A GUIDE TO THE HISTORY OF FLORIDA

Edited by Paul S. George
Foreword by Samuel Proctor

REFERENCE GUIDES TO STATE HISTORY AND RESEARCH
LIGHT T. CUMMINS AND GLEN JEANSONNE, SERIES EDITORS

GREENWOOD PRESS
New York • Westport, Connecticut • London
Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
p. cm. — (Reference guides to state history and research)
Bibliography: p.
Includes index.
Z1271.G85 1989
[F311]
016.9159—dc 19     88-38080

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data is available.
Copyright © 1989 by Paul S. George
All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced, by any process or technique, without the express written consent of the publisher.
Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 88-38080
ISBN: 0-313-24911-3

First published in 1989
Greenwood Press, Inc.
88 Post Road West, Westport, Connecticut 06881
Printed in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS,
THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

SUSAN HAMBURGER

Mailing address: The Robert Manning Strozier Library
The Florida State University
Tallahassee, Florida 32306–2047
Telephone: (904) 644–3271, 3219
Days and hours: Monday–Thursday, 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.; Friday 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.; closed weekends and all university holidays.

EARLY ON, THE library began to build an impressive Floridiana collection, which is part of its Special Collections Department. By 1940, it possessed 337 volumes, among them such rare Floridiana as Godfrey’s An Authentic Narrative of the Seminole War, and of the Miraculous Escape of Mrs. Mary Godfrey, and Her Four Female Children (Providence, 1836); Johns’ The Life and Sufferings of Mrs. Jane Johns, 1837; Aurelia Robbins’s A True and Authentic Account of the Indian War in Florida, 1836; William Bartram’s Travels through North and
South Carolina, Georgia, East and West Florida, 1792; and Sidney A. Kimber’s *A Relation, or Journal, of a Late Expedition to the Gates of St. Augustine, on Florida, 1744.*

Many of the original sources in the manuscript collection encompass local, regional, and southern history. A large span of time periods in Florida’s history—from the Spanish colonial period to the twentieth century—are represented. Topical collections range from Civil War, railroads, and politics, to literature.

A small collection of early Florida records are contained in the collection. The Shelburne papers (82 items) contain British East and West Florida records. Dr. Mark F. Boyd donated photocopies of original Spanish manuscripts from the Archivos General de Indias, Seville, Spain, (845 items) dealing with the Spanish period in Florida history. An original copy of the Forbes Plat Book contains printed forms and maps outlining land holdings surveyed from 1852–56 in middle Florida. The Panton, Leslie and Company (which evolved into John Forbes and Company) originally purchased 1,250,000 acres from the Indians between 1804–11.

By far the largest source of antebellum, rural information is the Leon County plantation records for El Destino and Chemonie (16 items), Pine Hill (843 items), and Lester plantations (3 items), complemented by materials in the Elliot (2 items), Gamble (8 items), Winthrop (4,082 items), Bird and Ulmer (55 items), Bradford (194 items), Yarbrough (18 items), and Hollingsworth (520 items) papers.

Besides these antebellum records, scholars will find research materials on the Civil War, particularly the Confederacy, in diaries and letters among the Hugh Black (67 items), Fairbanks (2,017 items), Thomas (895 items), Gramling (2 items), Inglis (1 item), Love-Scarborough (137 items), Shaw (17 items), Willson (1 item), and Parkhill (39 items) papers. Music scholars will note two bound volumes of piano music owned by Susan Branch of Live Oak Plantation, Leon County, daughter of Territorial Governor John Branch.

Collections dealing with slavery constitute a small portion of the manuscript holdings. Many of the aforementioned plantation records contain information about slaves. A collection specifically about the conditions of slaves from 1830 to 1861 contains passes and permits to travel and live alone in St. Augustine (96 items). A slave bill of sale from Jackson County in 1848 documents the transactions between John Brett, Jr., and William Daniel.

Diaries often depict an individual’s reaction to local, regional, or state events as well as personal affairs. William Randolph Beverly Hackley, attorney for the southern district of Florida, wrote three diaries (in the Gouthing Collection) about people, events, weather, and conditions affecting life on the Florida Keys while living in Key West from 1830–37. Frank Hathaway’s diary contains observations on his travels, Tallahassee activities, and his health from 1845 to 1848. John S. Winthrop’s six diaries from 1889 to 1920 record his activities in Tallahassee, the local social scene, and weather and crop information on his two plantations, Barrow Place and Betton Hill.

Collections, The Florida State University

Following the Civil War, many organizations formed. The records of the International Order of the Odd Fellows reveal the Tallahassee establishment of the town’s first United Confederate Veterans. Two books, The Byrkit and the Luckett, 1818–19, look back to the war, seeking men in their minutes, records, and publications.

Merchants, particularly in Tallahassee, also include books which record the goods, prices, and areas. The researcher can find them in the L. E. Bradley (1927–61, 18 items), Williams (1849–53, 3 items), and Slusser’s personal papers (1854–62, 21 items) for his store and a later auction of books (1843–63, 5 items) are in the Books collection. Two stores owned by Leon County, Florida, area farmers operated with food, seed, wagons, and gunpowder.

One of the largest industries was timbering. The lumber industry (1898–1916, 32,870 items) of the Rosasco family (1914–63, 5,708 items) includes their businesses. The Rosascos owned with naval stores, another timber industry, a sawmill, and a logging company. Papers (1923–65, 1,564 items) show the timber industry in Florida. One of the American Lumber Company papers are ledgers and ledgers books.

Equally as important to Florida is the Flagler Enterprises Papers (1836–1913) through the construction of railroad bridges, maps, land deeds, and plans for the Florida East Coast Railway (F.E.C.). Carlton J. Corbin was Clerk for the Key West Extension, and pamphlets relating to the public service commissioner. The Commission finance documents, presented by John D. Gray’s 1885* Railroad and eight documents on the construction from Fernandina to Jacksonville.

Banks played an important role in the development of the state, and the difficulties Florida banks experienced...
Following the Civil War, many social, fraternal, service, and veterans organizations formed. The records of the In-As-Much Circle of the Florida Branch of the International Order of the King’s Daughters and Sons (1894–1966, 3,412 items) reveal the Tallahassee group’s charitable activities, including the establishment of the town’s first hospital. While this group looked forward, the United Confederate Veterans, Florida Division (1889–1938, 194 items) looked backward to the war, seeking money for monuments and pensions as reflected in their minutes, records, and publications.

Merchants, particularly in Tallahassee and Leon County, kept store account books which record the goods, prices and methods of payment in towns and rural areas. The researcher can find rich sources of information in the account books of L. E. Bradley (1927–61, 18 items), R. F. Van Brunt (1902–11, 2 items), James M. Williams (1849–53, 3 items), and William P. Slusser (1860–63, 1 item). Some of Slusser’s personal papers (1859–77, 10 items) document the purchase of the land for his store and a later auction sale of his goods. Other unidentified account books (1843–63, 5 items) are included in the Tallahassee Merchant Account Books collection. Two store account books from the Metcalf, Georgia/Northeast Leon County, Florida, area from 1929 to 1939 record purchases of dry goods, food, seed, wagons, and guano (fertilizer).

One of the largest industries in the North Florida/South Georgia area is timbering. The lumber industry records of the West Yellow Pine Company (1898–1916, 32,870 items) of Madison, Florida, and Olympia, Georgia, and the Rosasco family (1916–63, 5,238 items) of Pensacola contain materials detailing their businesses. The Rosasco and Leonard Papers (1913–50, 36,359 items) deal with naval stores, another timber industry product. The William Foster Hanks Papers (1923–65, 1,564 items) consists of research material on the lumber and timber industry in Florida. One of the unprocessed collections, the German-American Lumber Company Papers (1899–1918, 437 items), contains letter files and ledger books.

Equally as important to Florida as the lumber industry were the railroads. The Flagler Enterprises Papers (1884–1917, 2,929 items) include documents detailing the construction of railroad bridges, engineering specifications and blueprints, maps, land deeds, and plats for Henry M. Flagler’s Florida East Coast Railway (F.E.C.). Carlton J. Corliss worked for the F.E.C. from 1904 to 1914 as Chief Clerk for the Key West Extension. His scrapbooks contain correspondence, articles, and pamphlets relating to the F.E.C. The papers of Jerry Carter, longtime public service commissioner, (1923–66, 40,968 items) are Interstate Commerce Commission finance dockets for Florida railroads. Antebellum railroads are represented by John D. Gray’s 1836 letter concerning the St. Joseph–Lake Wimico Railroad and eight documents from the Florida Railroad Company (1855–60) construction from Fernandina to Cedar Key.

Banks played an important and controversial role in Florida’s history. One holograph letter by the secretary of the Bank of Florida refers to the financial difficulties Florida banks experienced in 1844. The largest collection of bank
records will be found in the Lewis Bank Papers (1854–1957, 3,296 items). The records include cash books, collection registers, daybooks, draft registers, ledgers, letterpress books, remittance registers, and other miscellaneous records for this Tallahassee institution. Examples of the bank notes and currency used in antebellum, Confederate, and postbellum Florida can be located within numerous collections.

A researcher wishing to see examples of business letterheads of Florida companies from 1879 to 1896 will find forty-nine samples ranging from hotels, livery, newspapers, real estate, factories, and citrus groves, to drugstores.

Two collections of original material deal with Indians in Florida. In 1853 Florida governor Thomas Brown responded to a letter from a Georgia cavalry captain, William B. Cone, denying his offer to fight the Indians. A little more than 100 years later the Miccosukee tribe of the Seminoles Indians were concerned about their rights, which are highlighted in a collection of ten letters from 1957 to 1959.

The Everglades, while the home of the Seminoles, is also the site of the Everglades National Park. The Everglades National Park Commission Papers (1946, 4 items) includes the minutes of the first meeting and a letter to property owners indicating the commission’s intention to establish the park. Drainage of the Everglades and other areas of South Florida is discussed in forty-five letters written between 1911 and 1912 by Fred C. Elliot, the chief engineer and secretary of the Internal Improvement Fund. Much of Elliot’s papers (1935–62, 1,548 items) deal with the Everglades. Governor Spessard Holland’s papers contain eighteen letters of personal correspondence concerning the Everglades National Park in 1971.

The microfilm reels contain fifteen notebooks of correspondence, memorabilia, addresses, and articles written by Edwin B. Browning of Madison County about education in Florida from 1941 to 1973. Another collection concerned with education is the Doak Campbell Papers (1962–67) on the Governor’s Committee on Quality Education (98 items) and the Governor’s Conference on Education (11 items) and projects, programs, and correspondence related to national educational concerns. Within J. Valma Keen’s collection are scrapbooks (1942–63, 3 items) that include clippings, letters, programs, and photographs about education in Florida. Dorothy L. Hoffman (1903–85) taught at Florida State University from 1927 to 1974. Many of her papers (2,427 items) from 1942–74 deal with FSU and the Department of Modern Languages.


Collections specific to Tallahassee’s development cover a wide range of topics. Besides the aforementioned merchants’ account books, the manuscripts collection contains seven Tallahassee Pecan Company records of this real estate company. Tallahassee to sell five-acre lots (1884–1975, 1,823 items) to business enterprises and personal lots was involved in his long and illustrious career. State politics is represented by other government officials’ personal papers (117 items) of former state senators, governor’s office, and cabinet between 1909 and 1943. Romance from 1930 to 1961; he compiled letters from 1901 to 1969. Allen Meeks, an extensive collection (1861–1951) of records, newspaper columns, correspondence, subject files, and more. Johnson, the former editor of the Tallahassee Democrat, politicians, and environ- ment of various politicians’ correspondences in various cities, and more. The most extensive political collection is the Florida Library. Over 700,000 items and contain the official and personal papers of the late Congresswoman in a career in politics began in 1828.
collection contains seven Tallahassee city tax books from 1879 to 1887. The Tallahassee Pecan Company Records (1913–37, 131 items) are the business records of this real estate company, which bought up five-thousand acres north of Tallahassee to sell five-acre lots of pecan trees. The Frank D. Moor Collection (1884–1975 1,823 items) contains papers and records of some of the various business enterprises and service organizations in Tallahassee with which Moore was involved in his long and fruitful life.

State politics is represented by the papers of former governors, senators, and other government officials. Photocopies of personal, business, and gubernatorial papers (117 items) of former governor Albert Waller Gilchrist from 1876 to 1929 were donated. The papers of Spessard Lindsey Holland (1941–71, 21,626 items) consist of personal correspondence, campaign material, and memorabilia. The Fuller Warren Papers (1927–73, 60,900 items) cover the former governor’s public, including his 1948 and 1956 campaigns, and private life. Warren’s controversy with Senator Estes Kefauver’s Crime Committee is well documented. Senator Duncan Upshaw Fletcher received 186 letters from numerous presidents, senators, government officials, Florida governors, and other prominent people between 1909 and 1943. Robert A. Gray served as Florida secretary of state from 1930 to 1961; he compiled fifteen scrapbooks of his life and career from 1901 to 1969. Allen Morris, newspaperman and clerk of the house, donated his extensive collection (1861–1967, 16,084 items) of personal and professional records, newspaper columns, and research materials on Florida politics. Malcolm Johnson, former editor of the Tallahassee Democrat, wrote about Florida politics, politicians, and environmental concerns. Included among the 9,604 items are various politicians’ campaign materials, Johnson’s columns, personal correspondence, subject files, and memorabilia from 1940 to 1978.

The most extensive political collection is the Mildred and Claude Pepper Library. Over 700,000 items and still growing, the Pepper Papers (1910–present) contain the official and personal papers, recordings, photographs, and memorabilia of the late Congressman Claude Pepper and his wife Mildred. Pepper’s career in politics began in 1929.