


1979

History News

Florida Historical Society
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HISTORY NEWS

Announcements and Activities

Recent news items noting the discovery of the sixteenth-century site of Santa Elena on the South Carolina coast and an archeological site near Williamsburg, Virginia, dating to the seventeenth century, have provoked interest in St. Augustine where historians and archeologists continue digging into one of the earliest chapters of American history. St. Augustine was founded in 1565, forty-two years before the English settlement at Jamestown. Archeological investigations into the early occupation of St. Augustine have been supervised by Dr. Kathleen Deagan, Florida State University, for the Historic St. Augustine Preservation Board for the past three years, with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the St. Augustine Restoration Foundation.

The plan and boundaries of St. Augustine have been located and confirmed, several sixteenth-century wells have been excavated, and much has been learned about the diet, activities, and material objects of the early settlers. Dr. Michael C. Scardaville, Preservation Board historian, notes that the original town plan laid out in the late sixteenth-century by Spanish Governor Goncalco Canço is still generally intact. Copies of baptism, marriage, and burial records dating from 1594, some of the earliest documents prepared on American soil, have enabled historians to reconstruct population characteristics of the early settlement. Dr. William R. Adams is director of the Historic St. Augustine Preservation Board, and Dr. Michael Gannon, University of Florida, is chairman of its advisory board.

The Florida Legislature appropriated \$800,000 to the Historical Museum, Historical Association of Southern Florida, Miami, for the fabrication and installation of exhibits when its new museum facilities open in June 1981, in the Dade County Cultural Complex on West Flagler Street. The Historical Museum is being constructed at a cost of \$2,750,000. Upon comple-

tion it will take its place as one of the major history museums in the Southeast. A grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities supported planning and design of the exhibits which will interpret the history of the events and people of South Florida.

The Historical Association of Southern Florida and the Florida Department of Natural Resources sponsored the official opening of The Barnacle as a state historic site on July 1, 1979. This historic homestead in Coconut Grove, which has been completely restored, was built by Commodore Ralph M. Munroe in 1891. Arva Moore Parks, former director of the Florida Historical Society and author of *The Forgotten Frontier Florida Through The Lens Of Ralph Middleton Munroe* (Banyan Books, Inc., 1977) served as a consultant on the restoration. Patty Munroe Catlow, the Commodore's daughter, and Mary Munroe, his daughter-in-law, were also special consultants for the project.

The 1980 Georgia Studies Symposium will meet February 15 at the Urban Life Building, Georgia State University, Atlanta, and on February 16 at the Georgia State Department of Archives and History, Atlanta. For information write, Gary Fink, Department of History, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

The U. S. Army Military Institute, Carlisle Barricks, Pennsylvania, sponsors an "Advanced Research Program in Military History" as a means of stimulating research and study at the army's major repository for historical materials. Awards cover expenses while conducting research and writing. Both civilian and military scholars in the field of military history may apply to the Director of the Institute. Applications must be returned by January 1, 1980.