

1987

History News

Florida Historical Society
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HISTORY NEWS

Florida History Fair

Final competition for the sixth annual Florida History Fair exhibit was held at the May 1987 meeting of the Florida Historical Society in St. Augustine. A group project, "Rights and Responsibilities of American and Soviet Citizens," submitted by Lillian Rieham and Margaret E. Gaertner of Washington High School, Pensacola, was selected as the "best of the state." This project was also selected to represent Florida at the National History Day meeting. The teacher supervising the project was Leslie Carlin. The two winners in the senior division for Florida were Lauren Rictchie of Pensacola High School, and Paul Sullivan of Sandalwood Jr.-Sr. High School, Jacksonville. Rictchie's teacher was Jackie Young, and Sullivan's teacher was Jo Alice Fain. In the junior division, there were also two winners: Carrie McPherson, Mims Middle School, Tallahassee (teacher, Brenda Harris), and Eva Jenkins, Landon Junior High School, Jacksonville (teacher, Denise Carney). Other project winners were Leigh Eubanks, Goodham High School, Pensacola (teacher, Pearl Curtis), and James Marcus Jones, Jackson Heights Middle School, Winter Springs (teacher, Jean Rumsey). Gwendolyn B. Waldorf, Tallahassee, served as chair of the Florida History Fair. It was sponsored by the Florida Historical Society with support from Gerald W. McSwiggan, a member of the Society's board of directors.

Conferences

The Southern Jewish Historical Society will hold its twelfth annual conference in Durham, NC, November 6-8, 1987. The theme of the conference is "Southern Jews and their Legacy." The convention hotel is the Sheraton University Center, Durham, NC. For information call or write Dr. Samuel Proctor, president of the Society, 126 Florida State Museum, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611 (904-392-1721).

The University of Florida's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Instituto de Cooperación Iberoamericana of Madrid, Spain, will cosponsor an international conference to be

held at the University of Florida, Gainesville, December 9-12, 1987. Papers presented by scholars from Spain and the United States will relate to the period of Spanish exploration, discovery, and settlement in Florida, the Spanish borderlands, and the Caribbean in the sixteenth century. All the sessions, which will be held in the J. Wayne Reitz Student Union at the University of Florida, will be open to the public. For information call or write Dr. Samuel Proctor, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611.

The University of Florida's Institute of Early Contact Period Studies will hold a conference at the University, April 17-25, 1988. The title is "Rethinking the Encounter: New Perspectives on Conquest and Colonization, 1450-1550." Scholars from the United States, Britain, Spain, Cuba, and Canada will present papers. Professors James Amelang, Kathleen Deagan, Michael V. Gannon, and William Goza, all of the University of Florida, are conference organizers. For information, contact Dr. Michael V. Gannon, 2014 Turlington Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611.

The St. Augustine Historical Society, with support from the Florida Endowment for the Humanities, will sponsor a symposium May 7-9, 1988, in St. Augustine. The title of the conference is "Clash between Cultures," and papers and discussion will focus on the mixture of ethnic, racial, and national groups in East Florida during the second Spanish period (1783-1821). Papers will be presented by Dr. Helen Hornbeck Tanner, Dr. L. David Norris, Bruce Chappell, Jane Landers, and Susan B. Parker. For information write St. Augustine Historical Society, 271 Charlotte Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084.

A conference on "Archives and Records for Studying the Hispanic Experience in the United States, 1492-1852," was held at the Library of Congress, September 22-25, 1987. Dr. Michael V. Gannon, director of the University of Florida's Institute for Early Contact Studies, served as the moderator for the session, "Research Scholars and the Spanish Borderlands." Dr. Eugene Lyon, St. Augustine Foundation, discussed "Sources in Private and Little-Used Archives in Spain," and Dr. Charles Hudson, University of Georgia, presented a paper on "Research in the Eastern Spanish Borderlands." Other papers relating to Florida and the Spanish Borderlands were presented by Dr. William Coker, University of West Florida (Panton, Leslie & Company),

and Michael Scardaville, University of South Carolina (South-east Columbus Quincentennial Project).

The International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilization is inviting papers for a conference to be held at Hampton University, Hampton, VA, May 27-30, 1988. The conference title is "Africa: Image and Reality in Western Civilization." The themes will relate to the opening up of Africa, the concept of colonialism as reflected in African literature and history, and African religions vis-a-vis Christianity and Islam. Abstracts, due by November 15, 1987, are to be sent to Matthew Nowlko, program chair, ISCSC, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio 45435.

Announcements and Activities

The Southern Genealogists Exchange Society of Jacksonville is seeking information on individuals or families who resided in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns counties through the year 1875. Names, life dates, and county of residence, together with as much biographical information as possible, should be submitted to Perry Medlock, First Coast chairman, SGESJ, Box 2801, Jacksonville, FL 32203. Information should be sent by November 1, 1987. The data will be compiled into a volume under the title of "Pioneers of Florida's First Coast."

The Florida Genealogical Society is publishing a compilation of Santa Rosa cemeteries with inscriptions from every gravestone in the country through 1985. The editor of the volume is Richard E. Jernigan; the price is \$33.34, which includes shipping and tax. Also available is volume one of the *Escambia County Cemeteries Register*, edited by Evan Strohl. The price is \$8.95, including tax and shipping. Order from the Society, Box 9472, Pensacola, FL 32594.

Hillsborough County Cemetery Books, volumes I and II, may be ordered from John H. Baxley, 1909 West Hanna Avenue, Tampa, FL 33604. The price for each volume is \$35.00.

The University of Florida's Gamma-Eta Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta received a Special Commendation Award for 1986-1987 from the national organization. The award recognizes the outstanding activities of the chapter. Merlin G. Cox, Department of History, is faculty adviser for the chapter.

The Library of Congress has produced a compressed audio disk which contains nearly every spoken word recording manufactured before 1910 in the Library's collection. The disk, which contains sixty-eight selections, will help mark the centennial of the invention of the first audio disk in 1887 by Emile Berliner. The disk, with thirty-three hours of sound, is about the size of a forty-five rpm record and uses technology in which audio signals are digitized, compressed, and stored on single frames on one side of an analog videodisk. The disk is not for sale, but it is available for listening by the public in the Sound Reference Center of the Library of Congress, Performing Arts Reading Room LM 113, James Madison Memorial Building, Washington, DC. The disk is indexed by title, performer, genre, and subject.

The Kentucky Historical Society presented its Governor's Award to Professor John A. Lamage, Northern Kentucky University, for his book, *Rebel Raider: The Life of General John Hunt Morgan*, and to George C. Wright, University of Texas, for his book, *Life Behind a Veil: Blacks from Louisville, Kentucky, 1865-1930*. Professor William E. Ellis, Eastern Kentucky University, received the Richard H. Collins Award for his article, "The Harvest Moon is Shinin' on the Streets of Shelbyville': Southern Honor and the Death of General Henry H. Denhardt, 1937," which appeared in the autumn 1986 issue of *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*.

John C. Fredrickson announces an agreement with Edwin Mellen Press for publication of a reference volume, *The War of 1812: An Illustrated Encyclopedia*. This comprehensive text will encompass all aspects of the war—military, political, diplomatic, Native American, social, archival, and economic. Interested contributors are invited to contact Dr. Fredrickson, 7810 Jordan Avenue, #5, Canoga Park, CA 91303 (818-710-8823).

Obituary

Frank Bowman Sessa, former president of the Florida Historical Society, died of cancer in Orlando in July 1987. Dr. Sessa was elected to the Society's Board of Directors in 1955, he served as recording secretary for one term (1959-1960), first vice president (1960-1962), and as president (1962-1964). He was also book review editor of the *Florida Historical Quarterly*. He was

actively involved in the affairs of the Society throughout his long residency in Florida.

Dr. Sessa held his Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh; his dissertation title was "Real Estate Expansion and Boom in Miami and its Environs during the 1920s." He was considered an authority on this period of history as well as on the history of Miami and south Florida. Dr. Sessa was professor of history at the University of Miami, and in 1951 was appointed director of the Miami-Dade Public Library, one of the largest libraries in the state. In 1966 he became professor of Library Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh and held that position until his retirement to Orlando. Dr. Sessa served as a consultant on planning for the Miami-Dade County Public Library.