

St. Augustine Bedtime Stories

The fascinating history of the nation's oldest city comes to life in two series of 12 booklets each, highlighting its famous people and events.

Each set is packaged in a clear-covered box to fit on your nightstand for quick reads before bed.

Available at the St. Augustine Visitor Center, Castillo, Lighthouse, Fountain of Youth, Old Florida Museum and St. Augustine Textiles. Or send order with check payable to George Gardner, 57 Fullerwood Drive, St. Augustine FL 32084.

Each set is \$15 plus \$3 shipping and handling.



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Man and Legend

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Castillo

Building of a Fortress

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Series One

Ponce de Leon - Founder of Florida

Born to nobility, the man who was to discover Florida joined Christopher Columbus in discovering the Americas at San Salvador in 1492, then battled Columbus' heirs for control in settling that Caribbean area before deciding his fame and fortune lay in finding the fabled, and in his day very possibly real, fountain of youth. His discovery of Florida and the Gulf Stream were to him secondary to this futile quest.

Menendez - Man and Legend

One of 20 children, farmed out to relatives at a young age, the founder of St. Augustine rose to become Spain's Admiral of the Ocean Seas, a brilliant military tactician and able administrator whose dying wish was to return to St. Augustine and finish his work of firmly establishing Spain's foothold in the new world.

Matanzas - Conquest of a Colony

Pedro Menendez, considered Spain's ablest seaman, won perhaps his greatest battle on land, driving his forces through a hurricane up the coast to the area of present-day Jacksonville to destroy the French Fort Caroline, while France's famed Captain Jean Ribault lost his ships and men in a hurricane-lashed attempt to attack St. Augustine by sea.

Castillo - Building of a Fortress

No less than nine wooden forts had been destroyed in the century following the establishment of the Spanish garrison at St. Augustine. Raids by the English corsair Sir Francis Drake in 1586 and Robert Searle in 1668 prompted plans for the magnificent Castillo. Coquina, tiny shells solidified with lime to create a soft but solid stone, became the building blocks. What we see today took 23 years to build, as well as countless treasure and immeasurable human suffering.

Huguenot Cemetery - At Eternal Rest

For centuries a Roman Catholic bastion in the new world, St. Augustine had no "Public Burying Ground" when yellow fever struck in 1821, shortly after Florida became a U. S. territory. The government ceded a parcel of military land adjacent to today's Visitor Information Center, where those of non-Catholic, or "Huguenot," faith were buried between 1821 and 1884.

Siege - The Attack of 1702

In the first significant clash between English forces occupying the Carolinas to the north and the Spanish foothold at St. Augustine, Governor Moore's Carolina forces waged a futile two-month siege. Between the two forces the town was burned to the ground, but remained Spanish.

The Menorcans - Tragedy at New Smyrna

With British occupation of Florida, won by treaty in the mid 1700s, an enterprising doctor created a colony at New Smyrna, some 70 miles south of St. Augustine. Based on brutality and broken promises, it failed, and survivors straggled into St. Augustine to form a civilian population which survives to this day.

Osceola - Seminole Indian Legend

War creates legends, and Osceola is well-known among them. Though he died in custody at 41, his feats in negotiation and in battle made him legendary. He may be credited with starting America's most costly Indian war through an assassination and massacre, and he walked the grounds of the Castillo after his capture under a flag of truce.

Dade's Massacre - Preamble to Seminole War

To human sensibility bloody and cold, the assassination of an Indian agent and massacre of an American relief column were brilliant strategic strikes by a man avenging an insult and fighting for his homeland, the legendary Osceola.

Escape - Flight from the Castillo

In the only well-documented escape from the Castillo de San Marcos, Osceola lieutenant Coacoochee, with 16 warriors and two women, slipped through an 8-inch slit high in the southwest bastion to freedom November 29, 1837. This Seminole leader continued his battle 3 1/2 years before surrendering to be sent west.

Henry Flagler - Oil Baron and City Builder

The single greatest influence on modern Florida was a man who, like Menendez before him, spent his teens in the care of relatives. He became a founder of Standard Oil Company, created St. Augustine's "Gilded Age," and was granted his wish to lay at final rest at St. Augustine.

Trivia - a quiz on St. Augustine history

Series Two

The Asiento— *Contract with the King*

The asiento was a legal contract between King Phillip of Spain and the empire's ablest seaman, Pedro Menendez. It gave Menendez ample rewards for his mission to drive out any claims of other nations and establish a colony here. By today's standards, Menendez' investment in this voyage in the summer of 1565 was \$5,920,625, while the Spanish Crown invested \$4,622,625.

The Voyage— *A priest's memoir*

Excerpts from an extraordinary account of the two-month voyage of Pedro Menendez in the summer of 1565, written by Father Francisco Lopez de Mendoza Grajales, principal priest with Menendez.

The Africans— *Deep roots in America*

American history describes black Africans kidnapped from their home countries to work as slaves in New World colonies. But much earlier, African-born blacks, free and slave, helped shape the future Americas in Spanish explorations and colony building. They were explorers, interpreters, craftsmen, and foot soldiers in the movement that led to passage of the civil rights Act of 1964.

The Indians— *A "noble race"*

St. Augustine was founded at a Timucuan Indian village in 1565. Bands of Indians both traded with and harassed early settlers in the 1600s, and joined defenders and attackers in the 1700s. Osceola, Florida's best known Indian leader, was imprisoned at the Castillo during the Seminole War in the early 1800s, as were western Indians in the late 1800s.

The Pirates— *Scourge of the Seas*

Exploration and trade in the newly discovered Americas created the Age of Piracy from the mid-1500s to the early 1700s. St. Augustine recorded two devastating attacks, by Sir Francis Drake in 1586 and Captain Robert Searle in 1668.

Lighthouse— *St. Augustine's Beacon*

The watchtower with its flame at night was designed to spot, and guide, Spanish supply ships into St. Augustine's harbor. The beacon for America's oldest port city has continued to guide ships for more than four centuries.

Drake's Raid— *The attack of 1586*

Just two decades after the founding of St. Augustine, England's Sir Francis Drake attacked, pillaged, and burned the settlement to the ground. It left the settlers with nothing. But the garrison was strengthened and Indians helped the defeated people rebuild their lives. Drake's Raid is reenacted annually in the streets of St. Augustine.

Sack of San Agustín— *Searle's raid*

May 28, 1668, the pirate Captain Robert Searle's buccaneers stormed the city, leaving 60 dead. The sack of San Agustín led to the start of construction on the Castillo de San Marcos in 1672.

Oglethorpe— *Unyielding Castillo*

Where Carolina Governor James Moore had failed in his siege of 1702, General James Oglethorpe, governor of newly claimed Georgia, was determined to succeed in the summer of 1740. A boulevard and a marker on Davis Shores are reminders of 45 days of siege on St. Augustine by Oglethorpe in 1740, more than 250 years ago.

The British Period— *20 years of rule*

More than 200 years of Spanish rule was interrupted by British occupation for 20 years, 1763-1783, in the midst of the American Revolution. St. Augustine and the Florida territory was exchanged by treaty for the British-seized Havana, to be traded back, again by treaty.

Fort Mosé— *1st free black settlement*

Fort Mose, established in 1738 as a northern outpost for Spanish St. Augustine, became home for more than a hundred freed or fugitive slaves from the British colonies, forming more than 20 households. Together they created a frontier community blended with Spanish, Native American and English cultural traditions.

Tolomato Cemetery— *1st burial ground*

The wooden headstones gone, only church records can attest to the earliest burials in the late 1500s, two hundred years before the United States was established. The size of Tolomato Cemetery's tree-canopied grounds belies this final resting place for more than 1,000 over three centuries -all professed Catholics in this staunch Spanish Catholic territory.