

History Krewe Presentations

Florida's First People

For thousands of years, Florida's First people thrived off the peninsula's natural resources. Learn what life was like for these early native groups and how the arrival of European explorers in the 16th century changed the course of human history.

Florida's Seminoles

The Seminoles migrated into Florida in the early 1700's, where they flourished for more than a century. By the mid 1800s, the U.S. had waged three costly wars against them, forcing the Seminoles into exile. A small number refused to leave, hiding in the Everglades. Learn how they prosper today.

Cigar City:

The Story of Ybor City and West Tampa

By 1885, the cigar industry had transformed Tampa from a sleepy fishing village of 700 people into a booming, multicultural city. How did this industry take root, grow and eventually decline? What effects has it had on modern Tampa?

The Spanish-American War

Called the "Splendid Little War," this conflict lasted only a few months but had long-lasting effects on Tampa and the world. Learn about Cuban revolutionaries, the sinking of the battleship Maine, and Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders and their role in Tampa's history.

MacDill Air Force Base

How did 6,000 acres of rattlesnake-infested forest become a hub of global war-fighting activity? From an aircrew training site established before WWII to headquarters for U.S. Central Command, learn how MacDill's mission has evolved over the decades and the important role the base plays in Tampa's history and economy.

The History of Gasparilla

The story of Jose Gaspar, and the legend of Gasparilla (celebrated in Tampa for more than 100 years), intertwine with facts, fallacies, and fantasy. Tales of buried treasure and pirate ships continue to capture our imagination. Arrrgghh...

A History of Tampa's Jewish Community

The first documented Jewish settler arrived in Tampa in 1844. Those who followed became part of a vibrant and dynamic Jewish community. Trace Tampa's Jewish population beginning with 19th and 20th century immigration, the economic impact of Jewish-owned businesses, and the role of Jewish residents with local politics.

The History of Tampa

Join us as we share snapshots and stories of the history of Tampa from the 1800s to modern times. Take a peek at the impact of Fort Brooke, Henry B. Plant, the immigrants of Cigar City, World War II and the Civil Rights Movement. Trace Tampa's history from its beginnings as a frontier outpost to the vibrant city it is today.

History of South Hillsborough County

The region covering south Hillsborough County is uniquely identified as "South County" or "South Shore." It no longer has the pre-1980s image of "more cattle and farms than people." South County is now the fastest growing region in Hillsborough County, boasting new industry and burgeoning residential and commercial development. Hear its surprising story, shedding light on each of its communities.

Secrets of the Hillsborough River

There is an old adage that says you can never step into the same river twice. The Hillsborough River proves that point every day. This presentation introduces you to some little-known events, often quirky events that occurred along the river. Some have gone unnoticed; some forgotten. Be prepared to be surprised!

History of Hyde Park, Tampa, FL _____

Tampa's first suburb on the west side of the Hillsborough River, Hyde Park, has played a major role in the history of the city. It became "the" place to live for Tampa's elite and had some of Tampa's grandest homes. Good times gave way to hard years as the rest of the city grew; however, a new resurgence has again brought Hyde Park to its former grandeur. Follow the rise, fall, and rise of Historic Hyde Park.

Lt. Baldomero Lopez - Hero of Korean War

An Ybor City native, Baldomero Lopez was selected to attend the United States Naval Academy and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. during WWII. Mortally wounded leading his platoon at Inchon, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. Learn about his life in Tampa and why he is still revered as one of the most iconic figures of the Korean War.

History of African-Americans in Tampa _____

This story begins with the first Moor (Someone of Arab descent from northwest Africa) in Florida, through the Civil War, as well as 100 years of Jim Crow laws that enforced racial segregation in the southern U.S. Bear witness to the resilience and entrepreneurship of the city's dynamic black community and the significant Central Avenue business district they established.

The 1890s...Tampa Takes Off! _____

If asked in 1880, most people outside Florida would not know where Tampa was located. But, then came the railroad, rapid growth of the cigar industry, the discovery of phosphate, and the 1898 Spanish-American War. Thanks to Teddy Roosevelt and the national press, by the end of the decade everyone knew about Tampa – good and bad!

Tampa's Got the Blues _____

From the 1920s to the 1960s Central Avenue was an exciting place for musical entertainment. Many well-known blues and jazz artists played on the "Chitlin Circuit," which included Tampa, where many famous entertainers such as Tampa Red, Ray Charles and others got their start. Come hear their sounds and stories.