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Florida Collection

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Events

City of Bridges Film and Lecture

The Jacksonville Public Library is hosting a lecture on and viewing of the "City of Bridges", a documentary film that traces the history of Jacksonville's bridges across the St. Johns River. This is part of the library's ongoing "Year of the River" programming initiative.

Noted local historian, Dr. Jim Crooks, will conduct an introductory lecture followed by a viewing of the documentary, which was produced by WJCT, the local PBS station. In addition, both John Osif (the executive producer) and Stephen Jones (the videographer/producer/director) will be on hand to discuss the film.

The program will take place on Wednesday, August 12 at 6 p.m. in library's Hicks Auditorium on the Conference Level.

Links

- [Florida Collection delicious page](#)

We have been building a page of bookmarks using the delicious.com service. If you click on the above link, you will find many of the web pages we use on a regular basis in doing our reference work. All of the sites should be free to use. If you have a site you would like to nominate for addition to the list, please [contact the editor](#).

Ansbacher Map Collection gets a new guide

Our inaugural electronic newsletter gave readers an introductory overview of the Morris Ansbacher Map Room and the scores of maps literally lining its walls. Visitors, meanwhile, continue to be awestruck upon entering the space. At the end of May, we took a giant step forward in our documentation efforts by photographing the entire Ansbacher Collection. Scaffolding was erected and a crew of four professionals scurried about the space for the better part of three days in what to them certainly had to be an organized fashion. At times, however, it looked as though there had been an explosion. Happily, finishing touches are being made on what will truly be a full color annotated brochure the public may peruse while visiting the collection. This development also means the existing brochure (sans photographs) will soon be obsolete. In addition, these digital images will be uploaded to the library's website and catalog making it possible for anyone either in the library or at a distance to see each map (albeit electronically).

To quote a timely statement reinforcing the importance of this electronic development, *While it is easy to admire a decorative map from a distance, most maps will bear significant intimate perusal and it is up close that a map truly reveals its secrets...* ([Geographicus Rare & Antique Map Blog](#) entry June 24, 2009). All map aficionados should prepare to devote a chunk of time to really see our Ansbacher maps up close and personal. Speaking of personal, it turns out more than a dozen of the maps from this collection are as of yet not attributed to a particular cartographer or other map making entity. If you think you'd like to play sleuth and try to identify the artist, we welcome your input. If you're not quite up to that task but would just like to learn more about the business of cartography today, you might enjoy visiting the [North American Cartographic Information Society](#) (NACIS). Did you know the NACIS actually held their 23rd annual meeting right here in Jacksonville back in 2003? The NACIS has a few student competitions

currently underway including one devoted to maps originating in the form of electronic media. The Student Web Mapping Competition runs through October 31, 2009 and will be accepting maps in both interactive and animated map categories. From the submission details page, "In only a few years, the World Wide Web has revolutionized how cartographers manage, conceptualize and present map information," indeed!

Summertime Gardening

Growing your own food is one way to combat slow economic situations while being environmentally conscientious. Going green has been the buzz for a while and in the spirit of preservation, the Florida Collection houses some extraordinary books on Florida gardens and crops dating back to 1885.

People who grow their own food can do so as a family activity and save money that can be spent for other needs. You can share extra produce with friends, family or the local food bank. Gardening is an excellent way to relax and feel productive at the same time. Seeing the fruits of your labor can provide a sense of achievement as well as an educational opportunity for children. You can use the process of gardening to demonstrate concepts such as germination, pollination, photosynthesis, etc.

The next time you are downtown, visit us in the Main Library on the fourth floor in the Florida Collection. Here you can peruse these well preserved books on gardening and our collection of *Florida Gardening* magazine (2003-present). In addition to our holdings in Florida, we also have numerous gardening books in the library system that you may check out.

Hidden Gems: The Panton & Leslie Papers

One underutilized source in the Florida Collection is the Panton & Leslie Company Papers. The Papers contain the commercial trading documents of the company, plus various other writings, detailing virtually every aspect of frontier life in British Florida, the southeastern Spanish borderlands, and the lower southern U.S. from the 1780s to the early 19th century.

William Panton and John Leslie were Scottish merchants who traded in South Carolina, Georgia, and East Florida. Being Loyalists, they fled to St. Augustine during the American Revolution. Panton, Leslie and other associates formed a partnership to develop trading operations in East Florida, forming officially as a company in late 1782. The company was given

the East Florida Indian trade by British authorities in 1783. After 1783, when Florida was ceded back to Spain, the company was allowed to continue trading in St. Augustine as well as Pensacola, where they established their headquarters. In 1785, Spain granted exclusive rights to trading with the Creeks, and in 1788, to the Choctaws and Chickasaws. The company was reorganized in 1804 as John Forbes & Company, after the deaths of the two original founders.

Panton and Leslie's trading monopoly ranged from Memphis, TN in the north, west to New Orleans, and east to the Bahamas. Their trading posts and pack trains dominated the southeastern Spanish territories' Indian trade, encompassing all major tribes, including the Seminoles. This trading empire existed through 1821, when the U.S. took possession of Florida. Several factors, including failure of Indians to pay debts, trouble with slaves, problems with Britain, Spain, the United States, and wars, all contributed to bring about the demise of John Forbes & Company. After the War of 1812, the company continued to suffer huge business losses, diminishing trade with Indians, litigation disputes, plus other financial problems. By 1830, the company store closed in Pensacola; the store in Mobile closed by 1847.

The trading firm's papers provide us with a window to the past. The twenty-six rolls of 35mm microfilm contain over eight thousand items - legal, political, and diplomatic documents which record the Panton & Leslie Company's operations. According to information outlined in the *Guide to the Papers of Panton, Leslie & Co.*, besides covering the business operations of the company and Indian affairs, the collection "details the . international conflicts affecting the Southeast during this time; American, British and Spanish history of the late 18th and early 19th centuries; domestic history of Florida and the greater Southeast international trade and domestic trade; taxation and tariffs; local government politics; agriculture; real estate speculation; and international negotiations and treaties."

According to historian Dr. William S. Coker, the major categories of the papers are: letters (family and business); correspondence to and from British, Spanish, French, and U.S. officials; court cases and proceedings; some birth, baptism, and marriage records; wills of members of the companies; account books; and newspaper clippings. To aid in searching the papers, the Florida Collection has a guide, *The Papers of Panton, Leslie and Co.: [Guide to the Microfilm]* which includes both a chronological and an alphabetical name listing for all documents.

In conclusion, if one is seriously researching Florida history from the late 18th century to the early 19th century, one must consider delving into the Panton & Leslie Co. Papers. You will find a treasure trove of information

about the historical background of some important periods of Florida history, plus more.

Further Reading:

Coker, William S. and Thomas D. Watson. *Indian Traders of the Southeastern Spanish Borderlands: Panton, Leslie & Company and John Forbes & Company, 1783-1847*, Gainesville, FL.: University Presses of Florida, 1986. [FLA 381.10975 C682i]

New Additions

Following are a few of the newest additions to our holdings since our last newsletter. Also of note (but unable to display here) is *The Dogs of Riverside and Avondale* by James and Peg Lehosit. You may have seen a recent article on this book in the *Florida Times-Union*. If not, you may read it [here](#). *The Dogs of Riverside and Avondale* is currently only available in the Florida Collection and our Willowbranch location.

The White House boys : an American tragedy - Kiser, Roger Dean

Publisher: Health Communications

[Check Library Catalog](#) **Pub Date:** 01/16/2009

ISBN-13: 9780757314216

ISBN-10: 075731421X



The author recounts his ordeal as a child spent in a Florida institution in the 1950's, where abandoned children were routinely abused and some of them possibly murdered.

[First Chapter](#)

Paving paradise : Florida's vanishing wetlands and the failure of no net loss - Pittman, Craig

Publisher: University Press of Florida

[Check Library Catalog](#) **Pub Date:** 03/01/2009

ISBN-13: 9780813032863

ISBN-10: 0813032865



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Tabloid Valley : supermarket news and American culture - Morton, Paula E.

Publisher: University Press of Florida

[Check Library Catalog](#) Pub Date: 05/31/2009

ISBN-13: 9780813033648

ISBN-10: 0813033640



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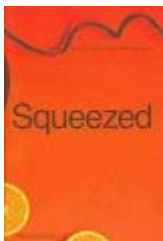
Squeezed : what you don't know about orange juice - Hamilton, Alissa

Publisher: Yale University Press

[Check Library Catalog](#) Pub Date: 05/26/2009

ISBN-13: 9780300124712

ISBN-10: 0300124716



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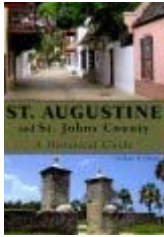
St. Augustine and St. Johns County : a historical guide - Adams, William R.

Publisher: Pineapple Press

[Check Library Catalog](#) Pub Date: 03/15/2009

ISBN-13: 9781561644322

ISBN-10: 1561644323



Soul of a people : the WPA Writer's Project uncovers Depression America - Taylor, David A.

Publisher: Wiley

[Check Library Catalog](#) Pub Date: 02/09/2009

ISBN-13: 9780470403808

ISBN-10: 0470403802



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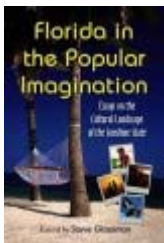
Florida in the popular imagination : essays on the cultural landscape of the Sunshine State - Glassman, Steve

Publisher: McFarland & Co.

[Check Library Catalog](#) Pub Date: 06/07/2009

ISBN-13: 9780786439645

ISBN-10: 0786439645



"Critical discussion of popular culture in Florida, which began drawing winter visitors before the Civil War (now boasts a hundred million+ visitors annually). These essays explore many facets of Florida's culture: Mickey; Shamu; early tourist sites; KeyWest and its favorite son Ernest Hemingway; and an overview of several iconic Florida institutions (Daytona 500, Spring Break)"--Provided by publisher.

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Georgia/ Florida Rivalry Vault - Smith, Loran

Publisher: Whitman Pub Llc

[Check Library Catalog](#) Pub Date: 06/10/2009

ISBN-13: 9780794828066

ISBN-10: 079482806X



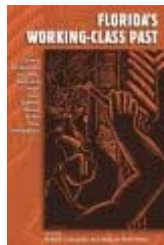
Florida's working-class past : current perspectives on labor, race, and gender from Spanish Florida to the new immigration - Cassanello, Robert

Publisher: University Press of Florida

[Check Library Catalog](#) Pub Date: 01/04/2009

ISBN-13: 9780813032832

ISBN-10: 0813032830



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