

History

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Discovery and Exploration of Florida

Dr. Rembert W. Patrick*

Christopher Columbus received a hero's welcome on his return to Spain after the landing on Watling Island of October 12, 1492, and men eagerly asked permission to join him on a return trip. Numbered among the courageous men of the second voyage was Juan Ponce de León, a member of the minor nobility of his land and fighter against the Moors. For two decades, Ponce de León was active in the Caribbean Islands: he helped conquer the eastern part of Hispaniola (present Dominican Republic) and was rewarded with the governorship of the province; after discovering gold on Puerto Rico, he conquered and governed the island; and he made a fortune from gold, land, and native slaves.

Ruthless Ponce de León was not a lovable character. His despotic rule brought investigation, and this together with overweening ambition for gold, silver, pearls, and slaves motivated his desire to discover and explore the fabulous island of Bimini, located somewhere to the northwest. Many years after the explorer's death, the legend that he sought a magic fountain of youth was added as a reason for his leaving comfort and position to sail into the hardships of unknown, hostile harbors.

Ponce de León commanded an expedition of three small ships which sailed from Puerto Rico on March 3, 1513, rounded the northwest coast of Cuba, and moved into the Bahama Channel. On Easter Sunday, March 27, his men gave the welcome cry of "Land to port!" but rather than the wonderfully rich Bimini, it was only another island in the Bahama



Florida State Archives

Christopher Columbus at Hispanola, 1492.

group similar to those sighted in previous days. Sailing northwestward through choppy seas under overcast skies, the conquistador landed somewhere near Ponte Vedra Beach on April 2 and named the land *La Florida*.

This colorful land gave no indication of gold or pearls, and the explorer sailed southward, hugging

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the coast and searching for indications of wealth. At Biscayne Bay he met hostile natives and moved on by the Florida Keys and the Tortugas and up the west coast of the peninsula to Charlotte Harbor. After six months of exploring, the commander returned to Puerto Rico without gold or silver, pearls or slaves.

It is doubtful that Ponce de León was the first white man to touch the wide beaches of Florida, but his was the first recorded visit. To his enterprise goes the credit for discovering a vast land and attaching to it the beautiful name of Florida. The crew of one of his ships did find Bimini off the southeast coast of Florida, but the island contained none of the fabled riches talked about by the Carib people of the Caribbean Islands. Similar to Columbus, who probably never realized the magnitude of his discovery, Ponce de León thought he had discovered an island rather than a part of the North American Continent. Spain, however, based her claim to all the area north of the Gulf of Mexico and the Rio Grande to his exploring venture and applied his name of Florida to it.

Death of Ponce de León

Still hopeful of finding hidden riches in Florida, Ponce de León wanted to form a second expedition, but his services were needed to subdue the Carib natives. His royal patent, giving him the title of *adelantado* of the “island” of Florida, did not prevent other explorers from searching the land for gold or capturing natives for slave markets. In 1519, Francisco de Garay sailed along the Gulf coasts looking for a water passage to the Orient, and one year later Francisco Gordillo explored the Atlantic Coast as far north as the Cape Fear River. In February, 1521, Ponce de León returned to Charlotte Harbor with soldiers, settlers, domestic animals, and farming equipment to found a settlement. After being wounded by a Calusa arrow he ordered his two ships back to Cuba where he succumbed to his injury.

The March of Narváez

For a time the discovery of gold and silver in Mexico by Hernando Cortés diverted Spanish attention from Florida. In the end, however, the proven wealth of the New World kept expeditions from seeking passage to India and encouraged conquistadors

to explore Florida in the hopes of finding precious metals equal in quantity to those discovered by Cortés. Tall, red-haired Pánfilo de Narváez promised the King of Spain to establish two colonies, build three forts, and protect Spanish sailors who were shipwrecked on the Florida coasts. Narváez sailed from Spain with

600 people and all the animals and supplies requisite for settlement. He probably landed at Tampa Bay, but rather than stopping to build houses and clear land, he was enticed to march inland by tales of gold. Ordering his ship to meet him later on the northern coast of the Gulf of Mexico, Narváez and 300 men cut their way through forests and crossed rivers as they proceeded north through the Florida peninsula. Nowhere did they find stores of gold or silver, and almost every tribe of natives fought the Spanish invaders. On turning back to the Gulf near St. Marks, the discouraged men sighted none of the ships which were supposed to meet them. Rather than attempting the difficult overland journey, they built forges and used the iron of their armor to make saws, hammers, and nails. With these they fashioned five wooden boats, overloaded them with men and meager supplies, and with sails made of clothing, moved west toward Mexico. One after another the boats capsized, and all but four men lost their lives. Cabeza de Vaca, the treasurer and historian of the expedition, and three other men wandered for seven years before they reached Mexico City. The ill-fated Narváez expedition did prove that Florida was part of North America rather than an island in the Caribbean Sea.



Florida State Archives

Pánfilo de Narváez

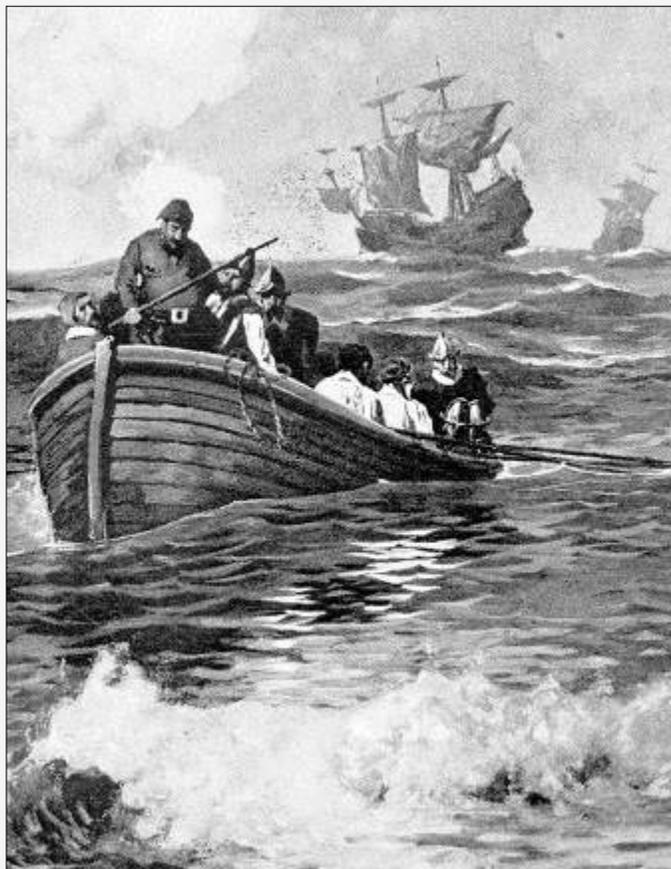
The Ordeal of Juan Ortiz

In Havana, Cuba, the wife of Narváez believed her husband alive, and in response to her tears, 25 men sailed in one ship to hunt for the missing man. Finding the spot where Narváez had landed, brave Juan Ortiz and one sailor went ashore, but their seizure by natives sent the other frightened Spaniards scurrying back to Cuba. After killing the sailor, the

natives danced with glee as the bound Ortiz wriggled in agony from the heat of the burning pile of wood upon which he was tied. But suddenly the natives scattered the blazing wood and lifted the blistered Spaniard from his intended funeral pyre. The pleas of the chief's wife and daughter saved Ortiz from immediate death. After his burns healed, he was assigned to the menial tasks expected of women and made sport of by warriors. Even a brave act of Ortiz did not give him security from the angry chief whose nose had been cut off by Narváez, and the Spaniard was again saved from death by the princess who showed him the way to escape to a friendly neighboring tribe with whom he lived until de Soto found him and used him as an interpreter.

De Soto's Wanderings

Meanwhile, Cabeza de Vaca had arrived in Spain to request a grant of Florida from the king. No Spaniard knew more of the vast land, but the Spanish monarch had already made famous Hernando de Soto governor of Cuba and *adelantado* of Florida.



Florida State Archives

Illustration of Hernando de Soto in the Bay of Apalachee.

Immensely wealthy from his share of the spoils gathered in Peru by Francisco Pizarro, de Soto wanted the honor of commanding a successful expedition. Because of his fame, nobles and knights flocked to his standard, and in 1539 more than 600 men landed near Tampa Bay. For years the explorers wandered all over Spanish Florida—into the present-day southeastern American states and across the muddy Mississippi—to search unsuccessfully for precious metals and to fight battle after battle with the natives. De Soto died near the Mississippi, his body went to a watery grave in the Father of Waters, and only half of his original company eventually reached Mexico.

The expedition gave Spain valuable information about Florida. This immense land area of rivers and swamps, valleys and mountains, with sandy and fertile soil, was peopled by hostile natives who would be difficult to subdue. Furthermore, the clearing of land for agriculture and building of houses for settlers would require time and large expenditures. Since other areas of the Spanish empire in the New World offered more profit for less work, the Spaniards decided to concentrate their efforts on locales other than Florida.

Father Cancer's Plan

There were, however, thousands of natives populating the land, and Spain always considered the bringing of the Christian religion to the heathen a national duty. Thus the king gave ear to Father Luis Cancer de Barbastro's unusual plan of founding a settlement to convert the natives rather than seeking economic return. The dedicated monk listened to a pilot who promised to place him and other priests on some hitherto untouched Florida shore where the natives had experienced no mistreatment from gold-hungry Spaniards. The pilot doomed the peaceful expedition by landing in 1549 at Tampa Bay where the ruthlessness of conquistadors had repeatedly shed native blood. Devout Father Cancer went ashore and, surrounded by natives, kneeled in prayer, but they clubbed his life away before he had uttered a word. The martyrdom of the priest led King Charles to allow no further exploration of a land without gold and silver and populated by hostile natives.



The Timucuan Great House

In the summer of 1993, archaeologists from the University of Florida uncovered at St. Augustine the site where the Spanish began the first permanent European settlement in what would eventually become the United States. They validated Dr. Michael V. Gannon's statement in his *Florida: A Short History*: "By the time the pilgrims came ashore at Plymouth, St. Augustine was up for urban renewal. It was a town with fort, church, seminary, six-bed hospital, fish market and about 120 shops and houses."

Archaeologist/anthropologist Dr. Kathleen Deagan found evidence of a moat built by the Spanish soldiers and settlers (including 26 women) who accompanied Pedro Menéndez de Aviles when he landed there in 1565. Dr. Deagan believes that the moat, 14 feet wide and 3 feet deep, surrounded the first Menéndez fort.

Historians and archaeologists have long known of the fort and have actively sought it for at least 60 years. Ironically, the first major archaeological work, by Verne Chatelaine, Jack Winter, and Albert Manucy in 1938, included a test trench which paralleled the moat only 10 centimeters away from the original location.

Upon arrival in Florida, the Menéndez army destroyed the French settlement at Fort Caroline. Menéndez then moved his people to the St. Augus-

tine area, where the Seloy tribe of the Timucuan nation had a settlement. Chief Seloy gave over the great house, a huge, thatched structure, probably circular or oval, capable of holding several hundred people, to the Spanish. It was around this meeting house that the moat was dug and the additional fortifications of a breastwork and wooden palisade were added to protect the munitions and stores. Several hundred members of the Spanish force established a camp/village just north of the fort.



Florida State Archives

Pedro Menendez de Aviles

Relations between the Spanish and the Seloy tribe deteriorated, and on April 19, 1566, just 7 months after the arrival of the colonists, the Native Americans burned the great house/fort. The fort was rebuilt or repaired. Later a third fort, triangular with a high wooden gun platform and an encircling trench, was built on or close enough to the same site to use the old gate. The third fort

was destroyed in a 1570 mutiny, and the settlement permanently moved to the Castillo de San Marcos site near downtown St. Augustine.

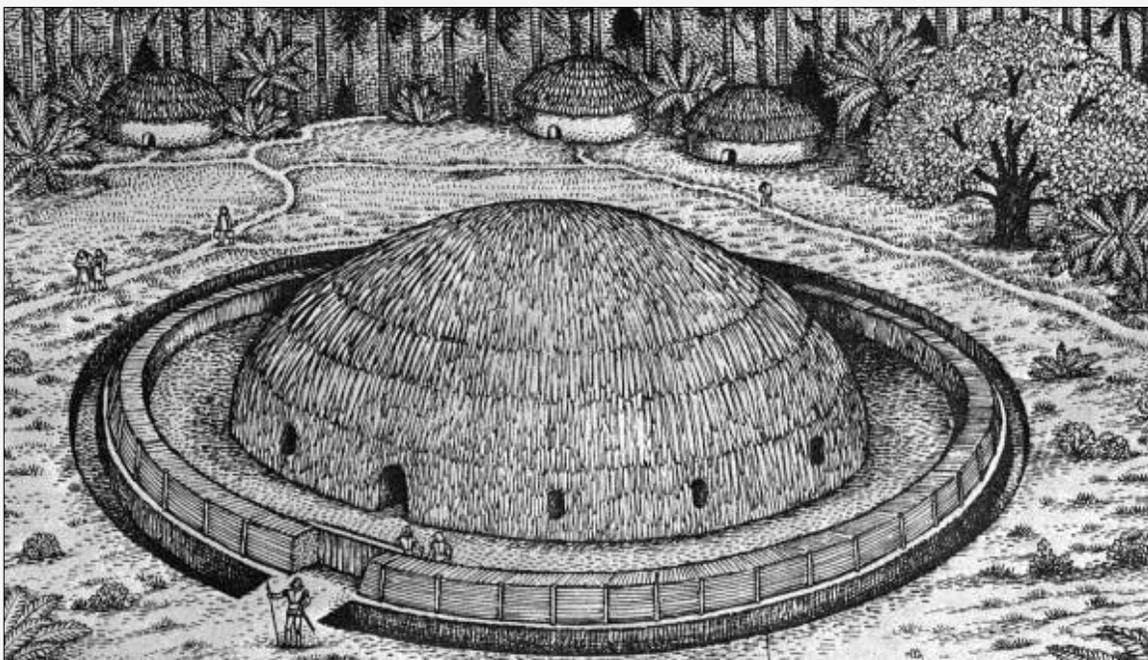
The site, where Dr. Deagan found Timucuan artifacts as early as 1976 and where she also found what is now known as the moat in 1987, is partly on the grounds of the Fountain of Youth Park and the Roman Catholic shrine of Nuestra Senora de la Leche. In a 1993 *New York Times* article, John Noble Wilford noted the irony that the site had been pro-

tected by the flawed interpretation of history: “More recent research shows that Ponce de León apparently never made it to St. Augustine in search of those rejuvenating waters. It was Pedro Menéndez who left the first Spanish imprint there, traces of which are now emerging in the archeological record.”

It also seems ironic that it probably has been the existence of the two tourist sites, the Fountain of Youth Park and the Nuestra Senora de la Leche shrine, that have protected this special site from being paved over years ago.

The 1994 dig, supervised by Billy Ray Morris at the La Leche Shrine site and by Robyn Stuhlman at the Fountain of Youth Park site, confirmed that the apparently triangular moat was constructed and filled

in during the 16th century. However, another moat was found in 1996 about 10 meters south of the triangular moat and between the two moats was found an area burned at high intensity sometime after 1565. A large, oval, bowl-shaped pit, originally lined with pine logs, with a large post upright in the center, dated inconclusively between 1360 and 1620, had also been burned at high intensity sometime after 1565. Although the early radiocarbon dates from the logs lining the pit indicate that part of the construction may have been in prehistoric times, the two moats indicate that more than one fort was built in the area. If so, the University of Florida team has found the site of Menéndez’s first fort.



Drawing by Albert Manucy

A gift from the Seloy tribe of the Timucuan nation to Pedro Menendez de Aviles, this drawing represents the first permanent European settlement in the United States, Menendez Fort, St. Augustine. Around this meeting house the Spanish dug a moat and added fortifications of a breastwork and wooden palisade, to protect the munitions and stores.



First Christmas in Florida

R. P. Engle

While many of us spend the holidays visiting with friends, reminiscing around the fireplace with relatives, exchanging gifts, or enjoying the traditional holiday feast, it is easy to forget how brutal life was for Florida's early inhabitants and colonizers.

On a small hill, within one-half mile of the present day state capitol in Tallahassee, Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto and his army spent the winter of 1539.

While many of the later Spanish explorers' landing and mission sites have been well documented, many of the early explorers' sites were not. Accurate mapmaking was a skill yet to be perfected, and journal entries were either vague or nonexistent for much of the trip. It is known that after landing in Florida near the present city of Tampa, de Soto and his army of more than 600 men started northward.

After finding no gold and being forced to fend off almost daily Indian attacks, de Soto and his men soon ran short of food. It appears that corn was a staple of their diets for little mention is made of sending out hunting parties, but there are many references made to scouts sent out in search of maize.

De Soto's exact route through the wilderness has been open to debate for years. In 1985, the Smithsonian Institution Press published *Final Report Of The United States De Soto Expedition Commission*. This book was a culmination of work originally started in 1939 by the Smithsonian. Though the book admitted that no exact route would ever be known, they were able to make an educated estimation of his route. In the 1980's then-governor Bob Graham had markers erected along U.S. 90 and U.S. 319 purportedly re-tracing de Soto's route.



Photo by Mike Ewen

State archaeologist Calvin Jones excavating Hernando de Soto's 1539 winter encampment, Tallahassee, 1987.

In March 1987, almost 342 years to the day from when de Soto left Florida, state archeologist Calvin Jones made a discovery at what he thought was an abandoned Spanish mission site. Discarded pieces of broken pottery led him to believe he had found de Soto's 1539 winter camp close to downtown Tallahassee. The pottery's style predated any known to exist when the missions were established. More evidence was forthcoming after further excavation work at the encampment. A coin was unearthed which was

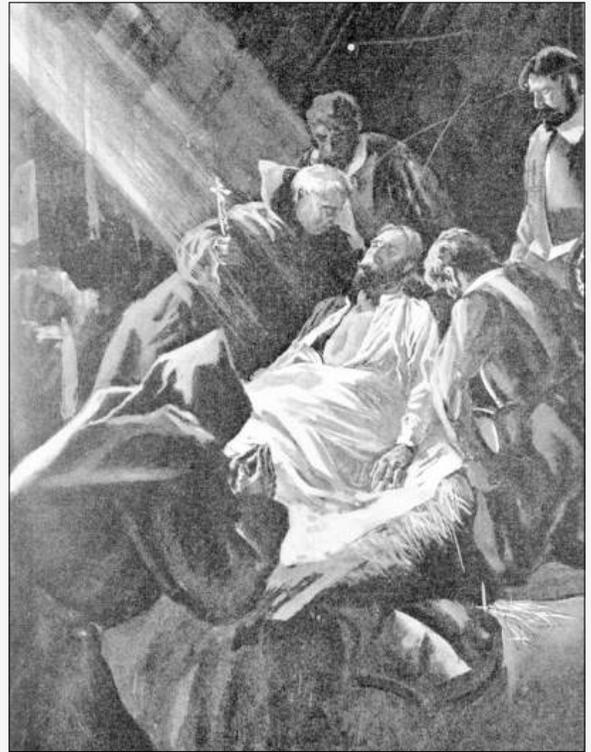
minted between 1506 and 1517, firmly placing the Tallahassee site as the only substantiated camp of the explorer.

“The only explanation to the pottery pieces was de Soto,” noted Jones. “But we didn’t feel totally positive until we found the coin. It’s the next best thing to a signature.”

It was known from diary records that de Soto’s camp was in an area of North Florida controlled by the Apalachee Indians. Responding to the Spanish intrusion, the Apalachee conducted a guerilla war against the interlopers. De Soto, known for his brutality, retaliated by hacking off hands and noses of any natives he captured.

It was later that winter that Catholic priests in the expedition celebrated the first Christmas Mass held on the new continent.

After 147 days of Apalachee attacks and with the weather turning warmer, the conquistador led his depleted army north into Georgia. The unsuccessful pursuit of gold led de Soto on a curious 10-state trek. The journey cost de Soto his life. In 1542, he fell ill trying to lead his now desperate band to Mexico or back to the Gulf. His men buried him somewhere along the Mississippi River in a hollowed-out log.



Painting by Grace E. King

The Death of Hernando de Soto



Florida Forts

Four centuries ago, a 50-mile stretch of Florida's east coast witnessed the first conflict between Europeans in North America. In the years that followed, three nations shaped the area's history: Spain, who claimed it on the basis of discovery; France, who challenged that claim, also alleging early exploration; and England, a latecomer in colonial expansion, who stood by waiting to develop the strength to take what she wanted. But the United States—a nation then unborn—won the land.

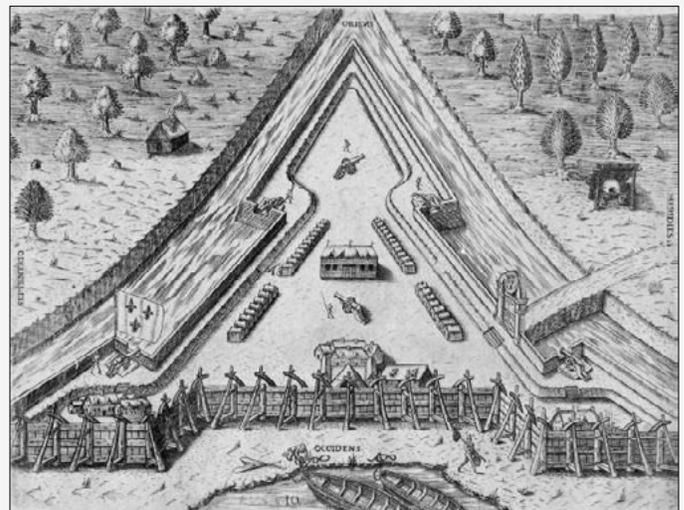
The French were the first to seize a toehold in the Florida wilderness that Spain believed to be economically worthless. In 1564, France, making a determined effort to control this region, sent troops to the St. Johns River, where they built the sod-and-timber Fort Caroline. Hunger, mutiny, and difficulties with the Native American population plagued the settlement.

Fort Caroline

Despite these internal problems, Fort Caroline's very existence mocked Spain's claim to Florida and threatened the passage of the Spanish treasure fleets that followed the Gulf Stream and swung close inshore. Spain responded by sending an expedition to settle Florida and drive out the French. When the Spaniards arrived at the mouth of the St. Johns River in 1565, they found the French, tried unsuccessfully to board their ships, and then sailed to a harbor farther south, where they established St. Augustine as a base for further operations.

Almost immediately the French sailed south to attack. Their fleet, however, arriving within view

of St. Augustine, was driven off by a violent storm. The Spaniards, realizing that Fort Caroline would be lightly guarded, marched north and attacked the fort, captured it, and executed most of the garrison. The French fleet fared no better. Driven ashore many miles below St. Augustine, the survivors began an overland march to Fort Caroline. The Spanish, learning from the Native Americans that the French were ashore, moved from St. Augustine to intercept them. At an inlet 14 miles south, the two forces met. While some Frenchmen escaped, most surrendered and were put to death—a measure, Spanish soldiers pointed out, dictated by cold military necessity. The episode gave a name to the area: Matanzas, Spanish for “slaughters.”



Engraving by Theodor de Bry

The engravings published by Theodor de Bry in Grand Voyages (1591), after watercolors made by Jacques Le Moyne de Morgues, are the earliest known European depictions of Native Americans in what is now known as the United States.



Florida State Archives

The Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine is Florida's dominant Spanish Colonial landmark. Construction of the fortress, which took a quarter century, was completed in 1696. With walls 16 feet thick at the base and protected by a moat, the Castillo was never taken by force. The principal material is coquina, a sedimentary rock formed from billions of tiny seashells and quarried nearby. Most of the labor of quarrying and building was performed by Indians under the supervision of Spanish artisans.

Although Spain had ended one threat, she was not to enjoy untrammelled possession of Florida. Other annoyances were to come. In 1568, an expedition of vengeful French freebooters descended upon Fort San Mateo, the former Fort Caroline, burned it, and hanged the survivors. They took revenge on the crews of captured Spanish vessels by throwing them into the sea. In 1586, England's Sir Francis Drake attacked and destroyed St. Augustine.

Castillo de San Marcos

Now Britain entered the scene in earnest, bent upon seizing Spanish-claimed territory. In 1607 Englishmen settled at Jamestown; by 1653 they had pushed south to settle in the Carolinas. The British again sacked St. Augustine in 1668, and this hit-and-run attack, followed by the English settlement of Charleston in 1670, caused Spain to build a defensive stone fort at St. Augustine – Castillo de San Marcos. Construction began in 1672 and continued until 1696.

In the meantime, a watchtower had been built at the mouth of the Matanzas River to warn the city of unfriendly vessels entering the estuary. Despite this precaution, pirates surprised the Matanzas garrison in 1683 and marched toward St. Augustine and the unfinished Castillo. A Spanish soldier, escaping from the corsairs, warned the garrison, which ambushed the pirates and turned them back.

Castillo de San Marcos received its baptism of fire in 1702 during Queen Anne's War, when the

English seized St. Augustine and unsuccessfully besieged the fort. As disputes with England continued, and as English settlers and soldiers moved into Georgia, Spain began to modernize the Castillo. Matanzas, however, was still unfortified when the English struck again in 1740. They laid siege to the Castillo but failed to capture it.

Following the American Revolution, the Spanish abandoned Matanzas but continued to use Castillo de San Marcos. Later the post became the American Fort Marion. During the Seminole Wars of the 1830s and after the Indian wars in the west in the late 1880s, it housed Native American prisoners. Confederate troops occupied it briefly during the Civil War. It was last used during the Spanish-American War as a military prison.

Fort Matanzas

The 1740 attack by the English proved to the Spanish that their fortifications needed strengthening. In 1742, they completed the present stone tower at Matanzas, and work continued on Castillo de San Marcos until 1763. Then, as a result of the French and Indian War, Spain ceded Florida to Great Britain in return for British-occupied Havana. The British garrisoned Matanzas and strengthened the Castillo, holding the two forts through the American Revolution. By the provisions of the Treaty of Paris of 1783, which ended the war, Great Britain returned Florida to Spain, who in turn ceded it to the United States in 1821.

Fort Clinch

In 1842, a tract of land on the north end of Amelia Island, located on the Florida-Georgia line, was purchased by the U.S. Government for a military installation to guard the mouth of the St. Marys River, protect coastal and interior shipping, and defend the port of Fernandina. Construction is thought to have begun in 1847, and the fort was named to honor General Duncan Lamont Clinch, who fought in the Second Seminole War.

At the onset of hostilities between the North and South and occupation of the fort by the Confederacy in 1861, only two bastions were finished. The only erected walls ran between the north to east and north to northwest bastions, although the ramparts had been installed and the guardhouse and prison had been completed. Immediately after the Union regained the fort from the Confederates in March 1862, an effort was begun to complete construction.

However, a development in cannon design—the rifled barrel—made brick and stone fortifications obsolete. Although near completion in 1867, work ceased and the post was deactivated.

The fort was briefly activated in 1898 during the Spanish-American War. However, it was in less than war-readiness condition with sand blocking the gates, the grounds overgrown, and dismantled guns and debris scattered about. All units were removed in September 1898.

No longer of military value, the reservation was sold to a private interest by the Federal Government and later sold to the state. Fort Clinch State Park, created in 1936, was one of the first in Florida. During the following 2 years, the Civilian Conservation Corps initiated development of the park.

During World War II, the Coast Guard, with the Army and Navy, maintained a surveillance and communication system within the fort that included mounted beach patrols to watch for landings by saboteurs and spies.

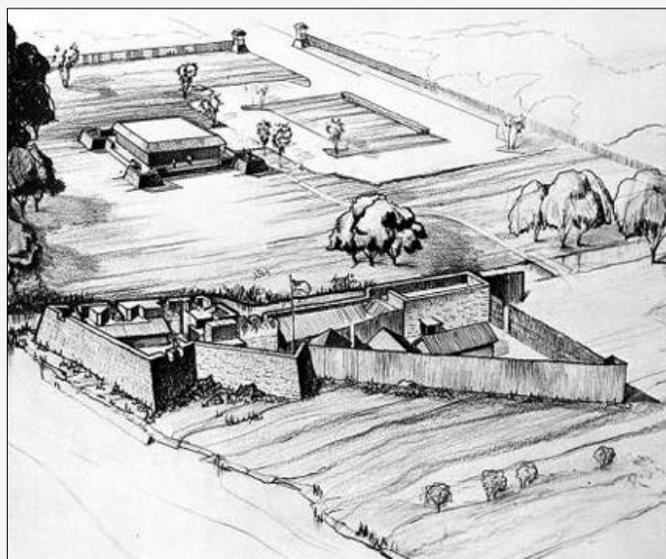
Fort San Marcos de Apalache

The first fort was built at the junction of the St. Marks and Wakulla rivers, by order of the Spanish Governor of Florida, in 1679. The rough log structure was looted and burned by pirates in 1682.

The second fort, also wooden, was built in 1718.

A stone fort was begun in 1739 but was still only half completed when it was turned over to the English in 1763. A bombproof of limestone was begun in the 1750s to protect men and supplies during an attack. The four-room structure, with arched ceilings and strong doors, was not completed until after 1785.

In 1787, Spain reoccupied the fort, and it remained in Spanish hands except for brief occupations by William Augustus Bowles (self-proclaimed King of Florida) in 1800 and Andrew Jackson in 1818.



Florida State Archives

Drawing of reconstruction of the Fort San Marcos de Apalache with state park visitor center, St. Marks. The museum was built in the 1960s atop the foundation of the Civil War-era Marine Hospital, which itself was constructed from materials from the original Spanish fort.

When Florida was ceded to the United States in 1821, U.S. troops were sent to occupy the fort. It was abandoned in 1824 and turned over to the Territory of Florida. In 1839, the fort was returned to the U.S. Government, and construction of a federal marine hospital began in 1857 to care for yellow fever victims. Limestone and flint rock from the Spanish bombproof were used in the construction.

The Confederates took San Marcos, renaming it Fort Ward. A Union squadron blockaded the mouth of the St. Marks from 1861 until they received the fort's surrender on July 12, 1865.

A museum, designed by Thomas G. Baker, illustrating the history of the fort is based on the foundation of the old marine hospital.



Fort Zachary Taylor, Key West

Photo by Dale M. McDonald

Fort Taylor

Fort Zachary Taylor, located on the southwest tip of the U.S. Naval Station in Key West, is the nation's southernmost military complex. A survey of the island was made in 1844, and subsequently 63 acres, commanding a view of four ship channels, was bought by the U.S. Government for \$15,954.

Construction began on November 1, 1845, and took 21 years to complete. The main structure is in the form of a trapezoid-quadrilateral, with two sides parallel, built 1,000 feet offshore on an underwater foundation of granite blocks shipped from New England. Each of the three seaward walls extends 255 feet, and the landward wall is 495 feet. Most of the skilled laborers were Irish and German immigrants, while unskilled labor was furnished by local slaves.

Calamities (including a hurricane in 1846 and yellow fever epidemics in 1853, 1855, and 1857) and the difficult process of bringing in granite from Maine, Vermont, and Connecticut and bricks from the Gulf states, as well as all the other necessary supplies, combined to delay construction until ominous rumblings preceding the Civil War sped up the last-minute work.

By 1861, the U.S. Army was installed in the fort and the Navy established in the harbor. Key West was the only city in Florida held by the Union throughout the Civil War.

By 1886, the fort was considered obsolete and construction stopped. Then, with the threat of a Spanish-American conflict in 1898, larger, more powerful guns were installed and the fort was torn back to one story to make it less visible.

In World Wars I and II the fort was fitted with anti-aircraft and disappearing cannons. National

Guard training was conducted there until the 1950s.

In 1968, a committee was appointed to research the historical value of the fort. In 1971, the Department of the Interior nominated the fort as an historic site. In 1973, it became a national landmark and soon after was turned over to the state.

Fort Jefferson

Fort Jefferson, largest of the massive brick fortifications built during the 19th century for the defense of the American coast, is today principally of interest as an impressive ruin in the tropical Dry Tortugas, where bird and marine life abound.

The Dry Tortugas Islands form the southwestern tip of the Florida reef. Tortugas, Spanish for "turtles," was the name given the group in 1513 by the discoverer Juan Ponce de León, who found hundreds of turtles there.

Known as the "key to the Gulf of Mexico," Fort Jefferson is a six-sided structure about a half mile in perimeter, with walls 8 feet thick and 45 feet high. The fort was designed for a garrison of 1,500 men and an armament of 450 cannon in three tiers.

Construction of the fort on Garden Key, most of whose 16 acres it covers, was started in 1846 and continued for 30 years. It never was completed because the invention of rifled cannon made the fortress obsolete before its walls were finished.

Fort Jefferson's strategic position at the inlet and outlet of the Gulf of Mexico hampered Confederate blockade runners in the Civil War.

Fort Jefferson is 68 miles west of Key West and 180 air miles from Miami. There is a large and well-protected anchorage, with a landing wharf. A National Park Service representative acts as a guide.

Gulf Islands National Seashore – Florida Section

Fort Barrancas, on a mainland bluff, and Fort Pickens, on Santa Rosa Island, near Pensacola, are sites within the National Park Service's Gulf Islands National Seashore in Florida and Mississippi.

The Florida section consists of Johnson Beach on Perdido Key, Fort Barrancas and other fort ruins, Fort Pickens, Naval Live Oaks reservation on Santa Rosa Sound, and Santa Rosa Beach.

Fort Pickens

Fort Pickens, a massive, five-sided fortification on Santa Rosa Island, was built (1829–1834) soon after Florida was ceded to the United States by Spain in 1821. The fort protected an important naval shipyard on Pensacola Bay.

Fort Pickens came under fire only once, when Confederates tried without success to capture the fort early in the Civil War. (See Florida in the Civil War in this book.) Later, the fort was used as a military prison. Geronimo, leader of the Chiricahua Apaches, was imprisoned here in 1886.

Long-range coastal guns were mounted at Fort Pickens during the Spanish-American War. The ordinance was modernized again during World Wars I and II when artillery and anti-aircraft units were trained on the island.

Fort Barrancas

Inside the Pensacola Naval Air Station is a group of historic fortifications, built by several nations to defend the channel entrance to the harbor. Fort Barrancas, Battery San Antonio, and the Advanced Redoubt are open for tours.

Naval Live Oaks

The Federal Government purchased the tract in 1828 for purposes of cultivation and reservation of the trees for shipbuilding. The live oaks were placed under protective management as a source of timber highly prized in the building of sailing ships. Visitors today can see these majestic trees, their branches draped in Spanish moss, on a hike through the deeply forested plantation. This early experiment in



Florida State Archives

Visitors enjoying the day near the casemates at Fort Pickens State Park, Santa Rosa Island, 1953.

the management of valuable forest lands was a pet project of President John Quincy Adams, an amateur botanist.

Fort Mose: Free Black Fort

Fort Mose is described by Dr. Kathleen Deagan of the University of Florida's Florida Museum of Natural History as the first free black fort and settlement in North America. Fort Mose was established by Spaniards and African former slaves in 1736 about 2 miles north of the Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine.

The site was known to the Spanish as Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose. Fort Mose was manned in part by refugees drifting into Florida from the English settlement in Carolina. The 1986 Legislature, at the urging of Representative Bill Clark of Lauderdale Lakes, appropriated \$100,000 so that archaeologists and historians could endeavor to learn the extent to which Native American and African cultural elements may have been adopted at Fort Mose. Additional funds permitted the construction of a major traveling museum exhibit about Fort Mose and the events leading to its establishment and archaeological rediscovery. Fort Mose was designated a Natural Heritage Landmark by the National Park Service in 1994 and a National Historic Landmark in 1995.

Sources: National Park Service and Florida Department of Environmental Protection



Florida in the American Revolution

Dr. Rembert W. Patrick*

The American of today often forgets that Great Britain in 1776 had seventeen rather than thirteen colonies on the mainland of North America. The Continental Congress invited the four most northern and most southern colonies to join the other colonies, but Upper and Lower Canada and East and West Florida remained faithful to England. The reasons for refusal by the Floridas were obvious: the colonies were young and tied to the Mother Country; they needed her protection against the Indians and England's economic aid, and their people were satisfied and had few connections with the colonies to the north. Furthermore, the non-British residents of the Floridas—Minorcans, French, Greek, Italians, and Spaniards—had no desire to be associated with the Protestant peoples of the other English southern colonies.

Neither France nor Spain had accepted the verdict of the Seven Years War as final, and for more than a decade they impatiently awaited opportunity to strike at Great Britain. Rebellion of the thirteen American colonies gave them their chance, and before 1780 the American Revolution broadened into a world war. From bases at Havana and New Orleans, Spanish armies moved into West Florida to capture Mobile in 1780 and Pensacola the following year. The fall of river settlements along the eastern side

of the Mississippi River gave Spain control of West Florida by right of conquest.

The peace settlement following the war accomplished that which military might had not done in the east. To the amazement and anger of East Floridians, many of whom had already been forced from their Georgia and Carolina homes, Great Britain ceded East Florida to Spain. Where twenty years before England had desired the Floridas to round out her geographical possessions east of the Mississippi River, the independence of the United States left Florida isolated and relatively unimportant to Great Britain. The English government had never realized its fond hopes of profits from the Floridas and readily agreed to their surrender to appease Spain, who was demanding Gibraltar.

Considerate England did not leave her loyal subjects stranded and at the mercy of Spain. To compensate them for their losses, they were offered transportation to other parts of the British Empire, land, and money. Thousands of English colonials left Florida for the Bahamas, Jamaica, Nova Scotia, England, or other places, and did receive some payment in money for the loss of their Florida holdings. The Minorcan and other non-English residents of the Floridas remained to become subjects of Spain.

**Excerpted from "The Colonial Era of Florida," by Dr. Rembert W. Patrick, then Julien C. Yonge Graduate Professor at the University of Florida, written for the 1961-1962 edition of The Florida Handbook.*



Florida Becomes an American Territory

Karl A. Bickel*

July 17, 1821, was the date set for the ceremonies at Government House and Fort Barrancas in Pensacola. At seven-thirty on that cloudy morning, Colonel George Brooke, with the band in front and colors flying, led the American troops into the Plaza.

The General (Andrew Jackson), walking just a trifle stiffly, called for his horse. The entire American party galloped up the street and into the Plaza. They halted before the saluting soldiers. Jackson, in full dress, raised his low, cockaded hat to Rachel. She and her party were on the upper gallery of the house. He dismounted carefully and stalked into his house.

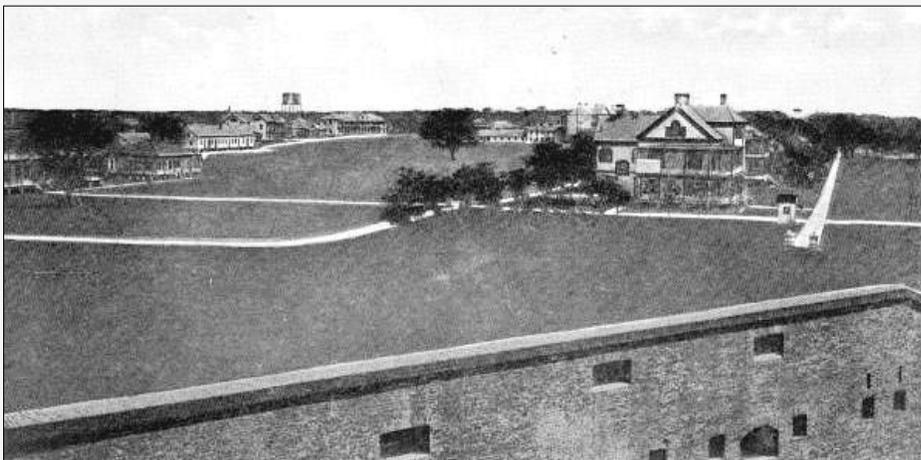
Almost at once Jackson and his party left the house again and walked briskly cross the Plaza between the Spanish and the American soldiers. At the gateway the Spanish sentries presented arms and the big door opened. The few formalities were quickly

over. The Spanish guard in front of the Governor's house was called to attention, and marched away. American soldiers took their places. The big doors of the Government House again opened and Jackson, accompanied by Cavalla, walked back across the Plaza to Jackson's house when the brief official visit was over. As Cavalla reappeared, the Spanish flag came slowly down; the American flag went up, "full one hundred feet." The Spanish troops followed with the departing Governor. The band broke into "The Star-Spangled Banner" and the guns on the Hornet boomed.

The citizens of Pensacola, most of whom were Spanish, watched the scene in silence.

Rachel Jackson saw it all from the upper gallery. "Many burst into tears," she wrote. "I have never seen so many pale faces."

**Excerpted from The Mangrove Coast, Karl A. Bickel, Coward-McCann, 1943. Used by permission.*



Parade grounds, Fort Barrancas

Florida State Archives



When Statehood Came to Florida

Thomas W. Hagan*

Admission of Florida into the United States was a milestone in its colorful history, but neither Floridians nor representatives of the population of the then 26 states comprising the union were unanimous on the advisability of statehood.

Racked by controversy over the abolition of slavery in the Southern states, the Congress which admitted Florida nearly yielded to the pressure of the abolitionists to admit Iowa as a free state and reject Florida as a slave state.

The *Congressional Globe*, as the record of the 28th Congress was called, first indicated the matter was nearing final action in the House of Representatives on Tuesday, February 11, 1845. On that day David Levy, from St. Augustine, Territory of Florida delegate, presented “resolutions of the legislature of the territory of Florida, instructing their delegate to urge upon this house the admission of Florida and Iowa into the union of states.”

In Florida, agitation in favor of statehood dated from the 1830s. In February 1837, the territorial legislative council authorized an election to determine popular opinion. The election, held in April of that year, showed a majority in favor. Thereafter, the council authorized an election of members to a constitutional convention, which became known as the Convention of 1838. Meeting at St. Joseph in December 1838, it remained in session through January 1839.



Florida State Archives

The State Constitution Convention Monument, U.S. Highway number 98 at Port St. Joe, commemorates the assembly of the first Constitutional Convention of this State, 1838, and the birth of the State of Florida.

However, Floridians were tremulous and uncertain of the advantages which would accrue and fearful of forfeiting advantages they already had. Among the Library of Congress’ contemporary newspaper accounts, this excerpt from the *Florida Herald and Southern Democrat* of St. Augustine typifies the confusion: “The change of condition will bear hard upon us, but it will have its counterbalancing advantages—not the least of which is we shall have the right and privilege of protecting and securing our property, which is such an eyesore to certain Northern fanatics

**Thomas W. Hagan wrote this article, after doing research at the Library of Congress, while he was Washington correspondent for the Miami Daily News. He also worked as a reporter, assistant city editor, columnist and editorial writer at the News before becoming its editor.*

(allusion to Abolitionists).”

From another part of the state, what were intended to be soothing words lacked considerably in conviction. The *Pensacola Gazette* editorialized:

It is no uncommon thing for those opposed to state government to declare that all who are in its favor are office seekers. This, to say the least, is a little uncharitable. The offices are not so numerous, nor is the pay likely to be so liberal as to make them an object with the designing. But why this recrimination since it is everywhere agreed that it does not rest with us to decide the matter. No man’s opinion here, either for or against the measure, is of any consequence; it would not carry with it a feather’s weight. For our part, we are disposed to meet the crisis as it deserved, to make the most of the good it brings and make its evils as tolerable as may be.

In what we have said on this subject now and heretofore, there has been no attempt at giving a direction to public opinion in favor of state government for the very reason hinted at above; but is due to candor to say, that but for that reason, we would not hesitate to recommend the change with all the power of argument and persuasion of which we are master; for we verily believe that the present is the most propitious moment for entering the union. Become a state when we will, we shall have to struggle for a few years, but it is better to begin poor than rich.

For our part, we do see (or think we do, which is the same thing) that there is a proud satisfaction in being able to cast off the slough of territorial dependence and put on the robes of state government. We do see that the right of self government, the distinctive characteristic of freemen, is of more worth than the few thousands of dollars spent here by a distant government with the corrupting effect of encouraging idleness and sloth.

The congressional attitude was unveiled for the first time in the debate in the House February 11, 1845. An Ohioan, Representative Samuel F. Winton, apparently carrying the brunt of the abolitionists’ attack, said that by the limits it was proposed to give to Iowa, that state would contain three or four times as much population as Florida, and argued that it would

be safer to give political power in the form of representation to the West than to the South. His reason: though the spirit of disunion might exist in the North and in the South, it could never live in the West, for the interests of the West being inseparably connected with both, she would always hold them together.

Representative James E. Belser of Alabama differed. He did not believe that enlightened citizens of his district, which bordered Florida, looked on the admission of Florida as an attempt to preserve the balance of power between the free and slave states. If such had been their intention, would they have been found aiding in the passage of the measure for the occupation of Oregon, or to create the territory of Nebraska? No, they looked higher in their legislation. They looked to the entire grandeur; to the protection of its citizens; and to the maintenance of its character.

In the Treaty of 1819, the United States acquired Florida from Spain for \$5,000,000—which was never actually paid but was liquidated by the United States’ assumption of indemnities due United States citizens in Florida from Spain. Representative Belser alluded to a guaranty in that treaty to the territory “that it shall be incorporated into the union as soon as consistent with the principles of the federal constitution and admitted to all the rights and privileges of the citizens of the other states.”

Other reasons were given against admission of Florida—that Florida lacked the requisite number of inhabitants for admission and that a provision of the legislation would permit not one but two states of Florida.

After hearing them all, Delegate Levy got the floor and attempted to explain away one. By the same Treaty of 1819, he said, it was provided not that one territory and one people should be admitted into the union, but two territories and two peoples. For the economy and convenience of the government of the United States, Florida was organized into one territorial government, but it previously existed as two separate provinces of Spain and was delivered to the United States as two separate governments; and was in fact held for a year as such, until by the organization of the present territorial government it was consolidated into one.

Delegate Levy’s words were to be reechoed in later years, when north and south Florida talked of dividing the state. Moreover he was historically right.

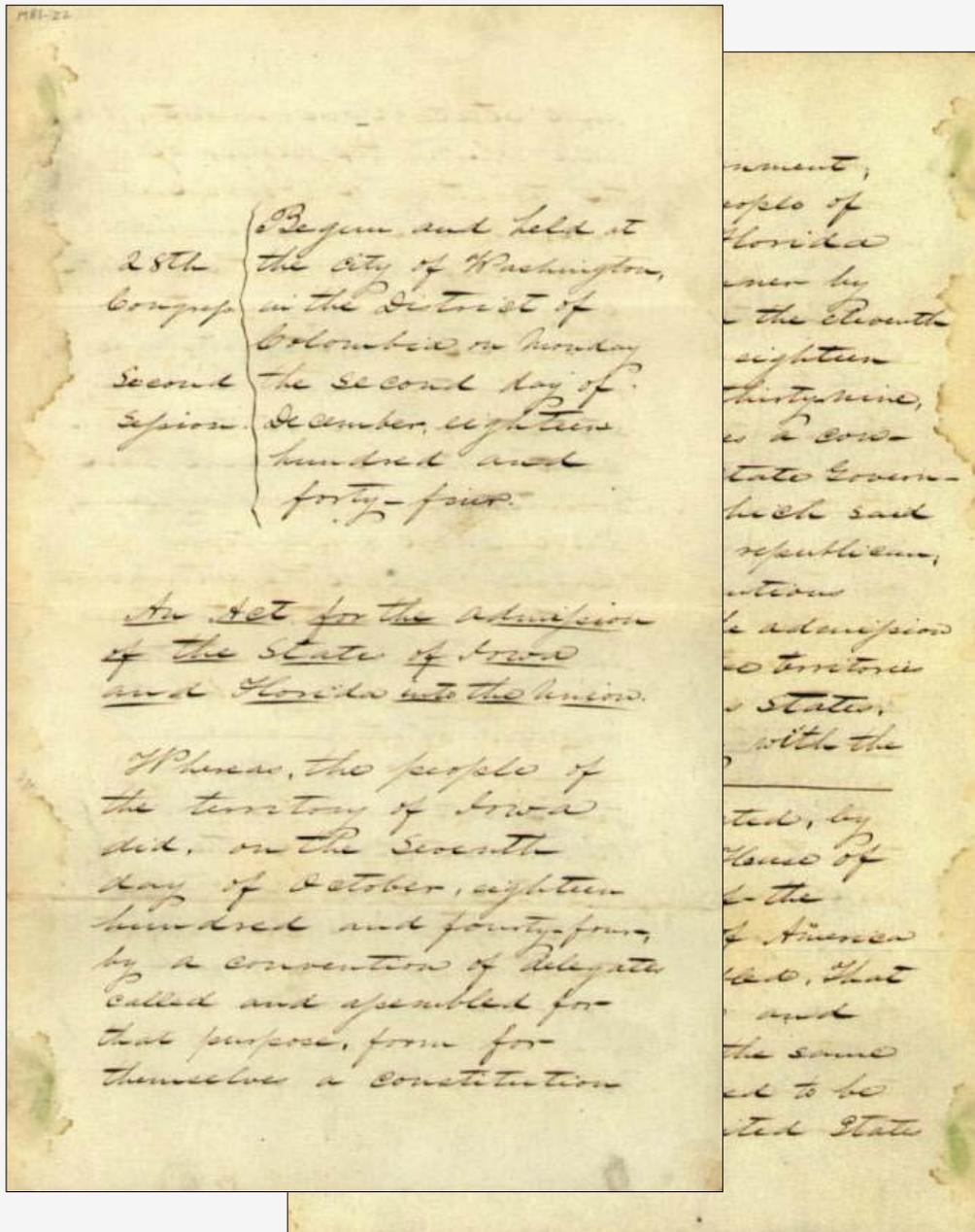
As far back as 1764, the Floridas were divided into two separate governments, East and West Florida, by a British edict; and when they came again into possession of Spain, they were held as two governments until ceded to the United States.

Delegate Levy added that Florida's geographical position and shape were such that one government would be exceedingly inconvenient. He held up a map of the United States, showing the long peninsula, and contended that the United States was bound in good faith to carry out the stipulations of the treaty. He argued it would be a "flagrant breach of trust as well as a cruel piece of injustice" to violate the treaty.

Nevertheless, a motion to strike out the provision carried, 86 to 57. The abolitionists had won a resounding victory.

Representative Freeman H. Morse of Maine then submitted an amendment that would require Florida to hold another constitutional convention and erase those provisions of the St. Joseph constitution which forbade the legislature passing a law for the abolition of slavery and the emigration of free African Americans.

Representative A. V. Brown of Tennessee immediately took issue. Did the gentleman from Maine desire to say to the Southern states that they should



An Act For The Admission of the States of Iowa and Florida Into The Union, 1845

Transcript (pages 1 & 2 of 7)

28th Congress, Second Session

Begun and held at the City of Washington in the District of Columbia on Monday the second day of December, eighteen hundred and forty-four

An Act for the Admission of the States of Iowa and Florida into the Union

Whereas, the people of the territory of Iowa did, on the Seventh day of October, eighteen hundred and forty-four, by a convention of delegates called and assembled for that purpose, form for themselves a constitution and State Government, and whereas the people of the territory of Florida did, in like manner by their delegates, on the eleventh day of January, eighteen hundred and thirty-nine, form for themselves a constitution and State Government, both of which said constitutions are republican, and said conventions having asked the admission of their respective territories into the Union as States, on equal footing with the original states: _____

Be it enacted, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the States of Iowa and Florida be and the same are hereby, declared to be States of the United States ...

emancipate their slaves and that such emancipated slaves should remain amongst them as citizens? He then contended that if that were so, it was for the good of the slaves that they should be removed to Liberia for they could not, as “free blacks,” remain in comfort where they had been held as slaves.

On the Morse amendment, Delegate Levy said that he was sorry to conclude that there were gentlemen on the floor who were willing to violate the Constitution of the United States by prescribing conditions other than “a republican form of government” upon territories presenting themselves for admission.

The House thereafter decided against the Morse amendment by a vote of 87 to 79.

Then Representative Preston King of New York moved to substitute a bill to admit Iowa and exclude Florida. On this the vote was 89 nays and 59 ayes.

The bill was finally passed by the House February 13, 1845, the vote being 145 to 46.

In Florida, the news of the House passage of the bill was generally hailed. The *Star of Florida*, published in Tallahassee, commented optimistically on February 28: “The bill for the admission of Florida into the union has passed the House by an unusually large vote, and been sent to the Senate where we entertain no doubt, it will be received with equal favor.”

The *Star* was correct in its surmise that the Senate would join the House in passing the bill, but the judiciary committee did not report until February 24th and—with the territory on tenterhooks—the Senate did not finally act until March 1st.

Senators generally looked with favor on the operations performed on the bill by the abolitionists in the House, but several, while willing to vote for it, objected to the slavery clauses in the St. Joseph constitution. Senator Albert S. White of Indiana saw no need for the prohibition against abolishing slavery. It was a question, he said, which should be left open to the people of the state to act upon through their legislature. However, as they would have the power to amend their constitution, he would forego voting against the bill. On the other hand, Senator Ambrose H. Sevier, of Arkansas, asked the senators why they did not object to a provision of Iowa’s constitution which denied African Americans the right to vote.

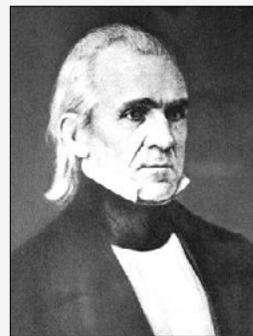
The Senate defeated 12 to 35, an amendment by Senator George Evans of Maine to require Florida to

revise the St. Joseph constitution by eliminating the prohibition against abolishing slavery and permitting emigration of free African Americans. It then passed the bill 36 to 9.

Enactment of the bill, of course, awaited the signature of President John Tyler. It was signed by him Monday, March 3, 1845, the last day of the 18th Congress. Incidentally, the act was one of the last of President Tyler’s presidency, for he was succeeded by James Polk the next day.

President Polk, in his inaugural address, referred to Iowa and Florida:

The inestimable value of our federal union is felt and acknowledged by all. By this system of united and confederated states, our people are permitted, collectively and individually, to seek their own happiness in their own way; and the consequences have been most auspicious. Since the union was formed, the number of states has increased from 13 to 28; two of these have taken their position as members of the confederacy within the last week. New communities and states are seeking protection under its aegis, and multitudes from the Old World are flocking to our shores to participate in its blessings. Beneath its benign sway, peace and prosperity prevail.



James Knox Polk

Perhaps Floridians took their keynote from Polk’s bland words. The *Star of Florida* was effulgent in an editorial dated March 14, 1845:

We congratulate our readers on the consummation of a measure so long and so ardently desired by a large portion of our citizens—to wit,

the admission of congress to a change of the weak and inefficient territorial government of Florida to a system better adapted to their condition and necessities.

A more propitious time than the present for the consummation of this change could scarcely be desired. The influence of a few true-hearted friends of the territory has done much within the last one or two years, to break down the old walls

of prejudice and party which kept our people asunder, and a better feeling has grown up among our statesmen and politicians, which presents an omen of better times. Florida united within herself, calmly pursuing her way without, passion or prejudice holds within her limits all the elements of agricultural and commercial greatness, and nothing but a suicidal policy can defeat her destiny.

The *Florida Herald and Southern Democrat*, perhaps prompted by attacks in Congress on the St. Joseph constitution, took occasion to defend it:

The constitution of Florida is one of the most democratic constitutions ever framed. It contained the accumulated wisdom of ages and is the embodiment of all the world has ever done for liberty. It secures the rights of man and has carefully provided redress of grievances. That there are defects in it, it would be folly to deny, yet such is the constitution of man, and so variant are human opinions that in the eyes of one whose very defects are beauties while to others they are hideous deformities. But the constitution of Florida will bear comparison with the whole 29, which constitute the fundamental law of the 28 republics of this union, and of the union itself.

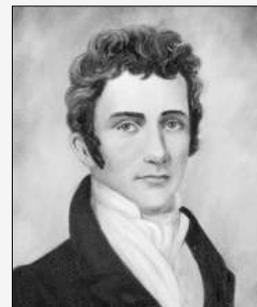
Although many of the constitution's provisions were standard for the day, in light of modern philosophies of government, the democracy of the constitution is open to question. It limited the franchise to white males more than 21 years old who were enrolled in the state militia, and while it provided the legislature, composed of 17 senators and 41 representatives, would be elected by popular vote, only one of the executive offices—the governor—was elected. The state treasurer, comptroller, attorney general, justices of the Supreme Court, and chancellors and judges of the circuit courts were appointed by the legislature. One representative to Congress was elected from the state at large by popular vote, but the two senators were elected by the legislature.

On statehood itself, the *Florida Herald and Southern Democrat* was somewhat lugubrious:

The terms upon which Florida has been admitted are not satisfactory to a portion of our

people; but we doubt not that the change will be less onerous than anticipated. Florida is a sovereign state now, and it is idle for those who have opposed the change to waste their time in unavailing regret, and it becomes the people to take such measures as will ensure to themselves the enactment and continuance of wise and beneficial laws to the maintenance of good order and the well-being of society.

Florida's last territorial governor, John Branch, acted promptly when he received official word of Florida's admission as a state. He issued a proclamation for the election of state officers and the organization of a state government. The proclamation, dated March 18, 1845, read in part:



John Branch

Whereas I have this day received official information that congress has approved the constitution of the state of Florida, and provided for admission of the state of Florida ... now therefore ... I do hereby make proclamation thereof; and I do enjoin and direct the several clerks of the county courts of this territory to issue an order appointing inspectors of elections and other officers to hold elections, and make returns of the said elections, according to the requirements ... to the end that no difficulties or embarrassments may ensue in the organization of the government of the state of Florida.

The Democratic convention, assembling at the Madison County courthouse, April 14, 1845, nominated William D. Moseley, a native of North Carolina, for first governor of the state, and Territorial Delegate Levy for first representative of the state in Congress. Moseley, a resident of Jefferson County, was a member of the Territorial Senate and, according to the *St. Augustine News*, “represented to be a gentleman of great worth and intelligence.”

The Whigs, meeting at Tallahassee a week later, nominated an ex-territorial governor, R. K. Call, for first governor of the state, and another politico



Richard K. Call

named Putnam for first representative.

With every prospect of reelection to Congress, Levy contented himself recounting the progress of the territory leading up to its admission. With obvious pride in his stewardship as a territorial delegate, he told Floridians:

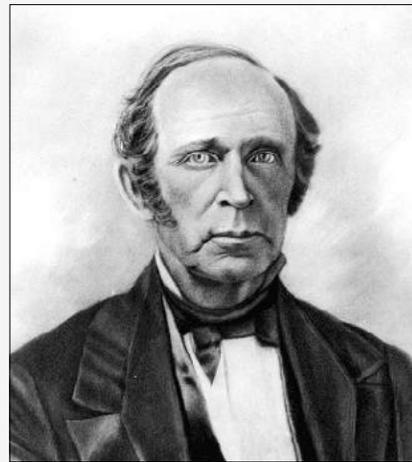
And, finally, the territory I represented was admitted upon a footing of equality into the confederacy of free American states, and now forms a sovereign member of the union. In connection with our admission into the union, we acquire besides the two townships of land heretofore granted for a university, two additional townships for similar purposes; one of the universities to be established west of the Suwannee river and the other east of that river. Also eight entire sections of land for the use of a seat of government. Also five per centum of the net proceeds of the sales of public lands in Florida for the education and absolute grant of the 16th sections, or other lands equivalent thereto for the use of schools. Also a half a million acres, to be selected in bodies of 320 acres for purposes of internal improvement.

The leaders of the old parties sought to rally and organize their forces as to preserve their accustomed influence under the new statehood. The *Star of Florida*, striving to obtain at least editorial objectivity, said:

The inquiry is already upon everybody's tongue: Who is to be governor? Who are to be the senators, judges, etc....As the *Star* is neither the organ or the tool of any party, but in a position to act, independently, for the good and the welfare of all the Floridas, we shall canvass the pretensions of the individuals who may be presented to the popular support and shall endeavor to select those who are most deserving of the people, without any regard to their old party associations...We may also hope, from present indications of public feeling, that the first canvass for important officers under the state government will be a very peaceful and

quiet one. There will be no strife or excitement; the people seem to have made up their minds to select the best men, and organize the government with a view to general results, and not for the benefit of any little clique or sectional interest.

The results of the historic election of May 26, 1845, seemed never to have been in doubt. They threw the new state into the ranks of the national Democratic Party. Once the votes were counted—a lengthy process in those days—Florida had a Democratic governor, a Democratic representative, a Democratic legislature, and the prospect of two Democratic senators in Congress.



William Dunn Moseley

William D. Moseley was to be the first state governor and Levy the first representative. However, the latter was fated to return to Congress not as a representative but as a senator, elected by the legislature that summer. He took his seat in the Senate on December 1, 1845, his term to expire—as determined by lot—March 3, 1851. He presented credentials as “David Levy,” but on January 12, 1846, in conformity with a special act of the Florida legislature, the Senate ordered the surname “Yulee,” his grandfather's surname, added to his name on the official records. Yulee's colleague in the Senate was James D. Westcott, Jr., of Tallahassee, who took his seat December 1, 1845, with a term to expire March 3, 1849. The state's first representative was Edward C. Cabell of Tallahassee, who served only until January 24, 1846. His successor was William H. Brockenbrough of Tallahassee, who had successfully contested his election. Cabell however, returned as a representative on March 4, 1847.

Approach of the inauguration of Moseley stirred Floridians to full realization of the advent of state government. The *Star of Florida*, issue of Friday, June 20, 1845, commented:

Monday next will be a great day for the people of Florida. On that day, for the first time, will the flag of our independent sovereignty float from the battlements of their capitol.

‘And long may it wave, o’re the land of the free and the home of the brave.’

It is an occasion we hope, in which all parties will be found willing to unite, in yielding an accustomed tribute of respect to the people’s choice and yielding him in advance an earnest of approval and support in all honest and sincere endeavors to advance the welfare of the state.

One of the coincidences of history, the death of Andrew Jackson, the man most responsible for Florida’s acquisition by the United States, dampened the fervor of the celebration of Moseley’s inauguration.

Moseley’s inaugural address was noted chiefly for its criticism of over-centralization of government,

with documented evidence of the sovereignty of the new state as intended by the United States constitution. With the florid eloquence of the day, he concluded:

I approach with a trembling solicitude the discharge of the duties assigned to me, relying upon your support in the discharge of them, whenever my official conduct may commend itself to your favorable consideration; and invoking the aid of the Father of the universe in our attempt at self government, that He would be in the midst of our councils, guiding and directing them for the common good; and appealing to Him for the sincerity of my motives and the rectitude of my intentions in the performance of my duty, to my country and myself; I take upon me the high, responsible and solemn obligations enjoined by the constitution, with the anxious which [sic] and fervent hope that my administration may be as successful, in promoting the best interest of our beloved country, as my fellow-citizens have been kind, indulgent, generous and confiding.

Florida’s Capitol as it appeared between 1845, when it was completed, and 1891, when the cupola was added.



Florida State Archives



The Counties

Counties in Florida date from July 21, 1821, when General Andrew Jackson, as Military Governor, divided East and West Florida into counties by this ordinance:

All the country lying between the Perdido and Suwaney rivers, with all the islands therein, shall form one county to be called Escambia.

All the country lying east of the river Suwaney and every part of the ceded territories, not designated as belonging to the former county, shall form a county to be called St. Johns.

A year later, on August 12, 1822, the Territorial Council provided for four counties, adding Jackson and Duval to Escambia and St. Johns, with these boundaries set forth in the act:

... in West Florida, all that part of the Territory west of the Choctohacha river, shall constitute the County of Escambia—all that part of the Territory east of the said river to the Suwaney river shall constitute another county, to be called Jackson—and that part of East Florida lying north of the river St. Johns, and north of a line; commencing at a place called Cowford, on said river, and terminating at the mouth of the Suwaney river, shall constitute a county by the name of Duval, and all the remaining portion of East Florida shall be constituted a county by the name of St. Johns.

The “place called Cowford” now is known as Jacksonville.

Other counties were created through the years until the last of the present 67, Gilchrist, was estab-

lished December 4, 1925. Counties may be formed at the will of the Legislature.

County Seat Location and Removal

The first seat of county government, or location of the courthouse, is usually specified in the law creating a new county. Counties generally retain the original seat but there have been removals.

The investment of tax dollars in a courthouse, jail, and similar physical properties tends to anchor the seat of county government. In some counties, pressure for change has been eased by the establishment of branches offering some or all of the courthouse services to the public.

At an election called by the county commission upon the petition of one-third of qualified voters, a county seat may be changed by that county’s voters who are also taxpayers on real or personal property in the county.

Names of places for the county seat then may be placed in nomination, each by 25 electors. These names are listed alphabetically on the ballot, with space provided for a write-in choice. The place receiving a majority of all the votes cast, in two elections if necessary, becomes the county seat for the next 10 years—20 if a new, masonry courthouse is built.

Gulf County voted on May 26, 1964, to change its seat of government from Wewahitchka to Port St. Joe. The referendum saw 2,410 votes cast for Port St. Joe; 1,849 for Wewahitchka.

Collier County government offices moved into a new courthouse in East Naples on September 30, 1962, completing a transfer from Everglades which



Florida State Archives

Dedication of the Dade County courthouse, Miami, 1914.

began with elections in 1959. East Naples had been the choice of Collier’s voters in a runoff election with Everglades. Immokalee and Naples were eliminated in the first balloting.

Washington County shifted its governmental center from Vernon to Chipley in 1927. (Vernon generally is believed to have derived its name from George Washington’s Mount Vernon, but there are those who say the name was transferred from a place in France.) This was not, however, the first removal for Washington’s seat of government. The original courthouse was located at Moss Hill, the next at Arcadia, and then Vernon.

Dade County’s first seat of government was at Indian Key, being legally established there on Feb-

ruary 4, 1836. It was moved to Miami on March 9, 1844, transferred to Juno on February 19, 1889, and reclaimed by Miami at the first legal opportunity 10 years later.

The Lost Counties

Fayette County confounds those who say that counties, once born, never die in Florida. Fayette was born in 1832 and died in 1834, the only county to pass completely out of existence.

Presumably named for the Marquis de Lafayette, who died in the same year as the county, Fayette filled the big “V” of the converging Chipola and Apalachicola Rivers with the Alabama/Georgia boundary as the cross bar. Fayette was reincorporated in Jackson County.

New River, Benton, and Mosquito have disappeared from the roster of Florida counties, but only through change of name. Unlike Fayette, they live today through their direct descendants. New River has become Baker and Bradford, Benton returned to its original designation of Hernando, and Mosquito is now Orange after almost having been named Leigh Read.

Bloxham existed as a county on paper only, the voters refusing to approve its establishment. There might have been a Call County but for a gubernatorial veto. St. Lucie gave way to Brevard but the name was revived a half century later for a new county.

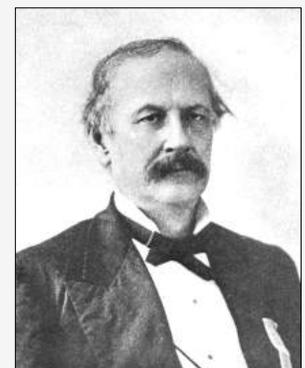
Origin of County Names

Note on county names: The date and numerical order of founding of counties were determined by Judge J. B. Whitfield, late Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court, after a study of statutes and other records.

Alachua—The ninth county, established December 29, 1824. The name can be traced to 1680 when a Spanish ranch of the name was hereabouts. There are two versions of the derivation, each with the same meaning. La (Spanish for “the”) and Chua (Timucuan for “sink”) is one and luchuwa (Seminole-Creek for “jug”) is the other. The “sink” or the “jug” was a large chasm in the earth about two and a half miles northwest of the present site of Gainesville. Seat: Gainesville.

Baker—The 38th county, established February 8, 1861. Named for James McNair Baker (1822–92), Confederate States Senator and Judge of the Fourth Judicial District in Florida. Seat: Macclenny.

Bay—The 49th county, established April 24, 1913. Named for St. Andrews Bay, on which the county borders. Seat: Panama City.



James M. Baker



Captain Richard H. Bradford

Bradford—The 36th county, established December 21, 1858, as New River County. Named for Capt. Richard Bradford, the first Florida officer killed in the Civil War. He died in the Battle of Santa Rosa Island October 9, 1861, and the county was given his name on December 6, 1861. *Seat: Starke.*

Brevard—The 25th county, established March 14, 1844. Named for Theodore Washington Brevard (1804–77), a North Carolinian who came to Florida in 1847 and later became State Comptroller (1853–61). The county was originally named St. Lucie, but the name was changed to Brevard on January 6, 1855. St. Lucie was restored to the map in 1905 when another county was created and given the name. *Seat: Titusville.*

Broward—The 51st county, established April 30, 1915. Named for Napoleon B. Broward, who, as Governor of Florida from 1905 to 1909, played a leading part in the draining of the Everglades. Earlier, he was the owner of a steam tug, *The Three Friends*, which he commanded to elude both U.S. and Spanish authorities and to supply war materials to Cuban revolutionaries. He had a stormy political career. *Seat: Fort Lauderdale.*



John C. Calhoun

Calhoun—The 20th county, established January 26, 1838. Named for John C. Calhoun, the South Carolina senator who was the foremost proponent of the doctrine of states' rights. *Seat: Blountstown.*

Charlotte—The 57th county, established April 23, 1921. Named for the body of water, Charlotte Harbor. Some authorities say Charlotte is a corruption of 'Carlos,' in turn a corruption of 'Calusa,' the name of the Indian tribe. 'Calos' appears on Le Moyne's map of 1565 (T. De Bry 1591), with the name applied to the southern part of the Florida peninsula. In the free-handed way of mapmakers, the English surveyors who followed the Spanish appropriated and anglicized the name as a tribute to their queen, Charlotte Sophia, wife of King George III. The Jeffreys map of 1775 shows Charlotte Harbour, formerly Carlos Bay. *Seat: Punta Gorda.*

Citrus—The 44th county, established June 2, 1887. Named as a tribute to Florida's main agricultural product. *Seat: Inverness.*



Barron G. Collier

Clay—The 37th county, established December 31, 1858. Named for Kentucky's Henry Clay, Secretary of State under John Quincy Adams and author of the saying "I would rather be right than be president." *Seat: Green Cove Springs.*

Collier—The 62nd county, established May 8, 1923. Named for Barron G. Collier, one of the leading developers of the southern part of the state and the owner of extensive land holdings in this area. Born in Memphis, Tenn., March 23, 1873, he graduated from Oglethorpe University and entered the advertising business in 1890. He became one of the first great advertising tycoons, particularly in "car cards" on New York streetcars, subways, and elevated trains. *Seat: Naples.*

Columbia—The 16th county, established February 4, 1832. Named for the poetical name of the United States, the name that was formed from Columbus, the discoverer of America. *Seat: Lake City.*

Dade—*See Miami-Dade*

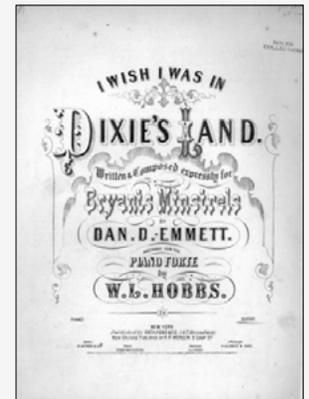
DeSoto—The 42nd county, established May 19, 1887. This is one of two counties in Florida bearing parts of the name of the Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto with Hernando being the other—an interesting circumstance. Divided on April 23, 1921, into four additional counties: Charlotte, Glades, Hardee, and Highlands. *Seat: Arcadia.*



Hernando de Soto

Dixie—The 59th county, established April 25, 1921. Named for the lyric name for the South. *Seat: Cross City.*

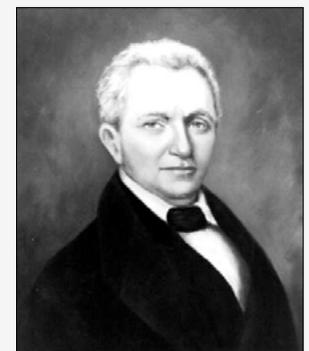
Duval—The fourth county, established August 12, 1822. Named for William Pope DuVal, first Territorial Governor of Florida. DuVal was born at Mount Comfort, near Richmond, Va., in 1784, the son of William and Ann (Pope) DuVal. DuVal was of French Huguenot forebears. His father was associated, as a lawyer, with Patrick Henry in the British debt cases, and as a major of riflemen, with the capture of a British vessel becalmed in the James River during the Revolution. Young DuVal left home at the age of 14 for the Kentucky frontier, settling in Bardstown to study law. He was admitted to the bar at 19. He served as a captain in the mounted rangers in 1812 and as Kentucky representative to the Thirteenth Congress (1813–15). He came to Florida as a territorial judge, having been appointed by President Monroe upon the recommendation of DuVal’s friend John C. Calhoun, then Secretary of War. He served about a month in St. Augustine. He was appointed governor of the Florida territory in 1822 by President Monroe; he was reappointed by Presidents Adams and Jackson. His administration was notable for the confidence that he enjoyed with the Indians. The capital was established at Tallahassee during his tenure. He was a friend of Washington Irving, who wrote of him in “Ralph Ringwood.” James K. Paulding also wrote of him as “Nimrod Wildlife.” DuVal uniformly signed himself as DuVal, though the name usually appears in print as Duval. He moved to Texas in 1848, and Texas was his home when he died on March 18, 1854, in Washington, D.C. He was buried in the Congressional Cemetery. *Seat: Jacksonville.*



U. S. Library of Congress Archives

Dixie's Land sheet music

Escambia—Escambia shares with St. Johns the distinction of being one of the first two counties, each having been established July 21, 1821. The Escambia River divides Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. Simpson (1956) reports the river was shown on a 1693 map as the Río de Jovenazo, apparently honoring the Duke of Jovenazo. It also was referred to at the same time as the Pensacola River. Simpson goes on to say that while the word Escambia might be derived from the Spanish *cambiar* “to exchange or barter ... it more likely has an Indian origin.” Justification for this belief, he continues, “is afforded by the existence in Apalachee during the mission period of an Indian village called San Cosmo y San Damian de Escambé (or Scambé). It is possible that the prefixed ‘E’ represents the Spanish pronunciation of the letter ‘S’ when before a consonant.” *Seat: Pensacola.*



William P. Duval



Henry M. Flagler

Flagler—The 53rd county, established April 28, 1917. Named for Henry Morrison Flagler, one of the two Henrys—the other being Henry B. Plant—who raced to open the east and west coasts of Florida by building railroads and hotels and operating steamships and land development companies. Flagler (1830–1913) lived two lives, the first as a Northern businessman and associate of John D. Rockefeller in the Standard Oil Company, and the second as a promoter of Florida’s eastern coast. The *Dictionary of American Biography* (1964) says that Flagler, “brought up in poverty and trained in the stern Rockefeller school,” was a grim, shrewd, rather ruthless man until he was 55. Thereafter, in Florida, he continued to work, but with a new attitude toward humanity. “He thoroughly enjoyed his role of builder of a state, and seemed to feel a sense of personal responsibility for every settler on his railroads, and for every one of his many employees,” reports the dictionary. “They, in turn, repaid him with admiration and loyalty.” Flagler first visited Florida in 1883. Good businessman that he was, even on a holiday, he believed full advantage was not being taken of Florida’s natural assets. He thought the state needed better transportation and hotel facilities, and he set about providing these for the East Coast. His first project was building the Ponce de León Hotel in St. Augustine, formally opened January 10, 1888. He bought the rickety, narrow-gauge Jacksonville, St. Augustine, and Halifax River Railroad on December 31, 1885. Flagler’s Florida East Coast Railway paced the building of a chain of hotels down the coast until Key West was officially reached on January 22, 1912. The Overseas Highway still goes to Key West over some of the bridges and viaducts constructed for Flagler’s railroad. Building of the railroad brought Flagler more than 1.5 million acres of state land, and he vigorously sought settlers, making concessions including free seed and reduced freight rates to encourage colonizing, which in turn would produce revenue for the railroad. Flagler died May 20, 1913. *Seat: Bunnell.*



James Gadsden

Franklin—The 17th county, established February 8, 1832. Named for Benjamin Franklin. *Seat: Apalachicola.*

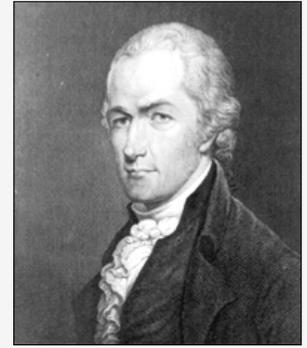
Gadsden—The fifth county, established June 24, 1823. Named for James Gadsden (1788–1858), a native of Charleston, S.C., and a diplomat who served as aide-de-camp to Gen. Andrew Jackson during the 1818 campaign in Florida. Why the Territorial Council named the county for Gadsden is not known. He had been an associate of Jackson, however, and he had been commissioned to negotiate with the Indians for their removal either to then-remote peninsular Florida or completely out of the territory. Gadsden distinguished himself nationally for what is known now as the Gadsden Purchase, which occurred long after the naming of the Florida county. As an emissary from President Franklin Pierce in 1853, Gadsden negotiated a boundary dispute with Mexico that resulted in American acquisition of 27,640 square miles, now parts of New Mexico and Arizona, for \$10 million. For a short time, until the creation of Leon County, Gadsden was the seat of territorial government. *Seat: Quincy.*



Albert W. Gilchrist

Gilchrist—The 67th county, established December 4, 1925. Named for Albert Waller Gilchrist, the 20th Governor (January 5, 1909–January 7, 1913). The legislature was about to create a new county to be known as

Melon when news came that former Governor Gilchrist was dying in a New York hospital. By amendment in floor consideration, Gilchrist was substituted for Melon. Gilchrist was a descendant of the grandfathers of both George Washington and James Madison. A civil engineer, land developer, and orange grower of Punta Gorda, he was a member of the House of Representatives from De Soto County for the sessions of 1893–95 and 1903–05 and served as the Speaker in 1905. A bachelor, he provided money in his will to supply Halloween treats for the children of Punta Gorda. This thoughtfulness was but one of Gilchrist’s beneficences; his entire estate of a half-million dollars went to charities. *Seat: Trenton.*



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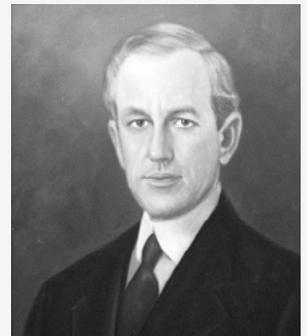
Alexander Hamilton

Glades—The 58th county, established April 23, 1921. Named for the Everglades, of which the county forms a part. *Seat: Moore Haven.*

Gulf—The 66th county, established June 6, 1925. Named for the Gulf of Mexico, which washes the southern shore of the county. *Seat: Port St. Joe.*

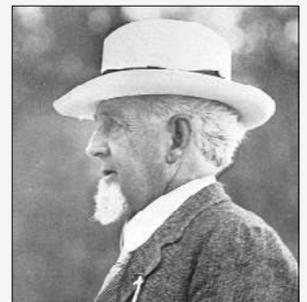
Hamilton—The 15th county, established December 26, 1827. Named for Alexander Hamilton, embattled conservative and first U.S. Secretary of the Treasury. *Seat: Jasper.*

Hardee—The 55th county, established April 23, 1921. One of four counties—Highlands, Charlotte, and Glades being the others—created in a massive division of DeSoto County. Named for Cary Augustus Hardee, who was in his first year as Governor when DeSoto was divided. Plowden (1929) reports those supporting a new county had first proposed calling it Seminole, but this name went to another new county. Later, Cherokee was suggested, along with Goolsby and Wauchula. When the bill was introduced, however, it bore the name of Hardee. Perhaps the promoters of county division wanted to make the idea more palatable to a Governor who possessed veto power. Born in Taylor County, Cary Hardee taught school and practiced law in Live Oak. He served as State Attorney and then was elected to the House of Representatives. His political genius may be evidenced by his selection as Speaker before he took the oath as a member of the House. He served two consecutive terms as Speaker, another rare happening, in 1915 and 1917. In later years, he was better known as a banker than as a lawyer. He was defeated for the Democratic nomination for Governor in 1932. He died in Live Oak on November 21, 1957. *Seat: Wauchula.*



Cary A. Hardee

Hendry—The 63rd county, established May 11, 1923. This name honors Capt. Francis Asbury Hendry, whose fascinating history is recited in *Hendry County’s Golden Anniversary Issue of the Clewiston News*, July 12, 1973. Hendry married at 19 and settled near Fort Meade to raise cattle. With the outbreak of the Second Seminole War, he became a dispatch bearer, and while riding to Fort Harvie (afterward Fort Myers), he became enchanted with the lands along the Caloosahatchee River. During the Civil War, he served the Confederacy as captain of a cavalry troop he recruited in Polk County. His admiration for Gen. Robert E. Lee later inspired him to give Lee’s name to a new county he was instrumental in creating in 1887. After the war he moved the family home to the Caloosahatchee Valley, where



Francis Asbury Hendry

cattle could easily be moved to Punta Rassa for shipment to Cuba. He platted the town site he called LaBelle after his daughters Laura and Belle. He was elected state senator from Monroe County, which then encompassed all of the present Lee, Hendry, and Collier counties. He promoted the incorporation of Fort Myers and served as one of its first city councilmen. Similarly, he promoted the creation of Lee County, served as a member of its first county commission, and then served six terms as state representative. He pioneered the upgrading of Florida cattle by purchasing purebreds and imported grass to improve herds and pastures. With his herd containing as many as 50,000 head at one time, he was known as the “Cattle King of South Florida.” He died February 12, 1917, his life having spanned a monumental epoch in Florida’s history. *Seat: LaBelle.*



Engraving by John Sartain

Hernando de Soto

Hernando—The 22nd county, established February 24, 1843. Named for the Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto. Why his first name was chosen for the county is a curiosity inasmuch as his last name was selected for the county seat. De Soto’s last name finally achieved county status in 1887, thus giving Florida two counties named for the same person. The name of the county seat was changed from DeSoto to Brooksville. Even the name of the county was briefly lost; it was changed to Benton on March 6, 1844, to honor Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri, a U.S. senator whose sponsorship of the Armed Occupation Act of 1842 won favor among Floridians eager to evict the Indians. Benton’s moderation during the Missouri Compromise caused extremists in the Legislature to switch the name back on December 24, 1850. *Seat: Brooksville.*

Highlands—The 56th county, established April 23, 1921. The name suggests the pleasant hilliness of the area. *Seat: Sebring.*



Pompeo Girolamo Batoni

Earl of Hillsborough

Hillsborough—The 18th county, established January 25, 1834. Named for Wills Hill, the Earl of Hillsborough (1718–93), an Irish peer who in 1768 became Secretary of State for the colonies. Lord Hillsborough’s office was responsible for amassing knowledge about England’s possessions overseas. Those agents dispatched in Lord Hillsborough’s name in turn affixed that name to places in Florida and elsewhere. Hillsborough was especially curious about Florida since he had received a large grant of land here, so he sent Bernard Romans, a surveyor and naturalist, to examine the territory’s east and west coasts. Romans regarded the Bay of Tampa exceptionally well suited to harbor a large fleet of heavy ships, with the surrounding countryside capable of furnishing timber and water. James Grant Forbes, who navigated the waters of the west coast in 1803, confirmed Romans’ opinion, writing (Forbes 1821; reprint 1964) that “Espiritu Santo, Tampa or Hillsborough Bay is the most spacious bay on the west coast of the peninsula . . . it may be justly considered the key to navigation of the British and Spanish islands to the leeward. . . .” Hillsborough appeared on some maps of the period as Hillsboro, and the shortened version may be regarded as a contraction. Lord Hillsborough, by then the first Marquis of Downshire, never saw his Florida domain. In 1956, however, a direct descendant, Arthur Wills Percy Wellington Blundell Trumbell Sandys Hills, Marquis of Downshire and Earl of Hillsborough, and his Marchioness, Maureen, were Tampa’s distinguished guests during the Gasparilla festival. *Seat: Tampa.*

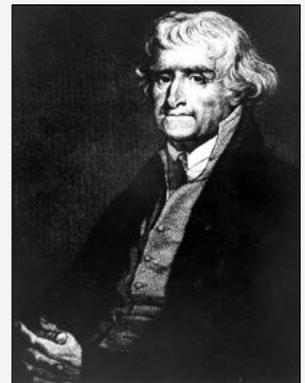
Holmes—The 27th county, established January 8, 1848. Named for Holmes Creek, the eastern boundary of the county (Utley 1908). The creek was in turn named for Holmes Valley, which received its name “either from an Indian chieftain who had been given the English name of Holmes or else from one Thomas J. Holmes, who settled in that vicinity from North Carolina about 1830 or 1834.” Simpson (1956) says the belief the name derived from that of an early white settler cannot be substantiated. After Andrew Jackson occupied Spanish Pensacola in 1818, he sent a raiding party on a sweep along the Choctawhatchee River. During this raid, the troops came upon and killed the halfbreed Indian known as Holmes. Holmes was one of the so-called “Red Sticks,” the disaffected Muskogee or Creeks who fled to Florida from Alabama after the Creek War of 1813–14 (American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. 1, 1789–1819). The first seat of Holmes County was at Hewett’s Bluff, known later as Bear Pen. Cerro Gordon and Westville also served as the courthouse site before Bonifay was finally selected in 1905. *Seat: Bonifay.*



Andrew Jackson

Indian River—The 65th county, established May 30, 1925. Named for the Indian River, which flows through it. *Seat: Vero Beach.*

Jackson—The third county, established August 12, 1822. Named for Andrew Jackson, who had been U.S. Commissioner and Governor of the Territories of East and West Florida and who later became the seventh President of the United States and the symbol of an emergent democracy. *Seat: Marianna.*



Thomas Jefferson

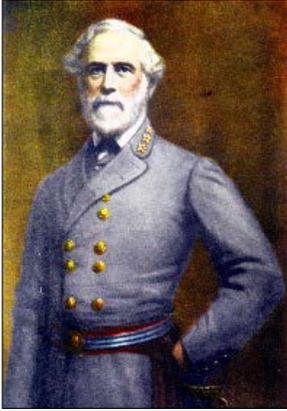
Jefferson—The 13th county, established January 20, 1827. Named for Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States, who had died on July 4th of the preceding year. *Seat: Monticello.*

Lafayette—The 33rd county, established December 23, 1856. Named for the Marquis de Lafayette, 1757–1834. Lafayette pleaded the cause of American independence in France, lent both his prestige and military knowledge to the American Revolutionary Army by serving as a major general, and spent about \$200,000 of his private fortune on behalf of the colonies. After his imprisonment and the confiscation of his estates during the French Reign of Terror, Lafayette looked to the United States to save his family from poverty. After other gifts of money and land, Congress in December 1824 appropriated \$200,000 and a grant of a township of land anywhere in the unsold public domain. President Monroe was hopeful that Lafayette, then in the United States, would become a resident of Florida. “The General himself was keenly interested in the proposition, for while in Washington, he had come under the magnetic spell of Richard Keith Call, Florida’s representative and her most ardent champion. A strong friendship grew up between the two men and before they separated, Lafayette halfway promised to visit Florida” (Hanna 1932). Although Lafayette did choose a township in Florida at Tallahassee, the visit never was to be. Only once was a Lafayette in Florida; in 1850 Edmond de Lafayette and Ferdinand de Lasteyrie, grandsons of the marquis, visited the United States and conferred with their American land agent. The last of the Lafayette land was sold in 1855, although this sale could have been accomplished years earlier if the marquis had not wished to experiment with cultivating (by free labor) vineyards, olive groves, mulberry trees, and silkworms. Some 50 to 60 Normans unsuccessfully



Engraving by George E. Perine

Marquis de Lafayette



Robert E. Lee

tried to reproduce the agriculture of the Old World on a bluff overlooking Lake Lafayette. The Lafayette Grant, as the township is known, is formally Township 1 North, Range 1 East, bounded in today's Tallahassee by Meridian Road on the west, approximately Gaines Street on the south and extends six miles to the east and six miles to the north. The popularity of Lafayette in the United States was such that 40 places were named for him. *Seat: Mayo.*

Lake—The 43rd county, established May 27, 1887, being taken from Orange and Sumter counties, was named for the large number of lakes within its boundaries. When lakes were counted by the state in 1969, Lake County had 505 lakes, either named or unnamed, of 10 acres or more. *Seat: Tavares.*

Lee—The 41st county, established May 13, 1887. Named for Gen. Robert E. Lee. *See Hendry. Seat: Fort Myers.*

Leon—The seventh county, established December 29, 1824. Named for Juan Ponce de León, the Spanish explorer who gave Florida its name. *Seat: Tallahassee.*



Juan Ponce de Leon

Levy—The 26th county, established March 10, 1845. Named for David Levy Yulee, whose career and background are as Nixon Smiley once said in the *Miami Herald*, “almost too improbable for fiction.” Yulee’s father, Moses, was born in a Moroccan harem. Moses’ mother, Rachel Levy, was the beautiful daughter of a Jewish physician living in England. She was on an English ship bound for the West Indies when captured by Barbary pirates. As a young virgin, Rachel was a prize for the slave market in Fez, where she was bought for Jacoub ben Youli, grand vizier to the sultan of Morocco. A revolution enabled Rachel and her small son Moses to escape to Gibraltar. In time Moses took his mother and a sister to St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands. Moses married Hannah Abendanone and in 1811 she gave birth to a son named David. When David was nine he was sent to school in Virginia and his parents moved to Florida, settling near Micanopy. David was as sharp and personable as his father, and he progressed rapidly. He became a member of Florida’s first Constitutional Convention in 1838–39, and in 1841 he was elected territorial delegate to the U.S. Congress. After Florida was admitted to statehood in 1845, he became the first U.S. Senator. He persuaded the legislature to change his name from David Levy to David Levy Yulee. A short time afterward, he married the daughter of Gov. Charles Wickliffe of Kentucky. Yulee developed a 5,000-acre plantation called Margarita, Spanish for “pearl,” on the Homosassa River. His mansion there was burned by Union troops, but his sugar mill escaped. He headed a group that developed railroads, and he fought off the efforts of the Confederate government to take up some of his rails to make connections more useful to the war effort. Yulee was imprisoned at Fort Pulaski, Ga., after the Civil War and was accused of aiding the flight of President Jefferson Davis and the Confederate cabinet. After release by order of President Grant, Yulee lived in Washington with a married daughter and died in New York in 1886. The name of the county was not changed when he changed his name, so Yulee has both a county—Levy—and a community—Yulee, in Nassau County—with his name. *Seat: Bronson.*



David Levy Yulee

Liberty—The 32nd county, established December 15, 1855. Named for the great objective of the people who founded and built the United States. *Seat: Bristol.*

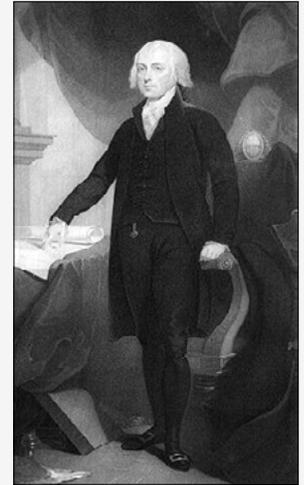
Madison—The 14th county, established December 26, 1827. Named for President James Madison. This county drew many of its settlers from Virginia. Carved from Jefferson County, Madison originally included the present counties of Taylor, Lafayette, and Dixie. San Pedro, on the Bellamy Road about 10 miles south of the present city of Madison, was the first county seat. The first courthouse consisted of a one-room log building with a big open fireplace in the south end. The county had perhaps 250 inhabitants, white and black. Carlton Smith, the Madison County historian, wrote that if Christopher Edwards, the first sheriff, found it necessary to travel to Oldtown, in the southeastern part of the county, he would have to go on horseback 15 miles to Charles' Ferry, then by riverboat to Fort Fanning, then on horseback or foot for the remaining 6 or 8 miles to Oldtown. Justice in those days relied upon the people of the community whenever immediate action was required. *Seat: Madison.*

Manatee—The 31st county, established January 9, 1855. Named for Florida's manatees, or sea cows, an endangered species. Manatees were once found as far north as the Carolinas and all around the Gulf of Mexico. Now they survive only in isolated pockets in Florida, with man their only natural enemy. When Columbus thought he saw mermaids in 1492, he likely had sighted manatees. Science has preserved a vestige of the mermaid legend—a nineteenth-century taxonomist gave the order the scientific name of Sirenia for the mythological sirens. The common name manatee came from the Spanish *manati*. Manatees eat submerged aquatic plants. They usually stay submerged about five minutes but will surface once a minute when swimming because of their need for oxygen. The typical manatee is 10 feet long and weighs 1,000 pounds. They are both friendly and harmless. The reproduction rate of one calf for each adult female every three years explains the reason why the manatee has been unable to cope with man through loss of feeding areas, by hunting, and through injury resulting from the propellers of powerboats. *Seat: Bradenton.*

Marion—The 24th county, established March 14, 1844. Named for Gen. Francis Marion, the Swamp Fox of the Revolutionary War. This county drew many of its early settlers from South Carolina, the hero's native state. *Seat: Ocala.*

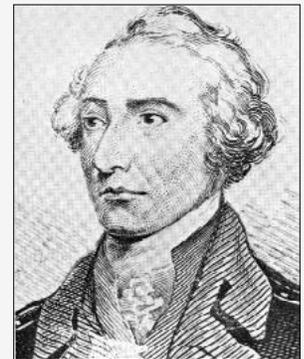
Martin—The 64th county, established May 30, 1925. Named for John W. Martin, Governor at the time. The belief is that the promoters insured themselves against a gubernatorial veto by giving the proposed new county the name of the chief executive. Martin was three times Mayor of Jacksonville and the Governor in 1925–29. *Seat: Stuart.*

Miami-Dade—The 19th county, established February 4, 1836. Named for Maj. Francis Langhorne Dade, U.S. Army, the Virginian commanding a detachment of 110 men ambushed and slaughtered near the present site of Bushnell by Seminoles, December 28, 1835. The column from Fort Brooke (Tampa) was on its way to relieve Fort King (Ocala). Only three soldiers survived. When news reached Tal-



Library of Congress

James Madison



General Francis Marion



John Martin



James Monroe

lahassee of the Dade Massacre, the territory’s Legislative Council inserted Dade’s name in a bill that was pending to create a new county. A curiosity among Florida maps is one from 1838 which shows Dade County between Alachua and Hillsborough counties. Apparently a northern cartographer assumed that the lawmakers would recognize the area of the massacre in creating a new county. Dade County, which has the constitutional right to change its name (see Article 8, Section 6), officially became Miami-Dade County on November 13, 1997, when voters decided that increased name recognition was worth the change. This county is the most populous in Florida. *Seat: Miami.*

Monroe—The sixth county, established July 3, 1823. Named for James Monroe, fifth President of the United States. His administration has become known as the Era of Good Feeling. Among other achievements of his eight years as president was obtaining the Floridas from Spain. *Seat: Key West.*

Nassau—The tenth county, established December 29, 1824. Named for the Nassau River and Sound which, in part, separate Nassau and Duval counties. The river and the sound here and elsewhere in the United States and the capital of the Bahamas were named for the Duchy of Nassau, a former state in the western part of Germany whose seat was Wiesbaden. The line of William the Silent and his descendants, the princes of Orange-Nassau, became extinct when King William III of England died in 1702. The name was brought to Florida during the English occupation of 1763–83. *Seat: Fernandina Beach.*



Florida State Archives

Canoeing at the Blackwater River State Park, Okaloosa County.

Okaloosa—The 52nd county, established June 13, 1915. The word in Choctaw *oka*, “water,” and *lusa*, “black” (Read 1934). Thus, the name probably referred to the Blackwater River in the same county. The county was taken from Santa Rosa and Walton counties. *Seat: Crestview.*

Okeechobee—The 54th county, established May 8, 1917. The name means “big water,” and is derived from two Hitchiti Indian words, *oki*, “water” and *chobi* “big.” The word Miami is thought to have the same meaning in another Indian dialect and to apply to the same body of water. *Seat: Okeechobee.*

Orange—The 11th county, established December 29, 1824, under the name Mosquito. Renamed on January 30, 1845, for the many orange groves in the vicinity. *Seat: Orlando.*



Photo by Charles Barron

Oranges being harvested in the groves, Winter Garden, Orange County.

Osceola—The 40th county, established May 12, 1887. Named for the famous leader of the Seminoles, Osceola, who was imprisoned by Gen. Thomas S. Jesup after having been captured under a flag of truce. Osceola was first locked up at Fort Marion (Castillo de San Marcos) in St. Augustine; but, when some Indians escaped from there, he and other prisoners were transferred to Fort Moultrie at Charleston, S.C. Osceola died there on January 30, 1838. Weakened by chronic malaria and quinsy, he lost the will to live in captivity. “Had he not been captured under a flag of truce and sent away to die in prison, he might have died as ignominiously as many of his brethren. As it is his place as the most romantic if not the most heroic figure in the annals of the war seems secure” (Tebeau 1971). Twenty years after the inci-

dent the criticism still was so great that Jesup found himself trying to explain his actions. Osceola was born on the Tallapoosa River, in Creek country, about 1803. Osceola is derived from the Creek *asi-yahola*, “black drink cry.” The Creeks and later the Seminoles prepared a ceremonial black drink from the leaves of the yaupon. Research indicates Osceola was part Creek and part Scot. A Seminole leader of present days was quoted as saying that for the Seminoles, Osceola is a George Washington or an Abraham Lincoln, because of his unquenchable determination to keep the Seminoles free and to retain possession of the native lands (Hartley 1974). Credit for naming the county belongs to State Senator J. Milton Bryan, who represented Orange County when Osceola was split away (Moore-Willson 1935). The senator lived near Kissimmee, seat of Osceola. His daughter, Mrs. C. A. Carson, said: “When my father came home from Tallahassee there was a great celebration; everyone in town turned out to meet him at the train and they carried him on their shoulders in celebration of the new county.” *Seat: Kissimmee.*

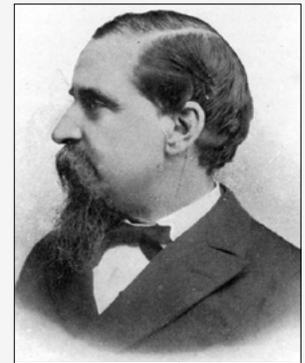


Painting by George Catlin

Osceola

Palm Beach—47th county, established April 30, 1909. Named, quite logically, for the profusion of coconut palm trees on the Atlantic Ocean beach. *Seat: West Palm Beach.*

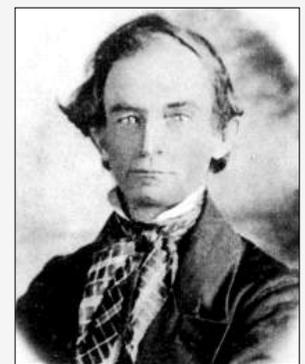
Pasco—The 45th county, established June 2, 1887. Named for Samuel Pasco of Monticello, Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives at the time the county was created. Pasco was elected by the Legislature on May 19, 1887, as U.S. Senator and served until December 4, 1889. *Seat: Dade City.*



Samuel Pasco

Pinellas—The 48th county, established May 23, 1911, being separated from Hillsborough County across Old Tampa Bay. The peninsula that forms the larger part of the county was known to the Spaniards as Punta Pinal, said to mean “point of pines,” and the present name was fashioned from that. *Seat: Clearwater.*

Polk—The 39th county, established February 8, 1861. Named for James Knox Polk, 11th President of the United States (1845–49). Polk had the political distinction of twice being rejected for reelection as Governor of Tennessee, the last time in 1843, a year before his election as President. He was the first dark horse nominee of the Democratic Party. He was chosen over Henry Clay and Martin Van Buren because he demanded control of the Oregon Territory from Great Britain (the historic “54-40 or fight!”) and favored annexation of Texas. *Seat: Bartow.*



Benjamin Alexander Putnam

Putnam—The 28th county, established January 13, 1849. Named for Benjamin Alexander Putnam (1801–69), lawyer, soldier, member of the Florida Legislature, judge and first president of the Florida Historical Society. Born on the Putnam plantation near Savannah, Ga., he attended Harvard, studied law privately in St. Augustine, and practiced there. In the Seminole Indian War (1835–42), he served as major, colonel, and adjutant general. He served in both houses of the Florida Legislature and as Speaker of the House in 1848. By appointment of President Zachary Taylor, he was Surveyor-General of Florida from May 1849 to 1854. He died at his home in Palatka on January 25, 1869. *Seat: Palatka.*

St. Johns—Paired with Escambia as one of Florida’s first two counties, established July 21, 1821. Named for the St. Johns River. Five names have been applied to the river in its entirety and several others to portions of the river (Snodgrass 1967). From Miss Snodgrass we learn that the native Americans gave the river its first name, Welaka or Ylacco, two spellings with much the same pronunciation. A Spanish explorer called it Río de Corrientes, “River of Currents,” in recognition of the spectacular way the currents at the river’s mouth clashed with the surf. Jean Ribaut, a French explorer, entered the St. Johns on the first day of May, hence the name Riviere de Mai “River of May.” A Spaniard, Pedro Menéndez, captured France’s Fort Caroline and renamed both fort and river San Mateo. About 1590 the Spanish mission San Juan del Puerto, “St. John of the Harbor,” was established and ultimately gave its name, in shortened form, to the river. For a time in the mid-1700s both San Mateo and San Juan were shown on some Florida maps as two names for the one river. During the 20-year period of British ownership of Florida, 1763 to 1783, San Juan finally became St. John’s and since has remained except for the dropping of the apostrophe. *Seat: St. Augustine.*



Florida State Archives

River steamboat “Okahum-kee” during a stop along the St. Johns River

St. Lucie—First established as the 25th county on March 14, 1844, and recreated as the 46th county on May 24, 1905. Named for St. Lucie of Syracuse. According to legend, she was born in Sicily of noble parents, made a vow of virginity, and was executed in 304 A.D. for being a Christian after having been reported to the Roman authorities by a rejected suitor. More commonly spelled Lucy, the name derives from “lux” or “light,” the saint has become associated with festivals of light and with prayers against blindness (Coulson 1958). The original St. Lucie County was named Brevard County on January 6, 1855. The name of St. Lucie was first given to a fort built by the Spanish near Cape Canaveral in 1565. *Seat: Fort Pierce.*

Santa Rosa—The 21st county, established February 18, 1842. Named for Santa Rosa Island, which in turn was named for St. Rosa de Viterbo, a Catholic saint. During Frederick II’s campaign against Pope Gregory IX, Rose, then 12 years old, preached against submission to the emperor, resulting in the banishment of her family (Coulson 1958). *Seat: Milton.*



Florida State Archives

Seminole Indian couple with child in Dixie’s camp, 1916.

Sarasota—The 60th county, established May 14, 1921. The origin of the name is shrouded in dispute and legend. The Spaniards are said in one version to have named it to designate “a place for dancing,” referring to the celebrations held by the Native Americans on or near the shore of the bay here, but no words in modern Spanish give this meaning to the name. A legend, more colorful but more obviously fabricated, ascribes the name to a beautiful daughter of de Soto, the Spanish explorer—Sara Sota. A Native American prince is said to have allowed himself to be taken prisoner by the Spaniards so that he could be near her. When he fell sick she nursed him back to health, only to fall sick herself and die. The prince and a hundred of his braves buried her beneath the waters of the bay, then chopped their canoes with their tomahawks, and sank to death themselves. Eighteenth-century maps show the name variously as Sarasote, Sarazota, and Sara Zota. *Seat: Sarasota.*

Seminole—The 50th county, established April 25, 1913. Named for the Native Americans who ran away from the Spanish threats or enticements to forget

their culture and assimilate. The Spaniards called these people *cimarrones*, from a word that they learned in the Caribbean and applied to animals, plants and human slaves who escaped domestication to live a free life. The Hitchiti-speaking tribes of the northern peninsula, who had no “r” sound in their language, heard this word as *siminoli* and described themselves as *yat siminoli* - free people. *Seat: Sanford.*

Sumter—The 29th county, established January 8, 1853. Named for Gen. Thomas Sumter (1736–1832), a native of South Carolina who was prominent in the southern campaigns of the Revolutionary War. Many South Carolinians were early settlers in this area. *Seat: Bushnell.*

Suwannee—The 35th county, established December 21, 1858. One of the few counties in the United States whose name has been immortalized in song: Stephen Collins Foster wrote in “Old Folks at Home” about “Way down upon the Swanee River.” The river that Foster spelled Swanee has become a symbol of love for family and home. Etymologists disagree on the origin of Suwannee. Utley (1908) says the name comes from a Cherokee Indian word *sawani*, “echo river.” Gannett (1947) agrees. Brinton (1859) suggests it may have been a corruption of the Spanish *San Juan*. He mentions a Shawnee tradition that their tribe originated on this river and claims that the name may be a corruption of Shawanese. Simpson (1956) says Suwannee seems to be identical with the name of a village in Gwinnett County, Ga., that stands on the site of a former Cherokee town called Suwani. According to Read (1934) the Cherokees claim their village is from Creek origin. If this is true, the derivation of the name is probably from the Creek *suwani*, “echo.” Simpson mentions that good echoes are a feature of this stream. He continues, saying that the stream is probably the one called River of the Deer by De Soto. During the 17th century, a Franciscan mission called San Juan de Guacara was located somewhere along the east bank. This name for the river persisted despite the destruction of the mission and the change of flags; an English surveyor named Romans in 1774 called the river the River St. Juan de Guacara vulge Little Sequana. Sequana appears to be an Indian attempt to pronounce San Juan. *Seat: Live Oak.*

Taylor—The 34th county, established December 23, 1856. Named for Zachary Taylor, 12th President of the United States and commander of the U.S. Army forces in Florida during a part of the Second Seminole War. *Seat: Perry.*

Union—The 61st county, established May 20, 1921. Originally, the name of the county was to have been New River, thereby reestablishing a county name that had existed from December 21, 1858, until December 6, 1861, when New River was changed to Bradford to honor a fallen soldier (*see also* Bradford). The sponsor of the bill to change the name in 1921 amended the bill to replace New River with Union. Union County was separating from Bradford, and a reason for the name the new county chose may be found in the sponsor’s statement, quoted in the *Florida Times-Union* for May 6, 1921, that the counties “were united this time in asking for the divorce though the two parts of the [Bradford] county have never before been able to get together on this proposition.” This explanation for the use of Union seems more logical than the lofty reasons used through the years, one of which has been for the “Union of the United States.” *Seat: Lake Butler.*

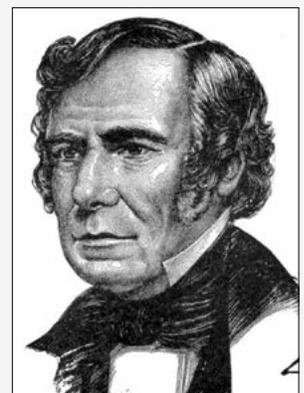


Thomas Sumter



Photo by Al Walker

Replica paddle steamers carrying passengers on the Suwannee River, 1965.



Zachary Taylor

Volusia—The 13th county, established December 29, 1854. Named for a landing called Volusia on the St. Johns River near Lake George. How the landing was named is uncertain. Tradition says the name is of Indian origin, but Simpson (1956) does not include Volusia. Another story attributes the name to a Frenchman or Belgian named Veluché, pronounced Va-loo-SHAY, who owned a trading post at the landing during the English period. Veluché was then anglicized into Volusia. Gold (1927) says “there is no record either in the Spanish, Territorial or County titles of any land being owned at any time in that vicinity or in the county for that matter, under the name ‘Veluche’ or any name that resembles it. If such a man held title to the land under the English regime, there would be no way of ascertaining the fact, as all English titles were denied.” *Seat: DeLand.*



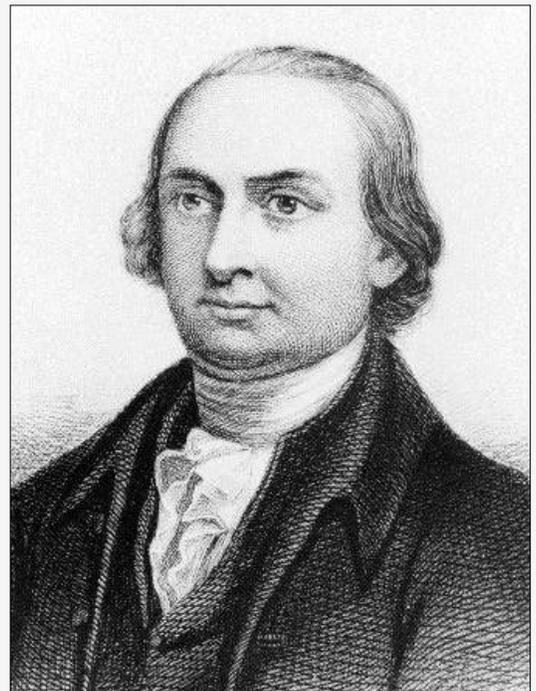
Photo by Rivers H. Buford III

Wakulla Springs

Wakulla—The 23rd county, established March 11, 1843; name also of the famous Wakulla Springs, of a river that unites with the St. Marks River and flows into Apalachee Bay, and of a community. Although the word is interpreted to mean “mystery” by some, Simpson (1956) says there is no factual basis for this meaning. “Since Wakulla was probably a Timucuan word, it is unlikely that its meaning will ever be known. It may contain the word *Kala* which signified a ‘spring of water’ in some Indian dialects.” Read (1934) suggests Wakulla comes from the Creek *wahkola*, “loon,” two species of which winter in Florida. *Seat: Crawfordville.*

Walton—The eighth county, established December 29, 1824. Named for Col. George Walton, secretary of the Territory of West Florida during the governorship of Andrew Jackson (1821–22), and of the combined territory (1822–26). The colonel was the son of George Walton, governor of Georgia and signer of the Declaration of Independence. Colonel Walton’s daughter, Octavia, suggested the name Tallahassee for the new capital. *Seat: DeFuniak Springs.*

Washington—The 12th county, established December 9, 1825. Named for the first President of the United States, George Washington. *Seat: Chipley.*



George Walton

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The Seat of Government

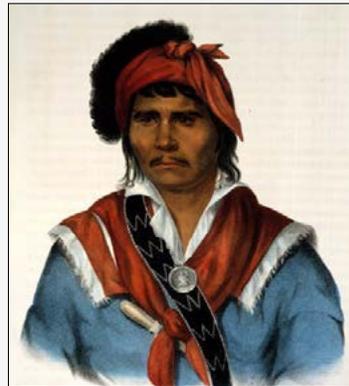
Tallahassee was chosen in 1823 as the seat of government of the recently formed Territory of Florida. In that year, John Lee Williams of Pensacola and Dr. W. H. Simmons of St. Augustine were named commissioners to select a permanent seat of government somewhere between the Ochlockonee and Suwannee Rivers. They met late in October on the Ochlockonee River and traveled inland from St. Marks. Dr. Simmons, who had made the trip from St. Augustine overland, had already noted that the high lands south of Lake Miccosukee “would form an eligible situation for a town,” Williams concurred. “A more beautiful country can scarcely be imagined,” Williams wrote; “it is high, rolling, and well watered.”

Commissioner Simmons wrote in his journal for October 27, 1823 that the commissioners had encountered the Indian Chief Neamathla near his settlement a few miles north of present day Tallahassee.

“Neamathla and his people appeared much disturbed by our visit, and were inquisitive as to what object we had in view. We told him that we came to search out a spot where the Governor and his Council could conveniently meet, and that we should not in any way interfere with the Indians. He seemed, however, much dissatisfied. He invited us to spend the night and in the meantime sent off for an interpreter.”

The Commissioners bedded down under a shed of the Indian’s Council House, but their sleep was broken by the sounds of the Indians dancing, a ritual which always preceded the annual hunting expedition. Commissioner Simmons noted:

“I felt a melancholy interest in watching these exhibitions of the amusement of these poor people, who, by their treaty, were soon to quit the country.



Drawn, printed, and colored by L.T. Bowen

Left: Neamathla, a Seminole chief, Creek Indian by birth.

Below: Part of a map of Florida by John Lee Williams, one of the two men who selected Tallahassee as Florida’s permanent seat of government.



Lithograph by Green & McGowan

In one of their dances, called the ‘mad dance,’ most of their gestures and movements were highly martial and graceful and served to illustrate the natural elevation and fire of their character.”

On the next day, Neamathla again questioned Commissioners Simmons and Williams about the purpose of their visit. Dr. Simmons recorded the conversation: “On our reassuring him that we had no design to interfere with the rights of the Indians, he told us we might proceed, but not to tell any of the

Indians that he had sent us. We passed to the old Tallahassee town, where Chifixico, chief of the settlement, evinced equal opposition to our proceedings. He angrily caught up a handful of dirt, and presenting it, asked if that was not his land. . . .”

The exact location seems to have been determined by the proximity of a beautiful stream and waterfall directly west of the “old fields” of the Seminole Indians then living at Neamathla’s town on Lake Lafayette. This stream, wrote Williams, “after running about a mile south pitches about 20 or 30 feet into an immense chasm, in which it runs 60 or 70 rods to the base of a high hill which it enters. . . .” The capital site was established west and north of the stream.

The St. Augustine Branch, as it was later called, degenerated into a drainage ditch that was visible on Franklin Boulevard and along Canal Street. The waterfall, known as the Cascade, has long since disappeared, but the City of Tallahassee renovated the area in 2013 into a dual-purpose 24-acre Cascades Park. The park features 2.3 miles of biking and walking trails, beautiful landscaping and ponds, an outdoor amphitheatre with seating for 4,000, an inlaid granite map of Florida, and interpretive historical panels in its fencing.

The “old fields” from which Tallahassee took its name probably extended along the high ground from the pond near Magnolia Drive to the vicinity of Mahan Drive.

The first settlers, headed by John McIver, of North Carolina, arrived at the new town site on April 9, 1824. It has been said that the party pitched camp on a southern slope within sound of the Cascade. If so, they probably camped on the hillside near Gaines Street between Adams and Calhoun.

First Capitol

Two days later, Jonathan Robinson and Sherod McCall, planters on Little River in Gadsden County, brought their farmhands and erected three log cabins for the accommodation of the Legislative Council, which was to meet at the new capital in the fall. There is a marker on the grounds of the present Capitol building commemorating the log cabin Capitol, but John C. Galbraith, writing in 1853, said that the log cabin Capitol was several hundred yards south of

the present Capitol Square. [*This would have been in the vicinity of the present Caldwell building.*]

Soon after the location was made, Congress granted the Territory a quarter section of land at the new capital site to raise money for the erection of public buildings. The Legislative Council met in Tallahassee in November, 1824 and directed that this quarter section (the southeast quarter of Section 36, Township 1 North, Range 1 West) be established as Tallahassee. The same Council established Leon County, which it named for Ponce de Leon, and made Tallahassee the county seat.

Name Taken from Creek Indian

Tradition credits Octavia Walton, daughter of the Secretary of the Territory, George Walton, with suggesting that the new capital be called “Tallahassee.” The name is taken either from the Tallahassee Seminoles who occupied the area, or from one of their villages. The word “Tallahassee” is of Creek derivation, meaning literally “old town,” though it is frequently translated as “old fields.”



Octavia Walton La Vert

The town was laid out symmetrically with Capitol Square at the center, with four other public squares and with broad streets running between them. The town was bound by present day Park avenue on the north, Meridian street on the east, Bloxham street on the south, and Boulevard street on the west. The squares were Washington Square, now occupied by the County Courthouse; Wayne Square, on which the City Hall stands; Jackson Square, site of the now demolished Whitfield Building; and Green Square, which is part of the site of the Holland Building. The original town plot has disappeared. Consequently, no one knows if the squares were dedicated as public parks or if they were the property of the Territory. In recent years the State has acted on the latter assumption.

The first sale of town lots took place in April, 1825. Prince Achille Murat wrote that “elegant houses made of boards and timberwork, painted in all sorts of colors” began to replace log cabins. “Trees are cut down on all sides; their burn-

ing stumps and roots indicate the spots destined for streets and public places.” By September, Tallahassee could boast of fifty houses, a church, a schoolhouse, “two very commodious hotels,” seven stores, an apothecary’s shop, a printing office, two shoemakers, two blacksmiths, three carpenters, a tailor, and three brickyards. Most of the establishments were clustered around Capitol Square.

The LaFayette Grant

A township near Tallahassee was among the attempts of the nation to remunerate Marquis de LaFayette for his aid during the Revolutionary War. In 1824, Congress voted the Marquis, recently ruined by the Reign of Terror in France, \$200,000 and a township located on unsold public domain. The Marquis was inclined toward Florida because the territory was experiencing a land boom and because, as Kathryn Abbey Hanna in Washington wrote, “he had come under the magnetic spell of Richard K. Call, Florida’s representative and her most ardent champion.”

Florida’s climate was a lure, for LaFayette wished to test his theory that free labor could prove more productive than slave labor. Tradition says he caused some Norman peasants to settle near Tallahassee in 1831 to attempt the cultivation of vineyards, olive groves, mulberry trees, and silk worms.

In her 2006 book *Historic Frenchtown*, Julianne Hare disputes whether a colony existed. If it did it

failed. LaFayette’s land ultimately was sold but Florida has a county called Lafayette as tangible reminder of the Revolutionary hero. The Marquis never saw his Florida land but his grandsons visited Florida in 1850.

The LaFayette township (formally Township 1 North, Range 1 East), was bounded by Meridian Road on the west, approximately Gaines Street on the south, and extends six miles to the east and six miles to the north, covering an area of 23,028.5 acres.

Second Capitol

Plans for a two-story Capitol building had been approved in 1825 and construction of one wing, measuring forty by twenty-six feet, was completed the following year. The Commissioners of the Tallahassee Fund who were entrusted with the sale of lots and construction of the building had offered a prize of \$100 for the best plans. Surveyor General for Florida, Colonel Robert Butler, won the competition. The cornerstone was laid with Masonic ceremonies on January 7, 1826.

The well-known Castelnau drawing of this Capitol looks like a frame building, but the *Sentinel* commented in 1843:

The old Capitol was built with mortar made from lime burned in our immediate vicinity at the place known as the ‘Cascades.’ When it became necessary to demolish the building ... the bricks were more readily broken than the mortar which separated and adhered to them. Small portions of the walls for the building are still standing ...

A controversy, a continuing complication of every change in the Capitol, disrupted construction of the first permanent statehouse. The difficulties caused the Legislative Council to reduce the number of commissioners to one, to enlarge the boundaries of Tallahassee so more land could be sold to fund the Capitol, and to limit construction to the single wing whose cost already had been restricted to not more than \$12,000.

Governor William P. DuVal, the first Territorial Governor, urged enlargement of the Capitol and in 1828 his brother, the Commissioner John P. DuVal, contracted with Benjamin G. Thornton for construc-



Francis Castelnau

First permanent Capitol. Begun in January 1826. Demolished ca. 1839/40. Lithograph from *Vues et souvenirs de l’Amerique du Nord*.

tion of a Capitol which would make use of the wing. The foundation and walls were to be of brick, the roof of slate, and the joists and floors of heart pine.

Thornton set up a sawmill at the approximate site of the present day Leon County Courthouse across the street from today's Capitol. He also fashioned a kiln to produce lime for mortar from rock he quarried; Thornton, however, ran into money problems when the Territorial Governor was unable to pay for his work, and the contractor lost everything he owned. The Territory then sued Thornton for non-performance. While a jury decided in Thornton's favor, he could not obtain reimbursement until 1842 when the Legislative Council agreed to pay him \$2,500 of the \$8,000 that was owed him.

With the work stopped, the Legislative Council appropriated \$1,200 in 1832 for preserving what had been finished. By 1836, the need for space had become dire and the Auditor and Comptroller were authorized to rent quarters at a cost of not more than \$200 a year. In 1839, the Legislative Council provided \$300 for the installation of a well and pump and for the planting of ornamental trees.

The Third Capitol

Desire for a new capitol building resulted in the appropriation by Congress on March 3, 1839, of \$20,000 for the erection of a "suitable state house or public building for the use of the Territorial Legislature" to serve as the office of the Secretary of the Territory and the preservation of records. The Legislative Council promptly ordered a new building.

The second permanent capitol building was erected in the center of Capitol Square, presumably on the same location as the first capitol building.

Again attended by contention and litigation, mainly between the Capitol Commissioner and a supplier, construction proceeded until February 1841, when money again ran out. By then about two-thirds of the building had been roughly constructed and temporary quarters were furnished for the Legislative Council and the Secretary of the Territory. Congress asked for more money, but the national government, mindful that Florida was pressing to become a state and would then be responsible for its debts, at first ignored the plea. In March 1843, concerned by

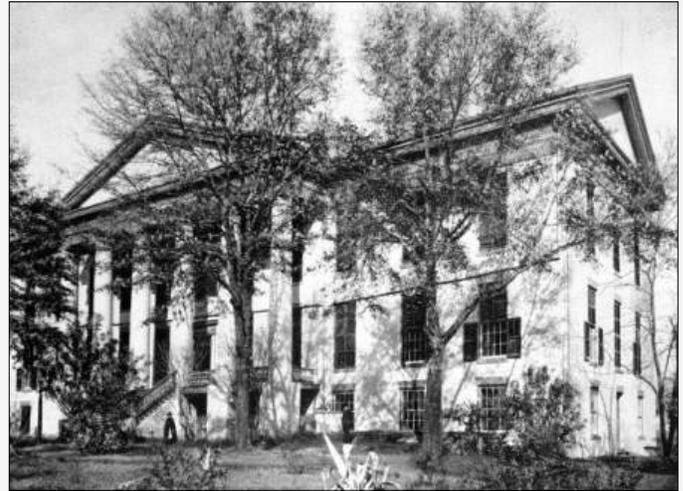


Photo by Alvan S. Harper

West side of the Historic Capitol as it looked from 1845 to 1891.

weathering of the exposed second floor, the Legislative Council directed the Capitol Commissioner to use whatever means available to have the uncovered rooms roofed over.

The three-story building was 151 feet long and 53 feet wide, with both interior and exterior walls of solid brick. The front and rear entrances were through porticos each having six Doric columns 13 feet in circumference and 34 feet in height.

In order to supplement the congressional appropriation for the capitol, the northwest quarter was platted and placed on sale in 1840. This sale did not, however, provide sufficient funds for completion of the Capitol and Congress in 1844 relented and granted another \$20,000 for the purpose. The building was finally completed in 1845, just prior to the organization of the government of the State of Florida.

This second permanent and third Capitol at Tallahassee remained the center of Florida government until 1978. The Legislature, despite recurring pleas by State officers for additional space, allowed the 1845 Capitol to remain without noticeable change until 1891 when a small cupola was placed atop the structure. The first major expansion occurred in 1901–1902.

The Changing City

While the statehouse was evolving, the surrounding community also was changing. In 1827, a visiting Ralph Waldo Emerson entered in his note-

book: "Tallahassee, a grotesque place, selected three years since as a suitable spot for the capitol of the territory, and since that day rapidly settled by public officers, land speculators and desperadoes . . . Governor DuVal is the button on which all things are hung."

An 1838 visitor found Tallahassee had about 300 houses, "almost all built of wood and on the Italian model. They rarely have more than one story; two or three only are of brick painted a bright red with green shutters." This lack of imposing residences caused a New Englander in 1841 to remark to a correspondent "Why Benny, your father's barn is handsomer than any house in Tallahassee."

The appearance of the town was altered for the better by a catastrophe that occurred in 1843. On the evening of May 25, a sweeping fire wiped out practically every business establishment in town, inflicting a half million dollar loss in merchandise and buildings. Before the smoke had cleared away, plans were made for building a better town. The City Council adopted an ordinance permitting only fire-proof buildings to be constructed in the devastated area. On the first anniversary of the fire, one of the local newspapers could boast, "Instead of the tumbled down wooden shanties, which formerly disfigured the business part of the town, we now find well arranged and commodious fire proof brick stores." The fire marked the transition of Tallahassee from a frontier community to a pleasant Southern town.

Improved transportation was created through the rebuilding of the St. Marks Railroad and the construction of the Pensacola and Georgia Railroad, which ran from Lake City to Tallahassee and was complete in 1860. The former had been in operation since 1837 but had been mule-drawn for more than a decade because its locomotive had a habit of jumping off the track. The "Deep Cut" which is crossed by the overpass at Magnolia Heights and on Magnolia Drive was excavated by slave labor.

By 1860, Tallahassee could boast of such other modern facilities as gas lamps and telegraphic communication with other parts of the country.

Scene of Four Constitutional Conventions

As the capital of the State, Tallahassee was the scene of four Constitutional Conventions, all of which were motivated, either directly or indirectly,

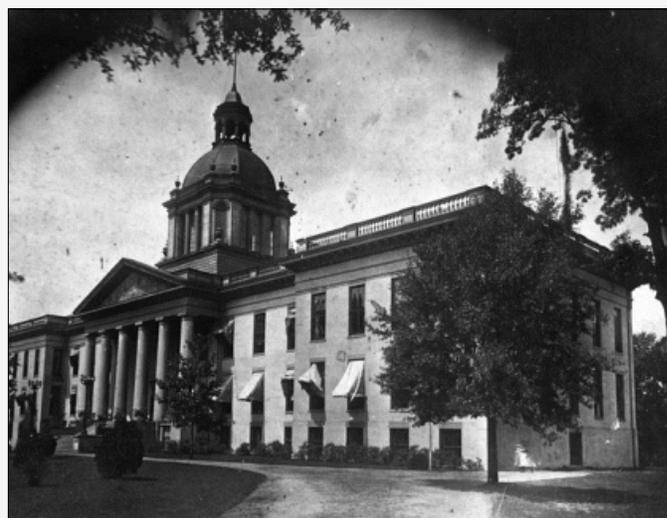
by the causes and results of the Civil War. On January 11, 1861, the Convention of that year signed the Ordinance of Secession in a ceremony held in the east portico of the Capitol. The Convention of 1865 nullified the Ordinance and reorganized the State government under Andrew Johnson's plan of Reconstruction. The Constitution of 1865 was superseded in 1868 by the carpetbag constitution, which provided a highly centralized government that was acceptable to white Democrats from the end of Reconstruction until they wrote a Constitution in 1885.

Florida's turbulent politics during the Reconstruction period naturally centered in the capital. The town attracted freedmen, who took an active part in both local and state politics, and by 1870 more than 1,200 of its 2,023 inhabitants were black.

National attention was focused on it for a short time in 1876 during the Electoral College controversy surrounding the Hayes-Tilden presidential election contest, during which Tallahassee was thronged with politicians and reporters from all over the country. In due course the Florida Canvassing Board counted in the Hayes electors, the visitors departed, and Tallahassee dropped back into its former obscurity.

Vote on Capital Removal

By the 1890s, the business of the State necessitated additional office space. This condition reopened the question of capital removal, which had been unsuccessfully suggested in 1881. The Legislature of 1899 refusing to take action toward either



Florida State Archives

East front of the Capitol, 1903-1906

providing more space or moving the capital, the State Democratic Committee in 1900 called for a referendum on removal. In the primary election of that year, Tallahassee received an absolute majority over its rivals—Jacksonville, Ocala, and St. Augustine.

The Legislature of 1901 accepted the results of this election as a mandate to provide additional accommodations for the conduct of the State's business. Building a separate office building was considered, but the final decision was to enlarge the Capitol. Between 1901 and 1902, an appropriation of \$75,000 permitted the construction of additions to the north and south ends of the building and the erection of a dome, which replaced the 1891 cupola.

The additions at the north and south ends of the original building were used for chambers of the Senate, the House of Representatives, and the Supreme Court and to give more space to the Governor and Cabinet officers.

Remodeling of the Capitol was hardly completed before the need for still more space was apparent. In 1905 Governor Broward recommended a second addition to the Capitol. Nothing was done, however, until 1911 when Governor Gilchrist's proposal to construct a Supreme Court and Railroad Commission Building on Jackson Square was accepted by the Legislature. This building, named for Chief Justice James B. Whitfield, was occupied by the Public Service Commission (successor to the Railroad Commission) after the Supreme Court moved to its new building in 1949. The Whitfield building was demolished in 1979.

The Capitol was enlarged for a second time in 1921–22 with the addition of east and west wings at a cost of \$250,000. The new east portico carried forward the general design of the old east front with its columns. However, the west portico was omitted to allow sufficient space on the second floor for the chamber of the House of Representatives. The Senate was accommodated in the new east wing.

Along with the addition of the wings, there was a refurbishing of the Capitol including installation of marble stairways at the rotunda and marble wainscoting throughout the building.

A system of electric lights was installed to illuminate Capitol Square, a gift of the Tallahassee citizenry acknowledged by a resolution of the 1923 Legislature.

In 1925, the \$300,000 Martin Building (after former Governor John W. Martin) was erected on Wayne Square. In 1963, the City traded the state land in the Capitol Center for the Martin Building to use as its City Hall. In the 1930s the Mayo Building (for Commissioner of Agriculture Nathan Mayo) was erected at a cost of \$350,000, and the north wing of the Capitol was added with federal assistance. In 1940, Tallahassee constructed a \$300,000 City Administration Building (now known as the Knott Building, for the former State Treasurer W. V. Knott), for the use of the state. The south wing of the Capitol was completed in 1947 at a cost of \$600,000 after being delayed by World War II.

The Capitol Center

The end of the war years, a general growth in state government, and a plan conceived by Governor Spessard L. Holland added a new tone of expansion to the capitol complex. Governor Millard F. Caldwell gave his full support to the new concept of a "Capitol Center" as designed by Albert D. Taylor, landscape architect and town planner. Taylor's original plan called for the ultimate inclusion of 32 city blocks and the erection of ten new buildings.

The State's needs outgrew the Taylor plan and in 1966 the boundaries of the Capitol Center were expanded to include some 50 city blocks. Similarly, a number of State agencies outgrew their original



Florida State Archives

Florida Capitol Complex, 1989

homes, requiring expanded structures or new buildings.

By 1994 there were 22 major State buildings in the Capitol Center. With the move in 2011 of the First District Court of Appeal to a new building on Capitol Circle, there are now 21 major state buildings. In addition to the old and new Capitols, the adjacent legislative buildings, and the Supreme Court Building, there are:

The Bloxham Building, at 727 South Calhoun Street. The building is named for Governor William Bloxham and was originally Caroline Brevard Grammar School, built in the Mediterranean style so common to the Florida Boom of the 1920s.

The Bryant Building, at 620 South Meridian Street, was built in 1964 and named for Governor Farris Bryant.

The Burns Building, at 605 Suwanee Street, was built in 1966 and named for Governor Haydon Burns.

The Caldwell Building, at 107 East Madison Street, was built in 1948 and named for Governor and State Supreme Court Justice Millard F. Caldwell.

The Carlton Building, at 501 South Calhoun Street, was built in 1954-55 and named for Governor Doyle E. Carlton.

The Collins building, at 100 West Gaines Street, was built in 1962-63 and named for Governor LeRoy Collins.

The Elliot Building, at 401 South Monroe Street, was built in 1962 and named for Fred C. Elliot, longtime chief engineer for the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund.

The Fletcher Building, at 100 East Gaines Street, was built in 1977 and named for Duncan U. Fletcher, Mayor of Jacksonville and a U. S. Senator.

The R. A. Gray Building, at 500 South Bronough Street, was completed in 1976 and named for longtime Secretary of State Robert A. Gray.

The Holland Building, at 600 South Calhoun Street, was built in 1948 and named for Governor and U. S. Senator Spessard L. Holland.

The Johns Building, at 725 South Bronough Street, built in 1964 and named for Acting Governor Charley E. Johns.

The Knott Building, at 111 East St. Augustine Street, was built by the City of Tallahassee in 1940 and leased to the state to keep state agencies from



Bloxham building, formerly the Caroline M. Brevard Elementary School

Florida State Archives

Farris Bryant Building

Photo by David Fountain



Haydon Burns Building

Photo by David Fountain

Industrial Commission Building, also known as the Caldwell Building

Photo by David Fountain



Carlton Building

Florida State Archives

R. A. Gray Building

Photo by Wayne Denmark



Holland Building

Photo by David Fountain

Johns Building

Photo by David Fountain



leaving Tallahassee. It was purchased by the State in 1951 and named for Comptroller and Treasurer William V. Knott. The building was vacated in 1989, with the opening of the Turlington building, renovated at a cost of \$90 million and reopened in 1999 with meeting rooms and offices for the Senate.

The Larson Building, at 200 East Gaines Street, was built in 1968 and named for State Treasurer J. Edwin Larson.

The Mayo Building, at 407 South Calhoun Street, was built in 1936-37 and named for longtime Commissioner of Agriculture Nathan Mayo.

The Legislature's Auditor General Building, at 111 West Madison, was completed in 1989 and named for Florida legislator, U.S. Senator and Congressman Claude Pepper.

The Turlington Building, at 325 West Gaines Street, was completed in 1989 and named for former Commissioner of Education Ralph D. Turlington. The Department of Education is the major tenant.

Recently Destroyed Buildings

The Johns Building was demolished in 2008.

State Mourning at the Capitols

The bodies of certain officials may be placed in the building where they served for an official period of mourning. A Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or member of the Cabinet may repose in state in the rotunda of the Capitol.

Mourning in the Historic Capitol

Governor William D. Bloxham laid in state in the Governor's suite in 1911.

The rotunda of the Historic Capitol served for the public farewells to a number of State officials.

Secretary of Agriculture B. E. McLin was mourned there in 1912, as was Justice Fred H. Davis in 1937.

The open casket of Governor Dan McCarty was laid in state on September 29, 1953, for officers and employees of the state government and citizens generally to pay their last respects.

The rotunda similarly served the late Comptroller J. M. Lee on October 8, 1946, and the late Treas-



Knott Building
Florida State Archives



Larson Building
Photo by Richard Parks



Mayo Building
Photo by David Fountain



Turlington Building
Florida State Archives

urer J. Edwin Larson on January 26, 1965.

After the completion of the New Capitol, in 1977, the families of some eligible officials chose the Historic Capitol for their loved one to lie in state.

Longtime Florida Congressman Claude Pepper laid in state in the U. S. Capitol rotunda on the Lincoln/Kennedy bier on June 1, 1989. After additional services in Miami, he laid in state in the Historic Capitol on June 4th. Burial was in Tallahassee's Oakland Cemetery on June 5th.

On December 15, 1998, Governor Lawton M. Chiles' body was taken for one last trip through the panhandle from Century, where he began his 1970 walk for the U.S. Senate, to Tallahassee where it was placed in the rotunda of the Historic Capital and lain in state overnight with public viewing of the closed casket the evening before and the morning of his funeral.

Pat Thomas, who served in both the House (1972-1974) and Senate (1974-2000), including ser-

vice as Senate President, lay in repose in the Historic Capitol on June 23, 2000.

Governor Claude R. Kirk, Jr., who served from 1967 to 1971, died in Palm Beach at age 85. Former governors, justices, judges, Cabinet officials, agency heads, legislators, and hundreds of Floridians joined with his family members to pay their last respects and share stories of the flamboyant governor, as he lay in state in the Historic Capitol on September 30, 2011.

Governor Reubin O'Donovan Askew, the 37th Governor of Florida known for fighting corruption and championing the Sunshine Amendment, passed March 13, 2014, at the age of 85. He lay in state in the Historic Capitol on March 18, flanked by servicemembers and law enforcement officers and with his casket covered by the American Flag. Hundreds came to pay their respects and to say farewell to Governor Askew, who served the state as Governor from 1971-1979, having earlier served in both the State House and Senate. Though Governor Askew spent most of his service in the Historic Capitol, he was the first Governor in the current Capitol Building, which opened in March of 1978 under his supervision.

Mourning in the New Capitol

The casket of Representative David Coley, who had been elected in November 2004, was in place in the House Chamber when he was memorialized in March 2005.

Non-Governmental Use of the Capitol

Entries in their Journals prove that the chambers of the Legislature offered space for non-governmental gatherings of many kinds: among these are lectures by visiting professors, a funeral, a wedding, church services, and a college commencement.

There were a number of temperance lectures delivered in the Chamber of The House of Representatives but the Journal of 1885 reports the failure of an effort to obtain the use of the Chamber for that purpose by inserting in the amendment that each member failing to attend the lecture pay a fine of \$5.

In the years just before and after the Civil War, "The Tournament"—sometimes referred to as "The Tournament of Love"—was a yearly Tallahassee di-

version. In these, costumed galloping riders sought to pierce with lances rings suspended from three arches erected at intervals of about fifty yards. The horsemen were known by such names as the Knight of the Red Cross, the Knight of the Golden Horse Shoe, and even as the Unknown Knight. The winner would have the reward of designating the Queen of Love and Beauty.

The tournaments were followed by what was described in the Tallahassee *Floridian* as "the Grand Fancy Ball."

Rental of Offices in Capitol

Private rental of offices in the Capitol is evidenced by advertisements in *The Floridian* during 1845–1848.

Simon Towle, the State Comptroller, placed this advertisement, appearing in *The Floridian* of January 15, 1848: "The offices in the Basement of the Capitol are for rent."

This notice appeared on November 29, 1845: "M. D. Papy, Attorney at Law, will practice in all the Courts in the Middle Circuit. Office on the first floor of the Capitol, formerly occupied by the Secretary of the Territory."

A portrait painter, Willis McK. Russell, advised the public on March 18, 1848: "Removal. I have removed my study to the room on the North East corner of the Capitol, adjoining the office of the Hon. Mr. Brockenbrough, where I propose remaining during my stay in Florida."

The Never Captured Capital

Tallahassee was the only Southern state capital east of the Mississippi to escape capture by Federal troops during the Civil War. The only threats were blunted at the battles of Natural Bridge and Olustee. It did not escape military occupancy, however, for Federal troops marched into the town on May 20, 1865, and supervised its government until the Constitution of 1868 was adopted.

Tallahassee was far from the main battle lines of the Confederacy and never felt the direct impact of the war. It was threatened in March, 1865, when Federal troops landed at St. Marks and advanced toward the capital, but they were met and defeated at

the Natural Bridge by a few regular troops, hastily armed citizens, and West Florida Seminary cadets.

After the collapse of the Confederacy, Brigadier General E. M. McCook was assigned to receive the surrender of Southern forces in Florida. On May 20, 1865, General McCook took formal possession of Tallahassee and raised the United States flag over the Capitol. It last had been displayed on January 11, 1861 when Florida declared itself an independent nation.

The Fourth Capitol

A plan for systematic development of the heart of the Capitol Center, including restoration of the Capitol as it appeared in 1845, was approved by the Cabinet on September 16, 1969, but never carried out.

This complex was prepared by Edward Durrell Stone & Associates of New York in cooperation with Reynolds, Smith and Hills of Jacksonville. These architects-engineers-designers had been commissioned earlier in the year to develop a comprehensive plan for development of the Capitol and its surrounding area.

Florida's Capitol, with its adjacent legislative office buildings, was one of the last of Stone's design. One of the nation's most eminent and controversial architects, Stone changed styles of architecture in mid-life. Of the second period are such structures as the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, the General Motors building in New York, and the United States Embassy at New Delhi.

Like Florida's Capitol, the second phase buildings designed by Stone bore his trademark: an ornate concrete grill enclosing a white-columned box. The grill was so ubiquitous, reported *The New York Times*, that Stone even used it on a gasoline service station at New York's Kennedy airport.

Stone and his associates envisioned for Florida a four-phase complex which could move along just as fast as the State desired,

with existing structures being used until the new facilities were provided.

Site preparation for the first phase was commenced in June, 1970, for construction of two five-story buildings linked to the Capitol on its north and south sides. These buildings were designed to provide legislative committee rooms and offices. Money for this purpose was provided by a \$10,000,000 bond issue.

The building for the House of Representatives was placed on a city block which the State had bought and cleared in 1966 for a legislative building to house both the Senate and the House. Construction never was started because of indecision over both the design of the building and the need for renovation of the old, center portion of the Capitol.

The third phase of Stone's plan, construction of Florida's fourth, and present, Capitol was commenced November 8, 1973, and declared completed on August 19, 1977.

The building was opened officially on March 31, 1978, when Governor Reubin O'D. Askew, in a service on the unfinished west plaza, said: "We are gathered here then to dedicate this building to the service of the people, ever mindful that in this state and in this nation government exists to serve the people and not the people to serve the government."

The building cost \$43,070,741. An additional \$1,957,338 was committed to landscaping and the plaza, fountains, and steps on the west front, an area known formerly as Waller Park, for Curtis L. Waller of Tallahassee, Judge of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals.

Plagued with leaks and pump problems, the fountains were turned off in the 1980s.

After a nearly \$500,000 restoration in 2002, water returned to the three pool, double waterfall display. The planned addition of sculptures of native Florida animals by Hugh Bradford Nicholson began in July 2003 with the installation of "Stormsong" a 50-foot pod of silvery, frolicking dolphins in the middle pool. The two 19-foot groups, weighing five-tons,



Photo by Donn Dughi

East entrance to the Florida Capitol.

were built of aluminum and steel by structural engineer Ron Shaffer. The Anheuser-Busch Foundation donated \$1 million for the project.

Some statistics: The Capitol rises 514 feet above sea level, contains 3,700 tons of structural steel, 2,800 tons of reinforcing steel, 25,000 cubic yards of concrete (the equivalent of 16 football fields, each one foot thick), 12,000 square feet of walnut paneling, 12,000 gallons of paint, 62,000 square feet of marble, 60,000 square feet of carpet, 92,000 square feet of terrazzo, 30 miles of telephone cable, 250 miles of electrical wire, 2,000 doors, 66 public and 11 private restrooms, 40 sets of stairs, 14 elevators, and 360 parking spaces. While the Capitol generally is spoken of as having 22 stories, there is an additional floor below the street level, plus two levels of parking.

Some 3,000 persons work in the Capitol during normal days and when the Legislature is in session, an estimated 4,500 persons occupy the building.

The five-story base structure houses the Capitol offices of the Governor and members of the Cabinet. Four floors of this structure also are used for the chambers of the Senate and House of Representatives, the offices of the Senate President, President pro tempore, Majority, Minority, Secretary and Sergeant at Arms and the House Speaker, Speaker pro tempore Majority, Minority and Sergeant at Arms, some legislative committee offices and meeting rooms, and member offices.

From a public observation floor on the 22nd level, one may see, depending upon the clarity of the day, not only the city of Tallahassee and its environs but many miles of trees.

The architects and engineers charged with responsibility for the Capitol estimated its working life at a century.

In his dedication, Governor Askew described the new Capitol as “magnificent” but “just a building until we dedicate it, not only here today, but every day as we work for the people who really own it. For those of us who work here are only tenants. We do not own the building ... So I think we should dedicate this building to the owners.”

Stone’s fourth phase, two office buildings adjacent to the legislative buildings for use by executive agencies, was not completed.



Photo by Beatrice M. Queral

Restored Historic Capitol, 2008

The Restored Historic Capitol

Representative Herbert Morgan of Tallahassee and Senator Pat Thomas of Quincy wanted to preserve the Capitol as it existed in 1902. The significance of 1902 design was in the addition that year of the dome; to many Floridians the dome symbolized the state government.

The decision to preserve and restore the first domed version, supported by an appropriation of \$7,039,440, was reached after several years of controversy.

Each version had its proponents. Governor Reubin O’D. Askew and House Speaker Donald L. Tucker strove for outright demolition. They argued that little remained of the 1845 Capitol and preservation of any of the building blocked the view of the east front of the Capitol. There were those who deplored the wrecking of the newest and most serviceable wings, to the north and south, particularly in view of the State’s continuing need for office space.

In 1977, Secretary of State Bruce Smathers continued to conduct the public’s business from the old Capitol for two months after the Governor and other Cabinet members moved. Those two months gave Smathers and others opposed to demolishing the old Capitol time to mobilize support among legislators and the public. The 1978 Legislature opted for the 1902 version.

The decision having been made, the work of restoration, the third phase of Stone’s plan, proceeded rapidly with Herschel E. Shepard of Jacksonville as

the architect and representatives of the Department of General Services and the Department of State as the overseers.

Restored were the light gray wainscoting, powder blue walls and terra cotta ceilings. Red-and-white awnings were added after researchers turned up a 1903 postcard which showed these. The builders said the awnings would save one-third of the cost of air-conditioning.

Air-conditioning and heating were among the concessions to modern life. These were installed in such a way as not to be readily discernible. Today's safety codes dictated ceiling sprinklers, fire hoses, and two new stairwells. Hidden in walls are 2 1/2-inch sliding steel doors which can close off the rotunda when triggered by a heat-activated alarm. To accommodate the handicapped, a new elevator has been installed in the shaft where the Historic Capitol's first elevator was placed in 1923.

The restored base of the dome has been painted off-white with gray trim and red trim outlining the windows, a color scheme evoking the Confederate tragedy of which Florida was a part. Atop this base is a dome whose dark copper cover gradually gained a soft green patina from oxidation. In late 2011, the Department of Management Services began work on the building's roof in response to leaks and water damage. This work included a new copper finish for the dome.

Originally designed for architect Frank Milburn's 1902 additions to the Florida Capitol, the interior stained glass of the dome was a focal point of the rotunda. In the early 20th century the glass was

removed due to damage caused by leaks. During the historic restoration of the building, researchers found over one hundred pounds of the original stained glass discarded in an interior wall. Today, visitors to the Florida Historic Capitol Museum will see a replica of the 1902 interior dome.

What came as a surprise to many was the fact that the Historic Capitol at one time had two identical fronts, each with Doric columns, on the east and west sides. The west front had been lost since 1923 when a House Chamber pushed out from the existing Capitol. Bas-relief State seals grace the pediments of the two facades. The seals are white, as the architect originally intended, despite the objection of the then Governor William S. Jennings and Cabinet. After the building was completed in 1903, officialdom added colors to the seals.

In the fall of 1982 the Historic Capitol was opened as a museum of Florida's government. Restored areas include the 1902 Governor's office and chambers of the House of Representatives, Senate, and Supreme Court. The Department of State's Museum of Florida History developed exhibits to recall events in the life of Florida and its state government.

The 2000 Legislature approved a plan, submitted by the Department of State, to redo the Historic Capitol as the Florida Center of Political History and Governance. Dedicated in November 2002, the Center is an active, technologically sophisticated institution for residents and visitors to identify and explore the ongoing themes in Florida's political life.

In 2006, supervision of the Historic Capitol was returned to the Legislature. The Florida Legislative Research Center and Museum moved from its first home at Tallahassee Community College to the ground floor of the Historic Capitol.

In the name of security, concrete bollards were installed in October of 2007 on the east side of the Historic Capitol just beyond the sidewalk at the intersection of Monroe Street and Apalachee Parkway.

Capitol Center Cornerstones

The Capitol and the two legislative office buildings are among the structures in the Capitol Center with ceremonial cornerstones.

These are polished rectangular stones, placed at eye level on the northeast corner, and dedicated



Photo courtesy of Florida Historic Capitol Museum

Restored Historic Capitol, Governor's private office.



Florida State Archives

Liberty Bell replica on display, 1950.

under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons of Florida. Each cornerstone bears the year of the dedication in both the regular and Masonic calendars, plus the square and compass of Masonry.

Usually, cornerstones are hollow and contain items that are believed will be interesting to those who have reason to open the cornerstone in the future. The cornerstone for the Capitol, placed in 1976, contains a box including guides to the State House of Representatives, Senate, and Supreme Court; letters from the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Supreme Court Justices, the Senate President, and the House Speaker, addressed to their successors at the time of opening the box, as well as Masonic publications.

Cornerstones once served as the first of foundation stones and offered support to a structure. Nowadays they have no structural significance and may be in neither the foundation nor outside wall, but continue to be used as a tradition commemorating notable moments in history.

Monuments on the Capitol Grounds

On the north end of the east front of the Historic Capitol is a marble shaft with this legend: “To rescue from oblivion and perpetuate in the memory of succeeding generations the heroic patriotism of the men of Leon County who perished in the Civil War of 1861–1865, this monument is raised by their country

women.” The monument bears on its faces the names of battles in which Florida soldiers of the Confederate forces participated, including “Gettysburgh.” The shaft also shows the name and address of its fabricator: “T. Delahunty, Laurel Hill, Philada.” On the south end is the monument to Captain John Parkhill of the Leon Volunteers, “erected by his fellow citizens of Leon County, Florida, as a testimonial of their high esteem for his character and public services.” The monument states that Captain Parkhill was born July 10, 1823 and was killed at Palm Hammock in South Florida while leading his company in a chase against the Seminole Indians, November 28, AD 1857.

A replica of the Liberty Bell, which was originally the centerpiece of Waller Park (the land on which the west plaza was built) stands now in the northeast corner of the Capitol grounds in front of the House Office Building. A marker explains:

*Dedicated to you, a free citizen in a free land.
This reproduction of the Liberty Bell was presented to the people of Florida by direction of the Honorable John W. Snyder, Secretary of the Treasury ...*

In standing before this symbol, you have the opportunity to dedicate yourself, as did our founding fathers, to the principles of the individual freedom for which our nation stands.

Also in the northeast corner of the Capitol grounds are the Florida Sri Chinmoy Peace Marker, a tree dedicated to Andrew Jackson and the Historic Capitol historical marker.

On the south side of the courtyard between the Capitols is the Florida Fraternal Order of Police Law Enforcement Memorial. The memorial, dedicated in 2000, has the names of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

About 15 feet away, at the foot of the Historic Capitol’s steps, is the sculpture “Officer Down”. It depicts two police officers—one on his back, the other cradling his head as she reaches for a radio to call in the emergency. The sculpture, commissioned by the Florida Police Benevolent Association and created by Michael Jernigan was dedicated in March 2009. To the north of the FDLE memorial is a small marker which was dedicated to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1984.

Rehabilitation of the Historic Capitol caused the removal of a number of commemorative markers from its grounds. One removal included a gilded miniature of the Statue of Liberty, presented in 1950 as a symbol of the 40th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts' crusade "to strengthen the arm of liberty." Also included was a marker placed by the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs in remembrance of the signing of a legislative act by Governor Dan McCarty on June 11, 1953. The act designated the sabal palmetto as Florida's State Tree, and the marker was placed on February 22, 1954.

Centennial Observance

At the southeast corner of the Historic Capitol was a block of granite which symbolized the 100th anniversary of the first session of the Florida Legislative Council. The marker placed the event "on this spot" in November 1824, although the log cabin is believed to have been about a city block away, perhaps on the site of the present Caldwell building.

The dedication of this marker was a phase of the centennial of the Founding of Tallahassee. This observance included the erection of a replica of the log Capitol. Among the articles placed in a box in the foundation of the granite marker were a list of subscribers to the Centennial Fund, newspapers and reports of the Governor, administrative officers, and Tallahassee government.

John Hays Hammond, an internationally recognized engineer, brought greetings from President Calvin Coolidge. Hammond said Tallahassee "has the climate, the soil, beauty of environments and favorable location for growth that make it the most promising capital city in the United States."

Sesquicentennial Celebration

The 150th anniversary of the founding of Tallahassee as the Capital was observed on November 19, 1974, with a ceremony conducted by Governor Reubin O'D. Askew on the steps of the Capitol. There were flags, music, and brief speeches. The ceremony centered upon the placing of documents descriptive of Florida in 1974 in a copper box afterwards sealed in the granite marker of the 1924 centennial. Among the documents intended to tell future Floridians

of their past was a copy of *The Florida Handbook 1973–1974*. As in 1924, a replica of the log Capitol was placed on the grounds for the sesquicentennial ceremony.

A Mystery Plaque

Visitors to the Capitol likely will be puzzled by a bronze plaque affixed to the wall of the rotunda. To the knowledgeable, it is a reminder of the struggle both to save the Historic Capitol and to build the new. The plaque reads: "This plaque is dedicated to Senator Lee Weissenborn whose valiant effort to move the Capitol to Orlando was the prime motivation for the construction of this building."

The plaque resulted from a tussle of wills between the Senate and the House of Representatives in 1978 over the preservation of the Historic Capitol. The Senate, through Senator Jack Gordon, made the amendment authorizing the placement of the plaque a condition of passing the bill to save the Historic Capitol. The House leadership believed Gordon and the Senate had acted in a moment of whimsy, expecting the House to strike the amendment for the plaque. But this would have necessitated the return of the bill to the Senate for concurrence. The House sponsors were reluctant to risk loss of the controversial bill and took the amendment. There was the unstated belief that the plaque, if ever placed, would be hidden, perhaps in a closet.

Four years later, no plaque having been placed, Senator Gordon asked former Senator Kenneth A. Plante if he would supply the plaque. He did at a cost of several hundred dollars. Excuses gone, the Department of General Services affixed the plaque to the main floor wall, where it serves now as a puzzle to passersby.

Lee Weissenborn, from Miami, served in the House from 1963 to 1965 and in the Senate from 1965 to 1972. Senator Gordon served from Miami Beach between 1972 and 1990. Kenneth A. Plante, later a Tallahassee lobbyist, was a Senator from 1967 until 1978 and was the Republican leader of the Senate.



Lee Weissenborn

The Capitol Chapel

An ecumenical chapel, on the main floor of the Capitol, was dedicated September 4, 1980, to serve as a place of meditation and a representation of Florida's spiritual history.

The chapel occupies a room 13 by 22 feet. It was designed and furnished entirely from private funds raised by the Religious Heritage Council, a group established in 1976 by then Secretary of State Bruce Smathers. An effort was made to ensure the Council would be broadly representative of all religious groups in Florida.

The stone in the chapel symbolizes the strength and permanence of the earth. The water implies regeneration. The fire symbolizes illumination, renewal, and change, the Council declared, "as the hope for man's redemption through his own creative knowledge of his God." The bronze within the chapel symbolizes "those elements of earth forged by human hand, through fire, to the glory of God." Finally the painting "Creation" symbolizes the "mystery of the ordering of ourselves, through God, out of the chaos of a natural world." Chapel Materials consist of: Quarry Keystone for the table and the font was quarried in Florida City at the southernmost tip of the State. The stones were fashioned by the Georgia Marble Company with the cooperation of The Jim Walter Corporation. The Tidewater Cypress was originally cut 50–100 years ago and was raised



Photo by Jackson Stevens

Inside of the Capitol chapel

from the Apalachicola River. Its aromatic scent will continue to enhance the space for years to come. The Crystallized Coral flame holder was found off Ballast point in Tampa and subsequently fashioned for the Chapel. The coquina shell walls were cast with shells originating on the Atlantic beaches between St. Augustine and Jacksonville. They were cast by Mr. Frank Pedroni of Jacksonville. There is a font, a flame holder, and a processional candle. On two sides are plaques tracing the development of religion in Florida. Wording for the plaques was composed by two University of Florida historians, Dr. Samuel Proctor, Distinguished Service Professor of History, and Dr. Michael V. Gannon, Professor of History. Plaque design was created by Jean Welsh.

Description of Chapel Plaques

Panel One: Prehistoric Indians lived in Florida for thousands of years before the coming of Europeans. Their beliefs helped explain the World and the Cosmos. They found special meaning in natural and supernatural phenomena such as the changing seasons. The sun, moon, and stars were things to be worshipped and some revered animals like birds, cats, and snakes, while the higher chiefs were considered gods. In their well ordered lives all things and people had their places.

Panel Two: "Thanks be to thee, O Lord, who has permitted me to see something new." So prayed the Spaniard Juan Ponce de León who discovered this land in Easter time of 1513 and named it Pascua Florida—"Flowery Easter." Priests of his Roman Catholic faith accompanied Ponce de León on a later but unsuccessful expedition to Charlotte Harbor on Florida's lower Gulf coast in 1521.

Panel Three: Pensacola, founded in 1559 by Catholic colonists led by Tristan de Luna, was the first Christian settlement in Florida. The colony lasted three years. French Calvinists, or Huguenots, under Réne de Goulaine de Laudonniere, founded the first Protestant Christian colony in Florida near the mouth of the St. Johns River in 1564, called Fort Caroline; this settlement was also short-lived.

Panel Four: Divine services in English using the Anglican (Episcopal) Book of Common Prayer took place aboard the English Naval Squadron of Sir John Hawkins while anchored in the Saint Johns River from July 24 to 28, 1565. It was the first Anglican service in Florida and the first in what is now the continental United States. The Anglican Church would return to Florida for a twenty-one year period from 1763 to 1784.

Panel Five: St. Augustine, founded on September 8, 1565, by Spaniards under Don Pedro Menéndez de Aviles, was the first permanent Christian settlement in Florida and North America. Founding pastor was Father Francisco Lopez de Mendoza. He and other Catholic priests established Florida's first parish, first Indian mission—Nombre de Dios (Name of God)—the first seminary and the first hospital.

Panel Six: In the seventeenth century, Franciscan missionary friars founded a chain of missions that stretched from St. Augustine to Tallahassee. In the mission compounds some 30,000 Timucua and Apalache Indians learned not only the doctrines of Christianity but also the rudiments of European arts and crafts.

Panel Seven: Blacks came to Florida with the Conquistadors as free persons. In 1580–1581 the first slaves arrived, and to one of these families living in St. Augustine a son was born and baptized a Christian in 1606, the first documented baptism of a black in what is now the United States. African Americans and whites worshipped together at the time. Blacks retained few vestiges of their own African religious heritage.

Panel Eight: Records note that Jews had settled in Pensacola by the 1760s, and that a Jewish fur trader was living in St. Augustine in 1785. Other Jews arrived in the early decades of the nineteenth century; they were planters, farmers, and merchants.

Panel Nine: Great Britain ruled Florida in the period 1763–1784, the era of the American Revolution. In occupying the Floridas, King George III declared freedom of worship. Anglican worshippers with their spiritual leader John Forbes converted

the old Spanish Parish Church of La Soledad (at St. Augustine) to their use. Renamed Saint Peter's and given a new bell tower, it became the first Protestant Episcopal Church in Florida.

Panel Ten: The first Greek Orthodox Christian in Florida probably was Doroteo Teodoar, who accompanied the expedition of the Spaniard Pánfilo de Narváez in 1528.

Panel Eleven: Pigeon Creek Baptist Church, in what is now Nassau County, was Florida's only known Protestant Church when the territory became part of the United States in 1821. The Baptists were eventually to become the largest Christian group in Florida. Methodist circuit riders carried their faith into the rural areas, preaching in civic buildings, under the trees, and in open fields if there were not churches available.

Panel Twelve: Presbyterians organized their first church at St. Augustine in 1824 with thirteen people in the congregation. At Tallahassee, before there was a church building, they held services in the Capitol. The Episcopal Church drew planters and merchants. St. Augustine's Trinity Church is the oldest church of that faith in Florida. Christ Church in the city of Pensacola is the second oldest.

Panel Thirteen: African Americans founded their own churches after the Civil War. Spirituals and preaching gave a special vibrancy to their services. Ministers were not only religious leaders; they were also advisors to their people in troubled times.

Panel Fourteen: Jewish families settled in the small communities of northern Florida after the Civil War. In 1874 Temple Bethel was established in Pensacola. Ahavath Chesed was founded in Jacksonville in 1882.

Plaza Murals

A mural in two 8-by-11 foot sections on the plaza level (or main floor) attracts attention and often comments from Capitol visitors.

The mural "Images of the Sunshine State," was painted by James Rosenquist, then 45 years old and

a resident of Aripeka on Florida's Gulf coast north of Tarpon Springs. He was born in Grand Forks, North Dakota in 1933, reared in Minneapolis, attended the University of Minnesota's art school, and studied at the New York Art Students' League, where his work was influenced by sculptor Claes Oldenburg and painter Robert Indiana.

The \$60,000 mural (financed by public and private funds) uses animals and objects Rosenquist felt were symbolic of Florida. These include the snout of

an alligator, an orange blossom, a Zebra Longwing butterfly, a cow's head, a scuba diver, and a woman swimming. All the images are surrounded by water. There is a State seal slipping into the sea on one panel and a fiberglass cast of a rock tied by an actual rope to a shanty painted in the center of the other section. The rock attracts much visitor attention. Rosenquist describes this as his way of creating "a ballast" for a fragile state.



West mural



East mural



Early Florida Cemeteries

Sharyn Thompson

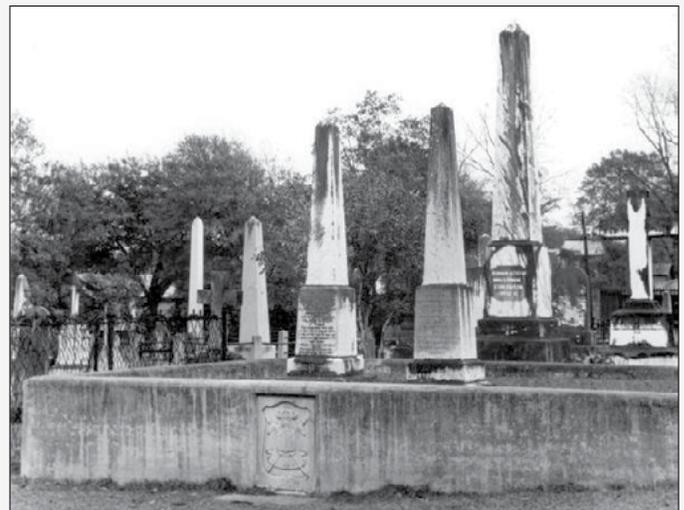
Florida's early cemeteries offer a unique perspective about the state's historical development. A burying ground's gravestone inscriptions and collection of funerary materials—tombs, headstones, walls, fences, plants—provide clues about the heritage of a community, including information about the social and economic status, ethnicity, and religious beliefs of the people who contributed to its settlement history.

The two earliest existing cemeteries are located in Florida's earliest European settlements and date to the Second Spanish Period (1784-1821). St. Michael's Cemetery in Pensacola was established in 1807, although church records suggest it may have been used as a burying ground as early as 1786, and recent archaeological research indicates that it might have also been used earlier when the city was under control of the British. St. Augustine's Tolomato Cemetery was established prior to 1788 though it may have been in use, as part of a mission, as early as 1737. Both cemeteries have above-ground tombs reflecting the late 18th century burial traditions of their Spanish colonists. Because the cross was one of the few symbols allowed in Catholic cemeteries, the winged death's heads and soul effigies associated with graveyards in America's British-settled colonies are not found in Florida.

When Florida became a territory of the United States in 1821, large numbers of Americans moved into the area. The mostly Protestant population had burial traditions different from the Spanish. The immigrants established public cemeteries in the newly established settlements and towns, and members of church congregations were often buried in the yards

surrounding their churches. On the isolated farms and plantations that developed during Florida's territorial and antebellum periods, family and slave graveyards were often established. These small plots are sometimes the only evidence remaining of previous activities on the land.

Since Florida had no native stone appropriate for headstones, during the early 1800s graves were often marked with wood boards and field stones. Stone markers were imported from such far-away places as New Haven, Connecticut; Baltimore, Maryland; Charleston, South Carolina; Savannah, Georgia; Mobile, Alabama; and New Orleans, Louisiana. An exception to this is the native coquina stone which was occasionally used for tombs and markers in St. Augustine's cemeteries. At the beginning of the 19th



Florida State Archives

Murat grave obelisks at St. John's Episcopal Church cemetery, Tallahassee, 1950. Resting place of Prince Charles Louis Napoleon Achilles Murat, 1801-1847, member of the Bonaparte family, and Princess Catherine Dangerfield Willis Gray Murat, 1803-1867.

century, the popularity of funerary materials and symbols began to change in America; white marble became the favored stone for grave markers, and the “willow and urn” design replaced the skeletons and cherubs found on earlier slate and sandstone markers.

The territorial period in Florida roughly corresponds to the Rural Cemetery Movement that was taking place in Europe and the northeastern United States. It began in Europe as a reform effort seeking to replace the overcrowded, unsanitary churchyards and public burying grounds with large tracts of land situated on the outskirts of cities. The cemeteries typically had plans that included formal landscaping, wide lanes and paths, ornamental fountains, and garden furniture, as well as the ornate and ostentatious monuments and mausolea that became fashionable during the corresponding Victorian era.

America’s first “rural” cemetery was established in 1831. The movement greatly influenced how municipal cemeteries throughout the nation subsequently developed. Although public cemeteries in frontier Florida towns were initially established as typical burying grounds, most eventually incorporated some elements of the “rural” cemetery. White marble markers embellished with a variety of reli-

gious symbols continued to be fashionable through the first decades of the 20th century.

Funerary traditions tend to be one of the least changed elements of material culture. Many cemeteries in Florida reflect the ethnic groups that have contributed to the state’s heritage, including those from the Bahamas, Cuba, Greece, and Haiti. Graveyards that still exhibit burial practices of Native Americans are most prominent in the panhandle counties and typically have frame structures over the graves, geometric shaped wood markers, and mounded graves that are sometimes covered with seashells and household items such as crockery or personal items that belonged to the deceased. Early burying grounds for people of African descent share some of the same traditions found at Native American sites, although they are generally ascribed to practices that slaves brought to the New World from Central and West Africa.

While Florida’s historic cemeteries have received increased attention in recent years, many are nevertheless threatened by natural weathering, vandalism, acid precipitation, and encroaching development. Continuing efforts to preserve and protect these sacred spots will ensure that a part of Florida’s history will not be lost.



Florida State Archives

Christian Creek Indian grave houses at Ebenezer Cemetery, Okaloosa County, 1977. Native American cemeteries are most prominent in the panhandle counties and are sometimes covered with seashells and household items such as crockery or personal items that belonged to the deceased.

(Right) 19th century mourners at a cemetery near Orange City. Since Florida had no native stone appropriate for headstones, during the early 1800s graves were often marked with wood boards and field stones.

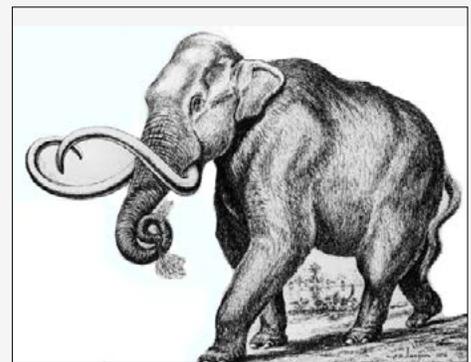


Florida State Archives



Through Some Eventful Years

12,400 B.C.: Florida may first have been seen by wanderers who crossed a land bridge from Siberia to Alaska during the late Pleistocene or Ice Age. Their presence in Florida may be surmised from stone points of javelins and spears found in conjunction with bones of large animals long extinct. A 7-foot mastodon tusk was recovered in 1995 at an Aucilla River archaeological dig in Jefferson County. Cut marks on the tusk, made by a stone tool, prove that humans were in north Florida about 15,000 years ago. A sinkhole at Warm Mineral Springs in Sarasota County contains well preserved botanical, faunal, and human remains deposited 10,000 or more years ago.



Fossil records indicate that pre-historic beasts, such as the mastodon, roamed throughout Florida.

5,000 B.C.: First semi-permanent settlements appeared in Florida as the Indians depended in a large degree upon snails, mollusks, and freshwater shellfish.

3,570 B.C.: First permanent, year-round settlement in North America located at Atlantic Beach near the mouth of the St. Johns River. Radiocarbon dating of charcoal from the site, being explored with the help of the National Geographic Society in 1998, fixed it as being 5,570 years old.

1498–1528: Europeans saw Florida coast for the first time. John Cabot of England viewed in 1498 or 1499 a great bay which may have been Miami's Biscayne Bay. Giovanni da Verrazano, a Florentine explorer in the service of France, likely raised the coast of Florida during a voyage in 1528. The Cantino map of 1502 shows a New World peninsula not unlike Florida. The Council of the Indies in 1565 claimed Spanish ships since 1510 had "gone to occupy Florida."

1500–1820: Periodic hurricanes along Florida's lower east coast and keys battered Spanish treasure fleets. Authoritative Treasure Diver's Guide calculates some \$12 billion in treasure (1970 bullion value) crossed the Atlantic from the Caribbean. Five percent was aboard lost ships, and 2%, or \$240 million, was never salvaged. A notable loss in 1715 was that of 10 ships driven onto reefs on the 40 miles of coast between the Sebastian and St. Lucie Inlets. Some \$30 million in gold, silver, and jewelry was lost, of which \$6 million was recovered by Spanish salvage crews and \$1 million by pirates. In 1985, divers found the richest trove of all, the scattered wreckage of the Spanish galleon *Nuestra Señora de Atocha*. The *Atocha* sailed from Cuba in 1622 with a manifest of 161 gold bars, 901 silver ingots, and 250,827 silver coins. During a hurricane, the *Atocha* swamped off Alligator Reef, some 50 miles southwest of Key West.



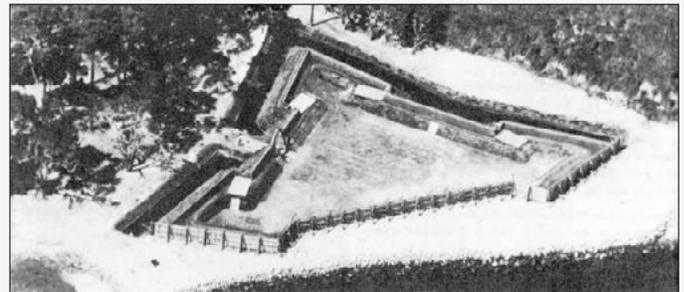
Juan Ponce de Leon sighted Florida on March 27, 1513.

1513: Juan Ponce de León, who first came to the New World on the second voyage of Columbus, sighted Florida on March 27. Going ashore between April 2 and 8 near St. Augustine, he named the land “Pascua Florida” because of its discovery “in the time of the Feast of Flowers.”

1516–1561: Florida explored by Spaniards, including Ponce de León, who was wounded fatally in landing near Charlotte Harbor; Pánfilo de Narváez, Hernando de Soto, and Tristan de Luna. De Luna established a colony on the shores of Pensacola Bay in 1559. This settlement, abandoned 2 years later after a storm wrecked de Luna’s fleet, antedated by 6 years the founding of St. Augustine and was the first attempt at permanent colonization. Friar Luis Cancer de Barbastro, a priest of the Dominican order, was killed by Native Americans near Tampa Bay in 1549, the first churchman to die for his faith in this country. Spanish Florida embraced most of today’s southeastern United States.

1562: A three-ship French expedition under the command of Jean Ribaut or Ribault (see below), searching for a site for a Huguenot colony, entered the St. Johns River on April 30. Sailing inland for about 5 miles, the ships anchored at a bluff on the south bank. Ribaut, enchanted, described what he saw as “the fairest, frutefullest and pleasantest of all the worlds. The sight of the faire-meadows is a pleasure not able to be expressed with tongue.” In honor of the date, May 1, they called the river Rivière de Mai or the River of May.

1564: Admiral Ribaut’s second-in-command, René de Goulaine de Laudonnière, returned to the River of May with 300 men and 4 women, nearly all Huguenots. They built a triangular fort of earth and timbers and named it Fort Caroline in honor of French King Charles IX. The colonists did not share Ribaut’s idyll, for food was in short supply, there was little opportunity to search for gold, and Laudonnière imposed strict moral curbs. Two mutinies resulted, and the mutineers, in stolen ships, sought to plunder Spanish treasure fleets sailing up the Florida coast. These activities by the French prompted the Spanish authorities to plan protective measures. First recorded birth of a white child in what became the United States, at Fort Caroline, although likely a child was born at Pensacola as early as 1559.



An aerial view of the 1964 reconstructed Fort Caroline.

1565: The English slave trader John Hawkins (later a hero of the defeat of the Spanish Armada) anchored off Fort Caroline and offered to take the remaining colonists to France. Laudonnière refused but purchased one of Hawkins’ four ships. Meanwhile, two fleets were racing across the Atlantic to reach Fort Caroline: Ribaut in command of a French fleet and Admiral Pedro Menéndez de Avilés in command of a Spanish expedition. Menéndez ran into storms, and Ribaut reached Florida first. On August 28, Menéndez entered a natural harbor and, celebrating the feast day of Saint Augustine with a High Mass, gave the place the name of San Augustin (afterwards St. Augustine). He sailed north to the St. Johns, had an inconclusive skirmish with

four French ships, and returned to St. Augustine. Going ashore on September 8, Menéndez and 800 Spanish settlers celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving and invited the native Seloy tribe who occupied the site. Thus the date marks the first Thanksgiving in the first permanent settlement by Europeans in the New World (56 years before the Pilgrims in Plymouth, Massachusetts). Guessing correctly that Ribaut would attack St. Augustine, thereby depleting the garrison at Fort Caroline, Menéndez made a surprise march overland and captured Fort Caroline. Those soldiers not killed in the battle were hanged beneath a placard that read, “I do this, not as to Frenchmen, but as to Lutherans (Huguenots).” Hurrying back, Menéndez intercepted at an inlet 15 miles south of St. Augustine some 200 of Ribaut’s men, shipwrecked by a hurricane. Menéndez slaughtered all but a few of the French, giving the place its name Matanzas, the Spanish word for slaughter.



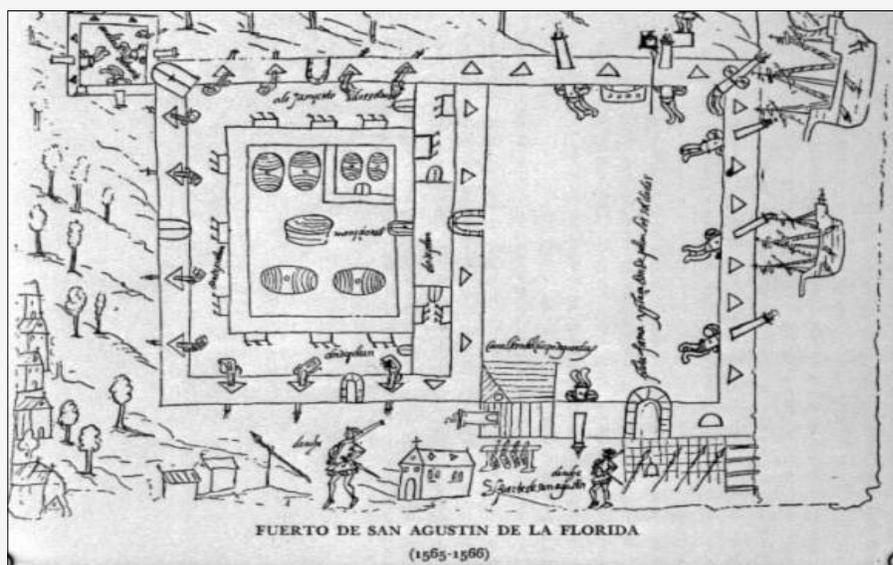
This engraving depicts the scene of Dominique de Gourgues avenging the massacre of the French Huguenots.

1566: Intensive, continuing efforts were begun by Jesuit and Franciscan friars to convert the Native Americans to the Christian faith. Spanish interest in Florida flagged because of the absence of gold and other precious minerals and the infertility of the soil. However, occupation was deemed vital to protect ships sailing along the Gulf Stream to Spain from its Western Hemisphere possessions.

1568: The events in Florida caused an uproar between France and Spain, but no official action was taken. Dominique de Gourgues, in his 30s and a distinguished French Catholic, privately assembled a force said to be for the slave trade, and sailed for Fort Caroline, known by then as San Mateo. Catching the garrison by surprise, De Gourgues burned the fort and hanged the survivors beneath the legend, “Not as to Spaniards, but as to Traitors, Robbers and Murderers.” The reprisal complete, De Gourgues offered up thanks to God and departed for home on May 3. De Gourgues’ revenge was, however, the end of French energies in East Florida.

1586: Sir Francis Drake, a British seafarer and sanctified pirate, sacked and burned St. Augustine.

1600: Marked by sporadic fighting with Native Americans, the 17th century saw Spanish colonization spread throughout Florida. San Marcos de Apalache (St. Marks of today) was a fort and a settlement of consequence by the 1680s. Possession of Pensacola was reestablished in 1698 with 300 soldiers and settlers and the building of a wooden fort. In following years five flags would fly over Pensacola.



Castillo de San Marcos as it was planned in 1566.

1605: Franciscan friars were the first Florida schoolmasters. As early as 1605 they were conducting a primary school in the Convent of the Immaculate Conception, where a “maestro de gramatica” instructed the children of St. Augustine in elementary subjects and religion.

1672–1698: Pressed by the English, with Native American allies, from the north and by the French from the west, Spain decided to establish a more substantial base at St. Augustine than the wooden forts which had been destroyed in English forays. Thirty years in building, the Castillo de San Marcos finally was finished. This fort of coquina, a rock formed of sand and shell, provided a bastion for the Spanish in East Florida.

1702–1703: British raids upon Spanish settlements, including a 2-month siege of St. Augustine during which the town was captured but not the fort.

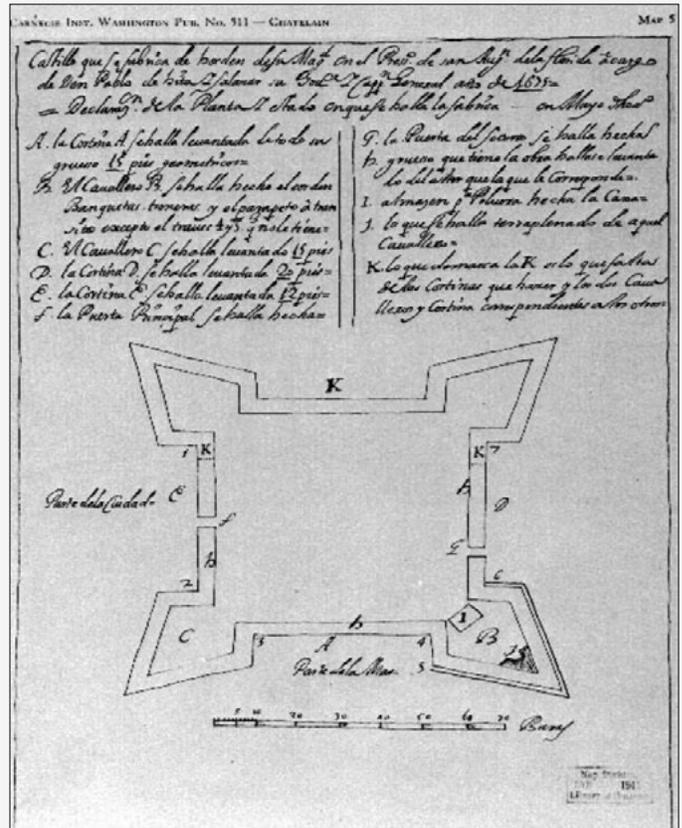
1719: The French captured Pensacola but soon returned the colony in an alliance of France and Spain to stave off inroads by the English. France occupied the Gulf Coast west of Pensacola.

1740: British General James Oglethorpe invaded Florida from Georgia. Seizing outlying forts, he besieged St. Augustine for 27 days until lack of water and provisions plus the July sun and hordes of insects caused him to turn away, freeing the 1,500 soldiers and 1,000 townspeople crowded into the Castillo de San Marcos.



Governor George Johnstone (left) presided over West Florida while British General James Grant (right) governed East Florida during the American Revolution.

1781: On May 10 at Pensacola, Major General John Campbell surrendered the British flags and arms to the Spanish forces of General Bernardo de Galvez. British West Florida ceased to exist.



Castillo de San Marcos as planned by 1675. British forces captured Saint Augustine, but not the fort.

1763: Treaty of Paris, ending the Seven Years War between the English and French (and late-entering Spanish) saw England take Canada from France. Havana, captured by the English, was returned to Spain in exchange for Florida. British East Florida, with St. Augustine and its 900 buildings as capital, stretched from the Atlantic to the Apalachicola River. British West Florida, with Pensacola as capital, reached from the Apalachicola to the Mississippi. In what is present-day Florida, there was little beyond St. Augustine and Pensacola except San Marcos de Apalache, the fort and settlement at the head of the Gulf of Mexico. All the rest was wilderness.

1776–1778: The English colonies of East and West Florida remained faithful to the Crown during the American Revolution. Tory refugees crowded St. Augustine. Border fighting occurred between American and British forces.

1819: American Secretary of State John Quincy Adams and Spanish Minister Luis de Onís reached an agreement, finally ratified by both nations in 1821, by which Spain gave the United States title to East and West Florida. The Adams-Onís Treaty dealt with other territorial disputes and with the counter-claims regarding property of citizens of both countries. The United States gave up its claim to Texas, and Spain assigned its rights in the Pacific Northwest to the United States, leaving ownership of the Oregon territory to be settled among the United States, Russia, and Great Britain. The United States paid about \$4,100,000 to Americans who proved claims against Spain. But, as Dr. Rembert W. Patrick concluded in “The Colonial Eras of Florida” in the 1961–1962 edition of *The Florida Handbook*, “the Spanish kingdom never received a penny from the American republic for the valuable territory” of Florida.

1821: Andrew Jackson received the Floridas from Spanish authorities at Pensacola on July 17. He left Florida in October, likely on the 8th, and resigned as United States Commissioner and Governor of the Territories of East and West Florida from his Tennessee home in November.

1822: The unified government of Florida was established March 30, 1822, when President Monroe signed into law the congressional act providing for a governor and a legislative council of 13 citizens, appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. William P. DuVal became the first territorial governor.



William P. DuVal was the first territorial governor of Florida.

1824: Governor DuVal, on March 4, proclaimed the site of today’s Tallahassee as the seat of the new territory, with the Legislative Council meeting there in November at a log house erected in the vicinity of today’s capitol. Settlers poured into Florida, with southward movement bringing friction with Native Americans. The Territorial Council, with a Congressional appropriation of \$20,000, authorized John Bellamy, late of South Carolina, to build a road from the St. Johns River to the Ochlockonee River. Bellamy, who settled a plantation at Monticello, accepted land when money for the road ran out. The Bellamy Road, as it was called, was used until the Civil War.



Tallahassee became the state capital in 1824.

1825: The Marquis de Lafayette was granted \$200,000 and a township of land anywhere in the unsold public domain by Congress in recognition of his Revolutionary War services. He accepted a township adjacent to land set aside by the Federal Government for establishment at Tallahassee of the new capital of the Territory of Florida. Lafayette never saw his Florida land, much now within the present city of Tallahassee, but caused the settlement there in 1831 of a short-lived colony of 50 to 60 Norman peasants to cultivate vineyards, olive groves, and mulberry trees for feeding silkworms.



Outspoken Seminole warrior Osceola fought against U.S. troops.

1830: Population 34,730 (white 18,395, nonwhite 16,335), 100% rural. Rank in population among states and territories, 26 of 28.

1834–1837: Florida’s first railroads began operation. The Tallahassee-St. Marks railroad was the first incorporated (February 10, 1834) of those which actually were built, but the St. Joseph-Lake Wimico line was the first to get into service (early March, 1836). St. Joseph put the state’s first steam locomotive into service on September 5, 1836.

1835: Beginning of the Second Seminole War. Major Francis L. Dade and two companies of U.S. Army troops were ambushed and massacred. Osceola, a Native American leader, was imprisoned in 1837 after entering an American camp under a flag of truce.

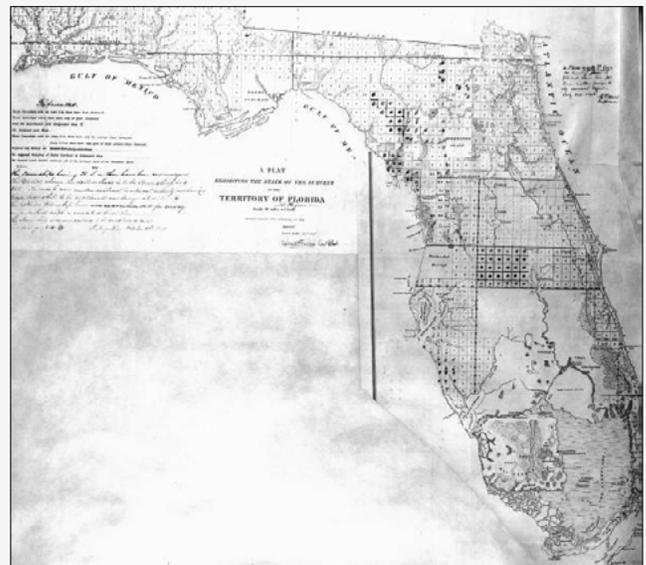
1837–1840: General Zachary Taylor, afterwards President of the United States, commanded forces combating the Seminoles. His battle on the eastern shore of Lake Okeechobee on Christmas Day, 1837, has been described as the last organized encounter of any size with the Seminoles.

1838–1839: Fifty-six commissioners elected from Florida’s 20 counties gathered at St. Joseph to draft a constitution in anticipation of statehood. The convention lasted from December 3, 1838, until January 11, 1839. The constitution adopted prohibited bank officers, clergymen, and duelists from being elected as Governor, U.S. Senator, or member of the General Assembly (Legislature).

1840: Population 54,477 (white 27,961, nonwhite 26,516), 100% rural. Increase over 1830 census, 56.9%. Rank in population among states and territories, 27 of 30.

1842: Second Seminole War ended by U.S. Government decision, without treaty or capitulation. Some 3,824 Native Americans and blacks were removed to the Arkansas Territory (Oklahoma). Cost of war to Federal government estimated at \$40,000,000. Wounds and disease killed 1,500 U.S. soldiers. No estimate can be made of the loss of native and black lives.

1845: President John Tyler on March 3, last day of his administration, signed into law the act granting statehood to Florida (and Iowa) with its 57,921 people. First State Governor was William D. Moseley, Jefferson County planter who had lived in Florida but 6 years. He was a North Carolinian. Elected to Congress as first Representative was David Yulee, of Portuguese and Jewish blood, who had been born in St. Thomas, the West Indies. Before going to Washington as Representative, however, Yulee (then Levy) was elected U.S. Senator by the General Assembly and, with but a 4-year interruption, continued in the Senate until secession.



This plat of the Florida territory from 1845 shows community division lines which help define districts for government representation.

1850: Population 87,445 (white 47,203, nonwhite 40,242), 100% rural. Increase over 1840 census, 60.5%. Rank in population among states, 31 of 31.

1851: Dr. John Gorrie of Apalachicola patented the process of making ice artificially, a process he had developed in 1845 to cool the rooms of feverish patients. He died in 1855 without having gained recognition, but today Dr. Gorrie is one of two Florida men honored with a statue at the Capitol in Washington.

1852: The first public schoolhouse was established in Florida at Tallahassee.

1855: Third Seminole War begins in December.

1857: Army Captain Abner Doubleday, remembered a century later as the “father of baseball” in discredited legend, surveyed south Florida and built a wagon trail linking New River (Fort Lauderdale) and Fort Dallas (Miami). It is said that a trace of Doubleday’s old road may be seen in Arch Creek Park in north Dade County. Charged with subduing the Seminoles, Doubleday candidly reported: “We had no success in the Indian question whatever. How could we have? They kept out of our way and let us wander around.”

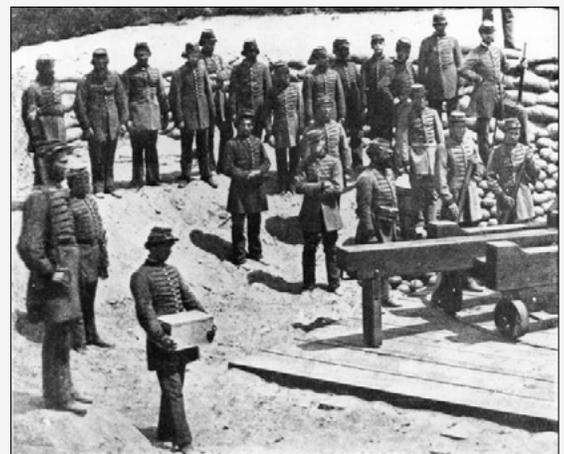


A model of Dr. Gorrie's ice machine is on display at the John Gorrie Museum in Apalachicola, Florida.

1858: The Third Seminole War ended without treaty or capitulation. With the withdrawal of troops from Florida, the United States ended its Wars of Indian Removal east of the Mississippi River. Possibly as few as 200 Native Americans remained in the state.

1860: The Legislature, meeting after Abraham Lincoln’s election as President, rushed through an act for a constitutional convention to meet at Tallahassee and appropriated \$100,000 for state troops. The Florida Railroad, first cross-state line, linked Fernandina, on the east coast, with Cedar Key on the west. Population 140,424 (white 77,747, nonwhite 62,677), 95.9% rural. Increase over 1850 census, 60.6%. Rank in population among states, 31 of 33.

1861: Florida withdrew from the Union on January 10. Florida was admitted to the Confederacy on February 4 but remained an independent nation until April 22, when the Secession Convention ratified the Constitution of the Confederate States of America. That day, the Confederate flag was raised over the Capitol. State troops occupied the Chattahoochee arsenal, Fort Clinch on Amelia Island, and Fort Marion (Castillo de San Marcos) at St. Augustine, but Federal authorities held Fort Taylor at Key West, Fort Jefferson in the Dry Tortugas, and Fort Pickens at Pensacola.



Confederates in newly-captured Pensacola Fort, 1861.

1861–1865: Florida furnished salt, beef, and bacon to the armies of the Confederacy. The voting population of Florida was 14,374 in 1860. This figure gives significance to the fact that more than 16,000 Floridians served in the Civil War: 15,000 in the Confederate army and 1,290 in the Union army. Of those in the Confederate forces, 6,700 served for the entire war or until disabled or killed. Florida troops served in all of the greater battles, and more than 1,000 were killed outright on the field of battle. As a result of campaigning, at least 5,000 Florida soldiers were dead by the spring of 1865.

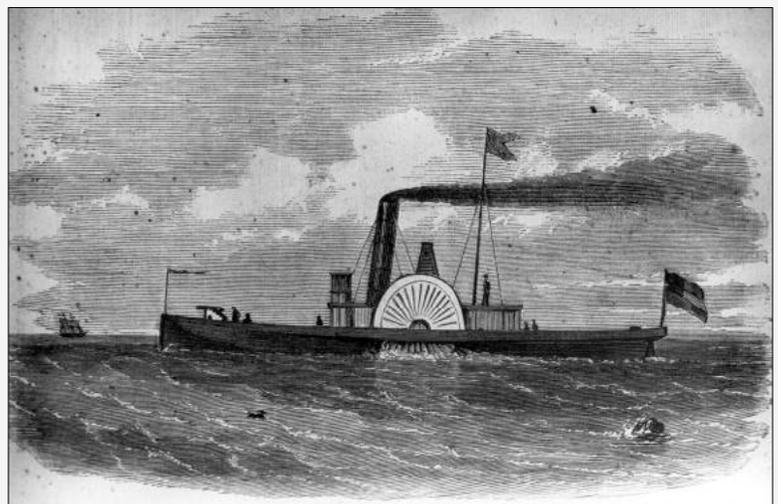
1864: The defeat of the Union army by Confederates at Olustee in the largest Florida clash of the Civil War saved interior lines of supply from Florida into Georgia and other eastern states of the Confederacy and confined Federal troops to the coast. Raiding parties, instead of Federal troops in force, roved Florida.

1865: Home Guards and Cadets from West Florida Seminary saved Tallahassee from capture by turning back invading Federal forces at the Battle of Natural Bridge. The war ended with Tallahassee the only Confederate state capital east of the Mississippi River to escape occupation. Federal troops entered Tallahassee on May 10, and the American flag again flew over the Capitol on May 20. A constitutional convention on October 25 annulled the Ordinance of Secession and decreed slavery no longer existed. The right to vote was restricted to “free white male persons of 21 years or more, and none others.”

1868: The faction-torn convention submitted a new constitution, approved by the voters in May, which granted equal suffrage to male persons of “whatever race, color, nationality, or previous condition. . . .” Military rule ended, with civil government formally resumed on July 4. The state’s political destiny was, for the time being, in the hands of those either new to Florida or new to the right to vote. Claude G. Bowers, whose *The Tragic Era* is a history of Reconstruction, described the situation in Florida. He characterized the legislators as “swindlers, stealing on mileage” and selling public offices and property. “The hotels and boarding houses (in Tallahassee) are filled with shabby strangers, the meanest of carpetbaggers drinking champagne, and the poorest in possession of the finest of beaver hats.” In a word, wrote Bowers, “Florida was putrid.” Florida’s first carpetbag governor, Harrison Reed, was described by Bowers as “something of a hypocrite and everything of a scamp,” and by his friends as a “high-minded, honest, and honorable man.” William Watson Davis, another Reconstruction historian, found Reed to be “shrewd, combative, and intriguing in dealing with men, but not smooth.” Reed was frustrated by a legislature opposed for reasons of party and personal gain to the governor’s efforts to administer an efficient state government. He was harassed by repeated attempts to oust him and distracted by murders, whippings, and other acts of terrorism in many of the counties.



The Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park monument.



Engraving of a Confederate steamboat at Pensacola.

1870: Population 187,748 (white 96,057, nonwhite 91,691), 91.9% rural. Increase over 1860 census, 33.7%. Rank in population among states, 33 of 37.

1880: Population 269,493 (white 142,965, nonwhite 126,690), 90% rural. Up 43.5% over 1870 census. Rank in population among states, 34 of 38.

1881: Hamilton Disston, Philadelphia saw industrialist, bought 4 million acres of central Florida at 25 cents an acre to free the Internal Improvement Fund of debt and open the way for development of much of peninsular Florida.

1882: First dredging in the Everglades.

1884: The first train of the new Plant System, a combination of many short lines by Henry Plant, rumbled into Tampa from Sanford to produce the agricultural and industrial awakening of the West Coast.

1885: A constitutional convention of 56 days broadened people's share in their government. Cabinet posts were made elective, as were those of justices of the Supreme Court and all county offices except county commissioner. The State Board of Education was created. The establishment of normal schools was authorized.

1886: Requiring a railroad adequate to serve a great hotel he had built at St. Augustine, Henry M. Flagler bought the first transportation link in the chain of railroad and hotel properties he constructed down the East Coast to Key West. People and industry followed his penetration. Flagler's steel bridge across the St. Johns River at Jacksonville, opened for traffic on January 20, 1890, eliminated a ferry and for the first time permitted through trains from New York to St. Augustine and thereafter down the East Coast.

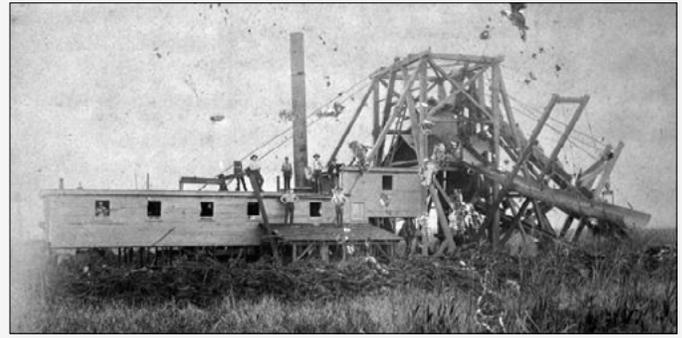
1888: The first commercial shipment of phosphate from the Peace River Valley, in the southwestern peninsula, where the mineral had been discovered in 1881.

1889: A yellow fever epidemic brought creation of the State Board of Health.

1890: A national convention of Farmers' Alliance, a predecessor of the Populist Party, held in Ocala. Population 391,422 (white 224,949, nonwhite 166,473), 80.2% rural. Increase over 1880 census, 45.2%. Rank in population among states, 32 of 44.

1894–1899: Repeated frosts killed many citrus trees and sent the industry southward.

1897: The State Railroad Commission was established with authority to promulgate "reasonable and just" passenger and freight rates and to correct transportation abuses. Floridians gave aid and comfort to the Cubans rebelling against Spain.



Hamilton Disston's crew dredging in St. Cloud.



The Belleview Hotel in Belleair near Clearwater was among many popular stops on the Plant System of railways.



The Farmers' Alliance members pose in Tallahassee.

1898: The Spanish-American War saw embarkation camps at Tampa, Miami, and Jacksonville; thousands of soldiers and others who visited the state later returned either as tourists or residents.

1900: Population 528,542 (white 297,333, nonwhite 231,209), 79.7% rural. Increase over 1890 census, 35%. Rank in population among states, 32 of 45.

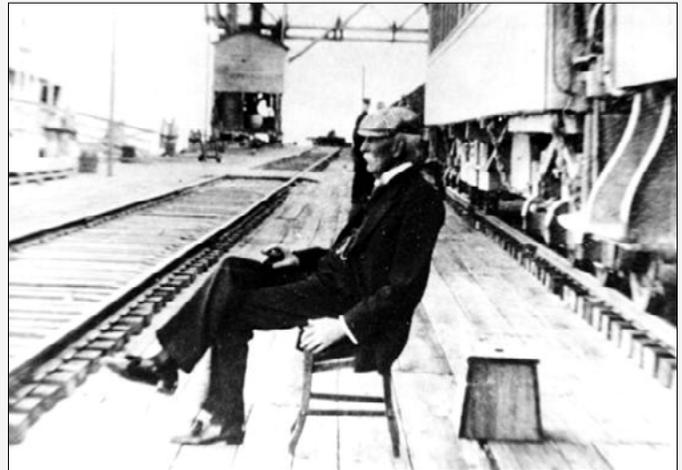
1901: On May 3, flames raced for 8 hours across the heart of Jacksonville, covering 146 city blocks and destroying 2,368 buildings, including 23 churches and 10 hotels.



The courthouse and armory after the Jacksonville fire, 1901.



A promotional photo of Kalem Company film stars.

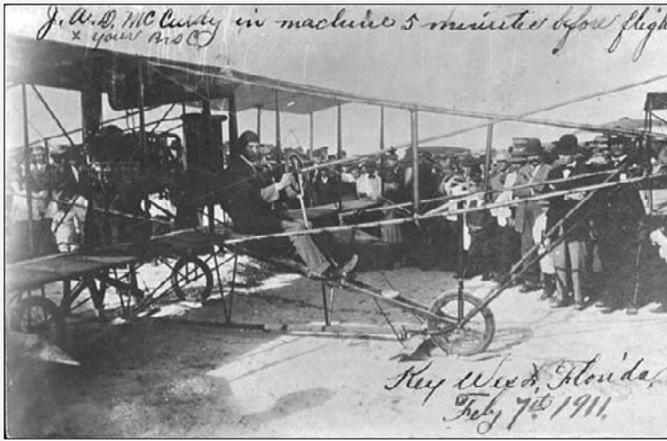


Henry Flagler sits by the tracks in the Florida Keys.

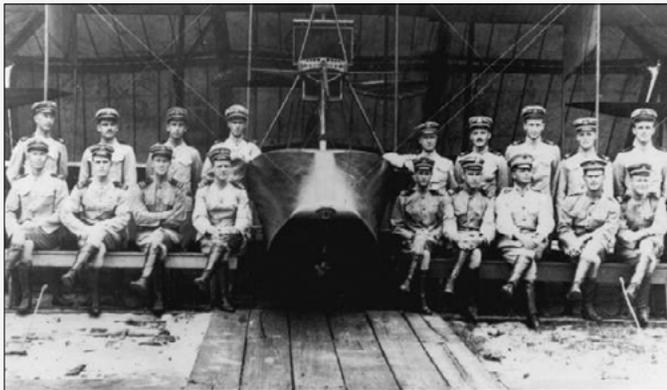
1905: Construction commenced on “Flagler’s Folly,” the railroad across the Keys to Key West. Built by Flagler’s own civil engineers and crews because the magnitude deterred contractors, the Overseas Extension spanned 127.84 miles from Homestead to Key West, 75 miles of which was over water or marsh. The longest viaduct, between Knights Key and Bahia Honda Key, covered 7 miles of almost unbroken open water. The task required 7 years and a work force of 3,000 to 4,000 men. The extension was completed January 22, 1912, in time for the 82-year-old Flagler to ride the first train. The extension, intended to carry freight between the United States and Cuba and the West Indies, never was profitable. Its trackage was badly battered by the Labor Day hurricane of 1935, and the railroad was abandoned, but the bridges and viaducts withstood the storm and subsequently were used as the foundation for “the highway that goes to sea.” Extensive sponge beds discovered off Tarpon Springs.

1906: Hundreds of workers on the Florida East Coast Railway’s Overseas Extension were lost when a hurricane swept the Keys and battered Miami on October 18.

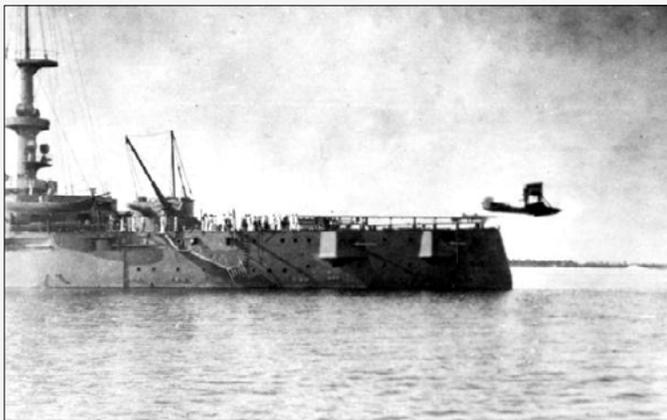
1908: With \$400 capital, the Kalem Company, organized in 1907, made in 1908 at Jacksonville what is regarded as the first dramatic motion picture in Florida. It was entitled *A Florida Feud*. Kalem was followed in Jacksonville filming by such pioneer studios as Lubin Selig, Thanhouser, Vitagraph, Essanay, Biograph, and Gaumont. In a thesis, “Florida: The Forgotten Film Capital,” Richard Alan Nelson says Jacksonville and Hollywood, California were by 1915 the nation’s two leading winter production centers. Among the Florida stars: Clara Kimball Young, Wallace Reid, Owen Moore, and Oliver Hardy. In 1917, the first Technicolor film, *The Gulf Between*, was produced in Florida.



Pilot J.A.D. McCurdy, one of many aviation pioneers, attempted the first flight from Florida to Cuba in 1911, unsuccessfully.



The first aviator class at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola.



Lt. Commander C. H. Mustin launches from the USS North Carolina.

1910: Population 752,619 (white 443,634, nonwhite 308,985), 70.9% rural. Increase over 1900 census, 42.4%. Rank in population among states, 32 of 46.

1911: In January, John Alexander Douglas (J.A.D.) McCurdy attempted to be the first to fly from Florida to Cuba, the farthest distance over water attempted to date, a little more than 90 miles. McCurdy fell just short of the distance due to engine problems off the coast of Havana.

1912: R.G. Fowler, in January, started the second transcontinental flight at Jacksonville, flying to San Francisco, a distance of 2,232 miles in 151 days. Two blocks in the business district of Fort Lauderdale were devastated by fire on June 2.

1913: On May 17, Domingo Rosillo flew across the Straits of Florida from Key West to Havana in 2 hours and 30 minutes, winning the prize offered by the Cuban city for the first flight. On October 9, the Secretary of the Navy appointed a board to select a site for naval aviation training purposes. Pensacola was chosen, with equipment and personnel transferred from Annapolis, Maryland. Henry M. Flagler, developer of Florida's east coast, died on May 20, after a fall on the marble stairs of Whitehall, the palace at Palm Beach he built for his third wife.

1914: On January 1, the first regularly scheduled commercial airline between two United States cities was established at St. Petersburg as Antony Jannus flew St. Petersburg's Mayor A.C. Pheil, and freight to Tampa. Pheil paid \$500 for the privilege of making the first flight. Two daily round trips were flown for 28 consecutive days. On January 8, Mrs. L.A. Whitney became the first woman ever to fly on a scheduled airline. Pensacola Naval Air Station was established.

1915: November 6, Lt. Commander C. H. Mustin made the first catapult launching of an airplane from a moving vessel, the USS North Carolina, off Pensacola.

1916: Former First Lady May Mann Jennings dedicated Royal Palm Park, the first area protected in what is now Everglades National Park.

1917–1918: Florida was the scene of training for World War I fighting men, particularly aviators, as weather permitted year round activity. On October 27, 1918, air passenger service between Key West and Havana was inaugurated by Aeromarine Company.

1919: The first guided missiles were tested at Carlstrom Field, Arcadia, in September.

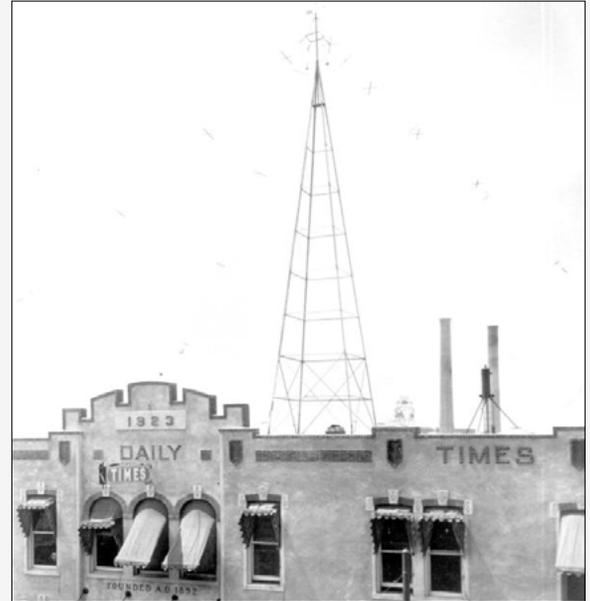
1920: A campaign to eradicate the Texas cattle tick saw Georgia erect along the boundary a double barbed wire fence, policed by riders, to keep infested Florida cattle from straying into Georgia. Within Florida, for the same purpose, counties were quarantined against other counties. Dipping vats were used to kill the ticks. The higher value of tick-free cattle ultimately brought general cooperation from cattlemen after early resistance. A race riot on Election Day 1920 at Ocoee resulted in the deaths of whites and blacks. Population 968,470 (white 638,153, nonwhite 330,985), 63.5% rural. Increase over 1910 census, 28.7%. Rank in population among states, 32 of 48.



Cattle dipping vats such as these were used to fight ticks.

1921: The flogging death of 21-year-old Martin Tabert of Munich, North Dakota, in a lumber company camp provoked a national outcry which brought an end to Florida's leasing of convicts. Accused of vagrancy after his money ran out as he sought to "see the world" and find employment, Tabert was sentenced at Tallahassee to 3 months imprisonment and turned over by the sheriff to the lumber company, which paid \$20 a month for county convicts.

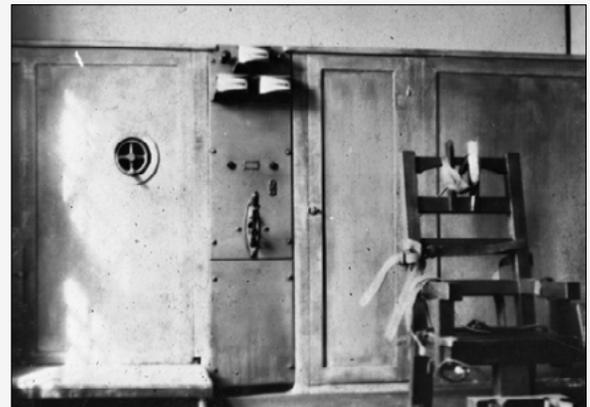
1922: The U.S. Department of Commerce issued its first Florida radio broadcasting license on May 15, 1922, to WDAE, Tampa. WFAW, afterwards WQAM, Miami, had commenced broadcasting in 1920 with a 50-watt transmitter assembled by Frederick William Borton from materials in a shop specializing in electrical repairs to automobiles and fixtures.



The radio antennae at WDAE in Tampa was Florida's first.

1923: Leasing of state convicts to timber companies and other interests was abolished as a result of the death of a prisoner in a private camp (See 1921). Rosewood was the scene of a lynching and race riot during which whites and blacks were killed and the homes and churches of blacks were burned.

1924: The electric chair first used in Florida. Frank Johnson, aka Luther Darrill, was electrocuted at Raiford State Prison on October 8, 1924, for the murder of Jacksonville locomotive engineer Atley B. Terrell.



The electric chair at Raiford State Prison, first used 1924.

1925: Mark Sullivan, in his book *Our Times*, said of Florida's land boom: "All of America's gold rushes, all her oil booms, and all her free-land stampedes dwindled by comparison with the torrent of migration pouring into Florida during the early fall of 1925." Miami's William Jennings Bryan, three-time Democratic nominee for President, died at Dayton, Tennessee, on the afternoon of July 26. Bryan had appeared there as protagonist in the widely publicized Scopes trial.

1926: Florida Airways Corporation on April 1 became the nation's second airline to commence domestic airmail service. (Predecessor was Ford Motor Company which began flying airmail between Detroit,



A Florida Airways pilot readies his airmail cargo.



A Pan American Fokker tri-motor airplane sits in Key West.



Motorists explored the Tamiami Trail for over a decade before its official opening in 1928. (photo courtesy of the Burgert Brothers)

Chicago, and Cleveland on February 15, 1926.) The federal award called for service between Atlanta and Miami by way of Jacksonville, Tampa, and Fort Myers, but Florida Airways first flew only among the four Florida cities. Florida's land bubble collapsed in the spring. Among the victims of the collapse was Florida Airways, with the Post Office canceling the airmail contract on December 31. The Miami area was dealt a second devastating blow by a hurricane on September 17–18. Estimates vary on casualties, but Helen Muir's Miami, U.S.A. states that in Dade County there were 113 deaths, 854 persons required hospitalization, and hundreds more were treated at home.

1927: On October 28, a chartered Fokker trimotor airplane rumbled along the dirt runway of Key West's Meacham Field to inaugurate both Pan American Airways and airmail service to Havana. The Pan American plane carried 28 sacks of mail over the 90 miles of water. Service for paying passengers began 3 months later. Because of Prohibition, the champagne christening of the maiden flight that day had to take place in Havana rather than in Key West. Large scale growing and milling of sugar began in the Everglades at Clewiston.

1928: Hurricane winds and water on September 16 brought death to 1,850–2,000 persons on the southeastern shores of Lake Okeechobee, perhaps the third worst after the Galveston Hurricane and Johnstown flood among America's natural catastrophes. The exact number of deaths was never determined as many victims were migrants. The loss of life was so great that funeral pyres were required. The Tamiami Trail, connecting Miami with the Gulf Coast via the Everglades, was officially opened on April 25.

1929: An infestation of the Mediterranean fruit fly required tons of citrus fruit to be destroyed in 20 mid-state counties. Banking historian Raymond B. Vickers reports 117 banks in Florida and Georgia collapsed within 10 days in July.

1930: Eastern Air Transport, Inc. (formerly Pitcairn Aviation, Inc.) in April inaugurated service between New York and Miami, changing pilots at Jacksonville. Population 1,468,211 (white 1,035,390, nonwhite 432,821), 51.7% urban. Increase over 1920 census, 51.6%. Rank in population among states, 31 of 48.

1933: On February 15, an assassin seeking to kill President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt in Miami's Bayfront Park missed Roosevelt but fatally wounded Mayor Anton J. Cermak of Chicago. The assassin, Giuseppe Zangara, was put to death in the electric chair at Raiford Prison on March 20, 1933, 14 days after Cermak died.

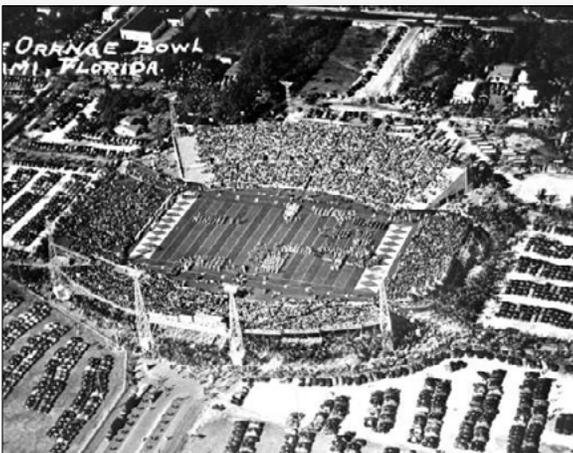
1934: President Franklin Roosevelt signed legislation to establish Everglades National Park. The Depression-exhausted Key West City Council and the Monroe County Commission signed over powers to the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. FERA's administrator initiated a program to make Key West the American winter resort of the tropics. Citizens volunteered 2 million hours of labor to refurbish the community. Pageants and other cultural events attracted 40,000 visitors that winter.



Several men assist wounded Chicago Mayor, Anton Cermak (center), to a car after a failed assassination attempt against Franklin D. Roosevelt in Miami. (photo courtesy of the Miami Herald)



Long Key Fishing Camp, initially built for tourists, housed many of the workers who perished in the Labor Day hurricane of 1935.



The Orange Bowl in Miami served as a makeshift internment camp for German, Japanese, and Italians thought to be a threat at the start of World War II.

1935: A storm sweeping the midsection of the Florida Keys brought death to upwards of 400 persons, including some 200 veterans of World War I. A remnant of the Bonus Army which had marched on Washington, the veterans were employed on highway construction as a federal work relief project.

1937: On June 1, Amelia Earhart took off from Miami on the first over-water leg of a round-the-world flight. She was flying a new Lockheed Electra underwritten by friends at Purdue University. She was accompanied by Fred Noonan, veteran aerial navigator. They disappeared over the Pacific on July 2 in an aura of mystery. She left behind this message: "Please know I am quite aware of the hazards . . . women must try to do things as men have tried. When they fail, their failure must be but a challenge to others."

1939: The Highway Patrol, financed from the sale of driver licenses, was established.

1940: A constitutional amendment authorized the creation of a parole commission for the supervised release of worthy prisoners. Population 1,897,414 (white 1,381,986, nonwhite 515,428), 55.1% urban. Increase over 1930 census, 29.2%. Rank in population among states, 27 of 48.

1941: FBI agents, with the declaration of war with Germany, Japan, and Italy, began rounding up aliens in Florida. In Miami, the detainees were housed temporarily beneath the Orange Bowl stadium.



The troopship Thomas LeValley was assembled in the shipyard at Panama City, one of many built in Florida.

1941–1945: Florida hummed with World War II industry, as training grounds for tens of thousands of men and women of the armed forces at camps including Camp Blanding and Camp Gordon Johnston and in the forging of vessels and tools for the conflict. Tourist hotels and restaurants at Miami Beach, Daytona Beach, St. Petersburg, and other resort centers afforded quick means for accommodating hordes of trainees.

1942: Four Germans on a World War II sabotage mission landed by rubber raft from a submarine at Ponte Vedra during the night of June 17. With four who landed 4 days earlier on Long Island, the eight were captured by June 28 and six, including all of the Florida party, were put to death by electric chair on August 8, 1942.

1945: A state advertising program of \$500,000 a year was instituted. Fire spawned by hurricane winds swept the great blimp base at Richmond Naval Air Station south of Miami on September 15, destroying 3 of world's largest hangars, 25 blimps, 366 airplanes, and 150 automobiles.

1946: The war's end allowed the start of public institutional improvements and a statewide building boom. Veterans crowded the colleges. The U.S. Supreme Court, in a 7–0 action, quashed a contempt conviction of The Miami Herald and its associate editor, John D. Pennekamp, and wrote four opinions upholding a newspaper's right to criticize a court.

1947: Florida State College for Women transformed into coeducational Florida State University. The University of Florida was opened to female students. President Harry S. Truman dedicated Everglades National Park on December 6, 1947.

1949: WTVJ, Miami, began operations as Florida's first broadcast television station, with special temporary authorization given by the Federal Communications Commission on January 27, 1949.

1950: Frozen concentrates of citrus juices became a major industry. Florida ranked 12th in the nation for beef cattle. On July 24, Bumper 8, a German V-2 rocket carrying an Army WAC Corporal missile from Cape Canaveral was the first American launch from what became the free world's largest testing ground for space exploration. Population 2,771,305 (white 2,166,051, nonwhite 605,254), 65.5% urban. Increase over 1940 census, 46.1%. Rank in population among states, 20 of 48.

1952: Voters amended the constitution to allow the pledge of motor vehicle tax revenue for school construction.



The Florida Advertising Commission designed booklets and other materials to promote business and tourism.



President Truman receives a gift from the Seminole Tribe at the dedication of Everglades National Park.

1953: An institutional building program was authorized, particularly to catch up the lag in mental hospitals. Governor Dan McCarty died in September after having been disabled by a heart attack suffered in February, some 7 weeks after inauguration.

1954: The first Republican since 1885 was elected to Congress. Six Republicans were elected to the State House of Representatives. The Sunshine Skyway, stretching 15.2 miles across Lower Tampa Bay, opened to toll traffic.

1954–1960: The school desegregation decision of the United States Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka et al.* had Florida ramifications. The Florida Supreme Court refused to admit black applicant Virgil Hawkins to the University of Florida Law School, despite an order from the U.S. Supreme Court that it do so promptly, because the Florida Court found that desegregation of the University of Florida would cause great harm to the institution and “great public mischief.” Governor LeRoy Collins and Attorney General Richard W. Ervin appointed a committee, popularly known as the Fabisinski Committee after its chairman, to study “legally sound” proposals which would maintain the public schools. The 1957 Legislature adopted an “interposition” resolution denying the Supreme Court had the right to “enact” law, as the legislators defined the Brown decision, and pronounced the Brown decision as null and void. Governor Collins labeled the resolution as a hoax and fraud. Following adoption of a pupil assignment law in 1956, the Governor and members of the Fabisinski Committee warned that some voluntary and limited desegregation would have to take place in Florida to avert Federal court decisions invalidating the pupil assignment law. However, the official defiance and public turmoil which resulted in Federal troops being sent to Little Rock, Arkansas, in the fall of 1958 increased racial tensions throughout the South and made local school officials reluctant to act. Nevertheless, in February, 1959, the Dade County School Board voted unanimously to assign four black children to the Orchard Villa Elementary School in Miami when the next school year began in September. When only 14 white students enrolled at Orchard Villa in September, the Dade school board admitted several hundred black children living in that rapidly changing neighborhood and installed an all black faculty. In September, 1960, the Dade board tried again, assigning two black girls to two previously all-white schools. Twenty-two black students also were attending classes with some 750 white students at the Air Base Elementary School operated by the Dade board for children of Air Force personnel at the Homestead base. Governor Collins vetoed a proposal to appropriate \$500,000 for an advertising campaign in the North on the merits of segregation. “Sit-in” demonstrations at a segregated dime store lunch counter in Tallahassee triggered a riotous situation. Governor Collins, in statewide radio and television broadcasts, declared, “We are going to have law and order in this state.” Collins went on to state, “We are foolish if we just think about resolving this thing on a legal basis.” He said boycotts could be extremely damaging. “I don’t mind saying that I think that if a man has a department store and he invites the public generally to come into his department store and trade, I think then it is unfair and morally wrong for him to single out one department though and say he does not want or will not



Equal rights protestors boycott segregated lunch counters.



Integrated students in Bronson.

allow Negroes to patronize that one department. Now he has a legal right to do that, but I still don't think that he can square that right with moral, simple justice." In later days, often through interracial committees, segregated lunch counter policies were ended in some 20 Florida communities.



The Jupiter I launch vehicle (background) lifted Explorer I.

1955: Lawmakers deadlocked for months in a special session over reapportionment of the State Senate.

1956: LeRoy Collins achieved two political "firsts." Elected in 1954 to complete the term of the late Governor McCarty, Collins was the first chief executive reelected to a successive term. Collins also was the first candidate for governor to win a first-primary victory, defeating five opponents for the Democratic nomination. A worm-eaten grapefruit in a Miami Shores backyard brought first aerial spraying to combat the Mediterranean fruit fly. More than a half million acres were sprayed before the battle ended nearly a year later. Needles, born and bred in Ocala, won the Kentucky Derby.

1958: Explorer I, the first U.S. satellite to orbit the Earth, was launched from Cape Canaveral.

1959: Passenger jet service inaugurated between Miami and New York. Busch Gardens in Tampa opened on March 31, 1959.



Alan Shepard boards the Freedom 7 orbiter before launch.

1960: Population 4,951,560 (white 4,063,881, nonwhite 887,679), 73.9% urban. Increase over 1950 census, 78.7%. Rank in population among states, 10 of 50.

1961: On May 5, the first American astronaut, Alan Shepard, was launched into space from Cape Canaveral. President Kennedy announced that the United States would undertake to fly men to the moon and back during the decade of the 60s, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration selected Florida for its spaceport, acquiring 87,763 acres by purchase. The state granted use rights to an additional 53,553 acres. The flight of Cubans from their homeland brought upwards of 50,000 into Florida. The skyjacking of a twin-engine National Airlines plane flying to Key West from Marathon on May 1 set off a nationwide wave of air piracy. The skyjacker, a Castro sympathizer, was imprisoned first in Cuba and then here upon returning to the United States in 1975. Florida thoroughbred Carry Back won the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness.

1962: Space Age ramifications, spreading out from Cape Canaveral's launching base, influenced the state in many ways, higher education and industry being among the most important of these. Florida was the buildup area for the nation's armed forces during a crisis with Russia over missile bases and offensive weapons in Cuba. The first black students were admitted to undergraduate classes at the University of Florida and Florida State University. History repeated itself when the Mediterranean fruit fly returned to Dade County. A quarantine was quickly established and spraying commenced, to be continued for a year. Commissioner of Agriculture Doyle Conner said infestation was "mild" when compared with 1929 and 1956.

1963: The constitution was amended to authorize the sale of state bonds to construct buildings at universities, colleges, and vocational schools. Voters also approved the issuance of bonds to purchase land for conservation purposes. Cape Canaveral was renamed Cape Kennedy after President John F. Kennedy's assassination (reverted to original name in 1973). The U.S. Supreme Court decided, in *Gideon v. Wainwright*, that Clarence Gideon, a Florida prison inmate, was entitled to a new trial because he had not been represented by an attorney when convicted of burglary at Panama City. Upon retrial with a lawyer, Gideon was acquitted. This landmark ruling changed the administration of justice in American courts.

1963–1964: In May, 1963, blacks demonstrated against discrimination in Daytona and Tallahassee. Governor Farris Bryant defended the right to demonstrate but declared he would not tolerate violence or destruction of property. A black woman was killed and a number of other blacks were injured at Jacksonville in efforts to desegregate bars, restaurants, and hotels. St. Augustine became the center of disturbances in 1964, with wide coverage by media. Between March 30 and July 1, the chaplain of Yale University, the 72-year-old mother of the Governor of Massachusetts, and the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., faced charges resulting from their efforts to desegregate public facilities, including an Atlantic Ocean beach. King called off demonstrations when an interracial council began efforts to work out the problems.



Protestors and segregationists face off at a St. Augustine Beach.

1964: The first classes were held at Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton. The University of West Florida was the name given to the institution being established at Pensacola. Hurricane Cleo caused property damage estimated at \$115,320,000, but no lives were lost.

1966: The first Republican governor elected since 1872 (Claude R. Kirk, Jr.). GOP nominees also won 3 of Florida's 12 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. Voters approved an early-start Legislature, with the Senate and House organizing on the Tuesday following the November general election. Previously, the Legislature organized in April.



Students walk by the Florida Atlantic University theatre.

1967: Repeated efforts by the Legislature to devise an acceptable plan of apportionment ended when a three-judge Federal court drew the boundaries of Senate and House districts and ordered new elections. Republicans captured 20 of 48 Senate seats and 39 of 119 House seats.



Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin (pictured from left to right) were the first humans to land on the moon.



Visitors meet Mickey Mouse at Walt Disney World.

1968: The Legislature submitted and voters ratified three amendments which combined to give the state an almost new constitution. Republicans held their convention at Miami Beach, the first national gathering of a major political party ever convened in Florida. The first Republican (Edward J. Gurney) ever elected by popular ballot was sent to U.S. Senate. Teachers staged a statewide walkout. Annual motor vehicle inspections were instituted.

1969: With the office reestablished by the revised Constitution, the first Lieutenant Governor (Ray C. Osborne) since 1889 was appointed. On July 16, at 9:32 a.m. (Eastern Daylight Time), Apollo 11, with Astronauts Neil Armstrong, Edwin Aldrin, and Michael Collins, lifted off Pad A at Cape Kennedy on the journey to the moon. Four days later, at 4:15 p.m. (EDT) on July 20, Armstrong advised the Earth: "The Eagle has landed."

1970: Democrats recaptured the governorship. Population 6,791,418 (white 5,725,165, nonwhite 1,066,253), 81.6% urban. Increase over 1960 census, 37.2%. Rank in population among states, 9 of 50.

1971: President Richard Nixon ordered a halt to the Cross Florida Barge Canal after \$50 million had already been spent on the 107-mile waterway. The Legislature submitted and the voters ratified an amendment to the State Constitution permitting the levy of a tax on the income of corporations. Two successful Moon landings by Apollo spacecraft blasted off from Cape Kennedy. Walt Disney World opened on October 1, after spending \$400 million on construction on the 27,500 acre site near Orlando.

1972: The voters ratified a constitutional amendment reorganizing the 16 types of trial courts into a uniform state system. The new Judicial Article eliminated all Justice of the Peace courts and provided for the phasing out of Municipal Courts by 1977. All judges were to be elected without party label. Democratic and Republican national conventions met at Miami Beach.

1973: After 7½ years and nearly 261,000 refugees, the "freedom flights" from Cuba came to an end on April 7. Premier Fidel Castro opened the doors for the airlift on September 28, 1965. The airlift, bringing refugees into Miami at the rate of 48,000 a year, helped transform the ethnic makeup of Dade County by adding at least 100,000 Cubans to the 150,000 already there. Other refugees resettled elsewhere. Cuban refugee operations since 1961 were estimated by the program's director to have cost more than \$800 million by airlift's end, but 80% of the refugees were believed to be self-sustaining in a matter of weeks. The state commenced defining areas of critical concern to the well-being of the public, first being the 858,000 acres of the Big Cypress in Southwest Florida brought under control by purchase or regulation. Visitors to the state set an all-time record at 25.5 million.

1974: Reubin O'D. Askew became the first Governor to be elected to successive 4-year terms. State Commissioner of Education Floyd T. Christian resigned after indictment on official misconduct charges that was followed by a House committee preparing to vote impeachment articles. The Legislature created an ethics commission to oversee public officers and employees.

1975: State Treasurer Thomas D. O'Malley resigned after impeachment by the House of Representatives. Justices Dekle and McCain of the Florida Supreme Court resigned during House impeachment committee inquiries into their official conduct. Governor Askew appointed Joseph W. Hatchett, the first black Justice in the court's history. Florida thoroughbred Foolish Pleasure won the Kentucky Derby.

1976: Former Georgia Governor Jimmy Carter topped Alabama Governor George C. Wallace and 10 other Democrats in Florida's March Presidential Preference Primary, giving the Carter campaign impetus which led to his party's nomination for President. In the same primary, Florida Republicans preferred President Gerald R. Ford over former California Governor Ronald Reagan. Carter carried 51.93% of Florida's general election vote.

1977: January 20 saw snow as far south as Cutler Ridge in Dade County. A numbing wind brought death, power failure, agricultural ruin, and hundreds of traffic accidents around Florida. U.S. Corps of Engineers recommended against resumption of construction on Cross Florida Barge Canal. Virgil D. Hawkins, who commenced his efforts in 1949, finally gained admission to practice law in Florida. The Florida Supreme Court, which had previously denied his admission as a black applicant to the University of Florida Law School, ordered his admission to The Florida Bar. Hawkins, who in the meantime had been suspended from practice, died February 11, 1988. The Supreme Court, in a symbolic gesture, reinstated Hawkins posthumously in recognition of his long struggle to be a member of the bar.

1978: Jesse J. McCrary, Jr. was appointed Secretary of State by Governor Askew in July, the second black to serve as Secretary of State and as a member of the Cabinet. Swayed more by potential damages than the promised windfall, Florida voters rejected casino gambling by a 2-1 majority. The casinos would have been located inside a 16-mile strip on the Gold Coast.

1979: Taxes from hotel rooms, food, and beverages reached a record high of \$3,727,380. A Dade County grand jury found that three quarters of the cocaine and marijuana entered the United States by way of south Florida. The rate of violent crime in Dade County nearly doubled.

1980: The "Mariel Boatlift" of myriad small boats risked the Straits of Florida to bring 120,000 Cubans to Key West. Some 30,000 Haitian and 15,000 Nicaraguan refugees added to the monumental resettlement problems of Federal, state, and local authorities. A phosphate carrier, in stormy weather, toppled a main span of the Sunshine Skyway across Tampa Bay on May 9, causing 35 persons to plunge to their death. Population 9,746,961 (white 8,323,904, nonwhite 1,423,056), 84.3% urban. Increase over the 1970 census, 43.5%. Rank in population among states, 7 of 50.



Governor Askew addresses attendees of his second inauguration.



Virgil Hawkins with a supporter outside the Florida Supreme Court.

1981: The space shuttle Columbia rose from Pad 39A at Cape Canaveral a few seconds past 7 a.m. on April 12; the dawn of a new age in spaceflight. Successfully completing its series of experiments aloft, Astronauts John Young and Bob Crippen brought the Columbia to a landing at Edwards Air Force Base, California. A sinkhole, the largest in central Florida memory, unexpectedly appeared on May 9 in Winter Park, taking a house, part of a municipal swimming pool, trees, and other objects into a 350 foot-wide, 150 foot-deep crater. Florida's Walt Disney World observed its 10th anniversary. During the decade, the central Florida theme park spun its magic over more than 125 million visitors and became the world's largest privately owned tourist attraction.

1982: The Florida Senate's failure to pass the Equal Rights Amendment dashed any remaining hope that the ERA could pass nationwide since the deadline was June 30. Angered ERA supporters in the Capitol chanted: "Vote them out!" Carrie P. Meek of Miami was nominated without opposition to be one of the first two black state senators since 1887 and the first black Florida woman senator ever. Dr. Arnett E. Girardeau was the other black Senator elected.



The space shuttle Columbia its maiden voyage.



Sally Ride with her crewmates of the Challenger space shuttle.

1983: The space shuttle Challenger, with the first American woman to go into space, Sally Ride, in its first five-member crew was launched from Cape Canaveral. A devastating Christmas freeze ruined grove after grove in Central Florida with damage to fruit and trees totaling well more than \$1 billion. The Florida Keys Bridge Replacement Program completed the 38 overseas highway bridges from Key Largo to Key West. The University of Miami Hurricanes were NCAA Division IA National Football Champions.

1984: Miami Metro Rail, the only inner city elevated rail system in Florida, began service in May.

1985: Nature was unkind to Florida. Citrus and vegetables were frozen in all but 1 of the 67 counties. A total of 8,949 forest fires charred a record 345,643 acres. The State Division of Forestry regarded May 12 as "Black Friday" as fires destroyed 200 structures statewide, including 130 homes at Palm Coast in Flagler County. Three hurricanes brushed the seacoasts. Disaster stunned the owners of citrus groves and nurseries, with more than 10 million trees uprooted and burned to eradicate citrus canker. Rosemary Barkett became the first woman Supreme Court Justice on October 14, when she was appointed to succeed Justice James E. Alderman. Florida's state park system, grown to 92 parks and recreation areas, marked its 50th anniversary.

1986: Easy conversion of cocaine into "crack" for greater distribution added to the woes of the South Florida Task Force, established by Vice President George Bush as the nation's most ambitious and expensive drug enforcement operation. After 4½ years, the task force members felt they had barely dented the drug

traffic. The space shuttle Challenger exploded upon takeoff from Cape Canaveral on January 28, killing six astronauts and its citizen-passenger, Christa McAuliffe, an elementary school teacher from Concord, New Hampshire. The University of Miami Hurricanes were NCAA Football Champions for the second time. Floridians split their general election ballots, electing Florida's second Republican governor of the 20th century and unseating the state's second Republican United States Senator, and the first woman, of the same period. Republican Robert Martinez, former Tampa Mayor, was elected Governor, and Democrat Robert Graham, retiring governor, was chosen senator, displacing one-term Senator Paula Hawkins.

1988: Lottery ticket sales began on January 12 with the "Millionaire" instant lottery game. Online, computerized lottery games began in April. The shuttle Discovery catapulted five astronauts aloft from Florida's Cape Canaveral on September 29, 32 months after the Challenger catastrophe suspended American manned space flight. An international team completed the world's deepest cave-diving expedition at Wakulla Springs in North Florida.



The Challenger disaster left an indelible mark of sadness in the minds of Floridians, as well as the rest of the nation.



Governor Bob Martinez shows off the new Florida Lottery logo.

1989: Death robbed the country of an outstanding Floridian. U.S. Representative Claude Denson Pepper, a tireless champion of the poor and the elderly, died May 30, 1989. In his place was elected Florida's first Cuban-born woman member of Congress, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen. Florida commenced executions at Raiford State Prison in 1924. By January, 1989, Florida had taken the lives of 216 felons convicted of capital crimes, with 294 remaining on death row. Theodore Bundy, one of the most notorious killers in the nation's history, died in Florida's electric chair on January 23. He had confessed to 31 killings in 9 states. The University of Miami Hurricanes were National College Football Champions for the third time.

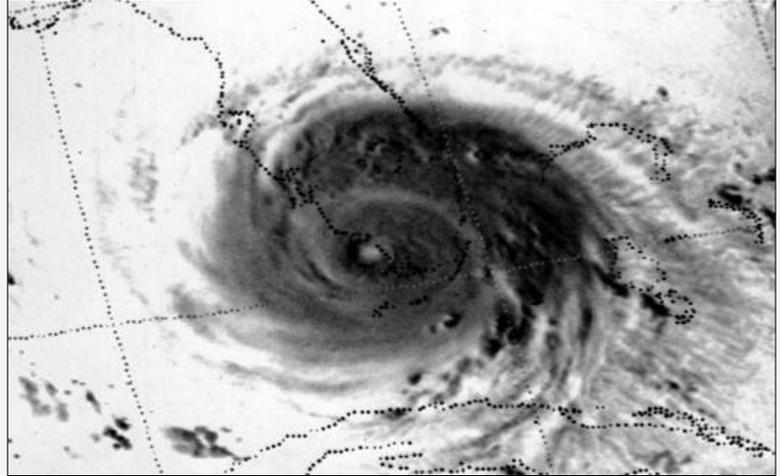


Clarissa Explains It All on the soundstages at Universal Studios.

1990: Gwen Margolis, Senator from North Miami Beach, was elected by Democratic colleagues as the first woman President of the State Senate. Republican Governor Robert Martinez was defeated for reelection by Democrat Lawton Chiles (56.5% to 43.4%). Universal Studios Florida, the Orlando theme park that lets visitors "Ride the Movies," opened in June. St. Petersburg's Suncoast Dome opened in March. Population 12,938,071 (white 10,971,484, nonwhite 1,966,586), 84.8% urban. Increase over 1980 census, 33.4%. Rank in population among states, 4 of 50.

1991: At least 21 Floridians died during the Desert Shield and Desert Storm actions of the Gulf War. Miami-based Eastern Airlines announced closing due to financial losses. Danny Rolling was indicted in November for murdering five University of Florida students. Haitians flooded south Florida after a coup in their homeland. William Kennedy Smith, 31 year old nephew of U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy, was acquitted of rape after a sensational 8-month trial in Palm Beach County. Kimberly Bergalis died December 8 at age 23, after a long battle with the AIDS virus contracted from her dentist.

1992: Homestead and adjacent South Florida was devastated on August 24 by the costliest natural disaster in American history to that time, with Hurricane Andrew wreaking damage demanding billions in aid. There were 52 deaths in Florida, Louisiana, and the Bahamas, directly or indirectly related to Andrew. The elections, after Florida gained four seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, saw an additional Hispanic and three blacks seated from Florida. Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Cuban-born, joined Ileana Ros-Lehtinen as did Carrie Meek, Corrine Brown, and Alcee Hastings.



Hurricane Andrew's size shows its scope of potential damage.



Janet Reno became U.S. Attorney General in 1993.

1993: Janet Reno, for 15 years State Attorney for Dade County (Miami), was named Attorney General of the United States by President Clinton, the first woman to so serve in U.S. history. The killing of nine foreign tourists within a year sent a chill through the state's tourist industry. Two cases highlighted the growing legal debate over children's rights: The baby-swap case of Kimberly Mays and parental divorce of Shawn Russ. Miami added professional baseball and hockey teams and Jacksonville added an NFL franchise. Federal cutbacks curtailed operations at Florida military bases, including Orlando Naval Training Center, Cecil Field, and several Navy operations in Pensacola. Abortion doctor David Gunn was murdered in Pensacola by Michael Griffin, an anti-abortion protester. The Florida State University Seminoles were NCAA Football Champions.

1994: Violent protests in Havana and political turmoil in Haiti sent more than 35,000 rafters across the Florida Straits toward Key West. Because of Governor Chiles insistence on federal intervention, most were intercepted and detained at Guantanamo Bay and in Panama. In July, tropical storm Alberto caused the worst flooding in 65 years and did at least \$40 million in damage to crops, livestock, and equipment in the counties west of the Apalachicola River. In August, tropical storm Beryl flooded much of panhandle Florida again, and in November, tropical storm Gordon killed eight in Florida and did \$336 million in damage to south Florida winter crops. Voters sent a Republican majority to the State Senate for the first time in this century, and Connie Mack became the first Republican U.S. Senator from Florida to win reelection. Pensacola became the nation's capital of abortion violence when a second abortion doctor, John Britton, and a volunteer escort, James Barrett, were killed in front of a Pensacola clinic by former minister Paul Hill.

1995: In one of the country's busiest hurricane seasons, with 19 named storms, 7 of the 11 hurricanes threatened the state. During a visit to Tallahassee, President Clinton stayed overnight at the Governor's Mansion and spoke at the Capitol. Gill and large shrimp nets were banned from the state's offshore waters. The 500 millionth visitor was welcomed to Walt Disney World on Friday, October 13.

1996: ValuJet flight 592 crashed in the Everglades on May 11th killing all 110 aboard. President Bill Clinton's defeat of GOP candidate Bob Dole was the first victory of a Democratic presidential candidate in the state since 1976, but voters gave Republicans control of the state House of Representatives for the first time in 120 years. Racial riots in October and November caused \$6 million in damage in St. Petersburg. The University of Florida Gators became NCAA Football Champions.



President Clinton in the Florida House Chamber with Speaker Wallace and President Scott during joint session in 1995.

1997: Florida's lawsuit against the tobacco industry ended with a landmark \$11 billion settlement to recover Medicaid money spent on sick smokers. In addition, a secondhand smoke class action suit by 60,000 flight attendants was settled when the tobacco industry agreed to pay \$300 million to establish a research foundation on diseases linked to cigarette smoke. A malfunction during the execution of Pedro Medina led to debate over the electric chair. Executions were delayed while the courts considered whether electrocution was cruel or unusual punishment and lawmakers considered lethal injection. The Florida Marlins won baseball's World Series. Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University was named College of the Year by Time Magazine/Princeton College Review.



Jeb Bush gives his inaugural address, 1999.

1998: In March, Florida put to death the first woman in 150 years when Judy Buenoano was executed for murdering her paralyzed son. A drought that lasted from mid-March until July spurred nearly 2,200 wildfires which injured more than 100 and cost the lives of 3 people, consumed more than 460,000 acres, and caused \$393 million in damage to homes and property. Animal Kingdom, Disney World's first major theme park in almost a decade, opened in April. Floridians elected a Republican governor and Legislature for the first time since Reconstruction. With 24 days left in his second term, Governor Lawton Chiles died of heart failure on December 12.

1999: Governor Jeb Bush vetoed \$316 million worth of budgeted "turkeys." Quincy mushroom pickers and packers became the first farm workers in the state to be covered by a union contract. Universal's Islands of Adventure joined Universal Studios Florida to become Universal Studios Escape. Elian Gonzalez, found floating on an innertube in the Gulf, became the center of a 5 month long, highly publicized battle between his Cuban father and his Cuban-American relatives. The Florida State University Seminoles were unbeaten NCAA Division I-A National Football Champions.

2000: On February 23, Terry M. Sims was the first to die by lethal injection in Florida's execution chamber. Governor Bush signed the state's first budget in excess of \$50 billion but vetoed \$313 million in "turkeys" passed by term-limited legislators. A Miami jury awarded \$145 billion in punitive damages to 300,000-

700,000 sick Florida smokers who claimed tobacco companies knew of the danger in their products. State-wide drought was the worst since recordkeeping began in 1888. In what many called the most bizarre presidential election in U.S. history, Florida's votes were counted and recounted and lawsuits were filed by candidates Bush and Gore. Rulings were handed down by the Leon County Circuit Court, Florida Supreme Court, and the U.S. Supreme Court until, after 36 days of pulling and hauling, the U.S. Supreme Court reversed Florida's court-ordered recount of ballots, ruling that varying standards of counting made the effort unlawful. A 5-4 majority said there was no time to conduct a lawful recount, and Albert Gore conceded the election to George W. Bush. November and December were the coldest in 11 years. The voters ratified a constitutional amendment mandating establishment of a system of high-speed trains linking certain urban areas. The Federal Census counted 15,982,378 Floridians (white 12,465,029, nonwhite 3,517,349), 89.3% urban. Increase over 1990 census, 23.5%. Rank in population among states, 4 of 50.



The media circus generated by the 2000 election incited protests in Tallahassee and enticed entrepreneurs to cash in.

2001: As a result of term limits, there were 64 first-term members in the Legislature. For the first time since Reconstruction, the Republican party controlled the Governor's Mansion, the Cabinet, and Legislature. Governor Jeb Bush's budget cut more than 3,000 state jobs. The drought continued early in the year with record low water levels in Lake Okeechobee. Crops were affected, sinkholes developed in central Florida, and wildfires raged in south Florida and the Panhandle. Tropical storms Allison and Barry broke the drought but provided breeding ground for mosquitoes that brought West Nile virus to the state. Eleven people, hundreds of birds, and more than 90 horses were infected. The most dramatic of the shark attacks occurring in 2001 came on July 6, when a bull shark bit off the arm of 8-year-old Jessie Arbogast as he was swimming off a Pensacola beach. Two people died of alligator attacks. Florida was a staging area for the September 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. At least 15 of the 19 hijackers stayed in the state, and 2 trained as pilots here. Anthrax spores, presumably mailed by terrorists, killed a Boca Raton man and sickened others. The post-attack economic slump hit Florida's tourist industry with layoffs and hiring freezes.

2002: Rilya Wilson, age 6, was reported missing after officials at the Department of Children & Family Services found falsified records indicating no caseworker had checked on her for 15 months. Investigations revealed mismanagement and inability to account for all the children under the department's care. Firings and resignations followed, but, by year's end, Rilya had not been found and no criminal charges had been filed. Governor Jeb Bush, with 56% of the vote, easily won reelection over Democratic challenger Bill McBride, becoming the first Florida Republican governor ever to be re-elected. State Senator Daryl L. Jones, the first black gubernatorial candidate in Florida history, ran third in the Democratic primary. Voters passed constitutional amendments limiting the number of students assigned to each teacher and outlawing smoking in enclosed restaurants and workplaces. Teenage brothers Alex and Derek King pleaded guilty to third-degree murder of their father and arson after an earlier guilty verdict was reversed. West Nile virus was contracted by more than 25 people and claimed its first Florida fatality. President Bush bestowed honorary citizenship on the Marquis de Lafayette, who in 1824 owned half of Tallahassee.

2003: In his inaugural speech Governor Jeb Bush mused "There would be no greater tribute to our maturity as a society than if we can make these buildings around us empty of workers, silent monuments to the time when government played a larger role than it deserved or could adequately fill." Governor Bush's budget recommendation to remove the circulating collection from the State Library was protested by the public

and not funded by the Senate. The space shuttle Columbia disintegrated upon reentry after a 16-day mission killing seven astronauts. Toni Jennings became the state's first female lieutenant governor when she was appointed to succeed Frank Brogan. U.S. Senator Robert Graham announced his candidacy for president in May, ended his campaign in October, and decided he would not seek reelection to the Senate in November. Paul Hill became the first person put to death in the U.S. for anti-abortion violence when he was executed by lethal injection for the shooting deaths of Dr. John B. Britton and his escort Lt. Col. James H. Barrett. About 12,000 high school seniors were denied diplomas and 33,000 third-graders faced retention after failing the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test, which measures reading, math, and writing in grades 3, 4, 8 and 10. Boycotts and demonstrations by minority groups and others, who said the test was unfair, followed.

2005: The 39th Super Bowl was held in Jacksonville. Terri Schiavo died on March 31st, 14 days after court-approved removal of her feeding tube, thus ending the most litigated right-to-die case in U.S. history. Broward voters agreed in March to expand gambling at racetracks and jai alai facilities. The vote came 4 months after voters statewide approved a constitutional amendment allowing Broward and Miami-Dade counties to hold referenda on whether local pari-mutuels should be allowed to install slot machines. Dr. M. Rony Francois became the first Haitian-American to head a Florida state agency when Governor Jeb Bush appointed him as secretary of the Department of Health. The record hurricane season (\$107 billion+) did an estimated \$2.2 billion in damage to farms, crops, and citrus groves and was believed to have spread citrus diseases. More than 3,400 died in car accidents on Florida roads, setting a record for the second straight year.



Hurricane Ivan's powerful winds destroyed homes in Pensacola, 2004.

2006: More homes were on the market than there were buyers. This was, in part, due to investors trying to flip properties. Some anticipated the tide turning, and others were stuck trying to unload properties. The expected season of multiple hurricanes did not develop due to El Niño. Insurers, nonetheless, pushed for more rate hikes. Two- and threefold increases in homeowners insurance premiums, or loss of coverage, sent many policyholders to Citizens Property Insurance Corp., Florida's insurer of last resort. Faced with double premiums for half coverage, some homeowners chose to go without insurance. Martin Lee Anderson, a 14-year-old black boy, died a day after he was hit, kneed, and kicked by drill instructors at the Bay County boot camp. Former state Senator Daryl L. Jones, the first black gubernatorial candidate in Florida history, was chosen by U.S. Representative James Davis, the Democratic gubernatorial nominee, as his running mate. Sarasota County Congressman Mark Foley stepped down amid scandal about inappropriate messages he sent to male pages. The Florida Association of Realtors reported a \$61,700 drop in the median house price for the year due to overbuilding. In the general election, Sarasota Democrat Christine Jennings disputed a 18,400 under-vote which gave the congressional seat to Vern Buchanan by a scant 369 votes.



Flood waters rise in Apalachicola after Hurricane Dennis swept through.

2007: Governor-elect Charlie Crist canceled his planned \$100-ticket inaugural ball amid criticism over fundraising for the traditional celebration. With the victory over Ohio State in the BCS championship game, the University of Florida became the first school in history to hold national titles in basketball and football at the same time. The Governor and Cabinet, sitting as the Executive Clemency Board, voted to automatically restore the civil rights of felons who had served their time and paid restitution. Even though Florida had not had a major hurricane since 2005, inexpensive home and business insurance was difficult, if not impossible, to find. After two years of unprecedented drought conditions, the South Florida Water Management District approved the region's tightest water restrictions, limiting outside watering to once a week from Orlando to the Keys. The continuing slump in home prices and sales lifted Florida to second place nationwide in the number of bad mortgages per capita and caused the Legislature to slash \$1.1 billion in state spending. An all-white jury found seven Bay County bootcamp drill instructors and a nurse not guilty of causing Martin Lee Anderson's death.



Chief Justice R. Fred Lewis (left) administers the oath of office to Governor Crist (right) with his parents (center).

2008: Voters approved constitutional amendments providing for a 5-year, \$9.3 billion property tax cut and the definition of marriage as exclusively between one man and one woman. Governor Charlie Crist appointed two justices to the Supreme Court led by Peggy Quince, Florida's first black Chief Justice. Late in the year, legislative economists forecast a \$2.3 billion shortfall. Florida and U.S. Sugar Corp. agreed on a deal to purchase sugar cane land to revive the Everglades. Tropical storm Fay made records: four landfalls on one state and first storm with warnings for the entire Florida coast. The Democratic National Convention finally seated Florida's delegates after Barack Obama's nomination. President Obama won Florida 51-49%, the first democratic presidential candidate to prevail since President Clinton. Central Florida's unemployment rate was 7% in October, topping the nation's. Governor Crist and Carole Rome married. The University of Florida Gators overcame the top-ranked University of Alabama 31-20 to become SEC champions for the second time in 3 years.



Bobby Bowden addresses the Florida House. (photo by Mark Foley)

2009: Governor Charlie Crist named his fourth Supreme Court justice. Florida joined Powerball, the multi-state lottery game whose jackpots frequently top \$100 million. The University of Florida's Heisman Trophy winner, Tim Tebow, led the Gators to a 24-14 win over second-ranked Oklahoma for their second BCS title in 3 years. Ray Sansom stepped down from his position as House Speaker due to controversies involving the funding of a training center for Northwest Florida State College. Florida's unemployment rate hit 11.5% in November, the highest since 1975, with more than a million out of work. The state had the second highest foreclosure rate in the nation. For the second year, more people left Florida than came to it from other states. Still, with international in-migration and births outnumbering deaths, the state's population grew by 114,000. Bobby Bowden, after 34 seasons and 2 national championships at Florida State University, retired with 388 career wins - the second most in major college football history.



U.S. Coast Guard Commander Joe Boudrow briefs reporters on the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. (photo by Bill Cotterell)

2010: On April 20, an explosion and fire on the British Petroleum drill rig Deepwater Horizon, 50 miles off the Louisiana coast, killed 11 workers. When the leak was finally stopped in August, it was estimated that 206 million gallons of oil had entered the Gulf of Mexico, fouling the coast from the Louisiana line to Dog Island, Florida. Congressman Kendrick Meek, running for U.S. Senate seat of retiring Senator Mel Martinez, became the first statewide candidate to qualify for the ballot by petition. Governor Crist left the Republican Party to run for the U.S. Senate as an independent. Universal's Islands of Adventure added a new island with a Harry Potter theme, after the book and film series. Florida was number one in the nation for foreclosures, bank failures, and bankruptcies, and population growth slowed dramatically. The Federal Census counted 18,801,310 Floridians, (white 10,884,722; nonwhite 3,692,782; Hispanic 4,223,806), 89.3% urban. Increase in population over 2000 census, 16%. Rank among states, 4 of 50.

2011: The Space Shuttle Program ended. Shuttle Discovery took off for the final time on February 24, making its final landing at Cape Canaveral on March 9; Endeavor's final launch was on May 16, with return to the Cape on June 1; the last shuttle flight, by Atlantis, took off on July 8; the shuttle returned to the Cape on July 21. On July 5, mother Casey Anthony is found not guilty of murdering her young daughter, Caylee, in the finale to a sensational trial. On September 8, the first nonstop commercial flight between Tampa and Cuba since 1962. October 15, Legoland Florida theme park opened in Winter Haven.

2012: On the night of February 26, in Sanford, teen Trayvon Martin is shot and killed by neighborhood watch member George Zimmerman; the incident raised concerns about Florida's "Stand Your Ground Law." Week of August 27, the Republican National Convention is held in Tampa. Most activities scheduled for the first day of the convention were canceled or postponed due to Tropical Storm Isaac. The convention nominated Mitt Romney for president; Romney went on to lose the election to incumbent President Barack Obama.



Legoland Florida opens adjacent to Cypress Gardens.



The Miami Circle

Robert Carr*

I grew up in the Miami of the 1950s. As a boy I was curious about Miami's past, a history that was completely unknown to me. I was curious about any physical link that could reveal anything about the unspoken stream of life that had preceded me.

In seventh grade at Ada Merritt Junior High School, fellow student Mark Greene stood in front of the class and showed pieces of pottery, shell tools, and a small beautiful basalt celt that he had found on the banks of the Miami River. That was when I discovered archaeology.

In the summer of 1960, Mark and I haunted the river, gathering and sketching artifacts and writing reports about our discoveries. Eighteen years later, after I completed my graduate work in archaeology at Florida State University, I was thrilled to return to Miami as its first archaeologist, working for the Dade County Historic Survey beginning in 1979. My job was to document the archaeological sites in the urban and suburban areas of the county. This would lead to the creation, in 1981, of the county's first historic preservation ordinance.

Prior to that time, there had been only random acts of historic preservation in Miami, but numerous acts of destruction. After the city was founded in 1896, a developer leveled a 10-foot-high Indian mound, Miami's largest, and used it as topsoil for the Royal Palm Hotel's gardens. The city's first preservation battle came 29 years later when two women's groups saved a limestone structure that was reportedly used during the Seminole Indian Wars.

When we had completed our survey, more than 100 archaeological sites in various states of preservation had been documented across the county. The 1981 ordinance provided us the legal leverage to conduct reviews and assessments of development proposed in designated archaeological sites and conservation areas. This has enabled archaeologists to monitor over 50 development projects and make many exciting discoveries. One of the most stunning



Photo by Ryan J. Wheeler

View of damage to the seawall surrounding the 38-foot Miami Circle cultural landmark, 2007. The 2,000-year-old American Indian circle was carved into the limestone bedrock by the now-extinct Tequesta Indians. The circular carving next to the Miami River was discovered in 1998 on the site of a planned luxury high rise. In 2010 the sea-wall was rebuilt and restored.

**Dr. Robert Carr is the co-founder and executive director of the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy in Miami. This essay first appeared in the 2003-2004 edition of The Florida Handbook. For more information about the conservancy and its projects, visit its website at www.mnemotrix.com/ahci_web/index.html.*

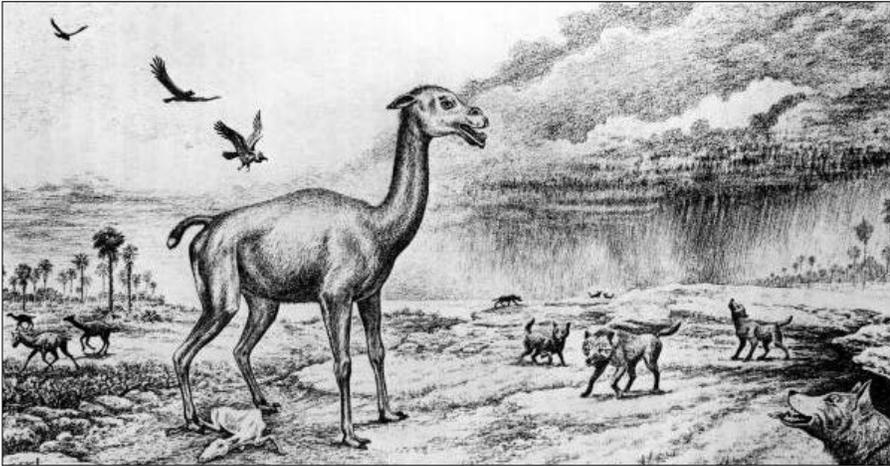


Illustration by Andrew R. Janson

1956 illustration of Pleistocene camel (*Tanupolama*) and wolf (*Aenocyon*). The artifacts and human bones unearthed at the Miami Circle site, thought to be at least 10,000 years old, were found mixed with fossils of dire wolves, camels, and jaguars.

Illustration from "Fossil Mammals of Florida" by Stanley J. Olsen, Special Publication no. 6, Florida Geological Survey, Tallahassee, 1959, p.55.

was the 1985 discovery of artifacts and human bones thought to be at least 10,000 years old. They were found mixed with fossil dire wolf, camels, and jaguars in a sinkhole near Cutler Ridge. The notion of Paleo-Indians stalking ancient mammoths in a pre-Everglades Miami electrified some scholars and the media. The site was slated for housing development, but after considerable political wrangling, the state purchased it along with 30 acres of pristine pine-woods and hammock for \$18 million and added the land to the Charles Deering Estate Park.

Bit by bit, the missing pieces of the city's past began to come together, creating a long tapestry of human occupation with thousands of objects reposing in the Historical Museum of South Florida. This was done without a single work stoppage, incident, or lawsuit regarding the county's archaeological actions. But all of that tranquility was about to end.

One day in May 1998, driving over the Brickell Bridge, I noticed that a demolition crew was tearing down an apartment complex on the south side of the Miami River. The action concerned me because it was taking place in one of the most archaeologically sensitive areas of the city, which meant that a monitoring archaeologist needed to be there as an observer. After I made a few telephone calls and sent a letter, the developer willingly agreed to retain a monitor on what seemed to be one more routine project.

It seemed unlikely that six multistory apartment buildings erected in 1950 could harbor any secrets, but it soon became apparent that beneath the crushed-rock-fill foundation was a rich loamy black soil generally associated with prehistoric sites.

As the two-acre site was being cleared, pottery sherds, animal bones, and shell refuse, all indicating

prehistoric subsistence and village life, were uncovered. Although it was a surprise that these remains survived the modern apartment construction, no one was alarmed. The discovery meant collecting as much information as possible before the scheduled bulldozing of the parcel.

The county's Historic Preservation Division led the effort to mobilize available archaeologists and volunteers to excavate the site under the field direction of John Ricisak. It was decided the buildings' footer trenches, already excavated, would be the first areas examined since they exposed the depth of the midden deposit in profile. As the sediments were removed from the bottom of one of the trenches where the first unit was to be excavated, numerous holes were observed in the limestone bedrock beneath the soil.

I had seen similar holes in other sites and was certain they were intentionally made. John Ricisak thought they were natural. Our discussions and debate continued for weeks, until Ted Riggs, a surveyor who was assisting us with the project, noticed that one set of holes represented a deliberate pattern, an arc. He hypothesized that the arc was part of a circle and calculated, based on the arc's full circumference, that the circle would be 38 feet in diameter.

In September, with a deadline of only weeks given to us by the developer, we secured a backhoe and dug away the soil along the red line painted by Ted to outline the projected circle. We dug to the lowest level of soil, and, within hours, we began to uncover large holes and basins cut into the rock. Ted Riggs was right. A perfect circle, created by 24 cut basins, appeared in the bedrock. Each basin was roughly loaf-shaped, 2 to 3 feet in length and about

1½ feet deep. Limestone rubble, animal bones, shell, and artifacts filled each of the holes.

We had discovered a feature unlike anything any archaeologist in Florida had ever seen before and—as we soon would discover—unlike any feature seen by anyone in North America.

We were at a loss to interpret it. Ted was quick to note that three of the more distinctive holes associated with the circle lay exactly in line with the directions of north, south, and east. As we pondered the mystery, we decided to maintain secrecy about our discovery to keep it from being overrun by visitors since we had no fence or security. We focused our energy on how to maximize the excavation's scope, considering our limited resources and the imminent deadline. Each day there were from two to a dozen volunteers working with John Ricisak and a few professional archaeologists provided by the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy.

In October the unexpected happened. The deadline for the bulldozing was delayed pending the approval of a city permit. As we gained time, new treasures began to emerge—first, a completely articulated 6-foot shark skeleton, apparently placed as an offering within the circle's eastern side. The shark was aligned perfectly east to west with the head facing west.

Artifacts were being found by the hundreds each day, including beautiful axes of polished basaltic rock from the Appalachian Mountains; galena, a native lead from Missouri; and hundreds of flakes of chert from central Florida. As the collection of materials and information mounted, so did the cost. By the end of 1998, the county's bill for excavating at the site was more than \$60,000, and the cost of salaries and equipment donated by the nonprofit Archaeological and Historical Conservancy was an additional \$35,000.

On December 28, 1998, the media discovered our secret. *Miami Herald* photographer Al Diaz noticed the archaeological crew at the site as he was walking over the Brickell Bridge. He immediately realized something interesting was going on. He was the first to do so, even though we had been working in plain view for more than 6 months, watched by curious office dwellers who looked down on us each day until the circle was so obvious that even people in planes could see it. The *Herald* ran the story, as

did Reuters News Agency, and the news about the Miami Circle suddenly was spread around the world.

Hundreds of people converged on the site the day the news broke, and the police moved in to disperse the crowds. Fortunately, damage to the site was minimal since most people simply wanted to see it, but there were a few who wanted to gather souvenirs. The developer quickly constructed a perimeter fence and hired security guards.

As the Circle's imminent destruction became the principal focus of attention and relentless media coverage, demonstrations began. Some people blocked parts of the Brickell Bridge. Others held signs. Some chanted.

The developer offered to cut the Circle out of the ground and relocate it to a city park. The county pressured him to redesign his building so that the Circle could be preserved in place. But a new design meant obtaining new permits. Considering the political climate favoring preservation, the developer didn't think new permits would be granted. He gave us 3 days to finish our work.

On our last day, Super Bowl Sunday, January 31, 1999, we were surprised to unearth a huge sea turtle carapace, also aligned east to west, and also found in the Circle's eastern half. As we worked on removing the turtle intact in a large block of soil weighing several hundred pounds, we received news of a judge's order for an emergency hearing. Dade Heritage Trust had filed for an injunction to stop the bulldozing of the site. At the hearing, held at the judge's house, the developer voluntarily offered to extend the time deadline.

The crowds of observers at the site grew and now included Native Americans. The developer moved ahead with his plan to cut and move the Circle. He hired a stonemason to do the job. The night before the removal work was to begin, a Seminole named Bobby C. Billie pleaded with the stonemason not to desecrate the site and he backed out of the job. His announcement hit like a bombshell. The developer scrambled to find a replacement. The new rock cutter brought in a backhoe, and that act roused the crowd to fever pitch.

At the same time, the Dade County Commission met to discuss the Circle. The meeting ended in a unanimous vote to save the Circle by eminent domain. This was only the second time in U.S. his-

tory that an unwilling property owner was subject to eminent domain proceedings for the public to secure an archaeological site. That afternoon a judge issued an injunction stopping all development as well as all further archaeological investigations.

After months of negotiating, the county agreed to pay the developer \$26.75 million for the 2.5 acre site. This was more than the \$18 million the county offered and less than the \$50 million requested by the developer.

In purchasing the Miami Circle, local citizens demonstrated the political will to preserve an important vestige of the city's heritage. They made room among the city's skyscrapers to preserve a monument of the Tequesta, who preceded all of those who now claim Miami as their home. They had saved a 2,000-year-old legacy that would be the first park at the mouth of the Miami River. Since the acquisition of the site, other important discoveries have been made of the Tequesta. One of their principal cemeteries was discovered in Brickell Park, located

only 800 feet from the Miami Circle. In 2003-2004, excavations on the north side of the river uncovered evidence of other structures, including a 36-foot circular house.

These discoveries have rescued information about the ancient Tequesta and their ancestors that a century of development of Miami had obscured, destroyed, or covered over. An important part of one of Florida's lost tribes had been rediscovered.

NOTE: The United States Department of the Interior designated the Miami Circle as the 41st Historic National Landmark in January 2009. In February 2011, the site opened as a public park during a ceremony attended by state and local officials including Secretary of State Kurt S. Browning and Miami Mayor Tomas Regalado. For more information about the park, visit the Florida Department of State's Historical Resources website at www.flheritage.com/archaeology/projects/miamicircle/index.cfm.

Mrs. George E Merrick, Mr. Adam G. Adams and Mrs. Frank Stranahan unveil the historical marker for Tequesta, Fort Lauderdale, 1951. The 1998 discovery of the Miami Circle site added to our understanding of the extinct Tequesta culture.



Florida State Archives



Floridians at War

Floridians have fought in this country's wars ever since volunteers formed five companies to fight in the War with Mexico in 1846-1848, the year after Florida became a state. Fifty-five of the Mexican War soldiers died of disease, and one was killed in action.

Approximately 16,000 Floridians served in the Confederate forces and 1,290 in the Union Army and Navy during the Civil War. Among those Floridians on the Southern side, more than 3,000 died.

For the Spanish-American War, the state's organized militia was called to Tampa to form the First Florida Volunteer infantry, consisting of 48 officers

and 956 enlisted men. The First Florida sat out the war at Fernandina and Huntsville, Alabama, although some individuals were detached and a few reached Cuba. Of the Florida naval militia, 6 officers and 93 enlisted men saw active duty with the Navy. Company "C" of the Third United States Volunteer Company, made up of 5 officers and 98 enlisted men, all from Florida, served in Cuba. Other Floridians served as individuals in regular Army units.

In the First World War, when Florida had fewer than a million people, 42,030 Floridians served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, and of these 1,287 gave their lives. Just before that, Florida sent a regiment of infantry—1,149 men—to Texas for the punitive expedition into Mexico.

More than a quarter-million Floridians—a fifth of the population—left their homes to serve during World War II and its immediate aftermath. In the vanguard were 3,941 officers and men of the Florida National Guard. Then, from 1940 to 1947, Florida added 254,358 men and women to the Armed Forces of the United States. One hundred fifty-eight National Guardsmen and 4,516 other Floridians made the supreme sacrifice in World War II.

Incident to the Korean War, 972 men from Florida National Guard Units were called to active duty. In addition to these, 27,823 Floridians were inducted through the Selective Service System and 84,257 voluntarily enlisted. More than 500 died or were killed in action.

One Florida Army National Guard unit, with 86 personnel, was called to active duty during the Vietnam Conflict of 1965-1973. Additionally, 40,352 men were inducted through Selective Service and



Photo by J.D. Edwards

Confederate soldiers, Pensacola Harbor, 1861.

Draftees assembled during World War I, Tampa, 1917. More than 42,000 Floridians served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard, and of these 1,287 gave their lives.



Florida State Archives

146,028 personnel voluntarily enlisted. During the Vietnam Conflict, 1,897 Floridians died.

During the Gulf War, Desert Storm, and Desert Shield, 1990-1992, there were 363 deaths of United States service personnel, of which 19 were Florida residents. Navy pilot Scott Speicher of Jacksonville was the first casualty of the Gulf War. He was shot down in the first night of the air war. Initially listed as killed in action (body not recovered), he was years later reclassified as missing-in-action, and later still as presumed captured. On August 2, 2009, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs announced that remains believed to be Captain

(posthumously promoted) Michael Scott Speicher had been recovered in Iraq. The Armed Forces Institute of Pathology subsequently positively identified those remains as Captain Speicher. He was buried in Jacksonville with full military honors on August 13, 2009.

Since the beginning of the Iraq War on March 19, 2003, through October of 2010, the United States Armed Forces sustained 4,885 killed in action (KIA). Of those, 218 were from Florida.

From October 7, 2001, through January 2013, the Armed Forces lost 2,176 KIA in Afghanistan, of which 143 were from Florida.

Medal of Honor

Federal records indicate 27 sons of Florida, native or adopted, have won the nation's highest military award for bravery "beyond the call of duty"—the Medal of Honor presented "in the name of the Congress of the United States."

Note by military historian Robert Hawk: "Unfortunately, Federal records are neither precise nor consistent on the subject of Medal of Honor attribution. Some are accredited by birth, some by place of residence of next-of-kin, others according to place of enlistment. The list below is a combination of those Florida can claim under one or more of the selection attribution criteria."

- Bennett, Emory L., Private First Class U.S. Army, Born: New Smyrna, entered service Cocoa. Medal earned Korea 1951.
- Bowen, Hammett Lee, Jr., Staff Sergeant U.S. Army, Jacksonville. Medal earned Vietnam 1969.
- Carter, Bruce Wayne, Private First Class U.S. Marine Corps, Jacksonville. Medal earned Vietnam 1969.
- Corry, William Merrill, Jr., Lieutenant Commander U.S. Navy, Born: Quincy. Medal earned Florida 1920.
- Cutinha, Nicholas Joseph, Specialist 4th Class U.S. Army, Born: Fernandina, entered service Coral Gables. Medal earned Vietnam 1968.



Bruce Wayne Carter

Private First Class, United States Marine Corps., Company H, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division (Reinforced), Fleet Marine Force, Near Vanderfrift Combat Base Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam. Killed in action, August 7, 1969.

Citation: "For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as grenadier with Company H in connection with combat operations against the enemy. Pfc. Carter's unit was maneuvering against the enemy during Operation Idaho Canyon and came under a heavy volume of fire from a numerically superior hostile force. The lead element soon became separated from the main body of the squad by a brush fire. Pfc. Carter and his fellow marines were pinned down by vicious crossfire when with complete disregard for his safety he stood up in full view of the North Vietnamese Army soldiers to deliver a devastating volume of fire at their positions. The accuracy and aggressiveness of his attack caused several enemy casualties and forced the remainder of the soldiers to retreat from the immediate area.

Shouting directions to the Marines around him, Pfc. Carter then commenced to lead them from the path of the rapidly approaching brush fire when he observed a hostile grenade land between him and his companions. Fully aware of the consequences of his action but determined to protect the men following him, he unhesitatingly threw himself over the grenade, absorbing the full effects of its detonation with his body. Pfc. Carter's indomitable courage, inspiring initiative and selfless devotion to duty upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service. He gave his life in the service of his country."

He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

- Femoyer, Robert Edward, 2nd Lieutenant Army Air Corps, Enlistment Jacksonville. Medal earned, air mission, Germany 1944.
- Ingram, Robert R., HM3 Navy, Born: Clearwater. Medal earned Vietnam, 1966 (awarded July 10, 1998).
- Jenkins, Robert Henry, Jr., Private First Class U.S. Marine Corps, Born: Interlachen. Medal earned Vietnam 1969.
- Lassen, Clyde Everett, Lieutenant U.S. Navy, Born: Fort Myers, entered service Jacksonville. Medal earned Vietnam 1968.
- Liteky, Charles James (Angelo), Captain U.S. Army, Jacksonville. Medal earned Vietnam 1967.
- Lopez, Baldomero, 1st Lieutenant U.S. Marine Corps, Born: Tampa. Medal earned Korea 1950.
- McCampbell, David, Commander U.S. Navy, West Palm Beach. Medal earned Philippine Sea 1944.
- McGuire, Thomas Buchanan, Jr., Major U.S. Army Air Corps, Sebring. Medal earned Luzon, Philippine Islands 1944.
- McTureous, Robert Miller, Jr., Private U.S. Marine Corps, Born: Altoona. Medal earned Okinawa, Ryuku Islands 1945.
- Miller, Robert J., Staff Sergeant U.S. Army, Aveido. Medal earned Afghanistan 2010.
- Mills, James Henry, Private U.S. Army, Born: Fort Meade. Medal earned Cisterna, Italy 1944.
- Nininger, Alexander Ramsey, Jr., 1st Lieutenant U.S. Army, Ft. Lauderdale. Medal earned Philippine Islands 1942.

- Ormsbee, Francis Edward, Jr., Chief Machinist Mate U.S. Navy, Pensacola. Medal earned Pensacola 1918.
- Paine, Adam, Private Seminole Negro Indian Scouts 4th U.S. Cavalry, Born: Florida. Medal earned Staked Plains, Texas 1874.
- Sims, Clifford Chester, Staff Sergeant U.S. Army, Born: Port St. Joe, enlisted Jacksonville. Medal earned Vietnam 1968.
- Smedley, Larry Eugene, Corporal U.S. Marine Corps, Union Park, enlisted Orlando. Medal earned Vietnam 1967.
- Smith, Paul Ray, Sergeant 1st Class U.S. Army, Tampa. Medal earned Bagdad, Iraq 2003.
- Varnum, Charles Albert, Captain U.S. Army, Pensacola. Medal earned South Dakota 1890.

There are four other recipients with significant connections to Florida although they are officially credited to another state:

- Bolton, Cecil Hamilton, 1st Lieutenant U.S. Army, Born: Crawfordville. Medal earned Holland 1944.
- Condon, Clarence Melville, Sergeant U.S. Army, St. Augustine. Medal earned Philippine Islands 1899.
- Norris, Thomas Rolland, Lieutenant U.S. Navy, Born: Jacksonville. Medal earned Vietnam 1972.
- Seay, William Wayne, Sergeant U.S. Army, Pensacola. Medal earned Vietnam 1968.

In March 2000, the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs hung plaques honoring Florida Medal of Honor recipients in the Capitol.

National Cemeteries in Florida

The Veterans Administration operates seven National Cemeteries in Florida: Barrancas in Pensacola; St. Augustine; Bay Pines at St. Petersburg; Florida National Cemetery at Bushnell; South Florida National Cemetery at Lake Worth, dedicated March 9, 2008; Sarasota VA National Cemetery, dedicated June 1, 2008; and Jacksonville National Cemetery, dedicated September 21, 2008.

Burial in a National Cemetery is open to all members of the Armed Forces and those veterans who meet minimum active service duty requirements. Spouses, unremarried widows or widowers, minor children, and, under certain conditions, unmarried adult children, may also be eligible. New burials are not accepted at St. Augustine and only cremains at Bay Pines.

“Some Corner of a Foreign Field ...”

Rupert Brooke, in “The Soldier,” spoke of “a corner of a foreign field that is forever England.” In Florida, there are two such corners, where Royal Air Force cadets who died in this state during World War II are buried.

There are 23 graves, in the Oak Ridge cemetery at Arcadia, of cadets who died while training at nearby Dorr and Carlstrom Fields. Another 13 Commonwealth cadets are buried in Woodlawn cemetery at Miami.

At Arcadia, each grave is marked by a granite headstone furnished by the British government and inscribed with the RAF emblem and an epitaph supplied by the family. On Memorial Day, the flag of Great Britain flies over the graves and a memorial service is attended by representatives of British and American organizations. Maintenance of the graves has been undertaken by the Rotary Club of Arcadia.

In Miami, an annual ceremony honoring the Commonwealth dead of World Wars I and II is conducted at Woodlawn on the British Veterans' day, in mid-November. Following a parade from the gates of Woodlawn to the Commonwealth plot, the British Consul delivers an address and places a wreath. The ceremony ends with the firing of a salute by the military escort.

Armed Forces Retirees in Florida

According to the Florida Statistical Abstract 2011, in September 2010, Florida was home to more than 176,000 Armed Forces retirees who received \$379,858,000 in benefits from the Federal Government. The total paid to surviving families was an additional \$32,266,000.

Floridas in the Navy

Six ships of the United States Navy and one in the Confederate States Navy have been named for Florida.

The Confederate States Ship (CSS) *Florida*, a 700 ton steam vessel, was purchased in Britain by the nascent Confederate States and commissioned in 1862. The *Florida* ultimately captured more than 30 prize ships between 1862-1864, when she was attacked and captured in a Brazilian port by the United States Navy.

It was earlier thought there were five U.S. Navy *Floridas*, until a sixth was found by the Navy's Ship History Section. The first *Florida*, a sloop, was engaged almost constantly in survey work on the southern coast between 1824 and 1831.

The second was a sidewheel steamer of 1,261 tons, purchased in 1861 and mounting nine guns. The U.S.S. *Florida* served with blockading squadrons during the Civil War. The ship passed out of Navy possession in 1868.

The third *Florida* was a 15-gun steam frigate of 3,281 tons, built at the New York Navy Yard in 1864 and first known as the *Wampanoag*. The *Wampanoag* was the fastest ship of the time, achieving 16.7 geographic miles an hour. However, she saw little active service since structural defects prevented efficient use of her guns. The name was changed to *Florida* in 1869, and the frigate was stricken from the Navy register in 1885.

The fourth *Florida* was a single turreted coast monitor of 3,255 tons, authorized by Congress in 1898. Built by Lewis Nixon at Elizabethport, New Jersey, the monitor was placed in service in 1903 and sold in 1922, her name having been changed to *Tallahassee* in 1908 so a new battleship could be named for the state. Her principal service was as a submarine tender in the Panama Canal Zone.

The fifth U.S.S. *Florida* was a battleship commissioned in 1911. She was launched May 12, 1910, under the sponsorship of Elizabeth Legere Fleming (Mrs. Frank Percival Hamilton) of Jacksonville, daughter of former Governor Francis P. Fleming. Displacing 21,825 tons with a speed of 22 knots, the *Florida* was 510 feet long and cost \$6,400,000. This *Florida* was dispatched in 1914 to protect American lives and property at Vera Cruz, Mexico. During World War I, she was first stationed in the Chesapeake Bay area and then attached to the Atlantic fleet for convoy service, operating with the British Grand Fleet from Scapa Flow and the Fifth of Forth, Scotland. There were several submarine attacks, and on one occasion contact was made by ships of the advance screen with a German cruiser squadron but no action resulted. In May 1919, the *Florida* participated in weather observation for the trans-Atlantic flight of Seaplanes NC-1, NC-3, and NC-4 and in the search for the NC-3.

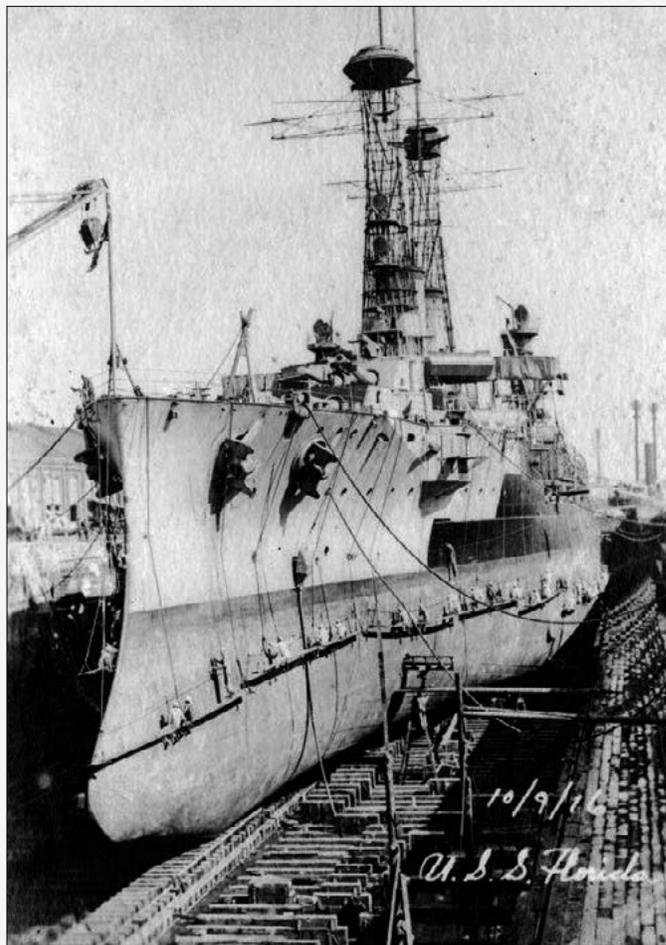


Photo by R.E. MacDonald

U.S.S. *Florida* battleship in dry dock, 1916. The BB-30 was the fifth USS *Florida*. It was commissioned on September 15, 1911.

The *Florida* was modernized in 1926 at the Boston Navy Yard at a cost of \$3,852,000, and assigned to the training of naval reservists. The *Florida* was stricken from the Navy register on April 6, 1931, and scrapped under the terms of the London Naval Treaty.

Of particular interest is the ornate silver service purchased with \$10,000 donated by Floridians, including children who gave pennies, nickels, and dimes in school collections. The service was presented to the *Florida* on December 18, 1911, and returned to the state for the Governor's Mansion when the *Florida* was decommissioned.



Latest of the *Floridas*, the sixth, is a Trident-class nuclear submarine. The 560-foot submarine carries a crew of 154 and when commissioned was armed with 24 Trident missiles. The SSBN 728, its construction designation, was named the U.S.S.

Florida by President Carter in January 1981 (the day before he left office), launched on November 14, 1981, and commissioned on June 18, 1983. A Melbourne high school student, Doug Heminger, designed the insignia for the *Florida*, winning a contest among junior high, high school, and college students.

The *Florida* won four Submarine Squadron Battle Efficiency awards (1988, 1989, 1991, and 1999) and in 1991 was selected as the top ship in the Pacific Fleet by receipt of the Marjorie Sterrett Battle Ship Fund Award.

In September 2002, General Dynamics Electric Boat received a contract for the conversion of the *Florida* and three other submarines into state-of-the-art, multi-mission, guided-missile submarines with Tomahawk TLAM (land attack) or Tactical Tomahawk (Block IV) missiles. The converted *Florida would be* capable of conducting special operations missions with accommodation for Northrop Grumman Advanced SEAL delivery systems (ASDS), mission control centre, and special operations troops. Conversion began at Norfolk Naval Shipyard in July 2003. Upon completion she reentered service on May 25, 2006.

The Battle of Florida

A year and a half after the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown and three months following the signing of the provisional Treaty of Peace at Paris, guns of American and British warships exchanged volleys off the coast of today's Brevard County.

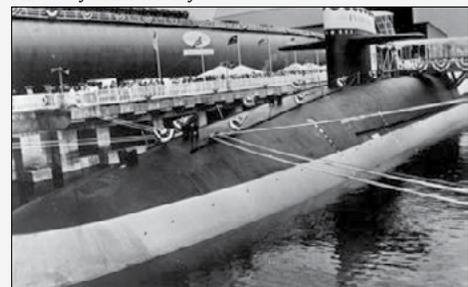
The Continental frigate *Alliance* and its French consort, the *Duc de Lauzun*, were en route to Newport, Rhode Island, with gold being loaned to the Continental government by France, when encountered on March 10, 1783, by three British men-of-war, including the *Sybil*.

In the exchange with the *Sybil*, the *Alliance* damaged the British warship sufficiently for the *Alliance* and the *Duc de Lauzun* to complete their mission. *Sybil's* log gave the scene of the postwar engagement as 30 leagues off Cape Canaveral.

The "Battle of Florida" was recognized in House Concurrent Resolution 620 of the 1986 Legislature.



Photos by Mark T. Foley



Governor Bob Graham (left), Attorney General Jim Smith and Treasurer Bill Gunter with Captain W.L. Powell, Prospective Commanding Officer of the USS Florida, and Doug Heminger, a Melbourne High School student who designed the submarine insignia, 1983.



Florida in the Civil War Years

David J. Coles and Dorothy Dodd*



The national crisis over slavery and states' rights culminated in 1860 with the election of Republican Abraham Lincoln to the presidency. By a majority of 8,277 to 4,801, Floridians supported southern Democrat John C. Breckenridge over Constitutional Unionist John Bell. Northern Democrat Stephen A. Douglas only received 223 votes in Florida, while Lincoln was not even on the ballot. In the race for governor, Democrat John Milton defeated Constitutional Unionist Edward Hopkins by some 1,750 votes. As a result of provisions in the new constitution adopted shortly after the 1860 election for governor, Milton would not take office for 1 year, and it would be Governor Madison Starke Perry who called for elections to a Secession Con-

vention, which would meet in Tallahassee in early January 1861. Despite the efforts of Florida Unionists and those who hoped to at least delay secession, the convention voted on January 10 by a majority of 62-7 to become the third state to withdraw from the Union. The Ordinance of Secession was signed at Tallahassee the following day. Until it joined the provisional government of the Confederate States of America on January 28, Florida was an "independent nation." The Secession Convention ratified the Confederate Constitution on April 13, 1861. While the majority of Floridians supported secession, the state also held a sizeable Unionist minority, which was particularly strong in east Florida. Ex-governor Richard Keith Call spoke for many of these individuals when he exclaimed to celebrating secessionists: "You have opened the gates of Hell, from which shall flow the curses of the damned which shall sink you to perdition."¹



Florida State Archives

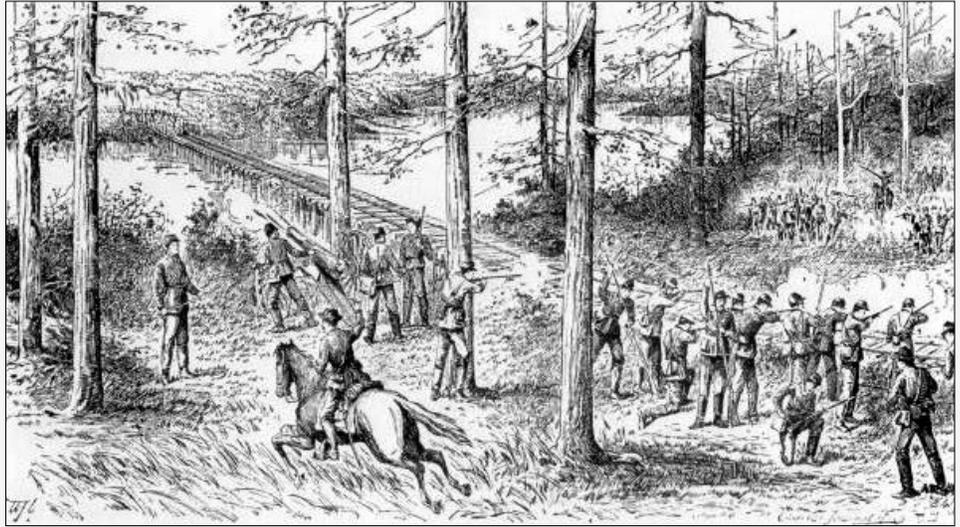
Men of the 9th Mississippi make their camp in Pensacola, 1861.

Occupation of Forts

Even before the Ordinance of Secession was adopted, Florida officials moved to seize the Federal fortifications located in the state. Fort Marion at St. Augustine and Fort Clinch near Fernandina were taken without difficulty. Of the three forts at Pensacola, only Barrancas was garrisoned. Knowing that he could not hold out against attack, Lieutenant Adam Slemmer hurriedly moved his small Union force to

**This article is a revision of "The Civil War in Florida," a 1961 essay for The Florida Handbook. Dr. Dorothy Dodd was Florida's State Librarian from 1951 to 1965. Dr. David J. Coles is Professor of History and Chair of the Department of History, Political Science, and Philosophy at Longwood College, Farmville, Virginia.*

Artist's rendering of a Civil War fight on Cedar Key. In January 1862, sailors and marines burned the railroad terminus and a number of small vessels docked at the island.



Drawing by Mary Elizabeth Dickson

Fort Pickens on Santa Rosa Island. The Confederates seized the Navy Yard on January 12 and occupied Forts Barrancas and McRee, but the garrison of Fort Pickens refused to surrender.

Actual hostilities had not commenced, and both sides were reluctant to start fighting. Consequently, there was an informal truce until April 12, when Fort Pickens was reinforced by sea. Confederate forces, meanwhile, under General Braxton Bragg, trained and strengthened Forts McRee and Barrancas, while preparing for an eventual assault against Fort Pickens. Bragg ordered an attack on the night of October 8-9, 1861, when a force of slightly over 1,000 men landed on Santa Rosa Island a few miles east of Fort Pickens. The southern forces surprised the Sixth New York Infantry Regiment, known as Billy Wilson's Zouaves, and ransacked its camp, before being forced to withdraw. The Battle of Santa Rosa Island, as the engagement became known, was the first major fighting of the war in Florida, with casualties totaling about 150. Bombardments between the Union and Confederate forts took place in November 1861 and again on New Year's Day of 1862, but there was not another attempt to capture Fort Pickens. Finally, in the spring of 1862, the Confederates evacuated Pensacola and the Federals occupied Fort Barrancas and the town.

Fort Taylor and Fort Jefferson also remained in Union hands throughout the war. The latter, at the western end of the Keys, was too remote to be seized by land forces. Fort Taylor's garrison stood firm against southern sympathizers in Key West until that port became headquarters for the East Gulf Blockad-

ing Squadron (EGBS) and the army's District of Key West and the Tortugas.

Coastal Blockade

The blockade of the Florida coasts began in June 1861. Some blockading vessels had regular stations, while others patrolled sections of the coastal waters. The EGBS captured 283 blockade runners during the war, but its vessels could not prevent others from slipping in and out of Florida's bays and rivers with arms and scarce goods, such as coffee, tea, and medicines, and outgoing cargoes of cotton, tobacco, and turpentine.

Occasionally, the federal ships would land a party to raid a town. In January 1862, sailors and marines burned the railroad terminus and a number of small vessels docked at Cedar Key. In May 1864, Tampa was briefly occupied and its rude defensive works burned. The blockading ships also took contrabands, or runaway slaves, many of whom served on EGBS ships.

Salt for the Confederacy

Crews of blockading ships also raided the coastal salt works. Seawater was a major source for the salt that was so badly needed for domestic use and to cure beef for the armies. On the shallow bays and lagoons of the west coast from Tampa to Choctawhatchee Bay, men boiled seawater in large kettles and sheet-iron boilers to make salt for the Confederacy. When the blockaders learned the location of

a salt works, they would go ashore, burn the store houses and shanties in which the saltmakers lived, and break up the kettles, boilers, and furnaces with sledgehammers.

A Taylor County salt works raided in September 1863 had a capacity of 1,500 bushels a day, for which the government paid \$12.50 a bushel. The salt-making equipment consisted of 390 large kettles, 52 sheet-iron boilers, 170 brick furnaces, and numerous pumps, wells, and aqueducts. There were 182 storehouses, shanties, and sheds, including a carpenter shop and a fishing house; 5 large wagons; 18 mules; and about 1,000 head of cattle. The total value of property destroyed or captured in this single raid was estimated at \$2,000,000. Among the ships of the EGBS, the crew of the *U.S.S. Tahoma* in particular earned a reputation as aggressive destroyers of Gulf Coast salt works.²

Cattle: Another Contribution

Another important Florida contribution to the Confederacy was cattle that provided beef for army rations, tallow for candles, and hides for leather. Cattle from South Florida prairies were driven to the railhead at Baldwin for shipment to the armies, each drive taking 40 days. After the fall of Vicksburg, Mississippi, in July 1863, which cut off shipments of beef from the trans-Mississippi to the east, Confederate officials depended even more on Florida beef. Governor Milton organized a commissary service under Pleasants Woodson White with the responsibility of collecting cattle for shipment to Georgia, the Carolinas, and Virginia.

While some Florida beeves were sent to feed southern armies, recent scholarship suggests that many of the state's cattlemen had no intention of selling their cattle for devalued Confederate currency. Instead, prominent cattlemen such as Jacob Summerlin strove to protect their herds until they could sell them at the end of the war for Spanish gold or United States greenbacks. Another factor restricting the flow of cattle northward was the possibility that Tampan James McKay, Sr., appointed commissary agent for south Florida, "enjoyed a confidential relationship with Union authorities," and worked to delay cattle shipments.³ In 1864, Federal forces occupied the former Seminole War post at Fort Myers from where

they launched raids into the interior against Confederate cattle herding operations. Rebel authorities countered by creating the First Florida Special Cavalry Battalion, known also as the Cow Cavalry, which skirmished with Federal forces on the south Florida prairies while trying to defend Florida's herds. In the end, Confederate officials would be disappointed as a great number of Florida cattle remained in the state throughout the war.

Florida hogs, sugar, syrup, and fish, though less important, also helped feed southern soldiers. To conserve food products, the state legislature forbade the use of grain, sugar, and syrup in distilling liquor. It also instituted a quota system for cotton and tobacco acreage to force the growing of food crops. According to Florida historian Robert Taylor, "Florida was a key component of the Confederate economy and a factor in its supply planning." He adds that while southern officials overestimated their appraisal of Florida's resources, "[a]s an economic member of the Confederacy, Florida deserve[s] recognition as a state as vital to the country as practically any other."⁴



Florida State Archives

Men and beef cattle, Apalachicola, circa 1845.

Although food was Florida's most effective contribution to the Southern Cause, the state's great sacrifice was in the men it gave to the Confederate armies. There were only 14,373 men of voting age in 1860, but at least 15,000 Floridians saw military service. Florida brigades served in both the Army of Northern Virginia and the Army of Tennessee and saw heavy combat in most of the major battles of the war. At least 5,000 native sons died of wounds, hardship, or disease. A native Floridian, General Edmund Kirby Smith, became one of the seven full generals of the Confederacy. Other prominent Florida com-

manders included James Patton Anderson, Theodore Brevard, Joseph Finegan, J. J. Finley, David Lang, William Wing Loring, and Edward A. Perry.

Florida Women in the Civil War

While thousands of Florida's sons served on battlefields across the South, its daughters performed a variety of roles on the home front. At the beginning of the conflict, women sewed uniforms and flags for Florida volunteers, prepared farewell suppers, and made patriotic speeches for the departing troops. Throughout the war, sewing societies continued to provide valuable articles of clothing for the often ill-equipped Florida regiments. The state's female population also donated valuables, held bazaars, and planned or participated in musical and theatrical performances to raise money for the war effort. Florida women provided supplies for and worked as nurses in hospitals established in the state, as well as those ministering to Florida soldiers in other parts of the Confederacy. Perhaps most prominent among these was Mary Martha Reid, the widow of former territorial governor Robert Raymond Reid, who served as matron of the hospital established in Richmond for Florida soldiers in the Army of Northern Virginia.

The war forced Florida women to deal with shortages of most civilian commodities. The prices of those products that were still available rose dramatically, and the use of substitutes such as coffee made from acorns, okra, or pumpkin seeds became commonplace. With so many men serving in the Confederate armies, women were forced to play an even greater role in the operations of farms and plantations. Florida's female population "curried leather, did blacksmithing, plowing, cobbling. They made fence, drove ox-carts, went to mill, repaired the furniture, drenched sick horses, butchered hogs, set traps for the thieving larks and crows, pulled the corn and hauled it to the barn. It would be [a] much easier task to tell what they did not do."⁵ Finally, Florida women faced the real possibility that their husbands, fathers, and brothers might never return. "Bereavement," writes historian Tracy Revels, "stripped away the illusions of rapid, heroic triumphs Unidentified remains and unknown graves tormented many grieving families. Mourning clothes were increasingly in short supply, [and] Women comforted each

other, urging widows and orphans to accept death as the will of God."⁶ The war's end brought sadness and despair for many white Florida women, but undoubtedly a sense of relief as well.



African Americans in Florida During the Civil War

African Americans comprised nearly 45 percent of Florida's 1860 population. Nine hundred and thirty two free blacks resided in the state, along with 61,745 enslaved persons. At the war's outbreak, a few slaves accompanied their owners when they joined the Confederate military, acting as body servants and cooks. A handful of blacks served as musicians in southern units, such as the St. Augustine Blues, which became a part of the Third Florida Infantry Regiment. Early in the war, however, the great majority of Florida's slaves remained on the plantations and farms of east and middle Florida. They provided, however unwillingly, the foodstuffs, cotton, and other products needed to supply the Rebel armies. Confederate officials also impressed slaves to build fortifications, take up railroad iron, and work on other war-related projects.

By early 1862, Union forces had occupied most of the populous towns located along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. Though Florida slave owners tried to relocate their chattel into safer parts of the interior, these enclaves attracted hundreds of escaped slaves, or contrabands. Their numbers only increased as the war progressed, with the Cedar Keys, Jacksonville, Fernandina, Key West, and Pensacola all housing black refugees. Some worked as civilians for the

Federal Government, while others joined the military. Most ships in the EGBS enlisted contrabands into their crews, and more than 1,000 black Floridians joined Union army regiments. Even those slaves who remained in Confederate-held areas became more belligerent as the war progressed. "Some," writes historian Larry Rivers, "became so unruly as to alarm entire communities."⁷ By 1865, he adds, "anticipations of freedom percolated more and more strongly as Union triumph neared."⁸ In the spring of 1865, news slowly reached Florida blacks of the Confederacy's collapse. Celebrations large and small erupted as the news spread, with May 20, the day Union soldiers raised the Stars and Stripes over Tallahassee, still celebrated by Florida's black citizens as Emancipation Day.

Unionism in Civil War Florida

A sizeable minority of Florida's population was Unionist, or at least anti-Confederate, in sentiment. Many Florida politicians who opposed secession were ex-Whigs or ex-Know Nothings such as Richard Keith Call, future governor Ossian Bingley Hart, and ex-gubernatorial candidate George Ward. The latter was a delegate to the Secession Convention who urged delay and only reluctantly voted for secession. "When I die, I want it inscribed upon my tombstone that I was the last man to give up the ship," he emotionally stated as he signed his name to the Ordinance of Secession. Ironically, Ward would serve in the Confederate Congress and be elected

colonel of the Second Florida Infantry, which he commanded at the time of his death in the May 1862 Battle of Williamsburg, Virginia.

Unionist sentiment only increased as the war progressed and military defeats, shortages, a deteriorating economy, and oppressive governmental policies alienated many Floridians. A conscription act, passed by the Confederate Congress in 1862, was widely hated and led to many Floridians "laying-out" to avoid the draft. Wartime taxes and an impressment act that authorized the government to confiscate goods at reduced prices further angered the state's residents. The failure of the Confederate government to adequately defend the state also depressed civilian and military morale. Tales of privation at home led many Florida soldiers to desert, a problem that reached epidemic proportion during the last year of the war. As early as 1862, Governor Milton proclaimed: "There is not within my knowledge a portion of the State free of skulking traitors."⁹ The problem would be much worse by 1865.

During the war, the First and Second Florida Cavalry regiments, along with several smaller units, were organized from the state's Unionist population, as well as refugees from Alabama and other states. The First Florida served in west Florida and participated in a number of raids and skirmishes, most prominently the bloody encounter at Marianna in September 1864. The Second Florida Cavalry served in south Florida and took part in the March 1865 St. Marks expedition.

Olustee: Bloody Battleground

The Battle of Olustee (Ocean Pond), February 20, 1864, was the major engagement of the Civil War in Florida. The campaign that culminated in the battle began when Major General Quincy A. Gillmore sent a Federal expedition from Hilton Head, South Carolina, to occupy Jacksonville for a fourth time. The military objectives were to break up communications between east and west Florida, thus depriving the Confederacy of large quantities of food supplies drawn from east and south Florida; to procure for Northern use Florida cotton, turpentine, and timber; and to obtain recruits for black Union regiments. Political considerations also contributed to the campaign. Both President Lincoln and his chief rival for the 1864 Republican nomination, Treasury Secretary Salmon Chase, hoped to reorganize a loyal Florida government in time for the convention and the general election. Lyman Stickney, a Florida tax commissioner appointed by Chase, repeatedly urged General Gillmore to launch a major expedition into Florida. Lincoln, meanwhile, would commission his private secretary, John Hay, and send him to Florida with orders to obtain oaths of allegiance to begin the process of organizing a Florida government under the provisions of the president's December 1863 Reconstruction Proclamation.¹⁰

The expedition landed on February 7 under the command of Brigadier General Truman A. Seymour. The next day, Federal raiders fanned out from Jacksonville, meeting little opposition. On February 9, they took Baldwin, the junction of the railroads from Fernandina to Cedar Key and from Jacksonville to Tallahassee. There they seized supplies worth half a million dollars. By February 11, their cavalry had penetrated to within 3 miles of Lake City but, after a sharp skirmish with hastily entrenched Confederates, withdrew to Sanderson.

Confederate Strength

The Confederates encountered near Lake City were under the command of General Joseph Finegan. At the time of the invasion, his forces numbered scarcely 1,200 men widely scattered over east Florida. Upon learning of the Federals' landing, he called for reinforcements, which were sent from middle Florida and Georgia and concentrated near Lake City. The only natural defensive features of the country, which was flat and covered by open pine forest, were numerous lakes and streams. On February 13, General Finegan selected a position near Olustee Station that offered maximum natural protection and began defensive works along a line from Ocean Pond on the left to a small pond south of the railroad on the right. The position was strong if attacked directly from the front but could be readily turned.

The Federals, meanwhile, hesitated as to the course they should take. General Gillmore had given instructions that Union troops should not advance in force beyond Barbers at the Little St. Marys River. Somewhat inexplicably, therefore, General Seymour decided on February 17 that he would move against Lake City, meet the enemy there, and push his cavalry westward to destroy the railroad bridge over the Suwannee River. With this end in view, on February 19 he concentrated the main body of his troops at the Little St. Marys and at Sanderson.

Union Force

The Federal force consisted of one cavalry brigade, three infantry brigades, and three batteries of artillery. Its effective strength was 5,500 officers and men and 16 guns. About one-third of the force consisted of black troops, including the famous Fifty-fourth Massachusetts. The white soldiers were from New York, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. The Confederate force, two-thirds of whom were Georgians, consisted of one cavalry

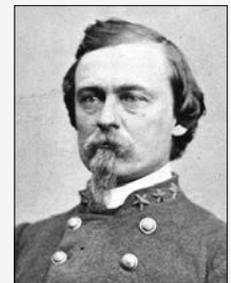


Lithograph by Kurz & Allison

Illustration of the Battle of Olustee.

brigade, two infantry brigades, and three batteries, an effective strength of between 5,000-5,500 officers and men. The opposing forces were about equal in number.

Early on the morning of February 20, the Federals set out in two columns. One advanced down the sandy road, the other along the railroad. As the columns neared Olustee, a regiment was sent ahead as skirmishers. About an hour before noon, General Finegan sent forward his cavalry and supporting infantry with orders to draw the enemy to the prepared Confederate position. He later sent forward three regiments under General Alfred H. Colquitt with instructions to attack whatever force was met and to ask for assistance if needed. The result of this decision was that the battle was fought on an open field with no advantage of ground to either side.



Brigadier General Joseph Finegan

The Battle Commences

The Confederate cavalry made contact with the advance Union elements about 12:30 p.m. For an hour and a half the Federal skirmish line advanced

steadily, keeping up a running fire with the cavalry. The latter fell back to the crossing of the road and railroad, several miles east of Olustee, where Colquitt's troops were encountered. The main body of Federal troops followed slowly and advanced on the field, the brigades in columns. Soon the sharp crack of rifles and the dull thud of cannon as they sent their balls crashing through the pine trees made it obvious that the battle was underway.

The Confederate line was formed with cavalry on each flank and infantry in the center. Seymour's plan was to place his three artillery batteries in the center, with attacking infantry on each side. Colonel Joseph Hawley's brigade was deployed first, but the Seventh New Hampshire regiment quickly broke. This focused Confederate attention on the untried Eighth United States Colored Infantry, which suffered very heavy casualties before withdrawing. Seymour's next brigade—three regiments of New Yorkers under Colonel William Barton—came forward and held the battle lines for several hours against increasing Confederate pressure.

Late in the afternoon, the surging Confederates ran out of ammunition. The regiments were halted, and the few who had cartridges returned a slow fire to the brisk bombardment from the other side. Am-

munication and the last troops held back near Olustee finally arrived, and a general advance caused the Federals to withdraw, leaving their dead and wounded and much equipment behind.

A Bloody Field

Olustee was a bloody field. Confederate casualties were 93 killed, 847 wounded, and 6 missing. The Union losses were considerably worse—203 killed, 1,152 wounded, and 506 missing. In Federal camps, the battle was spoken of as a second Dade Massacre. In fact, the losses far exceeded the Dade calamity. The Confederates failed to gather the full fruits of their victory by pressing the pursuit of the retreating Federals. Following slowly, within 6 days they pushed their lines to within a dozen miles of Jacksonville. For the remainder of the war, Union forces were confined to Jacksonville, Fernandina, and St. Augustine, from which places an occasional raiding party slipped out to harass the country. During this period, Confederate Captain John J. Dickison, who commanded a company in the Second Florida Cavalry along with occasional attached units, earned fame as the "Swamp Fox of Florida" for repulsing a number of Union raids into the interior.

Battle of Natural Bridge: How the Capital Was Saved

The joint military and naval operation that culminated in the Battle of Natural Bridge, March 6, 1865, was primarily a Union expedition against St. Marks and Newport. Had it been successful, the Federals might easily have captured Tallahassee, the capital, against which there had been no other serious military threat during the war.

The Port of St. Marks, the principal commercial outlet of middle Florida, had been under blockade since June 22, 1861. Its business was carried on both at the town of St. Marks, situated on the west bank of the river of the same name above its confluence with the Wakulla River, and at Newport, 5 miles by river above St. Marks. The importance of Newport was enhanced by the existence there of a mill and iron foundry which had been converted for war use as a Confederate machine shop.

The blockade was not as effective as the Federals might have desired because the bar at the mouth

of the river and the shallow waters of Apalachee Bay forced their vessels to stand off 4 or 5 miles from shore. It had been conducted with few incidents beyond the routine chasing of blockade runners and raids on Confederate salt works.

Attack on St. Marks

It was not until February 1865, that the Federals decided to attack St. Marks. Their decision was based on the belief that the enemy's effective military forces in the state were so dispersed that a raid on the town would be successful. General John Newton commanded the expedition, with which blockading ships cruising between St. George Sound and Tampa were ordered to cooperate. He sailed from Key West on February 23 and arrived with three transports off the St. Marks bar on February 28. A dense fog protected the expedition from Confederate observation

during the next 2 days, while nine blockading vessels joined the transports.

While the fleet was assembling, a plan of action was devised. Ships were to ascend the river and silence the fort at St. Marks. Troops were to land at the St. Marks lighthouse and march to Newport, destroy the public establishments there, cross the river, and take St. Marks from the rear. Preliminary to these operations, a special detachment was to capture the East River bridge, over which the road ran from the lighthouse to Newport. The landing of the troops had been planned for the night of Friday, March 3, but debarkation was delayed by difficulties in crossing the bar and by a heavy gale.

Alarm at Tallahassee

News of the invasion reached Tallahassee at 9 o'clock Saturday night, March 4th. The alarm was given, and every man and boy capable of bearing arms answered the call. Their response was so prompt that a small body of militia and a company of West Florida Seminary cadets under General William Miller, commander of the Florida reserve forces, reached Newport by Sunday morning.

The Federal fleet, augmented by four more gunboats, was encountering greater difficulties than the land forces. It was unable to navigate the tortuous river channel, although seven of the lighter draft vessels made the attempt. Three of them went aground, and the others, in spite of strenuous efforts, were several miles below St. Marks when word was received on Monday, March 6, that the land force was retreating.

General Newton's column, when it approached Newport Sunday morning, saw smoke rising from the town. The Confederates had set fire to the bridge as well as the iron foundry and workshops. After failing to drive out sharpshooters entrenched in rifle pits on the west bank of the river, General Newton decided to attempt a crossing at the Natural Bridge 7 or 8 miles above the town. Following an old and unfrequented road, his main force arrived there at daybreak on March 6.

General Newton found Confederates in position awaiting his arrival. Anticipating the Federal movement, General Miller had dispatched cavalry to the Natural Bridge, and General Sam Jones, command-



Florida State Archives

View looking across the St. Marks River toward the historic Natural Bridge Battlefield park, Leon County, 1924. The battlefield is the site of the second largest Civil War battle in Florida, and where the St. Marks River goes underground for a distance of about one-quarter of a mile before reappearing, therefore forming a natural bridge.

ing the military district of Florida, who arrived at Newport Sunday night, ordered the reserves, militia, two sections of artillery, and the force of militia and cadets under General Miller at Newport to the same point. The Confederate position was naturally protected in front and on the flanks by sloughs, ponds, marshes, and thickets. General Newton deployed his troops on an open pine barren about 300 yards from the bridge.

Engagement at Daylight

The engagement began at daylight when two companies of Federal troops drove the Confederate outposts over the bridge. The Federals then attempted a combined frontal and flanking attack, only to find that the enemy's position was impregnable. General Newton withdrew his assault troops to the pine barren, leaving the initiative to his enemy. Early in the afternoon, the Confederates made two charges under an artillery barrage but were unable to dislodge the Federals. The latter waited on the field for about an hour and then retreated, harassed by Confederate cavalry, to the lighthouse.

The Federal forces actually engaged in the action consisted of about 600 black soldiers from the Second and the Ninety-ninth United States Colored Infantry and their white officers. Confederate forces were estimated at slightly over 1,000. General Newton's force lost 148 men killed, wounded, or missing. The Confederates had 3 men killed and between 20 and 30 wounded.

The Weary Banners Furled

Toward the end of the war, several Florida regiments sent their battle flags to Governor Milton for safekeeping. The Governor, in acknowledging receipt of two regimental standards, lauded the “patriotism and invincible courage” of Florida troops in the “contest for the maintenance of their right to self government.” In these words John Milton expressed the motives which had actuated his own conduct during the war. Although he was a firm believer in states’ rights, he recognized that the preservation of those rights in the South depended upon the success of the Confederacy. Consequently, while most other southern governors were bickering with the Confederate government over measures that infringed upon the rights of the states, Milton’s fixed aim was to assure the success of the common cause. In his last message to the Florida legislature, Milton stated: “The reconstruction of the American Union, as it existed



... is now impossible ... In this conflict the baseness, cruelty, and perfidy of our foe have exceeded all precedent; they have developed a character so odious that death would be preferable to reunion with them.”¹¹ The governor took these words seriously.

On April 1, 1865, while at his plantation near Marianna, he put a muzzle-loading shotgun to his mouth and pulled the trigger.

Postscript: the Surrender

Brigadier General Edward M. McCook was assigned to receive the surrender of the Confederate forces in Florida. The surrender began at Tallahassee on May 10, 1865. During the next month, small bodies of troops surrendered and were paroled at other places in the state. On May 20, General McCook took formal possession of Tallahassee and raised the United States flag over the capitol. The long process of Reconstruction would now begin.

¹ Quoted in Herbert J. Doherty, Jr., *Richard Keith Call, Southern Unionist* (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1961), 158.

² See Robert A. Taylor, *Rebel Storehouse: Florida in the Confederate Economy* (Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 1995), 44-65; and David J. Coles, “Unpretending Service: The James L. Davis, the Tahoma, and the East Gulf Blockading Squadron,” *The Florida Historical Society* 71 no. 1 (July 1992): 41-62.

³ Canter Brown, Jr., “The Civil War, 1861-1865,” in Michael Gannon, ed., *The New History of Florida* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1996), 241.

⁴ Taylor, 159.

⁵ Quoted in Brown, 237.

⁶ Tracy J. Revels, “Grander in Her Daughters: Florida’s Women During the Civil War,” *Florida Historical Quarterly* 77, no. 3 (Winter 1999, 261-282): 274.

⁷ Larry Rivers, *Slavery in Florida: Territorial Days to Emancipation* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2000), 245.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 248.

⁹ Quoted in Brown, 240. See the same author’s *Ossian Bingley Hart: Florida’s Loyalist Reconstruction Governor* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1997) and *Florida’s Peace River Frontier* (Orlando: University of Central Florida, 1991).

¹⁰ See John E. Johns, *Florida During the Civil War* (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1963), 190-194; William H. Nulty, *Confederate Florida: The Road to Olustee* (Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 1990), 53-75; and in David James Coles, “Far From Fields of Glory: Military Operations in Florida During the Civil War, 1864-1865,” (PhD. dissertation, Florida State University, 1996), 7-39.

¹¹ Quoted in Coles, “Far from Fields of Glory,” 375.



Reconstruction in Florida

Edith Pollitz*

Although Florida escaped much of the wholesale destruction that came to other southern states as a result of movements of large bodies of troops, bloody battles, and destruction of cities, the end of war brought radical and permanent changes to society.

First and foremost was freedom for slaves and participation for black men (women of both races would continue to have a long wait) in the electoral process for the first time. In addition to the right to vote, African Americans exercised the right to seek office as well. Florida sent Josiah Walls, a former slave who had served in the state's 1868 constitu-

tional convention, as the state's representative to Congress in 1870. The loser in the extremely close election, a Confederate veteran and former slave owner, challenged the election results successfully, overturning the results and forcing Walls to give up the seat, although it was well into the term when the ruling was made. Walls tried again in 1872 and was successful. He served one term, then ran again but encountered another election contest issue and was unseated. He was the only black member of Congress from Florida for over 100 years. The state legislature included several black members. William Bradwell, Robert Meacham, Charles Pearce, Harry Cruse, Josiah Walls, Frederick Hill, Thomas Warren Long, Washington Pope, Oliver Coleman, Samuel Spearing, Alfred Brown Osgood, John Wallace, Henry Wilkins Chandler, Joseph E. Lee, John Proctor, Daniel C. Martin, and Egbert Sammis served in the Florida Senate at various times from 1868-1887. Florida's first black Secretary of State, Jonathan Clarkson Gibbs, a northerner, was a member of the 1868 Constitutional Convention, working as part of a progressive faction called the Mule Team. Gibbs ran unsuccessfully for Congress, but he was appointed as Secretary of State by Governor Harrison Reed in 1868. Gibbs became Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1873 and held other positions of authority concurrently. He died in 1874. Gibbs' son became a member of Florida's next constitutional convention (1885) and a member of the legislature.



Florida State Archives

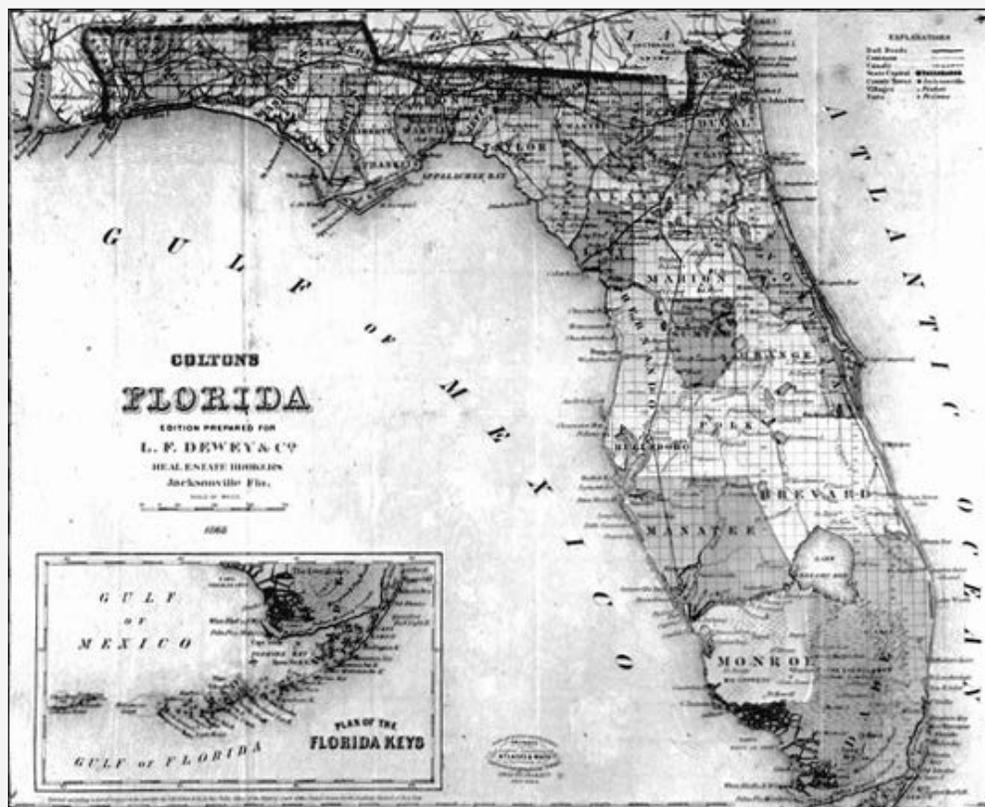
Congressman Josiah Thomas Walls

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Legally, Florida had to make some changes. First up was a new constitution, in 1865, of immediate necessity to erase references to the Confederate States of America in the existing one. Florida met federal requirements and was readmitted to the Union in 1868. As was the case throughout the South in the aftermath of the Civil War, violence and turmoil were common as the state attempted to adjust to a new normal. Florida played a major role in the election of 1876, which effectively ended federal support for strict Reconstruction policies in the South. Republican Rutherford Hayes was running against Democrat Samuel Tilden, both northerners. Tilden won the popular vote, but the Electoral College results were another matter. To win, one needed

185 votes. Tilden had one less than that, and Hayes had 165. The 20 votes of South Carolina, Louisiana, and Florida were disputed (each state sent two sets of electoral results, one for each candidate). Congress appointed an Electoral Commission, which chose Hayes by an 8-7 vote, but Republicans had to accept the end of military occupation of Southern states, effectively ending any clout black voters and officeholders might have. Blacks continued to serve in some political positions toward the end of the century, but their numbers dwindled to virtually nothing in the wake of consolidation of power by white Democrats (and adoption of the 1885 Constitution, which instituted a poll tax).

This edition of Colton's Florida was prepared for L.F. Dewey & Co., real estate brokers, Jacksonville, 1868. Florida was readmitted to the Union in the same year.



Florida State Archives



Development

Edith Pollitz*

As Reconstruction was winding down, Northern interest in Florida was not. Investment of Northern capital began Florida's transition from a backwater to the Florida we know today. Transportation played a huge role in this. Florida's interior had been largely wilderness and swampland. Once train tracks made the peninsula accessible to the public (particularly tourists from colder climes), things began to take off. There were two major movers and shakers involved with railroads who literally put Florida on the map: Henry Plant and Henry Flagler. Plant, from Connecticut, worked his way up, starting with express parcels for steamboats, and later express on railroads. He spent a few months in Jacksonville before the Civil War, was put in charge of a region comprising much of the South by his employer in the war years, and bought ruined railroads in the South in the aftermath of the war and revived them. From there, Plant started extending railroads south along the Atlantic Coast and into Florida with a terminus at Tampa. Henry Flagler, a New Yorker who was involved in the founding of Standard Oil, came to Florida and built a hotel in St. Augustine in the 1880s, then started working on a railroad to bring people to the hotel, eventually ending up creating the Florida East Coast Railway. Flagler built more hotels and kept extending the railway south. Finally, he decided to extend it from Biscayne Bay through the Florida Keys to Key West, of interest because of the city's size (largest in Florida at the time), port status, and proximity to the canal being built for shipping in Panama. Storms



Florida State Archives

Crowds greet arrival of Henry Flagler and the first train, Key West, 1912. Flagler is in the center with the straw hat escorted by Mayor J. Fogarty, holding his top hat.

proved to be a problem. In 1906, many workers on the project died in a hurricane. In 1909 and 1910, hurricanes destroyed much of the work, but the railroad was completed by 1912. The Labor Day Hurricane of 1935 took out much of the Overseas Railroad, but the surviving portions were sold to the state and became the basis for today's highway to Key West.

Once railroads were in place, tourism increased. Steamboats were another major means of transportation for those who wanted to enjoy Florida's sunny climate (and didn't mind the mosquitoes). Citrus growers and other farmers were able to move their crops via train to other parts of the country quickly, thus expanding markets. Although freezes, particu-

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larly in the 1890s, continued to be an on-again, off-again issue, the citrus industry expanded rapidly. Phosphate was discovered in southwest Florida, and another industry was born. The term “drain the swamp” became a reality as attempts to make Everglades land useful for farming began in the 1880s. Raising cattle had been a Florida enterprise more or less for years, but it transformed into big business after the Civil War with the state becoming a major cattle producer. The cigar industry flourished in Tampa with the availability of steamship connections to Cuba for importation of quality tobacco and the railroad to ship cigars to market. Diving for sponges was another industry that took off in the late 1800s.

More visitors came, although not by choice, when the Spanish-American War broke out in 1898. Tampa was the major staging point for sending troops to Cuba. Teddy Roosevelt’s Rough Riders were among the troops passing through.

As the new century dawned, motion pictures were just getting started, and Jacksonville was a cinema center before things moved west to Hollywood. Florida’s climate attracted the moviemakers for winter filming work. Manned flight was taking off, literally, and Florida saw some early attempts, including the first night flight in 1911 and the second transcontinental flight originating in Jacksonville in 1912, a

prize for the first flight to Cuba in 1913, and the first regularly scheduled commercial airline between two U.S. cities (it didn’t go very far—St. Petersburg to Tampa), among others. Florida was a major training ground during World War I, particularly for aviators.

Florida went into economic depression slightly ahead of much of the country. The Florida land boom of the 1920’s has been the subject of all kinds of unflattering comments ever since—“If you believe that, I have some real estate I’ll sell you in Florida.” The state started really growing in earnest, but many land purchasers were bilked out of everything they had for a piece of swamp that was of no use at the time (although, had they been able to hold onto it for several decades, it would, in most cases, have gone up drastically in value). The bubble burst in 1925, and unfinished developments lay decaying for years afterward. More hurricanes did not help, including the 1928 Okeechobee hurricane that killed somewhere near 2,000 people due to storm surge from Lake Okeechobee. The 1935 hurricane that took out the Overseas Extension railroad to Key West killed around 400 people, including a large number of “Bonus Army” veterans of World War I who were working on federal construction projects. It would take another calamity, World War II, to lift Florida out of the Depression.



Group portrait of Theodore Roosevelt and other high ranking officials of the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment, Tampa, 1898.

From left to right: Maj. George Dunn, Maj. Alexander Brodie, Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler, Chaplain Henry A. Brown, Col. Leonard Wood, Col. Theodore “Teddy” Roosevelt (later 26th U.S. President).

Florida State Archives



Keep the Home Fires Burning

Florida's World War II Experience

David J. Coles*

The Second World War had an enormous impact on the State of Florida. Few, if any other states were as directly affected by the war. Thousands of the state's sons and daughters served in combat theaters around the world, while in Florida dozens of military bases were established or expanded. The war also spurred economic development and led to a huge postwar population surge. It can be argued that World War II marked the coming of age of Florida as a modern, influential state.

Despite the land boom of the 1920s, in many respects Florida was still a sleepy southern state in 1941. On December 7, 1941, when Floridians learned that the United States had been thrown into the world

conflict that had been raging for over two years, most of the state's population lived in rural, agricultural regions with little industry of any consequence.

The war brought dramatic changes. A tremendous migration of military personnel into the area took place. Additionally, civilian workers came to work in the various camps and bases that were established and in the shipyards and other industries that expanded during the conflict. Many soldiers, sailors, and marines who served in Florida later returned to the state to live. The state's population grew 46.1% during the decade of the 1940s and would expand at an even more rapid pace during the 1950s. World War II helped serve as a catalyst for the state's explosive postwar growth.

Florida's strategic location made the state vital for national defense, and dozens of military installations were activated before and during the war. Planes and ships from Florida's bases helped protect the sea lanes in the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean. Florida was viewed as an important first line of defense for the southern United States, the Caribbean Basin, and the Panama Canal. The defense industry also grew dramatically during the war. Equipment and supplies necessary to conduct the war were produced in the state, such as the Liberty Ships that were built by the Tampa Shipbuilding Company, the Wainwright Shipyards in Panama City, as well as shipyards at Pensacola and Jacksonville. "Alligator" amphibious vehicles were designed and produced at Dunedin. Agriculture, however, remained Florida's



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The Thomas Leavelle, a "Liberty Ship", at the Wainwright shipyard, Panama City, 1944.

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Florida National Guardsmen in London, a long way from home.



Florida State Archives

primary economic contribution to the war effort. The U.S. Department of Agriculture authorized the temporary importation of 75,000 Bahamians and Jamaicans to work in south Florida fields.

Many Floridians were still recovering from the Great Depression, and World War II presented economic opportunities. Wages improved and jobs became plentiful due to the large number of men in service. Women, black Americans, and Hispanics moved into professions previously dominated by white males. Despite some friction, race relations were relatively peaceful during the war, as black Americans in particular worked toward the “Double V”—victory abroad against fascism and victory at home against racial prejudice.

Florida’s tourist industry was initially hurt by restrictions on travel, particularly during the early years of the war. To compensate for the loss of tourist dollars, however, the military took over hotels for use as barracks and restaurants as mess halls. By April 1942, for example, 70,000 hotel rooms on Miami Beach were used by trainees attending various service schools run by the Army Air Corps. Later in the war, the tourist trade returned, with Florida promoting itself as a vacation getaway for hard working, and now highly paid, civilian workers. “Like a soldier YOU need a civilian furlough,” claimed the Daytona Chamber of Commerce, while Miami promoted the idea that one could “Rest faster here.”¹ Consequently, in 1943 tourism in Florida increased by 20% over the previous year, and gambling at south Florida race-

tracks reached all-time highs. Florida’s promotion of its tourist industry during the latter stages of the war drew criticisms in some quarters for its inappropriateness during a period of national sacrifice.

Perhaps the most dramatic impact of the war on Florida was the many military bases established throughout the state. Even before the outbreak of fighting, new installations were built to house the prewar defense buildup. For the army, Camp Blanding near Starke became one of the largest training bases in the southeastern United States, with nine entire army divisions and many independent units passing through its facilities. Later in the war, Camp Blanding served as an Infantry Replacement Center, training thousands of individual soldiers for combat duty. Other major bases included Eglin Field near Pensacola where Jimmy Doolittle’s bombers trained before their dramatic 1942 raid on Japan; Drew and McDill airfields at Tampa; Dale Mabry Field at Tallahassee, where the famous, all-black 99th Fighter Squadron trained; the naval bases at Pensacola, Jacksonville, Key West, Miami, and Ft. Pierce; and Camp Gordon Johnston at Carrabelle, which was the Army’s major amphibious training center. By 1943, approximately 172 military installations of varying sizes were in existence in Florida, compared to only eight in 1940.

Thousands of Floridians volunteered or were drafted into the military, many long before the outbreak of the war. In September 1940, a number of Florida National Guard units were mobilized into

Federal service, followed by the remainder in March 1941. Initially called into service for 1 year, these citizen-soldiers ultimately remained on active duty until 1945. Beginning with the first peacetime draft in American history in 1940, thousands of other Floridians began the transformation from civilian to soldier or sailor.

Following the formal entry of the United States into the war in December 1941, many more men and women volunteered or were drafted into service. Floridians served in all major theaters of the war, and thousands paid the ultimate sacrifice. By war's end, 3,540 soldiers from Florida had died, while naval casualties (killed and wounded) numbered 2,308.



Colin P. Kelly, Jr.

Several Florida veterans deserve particular notice. Colin Kelly of Madison was one of the war's earliest heroes, receiving a Distinguished Service Cross for his actions as a bomber pilot in the Philippines. Sergeant Ernest "Boots" Thomas of Monticello led a Marine patrol that placed the first American

flag atop Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima. Alexander Nininger of Ft. Lauderdale received a Medal of Honor for leading a counterattack against the Japanese on Bataan Peninsula. Like Kelly and Thomas, Nininger would not survive the war. Commander David McCampbell, who grew up in West Palm Beach, earned a Medal of Honor and other awards as one of the Navy's highest aces of the war. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cockman of Groveland sent eight sons into the armed forces, perhaps the largest number of any Florida family. At least one, Tommy, was killed during the war.

Although tens of thousands of Floridians served in the armed forces, the majority of the population fought the battle of the home front. In his address to the state Legislature in 1943, Florida Governor Holland stated:

At this tense hour it is wholly unnecessary to remind you of the fact that we meet at the time of gravest crisis in the life of our Nation. We are engaged in a war which is challenging our deepest patriotic convictions, and demanding the most

effective and sacrificial service we can render, as individual citizens and as a member of the family of states.

Virtually without exception, Floridians heeded the governor's call. By 1943, more than 300,000 had volunteered for civilian defense activities, with many more serving in the Red Cross, the U.S.O., on draft and rationing boards, and in many similar agencies. To help finance the war, Floridians purchased more than \$145,000,000 in war bonds and stamps by 1943.

United behind the war effort as perhaps never before, Floridians joined in both voluntary and mandatory efforts to conserve strategic war materials. Drives to preserve rubber, scrap metals, rags, paper, and grease became popular, as did "victory gardens" and "meatless" days to stretch the nation's food resources.

Shortages and rationing of various goods also became commonplace during the war. Rationing boards were established in every county with the power to regulate the sale of 90% of all civilian goods. Every man, woman, and child in the state received a ration book limiting what could be purchased. One historian has written that "as the war drew on, nearly every item Americans ate, wore, used or lived in was rationed or otherwise regulated." It was the most concerted attack on wartime inflation and scarcity in the nation's history and, by and large, it worked.²

In early 1942, rubber became the first item to be rationed by the Federal Government's Office of Price Administration (OPA). Gasoline soon followed, with mandatory rationing becoming effective on Decem-



Florida State Archives

Military seder in Tampa, 1943.

ber 1, 1942. Floridians found themselves issued A, B, or C stickers, allowing them a specific number of gallons per week, depending on their occupation. Those unfortunates with A stickers were authorized only 4 gallons per week, a paltry total that was actually decreased to 3 gallons later in the war. In 1943, gasoline rationing became even more severe, with all forms of “pleasure driving” becoming illegal. Because of driving restrictions, Floridians turned to public transportation, particularly trains, for any type of long-distance travel. Trains were overcrowded as a result of the huge numbers of servicemen and servicewomen travelling from one duty station to another.

The rationing of food had a great impact on the lives of average Floridians. As with gas, the government issued ration books authorizing the purchase of only a certain amount of various products per week. Beginning in April 1942, sugar was rationed, followed by coffee, meats, butter, canned goods, dried peas and beans, and a variety of other products. In addition to food, consumer products such as shoes and clothing were rationed or restricted. Alcohol was not rationed, but it remained in chronically short supply.

Although most Floridians tried to abide by the often confusing government regulations, a black market developed. Malcolm Johnson, Tallahassee correspondent for the Associated Press during the war, later commented that there was “a lot of favoritism. If you were a good customer, the butcher had something for you that didn’t show in the case. And the filling station could find a way to give you more gas and new tires.”

Black marketeering could never be eliminated, but the Federal Government’s rationing plans were generally successful and helped direct the nation’s resources to the more rapid defeat of Germany, Italy, and Japan.

During the Second World War, there were no direct land attacks against the east coast of the United States by any of the Axis powers. Florida, however, was prepared for just that possibility. In early 1941, the Florida Legislature established the State Defense Council to organize civilian defense throughout the state. Even earlier, in August 1940, Guy Allen of Tampa was instrumental in establishing an unofficial “Florida Motorcycle Corps” to help defend the area



Florida State Archives

Miami Radio Station WQAM staff and executives selling war bonds, 1942.

against possible attacks from German submarines. The Motorcycle Corps later became part of the State Defense Council and escorted military convoys.

Following the mobilization of the Florida National Guard in 1940 and 1941, a Florida Defense Force, later known as the Florida State Guard, was established to assume the duties of the departed National Guard. By 1943, the Florida Defense Force numbered 2,100 men in 36 units. Other Floridians served as air raid wardens, airplane spotters, and civil defense wardens. Civilian yachtsmen formed coastal patrol organizations and others volunteered to help the Coast Guard patrol the thousands of miles of unprotected beaches.

The state’s vulnerable position became evident shortly after Pearl Harbor. In early 1942, German submarines opened an offensive, code named Operation Drumbeat, against the virtually-undefended Allied shipping lanes along the east coast. Before the carnage was over, nearly 400 ships had been sunk, and thousands of lives lost. Dozens of ships were torpedoed just off Florida’s Atlantic Coast, and others in the Gulf of Mexico. German submarine skippers used the lights of coastal cities to silhouette their targets. Oil, debris, and dead bodies were mixed with the driftwood, seashells, and tourists along Florida’s Atlantic Coast during that bloody first half of 1942. One of the more spectacular sinkings occurred on April 11, 1942, when SS *Gulfamerica*, carrying 90,000 barrels of fuel oil from Port Arthur, Texas, to New York was torpedoed and exploded into flames

just 4 miles off Jacksonville Beach. Oil and debris drifted ashore from the sinking. Increased U.S. Navy escort and antisubmarine patrols eventually improved the situation off the east coast, but sinkings remained fairly common until the end of the war.

Florida also became the scene of a bizarre plot in June 1942 when four saboteurs came ashore from a German submarine near Ponte Vedra Beach. After burying munitions stockpiles, the Germans travelled to Jacksonville, where they stayed briefly before leaving for New York and Chicago. Eventually the four were to join up with four other saboteurs who had landed on New York's Long Island. Fortunately for the United States, one of the New York band had misgivings about his mission and surrendered to the FBI. Within a short time his associates had been apprehended and their equipment confiscated. Six of the eight men were tried and executed, while the informer and another received long prison sentences.

Other than the submarine warfare off its waters and the ill-fated landing of the German saboteurs, Florida was the scene of no other direct combat activity. The only other enemy personnel to reach Florida were those Germans and Italians housed in prison camps during the latter stages of the war. Some 9,000 prisoners were incarcerated at 22 camps throughout the state, from Eglin Army Air Field, Camp Gordon Johnston, and logging camps in the panhandle to cit-

rus and sugar fields in the southern peninsula. Some Floridians grew accustomed to seeing truckloads of POWs travelling to and from work along Florida roads.

By 1944, it was evident to most Floridians that the war had turned in favor of the allies. In November of that year an election was held, with Democrat Millard Caldwell winning the governorship. In his address to the Legislature in April 1945, Governor Caldwell emphasized postwar development and economic issues, indicating that at least some Floridians were already looking forward to the end of the war and to Florida's role in the postwar era.

In the spring of 1945, peace came to Europe, and Floridians joined the country in celebrating V-E Day on May 8, 1945. Only Japan remained to be defeated. Fears of a costly Allied invasion of the Japanese home islands proved unfounded as, shortly after the explosion of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August, Japan agreed to surrender terms.

"Peace Comes to World" announced the *Florida Times Union* on V-J Day, August 15, 1945. Another round of celebrations hit the state after the formal Japanese surrender on September 2, 1945. Floridians could be proud of their efforts and sacrifices during the war, while looking anxiously to the challenges facing the state, nation, and world in the years ahead.

¹Richard R. Lingeman. "Don't You Know There's a War On?" *The American Home Front*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1970, p. 240-241.

²Lingeman, "Don't You Know There's a War On?", p. 235.

Florida State Archives



Women's Club Red Cross volunteers rolling bandages during World War II, Crystal River.

(Right) East Flagler Street 20 minutes after surrender, Miami, 1945.





Florida and the Cold War

R. Boyd Murphree*

Far more than for most states, the Cold War became Florida's war. While Soviet missiles threatened all of the United States during the Cold War, and only a few miles of ice separated Alaska from Soviet Siberia, Florida could claim to be a true frontline state in the Cold War: the political, military, and economic confrontation between East and West that dominated international relations for over 40 years (1946-1989). In 1962, geography placed Florida at the center of the Cuban Missile Crisis, which more than any other Cold War event brought the world closest to nuclear war. After the crisis, Florida remained a base for covert operations against Fidel Castro's Cuba and

played an important supporting role in U.S. efforts to undermine pro-Marxist movements in the Caribbean and Central America during the 1980s. Florida was also at the forefront of the domestic campaign against Americans suspected of Communist or left-wing activities and sympathies. It became the first state to require all public high school students to complete a course in "Americanism versus Communism" and instituted its own version of McCarthyism in the Johns Committee, a special state legislative committee designed to ferret out "subversive" organizations and individuals within the state. During most of its history, the Cold War was anything but cold in the Sunshine State.



Florida State Archives

Superintendent of Public Instruction Thomas D. Bailey speaking at a Cold War Education Conference, Bal Harbour, 1962. Florida was the first state to require all public high school students to complete a course in "Americanism versus Communism."

Although the Cold War began after World War II, U.S.-Soviet relations were not warm during the years 1917-1941, the years between the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia and the entry of the United States into World War II. The United States did not establish formal diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union until 1933. Although fear of Communist influence in America subsided in the years following the first Red Scare in 1919-1920, economic uncertainty during the Great Depression brought back fear of Communism inside the United States. In 1930, Florida Governor Doyle Carlton endorsed investigations of alleged Communist activity among minorities within the state. Governor David Sholtz announced in October 1934 that all state employees and public school teachers should be required to sign a pledge of allegiance to the federal and state constitutions and to the American flag. While Florida did not adopt a

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mandatory anti-Communist loyalty oath until 1949, anti-Communism was a potent political force in the state years before the Cold War began.

Florida's 1949 loyalty oath was implemented at the height of the early Cold War. The Soviets were blockading Berlin and soon testing their first atomic bomb, while in Asia, the Communists took power in mainland China. At home, Americans were absorbed by the perjury trials of Alger Hiss, a former Roosevelt administration official, who was accused of being a Communist and a spy for the Soviet Union. It was in this atmosphere that the Florida legislature passed an anti-Communist loyalty oath. The loyalty law (chapter 25046, Laws of Florida, 1949) identified Communism as a foreign-directed, international criminal conspiracy to dominate the world by destroying freedom wherever it exists, especially in the United States, where, according to the law, the Communist Party was intent on using force to overthrow the federal government and the government of Florida. In order to protect the state and its citizens, all public employees in Florida, including public school teachers and college instructors, and all candidates for public office, had to declare that they were not members of the Communist Party or in any way supportive of its aims. The anti-Communist provisions of the loyalty law remained in effect until 1983, when the legislature repealed those sections (chapter 83-214, Laws of Florida), years after both the federal and state supreme courts held them to be unconstitutional.

Florida's loyalty law became a useful tool in the hands of conservative legislators who believed that Florida's public universities were especially vulnerable to Communist subversion. During the same 1949 session that saw the passage of the loyalty law, the Florida House of Representatives passed a resolution establishing a joint interim committee to investigate "Un-American Activities in Educational Institutions in the State of Florida." Modeled on the Congressional House Committee on Un-American Activities (HUAC), Florida's "Committee on Un-American Activities" used HUAC's list of subversive literature and textbooks as a guide to prevent or stop the dissemination of Communist or "un-American" ideas in Florida's college classrooms. Although the interim status of Florida's Un-American Activities Committee meant that the committee's investigations would



Florida State Archives

Ernest Salley (left), an employee of the state road department, gets ready to play a tape recording he made as an undercover investigator for the Florida Legislative Investigating Committee. The tape was of a pro-Communism speech made in Florida by Scott Nearing, 1961.

be short-lived—the committee produced little or no evidence of subversion in Florida's universities—the committee laid the foundation for the anti-Communist investigations of the Johns Committee beginning in 1956.

As Florida entered the 1950s, it, like the rest of the nation, entered a decade increasingly defined by the Cold War: the Korean War, McCarthyism, anti-Communist uprisings in Eastern Europe, American support for anti-Communist regimes in the Third World, the Space Race, the U.S.-Soviet nuclear arms race, and Castro's revolution in Cuba. Most of these events had an important impact on the state: thousands of Floridians served during the Korean War, and more than 500 died in the conflict; Wisconsin Senator Joseph R. McCarthy's anti-Communist crusade of the early 1950s inspired Florida's legislative red hunters; in 1954, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) utilized military bases in South Florida and taped radio broadcasts in Miami in support of its successful covert operations against the government of

Jacobo Arbenz in Guatemala, which resulted in the establishment of a pro-American dictatorship; during the 1950s, Cape Canaveral, Florida, became central to the U.S. nuclear arms program and the Space Race as the U.S. military and later the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA, created in 1958) used the cape as the launching site for rockets, Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) and satellites; and the success of the Cuban Revolution in January 1959 marked the beginning of a tumultuous new era in relations between the United States and Cuba, which quickly became one of the most important battlegrounds of the Cold War.

The salability of the Cold War and anti-Communism as political commodities in Florida was clearly demonstrated in the U.S. Senate race between Claude Pepper and George Smathers, who made Pepper's devotion to the New Deal and his unabashed support for better relations between the United States and the Soviet Union the center of his 1950 campaign to unseat the incumbent senator. Smathers characterized his opponent as "Red Pepper," a radical who favored a pro-Soviet agenda abroad (Pepper argued against the Truman Administration's policy of containment towards the Soviet Union and praised Joseph Stalin as an enlightened leader) and a socialist agenda at home (Pepper defended New Deal programs, pushed for national health insurance, and championed the

working class over big business). While Smathers' attacks on Pepper's domestic record gained the challenger some traction with voters, it was his relentless assault on Pepper's foreign policy that won the race for the challenger. Pepper, a successfully reelected senator since 1938, was overwhelmed by events: the Soviet Union had triumphed in Eastern Europe, China had fallen to the Reds, and Americans feared Communist spies at home (the launch of Senator McCarthy's anti-Communist crusade coincided with the start of Congressman Smathers' campaign against Pepper). Although in his long political career Pepper proved to be pragmatic—later, as a congressman from Miami, he vigorously denounced Castro's Cuba—in 1950 he refused to backtrack on his commitment to peace and cooperation with the Soviet Union. Smathers spent the last weeks of the campaign consolidating his increasing lead over Pepper by emphasizing the senator's numerous appearances and speeches before Communist and communist-front organizations. When the campaign ended, Smathers won in a landslide.

Smathers' campaign against Pepper was a brazen example of red-baiting, but limited in scope: Senator Pepper was the only victim. The Johns Committee investigations, however, were anything but limited. The legislative brainchild of Senator Charley E. Johns, the Johns Committee, officially named the Florida Legislative Investigation Committee (FLIC), carried out wide-ranging investigations of "subversion" in Florida from 1956-1965. Established in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, which declared segregated schools unconstitutional and opened the way for federally-imposed educational integration in the South, the FLIC sought to defend segregation by tying civil rights organizations, especially the NAACP, to Communism. Given the pervasive fear of Communism in 1950s America, Johns and fellow conservative legislators hoped to derail integration in Florida by producing evidence of a Communist conspiracy to undermine the South and its institutions through the movement for African-American civil rights.

When the FLIC failed to produce any such evidence, Johns desperately sought to justify its existence by proposing that the committee turn its attention to the investigation of homosexual activity within Florida's public universities and schools.



Florida State Archives

First launching of the Minuteman ICBM, Cape Canaveral, 1961.



Florida State Archives

In its first working session, the Legislative Investigation Committee (Johns Committee) recommended a law which would require all new state employees be fingerprinted, Tallahassee, 1964. Along the table, front to back are: Sen. C.W. Young, St. Petersburg; Sen. Charley Johns, Starke; Rep. Leo Jones, Bay County; Rep. Dick Mitchell, Tallahassee, committee chairman; Sen. Robert Williams, Graceville; Rep. George B. Stallings, Duval County; Rep. William Owens, Martin County. Standing at top right is Leo Foster, Tallahassee, attorney for the committee.

What followed was an ugly mixture of ignorance, homophobia, and persecution as the committee dispatched investigators to gather evidence of homosexual activity on and off campuses between gay or lesbian faculty and students or members of the public. The committee interrogated, threatened, entrapped, and punished (faculty were forced to resign and students faced public humiliation and forced psychological testing) dozens of students and faculty from Florida's universities, junior colleges, and public schools.

As the federal push for integration intensified in the late 1950s and early 1960s, the Johns Committee, while continuing its campaign against homosexuals, refocused its efforts on investigating civil rights organizations and liberal or integrationist educators. The committee remained committed to the idea that homosexuality, integration, and communism were

inextricably linked social evils deployed to undermine and destroy America. Florida's legislature supported this philosophy and kept extending the life of the FLIC until its failure to produce any real evidence of a Communist conspiracy and the embarrassing nature of its investigations convinced the public and a majority of lawmakers that the Johns Committee had to go: it died a quiet death when the legislature allowed the committee's mandate to expire in 1965.

By the late 1950s, the fear of internal subversion exemplified by the Johns Committee was more than matched by a growing national unease that the United States was vulnerable to a Soviet nuclear attack. The catalyst for this renewed fear (Americans had lived with threat of the "Bomb" since the Russians tested their first nuclear bomb in 1949) was the Soviets' successful launch of *Sputnik 1*, the first artificial satellite to orbit the Earth, on October 4, 1957. *Sputnik* shocked Americans, who had always believed in their technological superiority over the Russians, and created widespread fear that the Soviets would soon be raining down nuclear missiles on the United States. The Eisenhower administration quickly implemented a host of military and education initiatives designed to bolster America's defenses and improve its technological ability to compete with the Soviets in the Space Race.

After an embarrassing failure to emulate the success of *Sputnik* with the December 1957 launch of its own Earth-satellite—the Vanguard rocket carrying the satellite exploded on launch—the United States finally put its first satellite into orbit with the launch of *Explorer 1* from Cape Canaveral on January 31, 1958. NASA undertook management of the nation's civilian space program, and Cape Canaveral assumed a new significance as the launching point for the American effort to beat the Soviets in the race to put a man in space. Although the Soviets once again bested the United States in the early Space Race by being the first nation to put a man in space (Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human in space on April 12, 1961), the successful flights of astronauts in the American Mercury and Gemini programs laid the foundation for the Apollo program of the mid-1960s, which enabled the United States to beat the Soviets to the Moon. During these heyday years of the American space program, the influx of money, workers, and tourists to Brevard County, the home

of Cape Canaveral, produced tremendous population growth—Brevard was the fastest growing county in the nation from 1950-1970—thousands of construction and manufacturing jobs and new educational institutions, the Florida Institute of Technology and Brevard Community College.

While the United States' ability to meet the challenge of the Space Race restored much of the confidence its citizens had lost in their nation's technological prowess in the days after *Sputnik*, as the 1960s began the threat of nuclear war seemed more likely than ever. During his first summer as president, John F. Kennedy faced off against Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev in a strategic confrontation over the future of Berlin. President Kennedy responded to Khrushchev's threat to turn over control of East Berlin to East Germany, which wanted to close off access to the Anglo-French-American occupation zones in West Berlin, by calling for a massive increase in U.S. defense spending and a large expansion of the civil defense program. When the East Germans moved to end the drain of its citizenry to West Berlin by beginning to erect a wall around that half of the city in the early morning hours of August 13, 1961, the world awoke to the distinct possibility of war as American and Soviet forces mobilized in the city. Americans wanted to demonstrate their opposition to the "Berlin Wall," as the barrier soon became known in the West, and the Soviets wanted to back up their East German allies. By calling for an emphasis on civil defense, President Kennedy wanted to show American resolve to the Russians and prepare the American people for the possibility of nuclear war. That summer Congress appropriated over \$200 million for a nationwide fallout shelter program.

Florida was caught up in the shelter craze that now swept the nation as Americans rushed to construct family fallout shelters. Although civil defense planning had been going on periodically in the state since 1951, it did not become a governmental priority until 1961, when the combination of Soviet cooperation with Castro's Cuba and the Berlin crisis convinced state officials of the need to embrace President Kennedy's national civil defense initiative. Governor Farris Bryant, as head of the Florida State Civil Defense Council, made civil defense preparation a priority for his administration. He required that all state and local government employees take a sur-

vival training course, encouraged all private citizens in the state to do so as well, endorsed the production of a state civil defense film titled *Florida's Operation Survival*, and established the Florida Resources Control Program to coordinate emergency economic measures, e.g., food and fuel rationing, price controls, and transportation priorities. Unfortunately for Florida and the rest of the nation, the need for civil defense became terrifyingly real during the Cuban Missile Crisis of October 1962.



Florida State Archives

Supreme Court Justice Millard Caldwell (right) receives his certificate for "Personal Survival in Disaster" from William F. Jacobs, Leon County assistant director of Civil Defense, Tallahassee, 1962.

Cuba's proximity to Florida—only 90 miles from Key West—had always made political developments on the island an area of concern to state leaders. Florida was the principal staging ground for the U.S. invasion of Cuba during the Spanish-American War. Cuban immigrants and exiles had long played an important role in the economy and culture of Key West, Miami, and Tampa. It was therefore logical that Florida would have a keen interest in the outcome of the Cuban Revolution in 1959, when Fidel Castro's rebel forces ousted U.S.-backed strongman Fulgencio Batista from power. Despite assurances to the United States that he was not a Communist and supported private ownership of property, Castro proceeded to nationalize the Cuban economy, repress political opposition, and conclude economic and military aid agreements with the Soviet Union. In reaction to these developments, the Eisenhower administration restricted the importation of Cuban sugar, broke diplomatic relations with Cuba, and ordered the CIA to begin planning for the overthrow of the Castro regime.

The CIA planned to make use of the growing number of Cuban exiles in Florida to man a covert funded and trained army, which would be landed on the Cuban coast to spark a national uprising against Castro. South Florida became the base of operations for much of “Operation Zapata,” the CIA code name for the anti-Castro operation. CIA sabotage teams trained and launched operations against the Cuban coast, established a dummy airline to carry men and supplies, and carried out recruitment to fill the ranks of Brigade 2506, the unit designation of the Cuban exile army. On April 17, 1961, Brigade 2506 landed on the southeastern shore of Cuba along the Bay of Pigs and quickly faced disaster as Castro’s military forces, already apprised of the invasion through intelligence gathered in Miami, soon arrived to resist the attack. Cuban military resistance combined with lack of air support—the CIA’s warplanes failed to knock out the Cuban air force—doomed the invasion to failure. After President Kennedy, who inherited and approved the invasion plan developed under Eisenhower, refused to be drawn further into the operation

by ordering U.S. air strikes to support the landing, the invasion came to an end on April 19 with the surrender of most of Brigade 2506’s remaining men.

The failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion had tremendous repercussions for the Cold War. Embarrassed and weakened by the disaster, President Kennedy resolved to undertake a renewed campaign to undermine and even assassinate Castro. In November 1961, the CIA began Operation Mongoose, a covert operation of propaganda and sabotage against the Cuban government. Mongoose became the largest CIA operation directed from Florida. Thousands of CIA agents and employees, U.S. military personnel, and Cuban exiles participated in the operation from its headquarters and supporting facilities in Miami. Florida-based boats landed Mongoose teams in Cuba, where they carried out sabotage against Cuba’s economy and infrastructure. Meanwhile, Castro moved Cuba into a closer alliance with the Soviet Union, which became the main purchaser (at a loss) of Cuban sugar and the source of weapons and training for the Cuban military. Castro’s enthusiasm for the Soviet Union was reciprocated by Nikita Khrushchev’s support for Cuba as a tremendous propaganda boon for Communism, an embarrassment for the United States, and a potential base for Soviet nuclear missiles.

Khrushchev decided to deploy Soviet medium and intermediate-range ballistic missiles in Cuba for two reasons: to prevent any future U.S. invasion of Cuba, and to offset the American superiority in ICBMs. He believed that if the missiles could be deployed into Cuba secretly he could present a fait accompli to President Kennedy, whom he wagered would be unwilling to risk a nuclear war over Cuba. Undercover Soviet missile specialists and supporting troops deployed into Cuba during the summer of 1962. When U.S. intelligence discovered their presence in Cuba, the Soviet government sought to assure the United States that any weapons systems they deployed in Cuba would be for defensive purposes only.

On October 14, 1962, American U-2 reconnaissance flights over Cuba revealed the presence of Soviet missiles and the construction of launching sites on the island. For a week, Kennedy and his advisors debated possible courses of action to meet the crisis. He decided to rule out an immediate attack on



Florida State Archives

President Kennedy inspecting missiles, Boca Chica Station, 1962.

the missile sites as a scenario that was likely to produce all-out war with the Soviet Union. Instead, he decided on a naval blockade or “quarantine” of the island as the best way to prevent additional Soviet missile shipments to Cuba and to provide time for a diplomatic solution. The president announced the blockade in a televised address to the nation on the evening of October 22. In the meantime, the U.S. military began a massive buildup of men, weapons, and equipment in South Florida in preparation for war: barbed wire, sandbags, and machine gun nests covered the coast of Key West; surface to air missiles arrived to protect the buildup from a Cuban or Soviet air attack; and Army and Marine units prepared to invade Cuba. From October 22 to October 28, when the Soviets agreed to remove the missiles, the world was on the brink of nuclear war. Khrushchev decided to remove the missiles when Kennedy guaranteed the U.S. would not invade Cuba and promised to remove U.S. medium-range missiles stationed in Turkey.

The Cuban Missile Crisis reinforced Governor Bryant’s growing reputation as the nation’s most dedicated Cold War governor. During the crisis, he followed President Kennedy’s missile crisis speech with a series of measures designed to prepare Floridians for war: he employed the state’s educational television stations to broadcast a civil defense course on personal survival to as many Floridians as possible; using a statewide radio-television hookup, he and top civil defense officials informed the populace about the status of the crisis and the need for families to take action to ensure their survival; and he made preparations to create an emergency headquarters for state government and civil defense in Tallahassee.

Months before the crisis, Bryant became chairman of the National Governors’ Conference Committee on Cold War Education. In this capacity, he urged his fellow governors to bring Cold War education to their respective states and promoted a Cold War “School for Gubernatorial Aides.” Bryant and the state legislature approved a bill to require the teaching of a course of study on “Americanism versus Communism” in Florida’s public high schools. The course, which remained a requirement for graduation until 1990—the Berlin Wall fell in 1989 and Communism was collapsing in Europe—was designed to educate students about the history, ideology, and methods of Communism and instill in them an appre-



Florida State Archives

President John F. Kennedy delivering his ultimatum to the Russians and announcing the U.S. naval blockade of Cuba, October 22, 1962.

ciation for democratic institutions and the free enterprise system. The impact of the missile crisis and the longevity of the Americanism versus Communism course made Bryant the Florida governor most associated with the history of the Cold War.

Although the Kennedy administration continued its efforts to weaken Castro under Operation Mongoose, including CIA assassination plots against the Cuban leader, and strengthened the U.S. economic embargo against the island, the likelihood of nuclear war between the United States and the Soviet Union diminished considerably after the Cuban Missile Crisis. During the rest of the 1960s and into the early 1970s, the Cold War had considerable hot spots, especially in Southeast Asia, where the United States fought in Vietnam to maintain an independent anti-Communist South against the Soviet-supplied Communist North: 1,897 Floridians died in the Vietnam War.

Despite these conflicts, relations between the two superpowers improved considerably as the United States, under President Richard Nixon, pursued a policy of détente with the Soviet Union through a series of economic, cultural, and arms control agreements. Although in Miami many in the Cuban exile community, which by the end of the missile crisis included almost 250,000 people, continued to work for Castro’s overthrow, improved relations between the Soviet Union and the United States diminished the importance of the Cold War in the Caribbean through the 1970s.

The election of the longstanding anti-Communist Ronald Reagan to the presidency in 1980, however, combined with the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979, renewed the intensity of the Cold War during the early years of the new decade. Reagan denounced the policy of détente and promised to aid regimes, especially in the Americas, that were willing to resist Communist or leftist revolutionary movements. U.S. money, arms, and advisors poured into Central America, where left-wing revolutionary movements were gaining support against unpopular right-wing governments. The Reagan administration was particularly concerned about the victory of the leftist Sandinista rebels in Nicaragua, which they believed sought to become a Soviet ally like Cuba and posed a threat to the stability of surrounding pro-U.S. regimes in Central America. President Reagan authorized the CIA to train anti-Sandinista exile forces in Honduras. Soon known as the Contras (counter-revolutionaries), the U.S.-backed insurgents conducted raids into Nicaragua in a campaign to destabilize the Sandinista regime. South Florida once again played an important role in a Cold War covert operation. Cuban exiles helped to train Contras in the Everglades and provided funds for their Nicaraguan allies. The revelations of the Iran-Contra

Scandal, however, eventually ended U.S. aid to the Contras, and the Reagan administration's focus on fighting Communism diminished as a renewed period of U.S.-Soviet cooperation began during Reagan's second term. Reagan eventually reached substantial arms control agreements with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who came to realize that the desperate economic and social conditions in his country could only be addressed if the Soviet Union reduced its huge military expenditures.

The collapse of Communist regimes in Eastern Europe in 1989 and the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991 ended the Cold War. Florida's singular Cold War nemesis, Castro's Cuba, remained, however. The longevity of the Communist regime in Cuba is the most important Cold War legacy for Florida. Since 1959 over a million Cuban exiles have arrived in Florida, raised families, and transformed the economic, cultural, and political landscape of Miami. The United States maintains a strict trade embargo against Cuba, and no American president since Eisenhower has been willing to restore diplomatic relations with Castro's government. The anti-Castro politics of Miami remains one of the nation's most influential political blocks. The Cold War may have ended, but its legacy remains in the Sunshine State.



Ronald Reagan at a press conference, Jacksonville, 1976.

Florida State Archives



Florida and the Space Program

Florida Memory Project*

Cape Canaveral was geographically very well suited as the location for America's spaceport. It was a sparsely populated strip of flat land facing the ocean. Railroads and ships could bring in the materials to build the launch pad and space station. The Caribbean islands were near enough for monitoring and communication stations.

Mission Control Operator Gene Kranz said, "we could depend only on a learning curve that started at a place that wasn't more than a complex of sand, marsh, and new, raw concrete and asphalt. It wasn't even Kennedy Space Center then. But it was our first classroom and laboratory." (Kranz 13.)

The Soviet Union launched the first man-made satellite into space with the Sputnik Flight of 1957. The United States watched the Soviet satellite beeping and blinking across the American night sky, and pressure exploded from politicians and the American public demanding that the country catch up and increase investment in rocket technology and aeronautics.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower established the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on October 1, 1958. Texas Senator Lyndon B. Johnson, under the president's direction, spearheaded the "man in space project."

NASA established a new space launch center on Brevard County's Cape Canaveral in 1962, fol-



Florida State Archives

The Apollo 10 Command Ship in orbit around the Moon, 1969.

lowing years of use as a missile testing center. The next year President Lyndon B. Johnson renamed the center in honor of the recently assassinated John F. Kennedy.

To the Moon

Apollo 8 was the first human spaceflight mission to travel to, but not land on, Earth's moon. The three-man American crew consisted of Frank Borman, Commander; James Lovell, Command Module Pilot; and William Anders, Lunar Module Pilot.

The crew of Apollo 10 also orbited the moon, but did not land. The astronauts were Thomas Staf-

**The Florida Memory Project, a function of the Division of Library and Information Services, offers educational units, called Online Classrooms, designed to help teachers use photographs, documents, sound recordings, and film footage from the State Library and Archives of Florida. For more information, visit the Online Classroom website at www.floridamemory.com/onlineclassroom/.*



Florida State Archives

Though separated by the Mobile Quarantine Facility's window, President Richard Nixon greeted the returning crew of Apollo 11, July 24, 1969. From left: Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, and Edwin Aldrin.

ford, Commander; John Young, Command Module Pilot; and Eugene Cernan, Lunar Module Pilot.

But it was the Apollo 11 mission that fulfilled the national goal set by President John F. Kennedy on May 25, 1961, when he addressed Congress with the statement: "I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the Earth."

On July 20, 1969, Commander Neil Armstrong and Lunar Module Pilot Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr. landed in the Sea of Tranquility and became the first humans to walk on the Moon. Command Module Pilot Michael Collins orbited above in the command ship, Columbia. The three astronauts returned to Earth and landed in the Pacific Ocean on July 24, 1969.

The Space Shuttle

The Space Age changed Florida forever, drawing thousands of new workers to the state and transforming Cape Canaveral into a hub of aeronautics, electronics design, and manufacturing.

One of the greatest successes witnessed at the Kennedy Space Center was the successful development and repeated launching of reusable orbiting spacecraft, the space shuttles.

Launched atop conventional rockets, the space shuttle reenters the earth's atmosphere at more than

18,000 miles an hour.

More than a hundred space shuttle flights have sent orbiters to study space and map the earth, construct and outfit the International Space Center, successfully deploy the Chandra X-Ray Observatory, and perform ongoing repairs of the Hubble Space Telescope.

Tragedies

With all of the successes of NASA, there have been tragedies as well. A fire on the launch pad took the lives of the three-man crew in the Apollo 1 capsule in 1967. Nineteen years later, an explosion 73 seconds after the launch of the Space Shuttle Challenger killed the entire crew. During its landing descent to Kennedy Space Center, February 1, 2003, Space Shuttle Columbia exploded killing the entire seven-member crew.

The Space Age

After the successful Apollo launches and subsequent change in direction of NASA's mission and goals, major portions of NASA personnel and members of the area's space-related workforce left for high-tech and military career opportunities in the Pacific northwest, southern California, and the northeastern states. However, thousands of native Floridians and recruited workers stayed following decades

of serving the nation's drive to explore space.

An entire generation of space-industry workers retired in the space coast area. Other initiatives such as environmental services, including the development of solar energy technology, attracted even

more skilled workers to the Space Coast. After five decades of space age development, Florida remains one of the nation's centers for technology and manufacturing industries, as well as still serving as the home of the world's most significant space port.



Florida State Archives

Space shuttle liftoff from the Kennedy Space Center, Merritt Island.

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Presidents in Florida

General Andrew Jackson went on to the presidency after acquiring Florida for the U.S. from Spain in the Transcontinental Treaty of 1821. General Zachary Taylor, later to become president in 1849, won a Pyrrhic victory over Seminoles under Billy Bowlegs near the present city of Okeechobee on Christmas Day of 1837.

Other presidents who knew Florida first hand were U. S. Grant, Chester A. Arthur, Grover Cleveland, Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Warren G. Harding, Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Lyndon B. Johnson.

Former President Grant turned the first spadeful of dirt for the Sanford-Orlando railroad in 1880.



Florida State Archives

President William Howard Taft stopped in Key West on his way to Panama to inspect construction of the Panama Canal, 1911. He is shown here leaving the home of Mayor J.N. Fogarty, with the mayor on his right.

President Arthur, here in 1883 for an inspection of the Disston Company's drainage system in South Florida, spiced newspaper copy by presenting a cigar to a Seminole subchief, Tom Tigertail.

President Cleveland was another who visited Florida in the 1880s, relaxing at Magnolia Springs, 24 miles south of Jacksonville. President McKinley's special train traveled from Thomasville, Ga., to Tallahassee, by way of Monticello, on March 24, 1899. Cannon, whistles, and a cheering populace greeted him at the Capitol.

Mr. McKinley was one of three presidents to make formal appearances in the Capital, Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton being the other two. President Dwight D. Eisenhower used the Tallahassee airport at least once during a trip to the nearby Georgia hunting plantation of his Secretary of Treasury, George M. Humphrey.

Theodore Roosevelt led his Rough Riders aboard ship in Tampa to sail for Santiago de Cuba during the Spanish-American War in 1898. When Governor William D. Bloxham learned the train with Colonel Roosevelt would stop for a few hours in Tallahassee, he appointed a committee to invite the Colonel to meet with members of the Cabinet, the Supreme Court, and other dignitaries of Tallahassee at a reception in the Governor's office. When champagne was passed to Colonel Roosevelt, he not only refused to take any but criticized the Governor for having wine in the Capitol. A hush fell over the gathering, which soon dispersed.

President Taft boarded a battleship at Key West in 1911 for a voyage to Panama. President Harding liked Florida's golf courses. President Coolidge



Florida State Archives

President Eisenhower chatting with pilots aboard the Saratoga carrier, Jacksonville, 1957.

dedicated the Bok Tower in 1929. President Hoover was lured again and again by Florida fishing, and his personal commitment to preventing deadly floods, like the one caused by a 1927 Hurricane, is remembered in the Hoover Dike which now retains Lake Okeechobee.

President Franklin Roosevelt based at Miami for a number of fishing forays into its semi-tropical waters. It was in Miami's Bayfront Park that an assassin sought his life, as president-elect, and fatally shot the Mayor of Chicago, Anton Cermak. FDR also dedicated the Overseas Highway in 1944.

President Harry S. Truman maintained his "Little White House" on the grounds of the naval base at Key West. He also dedicated the Everglades National Park to the public's use in 1947.

President Eisenhower spoke in Jacksonville and Miami during the 1952 campaign, which shook Florida loose from the Solid South of the Democratic Party for a second time since Reconstruction, Mr. Hoover having also accomplished this in 1928. Mr. Eisenhower returned to Florida as president in 1957, boarding the carrier *U.S.S. Saratoga* in Jacksonville for a demonstration cruise.

Florida was a second home to President John F. Kennedy. He long enjoyed the sun, sand, and surf of Palm Beach, and although Florida denied him its electoral votes in 1960, some of the big decisions of the New Frontier were made during the president-elect's conferences there. Between November 16th and 18th, 1963, just days before his assassination in

Dallas, President Kennedy was in Palm Beach, Tampa, and Miami.

Richard M. Nixon was a Florida landowner and frequent visitor before, as president, he established a winter White House at Key Biscayne. During the off-year campaign of 1970, President Nixon touched down for a political address at Tallahassee's airport on October 28.

Jimmy Carter was the first president in the 20th century to visit the Capitol. Arriving in Tallahassee in the evening of October 9, 1980, he spent the night at the Mansion. The next morning, he came to the Chamber of the House of Representatives and, in the presence of Governor Bob Graham, U.S. Senator Lawton M. Chiles, Jr., and other political dignitaries, signed into law the Congressional Act appropriating \$100,000,000 for refugee relief. The President slept in the guest bedroom at the Mansion and shortly after daylight, he ran the track of Leon High School. From Tallahassee, Air Force One winged him along the campaign trail including a stop in Lakeland just before his defeat for reelection on November 4, 1980.

Ronald Reagan visited Florida at least three times during his two terms as president. Most memorable was his speech to the National Association of Evangelists in Orlando on March 8, 1983, in which he made the provocative statement that the USSR was an Evil Empire. Four years later, in a speech to Duval County high school seniors in Jacksonville, Reagan spoke of his imminent meeting with General Secretary Gorbachev, of the Soviet Union, saying "We will sign the first arms reduction agreement in the history of relations between our two countries."

President George H. W. Bush visited Tallahassee for four hours on September 6, 1990, to lend a hand in the reelection campaign of Congressman Bill Grant, who had earned Republican gratitude by switching parties after having been elected in 1986 as a Democrat. The President made addresses on two occasions, at an out-door assembly and a dinner. Admission to each was by contribution to the Grant reelection fund.

President Bill Clinton, who had twice visited Tallahassee as a candidate in 1992, was greeted as president by 4,000 flag-waving supporters on March 29, 1995. After an overnight stay in the Governor's mansion with Governor and Mrs. Lawton Chiles, Clinton made Florida history as the first U. S. presi-

dent to speak to a joint session of the legislature. Numerous visits to the state followed.

In his first term, President George W. Bush made 33 trips to Florida, the most of any president to date. Most of his visits were to help his brother, Governor Jeb Bush, maintain Republican control of the Governor's Mansion, and to attend fundraisers for his own reelection. There were only about one third as many visits to the state in his second term.

Barack Obama made his first trip to Florida as president on February 10, 2009, less than a month after his inauguration. He was introduced by Governor Charlie Crist during a town-hall style meeting in

Fort Myers, at which he spoke about the need for his economic stimulus plan.

President Obama and Vice President Joseph Biden came to Tampa on January 28, 2010, to announce the availability of \$8 billion in federal grants for 13 high-speed rail corridors in 31 states. The Orlando-to-Tampa project received \$1.25 billion, though Governor Rick Scott rejected the proposal, citing potential cost overruns could be a burden to taxpayers.

A long-time golf enthusiast, President Obama frequently visits the state to play his favorite courses in South Florida.



President William J. Clinton addresses a joint session of the Florida Legislature in the House Chamber, Tallahassee, 1995. Clinton made Florida history as the first U. S. president to speak to a joint session of the Legislature.



Photos by Donn Dughi