

1978

## History News

Florida Historical Society  
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## HISTORY NEWS

### *The Annual Meeting*

A tour of two Palm Beach estates, a reception at Whitehall, Henry Morrison Flagler's Palm Beach mansion, and historical films are some of the highlights of the seventy-seventh meeting of the Florida Historical Society. It will be held in West Palm Beach on May 4-5. The Downtown Holiday Inn, West Palm Beach, will serve as convention headquarters. Arva Moore Parks of Coral Gables is program chair. Preceding the Society's meeting the Florida Confederation of Historical Societies will sponsor a workshop. All of its activities will be at the Downtown Holiday Inn also. Dr. Robert Harris, Pinellas County Historical Museum, Heritage Park, is chairman of the Confederation board and program chairman. The workshop will begin with registration and a reception on Wednesday evening, May 2. Dr. Samuel Proctor, University of Florida, will conduct an oral history workshop on Thursday morning. It is entitled, "Taping Florida's Past: The Nuts and Bolts of Oral History." The afternoon session will feature an audio-visual presentation: "Togetherness in Historical Pursuits." This will be followed by a tape and slide show, "James L. Glenn's work with the Seminoles, 1924-1936," which was produced by Dr. Harry A. Kersey of Florida Atlantic University. It will be narrated by Marjorie Patterson, Fort Lauderdale Historical Society.

"Immigration and Community Building in Florida" will be the theme for the first session of the Florida Historical Society's meeting on Friday morning. Dr. Jose B. Fernandez, University of Colorado, will serve as chairman. Richard C. Crepeau and Paul W. Wehr of the University of Central Florida, and Bettye D. Smith, Seminole County Community College, will read papers. Gary Mormins, University of South Florida, will act as commentator. The Friday afternoon session is entitled "The Palm Beach Area in History." Papers will be delivered by Robert Billinger, Palm Beach Atlantic College; Katanga von Heitman, Jupiter; and Donald W. Curl, Florida Atlantic University. Herbert J. Doherty, Jr., University of Florida, is commentator for

this session, and Judge James Knott, West Palm Beach, is chairman. "The Practice of Medicine in Nineteenth-Century Florida" is the title for the Saturday morning session. Reading papers are Dr. William Straight of Miami and Dr. Mark Barrow of Gainesville. E. Ashby Hammond, University of Florida, will be the commentator for this session, and John Hebron Moore, Florida State University, will serve as chairman. Dr. Trevor Colbourn, president of the University of Central Florida, will be the banquet speaker. Dr. Colbourn, who is a historian specializing in American colonial history, will speak on "The Value of History."

The recipients of the Arthur W. Thompson Memorial Prize in Florida History, the Rembert W. Patrick Book Award, and the Charlton W. Tebeau Junior Book Award will be announced at the banquet. Linda Ellsworth, Historic Pensacola Preservation Board, will present the American Association of State and Local History Awards to Arva Moore Parks and to Jack D. L. Holmes, University of Alabama in Birmingham. They are being recognized for their outstanding contributions to the research and writing of Florida history.

On Friday afternoon there will be a tour of the old Biltmore Hotel followed by a reception beginning at 6:00 p.m. at Whitehall. That evening there will be a Flagler film shown in the Flagler Room at the Downtown Holiday Inn. The luncheon and business meeting Saturday will be at the Holiday Inn. Immediately following the business meeting there will be the specially-arranged tour of the Palm Beach estates.

The board of directors will hold its business meeting on Thursday evening. The registration desk will be in the hotel lobby. There will also be an exhibit of Florida books. All programs are open to the general public. Dr. Jerry Weeks, Palm Beach Atlantic College, is in charge of local arrangements. His committee includes Judge Knott, Mary Lineham, Edwin Pugh, James Watt, and Charles Simmons. The hosts for the meeting are the Historic Society of Palm Beach County, Palm Beach County Commission, Palm Beach Atlantic College, Henry Morrison Flagler Museum, Boca Raton Historical Society, Boynton

Beach Historical Society, Delray Beach Historical Society, Glades Historical Society, Loxahatchee Historical Society, Seminole Historical Society, and the Royal First National Bank of Palm Beach.

*National Register of Historic Places*

The Division of Archives, History and Records Management, Florida Department of State, reports that the following Florida sites were added to the National Register of Historic Places during the year 1978: Tampa Theatre and Office Building (Hillsborough County); St. Mary's Church, Episcopal (Clay County); Lock Number 1, North New River Canal (Broward County); Melrose Women's Club (Putnam County); Bethel Baptist Institutional Church (Duval County); Valparaiso Inn (Okaloosa County); John G. Riley House, St. Johns Episcopal Church, and Carnegie Library (Leon County); Vinoy Park Hotel (Pinellas County); United Methodist Church (Hamilton County); Coral Gables Congregational Church (Dade County); Quincy Historic District (Gadsden County); First Baptist Church (Madison County); American National Bank Building (Escambia County); Palmer House (Jefferson County); John B. Stetson House (Volusia County); Paynes Creek Massacre, Fort Chokonikla Site (Hardee County).

*Publications*

The Tallahassee Historical Society has published *Apalachee, 1971-1979, Volume 8*. It contains articles dealing with the first year of Dale Mabry Field, 1940-1941; Tallahassee and the 1841 yellow fever epidemic; Peres Bonney Brokaw; landscape archeology at the Brokaw-McDougall House in Tallahassee; baseball in Jacksonville; African Methodism after the Civil War in Tallahassee; the early years of Governor LeRoy Collins; and J. J. Dickison and the Battle of Gainesville. The volume sells for \$6.00. Write Dr. William Warren Rogers, Department of History, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida 32306.

The Department of History, University of South Florida, plans the semi-annual publication of a new journal entitled *Tampa Bay History*. Drawing on the talents of both professional and community historians, the journal will carry a variety of

material relating to the history and culture of the Tampa Bay area and its environs, including the fifteen counties served by the University. *Tampa Bay History* will be directed at both interested citizens of the Bay community and professional historians. Subscriptions are \$10 for one year, \$18 for two years. Write: *Tampa Bay History*, Department of History, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida 33620.

*Florida Folklife News* is a bi-monthly newsletter published by the Folk Arts Program at the Stephen Foster Center. It contains information on folklore fieldwork and research in Florida. A year's subscription is \$1.50. The second *Florida Folk Arts Directory* contains listings of musicians, dancers, scholars, craftspeople, resource centers, and events in the state. Orders and inquiries concerning these publications should be sent to Peggy Bulger, Florida Folk Art Coordinator, Stephen Foster Center, Box 265, White Springs, Florida 32096. An Institute for Florida Folk Culture has been established at the Stephen Foster Center to locate, document, and promote the folk culture of the state.

"Out On A Limb: The Family Tree" is the genealogical column published each Sunday by the *Florida Times-Union* and *Jacksonville Journal* in their combined paper. The editor, La Viece Smallwood answers questions and offers genealogical information. The column is interested in informing readers of its record collection, what is available, and where this data can be obtained. For information write to La Viece Smallwood, *Florida Times-Union*, Box 1949-F, Jacksonville, Florida 32231. Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

*Historicus*, a new history journal being published by the Graduate Department of History at the University of Kansas, is an attempt to fill the gap between the student and professional journals. The goal is to publish the work of Ph.D. candidates. For information, write the editor, Raymond James Raymond, 1017 Wescoe Hall, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045.

#### *Announcements and Activities*

The Southern Life Histories Editing and Indexing Project

at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is collecting the life histories done by the WPA Federal Writers' Project during the 1930s. Most of these were forwarded at the time to the project headquarters in Chapel Hill, but some were not. Anyone having knowledge of the scattered life histories or individuals connected with the Southern Life History Project are asked to contact Jerrold Hirsch, UNC at Chapel Hill, Wilson Library 024A, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514.

The Southern Labor Association will hold a labor history conference in the spring of 1980. It will bring together those interested in the rise and development of organized labor in the South. The program committee invites interested persons to suggest panel discussions, formal papers, or other types of presentations relating to southern labor. Proposals should be submitted by September 15, 1979, to Dr. Leslie S. Hough, Southern Labor Studies Association, Urban Life 1028, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

The Calusa Valley Historical Society has unveiled an historical marker at the "Lone Cypress," the tree growing at the mouth of the Caloosahatchee (three mile) Canal. The marker also notes the site of Old Lock Number 1 which was constructed in 1918. The tree was a landmark which guided boatmen during the period before there were roads or railroads and before beacons and markers were installed in Lake Okeechobee. Lone Cypress Park in Moorehaven was designed by Wayne E. S. Hundley of Altamonte Springs.

The American Jewish Historical Society has established the annual Leo Wasserman Student Essay Prize. The amount of the award will be \$100, and the winning essay will be considered for publication in the Society's journal, *American Jewish History*. Deadline for submission is December 31, 1979. Submit entries to: Student Prize Committee, American Jewish Historical Society, 2 Thornton Road, Waltham, Massachusetts 02145. Any original essay based upon significant research in any area of American Jewish studies is eligible. At the time of submission, the author must be enrolled in an accredited graduate or undergraduate degree program. The student may be enrolled in any discipline.

The American Jewish Historical Society is also creating the Leo Wasserman Prize for the best article published in *American Jewish History*. It will also be in the amount of \$100 and will be presented annually at the meeting of the American Jewish Historical Society.

To encourage history students to use primary source materials in researching local history, the Historical Association of Southern Florida will present honoraria to students completing acceptable senior papers (\$50), theses (\$100), and doctoral dissertations (\$250). In order to qualify for an honorarium, the selected topic must be approved in advance by the Association and the student's professor. A major criterion for evaluating the completed work will be its contribution of new knowledge on South Florida history. General areas in which research is needed include biographies of Dana A. Dorsey, Carl Fisher, Richard Fitzpatrick, William Gleason, George Merrick, Everest G. Sewell, and Julia Tuttle. Information is also needed on the black community in South Florida, the Civil War in South Florida, Coral Gables, the Cuban community in South Florida, the Depression in South Florida, gambling in South Florida, the garment industry, Hialeah, the Jewish community in South Florida, Seminoles and Miccosukees, the tourist industry, and World War II in South Florida.

### *Obituary*

Mrs. Jessie Porter Newton, former member of the board of directors of the Florida Historical Society, died at her home in Key West on February 7, 1979. A memorial service was held in St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Key West on February 18. Tennessee Williams, a longtime friend of "Miss Jessie" read the Scripture. "Miss Jessie" was a prime force in the historical restoration movement in Key West and was the founder of the Old Island Restoration Foundation. Mrs. Porter's family were among the earliest settlers in Key West. Her grandfather, Dr. William Y. Porter, was Florida's first public health officer and a pioneer in yellow fever research.

A Jessie Porter Newton Memorial Fund has been established at the Florida First National Bank of Key West. Dr. Samuel Proctor and Professor F. Blair Reeves of the University of Florida, and Wright Langley, Director of the Historic Key West Preservation Board, will administer the fund.