



Jacksonville HISTORICAL BULLETIN

On the WEB at www.jaxhistory.com

WINTER 2009

Published by the Jacksonville Historical Society • 317 A. Philip Randolph Boulevard • Jacksonville, Florida 32202 • 904/665-0064

March program features Mr. Jefferson's hobby—acquisition of the Floridas

Thursday, March 19th program highlights U.S. acquisition of Florida

Thursday, March 19, Ramon L. Day presents his research on an often overlooked episode in Florida history, the United States acquisition of Florida. The program, at society headquarters, Old St. Andrews, reaches back to President Thomas Jefferson's term in office and Jefferson's interest in Florida. A reception begins at 7 p.m. followed by a 7:30 p.m. program.

Through a power point presentation, Mr. Day will offer a list of notables involved in the eventual acquisition, including Robert Livingston and James Monroe. He'll also address why early 19th century observers viewed Mr.

Jefferson's pursuit of Florida a "hobby."

Jefferson dispatched Livingston to Europe in 1801 to obtain the Floridas along with New Orleans. While

that goal was not achieved, the visit did set in motion the 1821 transfer of Florida from Spain to the U.S. The 1801 visit also resulted in the Louisiana Purchase.

Monroe, Jefferson's close friend and neighbor, served as U.S. President two decades later when Florida was finally acquired in 1821. That acquisition set in motion the 1822 founding of the little town at the Cowford known as Jacksonville.

Mr. Day has been invited to present a paper on the U.S. acquisition of Florida at the annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society in May.



Ramon L. Day, March 19th program speaker

The paper is part of his graduate studies course work at the University of North Florida. Mr. Day has taught Advancement Placement history in the Duval School System and was Chief of Staff for the late Congressman Charles Bennett.



President Thomas Jefferson



James Monroe



Andrew Jackson



Robert Livingston

Players in the U.S. Acquisition of Florida

April fundraiser: Society and Symphony present history notes

Non-profits are getting creative as the economy is making it tougher to raise the much needed funds to survive. The Jacksonville Symphony and the Jacksonville Historical Society are among those organizations. The groups have

joined forces to raise a little money, present noted music, and highlight some celebrated points in area history.

On Tuesday, April 28 the organizations present *History Notes: Jacksonville's*

Story in Music featuring the Jacksonville Symphony's Brass Quintet, a dozen musical selections and a small, but exciting dose of area history.

Food and drink are part of the evening as well, all

for the price of two tickets for \$80 in honor of the society's 80th anniversary or a single ticket at \$45.

Read more about this event on page three-and how to reserve your place today!

The Jacksonville Historical Society founded in 1929, is dedicated to preserving the history of Northeast Florida. The Society is recognized 501 C-3 nonprofit organization. Permanent society projects include:

The Jacksonville Historical Society Archives

located at the Swisher Library on the Jacksonville University Campus

The Jacksonville Historical Center located on the Southbank Riverwalk

Preservation of Old St. Andrews
JHS Quarterly Program Meetings

Book Publications

The Jacksonville Historical Bulletin the newsletter of the society

Merrill House Museum

Programs and Tours

Officers 2008-2009

Jerry R. Spinks, President
Edward Booth, Jr., Vice President
James P. Stevens, Treasurer

Board of Directors 2008-2009

Richard Bowers
Tyrice W. Boyer
Carl Wood Brown
Julie Davis
William Fackler
Gary P. Flower
William C. Hines
Norma Lockwood
Betsy Lovett
Hazel Mack
Susan Masucci
Maggie Means
Roxie Merrill
Judith Morrow
Harry Reagan
Frank Reinstine
Gloria Rinaman
Mary Anne Saadeh
Lisa Sheppard
Barbara "Ty" Thebaut
Louise Stanton Warren
John Welch
Wayne Wood
Alton Yates

Board of Advisors 2008-2009

Ed Austin
Susan Caven
Matthew Carlucci
Emmet Ferguson, III
Keith Holland
William H. Jeter
Phil May
Marianne McEuen
Bob McGinnis
Jack Milne
John Moore
Marian Poitevent
Lake Ray
Henry Rogers
Kay Slaughter Staudt
Jane Jay Still
C. Gray Strum
Camilla Thompson
Sarah VanCleve
Carolyn Munro Wilson
Jay G. Wright

Executive Director

Emily Lisska

Associate Director

Jennifer A. Hyde

Archivist

Sharon Laird

Collections Manager

Kate Bruce

Operations

Sherrard Ceglia
Renard Lipford

President's Column

Society a good place to give to help preserve local history

Let's talk a little business. The economy may be going nuts but your Jacksonville Historical Society is still a good place to invest your membership or sponsorship funds.

The society's charge is to collect, preserve and to celebrate local history. We do all of this to remind Jacksonville's natives and its natives-to-be of the many stories that make all of us into a community.

As you see in this bulletin we use many ways to engage the community in performing our charge. Our history programs, our archive and our community partnerships are just a few of our efforts.

The board and officers hope all of you are proud of these efforts. We are committed to you to deliver on our charge. So use a stamp or use the web - either way become a member of the

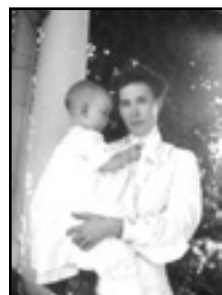


Jerry Spinks, President

society or renew your membership - it is a good investment.

Remembering our friend Brewster Durkee through images of his family in society archives

Born on May 17, 1912, Jacksonville native Brewster Jay Durkee, died March 6, 2009 at the Empire Point home where he lived as a "youngster." He was a devoted and beloved member of the Jacksonville Historical Society. Brewster and his family enjoyed a long and meaningful association with Jacksonville. The Durkee family and family home were among the many subjects often captured by the lens of Leah Mary Cox, who arrived in Jacksonville in 1888 and became a noted amateur photographer of the city's people, places, and events. The images shown below feature Durkee family members at Empire Point and "in town." They are found in the Cox Collection in the Jacksonville Historical Society Archives.



From “Ponce to Peyton”—a musical event that spans five centuries of area history

Musicians from the Jacksonville Symphony join forces with the Jacksonville Historical Society to present a five-century musical overview of area history from “Ponce to Peyton” on Tuesday, April 28 at society headquarters, Old St. Andrews.

The evening is officially billed as *History Notes: Jacksonville’s Story in Music*. According to symphony first chair trumpeter Cliff Newton, the program features musical selections that highlight area history, but it is a “loose interpretation.” Historic images and brief commentary will be included.

Event Chair Maggie Means said the evening is a wonderful collaboration between the symphony and the society and will certainly be fun with lots of music, food and interesting area history.

The fundraiser begins at

6:30 p.m. with wine and heavy hors d’oeuvres. In honor of the society’s 80th anniversary year, reservations are two for \$80 or \$45 each.

The musical program featuring the symphony’s brass quintet begins at 7:30 p.m. Among the selections are *La Belle France*, *Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair*, *Listen to the Mocking Bird* and *Jacksonville Gal*. More than a dozen pieces will be performed along with the history commentary—all in under an hour.

A wine bar and reception highlights recipes from the symphony’s cookbook, *Sounds Delicious*, including marinated shrimp, pasta, and other offerings along with desserts.

Contact the Jacksonville Historical Society to make reservations or for more information, 665-0064 or look for your invitation in the mail.

History Notes: Jacksonville’s Story in Music

Musicians from the Jacksonville Symphony join forces with the Jacksonville Historical Society to present a five-century musical overview of area history from “Ponce to Peyton.”

**Tuesday, April 28, 2009
at Old St. Andrews**

*317 A. Philip Randolph Boulevard
6:30 p.m. libations and heavy hors d’oeuvres
7:30 p.m. program*

***For more information or
reservations, 665-0064.
Invitation to follow by U.S. mail***



“Take Me Out To The Ballgame” is one of the musical selections for the April program. The image on the left is of the Jacksonville Red Caps team that played at Durkee Field. On the right is the city’s oldest organized baseball team, dating to 1886.

Donations to society's archives reflect area culture, politics and architecture

Editor's Note: The society is fortunate to include Collections Manager Kate Bruce as a fulltime staff member. Kate wears more than one hat at the society, but continues to manage the society's burgeoning archival collection. Below is a only a selection of items or groups of items recently donated to the society's archival repository and summarized by Kate. Kate's excellent work documenting these donations is applauded.

Recent donations to the Jacksonville Historical Society archives highlight the city's rich African-American history, the area's active political scene, notable Jacksonville institutions, and significant local architecture.

LaVilla diary

In January, Barbara Hazle and Donna Barfield gave the society a portrait of Bertha Livingston in oil on board. Ms. Livingston and her husband, Jacksonville physician Smart Pope Livingston were prominent members of La Villa's Black community. Ms. Hazle and Ms. Barfield also donated Ms. Livingston's 1935 diary. This donation was a surprising discovery in the attic of an old Springfield home.

Godbold photo and more

In the fall of 2008, Jim Jarrard donated items relat-



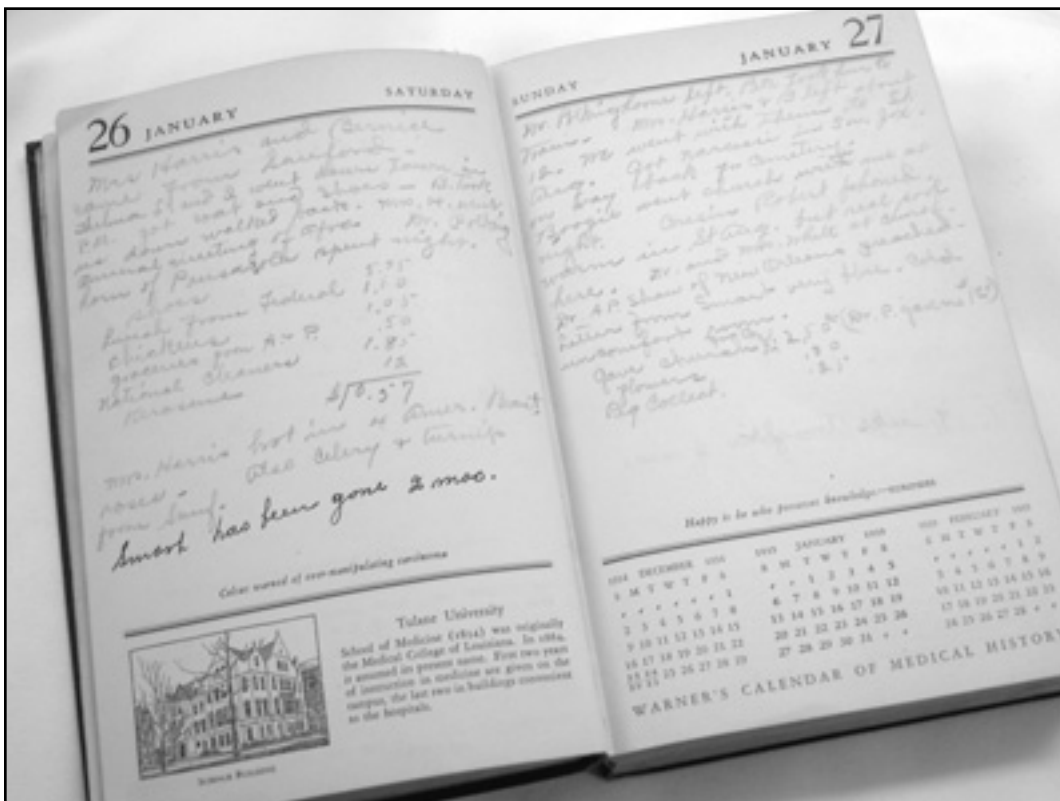
The items above featuring Haydon Burns (and Claude Pepper) are part of a collection of materials donated recently by Frank Stockton.

ed to the life of local florist, Mr. James Burns. Included in his donation are photographs of city Revelers and debutante events that occurred in the 1960's. Also given was a 19th cen-

tury photograph of James Dickinson Godbold and Susan C. Godbold, from Baas Studio of Lake City, Florida (see photograph). According to Mr. Jarrard, they are the great-grandparent's of former Mayor Jake Godbold. Of note is a letter from the Department of State honoring Mr. Burns for his work surrounding the Governor's dinner honoring President and Mrs. Ford and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Mrs. Sadat that occurred on November 11, 1975.

Haydon Burns records

Local attorney Frank Stockton, who headed the Haydon Burns mayoral campaign in 1963, and also his 1964 Florida governor's race, donated items pertaining to Mr. Burns' life. Items given to the society in February include clippings, brochures, photographs, and other items from the 1960's.



January pages from the 1935 diary of LaVilla resident Bertha Livingston. The diary was given in January by Barbara Hazle and Donna Barfield.

Original Klutho drawings

Ralph L. Shaw, President of Skyline Realty Services, donated original drawings of the Bisbee Building and Florida Life Building by early 20th century Jacksonville architect Henry Klutho. Received in February, these India ink on vellum drawings were completed in the early 1900's by the noted Klutho and showcase two of the city's most important and highly threatened historic structures. The buildings are now in receivership; the Bisbee Building is open to elements at all points of the compass.

Chamber films and photos

In late February, society staff members arrived at the Chamber of Commerce with a large delivery van to receive a sizeable donation of slides, photographs, and various multi-media relating to Chamber activities in the later half of the 20th century. Hundreds of photographs of city leaders are included. This dona-



Former Jacksonville Mayor Jake Godbold's great grandparents, Susan and James Godbold. The photo was a gift from Jim Jarrard

tion, received from Cheryl Munn on behalf of the Chamber, was accompanied by an additional donation from the Chamber's Anna Lee; Ms. Lee donated an ornate Florida Theatre armchair piece.

Consolidation memorabilia

Gloria Rinaman donated various items relating to the city's Consolidation. Items donated in February include numerous copies of the booklet *A Date with Destiny*, published for distribution on Consolidation Day, October 1, 1968. Also included were campaign support buttons that state, "Consolidation, Yes," and bumper stickers that read "Vote Yes Vote For Better Gov't."

Mysterious postcard

In February, society member Tad Delegal donated a postcard of a proposed Riverside Park monument that was never built in the

park. The artist selected to design the marble sculpture in honor Confederate women was Allen George Newman. The postcard, sent to a Mrs. Daisy Hawken, is dated March 5, 1917. A monument to the Women of the Confederacy was completed in 1915 in Jacksonville's Dignan Park—renamed Confederate Park after the 1914 Confederate Veteran's Reunion.

Old Arlington film

Videographer Elaine Burnett donated the late Melanie Cross's video titled *Old Arlington, Crossroads More than a Footnote in History*. Mrs. Burnett assisted Ms. Cross with this documentary. The donation arrived January 2009.

School yearbooks

Pittsboro, North Carolina resident Beverley Wiggins donated yearbooks from Landon High School for 1952, 1953, 1955; also included was a 1956 Jacksonville Junior College Riparian yearbook. The books, in excellent condition, were originally owned by her cousin and given to Ms. Wiggins who mailed the items to the society in February.

Legal secretaries' items

A November donation by Mary Garcia of Pomona Park, Florida included the minutes of the Jacksonville Legal Secretaries Association, 1969-1970. These minutes are accompanied by photographs, calendars, and newspaper clippings.



Riverside Park is shown on this postcard dated 1917. The memorial was never built. The postcard was given by Tad Delegal.

Society documents and photos used in recent movie on Mayport history

by Sharon R. Laird, Archivist

Documentary filmmaker Josh Hansbrough contacted the society's archives in January seeking information on Ft. Caroline, Congressman Bennett, and the historic fishing village of Mayport. Within the society's collection these topics have always been carefully followed and the repository contains multiple vertical files, photographs, books, and original documents in these subject areas. Josh was able to use these items, along with prints that he purchased from the society's collection, to become a focus in *One Village, Same Ocean*, a documentary film about Mayport Village and the controversy surrounding a possible cruise ship terminal in the historic village.

The film premiered at the Atlantic Theatre in Atlantic Beach to a capacity crowd of 300 on February 12, and has since experienced two full-house additional showings. A strong and straight-forward statement

in the film about the oldest fishing village in the country—established in 1562—begins aboard a shrimp boat with a Mayport fisherman and is followed by a history of the area.

Person-to-person interviews offer the residents core concerns about the major changes to village, their employment, and way of life. Many have a multi-generation heritage in Mayport. The film was funded through the Public Trust Environmental Legal Institute of Florida.

Special recognition was given both in the film and at the premier to Sharon Laird, society archivist, and the Jacksonville Historical Society for assistance with the research and information on Mayport's history.

The Jacksonville Port Authority recently announced a decision not to pursue the cruise ship terminal at Mayport.



D.A.R. members gather at the Ribault Monument dedication when it was originally placed at Mayport. This image was used in the Mayport film.



The society's image shown above was also shown in the recent Mayport film documentary.

Yes, we want your items related to city history, but...

A primary mission of the Jacksonville Historical Society is to collect items relating to the city's history, including but not limited to photographs, diaries, journals, letters, maps, film, slides, rare books and brochures and more.

When society members and others thoughtfully send or deliver these Jacksonville-related items to us, the staff records pertinent information about the donor and their item(s). Recently, a box of linens, mostly luncheon napkins, appeared in the society's office. The

donor is a mystery — as is the manner in which the napkins made their way into the locked office.

The napkins are monogrammed with the initials "ASM" with a larger "S" appearing in the middle; the outside of the box was

labeled Harlless's, Inc. High Point, North Carolina.

Let us know if you donated this gift to the society and yes, we want your Jacksonville-related donations, and yes, we want to know if they came from you!

Want to learn more about your roots?

Free April Genealogy Fair at Main Library

The Jacksonville Public Library joins forces with the Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society with a day long seminar featuring noted professional genealogist Jana Sloan Broglin on Saturday, April 25. The

event at the Main Library's Auditorium and Conference Center opens at 9 a.m. with lectures scheduled from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Ms. Broglin will present four lectures, including

Hookers and Kooks: Aunt Merele Didn't Run a Boarding House. She'll also delve into the changes in newspaper reporting through three centuries. Another component of the day-long learning session

focuses on the many resources offered researchers at the county courthouse.

The event is free. For more information, phone 630-2409.

Thank you to Historical Society supporters

Below are new members, renewing members and special contributions since December 2008.

New Members:

Henry and Casey Bonar II
Mimi Bryant
Catherine Brooke Buckingham
Brenda Chandler
Raul Chaumont
Hazel Margaret Chitty Day
Kevin Day
Jeff Gardner
Debbie Hicks
Jeremiah Higingbotham
Lajanna Hill
Dean Christy Hodges
Cathy Kanaday
Kimberly Kessler
Jack and Virginia Kirby
Mary Lofton
Hazel Mack
Autumn Martinage
Joel McEachin
Nancy H. Meier
Jim and Carol Miller
Samantha Paull
Jennie Rankin
Terry Ann Ray
Jeanne J. Revels
Carol Russell
Betty A. Stafford
Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Townsend Jr.
James W. Vearil

Renewals:

Linda R. Alexander
Bill and Susan Andrews
Haywood and Anne Ball
Elizabeth J. Basile
Mava L. Bessette
Myles Bland
Mary M. Bliss
Zim Boulos
Richard L. Bowers
Arden R. Brugger
Maryann Burns
Richard and Caroline Burroughs
Susan Callender
Jeane B. Chappell
Dr. William P. Clarke
Wayne Compton
Reverend and Mrs. Ted Corley
Dr. and Mrs. James Cranford
Dr. and Mrs. James Crooks
Mrs. Samuel M. Day
Nancy Devereux
C. Harris Dittmar
Joanne Doherty
Betty Donahue
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Duss
Ebsco Industries
Emmet F. Ferguson
Mike and Catherine Finn
Gerald Fondry
Mrs. Malcolm Fortson
Edwin Graves
Mimi Grenville

Vance A. Goode, Jr.
Carolyn Hall
Sara and Barry Heath
Ralph and Patricia Henderson
Ann and David Hicks
Margaret L. Hill
William Hines
Ruth Keeney
Jack and Virginia Kirby
Carol Lewis
John G. Lockwood
Raymond and Minerva Mason, Sr.
Janice and Bowen May
Philip and Gloria May
Maureen McCormick
Dr. Marianne McEuen
Barbara B. McGriff
Jack L. Meeks and Joann Tredennick
Walter and Helga Miller
Elaine F. Montgomery
Mary Dewese Mory
John Netcher
BGen Henry and Paulette Newcomer
Rev. H. Johnson Pace, Jr.
Marsha Phelts
Tom and Joann Purdie
Cordelia T. Ramsaur
Tom and Linda Ravoo
Linda Sanders
Duncan Sawyer
Fred and Roxanna Seely
Joyce D. Shelley

Richard G. Shieldhouse
Robert T. Shircliff
Duane A. Sikes
Dr. & Mrs. R.G. Skinner, Jr.
Leslie L. Smith
James P. Stevens
Lamar Strother
Barbara J. Thebaut
S. Thompson Tygart, Jr.
Lisanne Valentinuzzi
Robert L. Van Nest
Sarah Ann Wales
Dr. & Mrs. R.H. Walker
William Warde
Delaney L. Williams, Sr.
Jane Willis
Dr. Wayne Wood
Jesse G. Wright, Jr.
Kay and Mike Zambetti

Special Donations

Pace, Johnson
Hines, William
Meier, Nancy
Bowers, Richard
George and Mary Elizabeth Varn, Community Foundation
Linda Crank Moseley, Community Foundation
John Reynolds

Major Contributions:

Cohen Foundation
Jesse Ball duPont Fund
Alfred duPont Foundation

Dates to remember!

Thursday, March 19

7pm - Reception

7:30pm - Program

Society Program:

***Mr Jefferson's Hobby:
U.S. Acquisition of Florida
Ramon Day, Speaker***

Tuesday, April 28

6:30pm - Reception

7:30pm - Program

Musical Fundraising Program:

***History Notes:
Jacksonville's Story in Music***

JACKSONVILLE HISTORICAL QUARTERLY IS PUBLISHED BY THE JACKSONVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY • EMILY LISSKA, EDITOR
ON THE WEB: WWW.JAXHISTORY.COM



Jacksonville Historical Quarterly
Jacksonville Historical Society, Inc.
317 A. Philip Randolph Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32202
904-665-0064

FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
JACKSONVILLE, FL
PERMIT NO. 949

