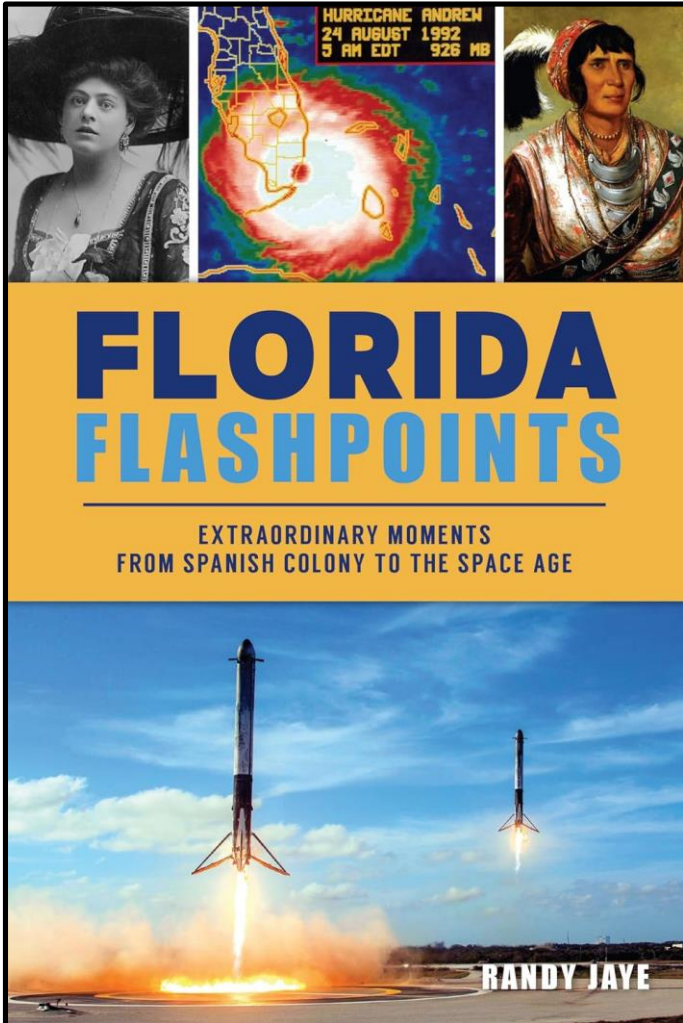


Florida Flashpoints

Extraordinary Moments From Spanish Colony to the Space Age

Presented by Randy Jaye



In 1513, Spanish Conquistador Juan Ponce de León landed in Florida which marked the beginning of the European Invasion. Since then, empires (Spanish, French and English), many Indigenous tribes, Black slaves, freed slaves, escaped slaves and migrants from various parts of North America settled in Florida.

Florida has been the focal point for many historic events including several wars, disastrous hurricanes, the race to the moon during the Cold War, and the hub for world-class entertainment parks. These important events have not only shaped the state, but have influenced the development and helped structure the identity and culture of the entire nation. However, many other important historic episodes, some little to nearly unknown or forgotten, have occurred in Florida including the first European settlement in the present-day continental U.S., the virtual extermination of all its indigenous peoples due to European incursion and diseases, the Matanzas Massacre (which squelched French plans to colonize Florida), the Patriot Rebellion (which led to other hostilities that reshaped the nation), the Land Boom and Bust of the 1920s (a precursor to the Great Depression) and major election issues (two of which led to the seating of United States presidents).

This presentation traces Florida's long history through many of its most interesting and consequential historic episodes. It also explores various remarkable turnarounds in terrain and policies including the taming of dense swamps and thick woodlands to allow for

commercial and agricultural enterprises and residential habitation in the Everglades, the Civil Rights battles to end Jim Crow racial segregation, political change from a southern Democrat to a Republican stronghold state and a history altered multiple times by massive storms, mainly hurricanes. Prepare to learn many of Florida's most interesting and consequential historic episodes through a fascinating journey through more than 500 years of some of the most interesting historic events you may ever encounter.



Randy Jaye has recently researched and nominated 5 properties that have been successfully added onto the National Register of Historic Places. He is the author of several recent books including: *Flagler County, Florida: A Centennial History* (2017); *Perseverance: Episodes of Black History from the Rural South* (2020); *Jim Crow Era Propaganda, Artifacts and Upheavals in Florida* (2022), *Florida Prohibition: Corruption, Defiance and Tragedy* (2024), and *Florida Flashpoints: Extraordinary Moments from Spanish Colony to the Space Age* (2025). He also writes articles for historical journals, local newspapers, magazines, online publications, and has appeared on several radio shows and PBS documentaries. He earned both a Master's degree and a Bachelor's degree from California State University.