francisco
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1979

Jan. 26-27	Florida Society of Geographers	Jacksonville
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Jan. 26-28	Florida Folk Arts and Folklife Conference	Stephen Foster Center, White Springs
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Feb. 16-17	Florida College Teachers of History	Florida International University, Miami
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Mar. 8-11	Florida Trust for Historic Preservation Annual Meeting and Preservation Conference	Tallahassee
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Apr. 11-14	Organization of American Historians	New Orleans
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Apr. 27-29	American Jewish Historical Society	Nashville
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May 3	Florida Confederation of Historical Societies-Workshop	West Palm Beach
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May 4-5	FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY-77th ANNUAL MEETING	West Palm Beach
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