ProQuest Historical Newspapers: U.S. State Collections

Florida Collection

Explore small-town reactions to global events. Access centuries of birth, death and marriage records.

Discover unique local perspectives and reactions to global events, along with centuries of vital birth, death, and marriage records. Dive into the heart of local and state news, essential for research, history, and genealogy—much unreported in national and international dailies.

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: U.S. State Collections feature key titles covering a specific state in the United States. Access these collections to provide your users with insights into everything from local government decisions to historic moments that may not have been reported anywhere else.

The U.S. State Collections seamlessly integrate with other ProQuest resources, enhancing academic research by supplementing it with valuable primary sources.

Discover Florida’s rich newspaper history with the Historical Newspapers: Florida Collection, featuring 12 newspaper titles that provide coverage from 1895 to the present.
Historical Newspapers: Florida Collection

The U.S. State Collection newspapers reveal a range of perspectives demonstrating the specific ways communities are impacted by national and global events, and cover local issues, people, events, and industries not found elsewhere. Unearth Florida’s past through local and national news with Florida’s state newspapers, including The Daily News, The Orlando Sentinel, the Tallahassee Democrat, and many others. Readers will find coverage of state politics and legislation, school and zoning board meetings, as well as historic people, events and topics such as the 1920s land boom, the 1968 Miami protest, and more.

Note: Newspaper titles, including the ones listed here, undergo name changes throughout the years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>TOTAL YEARS OF COVERAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Florida Today (Brevard County)</td>
<td>1968–Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian River Press Journal (Vero Beach)</td>
<td>1927–Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Miami News</td>
<td>1904–1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naples Daily News</td>
<td>1923–Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The News-Press (Ft. Myers)</td>
<td>1913–Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orlando Sentinel†</td>
<td>1911–Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensacola News Journal</td>
<td>1889–Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Florida Sun-Sentinel</td>
<td>1925–Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stuart News</td>
<td>1938–Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Petersburg Times/Tampa Bay Times†</td>
<td>1901–Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tallahassee Democrat</td>
<td>1913–Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Tampa Tribune</td>
<td>1895–2016</td>
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†This title is also available for Perpetual Archive License purchase.

Note: There are known gaps in some titles which ProQuest will make an effort to fill.

Yellow Fever (May 1888): There were severe outbreaks of Yellow Fever in Tampa in 1873, and from 1887-1888. The disease was poorly understood at the time and the articles reflect different attempts to fight it.

The Great Freeze (Apr 1894): The Great Freeze refers to record low temperatures that occurred from 1894-1895. The freezes destroyed much of the citrus crop, affecting large communities of citrus farmers.

Spanish-American War (Aug 1898): Tampa was used as an embarkation center for American forces heading to Cuba during the Spanish-American War. 30,000 troops, including lieutenant Colonel Teddy Roosevelt and his Rough Riders, waited in Tampa to ship out in 1898.
Everglades, Canals, and Land Development (Jul 1917): In the early 1900s, there was a large influx of people moving to Florida. To create more land to build on, the Florida government approved a bill to create canals to remove some of the water from land in the Everglades for development purposes.

Florida Land Boom of the 1920s/Coral Gables (May 1923): The Florida land boom of the 1920s was Florida’s first real estate bubble, which burst in 1925. Part of the land boom involved the creation of a series of planned communities—several of which failed. Coral Gables was one of the first planned communities, and was more successful. The city was developed by George Merrick.

Miami Hurricane (Sep 1926): The 1926 Miami hurricane was a large and intense tropical cyclone equivalent in strength to a Category 4 hurricane. The storm resulted in $100 million in damage and was the beginning of the decline of the 1920s Florida land boom as it drove many developers into bankruptcy.

Binder Boys (Mar 1926): “Binder Boys” were a name given to opportunists who came to Miami during the Land Boom. They rapidly bought property with a 10 percent deposit (the “binder”), and would just as rapidly sell the property with an inflated price. Usually, these sellers never visited the properties they were trading. Sometimes these properties would be underwater or otherwise inaccessible.


Gambling and Prohibition (Jan 1923): In the early 1920s, police authorities in the Miami area were very lax on gambling and prohibition laws, which brought in visitors that helped spur the Florida land boom.

Rum runners (May 1925): Part of what made the Florida land boom successful was its ability to draw in people during prohibition. Miami, in particular, was a bit more lax regarding prohibition laws. Illegal bootlegging of alcohol, also called rum running, started up between the Florida coast and the Caribbean islands.

The Buckman Act (Sep 1936): In 1905, Florida passed the Buckman Act, which reorganized the state’s universities and created a Florida Board of Control to govern the system. The act consolidated the state’s six institutions of higher education into three: one for white men, one for white women, and one for African Americans. The act was discontinued after WWII.

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Gulf Sea Frontier (Jun 1945): During World War II, Miami played an important role in fighting German U-Boats. U-Boats had started attacking ships near Miami, and in 1942 the Gulf Sea Frontier was established to guard the waters. Several military bases sprung up in the Miami area to confront the German U-Boats.

Florida State University (Oct 1947): In 1947, the legislature returned Florida State College for Women to coeducational status, founding the Florida State University.

The Tallahassee Bus Boycott (Jun 1956): The Tallahassee bus boycott was a citywide boycott that began on May 26th, 1956 that sought to end racial segregation on public transport. The boycott ended on December 22nd, 1956.

Demonstrations during the civil rights movement (Feb 1960): In the 1950s and 1960s, Black Americans participated in a number of civil rights protests and demonstrations around the country. In February of 1960, 11 Black demonstrators were arrested during a sit-in demonstration to protest segregation in eating facilities in Tallahassee, Florida.

John F. Kennedy assassination attempt (Dec 1960): In 1960, the Palm Beach police prevented an assassination attempt on the president. Richard Paul Pavlick pleaded guilty to planning to kill the president.

X-Ray Of A Riot...How The City Reacted

1968 Miami Protest (Aug 1968): On August 7, black organizations (Vote Power League, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Congress of Racial Equity, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and other smaller orgs) organized a protest against the nation’s unfair political, social, and economic systems. Police became involved and escalated the conflict with tear gas. The National Guard was eventually called out and a curfew was imposed.

Cuban Refugees in the US (Nov 1975): Many Cubans came to the US in the years following the Cuban Revolution, which ended in 1959.

Racial violence and protests at Escambia High School (Feb 1976): Escambia High School was forcibly desegregated in 1969. From 1972-1977, there were several protests and fights that broke out as a result of racial tensions. In 1976, a protest regarding the election of renewing the use of a racially insensitive mascot was held and turned violent. Four students were shot and 26 students were injured by rocks, debris, and fighting.

The Walt Disney World Resort (1972): In 1965, it was announced that Walt Disney World would be built in Orlando, Florida. It officially opened in 1971.


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