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## From the Editors

Tampa Bay History

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## FROM THE EDITOR...

elcome to the first *re-issue* of *Tampa Bay History*. The Tampa Bay History Center, in partnership with the University of South Florida Libraries' Florida Studies Center, is proud to bring about the return of this wonderful publication. The original *Tampa Bay History* was published biannually, from 1979 to 1998, by the USF History Department. Longtime editors Robert Ingalls and Gary Mormino published the journal largely on their own, with valuable department office staff assistance.

The journal's new team is headed by editor Rodney Kite-Powell, the Tampa Bay History Center's Saunders Foundation Curator of History. Mark I. Greenberg, History Center Board of Trustees member and Director of USF Libraries' Florida Studies Center and Special Collections Department, serves as the book review editor, and Andrew Huse, Assistant Librarian with Special Collections and Florida Studies Center, is the assistant editor.

Creation of the new journal's editorial board was our first priority. The board consists of twelve scholars, all leaders in their respective areas of Florida history, anthropology or archaeology: Jack Davis, James M. Denham, Paul Dosal, Maxine Jones, Robert Kerstein, Joe Knetsch, Jerald Milanich, Gary Mormino, Susan Parker, Cheryl Rodriguez, Aaron Smith, and Doris Weatherford.

The next step was to establish what kind of content we wanted for the journal. In this we followed the path of the original, in that articles will cover a wide range of topics, including social, political and environmental history, archaeology, anthropology and geography. Though we will focus on the Tampa Bay area, we also want to extend into what is termed "Historic" Hillsborough County, the roughly twenty-county area included within the original 1834 boundaries of Hillsborough County.

Four essays, each focusing on a different aspect of the region's history, are featured in this issue. The first is by Thom Foley, winner of the 2007 Leland Hawes Essay Prize in Florida History for best graduate paper. Foley's award-winning essay on the Tampa Bypass Canal provides the reader with a unique perspective on the status of the Hillsborough River and on water management issues – issues that become more important as the state's population continues to climb towards 20 million people.

The second article, by Rosanna Ensley, focuses on the first ten years of the Gasparilla festival. Ensley's examination of the formative years of the Tampa tradition builds on previous narratives, exploring the people and events with a fresh perspective.

Chris Day looks at an often neglected chapter of Florida's World War II history in his piece on civil defense and the Florida motorcycle corps. The corps and its founder, Guy Allen, helped protect the state from the perceived threat of a Nazi attack. Day's article gives proper attention to this statewide effort. The fourth article is written by editorial board member Joe Knetsch. Knetsch has studied the Spanish – American War for many years and has pulled together an amazing and diverse collection of sources for his most recent study on the late 19<sup>th</sup> century conflict. Readers familiar with local history will recognize Knetsch's attention to detail and meticulous research skills at work in this piece.

Mark Greenberg has assembled an interesting selection of book reviews. In addition to the reviews, readers will be able to learn of the newest releases in local and state history in our "books in brief" section. Both of these sections will be regular fixtures within the pages of *Tampa Bay History*.

We are actively seeking submissions for our next publication. As was the case with the original *Tampa Bay History*, we want to produce a quality, scholarly publication that is of interest to a diverse audience. To that end, we will follow the guidelines established by the editors in 1979 – that "academics write so that nonprofessionals could read and enjoy their work and that nonacademic historians [or experts in other fields] meet scholarly standards for documentation."

Like all worthwhile endeavors, production of this journal could not have been completed without the help of many people. First among them is Elizabeth Dunham, the History Center's Director of Public Programs. Her support was indispensable. History Center Collections Manager Travis Puterbaugh also provided invaluable assistance. I would also be remiss if I did not thank copy editor Susan Brady and graphics guru Bill Wilson for the help and support they provided me during my first effort at editing a journal.

A special thank you goes out to our members and supporters. We appreciate all you do in support of our efforts to bring regional history to life.

RODNEY KITE-POWELL

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