

1-1-2010

From the Editors

Tampa Bay History

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

Recommended Citation

Tampa Bay History (2010) "From the Editors," *Tampa Bay History*. Vol. 24 : Iss. 1 , Article 2.
Available at: <https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/tampabayhistory/vol24/iss1/2>

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 EDITOR...

Winter brings with it crisp air, shorter days and another edition of *Tampa Bay History*. This is the fourth year that the Tampa Bay History Center and the University of South Florida Libraries' Florida Studies Center have partnered to produce this journal, and the twenty-fourth year of the journal's publication. As in year's past, this issue features four great articles on interesting topics in our area's history.

Leading off is this year's winner of the Leland Hawes Prize for best graduate essay in Florida history. The winning paper, "Mary Lou Baker," was written by Lois Ricciardi, a graduate student in the Florida Studies Program at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. Ricciardi documents Baker's life, with a focus on her time in the Florida legislature and her efforts to pass landmark legislation conferring equal rights to married women. Gary Mormino, co-director of the Florida Studies Program, is proud of his student's studies and hopes that her work will make more people aware of Baker – an outstanding person in Pinellas County, and Florida, history.

Next is an essay by Roger Landers documenting the violence that gripped Hernando County following the Civil War. Landers's study extends through the Reconstruction era in Hernando (which included both Citrus and Pasco Counties at the time) and into the early twentieth century, where he finds that violence and intimidation were still in force despite the progress of time. Landers presents an interesting theory as to how Hernando could plunge so deeply into chaos, plus identifies several factors that played a role in the ultimate pacification of the county.

The third essay, written by Tom Adamich, focuses on the life of Eugene Beach. While most people likely have never heard of Beach, readers will certainly gain an appreciation for this modern Renaissance man. Adamich traces Beach's life from his childhood spent traveling with his parents – chefs who worked at seasonal hotels in both the north and the south – to his adolescence spent in Clearwater to adulthood and his careers in architecture, race car design and art. Dore Beach, Eugene Beach's second wife, is also featured in the essay, and Adamich paints a wonderful picture of a couple who both push and protect each other as they pursue their goals.

Rounding out this year's journal is an essay co-written by Pamela Gibson and editorial board member Joe Knetsch. Their essay, "White Caps and Nightmares," covers the years leading up to the Spanish-American War and tries to uncover the true causes of violence against African Americans in Florida during the 1890s. Using the presence of black soldiers stationed in southern towns, including Tampa, during the buildup to the Spanish-American War as a starting point, Gibson and Knetsch move past the simple explanation of whites reacting to well trained, and well armed, African American troops and delve deeper into the problems that had gripped Florida for decades. They also move past the most blatant form of violence perpetrated on blacks – lynching – and look at other manifestations, some overt and others subtle. Admittedly stopping short of offering a definitive study on the subject, Gibson and Knetsch instead lay the groundwork for, and offer encouragement to, future historians who wish to build on what they have begun.

No historical journal would be complete without book reviews, and this year's issue is no exception. You will find reviews for some of the most recent scholarship on Florida history, including books on race, gender, politics, women's history, and the Civil War. Included, too, is a review of assistant editor Andrew Huse's book on the Columbia Restaurant.

I hope you enjoy the 2010 edition of *Tampa Bay History*. Remember, the journal is only as good as its contributors, so if you have a paper you would like to submit, please feel free to contact me at the address listed on the inside front cover. I also encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or comments about the articles in this journal. A healthy debate about the causes and effects of historical events is one of the best ways to keep history alive.

RODNEY KITE-POWELL, EDITOR