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From the Editors

Tampa Bay History

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FROM THE EDITORS

The historian performs in a variety of roles as chronicler, analyst, and teacher, but no part is more exciting to play than that of detective. Tracking down information and gathering evidence, the historian-sleuth solves mysteries locked away in the past. In following historical trails, researchers must take advantage of all available clues. The authors of the genealogy article make this clear in their discussion of the valuable leads that can be found in funeral home records. Indeed, history may not be for the squeamish. Frank Laumer rivals Sherlock Holmes in his pursuit of the truth about Ransom Clark’s survival of the Dade Massacre, a quest which eventually ended at a cemetery grave site.

Though these articles illustrate extraordinary efforts to uncover secrets of the past, other essays in this issue display the more common detective work of the historian. The Ybor City cigar strike of 1910 and the development of the Edison Park subdivision in Fort Myers come alive through the use of newspaper accounts and manuscript sources. Evidence of historical events can also be found in documents written by eyewitnesses. In a continuation of articles portraying the Tampa Bay area through the eyes of foreign travelers, TBH presents excerpts from a book written by a German visitor to Florida in the 1920s. Another personal memoir in the form of an oral interview exhibits the growth of Pasco County and reveals how the family of J. B. Starkey has nurtured a love and respect for the land. We hope you enjoy these historical "detective stories".

With this edition, Tampa Bay History completes its third year of publication. In a continuing effort to reach out to our readers, we are pleased to announce the creation of the Tampa Bay History essay contest as an annual event. First prize is one hundred dollars ($100), and fifty dollars ($50) goes to the runner-up. In addition, winning articles will be published in TBH. Manuscripts should be approximately 2500-5000 words and typewritten, double-spaced with footnotes at the end. Entries can deal with any aspect of the history of the fifteen county Tampa Bay region and must be based on historical research. The editorial staff and members of the advisory board are not eligible. The deadline for submission is September 1, 1982. For more information about the contest, contact: Managing Editor, Tampa Bay History, Department of History, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, 33620.
COMMUNICATIONS

Any correspondence pertaining to the articles, reviews and other material contained in the journal may be sent to the Managing Editor.

Dear Editors:

I am a member of the Greater Omaha Genealogical Society. If it is possible, I would like to submit a query.

“WHEELER COUSINS”, a new organization, has been formed. We are looking for descendants of Thomas and Elizabeth Wheeler of Bedford County, Virginia. They were born about 1736. Children: John, born 1762, Lucy (Mrs. Benjamin Borden), William, Benjamin, Peter, Thomas, Sally (Mrs. Isaac Cundiff), Joel, Gabriel, Joicy (Mrs. Charles Craig), and James born 1788. Some of their descendants went to Tennessee, Missouri, Georgia, and other states. Anyone who thinks they are related should write to:

Marcella Wheeler
14862 “U” Plaza
Omaha, NE 68137

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Marcella Wheeler