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***Indian Mounds of the Atlantic Coast: A Guide to Sites from Maine to Florida* by Jerry N. McDonald and Susan L. Woodward**

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Decorated with buntings and flags, Gandy Bridge was ready for its formal opening in 1924. This photo depicts the toll gate on the Tampa side. (Tolls were fifty-five cents for car and driver; additional passengers were ten cents each). The span cut the driving distance by half, and gave Tampa a direct highway to Gulf beaches.

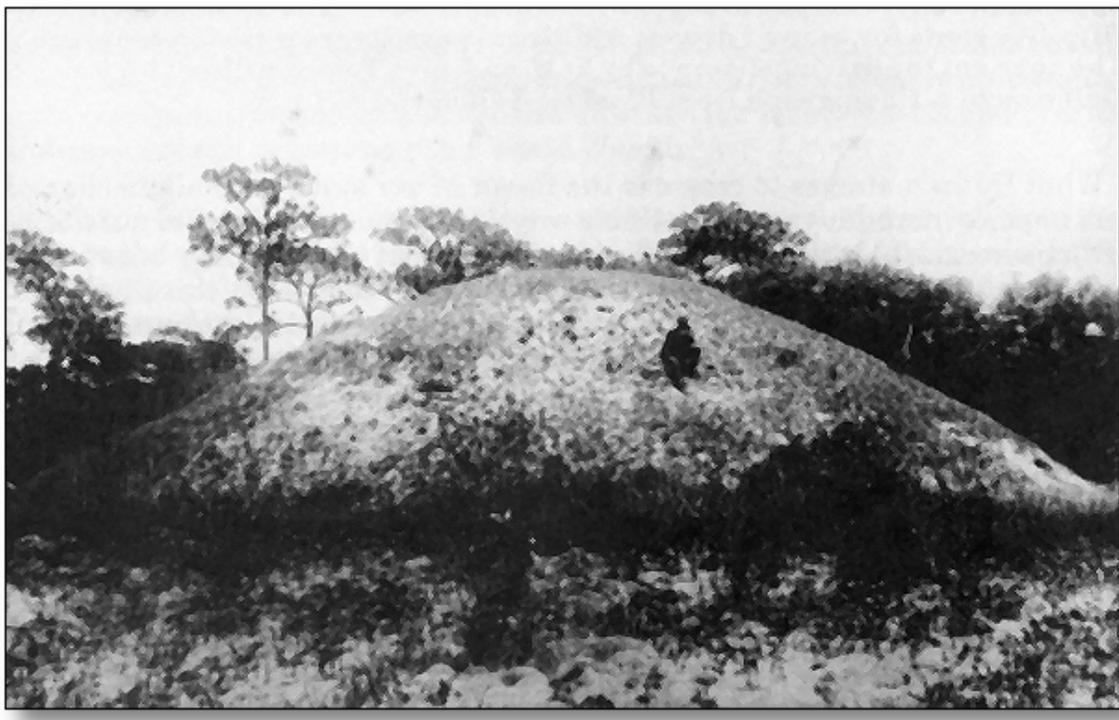
Photograph from *Florida: A Pictorial History*.

President-Elect of the Florida Historical Society, it is a fitting capstone to a productive and distinguished career.

Edgar W. Hirshberg

Indian Mounds of the Atlantic Coast: A Guide to Sites from Maine to Florida. By Jerry N. McDonald and Susan L. Woodward. Newark, Ohio, 1987. McDonald & Woodward Publishing Co. Pp. 162. Photographs. Maps. Bibliography. Index. Paper. \$12.95. (Available from McDonald & Woodward, P.O. Box 10308, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060. Add shipping charge of \$1.50.)

Mounds and earthworks of shell, stone and soil are the only immediately visible architectural remains left of the many different prehistoric human cultures who inhabited the eastern United States over the past several millennia. The different constructions are of different ages and



An Indian mound in St. Petersburg, c. 1880s.

Photograph courtesy of Stokes Collection, USF Special Collections.

functions. Late Archaic food gatherers of the coasts collected shellfish and left huge domestic midden or garbage heaps or rings as early as 4,000 years ago. Woodland peoples began building conical earthen mounds for the burial of the dead just before the time of Christ. Occasionally they constructed mounds in the shape of animal effigies as well. Mississippian stage societies, organized in complex chiefdoms supported by maize agriculture, beginning around A.D. 1000, built flat-topped pyramids known as temple mounds, which supported sacred structures and sometimes had high status burials.

Through the centuries much of this rich archaeological record has been destroyed by plowing, looting and other devastating activities. For example, most of Florida's roads are made with shell mined from prehistoric middens and sand "borrowed" from mounds and habitation sites. Some of what is left has been preserved, however, often in public parks, for later generations to study and enjoy.

This compact guidebook is packed with information on accessible mound sites in the Atlantic states. The authors are an independent scholar and a geographer, publishing out of Newark, Ohio, home of a famous group of spectacular burial mounds. Their excellent introductory material includes a cultural chronology with timetable and graphs, describing the evolution of different kinds of ways of life through time. There are drawings of mound construction techniques, maps showing important site locations in the eastern United States and a wonderful

section detailing the history of mound exploration by early explorers and scientists, from Thomas Jefferson to Smithsonian anthropologists.

Following this is a very good chapter on historic preservation. Much less care has been taken to safeguard these traces of the unwritten past than to preserve records of Euro-American history. Preservation laws (many listed here) now protect sites on public lands from vandalism, but disturbance of any archaeological materials is strongly discouraged.

The bulk of the book is a listing of forty-two mounds, their settings, accompanying public facilities, hours and dates open, reference materials and specific historical background. There are well drafted maps and verbal directions, including walking time, and other gems such as beautiful artifact photos and a quote from Thoreau. The sites are listed from Maine to Florida. It is curious that New Jersey, New York and other states with a wealth of mounds are neglected, but non-coastal West Virginia is included, as well as the Gulf Coast. Florida is especially well-represented, with many famous mounds noted in the Tampa Bay area. Preceding a good index are several bibliographies and even lists of museum exhibits and of maps and where to obtain them.

This book will be an excellent, though selective, guide for everyone from archaeologists and historians to interested travelers planning trips to include seeing some of the few remains of ancient America that we are finally beginning to conserve.

Nancy Marie White

Florida Folktales. Edited by J. Russell Reaver. Gainesville, Florida, 1987. University Presses of Florida. Pp. xvi. 179. Introduction. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Paper. \$19.50.

The tapestry of Florida history is, like that of all histories, complex. Historians reweave this fabric from several threads, including written documents which specify and quantify, visual images which freeze an instant of time and oral histories which lend personal interpretation to the past. But others reweave in different fashion, and in this book J. Russell Reaver, Professor Emeritus of American Folklore and Literature at Florida State University, shows us how an accomplished folklorist goes about examining the texture of Florida culture.

Assuming that the folktales and legends of a people constitute a powerful expressive system through which they construct a social reality, Reaver has drawn from his personal archive (built on more than forty years of field collecting in Florida) more than ninety representative folktales. His choice is eclectic and his method scholarly. The tale bearers come from varied racial, cultural, occupational and regional backgrounds. Some are literate, while others are not, but all can spin off the lies and truths of popular lore in fine style: tales of slavery, Reconstruction, haunted Tallahassee houses, sunken treasure, marvelous disappearing lakes, gigantic mosquitoes, folk heroes like Bone Mizelle, animal tricksters like Rabbit, the divine origin of hushpuppies, a drift of ghosts and other wonders. Properly collected and recorded as told, these tales together demonstrate the richness of Florida's folk traditions.