

Miami Pioneers / Natives of Dade

celebrating and preserving the local history of Miami-Dade County, Florida

monthly meetings with historical programs • www.MPNOD.org • June, 2017

Next Meeting Sunday, June 4 at 2:30pm

Central Christian Church
222 Menores Ave, Coral Gables 33134

Enter the door at the south side of the building on Mendoza Ave. Parking in west lot is also available if you enter from Menores Ave. Street parking is also free on Sunday.

Please bring \$1 donation to cover the cost of the room. We very much appreciate those who can provide refreshments such as cookies, crackers, brownies, etc.

Correspondence

Send to MP/NOD at:
14900 SW 71 Ave
Miami, FL 33158

MP/NOD Facebook Page
<https://www.facebook.com/MPNOD/>

Dues

Please bring your annual \$20 dues to the meeting, or mail your check made to MP/NOD to our Treasurer: Marlene B. Carlin, 14900 SW 71 Ave, Miami, FL 33158. If your envelope is marked, your dues are past. Please help by sending in your payment as soon as possible.

2016-18 Officers

our president is Jim Hartnett
305-667-5733
hartnettj@bellsouth.net

past president, Caesar Philips
treasurer, Marlene B. Carlin
corresponding secretary, Mary Pyle
recording secretary, Cele Diaz
sergeant at arms, Gerda Marchese
parliamentarian, Linda Hertz

June 4th Sunday Meeting

The next meeting of the Miami Pioneers and Natives of Dade will take place at the usual location at 2:30pm.

Coral Gables Historic and Cultural Resources

by Dona Spain, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director in Coral Gables

Our Guest Speaker is Dona Spain, Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director in Coral Gables.

Dona will give us a presentation on the work of the Historical Resources and Cultural Art Departments in Coral Gables.

The City has approximately 1,500 properties that are either located in the twenty-two historic districts or are individually designated as Local Historic Landmarks.

The department is responsible for the designation of historic properties and once a property is designated, any alterations to the exterior of the properties are reviewed by either the department staff or the Historic Preservation Board.

The department is responsible for the cultural and community grants that are given by the City of Coral Gables to organizations and is also responsible for the Coral Gables Art in Public Places program. The City's archives is housed in the department as well.

The department staffs five boards: Historic Preservation Board, Coral Gables Merrick House Governing Board, Cultural Development Board, Arts Advisory Panel, and Pinewood Cemetery Board.



Snail Mail or Email?

The cost of printing, stuffing and mailing our monthly newsletter—our largest annual expense—continues to rise unabated.

We're now mailing the printed newsletter only to those members that have not given us their email address.

If you'd prefer to receive your monthly MPNOD newsletter via email, and save your club the increasing cost of printing and postage, please let us know your email address.

June Birthdays

Muriel	Keen	05-Jun
Richard	Daniels	10-Jun
Shirley	Landwirth	11-Jun
Martha	Funderburk	12-Jun
Joy	Thixton	14-Jun
Evelyn	Stark	19-Jun
Charles	Garavaglia	25-Jun
Sharon	Shackelford	30-Jun

Reminder

There are no MP/NOD monthly meetings in July and August.



Save The Date: Sept 10

Enjoy your summer. On the second Sunday in September we'll meet again.

Dr. Henry Perrine and his South Florida Land Grant

In 1838, the United States Congress granted a township of land in the southern extremity of Florida to noted horticulturist Dr. Henry Perrine and his associates. This land was to be used in experiments aimed at introducing foreign tropical plants and seeds into Florida.

Although Dr. Perrine did not select a township before his death in 1840, he indicated the area he preferred, and his family later selected the land known as the Perrine Land Grant.

Dr. Perrine deserves recognition as a pioneer whose efforts stimulated interest in tropical agriculture in Florida.

Henry Edward Perrine was born in 1797 to Peter and Sarah Rozengrant Perrine, a descendant of Daniel Perrin, "The Huguenot."

He taught school for two years while still a youth, studied medicine, and then at age 22 moved to Ripley, Illinois where he practiced medicine for five years, while also helping with the Underground Railroad in the area.

In 1821 Henry was accidentally poisoned with arsenic, from which he never fully recovered. He married Ann Fuller Townsend in 1822 in Illinois.

Cold weather particularly bothered Perrine after his arsenic poisoning, and in 1824 he moved to Natchez, Mississippi (leaving his family in Illinois) in the hope that the climate would aid his recovery. He began studying herbs and medicinal plants while in Natchez.

Malaria was common in the Natchez area, and Perrine began studying the use of quinine to treat it. He published the results of his research in the Philadelphia Journal of the Medical and Physical Sciences in 1826, and that report remained an important source on the subject for a century.

Believing that he needed to move to a climate even warmer than that of Natchez, Perrine had applied in 1824 for a diplomatic position in a tropical country. Shortly thereafter he was appointed United States Consul in Campeche, Mexico, where he served for ten years.

Soon after Perrine arrived in Campeche, the United States Treasury Department asked all U. S. Consuls to find useful plants that could be introduced to the United States. Perrine

began investigating tropical crops for introduction into the United States. He sent seeds and plants to people he corresponded with in the southern United States, and to the New York Botanical Garden.

Perrine was the only U.S. Consul to respond to the Treasury Department's request, and newspapers in the United States began writing about his work. Through correspondence with Captain DeBose, the keeper at the Cape Florida Light, with Charles Howe, postmaster and inspector of customs at Indian Key and with William A. Whitehead, mayor of Key West, Florida, Perrine became convinced that the southern tip of Florida was the only place in the United States suitable for the introduction of tropical plants.

While still in Campeche and on his return to the United States, he campaigned for a land grant on which he could start a plant introduction station. Upon his return to the United States, Perrine was offered a site in Louisiana for his plant introduction station, but he rejected it, believing that only southern Florida offered the necessary climate conditions.

Perrine, Judge James Webb of Key West and Charles Howe of Indian Key incorporated the Tropical Plant Company, which was chartered by the territory of Florida in 1838. Also in 1838, the United States Congress granted Perrine his request for a survey township (36 sq. mi.) in southern Florida.

While waiting for hostilities with the Seminoles to die down so that his land grant could be surveyed and settled, Perrine had in late 1838 taken up residence with his family on Indian Key in the Florida Keys. While resident on Indian Key Perrine started a tropical plant nursery on Lower Matecumbe Key. He also visited the settlement at Key Vaca to treat the Bahamians living there, and to try to convince them to grow some of the tropical plants he was trying to establish in Florida. In April, 1840



The Perrine family of Indian Key

Perrine spent several days on and near Cape Sable planting seeds despite the presence of Seminoles in the area (his party could see the light of a campfire one night as they camped on the cape).

On August 7, 1840, Indians attacked Indian Key. The Perrines were awoken by gunfire and shouts. Dr. Perrine sent his family into the space under the house and then covered the trap-door with a chest. Mrs. Perrine and the three children moved to the enclosed turtle crawl under the wharf behind the house. They were able to take a boat that had been partly loaded with plunder by the Seminoles, and head for the United States Navy base on nearby Tea Table Key. They were chased by two Seminoles in a canoe, but were rescued by sailors in a whale boat. Dr. Perrine was killed in his house, which was burned by the Seminoles. Several other people on the island were also killed.

Perrine had apparently selected Cape Sable as the site of his grant, but after his death his widow successfully petitioned to have the grant transferred to the shore of Biscayne Bay, and to remain with the Perrine family.

Part of the Perrine Grant eventually became the community of Perrine, Florida.