

1984

## History News

Florida Historical Society  
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## HISTORY NEWS

*Dr. Gary Mormino*

Dr. Gary R. Mormino, associate professor of history, University of South Florida, has been named executive secretary of the Florida Historical Society effective August 15, 1984, and he will be directing the Society's activities from his office at the University of South Florida, Tampa. Dr. Mormino is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is a specialist in immigration history. His book, *The Hill Upon a City; An Italian-American Neighborhood, 1880-1950*, is being published by the University of Illinois Press. He is also the co-author with Tony Pizzo of *Tampa: The Treasure City*, published by Continental Heritage Press. Dr. Mormino is the author of many articles and essays, including "Immigrant Women in Tampa; The Italian Experience— 1890-1930," co-authored with Dr. George Pozzetta, which was published in the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, January 1983. Dr. Mormino was a Fulbright-Hayes Scholar at the University of Rome, 1980-1981, served as assistant editor of *Tampa Bay History*, and as editor of the American-Italian Historical Association *Newsletter*. He is also director of University of South Florida's Oral History Program. He has presented papers at professional and scholarly organizations, and is frequently invited to speak to organizations throughout the Tampa Bay area. As executive secretary of the Florida Historical Society, Dr. Mormino will be in charge of business and membership matters and the Society's library at the University of South Florida.

### *Announcements and Activities*

The Florida legislature in the 1984 session enacted several historic preservation bills, and \$400,000 of grant monies was secured for historic preservation projects. Approximately \$150,000 will go to the National Main Street Center to start a Main Street program in Florida. Funds will also be provided for rehabilitation, survey, and education grants. New and amended legislation enables all public and private organizations and individuals to

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compete for historic preservations grants-in-aid-(private for-profit groups and individuals are eligible for federal money only); creates a direct support organization for the St. Augustine Preservation Board; gives historic preservation boards authority to publish books, articles, brochures, etc.; provides for a deferral of ad valorem taxes in the case of historically-significant properties conveying development rights of the county or entering into a covenant with the county governing board that such property not be used for purposes inconsistent with historic preservation for a term of not less than ten years; changes the name of the Historic Boca Raton Preservation Board and merges several area historical boards and commissions; sets up criteria for establishing a state railroad museum; and designates a portion of Coral Way in Coral Gables as a state historic highway.

The Florida College Teachers of History will meet in Miami, March 7-9, 1985, at the Holiday Inn, 112 Street and Biscayne Boulevard. Sister Eileen F. Rice O.P., vice-president of FCTH and professor of history at Barry College, is program chair. Those interested in presenting a paper or planning a panel should contact her at Barry College, 11300 Northeast Second Avenue, Miami Shores, Florida 33161 (305) 758-3392, ext. 231. A tour of the South Florida Historical Museum is planned for Saturday March 9. Randy Nimmicht, president of the Florida Historical Society and director of the Museum, will be the luncheon speaker.

At the national meeting of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington, D. C., Tampa Mayor Bob Martinez received a citation for his commitment to historic districts like Ybor City and the restoration of several historic Tampa structures.

The Florida Legislature approved a \$600,000 grant to the city of Pensacola for the renovation of the Old City Hall for the T. T. Wentworth State Museum.

A special exhibit prepared by the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board Museum staff for the Old Capitol Building in Tallahassee has been returned to Pensacola and has been installed in the foyer entrance of Pensacola City Hall.

The Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society will hold its annual seminar in Jacksonville, October 19-20, at the Ramada Inn Conference Center, Mandarin. For information, write the Society, Box 2801, Jacksonville, Florida 32203.

The Transfer of Flags, a ceremony commemorating the 300th anniversary of the return of East Florida to Spain by Great Britain in 1784 was held in St. Augustine on July 12, 1984. Florida Governor Bob Graham portrayed the role of Spanish Governor Vizente Manuel de Zéspedes, and Michael Hewitt, British Consul, acted the role of British Governor Patrick Tonyn. The exchange ceremonies took place at the Castillo de San Marcos and at Government House. The 1784 transfer mark ended the American Revolution and the retrocession of Florida to Spanish sovereignty. The second Spanish period continued until 1821 when Spain transferred the territory to the United States.

Linda B. Ellsworth has been named director of the Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board, succeeding Nancy Dobson. Mrs. Ellsworth was research historian for the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board. She was former secretary of the Florida Historical Society, is active in the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, and serves on the Florida Review Committee for the National Register for Historic Sites.

The *Florida Folklife Technical Bulletin* carries information about events, people, and employment opportunities relating to Florida folklore, folk art, and folk culture. To receive copies or submit notices for inclusion, please write to: Editor, Florida Folklife Technical Bulletin, Florida Folklife Programs, P. O. Box 265, White Springs, FL 32096.

The United States National Publications Commission makes awards to projects that seek to improve or establish archival programs anywhere in the United States. Particular emphasis is placed on establishing government records programs, however, the program also aids state and local historical societies, colleges and universities, libraries, museums, professional associations, and other institutions. Interested organizations should contact the NHPRC, National Archives Building, Washington, D. C. 20408 (202) 724-1616.

The Forest History Society has relocated its national headquarters from Santa Cruz, California, to Duke University, Durham. Mailing address for the Society is 701 Vickers Avenue, Durham, North Carolina 27701. The Society supports programs in research, publications, service, library, and archival collecting, relating to all aspects of forest history. It publishes the *Journal of Forest History*. Membership for individuals is \$15.00.

The Kentucky Historical Society has presented its annual Richard H. Collins Award to Professor George W. Robinson of Eastern Kentucky University for his article, "Conservation in Kentucky: The Fight to Save Cumberland Falls, 1926-1931," which appeared in the winter 1983 issue of the *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*.

The Tenth Annual Chancellor Symposium on Southern History was held at the University of Mississippi, October 3-5, 1984. The theme at the conference was Religion in the South. Speakers included J. Wayne Flynt, Samuel S. Hill, Edwin S. Gaustad, John B. Boles, C. Eric Lincoln, and David E. Harrell, Jr. The symposium is sponsored by the Department of History, University of Mississippi, and the Center for the Study of Southern Culture.

A conference that will examine the role of women as medical practitioners and patients will be held at the University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, February 15-16, 1985. The theme is "A Century of Women's Health-Practices and Practitioners." For further information contact Lolly Dwan, Continuing Medical Education, University of Arizona, College of Medicine, Tucson, Arizona 85724.

The Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (1789-1848) will hold its annual conference July 26, 1985 at Gunston Hall, Virginia. Send proposals (in triplicate) for sessions or papers, plus brief vitae, to Shear Program 1985, William H. Pease, Department of History, -University of Maine, Orono, Maine 04469.

The *American Indian Quarterly* is interested in receiving articles over a broad range of topics relevant to American Indian

studies in the fields of history, ethno-history, literature, folklore, the arts, anthropology, politics, and economics for consideration for publication. Articles should be approximately twenty to twenty-five pages, following the *Chicago Manual of Style*. Send manuscripts to the editors, Native American Studies, 3415 Dwinelle Hall, University of California, Berkeley, California 94720.

### *Obituaries*

#### *Charles H. Fairbanks*

Dr. Charles H. Fairbanks died at his home in Gainesville on July 17, 1984, after a long illness. Dr. Fairbanks, Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at the University of Florida, was a leading expert in the field of American Indian and historic archeology in the Southeast. He taught at Florida State University and was for several years chairman of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Florida. He served as superintendent of the Ocmulgee National Monument at Macon, Georgia, and as superintendent and archeologist at the Fort Fredrica National Monument at St. Simons Island, Georgia. He played a major role in originating the investigation of slavery by the excavation of slave cabins on plantations on the Georgia coast and the Zephaniah Kingsley plantation on Fort George Island. He was the founder and past president of the Society for Historical Archeology. In 1983, the Society presented him with the first J. C. Harrington Award for excellence in the field of historical archeology. Dr. Fairbanks was also one of the original members of the Florida National Register Review Board.

#### *Charles Tinsley Thrift, Jr.*

Dr. Charles Tinsley Thrift, Jr., former president of the Florida Historical Society and president of Florida Southern College, died on May 25, 1984, of a heart condition. A native of Virginia, Dr. Thrift studied at Duke University and received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. He also held honorary degrees from Southwestern University and Bethune-Cookman College. He became professor of religion at Florida Southern College in 1940, served as vice-president of the College from 1946 to 1957, and was named president in 1957. His writings include *The Trail*

*of the Florida Circuit Rider* (1944), *Through Three Decades at Florida Southern College* (1955), and *A Study of Theological Education in the Methodist Church* (1956), and articles and book reviews. He served as director of the Florida Historical Society, 1944-1946, vice-president, 1952, and as president, 1954-1956. He was a contributor to the *Florida Historical Quarterly*; and an active participant in the affairs of the Society.