Florida Memory has been a pioneering and innovative digital outreach program for nearly 30 years, providing free online access to select archival resources from the collections of the State Archives of Florida and the special collections of the State Library of Florida. Florida Memory selects for digitization historical textual records, audio, video, maps and other items that illuminate significant events and individuals in Florida and American history, helping to educate millions of people of all ages around the world. Standards-based, classroom-ready lesson plans and National History Day resources assist students and educators with accessing, analyzing and using primary sources in historical instruction and learning. Additional special features of Florida Memory, including exhibits and articles, promote learning and appreciation of history to a broad audience of historians, public officials and lifelong learners around the world. Recently, the impact of Florida Memory can be found beyond the virtual realm. Florida Memory has conducted professional development and educational resources for teachers in two county school systems. Additionally, Both the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center and the Smithsonian Institution’s National Portrait Gallery are displaying items from Florida political pioneer Ruth Bryan Owen and civil rights pioneer Mary McLeod Bethune that were located on Florida Memory. Because of the accessibility that Florida Memory offers, these items are now helping to tell the stories of these great Floridians in exhibits that reach audiences on a national scale.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

History

The State Archives of Florida is the central repository for the original historical records of Florida state government. The Archives is mandated by law to collect, preserve and make available for research historical state records as well as private historical records collections, local government records, photographs and other documentary sources that complement official state records.

The Archives is part of the Florida Department of State, Division of Library and Information Services (DLIS), which in addition to archival and records management services, provides a framework for statewide library initiatives and makes available the published and unpublished history of the state in the State Library and State Archives.

While historical records are invaluable resources for a vast array of research needs, from complex academic inquiries to genealogical searches, many people cannot travel to the State Archives to consult the collections in person. In addition, many people are not aware of the importance and broad scope of State Archives collections or of their availability to whoever wishes to use them. In an effort to make collections accessible and understandable to the largest possible audience, in 1994 the State Archives of Florida received grant funding under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) to digitize select collections. The Florida Memory website, FloridaMemory.com, was born of this initial LSTA grant funding and has expanded the nature and scope of its resources in the years since to meet increasing and evolving demand for online content and services.

The current program goals of discovery, learning and sharing align with the components of the program as reflected on the Florida Memory website:

- **Discovery**
  The “Discover” component of Florida Memory aims to enable powerful searching, discovery and use, in whatever manner the user desires, of a wide and growing variety of digitized historical records among them Reconstruction-era voter registration rolls, territorial and state governors’ correspondence, state constitutions, maps and photographs dating from the beginnings of photography to the current day.

- **Learning**
  The “Learn” component of Florida Memory is designed to provide researchers, students and teachers with resources to foster historical exploration and understanding both in and outside of the classroom.

- **Sharing**
  The “Share” component of Florida Memory is intended to promote sharing of resources and perspectives between the State Archives and our diverse audiences, allowing for connection on social media or direct contact with Archives staff for questions, comments and collection donations.

Significance

Florida Memory adheres to and models established standards for digitizing government records, preserving digitized records, and creating metadata to make those records discoverable. Program staff have the expertise to provide guidance regarding equipment and process to agencies and institutions seeking to digitize records for long-term preservation and access.

Florida Memory directly supports, and vastly increases our capacity to achieve, our mission to provide archival services as efficiently as possible to as broad an audience as possible, and to support education through online resources and direct assistance to schools and instructors in using historical records in the classroom.
Florida Memory is not just a digital program, however; it is also a personal program, offering in-person and remote presentations and instruction on the collections of the State Archives of Florida, the resources available on Florida Memory, and how they can all be used in the classroom or for historical, genealogical or other types of research.

**Impact/Results**

Among the resources the Florida Memory website makes searchable and available are:

- **Photographs**: More than 200,000 digitized photographs and illustrations, with more than 5,300 new photographs added over the last year.
- **Historical Records**: More than 300,000 textual records, with more than 3,500 new records added over the last year.
- **Maps**: Hundreds of maps of Florida dating from the 16th to the 20th century.
- **Audio**: Thousands of audio recordings, including streaming audio through Florida Memory Radio which reaches thousands of listeners in dozens of countries daily.
- **Video**: Hundreds of videos documenting historical events, politics, commerce, tourism, natural resources, work and recreational activities, and numerous other topics.
- **Floridiana Articles**: Hundreds of articles about a wide variety of interesting and significant historical topics supported by State Archives resources.
- **Guides to records in the State Archives supporting specific historical topics or themes.**
- **Educational Resources**
  - Classroom lesson plans grounded in current curriculum standards.
  - Primary Source Sets consisting of topical groupings of digitized records, with accompanying teacher’s guides, that teachers can use in the classroom as part of their lesson plans.
  - History Day resources that students can use to support or draw inspiration for their National History Day projects.
  - “Heritage and History Month” resources to support learning and instruction for Black History Month, Women’s History month and others.
- **Online exhibits** providing a closer look at key topics in Florida’s history illustrated with photographs, selected records, audio recordings and videos.

Florida Memory has further impacted citizens by providing opportunities for digital volunteers, citizens across the state and beyond who have become interested and invested in the importance of archival records and the success of our program and mission by transcribing and indexing digital collections such as State and County Officer Directories, 1868-1969 (Series S1284). Digital volunteers indexed and enabled searching of more than 100,000 names from those directories.

Florida Memory’s impact goes far beyond its online presence, making an impact statewide, nationwide and beyond. The program has a strong educational component and has provided opportunities such as a full-day professional development workshop for 60 Leon County School District social studies teachers, *Examining African American History in Florida*, using archival records relating to African Americans in Florida during the antebellum era, the political and social aspects of Reconstruction, and the effort to integrate Leon County’s school system following the *Brown v Board* decision.

Florida Memory staff also worked extensively with Orange County Public Schools to provide resources from the State Archives and State Library for K-5th grade teachers to meet Florida’s educational standards and to plan for and conduct a two-session series of virtual presentations for K-3 teachers. These opportunities education teachers in using archival records for classroom instruction and equip them both to locate such records and incorporate them into their lesson plans and to train other teachers to do the same.

On a national level, the National Portrait Gallery borrowed and displayed an original portrait of Mary McLeod Bethune for their “Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence” exhibit after finding the image on Florida Memory. They also featured the portrait on the back cover of their Exhibition Catalog both in hard
copy and online, and on one of their exhibition posters. The image remains featured in the exhibition’s current online incarnation on Google Arts & Culture. This national exposure helped increase interest in Bethune’s achievements and move the conversation forward toward the 2022 installation in the National Statuary Hall, U.S. Capitol, of the Mary McLeod Bethune statue.

Additionally, U.S. Capitol Visitor Center found a Ruth Bryan Owen Brigade name badge on Florida Memory and borrowed it for their current Exhibition Hall exhibit detailing the history of Congress and the Capitol.

The ultimate impact of Florida Memory is immeasurable, but the tens of millions of page views each year are a clear indication of the program’s reach and the level of involvement with the site by people worldwide seeking to learn about our history and culture and the effectiveness of the program in allowing them to do so.

**SUPPORTING MATERIALS**

Separate document in PDF and Word format
Screenshot of the Florida Memory homepage (bottom):
**Florida Memory - Discover** page:

- **Photographs**
  - Historical photographs and illustrations
  - More than 200,000 digitized photographs and illustrations from the Florida Photographic Collection.

- **Historical Records**
  - Government, military and personal records
  - More than 200,000 records from select collections housed at the State Library and Archives of Florida.

- **Maps**
  - Historical maps of Florida
  - Hundreds of maps of Florida dating from the 18th century into the 20th century.

- **Audio**
  - Music, oral histories and interviews
  - Thousands of audio recordings from the State Archives of Florida.

- **Video**
  - Videos and film footage
  - Hundreds of videos of Florida from the State Archives.
Screenshot of the Florida Memory - Share page:
Florida Memory - Exhibits

EXHIBITS

Learn about key topics in Florida’s history illustrated with photographs, selected documents, audio recordings and videos from the collections at the State Library and Archives of Florida.

Significant Documents

This exhibit provides images of historically significant documents from the collections of the State Archives of Florida. These documents represent some of the formative events in Florida’s history and offer an important resource to researchers and students.

Florida in World War I

This exhibit provides a brief history of Florida’s role in World War I. It features photographs, documents and audio from the holdings of the State Library and Archives of Florida. The documents and media displayed here represent only a fraction of the many World War I-related resources available on Florida Memory and in the collections of the State Library and Archives.

Florida in World War II

This exhibit highlights the experience of Florida and Floridians during World War II using photographs, documents and film from the holdings of the State Library and Archives of Florida for Education. The documents and media displayed here represent only a fraction of the many World War II-related resources available on Florida Memory and in the collections of the State Library and Archives.

Florida and the Apollo Program

This exhibit features a short history of the Apollo program and its impact on Florida, illustrated with photographs, podcast literature and other documents that capture the excitement of the Space Age.

Florida Maps: Then & Now

This exhibit is an animated map series from the State Library and Archives of Florida. The project uses Google Earth to create animated videos using historic and modern maps, photographs, and primary source documents from our collections.

Florida Folklife Collection

This exhibit consists of 86 individual series that document the performances by, interviews with, and folklore surveys of folk musicians, artisans, storytellers, and folklorists. The exhibits feature a diverse collection of oral traditions and customs from throughout Florida.

Distant Storm: Florida’s Role in the Civil War

This exhibit commemorates the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War.

"Lincoln Letters" at the State Archives of Florida

In celebration of the bicentennial of Lincoln’s birth on February 12, 1809, the State Archives of Florida presents an exhibit of documents that refer to Lincoln.
RESEARCH TOOLS

A Guide to Civil War Records at the State Archives of Florida
A guide to records at the State Archives of Florida pertaining to Florida's role in the American Civil War.

Florida Governors and the Florida Cabinet
A guide to Florida's territorial and state governors, as well as the members of their cabinets. The guide includes lists of relevant archival collections at the State Archives of Florida.

The Black Experience: A Guide to African American Resources
A guide to government records and manuscript collections at the State Archives of Florida relating to the experiences of African Americans in Florida.

Collections Pertaining to Women's History and Women's Issues
A guide to government records and manuscript collections at the State Archives of Florida relating to the experiences and contributions of women in Florida.

A Guide to New Deal Records
A guide to government records and manuscript records at the State Archives of Florida relating to the operations of New Deal agencies in Florida during the Great Depression, such as the Works Progress Administration, the Civilian Conservation Corps, and the Civil Works Administration.

Filming Florida: Images of the Sunshine State
A guide to films in the collections of the State Archives of Florida.

Guide to the Koreshan Unity Papers
A guide to the papers of the Koreshan Unity, a religious organization based for many years in Estero, Florida.

A Guide to Researching the Territorial Era
A guide to government records and manuscript collections at the State Archives of Florida pertaining to Florida's territorial period (1821-1845).
GATEWAY to the AMERICAS

Pan-American Airways started out in 1927 transporting mail and passengers between Key West and Havana, Cuba. It quickly became the United States’ largest international air carrier, operating nearly all commercial flights between the U.S. and Latin America. Many of these flights funneled passengers through Pan American’s main base of operations in Miami, earning the city a reputation as a “gateway to the Americas.” By 1943, a total of 16 Latin American nations had consulates in Miami, and the State Department had established a reception center there to greet and assist foreign business leaders and dignitaries.

AT THE ARCHIVES

After World War II, Miami sought state and federal assistance to establish a massive center for facilitating trade and tourism between the United States and the countries of Central and South America. The Inter-American Trade and Cultural Center—called Interama for short—was never built, but the extensive records of the project’s governing agency (Record Group 591) are held by the State Archives.

Sample inside lower page from *Along the Way: Transportation in Florida 2022 Calendar*.
ABOUT FLORIDA MEMORY

Florida Memory is a digital outreach program providing free online access to select resources from the collections of the State Library and Archives of Florida. The website includes photographs, films, audio recordings, documents and other records that illuminate the history and culture of Florida, its communities and its people.

Florida Memory has been active since 1994, when the State Archives received federal funding under the Library Services and Technology Act to digitize portions of the Florida Photographic Collection. The program has expanded considerably in the years since, and a team of dedicated State Archives staff continues to add new items to the website every week.

There's plenty of work left to do. Although Florida Memory already provides online access to hundreds of thousands of items, that's only a tiny fraction of the historical resources available from the State Library and Archives in Tallahassee.
What is on Florida Memory

- More than 200,000 photographs, drawings and illustrations of people, events and places from the State Archives' Florida Photographic Collection, all in the public domain and ready to use.
- Hundreds of maps of Florida dating back to the 16th century.
- Diaries, journals, correspondence, military records, ephemera and other documents that tell the story of Florida, its communities and its families.
- Recordings of music, oral histories and more than 60 years of performances at the Florida Folk Festival.
- Video footage featuring all things Florida, from early silent films to the Everglades, NASA and the mermaids of Weeki Wachee.
- Online exhibits, research guides and articles to explore Florida's vibrant history and culture.
- Florida Department of Education-approved lesson plans, National History Day resources and other materials designed for both teachers and students.

How to use Florida Memory

Family History
Reconstruct the lives of your Florida ancestors using a wide range of historical records.

Community History
Create your own historical exhibits, publications or programs for your Florida town or county using photos, documents and other information from the site.

School Projects
Go the extra mile and find primary source documents and images that will make your next history paper or project shine.

Order Images
See something you like? Use the online version of our public domain images for free, or order prints on high-resolution digital scans for publication or framing.

Give Florida Memory a Try!

Not sure where to start? Here are some ideas for your visit to FloridaMemory.com:

- Search for images from your favorite Florida community or county.
- Try searching for your family name to see if your Florida ancestors are listed in any of our historical records.
- Look up photos, ephemera or videos from a Florida vacation spot or activity you remember from your childhood.
- Visit Radio.FloridaMemory.com and listen to Florida Memory Radio, our streaming Internet radio station featuring Florida blues, bluegrass, old-time, folk and other music found in recordings at the State Archives.
- Share your new favorite photos and documents from Florida Memory on social media.
The New Woman

In the 1900s, the image of the “New Woman”—young, athletic, educated, and devoted to progressive ideas, especially suffrage—emerged as a radical social force in American society. Awakening the public to an awareness of gender inequality, she ushered in a new century. Black and white women alike embraced the idea of the New Woman, and the image of an educated woman freely moving outside the home—inspired many. Women saw education as the first step to progress.
A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

EXAMINING AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY IN FLORIDA

A Day at the State Archives

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2020
9:00 - 2:30
R. A. GRAY BUILDING
500 S. BRONOUGH STREET

The State Archives is home to a wealth of historical records relating to Florida, including primary sources illustrating our state’s complex history regarding slavery, race relations, and civil rights. Join State Archives Education Officer Katrina Harkness and Archives Historian Dr. Josh Goodman for a deep dive into these valuable documents. See back for more details.

Limited free parking on upper level

WHAT TO EXPECT

Opening Session
• Althemese Barnes, Founder and Executive Director of John G. Riley Museum

Elementary Session Titles
• Zora Neale Hurston Documents the Work of Building Florida’s Railroads
• Mary McLeod Bethune: Educator, Civic Leader, and Civil Rights Activist
• Thinking Chronologically: Building a Timeline with Primary Sources

Secondary Session Titles
• African-Americans in Antebellum Florida
• Deconstructing Reconstruction: Florida After the Civil War
• With All Deliberate Speed: Integrating Florida’s Schools

Optional tour of the stacks and Guided Research from 2:30 to 4:30

Because space is limited, schools should select one representative to attend and share the information learned with the appropriate teachers upon returning to school. To register a teacher for the workshop, email Kathy Corder who will enroll the individual for the course through Leon Leads. Contact Kathy at corderk@leonschools.net.
Ruth Bryan Owen name tag on display at U.S. Capitol Visitor Center. On loan from Florida Archives.
Sample letter of appreciation:

Pastfinders of South Lake County
2525 Oakley Seaver Dr.
Clermont, FL 34711-6004

Friends of the State Archives
500 S. Bronough ST.
Tallahassee, FL 32399

To whom it May Concern:
We would like to thank Mathew Storey for his
excellent presentation to our Pastfinders
Genealogical Society. His meaningful
explanation of the Florida State Archives
holdings will help our genealogists in their
research.
Please accept this $100.00 donation to further
your excellent work.

Sincerely,

Peter G. Stauder
Treasurer

“*A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin
and culture is like a tree without roots.”
~Marcus Garvey