

# Tequesta

THE JOURNAL OF THE HISTORICAL  
ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

*Editors Emeriti*  
Charlton W. Tebeau, Ph.D.  
Thelma Peters, Ph.D.

*Editor*  
Paul S. George, Ph.D.

*Managing Editor*  
Rebecca Eads

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**On the Cover:** In 1896, close to 400 people crowded onto the second floor of the Lobby Pool Room to vote to incorporate Miami as a city. The building to the left is the site of this historical meeting. (HASF 75-25-103)

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## Editor's Forward

What an exciting time to assume the editorship of *Tequesta*. Miami, the Magic City, is preparing to celebrate the centennial of its incorporation as a city. Miami and Dade County continue to invite national, and even international, scrutiny as academics and members of the media alike attempt to divine from its experiences with waves of refugees and immigrants the future course of global cities. In the meantime, increasing numbers of students, along with academicians and journalists, are probing the area's rich history as never before.

Since its first issue appeared in 1941, *Tequesta* has been the beneficiary of much of the research and writing devoted to the history of the region. With the city's centennial as a backdrop, this, the fifty-fifth volume of *Tequesta*, will examine, in a seminal article by Larry Wiggins, the events of 1895-1896 that led to the creation of modern Miami. Wiggins is an avocational historian *par excellence*, and one known for his relentless research and unselfish assistance to others involved in the craft. This number of *Tequesta* also includes a carefully-researched article on Miami's fearsome yellow fever epidemic of 1899 by William Straight, M.D. Dr. Straight has amassed an enviable record as a medical historian over the past four decades and he burnishes this reputation with this essay. Like Larry Wiggins, Leah LaPlant, author of a fascinating study on Charles Torrey Simpson, is a first-time contributor to *Tequesta*. A professor at Miami-Dade Community College's Wolfson Campus, Ms. LaPlant examines the renown naturalist's lengthy residence in the Miami area and his significant impact on his adopted home.

As Arva Parks McCabe, my immediate predecessor as editor, indicated in the 1993 number of *Tequesta*, the journal is interested in a wide array of topics covering the rich history of south Florida and the Caribbean, and it invites the novice as well as those with more experience in the historian's craft, to submit articles for consideration. I will be happy, as Arva was, to work with anyone who has an idea and the determination to pursue research in primary sources in quest of new information on the area's history. An accomplished, energetic advisory board will assist in this quest.

Paul S. George  
*Tequesta* Editor

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The early pioneers who helped establish Miami: William and Mary Brickell (HASF Stan Cooper Collection) and Julia Tuttle (HASF 1975-25-1). The above view of Avenue D looks northward, from the south side the the Miami River. Julia Tuttle owned the land to the right in the picture, which was leased out to the local businessmen. The tallest building on that side is the Lobby, the site of Miami's incorporation in 1896. (HASF x-145-x)