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## Books in Brief

Tampa Bay History

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## BOOKS IN BRIEF

*A Brief Guide to Florida's Monuments and Memorials.* By Roberta Sandler (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2008. xiv, 260 pp. Acknowledgments, introduction, B/W photographs, bibliography, index. \$21.95, paper)

Roberta Sandler provides readers with a comprehensive account of the numerous monuments and memorials spread across the state of Florida. Sandler divides the state into seven broad geographic regions, presenting an array of historic sights that beckon readers to visit. These monuments and memorials stand as a testament to Florida's diverse and enchanting past. Native Americans, conquistadores, soldiers, fishermen, politicians, athletes, and teachers are only a smattering of the various groups celebrated by these memorials.

Like Sandler's earlier work, *Guide to Florida Historical Walking Tours* (1996), her new book reads easily and is readily accessible to the general public. Sandler provides readers with brief narratives and background information, as well as photographs, for each historic sight. Even specialists in Florida history should discover new stories, events, and persons while reading this book, as many of Sandler's monuments and memorials commemorate the actions and interactions of everyday people.

Sandler's narratives will surely attract interested readers to some of Florida's most historic places, like the Castillo de San Marcos, the Gamble Plantation, or Fort Jefferson at the Dry Tortugas National Park. Readers of *Tampa Bay History* will likely find Sandler's section on "Central West Florida" of particular interest. Here she describes the monuments that honor the Greater Tampa Bay area's unique past, covering Tarpon Springs' sponge divers, José Martí, and the Ringling Brothers' Circus, among many others.

Though Sandler's book is hardly exhaustive and lacks a critical edge, it will be useful to people who wish to learn more about the commemorative obelisks, statues, murals, and parks that dot Florida's vast landscape.

KYLE BURKE  
University of South Florida

*Tampa on My Mind*. Edited by Kimberly Williams, Gregory Thomas, Ronald Williams, and Cheryl Borman (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2009. xvi, 175pp. Foreword by Pam Iorio, introduction by Gary Mormino, B/W and color photographs. \$34.95, cloth)

The University Press of Florida's new picture book *Tampa on My Mind* offers readers a wealth of striking color photographs depicting contemporary Tampa and its environs. Most of the book's pictures are works by award-winning photographer Ronald Williams, supplemented by images from others like Sean Birdsell and Clyde Butcher. *Tampa on My Mind* includes a foreword by Tampa mayor Pam Iorio and features a useful twenty-eight-page survey of the city's history by noted Florida historian Gary R. Mormino. The book is organized in five sections, each illustrating a specific aspect of Tampa: "View from the Outside," "View from the Inside," "City of the Arts," "City by the Sea," and "City in Transition." Each section begins with a concise introduction that provides context for the selection of well-annotated photographs that follows. With its strong visual appeal, *Tampa on My Mind* provides an excellent, readily assimilated introduction to the city and its vicinity for readers new to Tampa, as well as interesting browsing for those already familiar with the area. Kimberly Williams is a history professor at Hillsborough Community College (HCC), and Cheryl Borman is a professor of English at HCC's Ybor City campus. Gregory Thomas, president of Bay Press, is a former dean of student services at HCC.

PAUL EUGEN CAMP, EMERITUS  
University of South Florida

*Zephyrhills from A to Z*. Compiled and edited by Vicki Elkins with Margaret Seppanen (Tampa: University of Tampa Press, 2008. x, 285 pp. Foreword by Steve Spina, introduction by Kathleen D. Burnside, B/W photographs, city officials of Zephyrhills, 1917-2008, index. \$29.95, cloth)

*Zephyrhills from A to Z* provides encyclopedic coverage of the history, people, and culture of the city of Zephyrhills, Florida. The alphabetical listing allows a quick search for information and is supported by a comprehensive index. Each article ends with a list of sources that will be helpful to researchers. This well-documented work will be useful and enjoyable both for local residents and for those with a general interest in Florida history.

*Zephyrhills from A to Z* contains not only general facts but also the stories and recollections of residents past and present. For example, selections detail the lives

of influential citizens, the establishment of the first newspaper, and the growth of the library. The book includes the stories of several families native to the area, local businesses, and events that shaped the city's growth. Articles also highlight former landmarks, such as the water tower that had to be demolished in 1985 after more than fifty years in existence. The images placed throughout—including a 1925 receipt for an electric range from the Zephyrhills Electric Company—skillfully accent the text.

This encyclopedia will provide insightful reading as the compilers succeeded in including articles that will captivate a wide range of readers, and many will enjoy recalling past events and neighbors, and learning facts related to the area.

NAOMI WILLIAMS

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*Tampa Bay: A Photographic Portrait.* Photography by Robert La Follette, narrative by Karen T. Bartlett (Rockport, Mass.: Twin Lights Publishers, 2008. 128 pp. Introduction, color photographs. \$26.95, cloth)

As one might suspect from its title, this is a picture book portraying the Tampa Bay region. It depicts the beauties and wonders of the area, particularly the built environment of streets, skylines, and buildings. The city of Tampa is of course well represented, but Tampa Bay's other communities are by no means neglected. With beautiful color images by award-winning Tampa photographer Robert La Follette and interesting commentary by well-known travel writer Karen T. Bartlett, this is a coffee table book in the very best sense. If a local chamber of commerce or business wanted to convince someone that the Tampa Bay area was worth a visit, it could hardly do better than to send along a copy of this book. It provides a dynamic, multifaceted collage of the region's skylines, landmarks, attractions, and activities. La Follette's photographs are bright, sharp, and well composed. Bartlett's concise but informative accompanying descriptions admirably set the images in context. Though it includes pictures of some historic sites and structures, the book is really a pictorial survey of the contemporary scene, not a historical work.

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*The Tampa Bay History Center's new home is Hillsborough County government's first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certified Building. In keeping with our commitment to green initiatives, the text pages of this publication are printed on Finch Casa Opaque. Finch Casa is 30% post consumer waste recycled paper and is also fully recyclable. In addition, the cover is made from 10% post consumer recycled stock. The journal is printed with 100% soy inks, and all waste during the printing and bindery process is recycled.*

