



The Florida Historical Society Public History Forum  
and  
The Florida State Genealogical Society Conference  
May 18-20, 2023



**WEDNESDAY 5/17**

**6:00 PM**

FHS Board of Director's Meeting: (Private event)  
FSGS Board Meeting: (Private event)

**THURSDAY 5/18**

8:00 am-9:00 am  
**Registration**

Coffee and Conversation  
FHS Book Store open until 1:00pm  
Exhibits open until 1:00 pm

9:00 am-9:30 am  
**Welcome!**

**Ben Brotemarkle**, FHS Executive Director  
**Maurice J. "Socky" O'Sullivan**, FHS President  
**Marlis Humphrey**, FSGS President

9:30 am-10:15 am  
**Opening Presentation**

**"The History and Historic Places of Lakeland"**  
Presenters:  
**Emily Foster**, Historic Preservationist for the City of Lakeland  
**LuAnn Mims**, Librarian Supervisor at the Lakeland History and Culture Center

10:15 am-10:30 am

**BREAK**

10:30 am-11:30 am  
**Panel Discussion**

**"The El Destino Papers: A Collaboration Between FHS and FSGS to Preserve and Make Accessible Unique Florida Plantation Documents"**  
Facilitator/Participant:  
**Ben Brotemarkle**, Executive Director, Florida Historical Society  
Participants:  
**Holly Baker**, Archivist, Library of Florida History  
**Marlis Humphrey**, President, Florida State Genealogical Society  
**Patricia Rand**, Preservation Projects Chair, Florida State Genealogical Society

11:30 am-11:45 am

**BREAK**

11:45 am-12:45 am  
**Panel Discussion**

**"Florida Pioneer Descendant, Pat Hines Mitchell in Conversation"**  
Facilitator:  
**Patricia Rand**, Chair of the FSGS Florida Pioneer Committee  
Participant:  
**Pat Hines Mitchell**, descendant of the formerly enslaved Christmas Hemming, the first officially recognized black Florida Pioneer

12:45 pm-1:00 pm	<b>BREAK</b>
1:00 pm-2:15 pm <b>Awards Luncheon</b>	FHS/FSGS Awards Luncheon
2:15 pm-2:30 pm	<b>BREAK</b>
2:30 pm-4:30 pm <b>Tour</b>	Board motorcoach at SpringHill Suites entrance for our afternoon & evening tours. <b>Walking Tour of Historic Frank Lloyd Wright buildings</b> at Florida Southern College
4:30 pm-6:00 pm <b>Tour (continued)</b>	Tour of the <b>Lakeland History and Culture Center</b>
6:00 pm-7:30 pm <b>Tour/Reception</b>	<b>Polk Museum of Art Tour and Reception</b> (hors d'oeuvres, and drinks)
8:00 pm-9:00 pm <b>Evening Performance</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“Songs of the Sunshine State”</b>  <b>Performed live by</b>  <b>The Jacksonville Children’s Chorus and The Voices of Jacksonville</b></p> <p>This program is the culmination of a collaboration between the Florida Historical Society and the Jacksonville Children’s Chorus that resulted in a special episode of Florida Frontiers Television</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Polk Theatre</b></p> <p>Built in 1928, this beautifully decorated Renaissance Revival theater provides a show of its own, with twinkling stars and clouds on the ceiling, and an Italian village surrounding the stage.</p>
9:30 pm	Return to SpringHill Suites
<b>FRIDAY 5/19</b>	
8:00 am-9:00 am <b>Registration</b>	FHS Book Store open until 2:00pm Exhibits open until 2:00pm Coffee and Conversation
9:00 am-10:00 am <b>Presentation</b>	<p><b>“The Intersection of History and Genealogy”</b>  Presenter:  <b>Alonzo Felder</b>, CEO and Founder, My Roots Foundation  Author of <i>Discovering A.S.J. Allen: A Story of Skinfolk, Kinfolk, and Village Folk</i></p>
10:00 am-10:15 am	<b>BREAK</b>

10:15 am-11:15 am <b>Panel Discussion</b>	<p><b>“Archival Preservation Best Practices: From Fixing Well-Intentioned Mistakes to Digital Scans and Beyond”</b></p> <p>Facilitator/Participant:  <b>Holly Baker</b>, Archivist, Library of Florida History, Florida Historical Society</p> <p>Participants:  <b>Michael J. Boonstra</b>, Librarian and Archivist, Brevard Central Library  <b>Connie Lester</b>, Director, RICHES Digital Archiving Project, University of Central Florida  <b>Florence M. Turcotte</b>, Literary Manuscripts Archivist, George A. Smathers Library, University of Florida</p>
11:15 am-11:30 am	<b>BREAK</b>
11:30 am-1:00 pm <b>Panel Discussion</b>	<p><b>“Cutting Edge Genealogy and Historical Research: DNA Testing and New Technologies”</b></p> <p>Participants:  <b>Allison L. Ryall</b>, Genealogy Specialist, Orange County Library System  “The ABCs of DNA”  <b>Drew Smith</b>, Genealogy Librarian, USF Libraries  “Keeping Up With New Technologies”</p>
1:00 pm	Lunch on your own
2:30 pm-5:30 pm <b>Tour</b>	Bus leaves from SpringHill Suites entrance for the <b>Polk County History Center and Genealogical Library, Bartow</b>
6:00 pm-7:00 pm <b>Reception</b>	Pre-Banquet Reception Live music from Lakeland band <b>Rusty Trumpet</b> (cash bar)
7:00 pm-9:00 pm <b>Banquet/Keynote</b>	Banquet Dinner <b>Jillian Prescott Memorial Lecture from Amy Anderson</b> Project Manager, <i>La Florida: The Interactive Digital Archive of the Americas</i>
<b>SATURDAY 5/20</b>	
8:00 am-9:00 am <b>Registration</b>	FHS Book Store open until 1:00pm Exhibits open until 1:00pm Coffee and Conversation
9:00 am-9:15 am <b>Presentation</b>	<b>Recognition of Emancipation Day in Florida</b> Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation, FHS Board Members

9:15 am-10:15 am <b>Presentation/Discussion</b>	<b>Florida History Day Student Showcase</b> Facilitator: <b>KC Smith</b> , Florida Historical Society Board of Directors
10:15 am-10:30 am	<b>BREAK</b>
10:30 am-11:30 am <b>Panel Discussion</b>	<b>“Modern Florida History: Music, Mayhem, and the New Millennium”</b> Facilitator/Participant: <b>James M. Denham</b> , author of books including <i>Fifty Years of Justice: A History of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida</i> Participants: <b>Bob Kealing</b> , author of books including <i>Good Day Sunshine State: How the Beatles Rocked Florida</i> <b>Gary R. Mormino</b> , author of books including <i>Dreams in the New Century: Instant Cities, Shattered Hopes, and Florida’s Turning Point</i>
11:30 am-11:45 am	<b>BREAK</b>
11:45 am-12:45 pm <b>Presentation</b>	<b>“No Longer Unknown: Recovering Lost Identities in St. Augustine National Cemetery”</b> Presenter: <b>Amy Giroux</b> , University of Central Florida
12:45 pm-1:00 pm	<b>BREAK</b>
1:00 PM-2:00 PM <b>Tour and Picnic</b>	<b>Sarah D. and L. Kirk McKay, Jr. Archives</b> Tour (arrive on your own) Box lunch picnic outside of the archive building on the Florida Southern College campus

**\*\*\*Schedule is subject to change\*\*\***

Vendors and Exhibitors include:

- Florida Historical Society Bookstore/Author Signing Area
- Florida State Genealogical Society exhibit
- University Press of Florida
- Florida Council for History Education