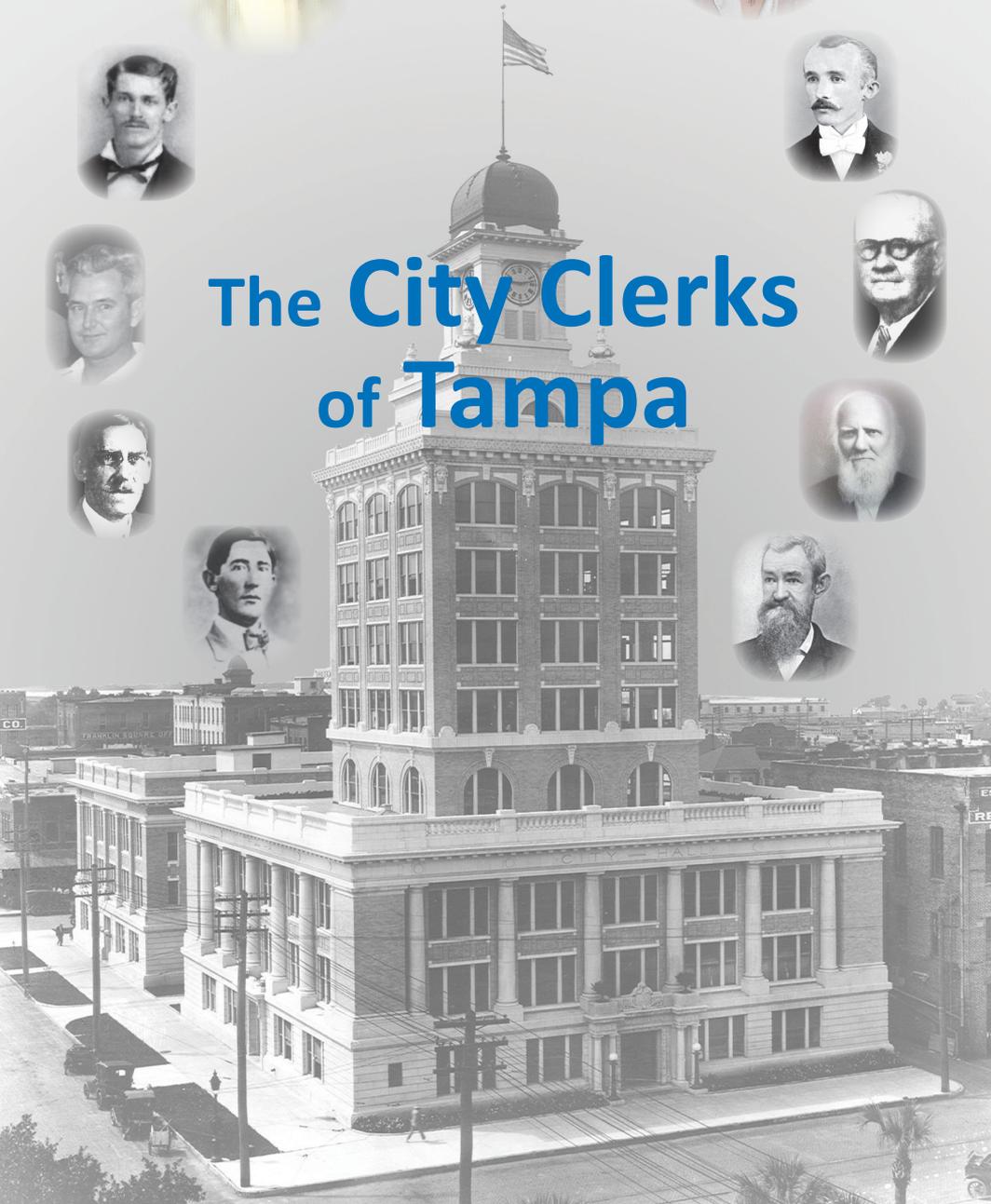




# The City Clerks of Tampa





**A project of the**





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# Acknowledgements

**Shirley Foxx-Knowles, CMC**  
**City Clerk, City of Tampa**

*The City Clerks of Tampa* is the third part of a series that tells the history of Tampa through the people who served in this great City of Tampa. In the fall of 2013, the City of Tampa published the first in the series, *The Mayors of Tampa*, which was distributed in November 2013 during A Celebration of the City of Tampa's History With Our Mayors. The second book entitled, *The City Council of Tampa and Celebration of Old City Hall's Centennial*, was distributed in 2015 with the centennial celebration of Old City Hall, which was built in 1915. It was determined that a spotlight should be placed on this historic building along with the chronology of Tampa's City Council members.

This book tells the story of Tampa's City Clerks from William Ashley to Shirley Foxx-Knowles. There have only been twenty-two different City Clerks in Tampa since 1856. This year we are very happy to celebrate 130 years of the City of Tampa's rich history. We did not want to miss the opportunity to continue showcasing our city and its leaders or trailblazers over the many years. As noted prior, there is so much good information about Tampa's history that we thought it should be turned into a book. We thought it would be great for anyone interested in Tampa's history, including our local historians.

There are so many people to acknowledge for this book on the City Clerks of Tampa. The first people to recognize are the Tampa Clerks themselves for all they did to make our city great. We want to thank Frances Henriquez, the first female City Clerk for her personal recollections of her experiences as City Clerk. There were nineteen men that served as City Clerk before the first female served with distinction. Frances Henriquez served for nearly forty years in the City Clerk's Office. Janett S. Martin served as the first black Clerk for the City of Tampa. She is remembered for her hard work and dedication to the office. We sincerely thank her husband, Marvin Martin, for his contributions regarding his deceased wife and her accomplishments during her time as the City Clerk. We also thank historian Fred Hearn for his essay on William Ashley.

Many thanks go out to Jennifer Dietz, Archives and Records Manager, and her great staff, including Dave Fredericks and Alison Smith, for doing the research and documenting the history of Tampa's City Clerks. Thanks to Tampa's Poet Laurette James E. Tokley, Sr., for writing the great poem on City Clerks. We are so honored. Thanks also to the Honorable E. J. Salcines for his immense knowledge and love of the City of Tampa's history. Thanks to Mayor Buckhorn for his continued support and love of our great city. We share his appreciation. The previous archivist Curtis Welch and former Records Manager Rosemary Hayes, have our gratitude for laying the framework for the history of City Clerks. Thanks also to City of Tampa Preservation Manager and historian Dennis Fernandez for his review. Additionally, gratitude is given to former Mayors Greco, Freedman and Iorio for their selection of City Clerks, and to the staff of the Public Affairs Office, including Jeremy Rex and Sioux Winter, for their great graphic design. Lastly, thanks to the Office of the City Clerk, and its Archives and Records Division, and the Office of the Mayor for their invaluable assistance and support of this publication documenting the City of Tampa's history through its City Clerks.

# In Grace, to the Guardians

by James E. Tokley, Sr.

## I

To the Humble Cleric, in whose eyes  
the Past is seen, devoid of Lies  
Whose Truth is but a judgment call  
of words recorded, all-to-all  
Where each is given its proper place  
A precise, impartial, sacred space  
Entrusted Scribe, to you who've stood  
by the Holy Grail of the Common Good,  
We bid Good Morning, in the light  
of a brief address to the Temple Knights  
into whose hands are placed the keys  
to the files of Public History.

## II

Though many have seen, t'is few who know  
the robes you've worn since long ago,  
when the noble Sphinx imparted to you  
what you would say, not say or do...  
Though all the world might pass away,  
a sacred trust, you dare not sway!

## III

Since time immemorial, you have been  
the unseen eyes of Kings and Queens  
The quiet conscience with few flaws/  
The Guardian of the Five Great Laws:  
    The City Laws, County Laws  
    Both State and Constitutional Laws  
    as well as an unofficial nod  
    to keep the sacred Laws of God!

To do to others as we would  
have done to us, in brotherhood  
and sisterhood, the extra mile  
To serve with patience, faith and style  
To keep foremost the legacy  
of the fact you serve humanity!

#### IV

Therefore, through you, the Truth survives,  
Renowned Aristotelian scribe,  
Whose judgment was and should always be  
Sublime impartiality...  
The neutral corner of the Sage,  
who balances each passing age  
by the scales of objectivity.  
For, to you there is no mystery,  
except the rhythm and the rhyme/  
of the poetry of recorded time!

#### V

Thus, throughout the ancient Past,  
you have been known and have been cast  
as the one who gave the final word  
as to what was said and what was heard!  
Official Eye, Collecting Ear  
Obsessive cypher without fear,  
who knows that the truths, which were placed with care  
at the Pyramids' feet, clerks put them there!

#### VI

And so, we call you by your name:  
Griot, Plato, Socrates - the same!  
Homer, Aristotle, Keeper of the Faith!  
Appointed Initiate, Collector of Dates,  
who gathers all that we would be,  
and stores it, for posterity!

#### VII

We do not thank you like we should,  
You keepers of the Grail of the Common Good!  
And so, as we prepare to meet,  
We kneel here, humbly, at your feet!

6-26-06

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*James E. Tokley, Sr., was named the first official Poet Laureate for the City of Tampa in 1996. In 2013, the Hillsborough County Commission honored him as Hillsborough County's official Poet Laureate. Mr. Tokley has recited poems during the inaugurations of Mayors, Governor Charlie Crist, and during the 2006 Florida Association of City Clerk's (FACC) Conference held in Tampa, Florida, and hosted by the Tampa City Clerk's office.*

## Front Row Seat to History



**Shirley Foxx-Knowles, CMC**  
**City Clerk, City of Tampa**

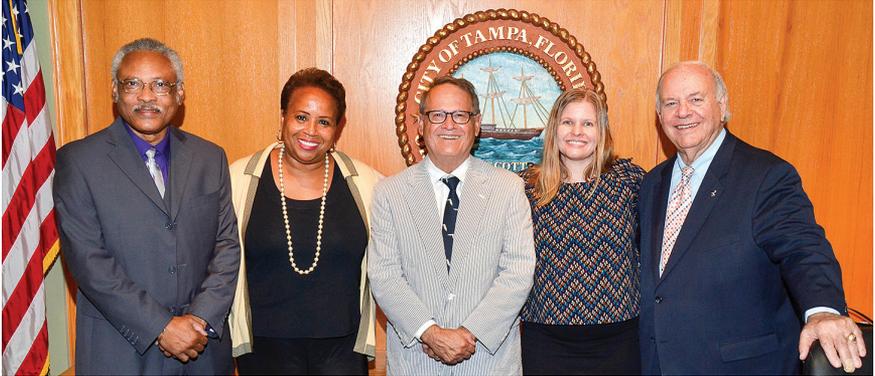
I have a front row seat to history and one that I enjoy! I have seen so much from my seat in the pit near the Tampa City Council. There are many people who come before Council for one reason or another. Some come for commendations or some sort of recognition. There are the police officers of the month or fire fighters of the quarter who are publicly acknowledged. The officer or fire fighter is celebrated for his or her extraordinary work or bravery. They are viewed as heroes for what they have done and seen by thousands on the City of Tampa Television Channel at the beginning of a Council meeting. These are special moments for the celebrated officers and ones that make them, their families, fellow officers and their community very proud.

There are the special recognitions of individual citizens or groups that are recognized for the work they do in the community. Other notables, such as the late Representative Sam Gibbons, NFL Hall of Famer Derrick Brooks, and former Tampa Bay Rays Coach Joe Maddon have



had their achievements and community contributions acknowledged and publicly proclaimed. In 2004, The Tampa Bay Lightning ice hockey team was recognized by Tampa City Council after winning the Stanley Cup. What a proud time for Tampa, especially when the Stanley Cup came to City Council. There were many other proud moments too numerous to highlight.

As the City Clerk, I have seen businessmen and citizens address a variety of issues with which they were interested. Some of the issues were very contentious. Quality of life issues have been addressed. Different citizens have made comments because they were concerned about their neighborhoods. Some were concerned about changes to the neighborhoods that would change single family dwellings to multi-family units. There have been redevelopment actions that have completely changed areas of the city from their previous appearance. Some would call this progress. Tampa is changing.



I have learned much about the history of Tampa from different persons, such as the Honorable Judge E. J. Salcines, and how their cultural, ethnic and religious groups have contributed to historical developments in the City. I have learned about how the City of Tampa is the only city in the United States to have a statue in honor of Jose Marti, one of the primary heroes of the Cuban Revolution of the 1890s. I have learned about the mutual aid societies and the cradle to grave services provided by them. Some of the clubs were the Centro Asturiano Club, the Cuban Club, the Centro Español de West Tampa (also called “The Palace”), the Italian Club, the German-American Club, the Marti-Maceo Club, and the Sicilian Club. The buildings that are still standing have been designated as National Historic Sites. I have learned how Theodore Roosevelt and his Rough Riders and the Buffalo Soldiers disembarked from Tampa on their way to Cuba to fight in the Spanish-American War. I have learned how what is now the City of Tampa was once two cities: there was the City of Tampa and the City of West Tampa. Each of them were separate municipalities before being merged in 1925. I have learned about the Clara C. Frye Hospital that existed on land that is now occupied by the Howard W. Blake High School for the Performing Arts.

While serving as City Clerk, I have learned about the Armwood family that moved to Tampa in the 1880s. Blanche Armwood, a Tampa native, was the first African American woman to graduate from an accredited law school, Howard University. Armwood High School, in Seffner, is named after her.

I have also learned a great deal from historians Fred Hearn and Dr. Gary Mormino. Both men, along with Judge Salcines, spoke at a program in 2016 during the City of Tampa's Archives Awareness Week. They all gave wonderful history lessons that I will never forget. They gave little known facts about our fair city. The program was recorded and can be viewed on YouTube.

It was also great seeing Bryan Weinstein of Tampa Changing present his Then and Now photos and seeing how much Tampa has changed. It was an outstanding program.



*Bob Buckhorn    Re Arvio Iorio    Fred Greco    Andy Freedman    Bob Martinez    Bill Poe*

It was wonderful seeing Mayors Poe, Greco, Martinez, Freedman, Iorio and Buckhorn in 2015 at the opening of Tampa's Riverwalk and anticipating its completion. They had all played a part working on financing and completing different segments of the Riverwalk. They all looked forward to a successful project. Today, the Tampa Riverwalk is complete and is a destination area with rave reviews from across the country.



It was also wonderful meeting the mayors and city council members that have served over the years. Many of them came together for the Archives Awareness Week program held in Council Chambers in 2015. That was the year Tampa celebrated the centennial of Old City Hall. I learned so much about Tampa through some of their oral interviews. I learned about their motivation to run for office and what was most important to them. Most of them ran for office in an effort to make Tampa the great city it has become. Many were very passionate about their own causes, whether it was making neighborhoods great, redeveloping the different areas and making Tampa the best place to live, work and play.

I consider myself very fortunate to have been selected to serve as the City Clerk for Tampa, Florida! It has been an honor and a privilege to do so. My sincere thanks go to Mayor Pam Iorio and my family for making it possible for me to begin this journey. My desire is to continue providing needed services to the City and its residents during my term in office. It is my unending goal to set standards of quality that are to be upheld for the successive City Clerks who will follow me. There have been many historic and exciting times here in Tampa and I'm so happy to have witnessed some of them.



*City Clerk Shirley Foxx-Knowles and her family.*

## Tampa's First City Clerk, William Ashley, Was His Own Man



by **Charles F. (Fred) Hearn, M. S., M. A.**

Tampa can thank the federal government and the soldiers who built Fort Brooke in 1824 for attracting to the area its first City Clerk, William Ashley. Ashley brought his talent as a businessman and master scribe to the small but growing hamlet. Yet you can argue that the man for whom the street is named that leads to Tampa's downtown cultural and recreational jewel – Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park – left a more powerful mark on humanity with a choice he made in his personal life than with his clerical skills. Ashley showed us how the conviction of one man and one woman to love whom they chose can outweigh the social pressures to conform to the status quo – even in Dixie, during and after slavery.

Florida became a U. S. territory in 1821. And two years later the Treaty of Moultrie Creek restricted Seminole Indians to interior lands south of Gainesville and miles away from the state's coastline. The United States Army needed an encampment in central Florida, where it could monitor the movement of Seminole Indians, making Tampa Bay the perfect location for such an outpost. Fort Brooke (named for the first commander there, Colonel George Mercer Brooke) brought with it hundreds of enlisted men, officers and their families. The soldiers' pay meant that money would be spent with merchants such as Ashley and circulate around town. He came to Tampa as a young man and never left.

The United States Army had built this military encampment at what today is the southern end of downtown Tampa. Hundreds of years earlier on this same spot, Native Americans (and much later, White investors, father and son Richard and Robert Hackley) built settlements there. In 1821, the United States claimed the land.

In the early 1820s, the Hackleys cleared land and built a few modest dwellings in the area where the Tampa Convention Center now sits. This location (and the fort that was built there in the Hackley's absence) served the nation well during the Second Seminole War (1835-1842). In the late 1830s, the U. S. loaded hundreds of Seminoles and enslaved Blacks on ships at Tampa Bay and sent them to New Orleans: the Blacks were sold in the slave markets there and the Seminoles were marched to Indian Territory in Arkansas and Oklahoma (Giddings 1858).

So when the Second Seminole War ended in 1842, hundreds of adventurous Whites then felt it was safe to move to Florida. And the lure of sunshine year round was as strong then as it is now. In August of that year, the federal government enacted the Armed Occupation Act, which stipulated, "One hundred and sixty acres would be given to any head of family or single man of 18 who was able to bear arms." According to Tampa Bay Historian Dr. Canter R. Brown, "In practice, officials limited the offer to whites." For example, Black Tampa pioneer Mills Holloman, a free man over the age of eighteen, was denied a permit: "refused on account of his color" was marked on his application. White men like Ashley faced no such obstacles when they settled near the fort (Brown 1999).

Ashley came to Tampa in the 1840s to work as a sutler's clerk at Ft. Brooke. He was an educated man who readily displayed his skills and quick mind with a quill and paper. When he arrived at the fort, he began peddling goods to the soldiers and to nearby settlers. He built a house, "near the foot of Lafayette Street (today's Kennedy Boulevard), or between that street and Jackson." But the hurricane of September 25, 1848 destroyed Ashley's home and much of what then was downtown Tampa. Resident Josiah Ferris recalled, "North of Whiting Street the block house, and the Turman and Ashley residences, had been swept away by the flood." Juliet Axtell added, "Tampa is no more (you might well say)." With most of the city's structures under water, residents were forced to choose between returning and rebuilding their homes or relocating elsewhere.

Ashley chose to rebuild his home where it had stood before the hurricane and he remained in Tampa. It proved to be a wise decision. He again set up his residence, "near the foot of Lafayette Street, or between that street and Jackson," on the southwest corner of what today is Kennedy Boulevard and Ashley Drive: Tampa grid surveyor John Jackson (Jackson Street) chose to name the northern extension of Old Water Street for his good friend, William Ashley. Jackson and Ashley were at that time the only locals who had streets in the downtown grid named for them. Jackson and those who followed him named other streets for Revolutionary War heroes (Marquis de la Fayette/Lafayette, Benjamin Franklin, Francis Marion, Thomas Jefferson, and Daniel Morgan), U. S. Presidents (George Washington, James Madison, William Harrison, John Tyler, James Polk, Zachary/Zack Street/Taylor, Franklin Pierce and John F. Kennedy), Seminole War veterans

(David Twiggs, Lewis Cass, and Winfield Scott) or geographical locations (Tampa Street, Florida Avenue, and Nebraska Avenue).

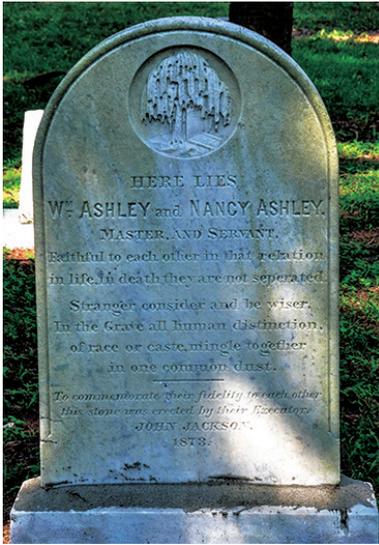
Among the most admired city fathers who remained in Tampa after the hurricane of 1848 were James A. Goff, William Hancock, Micajah C. Brown and Simon Turman. The Hillsborough County Commission appointed these men, along with Ashley, to serve on a committee (with Turman serving as president) charged with selecting the site for the Hillsborough County Courthouse. On the Franklin Street location they chose today sits the Tampa Police Department. This corner was known throughout the rest of the 1800s as Courthouse Square.

By the early 1850s, many people outside of Tampa Bay thought Ft. Brooke had outlived its usefulness. Colonel Brooke died on March 9, 1851 and thereafter few in the nation's military hierarchy fought to save the facility from obscurity. After Brooke's death, the fort was nearly abandoned twice in favor of an encampment on the Peace River: only the resolve of General Twiggs (downtown's Twiggs Street bears his name) saved Ft. Brooke from being abandoned.

In 1853, the arrival of a government steamer from New Orleans brought many needed goods. But soon the arrival of the ship gave Tampa residents an incentive to appeal to the federal government to vacate the largely inactive Fort Brooke. Unknown to those in Tampa when the ship docked at the fort's wharf, the frigate brought with it the town's first reported case of Yellow Fever. The deadly disease would periodically plague the city for the next thirty-five years, claiming the lives during that time of hundreds of prominent and less known Tampanns. Ashley was spared the "black death" (so named because its victims spewed out a black vomit). He led a most productive life over the next twenty years.

On January 18, 1849, the Village of Tampa was incorporated with 185 residents, not counting perhaps 200 or so soldiers stationed at Ft. Brooke. The City of Tampa's charter was approved by the State of Florida on September 15, 1855, and the locals prepared for their first municipal election. As Tampa grew in population (with nearly 800 recorded residents by 1856) Ashley's influential friends persuaded him to put his talents to good use by turning to government service. He ran for City Clerk and won the office in the first city election on February 9, 1856. On that same date Joseph B. Lancaster, who in 1846-1847 had been mayor of Jacksonville, became Tampa's first elected mayor. Other city officials elected that day were Treasurer E. H. Lockhart and Marshall A. N. Pacetty. Lancaster and his wife, Annie, had moved to Tampa in 1853. Unfortunately, Lancaster died during his first year as mayor of Tampa. Like the Ashleys, he is buried at Oaklawn Cemetery.

Ashley's place in Tampa history was firmly established with his election as Tampa City Clerk. His beautifully styled cursive hand writing chronicles the city's history



*Gravesite of William and Nancy Ashley at Oaklawn Cemetery in downtown Tampa.*

in available City Council archived minutes that date back to 1857. But the story of his legacy is not complete without noting his courage – as well as that of Miss Nancy – in choosing her, his enslaved Black servant and faithful companion, as his life’s mate. Obviously the town’s power structure allowed Ashley to exercise this very personal choice of a love partner without notable interference. In doing so it strayed far from what was considered acceptable decorum of a White gentleman in the Deep South. “State law would prohibit marriage between blacks and whites far into the twentieth century,” notes author Doris Weatherford. “But although such relationships were spoken of only in whispers, we nevertheless know of several such local cases.” Yet none were as prominently whispered about, we believe, as was that of William and Nancy.

No doubt the town’s acceptance of (or at the least non-interference with) their arrangement was due in large part to the city father’s respect for Ashley. The commendable role he played in the city’s growth and his good relationship with men like Jackson solidified his place as a respected member of the community. All we know of Nancy is that she stayed with William until the end.

Jackson, in particular, continued to be Ashley’s trusted friend and supporter to the end of William and Nancy’s lives. William died in 1871, and Nancy soon followed. They both are buried in a common grave in the city-owned “White/Protestant Section” of Oaklawn Cemetery on Harrison Street, just north of downtown Tampa. Nancy is thought to be the only person of color buried in the southern (public) section of Oaklawn. As executor of Ashley’s estate, Jackson placed a tomb stone at the head of their cemetery plot. The grave site is one of the most unique ones in the South for obvious reasons. The inscription there serves both as a testament to Ashley’s love for Nancy and as a message to mankind. It ends: “Stranger consider and be wiser - in the grave all human distinction of race or caste mingle together in one common dust.”



*After a career that spanned more than thirty years, Fred Hearn retired from the City of Tampa in 2007 as the Director of Community Affairs. He is the author of *Getting it Done: Rebuilding America Brick by Brick*, and he has a Master of Arts degree in Africana Studies. He served on the Tampa Riverwalk Historical Monument Trail Selection Committee, and he currently conducts historic walking tours of Tampa.*

## Jose G. Pompez: West Tampa's First City Clerk

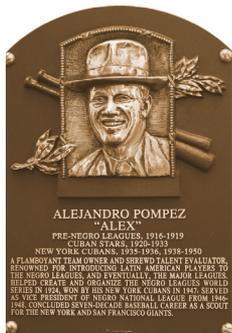


**by E.J. Salcines**  
**Retired Appellate Judge**  
**Former State Attorney, Hillsborough County**

Born in Cuba on March 17, 1858, Jose G. Pompez came to the United States, where he became a naturalized citizen in 1879. He was a cigar manufacturer who had studied law, and had a cigar factory in Key West, where he had moved during Cuba's Ten Years' War of Independence (1868-1878). In 1892, he was elected in Monroe County to the State House of Representatives and championed laws prohibiting child labor. With his friend, Fernando Figuerdo, he had been one of the first two Cubans elected to the Florida Legislature. He was very active in the Cuban Revolutionary Party when José Martí visited Key West, and is photographed in a historic picture with Martí in Key West, in January of 1892.



He accepted an offer for land in West Tampa where he could build his cigar factory and arrived here in May of 1894, with his wife Loretta, and four children. Fernando Figueredo had also moved to West Tampa with the Fernandez O'Halloran cigar factory. Both were active in convincing the Florida Legislators to create the independent City of West Tampa. When that occurred in 1895, both ran and got elected. Figueredo became the first Mayor of West Tampa and Pompez was elected Clerk of the City of West Tampa. They were sworn in at the same time. He was reelected the next year, 1896. Pompez unexpectedly died in office on November 12, 1896. Roberto Castillo was appointed to complete Pompez's unexpired elected term to 1898, when Eduardo N. Someillan became the clerk of the City of West Tampa. Figueredo went on to become the Treasurer of the Republic of Cuba when it attained U. S. Independence in 1902.

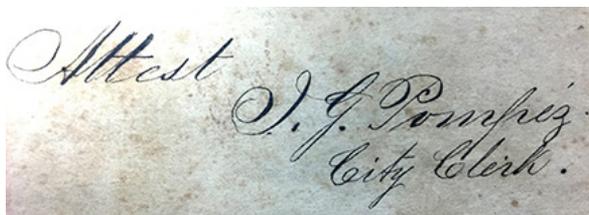


Pompez's son, Alex, was born in Key West May 3, 1890, and he was just 6 and a half years old when his father died in West Tampa. Alex Pompez became a cigar maker and was very active in West Tampa baseball. At age 20, with a passion for baseball, he left Tampa for New York City, where he was a cigar maker and also owned a cigar store in Harlem. He helped create and organize the Negro League World Series in 1924, won by his own team, the New York Cubans, in 1947. Besides owning his team, he became a league executive in the National Negro Baseball League, bringing some of baseball's greatest Latin American

Players from Cuba, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Panama and the Dominican Republic into integrated American baseball. From 1946 to 1948, he was Vice President of the Negro National League. He concluded a seven-decade Baseball Career as a Scout for the New York and San Francisco Giants. Alex Pompez died in New York City in 1974. He was inducted posthumously to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2006, joining other Tampa greats like Al Lopez, Wade Boggs, Tony LaRussa and others.



*Jose Pompez (back row, third from right) is pictured here standing directly behind Cuban revolutionary leader Jose Marti in Key West, 1892.*



*Jose Pompez's signature in the West Tampa Minute book of 1895.*

## A Tribute to Frances Henriquez and Janett S. Martin



There are so many firsts for both Frances Henriquez and Janett S. Martin. As women in a male-dominated field at the time, through your service – and healthy doses of vigor and courage, you were able to break down barriers and rattle glass ceilings. I'm sure it was worth it all knowing that your achievements will make such a positive difference in the career path of the many women who now have the opportunity to leave a legacy such as yours.

At the 2006 Florida Association of City Clerks Conference held in Tampa, both Frances Henriquez and posthumously, Janett S. Martin, were recognized with Proclamations in their honor by Mayor Pam Iorio. This was a proud moment for not only their families but for all the City Clerks in attendance from across the state of Florida.

Frances and Janett, we honor your examples of service, achievement and humility. Your hard work and professional diligence paved the way for the female city clerks who succeeded you. I encourage all to increase their awareness about your important contributions to not only the City of Tampa's history, but American history. You made it possible for citizens to come one step closer to government by making a way for records

## Leading the Way: Frances Henriquez



Frances Henriquez was the first woman as well as the first Hispanic elected as Tampa's City Clerk, and she changed the course of Tampa's history. During her remarkable career, she made a tremendous amount of progress that can still be seen today. This photo essay highlights some of her many accomplishments with quotes taken from her oral history, and her speech at the 2014 City of Tampa Women's History Month celebration.



*Frances Henriquez, Clerk Typist with (from left to right): Deputy Clerk Phillip Louis Guedry, City Clerk William Ledgert Stark, and Joe Marsh, Clerk on October 29, 1957.*

### On starting her career in the Clerk's office as a typist:

*“When I first started in the City Clerk office...It was a 3 men office...There were no upper level positions for women either. They were either typist, filing clerk, or if you were lucky, you were an assistant to the assistant to the assistant.”*



*Francis Henriquez with City Clerk candidates De Foor, Longeley, and Lester on November 7, 1973.*

### Motivation for running for City Clerk:

*“So I ran for City Clerk and there were three men running against me. The mayor motivated me to be City Clerk. Dick Greco brought me into the office because my boss, Bill Stark, was retiring. So I went in and sat down and he said, ‘Francis I want you to run for City Clerk,’ and I looked at him and thinking to myself: This man’s gone crazy. Me, run for City Clerk, a girl! I’ve never made a speech in my life. And he says, ‘You will get the support. You will have my support and it’s about time a woman got to be City Clerk. We need women in office.’ He championed women in office.”*



*Rededication of the City of Tampa flag in 1974 following the death of Mayor Richard L. Cheney in office. From left to right: Chuck Dunn, Mrs. Cheney, Mrs. Copeland, Mayor Lloyd Copeland, Frances Henriquez, and City Councilman Joe Kotvas.*

#### **On women running for office then and now:**

*“I had some opposition, and some from even women. They said, ‘You shouldn’t be City Clerk that’s a man’s position.’ Now it’s expected. If you don’t see a woman running, you wonder what happened.”*



*Frances Henriquez with Archives and Records Manager Claire Cardina.*

**On establishing the Archives and Records Division:**

*“I saw records coming in, being taken or destroyed. There was no continuity, no history, and that bothered me.”*



*The plaque at the Archives and Records building, which was located at 1104 E. Twiggs Street.*



*Archives and Records staff in 1994 with City Clerk Janett S. Martin (third from right).*

**On having a building named in her honor:**

*“It was just so amazing. To think that a girl from Ybor City had run for office and had a building named after her.”*



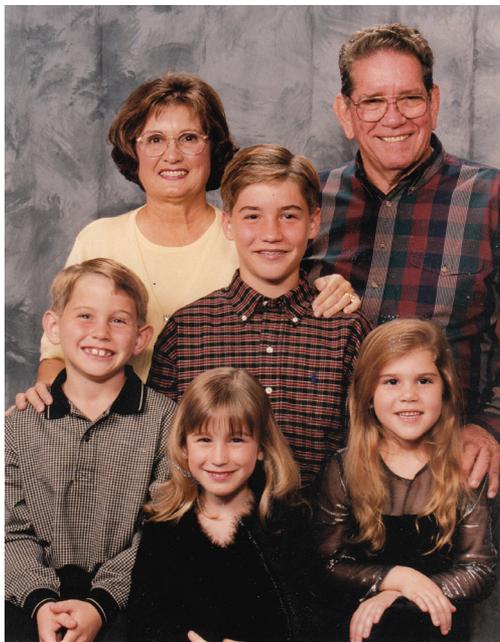
On receiving the Josephine Howard Stafford Memorial Award in 2014:

*“It’s my mother that should be here by me, she was my inspiration and the one that made this all possible for me. She would always tell me these little snippets that Latin mothers would tell their daughters. One of them was, ‘Put your dreams into words, and your words into action, then hang tough.’”*

Mayor Bob Buckhorn and Frances Henriquez.

On the significance of the City Clerk’s office:

*“It’s the history we leave behind...That’s what’s important”*



Frances and Wallace Henriquez and their grandchildren.

## Frances Henriquez's Accomplishments

- City Clerk for nearly twenty years from 1973-1993
- Served 5 terms as City Clerk
- First female department head for the City of Tampa
- First female Deputy City Clerk, appointed in 1962 by Mayor Julian B. Lane
- First female and first Hispanic City Clerk
- Recipient of the Hispanic Woman of the Year Award in 1987
- Recipient of the Florida Association of City Clerks "President's Award" for exemplary service in promoting educational programs
- Enabled the City of Tampa to be awarded the prestigious "William Olsten Award for Excellence in Records Management Programs" in 1989
- Recipient of the Society of Florida Archivists Award of Excellence in 1991 for outstanding contributions to Florida's documentary heritage
- Documented the history of several mayors and city council members with City of Tampa Television
- Recognized at the 2006 FACC Conference with a Proclamation by Mayor Iorio
- 2014 recipient of the City of Tampa's Josephine Howard Stafford Memorial Award

## A Look at the City of Tampa's Archives



**Jennifer Dietz, MLS, CRM**  
**Archives and Records Manager, City of Tampa**

Frances Henriquez was a trailblazer not only in her career as the first woman to serve as Tampa's City Clerk, but she also had the foresight to preserve our history. Thanks to her vision, Tampa has the distinction of being the first city in the State of Florida to establish its own municipal archive. Founded in 1987 by Ordinance # 9655-A, the City Archives is part of Archives and Records Services, which is a division of the Tampa City Clerk's office. Our mission includes appraising, collecting, preserving and making accessible those City of Tampa records possessing permanent administrative, legal, fiscal and historical value. Some examples of these types of records include Mayor's papers, City Council minute books, Fort Brooke artifacts, gifts from Tampa's Sister Cities, historic photographs and ephemera.



Every object in our collection tells a story about Tampa's past. From the blue glass bottle unearthed during the construction of the Tampa Convention Center, to the meticulously handwritten records of some of Tampa's earliest City Council meetings, Archives and Records has many local historical treasures. Researchers from around the country have used these materials

to craft lectures, articles, dissertations, books, and videos featuring Tampa's history. Artifacts from our collection have been featured in exhibits at several local museums and libraries. Additionally, we are proud to partner with other local archives every



*Micrographics Supervisor David Fredericks with City Clerk Shirley Foxx-Knowles.*

year to highlight our collections and to celebrate Tampa's birthday in July during our local Archives Awareness Week.

Currently, we are in the midst of digitizing two very large historic photographic collections that we believe will be treasured for years to come. Tampa Photo Supply photographers Rose Rutigliano Weekley and Joseph Scolaro covered many local Tampa events from approximately 1945-1990. More than 50,000 negatives from their studio were recently donated to the City of Tampa and we are looking forward to making them available to the public.

Additionally, our Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce photographic collection is currently being digitized, which will make it much more accessible.



*Archives and Records staff from left to right: David Jackson, Jennifer Dietz, Onalia Hill, Pamela Miller, Judy Poole, David Fredericks, and Joseph Casteneda.*

As caretakers of the City of Tampa's archives, our staff is dedicated to preserving Tampa's history for future generations. Our city has so many interesting stories and we are grateful for the opportunity to share them. We hope you will enjoy this publication on our City Clerks as well as its companion volumes, *The Mayors of Tampa*, and *The City Council of Tampa and Celebration of Old City Hall's Centennial*.



*Archives and Records Manager Jennifer Dietz with the newest addition to our team, Alison Smith (center), and our longest serving employee, Judy Poole.*



## Remembering Janett Spraggins Martin: Public Servant and Trailblazer

Janett S. Martin loved her family, community, church and the City of Tampa. She became the first black woman to run a city division, Industrial Engineering, at age 33. Later she would become the 27th City Clerk for the City of Tampa.

Janett always had a warm smile. It seems as though it never left her face. She was always professional and ran an efficient office. She was selected by then Mayor Bob Martinez in 1983 to run the Industrial Engineering Division, a department that promoted efficiency in city government. She did her job well.

Later in 1993, the first woman Mayor, Sandra Warshaw Freedman, promoted Janett S. Martin as the first black City Clerk for the City of Tampa. Again, she did her job very well. When Martin was appointed as City Clerk, she made the following statement:

*"It is an honor and a privilege to be appointed The City Clerk for the City of Tampa. Before me is a legacy of hard work, dedication and professional service that has been provided to the City of Tampa by Frances Henriquez and her staff for many, many years, and I look forward to continuing that legacy.*

*And in the future, where there are opportunities to make improvements, or to better service the Citizens, the City Council and City Staff, we will try to accomplish that also.*

*Finally, I would like to thank Mayor Sandy Freedman for selecting me for the appointment and the City Council for the vote of confirmation.*

*Again, thank you."*



Freedman would call Martin, “A tenacious and dedicated city employee with a wonderful sense of dignity.” Mayor Greco would later note that, “Everything this young lady did, she did to the best of her ability.”

Janett was a native of Miami. Her parents were Sally and Eddie Spraggins. She attended public schools of Dade County and graduated from Northwestern High School in 1968. She grew up in the city when there were many changes happening in Florida. She graduated from Miami Dade Junior College in 1970 and later received a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Florida State University in 1972. In 1999, she graduated from Florida Metropolitan University with a Master in Business Administration (MBA). Florida State University is where she met Marvin Martin in 1972. Marvin Martin would later say that Janett was an exciting woman who loved to dance. He added that she spoke well and did a great



job making presentations. He admired her kindness and generosity and loved her very much. They were married the same year in 1972, and had three sons, Marvin II, and twins, Morris and Maurice. She initially worked at Maas Brothers before starting her career with the City of Tampa as a Procedure Analyst in 1975.



Martin was a great citizen of Tampa and Hillsborough County and had many pioneering roles. She was a trailblazer who achieved so much. Aside from being City Clerk and the head of the Industrial Engineering Division for the City of Tampa, she was President of the League of Women Voters, President of the American Society of Public Administrators (ASPA), Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Tampa Bay Federal Credit Union, a Eucharistic Minister for her church, St. James House of Prayer Episcopal, a member of Delta

Sigma Theta Sorority, the Tampa Organization of Black Affairs (TOBA), Jack and Jill of America, the Lighthouse for the Blind, National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) and the NAACP.

Janett was also President of the City of Tampa Black History Committee (COTBHC) and started the organization's scholarship program in 1999. The organization is comprised of dedicated men and women who volunteer their time to promote Tampa's cultural heritage, the value of African American history, and the importance of scholastic achievement, through scholarship awards. A Janett S. Martin Scholarship recipient is named each year in her honor through the sponsorship of Marvin Martin and his sons. They vowed to honor her legacy and help several young people obtain a college degree.

Janett S. Martin served in the capacity of City Clerk until her death on July 18, 2002, at the age of 51. The year 2017 marks the 15th anniversary of Janett S. Martin's passing. She was truly a trailblazer and public servant. She is still widely admired and missed. Her legacy, however, lives on.



*Former City Clerk Janett S. Martin and her family.*

## The Municipal Clerk's Office

There are many aspects of the City Clerk's office that are not readily seen. Yes, the Clerk is the custodian of the City of Tampa's records. However, there is so much more! The Clerk's office is the hub of the City. It is actually the heart of the City. The office must function in a very efficient manner and records of the office should be easily accessible to the public.

The mission of the City Clerk's office is to provide quality customer service to members of the public and City staff. The Clerk's duties are to maintain and protect the records of the City of Tampa in accordance with the City Charter and Florida Statutes. The goal is to seek and implement the best possible technological solutions for accessing and managing the City's official records and archives.

The office of the City Clerk is a highly responsible administrative position. It is responsible for all administrative activities relating to the City Council and other very important boards including the Code Enforcement Board/Public Nuisance Abatement Board, Community Redevelopment Agency, Civil Service Board and Citizen Review Board. The office is also responsible for ensuring the accuracy of City publications and that the associated deadlines are met pursuant to the notice requirements contained in resolutions setting public hearings or pursuant to the provisions of the City of Tampa Code and the Florida Statutes. The Clerk's office provides assistance to the public in various ways including via telephone, email, as well as to those customers who walk in.

The Clerk's office prepares the City Council agendas and posts them to the City's web site. The office also documents the proceedings of City Council meetings and maintains the on-line agenda documents repository. The office ensures that all action summaries and printed minutes of all meetings of the City Council are in the appropriate folders in the computer for future reference purposes including said action summaries and minutes.

The Clerk's office also serves as the liaison to the various City Departments involved with the electronic agenda system to produce the electronic agendas for City Council. The electronic agenda makes it easy for the public, City staff and the media to access the agenda and its background information via the web. The electronic agenda also has research capabilities.

The Clerk's office maintains a working relationship with the Mayor's Office, Chief of Staff's Office, the City Council, the Budget Department, the Legal Department, Land Development Coordination, the Purchasing Department as well as other City departments relative to the electronic agenda.

The Clerk's office provides training to office staff throughout the City regarding the electronic agenda system, the City's Customer Service messaging system and all related activities. The Office also responds to messages received from the public via the Customer Service Center. The City Clerk administers the oath of office to elected officials, department heads appointed by the Mayor, and citizens appointed by the Mayor or City Council to various boards or committees. The Clerk's Office maintains board information and current appointments to City boards and committees and provides reports to the Council regarding vacancies and other requirements for the various boards. The office also maintains City Executive Orders.

The City Clerk signs agreements attesting the signature of the Mayor. The Clerk also certifies resolutions, ordinances, and agreements. The Clerk certifies plats attesting to the date the Mayor signed the resolution approving the plat.

The Clerk's office indexes local laws, ordinances, resolutions, agreements, and deeds. The office also updates supplements to the City Codes.

The Clerk's Office keeps abreast of changes to the Tampa Code that impact the office pertaining to publication and notice requirements. Our office ensures that public meeting notices are posted on the City's website and on the bulletin board. The Clerk also attends meetings and other City functions, such as swearing-in ceremonies for police officers and firefighters.

Additional responsibilities for the Clerk's Office include preparing its budget each fiscal year and monitoring that budget. The office is also responsible for processing all purchasing requests for the office via the City's financial system. The Clerk is responsible for attending all meetings as requested by the Mayor or Council.

Other City Clerk responsibilities include managing the Archives and Records Division, including records inventory, retention, digitization, storage, disposition, and archival documents for City of Tampa departments. One of the biggest challenges is finding ways to properly store the voluminous amount of past City documents and make those documents, and others, available for perusal by the public.

In summary, the City Clerk incorporates the best of the best into the operations of the Office of the City Clerk and its subdivisions. It is important to see the "big picture" and remain ethical. The Clerk's Office must perform at the best level and perform duties in a professional manner. We must continue to understand the importance of properly documenting the official records of the City and understand the various issues affecting all areas of the city and provide a common sense approach to problem solving.

Overall, the City Clerk's Office is dedicated to providing efficient customer services. The Office is working hard to be the best it can be and serve the City and its citizenry with dedication, honor and integrity.

## City Clerk Timeline

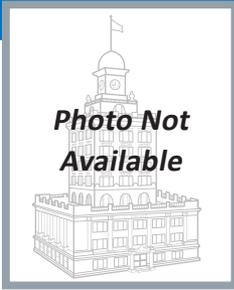
William Ashley	February 9, 1856 – February 9, 1857
Sheldon Stringer <i>(Source: Council Minute Book #1, page 4)</i>	February 9, 1857 – February 10, 1858
John R. Cox <i>(Source: Council Minute Book #1, page 11)</i>	February 10, 1858 – May 24, 1858
E.E. Barry <i>(Source: Council Minute Book #1, page 22)</i>	May 24, 1858 – February 12, 1859
John Darling <i>(Source: Council Minute Book #1, page 43)</i>	February 12, 1859 – February 2, 1861
Robert Brenham Thomas	February 3, 1861 – February 3, 1862
William Ashley <i>(Source: Council Minute Book #1, page 78)</i>	February 3, 1862 – February 22, 1862
Govt. Suspended by Military	February 22, 1862 – October 25, 1866
William C. Brown <i>(Source: Council Minute Book #1, page 82)</i>	October 25, 1866 – March 1, 1869
City Charter lapsed	March 1, 1869 – August 11, 1873
Charles Hanford <i>(Source: Council Minute Book #1, page 111)</i>	August 11, 1873 – March 11, 1874
William C. Brown <i>(Source: Council Minute Book #1, page 126)</i>	March 11, 1874 – August 14, 1877
Josiah Ferris <i>(Source: Council Minute Book #1, page 160)</i>	August 14, 1877 – August 13, 1886
Lamont Bailey <i>(Source: Council Minute Book #2, page 1)</i>	August 13, 1886 – March 4, 1891
William J. Allen <i>(Source: Council Minute Book #2, page 363)</i>	March 4, 1891 – March 8, 1895

John C. Jeffcott (Source: Council Minute Book #4, page 9)	March 8, 1895 – June 18, 1896
Warren Addison Givens (Source: Council Minute Book #4, page 186)	June 19, 1896 – June 9, 1898
John M. Henderson (Source: Council Minute Book #4, page 406. Note: Died in office on March 29, 1907.)	June 10, 1898 – March 29, 1907
Franklin Pimbley (Source: Council Minute Book #7, page 281. Appointed by mayor to fill vacancy caused by death of John M. Henderson.)	April 2, 1907 – June 4, 1908
William Albert Johnson (Source: Council Minute Book #7, page 464)	June 5, 1908 – February 28, 1921
William E. Duncan (Source: Council Minute Book #13, page 193)	March 1, 1921 – January 2, 1928
William Albert Johnson (Source: Council Minute Book #15, page 325)	January 3, 1928 – November 7, 1933
Phillip R. Bourquardez (Source: City Council Minute Book #18, page 392)	November 7, 1933 – November 1, 1955
William L. Stark (Source: City Council Minute Book #41, page 301)	November 1, 1955 – September 15, 1973
Frances Henriquez	November 27, 1973 – September 30, 1993
Janett S. Martin (Died in office. Note: No one was appointed until the following administration.)	October 1, 1993 – July 18, 2002
Shirley Foxx-Knowles	May 12, 2003 – present

**Note:** Dates on some terms are approximate and the closest source is given from the appropriate City Council minute book.

## WILLIAM ASHLEY

February 9, 1856 – February 9, 1857  
February 3, 1862 - February 22, 1862



Tampa's first City Clerk, William Ashley, was born in Virginia and came to Tampa around 1837. Prior to becoming City Clerk, Ashley had served as a member of Hillsborough County's Board of County Commissioners. He had also worked at Fort Brooke as a sutler's clerk, keeping track of all of the provisions that were sold to soldiers. In 1847, his friend John Jackson, a surveyor who would later become Tampa's Mayor, named Ashley Drive (then known as Ashley Street) in his honor.

On September 25, 1848, Tampa was hit by a powerful hurricane later known as the Great Gale of '48, and Ashley's house was swept away in the flood. Though the city was destroyed by the storm, remarkably there were no fatalities in Tampa. The need for construction after the storm led to the creation of jobs and Tampa was rebuilt. Before the storm, Tampa had about one hundred citizens, and its population steadily increased in the years after the storm as Tampa transitioned from a small town to city.

In 1855, Tampanians voted to dissolve the town of Tampa and to establish a City Charter. Elections were held February of 1856 and William Ashley was elected as Tampa's first City Clerk. He served for a year, and was again elected as City Clerk in 1862, but his second term lasted less than a month due to the suspension of Tampa's government by Confederate military authorities. The municipal government was not officially reorganized until October 25, 1866.

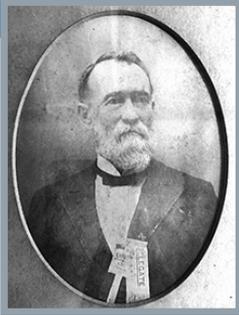
While William Ashley was notable as being Tampa's first City Clerk, as well as having a prominent downtown street named in his honor, he is perhaps best known for his headstone in Oaklawn Cemetery, which reads:

*Here lies Wm. Ashley and Nancy Ashley, Master, and Servant,  
Faithful to each other in that relation in life, in death they are not separated.*

*Stranger consider and be wiser, in the Grave all human distinction,  
of race or caste, mingle together in one common dust.*

*To commemorate their fidelity to each other, this stone was erected by their  
Executor, John Jackson, 1873.*

Though Nancy was technically William's black slave, their relationship was more like husband and wife. When he died in 1871, he left her his entire estate. His friend, John Jackson, served as executor of his will. When Nancy's health began to fail shortly after Ashley's death, Jackson helped her receive medical care. When she died during the following year, Jackson honored Ashley's wishes, and they were buried together in Oaklawn Cemetery. Though they could not be legally married in life, their story of love and equality has become their legacy.



## DR. SHELDON STRINGER

February 9, 1857 – February 10, 1858

Born in North Carolina on November 13, 1834, Sheldon Stringer came to Tampa with his family in 1841. In 1842, his father built a house near the northwest corner of Jackson Street and Florida Avenue. The Stringer house was later purchased by Imboden Stalnaker. When City Hall was built on the site in 1915, Stalnaker had the house moved to 3210 E. 8th Avenue, where it still stands today as the oldest house in Tampa.

In 1859, Sheldon Stringer graduated from medical school. He practiced medicine in Tampa, and working with other doctors, he worked to standardize charges for services rendered in the practice of medicine, surgery, and obstetrics. Dr. Stringer had an office at the corner of Monroe and Jackson Streets. His term as Tampa's second City Clerk lasted just over ten months, and his signature is the first to appear as City Clerk in the very first City Council minute book, as William Ashley did not sign his name in the book until his second term in 1862.

Dr. Stringer relocated to Brooksville, Florida around 1870, and he continued to practice medicine there. He died on April 6, 1903, leaving behind his wife, Mary Elizabeth Lykes Stringer, his son Dr. Sheldon Stringer, Jr., and his son, Fred, who was a judge. Their family home, located at 601 Museum Court in Brooksville, is now known as the May-Stringer House and it is now a museum that is open to the public. The house, expanded by Dr. Stringer in the late 1800s, is also listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

## JOHN R. COX

February 10, 1858 – May 24, 1858

**Photo Not  
Available**



John R. Cox served as Tampa's City Clerk for just over two months in 1858. At that time, Tampa's treasury was empty and Mayor Madison Post worked with the City Council to establish new ordinances and licensing fees to replenish the city's finances. Cox lived on the west side of the Hillsborough River and died on July 1, 1859. Yellow fever was rampant in Tampa at the time of his death, and several City Council members, as well as former Mayor Dr. Darwin Austen Branch, succumbed to the disease.

## E. E. BARRY

May 24, 1858 – February 12, 1859

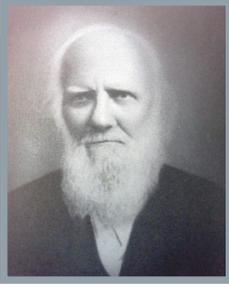
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E.E. Barry was born in Georgia and came to Tampa, where he worked primarily as a farmer. His full name was Emmett E. Berry, with various spellings of both his first and last name being found in historic documents. He signed the City Council minute books as E.E. Barry. During the Civil War, he enlisted with the Confederate Army, where he served from approximately 1862 until 1865.

## JOHN DARLING

February 12, 1859 – February 2, 1861



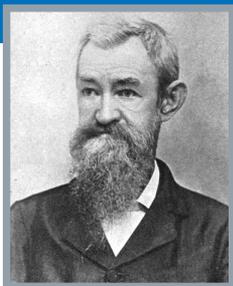
Born on August 16, 1808, in Groton, Vermont, John Darling enlisted in the army in 1830, and arrived in Fort Brooke about five years later. In 1843, he claimed 160 acres along old Tampa Bay under the provisions of the Armed Occupation Act of 1842. With Thomas Pugh Kennedy, in 1848, he established a successful general store, Kennedy & Darling, on Tampa and Whiting Streets. He also owned a saw mill in the area that would later become known as Waterworks Park.

Prior to serving as Tampa's City Clerk, Darling had completed two terms on Tampa's City Council, including one term as its president from 1853-1854. During his time as City Clerk, there were four different mayors. He was later elected to the Hillsborough County Commission, where he served for a number of years. Following that, Darling worked as an agent for the Miller Henderson boat line until 1884.

In 1887, due to a decline in health, Darling returned to New England to live with relatives. He died on September 11, 1892. A Freemason throughout much of his life, the John Darling Lodge in Tampa is named in his honor.

## ROBERT BRENHAM THOMAS

February 3, 1861 – February 3, 1862



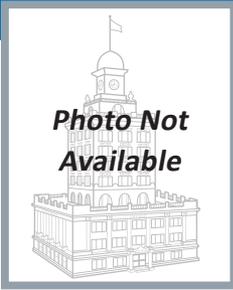
Robert Brenham Thomas was born in Kentucky on November 20, 1826, and as a teenager, he became a clerk on a steamboat on the Ohio River. He then was accepted to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Upon graduation, he was assigned to the Second United States Artillery as a second lieutenant and was deployed to Fort Meade. During the year he spent there, a yellow fever epidemic had affected the population at Fort Brooke, and Thomas was transferred to Tampa, where he married Mary E. Ferris, the daughter of William Gould Ferris, who worked as a merchant and also served on the City Council.

In 1854, Thomas was promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant of the Second Artillery and was sent to Fort Denaud on the Caloosahatchee River, where he served during the Third Seminole War until its end in 1858. While he was stationed there, his wife and infant daughter had succumbed to illness and had died. In 1858, he married Sarah McKay, who was the daughter of James McKay, Sr., a prominent citizen who was elected as Mayor of Tampa in 1859.

Shortly after the year he served as Tampa's City Clerk, Robert Brenham Thomas enlisted in the Confederate Army, where he gradually rose through the ranks and was elected Colonel of the Second Florida Calvary. After the war ended, he was living in New Orleans when his second wife passed away in 1877. Thomas then returned to Tampa and was appointed as Postmaster. He married Fannie Givens, who was the daughter of John T. Givens, a former City Council member. Fannie's brother, Warren Addison Givens, would also serve as Tampa's City Clerk, as well as Clerk of the Circuit Court for Hillsborough County. While Givens was serving as Clerk, Thomas served as his Deputy Clerk. In 1887, he was appointed as a Customs Inspector, and he remained in this position for many years. Robert Brenham Thomas died in Tampa on January 25, 1901.

## WILLIAM C. BROWN

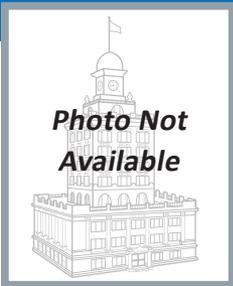
October 25, 1866 – March 1, 1869  
March 11, 1874 – August 14, 1877



William C. Brown was elected twice as Tampa's City Clerk and he served under four different mayors. However, for a portion of his time in office, the City's charter had lapsed and there were no government meetings from March 1, 1869 until August 11, 1873. The City Council minute book from this time period has no entries from 1868 until 1873.

Born on June 10, 1834, in Athens, Ohio, Brown came to Tampa around 1855 as a merchant. He served in the Confederate Army, and went on to have a variety of careers including clerk, civil engineer and judge. He was also a member of the Tampa Cornet Band. During the Civil War, he removed records from the Hillsborough County Court to prevent their destruction and preserve them for future generations. With his wife Mary, and four children, Brown lived at 601 Washington Street for many years. He died on December 31, 1904.

## CHARLES HANFORD

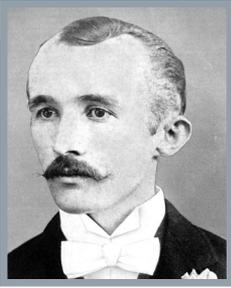


August 11, 1873 – March 11, 1874

According to census records, Charles Hanford was born around 1845, and immigrated to Tampa from Ireland. He was one of the founding members of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in 1871. In addition to the seven months that he spent as Tampa's City Clerk, he also served briefly as Hillsborough County Clerk, and was a justice of the peace.

## JOSIAH FERRIS

August 14, 1877 - August 13, 1886



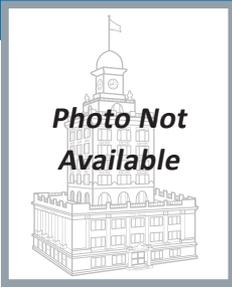
The only man to ever serve as Tampa's City Clerk, as well as on its City Council, and as Mayor of Tampa, Josiah Ferris was born on August 5, 1836, in Arkansas. His family was among the earliest settlers in Tampa, and he arrived in the city at a young age. His father, William Gould Ferris, Sr., established a general store and also served on Tampa's City Council. Josiah Ferris later became co-owner of the store, and also opened his own jewelry store. He was active in the military and served in the Third Seminole War.

During his first term on the City Council, he was serving as Council President when Mayor Edward A. Clarke unofficially left office in December of 1866. As a result, Ferris served as Acting Mayor from January 1, 1867 until March 1, 1869. This was just before citizens voted to dissolve Tampa's government. It was a tumultuous time in Tampa's history in which yellow fever was rampant and the city had few resources to help its citizens.

Ferris returned to the City Council for another term, serving from August of 1873 until August of 1874. He then returned to managing his retail establishments until 1877, when he was elected as Tampa's City Clerk. He served in this position for nine years, working for six different mayors. Josiah Ferris died in Tampa on November 24, 1901.

## LAMONT BAILEY

August 13, 1886 – March 4, 1891

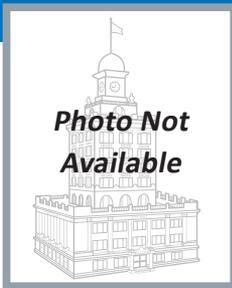


The first City Clerk to serve under Tampa's new City Charter in 1887, Lamont Bailey came to Florida from North Carolina, where he was born in 1861. He was the editor of the Tampa Tribune and also contributed to other local newspapers. He was a member of the Citizens Relief Committee which tried to address the yellow fever outbreak in 1887. While others assigned to this committee failed to complete their duties, Bailey was committed and saw through his entire assignment. After serving as Tampa's City Clerk, Lamont Bailey went on to serve on Tampa's City Council from September 9, 1891 until March 4, 1892.

## WILLIAM J. ALLEN

March 4, 1891 – March 8, 1895

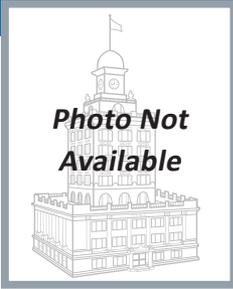
August 12, 1881 – August 14, 1883



William J. Allen was born in Mississippi and came to Florida around 1870. He worked as both a bookkeeper and a farmer. In 1885, he was one of the founding members of Tampa's Board of Trade. During his time as City Clerk, many exciting developments were taking place in Tampa. The Tampa Bay Hotel had just opened, telephone service was established, and both the railroad and the cigar industry brought many new jobs to the city. William J. Allen also saw four different mayors take office during this time. He died in Tampa, not long after leaving office, on March 31, 1895.

## JOHN C. JEFFCOTT

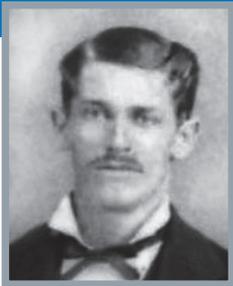
March 8, 1895 - June 18, 1896



A sign painter by trade, John C. Jeffcott immigrated to Florida from Ireland with his brothers around 1883. When he served as City Clerk, he resided in downtown Tampa on Washington Street. During this time, many capital improvement projects were taking place in Tampa as its population steadily increased. Despite this, Jeffcott did not stay in Tampa for very long, and he moved further south to establish an orange grove near Sarasota with his brothers.

## WARREN ADDISON GIVENS

June 19, 1896 – June 9, 1898



A Tampa native, Warren Addison Givens was born in 1857. He was the son of former City Council member John T. Givens, and the brother-in-law of Robert Brenham Thomas, who had also served as Tampa's City Clerk. Givens worked primarily as a clerk and a bookkeeper and in 1881, he was elected as a member of Tampa's City Council, where he served for about five months. In 1885, he was one of the founding members of Tampa's Board of Trade. He was also elected three times as Clerk of the Circuit Court for Hillsborough County. Warren Addison Givens died in Tampa on April 11, 1907.

## JOHN M. HENDERSON

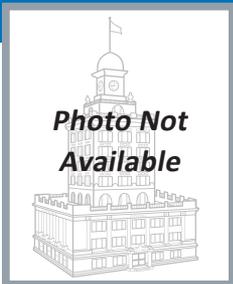
June 10, 1898 – March 29, 1907



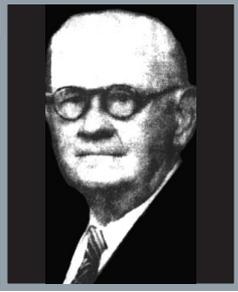
Born in Baltimore, Maryland, John M. Henderson served in the South Carolina Coast Guard during the Civil War. He then moved to Louisiana, where he lived for several years before coming to Tampa and settling in the Hyde Park area. He was first elected as Tampa's City Clerk on June 10, 1898, and he went on to serve for nearly nine years under four different mayors. Well respected in Tampa, Henderson was a member of the Order of the Odd Fellows and the Confederate Veterans. He became ill with Bright's Disease, also known as kidney disease, and died in office on March 29, 1907. Many city officials, including Mayor William H. Frecker and members of Tampa's City Council, attended his funeral, which was held at Woodlawn Cemetery.

## FRANKLIN A. PIMBLEY

April 2, 1907 – June 4, 1908



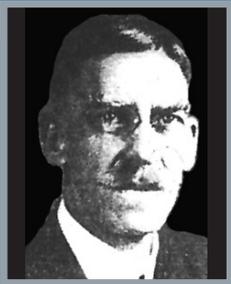
After John M. Henderson died in office, Mayor Frecker appointed Franklin A. Pimbley as City Clerk to complete the remainder of Henderson's term. Born in Wisconsin on October 31, 1878, Pimbley came to Florida at a young age with his parents and siblings. He worked as a carpenter as well a shipwright, and was an active member of the Carpenter's Union for many years in both Tampa and Miami, where he relocated in about 1930. Franklin A. Pimbley lived for nearly one hundred years and died on August 16, 1974, in Collier County, Florida.



## WILLIAM ALBERT JOHNSON

June 5, 1908 – February 28, 1921  
January 3, 1928 – November 7, 1933

Born in Alabama on June 27, 1861, William Albert Johnson came to Florida around 1890, and worked in Apopka as a tax collector. He came to Tampa in 1895. Prior to being elected as City Clerk, he served as a lieutenant in the Tampa Police Department for a number of years. Johnson lived in Hyde Park and during his time as City Clerk, he served under six different mayors. He died in Tampa on December 10, 1950.



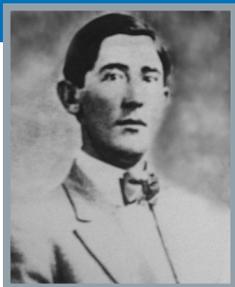
## WILLIAM E. DUNCAN

March 1, 1921 – January 3, 1928

William E. Duncan was born in Madison, Florida on August 29, 1870. He moved to Tampa around 1910 and settled in the Tampa Heights area. He worked as a ticketing agent for the railroad, and later as a bookkeeper for the City of Tampa's Sanitation Department. Duncan served as Tampa's City Clerk for almost seven years. He died on September 1, 1930.

## PHILLIP RUDOLPH BOURQUARDEZ

November 7, 1933 – November 1, 1955



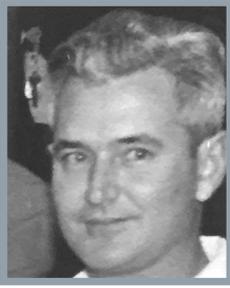
Tampa's longest serving City Clerk, Phillip Rudolph Bourquardez was born on January 24, 1885. He was a Tampa native and a descendant of one of Tampa's first settlers. His grandfather, Constant Bourquardez, immigrated from France and arrived in St. Augustine before coming to Tampa in the late 1840s.

One of fourteen children, Phillip Rudolph Bourquardez was trained in carpentry, a family trade. He married Mittie Tucker in 1916, and several years later he built their family home at 5806 North Branch Avenue, where they lived together for more than forty years. Prior to his election as City Clerk, Bourquardez worked as a jailer in the Hillsborough County Jail, as well as a real estate agent. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Elks Lodge, and the Seminole Heights Methodist Church.

Bourquardez died in Tampa on January 28, 1958. Several years later, Phil Bourquardez Park, was dedicated in his honor. Located at 1810 North Tampa Street, the park featured a waterfall with colored lights. The park's dedication took place in October of 1962, with Mayor Lane presiding and many local officials in attendance. The park was rededicated in 2008.

## WILLIAM LEDGERT STARK

November 1, 1955 – September 15, 1973



Born on June 11, 1916, William Ledgert Stark grew up in Ybor City and graduated from Hillsborough High School. He spoke fluent Spanish as well as some Italian, which helped him throughout his career. He worked as a cab driver and also for the Lee Duncan Insurance Company. Lee Duncan served for a total of thirty-six years on Tampa's City Council, which is the longest that any council member has ever served. Duncan and Stark were both elected for their first terms on the Board of Representatives, which is what the City Council was called at the time, on November 13, 1951. Stark served for two terms and participated in the Rules and Ordinances Committee, the Finance Committee, the Streets and Lighting Committee, the Police, Appeals and Grievances Committee, the Docks and Wharves Committee and the Parks, Recreation and Public Utilities Committee. Stark was also Chairman of the Sanitation and Hospital Committee.

As a member of the Board of Representatives, Stark supported capital improvement projects such as better lighting on the eastern portion of Howard Franklin Bridge. He supported pay increases for City of Tampa employees as part of the 1953 budget. He also voted for the establishment of Rowlett Park and the creation of the City of Tampa Planning and Zoning Board, as well as the Bureau of Sanitary Sewers in the Public Works Department.

Following his time on the Board of Representatives, he was elected City Clerk and remained in this position for over eighteen years. During his time as City Clerk, he modernized the office and developed a system to assist with voter registration. Most notably, he established a records retention system in 1956, and also pioneered microfilming the City of Tampa's deteriorating paper documents to preserve them for future generations. Stark supported the development of the library system, including the John F. Germany Library, and he served under a total of six mayors before retiring in 1973. He died in Tampa on November 8, 1991.

## FRANCES HENRIQUEZ

November 27, 1973 - September 31, 1993



The first woman and first Hispanic to serve as City Clerk, Frances Henriquez was born in Tampa and attended local schools. She began her career in the City Clerk's office in a clerical job in 1954. In 1962, Mayor Julian Lane appointed her Deputy City Clerk upon the recommendation of the City Clerk, William Ledgert Stark, and she served in that position for 11 years. In 1973, following Stark's resignation, Mayor Dick Greco appointed her Acting City Clerk until an election could be held.

Frances Henriquez was elected to the office of City Clerk in a Special Election. She was the first female department head in the City of Tampa and the last City Clerk to be elected by popular vote. In 1974, the position was changed from an elected post to one appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.

During her tenure, she initiated a Records Management Program and the City of Tampa became the first city in Florida to create a municipal archive. In 1993, the Archives and Records Services building was dedicated in her honor. One of her first priorities was to microfilm the older records at the City Clerk's office. She also worked on preserving Tampa's history by interviewing elected officials with the City of Tampa's Television station, CTTV, and served as City Clerk for nearly 20 years until her retirement in 1993.

Frances Henriquez has been honored at the Celebration of Hispanic Women for representing the best of Hispanic culture and community. In 2014, she was honored by the City of Tampa's Women's History Month Committee with the Josephine Howard Stafford Memorial Award.

## JANETT SPRAGGINS MARTIN

October 1, 1993 – July 18, 2002 (Died in Office)



A true trailblazer, Janett Spraggins Martin was born in Miami, Florida, on August 24, 1950. She graduated from Northwestern High School, and later received a Bachelor of Science in accounting from Florida State University in 1972. In 1999, she graduated from Florida Metropolitan University with a Master of Arts degree in Business Administration.

Martin began working with the City of Tampa as a Procedure Analyst in 1975. After a few years, she joined the Industrial Engineering Division. Mayor Bob Martinez later promoted her to head this division, and as such, she became the first black female to manage a division at the City of Tampa. In 1993, Mayor Sandy Freedman appointed Martin to the position of City Clerk where she became the first African-American to ever hold the position. As City Clerk, she presided over the swearing in of Mayor Dick Greco for two terms. She was also the first black President of the American Society of Public Administrators and the first black President of the Tampa Chapter of the League of Women Voters.

Janett Spraggins Martin chaired the board of directors for the Tampa Bay Federal Credit Union and served as a board member for the Lighthouse for the Blind. She was very active in her church, the St. James House of Prayer Episcopal, where she chaired the church fundraiser, the Lincoln-Douglass Ball. She was also a member of the NAACP, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., TOBA, and the Tampa Chapter of Jack and Jill of America.

After she passed away while in office on July 18, 2002, the City of Tampa's Black History Month Committee, Inc., created the Janett S. Martin Scholarship in her honor. Martin had been Chair of the committee for ten years, and now with the scholarship, she will always be remembered.

## SHIRLEY FOXX-KNOWLES

May 12, 2003 – Present



Mayor Pam Iorio appointed Shirley Foxx-Knowles to the position of City Clerk on May 12, 2003. Mrs. Foxx-Knowles earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Florida A & M University and has completed some of the course work toward a Master of Arts in Business Administration at the University of Tampa. She is also a Certified Financial Development Professional.

Mrs. Foxx-Knowles has been recognized for her outstanding accomplishments. She won the prestigious National Forum of Black Public Administration's Florida Chapter Mark of Excellence Award. She has also garnered other awards and recognitions including the Black Women Business Owners Executives and Entrepreneurs' (BWBOEE) Woman of the Year Award. Recently she received the distinguished Dr. William Leckie Community Service Award presented by the Woods & Wanton Chapter of the Buffalo Soldiers.

Prior to her appointment as City Clerk, Mrs. Foxx-Knowles served as the Development Director for the Tampa-Hillsborough Urban League. During her seven years at the Urban League, she worked to restore and raise funds for the historic West Tampa Centro Espanol building and also worked to develop housing for low to moderate-income families in the East Tampa area.

Mrs. Foxx-Knowles was recruited by GTE of Florida to work in their Tampa office as an accountant and administrator where she worked for 16 years. Mrs. Foxx-Knowles is a member of Tampa's Salvation Army Advisory Board and has also served with the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization. Additionally, she has chaired the Hillsborough County Historical Advisory Council, and been a former board member of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators, the Tampa Organization of Black Affairs and the City of Tampa Black History Committee. She chaired the City of Tampa's Code Enforcement Board and has been a member of the National Association of Accountants and National Association of Black Accountants.

Mrs. Foxx-Knowles was born and raised in Fort Pierce, Florida.

## Tampa's Deputy City Clerks

Tribute is paid to Tampa's Deputy City Clerks over the years. A great deal of thanks goes to all of them for their support, dedication and invaluable service to the City of Tampa's Administration, City Council, city departments, and the general public. Their efforts to provide the best possible service are greatly appreciated. Additionally, their knowledge and experience contribute to the efficient operation of the City Clerk's Office. Some of the Deputy City Clerks over the years include Sandy Marshall, Gail Anderson, Lelia Blevins and Stephanie Thomas.



*Sandy Marshall*



*Gail Anderson*



*Lelia Blevins*



*Stephanie Thomas*

## Current City Clerk's Office Accomplishments

- Continued serving City Council by providing support for Council meetings and CRA (Community Redevelopment Agency) meetings by preparing the agenda, action summaries and the minutes. In addition to City Council and CRA, provides support to the Civil Service Board, Code Enforcement Board, Public Nuisance Advisory Board and Code Enforcement Magistrates meetings.
- Handled the Domestic Partnership Registry. The registry began in Summer 2012 and is currently Countywide. The City registered nearly 800 couples.
- Continued management of Board and Committees for City Council.
- Continued management of Public Records Requests (handled approximately 850 requests to date since Nov. 2010).
- Transitioned to a new, more efficient, electronic agenda system. The new system provides faster, more effective and user friendly access to the electronic agenda.
- Will continue to do more work to migrate to electronic records that will provide for a more efficient and user friendly records management system.
- Restored more than one hundred important historical books that were in critical need of repair.
- Held A Celebration of the City of Tampa's History with our Mayors recognizing more than 126 years of the history of the City of Tampa. Introduced *The Mayors of Tampa* book that provides a biographical overview of all mayors from Mayor Lancaster to Mayor Buckhorn. The book is essential for historians and students of Tampa's history.
- In 2015, the City of Tampa celebrated the 100th anniversary of Old City Hall. As part of this celebration, the City Clerk's Office and its Archives and Records Division published *The City Council of Tampa and Celebration of Old City Hall's Centennial*, which featured a history of Old City Hall and biographies of more than 320 City Council members.
- Currently working on oral histories of former Mayors, City Council members and other City of Tampa historical figures. Completed several oral histories thus far including:
  - Governor Bob Martinez, former Mayor of Tampa
  - Catherine Barja, first woman to be elected to Tampa City Council
  - Gwen Miller, first black woman to be elected to Tampa City Council
  - Frances Henriquez, first female and Hispanic city clerk for City of Tampa
  - Mayor Dick Greco, former Mayor of Tampa
  - Joe Chillura, former City Council member and Hillsborough County Commissioner
  - Sandra Warshaw Freedman, first woman to serve as Mayor of Tampa, and former City Council member
  - Tom Vann, former City Council member
  - Jan Kaminis Platt, former City Council member and Hillsborough County Commissioner

# Current City Clerk's Office Accomplishments

## *continued*

- Completed a series called *Out of the Archives* with City of Tampa Television (CTTV).
- Started a series called *Tampa: Untold Stories* with the Honorable E.J. Salcines and City of Tampa Television (CTTV).
- Served as host to several groups and individuals taking tours of City Hall or visiting City Council.
- With the Archives and Records Division, reestablished Archives Awareness Week.
- Worked on several historic marker dedications as City of Tampa representatives on the Hillsborough County Historical Advisory Council. Shirley Foxx-Knowles served as Chair of this council, and Jennifer Dietz is currently serving as its Secretary. The marker dedications brought attention to a great deal of the City of Tampa's history, and include the following:
  - Greater New Salem Primitive Baptist Church – Marker dedicated in 2010
  - Cyrus Greene Park (honoring the Negro League Baseball Players) – Marker dedicated on March 16, 2011
  - Greater Bethel Missionary Baptist Church – Marker dedicated on May 11, 2011
  - The Reverend Billy Graham Marker in Temple Terrace – Marker dedicated in 2011
  - Bertha Honore Palmer Marker (Founder of Temple Terrace) in Temple Terrace – Marker dedicated on October 28, 2012
  - Phillips Field – Marker dedicated on May 5, 2013
  - Bealsville – Marker dedicated on May 13, 2013
  - John F. Kennedy in Tampa – Marker dedicated on November 22, 2013
  - Molly Ferrara, Alcaldesa of Ybor City – Marker dedicated on December 6, 2013
  - Temple Terraces Country Club: Sutton Hall – Marker dedicated on January 21, 2015
  - Hillsborough County Historical Cemetery for All People – Marker dedicated on October 14, 2015
  - West Tampa Public Library – Marker dedicated on December 10, 2015
  - St. Peter Claver Catholic School – Marker dedicated on December 1, 2016
  - The Largest Orange Grove in the World – Marker dedicated on January 21, 2017

### Reinstalled Markers include:

- Most Holy Name Church and School
- Anthony P. "Tony" Pizzo
- Ft. Alafia Indian War Stockade, 1849
- Buffalo Soldiers

## **Florida Association of City Clerks (FACC)**

Municipal Clerks in Florida are members of the Florida Association of City Clerks (FACC) and the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. Tampa's City Clerks have been members nearly from the beginning. The organization offers conferences and academies and provides opportunities for all clerks to learn and serve. The experiences are simply amazing. Clerks from other areas are welcoming and eager to assist fellow clerks with questions they may have or anything else that may be needed. Clerks learn from other clerks, make friendships, and network. There are many career development opportunities and ways to obtain the Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) certification. There are opportunities to mentor or to be mentored.

FACC cares about its members and organization. Membership is valuable and one that will make a positive impact on the life of a Municipal Clerk. More information regarding FACC follows:

### **Florida Association of City Clerks Promoting and Developing the Educational and Professional Status of Florida City Clerks**

In 1972, a Broward County City Clerk encountered unique problems in his office and sought assistance in solving them from neighboring clerks. Upon inquiry about a state organization of fellow professionals that could be of assistance, and finding none existed, Sunrise City Clerk Robert Clark, CMC (deceased) planted the seed that blossomed into the creation of a common forum for the profession known as the Florida Association of City Clerks (FACC). FACC now has more than 500 members representing most of the 410 cities in the State of Florida.

### **Organizational Structure**

FACC's Board of Directors consists of an Executive Board (President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President and immediate Past President) and six District Directors representing the Northeast, Northwest, Central East, Central West, Southeast and Southwest regions of Florida. The Board sets policy and provides organizational leadership and guidance. The 1st Vice President automatically assumes the office of President. Other board members are elected annually by voting members and ratified at the annual FACC summer academy.

Additionally, FACC has several committees to offer guidance and suggest direction to the board of directors. These include Awards and Scholarships, Budget, By-Laws and Manual Revisions, Summer Academy, Fall Academy, Membership, Mentoring, Nominating, Investment Advisory, Legislative, Professional Education and Resolutions.

## **Objectives**

The objectives, as adopted in the 1972 Constitution, included:

- to discuss problems of mutual concern,
- to increase the efficiency of the city clerk's function,
- to cooperate with and assist all city administrators,
- to strive for greater educational standards for city clerks, and
- to gather and disseminate information to improve procedures and the efficiency of the administration of municipal government.

## **Goals**

- Provide information on current legislative changes related to the duties and responsibilities of municipal clerks.
- Continue to solicit and utilize input from municipal clerks in regards to educational seminars provided at institutes and conferences.
- Encourage the Mentoring Program by ensuring contact with each new municipal clerk from an experienced clerk for guidance and information.
- Membership Committee and District Directors work together to contact the members who have not renewed membership.
- Promote the role of the municipal clerk in the administration of government through continuous education of management, elected officials and the public as to the value of municipal clerks as professionals.
- Provide education/training opportunities for municipal clerks that improve the quality of management in government.

## **Partnerships**

To meet the ever-changing educational needs of the city clerk, the FACC partners with the following organizations:

- International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC): provides educational standards for certification.
- Florida League of Cities (FLC): provides contracted administrative and logistical functions to ensure that all aspects of the association's business are coordinated.
- Florida Institute of Government (IOG): provides educators and ensures that the IIMC requirements are met for each academy, webinar and program FACC provides.

Along with these partners, FACC is able to provide enhanced and catered educational opportunities to all clerks. Summer and Fall Academies are moved throughout the state to ensure convenience and participation by all clerks. In addition, quarterly webinars on timely topics offer a convenient way to gain continuing education without travel.

Attendance and participation in the FACC enables a city clerk to achieve the prestigious designation of Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) and ultimately achieve acceptance into the IIMC Master Municipal Clerks Academy (MMC).

## Photos from the 2006 FACC Conference in Tampa



*Welcome banner for the Florida Association of City Clerks Conference hosted by the Tampa City Clerk's Office.*



*Clerks from across the State of Florida gathered for education and networking at the FACC Conference.*



*City Clerk Shirley Foxx- Knowles and Deputy City Clerk Lelia Blevins entertained fellow clerks and pirates at the Conference. A great time was had by all!*

# Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

**WHEREAS**, defined as a public officer charged with recording the official proceedings and vital statistics of a city, **City Clerks** are highly dedicated expert professionals who serve on senior management teams in local governmental communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the **Florida Association of City Clerks (FACC)** is a professional organization established in 1972 to educate city clerks serving in the state of Florida, and it currently serves seven districts and represents well over 500 members, including locally members representing the City of Tampa, Shidey Foxx-Knowles, City Clerk and Sandy Marshall, Deputy City Clerk; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Association of City Clerks' motto is **Promoting and Developing the Educational and Professional Status of Florida City Clerks**, and the organization's goals include assisting members increase the efficiency of city clerk functions, gather and disseminate information to improve procedures, and maximize cooperation, assistance and the efficiency of their municipal government administration; and

**WHEREAS**, for forty-five years, the Florida Association of City Clerks has provided its members with valuable benefits including extensive and superior educational opportunities, networking outlets, annual conferences, webinars, training academies, district mini-academies, and Athenian Dialogues whereby clerks share their experiences and understanding as it relates to their public leadership roles; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Association of City Clerks developed its *City Clerks Manual* as a reference for clerks in the state of Florida, and in partnership with International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), the organization has one of the largest certification programs in the nation that provides valuable tools to obtain industry designations including the prestigious Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) and Master Municipal Clerk (MMC); and

**WHEREAS**, celebrating its **45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**, the 2017 Florida Association of City Clerks theme is **Unity: Oneness of Purpose** to acknowledge the organization moving in the same direction with a united vision to achieve its goals.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim June 1, 2017 as

## "FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF CITY CLERKS DAY"

in the City of Tampa, Florida and urge all residents to recognize the valuable contributions City Clerks provide to local government and the communities they serve.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2017.



City of  
**Tampa**  
Florida

*Bob Buckhorn*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

## Interesting Facts About Tampa's City Clerks

First City Clerk: William Ashley. Ashley Drive in downtown Tampa is named in his honor.

First City Clerk after Tampa officially became a City on July 15, 1887: Lamont Bailey. He also served as editor of the Tampa Tribune.

Only person to serve as City Clerk, on the City Council, and as Mayor of Tampa: Josiah Ferris

The John Darling Lodge in downtown Tampa is named after former City Clerk and City Council member John Darling.

City Clerk who served the longest: Phillip Rudolph Bourquardez. Located in downtown Tampa, Phil Bourquardez Park was dedicated in his honor.

City Clerk who served as Postmaster: Robert Brenham Thomas

City Clerk who served as Customs Inspector: Robert Brenham Thomas

City Clerk who served as Tax Collector: William Albert Johnson

City Clerk who served as Clerk, Civil Engineer and Judge: William C. Brown

City Clerk who worked to preserve records during the Civil War to prevent their destruction: William C. Brown

City Clerk who worked as a jailer for the Hillsborough County Jail: Phillip Rudolph Bouquardez

City Clerk who served as a lieutenant in the Tampa Police Department: William Albert Johnson

City Clerks who also served as Hillsborough County Clerks: Charles Hanford

Warren Addison Givens (Elected three times as Clerk of the Circuit Court)

City Clerks who also served on the Hillsborough County Commission:

William Ashley

John Darling

City Clerks who also served on the City Council:

John Darling (served two terms including one term as President from 1853-1854)  
Josiah Ferris

Lamont Bailey (served as President from 12/10/1891 – 3/4/1892)

Warren Addison Givens

William Ledgert Stark

City Clerks with relatives who served: Robert Brenham Thomas

- His father in law served on Council (William Gould Ferris) – First wife Mary Ferris

- His father in law served as Mayor (James McKay, Sr.- 1859) – Second wife Sarah McKay
- His father in law served on Council (John T. Givens) – Third wife Fannie Givens
- His brother in law served as Tampa's City Clerk and Clerk of the Circuit Court (Warren Addison Givens). Robert Thomas also served as Deputy Clerk while his brother in law served as Clerk of the Circuit Court

Josiah Ferris

- Father, William Gould Ferris, Sr., served on Tampa City Council
- Brother in law, Robert Brenham Thomas, served as City Clerk

Warren Addison Givens

- Father, John T. Givens, who served on the Tampa City Council
- Brother in law, Robert Brenham Thomas, served as Tampa's City Clerk

City Clerks who were founding members of Tampa's Board of Trade:

Charles Hanford

Warren Addison Givens

City Clerk who owned land that is now Waterworks Park: John Darling

City Clerk who once lived downtown where City Hall now stands: Dr. Sheldon Stringer. Just before City Hall was built in 1915, the house was moved to 3210 E. 8th Avenue, where it still stands today as the oldest house in Tampa.

First female Deputy City Clerk: Frances Henriquez

First Hispanic elected as City Clerk: Frances Henriquez. (Note: Phillip Rudolph Bourquardez, who preceded Henriquez, was French.)

First woman elected as City Clerk: Frances Henriquez

First person appointed (rather than elected) as City Clerk: Frances Henriquez

First black person and first black woman to serve as City Clerk: Janett S. Martin (Note: She was appointed by the first woman to serve as Mayor of Tampa, Sandra Warshaw Freedman.)

Second black woman to serve as City Clerk: Shirley Foxx-Knowles (Note: She was appointed by the second woman to serve as Mayor of Tampa, Pam Iorio.)

City Clerks who died in office:

John M. Henderson (March 29, 1907)

Janett S. Martin (July 18, 2002)

First woman department head at the City of Tampa: Frances Henriquez

First black woman to manage a division at the City of Tampa: Janett S. Martin

First female Chair of the City of Tampa Black History Committee: Janett S. Martin

## Did You Know?

There were once cigar boxes with the seal of the City of Tampa and signature of the City Clerk. Some of the boxes may still be around. For example, our archives recently accessioned a cigar box with the signature of John M. Henderson, who was City Clerk from June 10, 1898 until he died in office on March 29, 1907. He was the 14th City Clerk of the City of Tampa since 1856.

The Mascotte was a large ship named for a popular operetta of her time. The Mascotte arrived first in Tampa Bay in January 1886, and for thirty-six years continued her run between Tampa and Caribbean ports.

The Mascotte was used on the city seal as an appreciation to her owner, Henry B. Plant, for what his railroad and steam ship lines did for the city.

Shortly after the establishment of the cigar industry in Tampa, the reputation of its use of the Havana leaf became so popular that its product was soon outselling many of the older brands in the country. Unscrupulous competitors in the field were not long in devising a way to cash in on Tampa Cigar's success, and manufacturers petitioned the City of Tampa for permission to use the city seal on their cedar board boxes. When permission was granted, Henry Leiman, President of the Tampa Box Factory, met with the City Clerk, John M. Henderson, and from their arrangement came the use of the impression of the city seal and "by permission" we find on the cigar boxes today.



130 years ago on July 29, 1887, City Council passed the following ordinances:

- **Ordinance #1** - An ordinance *requiring certain officers of the City of Tampa to give bond* and fixing the amount of their respective bonds. The bonds were payable to the City of Tampa for the faithful performance of duties of certain officers. The officers include the Collector of the City - \$10,000, Treasurer of the City - \$15,000 and the Marshal of the City - \$1,000.
- **Ordinance #2** - An ordinance *authorizing the appointment of a police force, providing for their compensation and prescribing their duties*. Each policeman received \$40 dollars per month - \$480 annually. In addition to their regular duties, the police officers also performed the duties of sanitary inspector (which may be thought of today as the code enforcement inspector).
- **Ordinance #3** - An ordinance *fixing the salaries of the several officers of the City of Tampa*. The salary of the Mayor was \$900 annually. The City Clerk's salary was \$60 per month or \$720 annually; City Marshal was \$75 per month or \$900 annually; City Attorney was \$500 annually.

## Tampa's City Clerks and Mayors

Tampa City Clerks	Timeline*	Mayors
William Ashley	2/9/1856 – 2/9/1857	Joseph B. Lancaster Darwin Austen Branch (Acting Mayor) J. Alfonzo DeLaunay
Sheldon Stringer	2/9/1857 – 2/10/1858 <i>(Source: Council Minute Book #1, page 4)</i>	Darwin Austen Branch (Acting Mayor)
John R. Cox	2/10/1858 – 5/ 24/1858 <i>(Source: Council Minute Book #1, page 11)</i>	Madison Post
E.E. Barry	5/24/1858 – 2/12/1859 <i>(Source: Council Minute Book #1, page 22)</i>	Madison Post
John Darling	2/12/1859 – 2/2/1861 <i>(Source: Council Minute Book #1, page 43)</i>	James McKay, Sr John P. Crichton
Robert Brenham Thomas	2/3/1861 – 2/3/1862	Hamlin Valentine Smell John Jackson (Acting Mayor)
William Ashley	2/3/1862 – 2/22/1862 <i>(Source: Council Minute Book #1, page 78)</i>	John Jackson
Government Suspended by Military	2/22/1862 – 10/25/1866	
William C. Brown	10/25/1866 – 3/1/1869 <i>(Source: Council Minute Book #1, page 82)</i>	Edward A. Clarke Josiah A. Ferris
City Charter lapsed	3/1/1869 – 8/11/1873	
Charles Hanford	8/11/1873 – 3/11/1874 <i>(Source: Council Minute Book #1, page 111)</i>	James E. Lipscomb

William C. Brown	3/11/1874 – 8/14/1877 <i>(Source: Council Minute Book #1, page 126)</i>	James E. Lipscomb Harlan Pierce Lovering
Josiah Ferris	8/14/1877 – 8/13/1886 <i>(Source: Council Minute Book #1, page 160)</i>	Thomas Edward Jackson John P. Wall Henry Clark Ferris Matthew E. Haynsworth (Acting Mayor) George Bascom Sparkman Duff Post
Lamont Bailey	8/13/1886 – 3/4/1891 <i>(Source: Council Minute Book #2, page 1)</i>	Herman Glogowski George Bascom Sparkman Herman Glogowski Thomas Edward Jackson Herman Glogowski
William J. Allen	4/1891 – 3/8/1895 <i>(Source: Council Minute Book #2, page 363)</i>	Duff Post Herman Glogowski Frederick A. Salomonson Robert W. Easley
John C. Jeffcott	3/8/1895 – 6/18/1896 <i>(Source: Council Minute Book #4, page 9)</i>	Frederick A. Salomonson Myron E. Gillett
Warren Addison Givens	6/19/1896 – 6/9/1898 <i>(Source: Council Minute Book #4, page 186)</i>	Myron E. Gillett Frank C. Bowyer
John M. Henderson	6/10/1898 – 3/29/1907 <i>(Source: Council Minute Book #4, page 406. Note: Died in office on March 29, 1907.)</i>	Frank C. Bowyer Francis Lyman Wing James McKay, Jr. Frederick A. Salomonson William H. Frecker
Franklin Pimbley	4/2/1907 – 6/4/1908 <i>(Source: Council Minute Book #7, page 281. Appointed by mayor to fill vacancy caused by death of John M. Henderson.)</i>	William H. Frecker

William Albert Johnson	6/5/1908 – 2/28/1921 <i>(Source: Council Minute Book #7, page 464)</i>	Francis Lyman Wing Donald Brenham McKay Horace Caldwell Gordon Charles H. Brown
William E. Duncan	3/1/1921 – 1/2/1928 <i>(Source: Council Minute Book #13, page 193)</i>	Charles H. Brown Perry G. Wall
William Albert Johnson	1/3/1928 – 1/7/1933 <i>(Source: Council Minute Book #15, page 325)</i>	Donald Brenham McKay Thomas N. Henderson Robert E. Lee Cheney
Phillip R. Bourquardez	11/7/1933 – 11/1/ 1955 <i>(Source: Council Minute Book #18, page 392)</i>	Robert E. Lee Cheney Curtis Hixon
William L. Stark	11/1/1955 – 11/15/1973 <i>(Source: Council Minute Book #41, page 301)</i>	Curtis Hixon Junie Lee Young, Jr. Acting Mayor) Nick Chillura Nuccio Julian Barnes Lane Nick Chillura Nuccio Dick Greco
Frances Henriquez	11/27/1973 – 9/30/1993	Dick Greco Richard L. Cheney (Acting Mayor) Lloyd Copeland (Acting Mayor) William F. Poe Robert Martinez Sandra W. Freedman
Janett S. Martin	11/1/1993 - 7/18/2002 <i>(Died in office. Note: No one was appointed until the following Administration.)</i>	Sandra W. Freedman Dick Greco
Shirley Foxx-Knowles	5/12/2003 – present	Pam Iorio Bob Buckhorn

*\*Note: Dates on some terms are approximate and the closest source is given from the appropriate City Council minute book.*

## Photos from Our Archives



*City Clerk William Ledgert Stark served on the City Council prior to being elected as City Clerk. He is shown here (at right) with fellow council members in 1951.*



*Frances Henriquez on Government Day in 1967. On this day, young men were invited to take over the duties of City of Tampa department heads for one day. Frances Henriquez was the first woman to head a department in the City of Tampa, and as seen in this photo, she was the only female department head at this time.*



*Former Deputy City Clerk Lelia Blevins with City Clerk Shirley Foxx-Knowles and Deputy City Clerk Sandy Marshall in 2006.*



*Former City Clerk Frances Henriquez with Catherine Barja, the first woman elected to Tampa's City Council, former Mayor Dick Greco, and Hazel Pines in 2013 at A Celebration of the City of Tampa's History with Our Mayors.*



*Old City Hall celebrated its centennial in 2015. Photographs by David Fredericks.*





*Former City Clerk Frances Henriquez.*



*Former City Clerk Janette S. Martin*



*City Clerk Shirley Foxx-Knowles*

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Tampa, Florida 33602  
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