



**Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS)**  
**1980 to 2020 - OUR 40th YEAR**  
**November 2020 Newsletter**  
<http://swflarchaeology.org/>

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER** *By John F. Furey M.A., RPA*

I hope that everyone is well and surviving as best as one can during this time of pandemic. Many of our snowbirds are debating whether to travel or not and if it is safe. While the State of Florida continues to open up many places, It is unlikely that we will be offering our normal programs of archaeological and historical presentations until this pandemic is behind us; hopefully next Fall. Until then, stay healthy and safe. We will continue to keep you informed of online programs and noteworthy topics through our newsletter, website, and the SWFAS Facebook page.



November 26, 2020 is when we celebrate Thanksgiving Day this year and everyone at SWFAS wishes you and your family a happy Thanksgiving Day. This holiday used to be when the Christmas decorations were put out in the stores but today they are displayed prior to Halloween. This year is the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrims landing at Plymouth Rock in 1620 and article number two discusses a new way of viewing this holiday.

**SWFAS DONATION IN LIEU OF DUES**

In 2020 we eliminated the annual dues because we were unable to offer you the in-person programs that your dues help support. Again, we will not require dues for 2021 to maintain active membership for that same reason. However, please know that there are operating costs beyond the speaker series, such as maintaining the SWFLarchaeology.org website where our archive is located. SWFAS is a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt organization and your donations are tax exempt. Please consider a donation for the 2020 calendar year that you can deduct from your 2020 taxes. You can go to the SWFAS website at [www.swflarchaeology.org](http://www.swflarchaeology.org) and click on donate. Thank you for your support.

**FPAN INTERNATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY DAY VIDEO**

Please check out the great International Archaeology Day video on the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) Face Book page. Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=256742562447018>.

**SWFAS 2020 NEWSLETTERS AND PRESENTATIONS**

NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER ONLY

NOVEMBER 18, 2020 7pm Collier County Museum - PRESENTATION CANCELLED

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING: 2021 NEW OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES NOMINATIONS FOR 2021.  
On-line meeting date to be determined.

DECEMBER 12, 2020 Field Trip to Koreshan State Park CANCELLED (Again, we'll get there someday!)

DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER

MAY 2021 FAS 73<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL MEETING – CFAS Hosts in Sanford, FL, Date TBD

## ARTICLES

Our first article this month deals with the position of Florida State Archaeologist. Do you know who our current state archaeologist is? Do you know the history of the position? An article by staff reporter Amy Bennett Williams (News Press December 12, 2019) resurrected the history of the first State Archaeologist position and the scandals that twice surrounded him. I have also included a listing of our Florida State Archaeologists from 1935 to the present and our State Underwater Archaeologists since being established in 1964. In 1967 Florida appointed its first State Historic Preservation Officer and a State Folklorist in 1979. See who they are.

Our second article is just in time for our Thanksgiving Day celebrations to commemorate the 400th year anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims and the Mayflower at Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts in 1620. Written by David Goldman and Alanna Durkin Richer, this is a different viewpoint of the migration of the Pilgrims from England to the New World from the perspective of different descendants of the Pilgrims and Native Americans. Jerald Milanich called the Spanish entrada into Florida, Mesoamerica and South America an “invasion”. Was Christopher Columbus a hero? Was the arrival of the Pilgrims in Massachusetts any different than the Spanish entrada?

### THE FLORIDA STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST: ITS' EARLY HISTORY AND ITS' TIES TO FORT MYERS: VERNON LAMME, THE FIRST FLORIDA STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST



*This photo accompanied his obituary in the Palm Beach Post Special To The News-Press.*

On December 29, 2019, Fort Myers News Press Staff Reporter Amy Bennett Williams wrote an interesting article about the first Florida State Archaeologist; Vernon Lamme (1893-1979) in the Tropicalia Section of the News Press Sunday newspaper. I must confess that I had never heard of Vernon Lamme and had little knowledge of the history of the Florida State Archaeologist position; or, that Lamme had ties to Fort Myers. Lamme was a newspaper man and worked in Ft. Myers for The Tropical News, an ancestor of the Ft. Myers News Press. Lamme was also an avid amateur archaeologist and in the late 1920's and 1930's he volunteered on some Smithsonian sponsored WPA excavations on the Southwest Florida coast. Through the contacts that he made on these excavations, he was hired to be the supervisor on some federally funded Civil Works Administration projects near Miami. Once he realized that you could actually get paid to do archaeology, and Florida did not have a state archaeologist, he wrote the legislation and had a close friend introduce it in 1935 as Senate Bill No, 504 (Chapter 16782). It passed, and even without any formal training, Lamme was appointed to the position.

Six months into the position Lamme was suspended on December 11, 1935 by Governor Sholtz and while the exact cause was never revealed, he supposedly disguised the ownership of a federally owned truck and rented it to the government for \$8.00 per day. Additionally, Lamme traveled with his secretary who he hired as his assistant while he was married to another woman. Liberal use of moon-shine during prohibition and getting crews drunk doomed his appointment. In 1935 Lamme proposed that the Works Progress Administration (WPA) expand their work into the Miami-Dade Counties area of Everglades National Park but was opposed by Ernest F. Coe, chairman of the Everglades National Park Association. Coe sent a telegram to Governor Scholtz stating that the everglades should be omitted from the WPA project and was supported by Ales Hrdlicka of the Smithsonian. Scholtz then ordered that the WPA not include the everglades in their work (Carr 2012: 13). Gordon Willey mentions that Mr. Lamme was a field supervisor on the WPA excavations in his Preface to Excavations in Southeast Florida (Willey 1949:5). Lamme had powerful friends in government and, when a new governor was elected, he was reinstated. He produced no written reports of any of the early excavations he supervised despite being an excellent and experienced writer. On June 22, 1937 Lamme tendered his resignation as State Archaeologist as his scandals again caught up with him. He went on to work for private firms but continued to look for connections to the Maya in Florida. He died in Boynton Beach, FL in 1979 and was buried on Merritt Island, FL.

(Lamme, continued)

**References:**

**Laskow, Sarah.** 2016. *Drunk Teens and More True Tales of Florida's First State Archaeologist.*  
<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/stolen-artifacts-drunk-teens-and-more-true-theses-of-floridas-first-state-archaeologist>

**Mitchem, Jeffery M. and Miller, James.** 2003 *Vernon Lamme, The First State Archaeologist of Florida. Survey. Paper Presented at a Meeting of the SEAC, Charlotte, N.C. Arkansas Archaeological November 15, 2003*

**St. Lukes Episcopal Church of Merritt Island.** 1979. <https://www.stlukesmi.org/history/cemetery-biographies/vernon-lamme/>

**Tucker, Tim.** 1979. <https://www.newspapers.com/clip/26157595/vernon-lamme/>

**Williams, Amy Bennett.** 12/29/2019. *Moonshine, goldbricking and a ripped vegan gravedigger: Vernon Lamme's adventures in early Florida.* <https://www.news-press.com/story/life/2019/12/27/fort-myers-has-always-partied-hard-theses-prohibition/2715544001/>

(JFFurey Ed.)

**FLORIDA STATE ARCHAEOLOGISTS: THE HISTORY: 1935 TO PRESENT**

The Florida State Archaeologist is an employee of the Department of State, the Division of Historical Resources. Here is a listing of the qualified archaeologists that held the position.

6/10/1935 to 12/11/1935	Vernon Lamme (1893-1979)
Spring 1937 to 6/22/1937	Vernon Lamme
1937-1946	Florida Geologic Survey assumed responsibility.
1946-1958	John W Griffin (11/8/1919-9/3/1993)
1958-1965	Florida Geologic Survey assumed responsibility.
1963	Florida Recreates the Position of State Archaeologist
1965-1987	L. Ross Morrell
1987-2003	James Miller
2003-2005	David Dickel
2006-2011	Ryan Wheeler
2011-2019	Mary Glowacki
2019-present	Kathryn Miyar

**FLORIDA STATE UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGISTS**

1964-1972	Carl Clausen
1972-1983	W.A. "Sonny" Cockrell
1983-1987	vacant
1987-2016	Roger Smith
2016-Present	Ryan Duggins

Many are unaware that Florida also has State Historic Preservation Officers and Florida State Folklorists created in 1967 and 1979 respectively.

## FLORIDA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERS

1967-1980	Senator Robert “Bob” Williams
1980-1983	L. Ross Morrell
1983-1986	A. Randall Kelly
1986-1999	George Percy
1999-2003	Janet Snyder Mathews
2004-2009	Fredrick P. Gaske
2009-2011	Scott M. Stroh
2011-2015	Robert F. Bendus
2016-Present	Timothy Parsons

The State of Florida created the “Williams Award”, named for Senator Robert ‘Bob’ Williams the first individual appointed as Florida State Historic Preservation Officer who held the position for thirteen years. The award is to “Recognize those public employees whose service is so exceptional that it has changed the course of historic preservation in Florida”.

## FLORIDA STATE FOLKLORISTS

1979-1996	Ormond Loomis
1996-2000	George Percy
2000-2009	Tina Bucuvalas
2009-2010	Bob Stone
2010-2013	Blaine Wade
2013-2019	Amanda Hardeman

## 400 YEARS ON, MAYFLOWER’S LEGACY INCLUDES PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

*By David Goldman and Alanna Durkinn Richer, Associated Press*

*October 27, 2020*

[https://www.gloucestertimes.com/news/national\\_world\\_news/400-years-on-mayflowers-legacy-includes-pride-prejudice/article\\_a5b89808-191e-57cf-9fbf-7fa9abfaec09.html](https://www.gloucestertimes.com/news/national_world_news/400-years-on-mayflowers-legacy-includes-pride-prejudice/article_a5b89808-191e-57cf-9fbf-7fa9abfaec09.html)



Olivia Musoke  
(AP Photo/Brynn Anderson)

Plymouth, Mass. — Four centuries after white Europeans stepped off the Mayflower and onto America’s shores, some descendants of the colonists are wrestling with the complicated legacy of their ancestors amid a global racial reckoning. There is immense pride among those who can trace their families back to the passengers who boarded the ship in Plymouth, England, in 1620 to flee religious persecution and realize a better life. Yet for some, the devastating impact that the Pilgrims' landing in New England had on Native Americans weighs heavily in this moment of unrest over systemic racism. In interviews with The Associated Press, Americans and Britons who can trace their ancestry either to the Pilgrims or the Indigenous people who helped them survive talked openly about the need in 2020 to fairly tell the history.

“Considering my ancestors helped incite the racial hierarchies that caused the need for these movements now, I do feel ashamed that that had to be part of history,” said

Olivia Musoke, 19, whose ancestor on her mother's side arrived in America on the Mayflower. Musoke, whose father is Black, said the pride she feels in coming from people who helped settle this country “gets diminished by the role they played in kind of manipulating and terrorizing people of color, which trickled down to the structures we have today.”

For some, it's a difficult issue to reconcile. The pilgrims came out of religious persecution in England. And I'm very proud of the fact that they set off to create their own independent culture," said Seth Howland Handy, 53, another descendant of a Mayflower passenger. "But they came to a place where there was existing culture. And, you know, the history is not friendly and that is troublesome," he said. Handy said it's more important now than ever now to "recognize everyone's role in our history and the great diversity of this country." The U.S. was embroiled in civil unrest this summer, with protesters demanding justice for George Floyd and other Black Americans killed or injured by police.



Ginny Mucciaccio  
(AP Photo/David Goldman)

Ginny Mucciaccio, a descendant of Mayflower passenger Degory Priest, said the Pilgrims' work ethic was admirable. "To have this tie to our early history is really, I won't say it's a privilege, an honor. But it's just something to be proud of because so many of them worked so hard, for so many years to help establish this country. And it's just very important to me," said Mucciaccio, 90, of Dedham, Massachusetts.

The soul-searching extends across the Atlantic to England, where Mayflower descendants say they, too, are trying to reconcile pride and prejudice. Vicky Cosstick, a Briton whose ancestors John Alden and Priscilla Mullins were passengers, said she's troubled by the suffering the Indigenous people endured — but she doesn't feel guilt. "I'm of course horrified and appalled to know what happened as a result of British colonialism in America and what happened to their Native American tribes and the Wampanoags," Cosstick said. "It's not as if they went to America in order to steal

land from an Indigenous population," she said. "Much of it was clearly wrong, but there are many stories that need to be told. And I think the anniversary gives a chance for all of those stories to be told."

As the racial reckoning has brought new scrutiny to how African American history is taught in American schools, Native Americans have long pushed for the unvarnished stories of their ancestors to be heard. When the Pilgrims arrived at what we now know as Plymouth, Massachusetts, the Wampanoag tribe helped the exhausted settlers survive their first winter. But Native Americans also endured racism, oppression and new diseases brought by the European settlers. "We were exposed to disease. We were exposed to slavery. I mean, what happened here was people who came not just for religion — that might have been their purpose of leaving their homeland — but they came here and wanted to wipe out the existence of a whole culture," said Hazel Harding Currence, 78, of the Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe of Cape Cod.

Organizers of the events planned for this year to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower's arrival pledged to amplify the voices of the Wampanoag, which have been marginalized in past years. Fifty years ago, state officials disinvited a leader of the Wampanoag Nation to the commemoration after learning his speech would bemoan the tribe's suffering. This year, many anniversary events were canceled or postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"We should have never been treated the way that we were, our ancestors," Currence said. "I think that if they were here now, if they were looking down on us, I think they'd be very proud at the movement that's going forward now." Even though the virus has put a damper on the commemoration, some members of the Wampanoag tribe say they're hopeful that the attention on the problem of systemic racism this year will help their voices and stories be heard in a way they haven't been before. "It's opening up everyone else's eyes to how unbalanced the world is and unequal," said Troy Currence, Hazel Harding Currence's son and a medicine man from the Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe. "The world is spinning out of control. So I think more people are going to be aware and more sensitive and open to receiving a message like that," he said.

## **OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2020**

### **Officers**

President: John Furey  
First Vice-President: Jim Oswald  
Second Vice-President: Elizabeth Clement  
Secretary: Susan Harrington  
Treasurer: Charlie Strader

### **Trustees**

First of 3-year term:  
Jan Gooding  
Amanda Townsend  
Second of 3-year term:  
Theresa Schober (Chapter Rep.)  
Mary Southall  
William Locascio  
Third of 3-year term:  
Tiffany Bannworth

*Find us on Facebook at Southwest Florida Archaeological Society!*

*Check out our website at <http://swflarchaeology.org/>*

## **SWFAS AND FAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS**

We encourage those interested in Florida archaeology to become members of The Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) and The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS). Annual dues are due in January and membership applications to both organizations are attached. Membership in the FAS provides you with four annual volumes of *The Florida Anthropologist* and occasional newsletters on anthropological events in Florida in addition to the annual statewide meeting. More information on FAS can be found online at: [www.fasweb.org](http://www.fasweb.org). Membership in SWFAS offers you a local series of talks on archaeological and anthropological subjects that you can attend. The SWFAS monthly newsletter keeps you up to date on local events as well as other important archaeological topics. We urge you to support both with your membership. All of the SWFAS Lecture Series are open to the public at no charge.



# JOIN US!

## The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society

<http://swflarchaeology.org/>

The Southwest Florida Archaeological Society (SWFAS) was founded in 1980 as a not-for profit corporation to provide a meeting place for people interested in the area's past.

Our goals are to:

- Learn more of the area's history
- Create a place for sharing of this information
- Advocate for preservation of cultural resources

Its members include professional and amateur archaeologists and interested members of the general public. Members come from all walks of life and age groups. They share a lively curiosity, a respect for the people who preceded them here, and a feeling of responsibility for the conservation of the places and objects they left behind.

The Society holds monthly meetings between October and April, attracting speakers who are in the forefront of archaeological and historical research. Occasionally members join in trips to historical and archaeological sites.

A monthly newsletter, Facebook page, and website keep members abreast of our events and happenings.

The organization is a chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society, a statewide organization that publishes quarterly newsletters and a journal, *The Florida Anthropologist*, and holds an annual conference.

**I want to help The Southwest Florida Archaeology Society preserve and interpret Florida's heritage!**

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check One:

Individual (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining Individual (\$50) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$35) \_\_\_\_\_

Student (\$5) \_\_\_\_\_ Life (\$500) \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to Support SWFAS Speakers and Programs \_\_\_\_\_

Skills, training, interests: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby agree to abide by the rules and bylaws of the Southwest Archaeological Society. I further release from any and all liability due to accident and injury to myself, dependents and any property owners cooperating with the society.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check out to SWFAS and mail to:

Charlie Strader  
SWFAS Treasurer  
27655 Kent Road  
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

REV. 12052017

# FAS Membership Categories

Membership in the Society is open to all interested individuals who are willing to abide by the Florida Anthropological Society Statement of Ethical Responsibilities, which can be found on our website [fasweb.org](http://fasweb.org). *Membership is for one year.*

Student *	\$15	Sustaining	\$100
Regular	\$30	Patron	\$1,000
Family	\$35	Benefactor	\$2,500
Institutional	\$30		

\*Student membership is open to graduate, undergraduate and high school students. A photocopy of your student ID must accompany payment. \*\*Add \$25 for foreign addresses.

Send Membership Form and Dues Payment to:

Florida Anthropological Society, P O Box 1561 Boynton Beach, FL 33425

*You can join online or pay Membership dues renewals via PayPal on our website [fasweb.org](http://fasweb.org).*

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

FAS Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to make a donation to:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Dot Moore/FAS Student Grant Fund    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Florida Archaeology Month Account

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Florida Anthropologist Monograph Fund    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Florida Anthropologist Endowment Fund

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I agree to abide by the Code of Ethics of the Florida Anthropological Society.

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Signature

Date