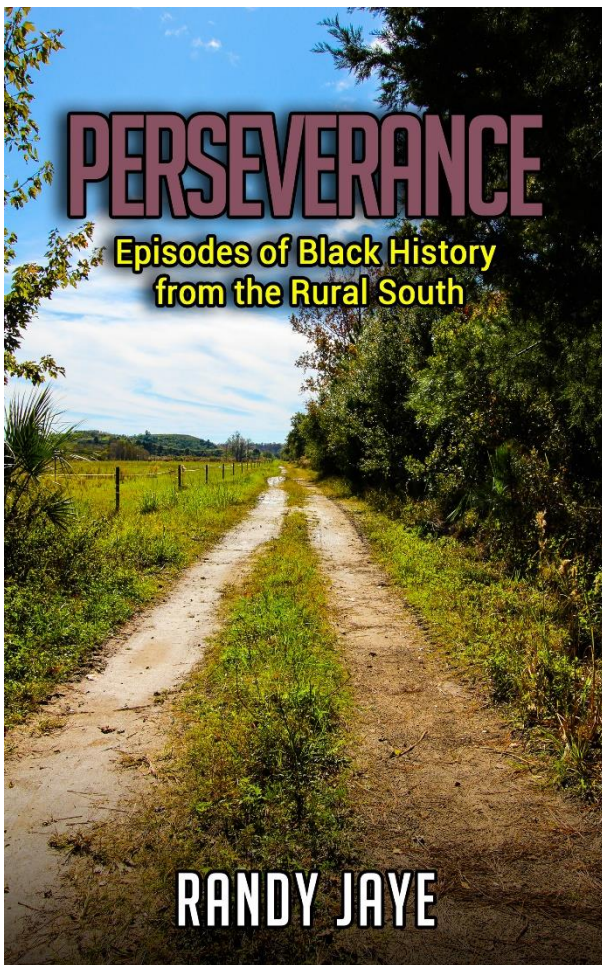


Perseverance: Episodes of Black History from the Rural South

Many aspects of Black history in many parts of the rural South are both underappreciated and under documented.

Presented by Randy Jaye

This program takes you on a journey through various episodes of Black history from the rural South featuring local historical adventures weaved into broader national and international events that span from the European Invasion of the New World, the Plantation-era South, the American Civil War, Jim Crow laws, the two World Wars, the Civil Rights Movement and beyond.



Many of the local episodes of black history in this presentation occurred in Flagler County, Florida and are excellent microcosms of Black history from the rural South. Some of these historic episodes are remarkable and include Ku Klux Klan ties to the county's founder, the "Famous Christmas Letter to Flagler's Colored Voters" (which was a community-wide physical threat to prevent blacks from voting), a Black bootlegger killed the County Sheriff during a Prohibition raid, no high school was provided for Blacks for 32 years after the county was founded, many of the county's elite White citizens were members of the Citizens' Council, and the county's school board filed one of the last and most frivolous lawsuits of the Civil Rights era as a last-ditch effort to prevent desegregation.

The New World provided vast land for commercial agricultural operations. Large plantations were constructed, and these operations became the largest economic industries in the New World and required vast numbers of human laborers.

Beginning in the late 17th century, the numbers of Native American slaves and White indentured servants dwindled and the demand for African slaves in the New World significantly increased.

Although Jim Crow laws (legalized racial segregation) are now outlawed, the legacy of "Jim Crow" persists as the namesake for racial segregation in the United States. Perhaps remembering the Jim Crow legacy will keep those sins in the past and remind everyone that racial segregation has no place anywhere in the world.

The Civil Rights movement was an organized effort by Black Americans, and some White supporters, to end racial discrimination and gain equal rights for everyone under the law. It began in the late 1940s and endured until the late 1960s.



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); and *Florida Prohibition: Corruption, Defiance and Tragedy* (2024). 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.