

12-1-1985

## From the Editors

Tampa Bay History

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/tampabayhistory>

---

### Recommended Citation

Tampa Bay History (1985) "From the Editors," *Tampa Bay History*. Vol. 7 : Iss. 2 , Article 2.  
Available at: <https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/tampabayhistory/vol7/iss2/2>

This Front Matter is brought to you for free and open access by the Open Access Journals at Scholar Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Tampa Bay History by an authorized editor of Scholar Commons. For more information, please contact [scholarcommons@usf.edu](mailto:scholarcommons@usf.edu).

## FROM THE EDITORS

This special issue of *Tampa Bay History* is devoted entirely to Ybor City which was founded a century ago. Originating as a separate town based on the cigar industry, Ybor City was quickly incorporated into Tampa's political boundaries, but the immigrant community long remained a city within a city. Prior to the boom sparked by the arrival of the cigar industry in 1886, Tampa had fewer people than either Cedar Key or Key West. The influx of Cuban, Afro-Cuban, Spanish and Italian immigrants put Tampa on the map and made it, in the words of Tony Pizzo, "a cracker town with a Latin accent."

This centennial history of Ybor City examines why Latins came to Tampa and what impact they had on the area. The articles, personal recollections and photographs that make up this special issue represent the most complete overview of Ybor City's history currently available in a single volume. Beginning with the story of the founding of Ybor City and Tampa's cigar industry, the articles cover the evolution of the Cuban and Afro-Cuban communities, the role of local cigarworkers in the struggle for Cuban independence, the growth of immigrant clubs and the nature of strikes by cigarworkers. The issue concludes with the recollections of several Ybor City natives, including Al Lopez, Tony Pizzo and Jose Yglesias, who recall in personal terms what this unique community means to them. Although some of this material has appeared previously, it is reprinted in this collection of primarily original articles to present a lasting record of how Ybor City was viewed at the time of its centennial.

The documented history of Ybor City and Tampa's cigar industry is far from complete. We trust that this centennial history will encourage others to help fill in the gaps that remain. Readers with roots in Ybor City can assist in this effort. The editors of *Tampa Bay History* would welcome hearing from anyone with pictures or other material related to the history of Ybor City and its residents in order to preserve such items for future generations. In addition, people who lived or worked in Ybor City are encouraged to call or write us about possible interviews based on their memories of the community, especially for the period before World War II.

Readers familiar with *Tampa Bay History* will recognize that this special issue differs in focus and length from our usual format. We hope that doubling the size of the issue will compensate for any narrowing of the subject matter. The next issue will return to the original format and contain articles on Odet Philippe, cowmen in south Florida, and St. Petersburg women at the turn of the century, as well as book reviews, announcements and a photo essay on life along the Gulf coast during World War I.

New readers interested in receiving future issues of *Tampa Bay History* are invited to consult the subscription information on page 176.



**The Ybor City office of Burgerts, the family of Tampa photographers responsible for many of the historic photographs used in this issue.**

Photograph (c. 1919) courtesy of Florida State Archives.