

12-1-1988

From the Editors

Tampa Bay History

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

Recommended Citation

Tampa Bay History (1988) "From the Editors," *Tampa Bay History*. Vol. 10 : Iss. 2 , Article 2.
Available at: <https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/tampabayhistory/vol10/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.

FROM THE EDITORS

Much of American history has been told and remembered as the story of great men - explorers, generals, presidents, captains of industry. Over the past two decades, a new generation of historians has reminded us that ordinary men and women of various colors and ethnic backgrounds have helped shape American society. The difficulty, of course, is that most ordinary people do not leave written records, such as letters and diaries, from which historians can reconstruct their lives. However, young historians have shown remarkable ingenuity in locating sources that document the experiences of previously invisible people. The so-called "new social history" has uncovered long neglected areas of the American past and encouraged a rewriting of the history books to reflect the contributions of common people.

This issue of *Tampa Bay History* features two award-winning articles that look at the everyday lives of two groups of Floridians - Confederate soldiers and black musicians - who lived a world apart. The lead article, " 'I'm a Stranger Here': Blues Music in Florida," won first prize in the 1988 *Tampa Bay History* Essay Contest. The author, Kent Kaster, uses little-known studies from the 1930s, recent interviews and music lyrics to sketch the nature and role of blues music in black society.

Second prize in the essay contest went to Ronald N. Prouty for his annotated diary of a typical Confederate soldier. Written by a Key West resident who served in the Coast Guard around Tampa Bay during 1861-62, this document not only records the daily life of Confederate volunteers, but it also provides a rare glimpse of the experiences of Tampa Bay residents at a time of turmoil and uncertainty.

On a lighter note, Hampton Dunn draws from his extensive personal collection a selection of photographs portraying changes in "Transportation in Florida from Oxen to Airplanes." This issue also includes book reviews and announcements of interest to friends of history in the Tampa Bay area.

In preparation of the 1989 observance of the tenth anniversary of the publication of *Tampa Bay History*, the editors are planning a special anniversary issue for next June and a campaign to assure the financial viability of this nonprofit journal. Toward this end, renewal notices now offer subscribers the opportunity to contribute more than the subscription price of \$15 annually. Everyone who contributes \$25 or more will be listed by name in each issue. Through this means we hope to keep *Tampa Bay History* in operation without sacrificing quality or raising subscription prices. Needless to say, we appreciate your continued support, and we hope you enjoy this issue.

COMMUNICATIONS

Dear Editors,

I want to compliment you on the excellent article, "The Birth of an Infant Society: The Hillsborough County Medical Association, 1895-1899," by Cathy Bayless Slusser, which appeared in the Spring/Summer, 1988, issue.

Having been involved in organized medicine at the county, state, and national level for 40 years, I appreciate her article. Obviously she sought out information about the infant society in great detail and without partiality. I enjoyed it very much and hope that all of the members of the Hillsborough County Medical Society have an opportunity to see the excellent article. I am sure that you already know that the county medical associations, or societies, today still have all the problems that she discusses in the early years of the infant society. We probably have more problems today, but the early problems have changed very little.

I wish to express my appreciation and enjoyment of the article. It shows that Ms. Slusser did her homework well and developed a most interesting history.

Cordially Yours,

Charles K. Donegan, M.D., F.A.C.P.