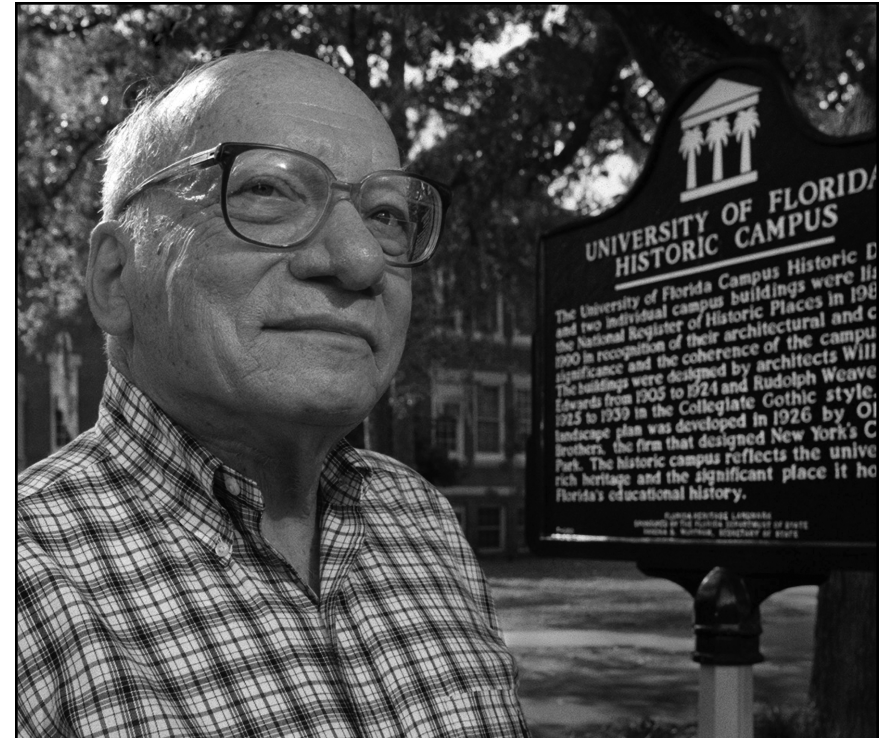




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Remembering Dr. Samuel Proctor

Memorial Service
Sunday, October 16, 2005
2:00 p.m.
Congregation B'nai Israel
Gainesville, Florida

Dr. Samuel Proctor, a distinguished service professor emeritus of history and the University of Florida's historian, died at his Gainesville home after a long illness on July 10. He was 86.

Born and raised in Jacksonville, Dr. Proctor came to UF as a freshman in 1937. After receiving a bachelor's degree in history in 1941, he earned a master's degree in history in 1942—in just two semesters—writing a 560-page thesis on Florida Governor Napoleon Bonaparte Broward. Dr. Proctor then was drafted into the Army during World War II and served at Camp Blanding, near Starke, giving illiterate recruits a basic education in reading and arithmetic.

When he was discharged from the service in 1946, he was offered scholarships to pursue an international law degree at Yale University and The Ohio State University. But Dr. Proctor was persuaded to come back and teach at UF by the chairman of the freshman social sciences program, William Carleton. Then-UF President J. Hillis Miller named Dr. Proctor the university's first historian and archivist and commissioned him to write a book on the history of UF in honor of the university's 100th anniversary in 1953. Dr. Proctor submitted the book as a dissertation and received a doctorate from UF in 1958.

In 1967, Dr. Proctor established the Oral History Program in UF's department of history, with the purpose of preserving eyewitness accounts of the economic, social, political, religious and intellectual life of Florida and the South. The collection, to date, holds nearly 4,000 interviews and 350,000 pages of transcribed material, making it the largest oral history archive in the South and one of the major collections nationwide.

Dr. Proctor published a history of the university called *Gator History: A Pictorial History of the University of Florida* in 1986 and edited *Florida Historical Quarterly* for 30 years. He was named one of the 50 Most Important Floridians of the 20th century, a list compiled by *The Lakeland Ledger* in 1998.

Dr. Proctor retired in June 1996 but continued to serve as the official UF historian and as director emeritus of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, which was renamed in his honor. He regularly conducted oral history interviews for the program. In July 2004, the university presented him with an honorary Doctorate of Public Service degree in recognition of his lifelong contributions to the university community.

Dr. Proctor is survived by his wife of 56 years, Bessie Proctor; two sons, Mark J. Proctor, Pensacola, and Alan L. Proctor, Atlanta; granddaughters Rebecca and Madison Proctor; daughters-in-law Mary Frances Proctor, Pensacola, and Susan Proctor, Atlanta; brothers Judge George Proctor and Sol Proctor, both of Jacksonville; sisters-in-law Gloria Proctor and Rochelle Proctor, Jacksonville, Marge Proctor, Chicago, Cele Proctor, San Diego, and Evelyn Rubin and Bertha Rubin, Atlanta; brother-in-law Myer Rubin, Atlanta; aunt and uncle Dr. and Mrs. Nathan Schneider, Jacksonville; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Memorial Service

Opening Psalm

Rabbi David Kaiman

Guest Remarks

Mr. Stuart Blumberg

Dr. Mark Greenberg

Dr. David Colburn

Dean Emeritus Ralph Lowenstein

Honorable George L. Proctor

In Memory of our Teacher, our Friend

Rabbi Kaiman

The 23rd Psalm

Rebecca Proctor and Madison Proctor

"El Moly Rahamin" (*The Traditional Memorial Prayer*)

Rabbi Kaiman

In Memory and Appreciation

Mark Proctor and Alan Proctor

Closing Psalm and Prayer

Rabbi Kaiman