

## **A ST. AUGUSTINE TIME LINE**

### **Important Historical Events in the Nation's Oldest City**

- 10,000 BC      At the end of the last Ice Age, humans, the Paleoindians, first inhabit Florida
- AD 700-  
1600s          Timucua tribes inhabit northeast Florida.
- 1513            Juan Ponce de León explores Florida.
- 1528            Pánfilo de Narváez explores Florida.
- 1539            Hernando de Soto lands in Florida and explores southeastern North America.
- 1564            French under Jean Ribault establish Fort Caroline on the River of May (St. Johns River)
- 1565            Sept. 8: Pedro Menéndez de Avilés founds St. Augustine at the Timucuan town of Seloy.  
                  Sept. 20: Menéndez captures Fort Caroline.  
                  Sept. 29 and Oct. 12: Menéndez eliminates threat to Spanish rule in Florida by destroying the remaining French at Matanzas Inlet.
- 1567            Mission of Nombre de Dios is established.
- 1573            Spain adopts a model town plan for its American colonies.
- 1583            Spanish discover coquina stone on Anastasia Island.
- 1586            St. Augustine is sacked and burned by the English admiral Sir Francis Drake.
- 1598            Governor Gonzalo Méndez de Canzo establishes present city plan in accord with the royal plan of 1573.
- 1606            Bishop Juan de las Cabezas Altamirano reports 3,000 Indians converted to Christianity.
- 1668            English pirates under Robert Searles sack and burn St. Augustine.
- 1672            Spanish begin constructing Castillo de San Marcos in response to the pirate threat and the English establishment of Charles Town (Charleston) in Carolina.
- 1689            Construction of coquina houses in St. Augustine begins.

- 1693 Spanish government grants sanctuary and freedom to fugitive slaves reaching Florida.
- 1695 Castillo de San Marcos is judged complete.
- 1702 English under Governor James Moore of Carolina besiege Castillo unsuccessfully but destroy the town when they withdraw.
- 1704-05 Cubo Line earthwork is built from Castillo westward to the San Sebastian River to strengthen the city's defenses. The palisaded Hornabeque Line is built from Nombre de Dios west to the San Sebastian River to secure farming area for Indian refugees.
- 1718-19 Rosario Line earthwork is constructed at city's west and south limits.
- 1726 Francisco Menéndez, a black man, is appointed captain of St. Augustine's slave militia.
- 1738 Governor Manuel de Montiano establishes the town of Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose for free black people. Francisco Menéndez is appointed captain of the town's free black militia.
- 1739 Fort Mose is built at Gracia Real, the free blacks' town.
- 1740 British under General James Oglethorpe arrive from Georgia to destroy Fort Mose and besiege St. Augustine.
- 1740-42 Fort Matanzas is constructed.
- 1746 A second Hornabeque Line replaces the earlier one.
- 1752 Fort Mose is rebuilt.
- 1752-56 Additions and improvements to Castillo de San Marcos continue to be made.
- 1763 Florida is ceded to England by the Treaty of Paris at the conclusion of the Seven Years War. Spanish residents leave for Havana, Cuba, and elsewhere. Florida is divided into two British provinces: East and West Florida.
- 1768 Indentured Minorcans, Greeks and Italians arrive to work Andrew Turnbull's plantation at New Smyrna.
- 1775-83 American Revolution. East Florida remains loyal to British crown. St. Augustine fills with refugees from the rebellious colonies to the north.

- 1777 Six hundred Minorcans, Greeks and Italians seek asylum in St. Augustine from Turnbull's plantation.
- 1780 Three signers of the Declaration of Independence (South Carolinians Arthur Middleton, Edward Rutledge and Thomas Heyward, Jr.) are among American rebels held prisoner in St. Augustine.
- 1783-84 The Second Treaty of Paris, ending the American Revolution, returns Florida to Spain.
- 1786 Spanish royal edict permits British and other groups to remain in East Florida if they swear loyalty to Spain and adopt the Catholic faith.
- 1792 Construction begins on new Catholic church (now the Cathedral Basilica).
- 1808 City Gate coquina pillars are constructed. Cubo Line is rebuilt.
- 1812-13 In the Patriot Rebellion, aggressive Americans, aided by U.S. troops, threaten St. Augustine and Spanish rule in East Florida.
- 1813 A monument is erected in the plaza to commemorate the new Spanish constitution of 1812.
- 1817 In West Florida General Andrew Jackson leads invading U.S. troops against Indians in the first Seminole War.
- 1819 In the Adams-Onís Treaty, Spain cedes East and West Florida to the United States.
- 1821 United States assumes control over East and West Florida. They are joined to form the Territory of Florida.
- 1823 Under the Treaty of Moultrie Creek, Seminoles move to central Florida.
- 1825 Castillo de San Marcos is renamed Fort Marion after Revolutionary War hero Francis Marion.
- 1835 The Second Seminole War begins.
- 1837 Osceola and other Seminoles are captured and imprisoned in Fort Marion.
- 1842 The Second Seminole War comes to an end. Seminoles remain in south Florida.
- 1845 Florida is admitted to the Union as the 27<sup>th</sup> state.
- 1847-53 Very Rev. Father Félix Varela y Morales, called "the founder of Cuban nationalism," returns to live in St. Augustine, his boyhood home, until his death.

- 1858 As bishop of the Vicarate of Florida, Augustin Verot inaugurates a program to establish schools and churches throughout the state.
- 1861 The Civil War begins. Florida joins the Confederate States of America on January 10. Three days before, Fort Marion had been taken over by St. Augustine's local militia.
- 1862 St. Augustine surrenders peacefully to U.S. forces and remains a Union enclave throughout the war.
- 1865 The Civil War ends.
- 1865-72 St. Augustine is headquarters for the military occupation of Florida during Reconstruction years. Blacks enter politics for the first time.
- 1866 Sisters of St. Joseph arrive from France and open schools for freed men and both white and black children.
- 1870 Catholic Diocese of St. Augustine is established, with Augustin Verot its first bishop.
- 1872 Free Public Library is established.
- 1874 New lighthouse completed
- 1875-78 Indians from the Kiowa, Comanche, Cheyenne, Caddo and Arapaho tribes are imprisoned in Fort Marion.
- 1883 St. Augustine Historical Society is founded.
- 1885 Florida School for the Deaf and Blind is opened.
- 1886-87 Apache Indians are imprisoned in Fort Marion.
- 1887 Casa Monica Hotel opens and is soon renamed the Cordova Hotel.
- 1888 Ponce de Leon Hotel opens.
- 1889 Alcazar Hotel opens.
- 1892 Florida Memorial College opens. José Martí, rallying for Cuban independence, visits St. Augustine.
- 1898 The Spanish-American War. Cuba liberated from Spanish rule.

- 1914 Fire destroys five blocks of downtown St. Augustine, including the Historical Society's first museum.
- 1914-1918 World War I.
- 1918 St. Augustine Historical Society purchases and opens the González-Alvarez House as the "Oldest House."
- 1920s Florida's real estate boom sweeps the state.
- 1924 Fort Marion, including the City Gate, and Fort Matanzas are declared National Monuments.
- 1927 Florida real estate boom crashes. The Bridge of Lions is built.
- 1936 The movement to preserve and restore historic structures in St. Augustine begins.
- 1941-45 World War II.
- 1942 Fort Marion is returned to its original name, Castillo de San Marcos.
- 1947 Lightner Museum established in the former Alcazar Hotel.
- 1959 The historic preservation movement revived with the establishment of the St. Augustine Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission.
- 1962 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) files a school integration suit against the St. Johns County School Board.
- 1964 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Andrew Young, and other civil rights activists assist local leaders in St. Augustine for months of marches and sit-ins.
- 1965 St. Augustine celebrates its 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- 1968 Flagler College opens in the former Ponce de Leon Hotel.
- 1970-71 St. Johns County public schools are integrated.
- 1973 St. Augustine's City Hall moves to the north portion of the former Alcazar Hotel.
- 1986 City of St. Augustine adopts first archaeological ordinance.
- 1990s St. Johns County offices move to Lewis Speedway complex.
- 1995 The St. Augustine Historical Society opens expanded research library in the Seguí-Kirby Smith House, 6 Artillery Lane.