

June 16, 2022



Mission

Preserving, promoting, and celebrating the unique cultural heritage of Ybor City and supporting the Ybor City Museum State Park

NEWS BRIEF

June is a busy month for history and heritage. In this newsletter, we pay tribute to fathers and father figures, as well as Vicente Martinez-Ybor, Eduardo Manrara, and others who helped found Ybor City. Many newsworthy Ybor City events occurred in June decades ago, and we give a nod to those as well as last Saturday's 120th anniversary gala at El Centro Asturiano de Tampa. June is also Pride Month, with celebrations occurring throughout the country. Check out the "Our Community" section for things to do in Ybor City throughout the summer. Thank you to Arminda Mata for contributing all the historical articles, as well as her favorite recipe for banana pudding. Yum! Last but not least, **Go Bolts!**

~ Chantal Ruilova Hevia, President and CEO

Why We Observe



Father's Day is a day to honor the men in our lives that help mold, teach, and guide us to reach our best potential. Although the concept of honoring one's father is age-old, it wasn't until 1910 that it became an official holiday. Sonora Smart Dodd lost her mother at a young age and helped her father raise her five younger brothers. Her father was very important to her and after hearing a sermon in church on the newly founded Mother's Day, Dodd decided to approach the Spokane Ministerial Alliance to form a day of remembrance for fathers. Originally, Dodd requested the day to be her father's birthday, June 5th, however the alliance chose the third Sunday of June.

The first official Father's Day celebration was held in Spokane, Washington on June 19th, 1910. The holiday faded in the 1920s but gained popularity later. In 1966, Lyndon B. Johnson signed a presidential proclamation declaring Father's Day be the

third Sunday in June, and in 1972, Richard Nixon made it a permanent national observance. Regardless of who you celebrate this Sunday, take the time to think about the men who have made an impact on your life.

"The Father of Ybor City"

With Father's Day approaching it would be remiss not to mention one of Ybor City's founding fathers. Although Vicente Martinez-Ybor is, without a doubt recognized as "the father of Ybor City", today's story will be about his partner and friend, Eduardo Manrara. Born in Cuba in 1842, Manrara originally studied to become a banking clerk and, through his financial expertise, earned recognition and favor with Ybor.



In 1872, Manrara began working with Ybor in Key West and the partnership began to prosper. Due to unsuitable political and labor situations in Key West, Ybor began to look at other places to move his business and was leaning towards places as far away as Galveston, Texas. In 1885, Manrara took a train from New York to Tampa and noted how suitable the area was for the cigar business. Manrara, along with guava entrepreneur and friend of Ybor, Gavino Gutierrez, relayed Tampa's potential to Ybor and encouraged him to visit. After meeting in Tampa in 1885, Vicente Martinez-Ybor and Ignacio Haya decided to move their cigar manufacturing businesses to Tampa.

Vicente Martinez-Ybor purchased the first 40 acres of land that would become the town named in his honor and moved his operations to Tampa. It is important to note that his business partner, Manrara, had the youth and energetic vision to see Tampa as more than the swamp land they had found upon arrival. On October 10, 1886, Manrara spearheaded the formation of the Ybor City Land and Improvement Company to encourage cigar factories to move to Ybor City and, along with Ybor, served as an officer. The company helped launch Ybor City's growth by building an office building, a bank, a hotel, the Cherokee Club, and 167 casitas for the cigar workers within the first year.

Manrara continued to help Ybor City grow and became a respected and beloved figure until his death in 1912. His foresight and ingenuity, along with his partnership with Ybor, helped create a unique and prosperous city.

(Eduardo Manrara, photo courtesy of USF Special Collections)

Ybor City in History



June 27, 1901, General Maximo Gomez made a quiet and quick visit to Ybor City on his way to meetings in New York and Washington. Gomez was a Dominican Major General in Cuba's Ten Year's War against Spain and served as the military commander in Cuba's War of Independence. The Tampa Tribune announced, after he had visited with a few friends, that he had only spent an hour in Ybor City as he was on a "secret trip." Although a quick trip, his visit made front page news.

NEW PAPER APPEARS.

Latin-American Organ Is Issued in Ybor City.

"El Heraldo Latino," "consecrated to the defense of the moral interests of the Latin people in Tampa," made its first appearance on Saturday. It is an eight-page four-column paper printed in Spanish and coming from the press of Mascunano, 1520 Ninth Avenue. The paper is neatly gotten up, carefully edited and contains articles on many of the leading questions of the day. Among the contributors is noted the name of Rodolfo Blain, the well known journalist.

"El Heraldo" already boasts of considerable advertising patronage, which is bound to increase with every issue, and its popularity with the Latin-American people is guaranteed by its stand on questions of vital interest to them. Matters of local and political importance are interestingly and intelligently discussed by the new periodical.

June 23, 1906, a new newspaper by the name of *El Heraldo Latino* opened for business at 1520 9th Ave. According to the Tampa Tribune, the newspaper was focused on "the defense of the moral interests of the Latin people of Tampa."



June 18, 1911, the Tampa Tribune ran its first official Father's Day message. Although Father's Day has grown in popularity, the first impressions of Father's Day were not fully embraced. [Click here to view the clipping of the article.](#)

(Sonora Smart Dodd (started Father's Day) & her father, William Jackson Smart)

Our Heritage

El Centro Asturiano de Tampa. The arrival of the cigar industry in the late 19th century was the catalyst that



gave rise to several social clubs and mutual aid societies in Ybor City and West Tampa. One club, El Centro Asturiano de Tampa, was formed on April 1, 1902. The first "club house" was built of wood and was destroyed by fire in 1912. It was replaced by the new building above in 1914. This magnificent building still stands today and is utilized for events and to

preserve the heritage of the Spaniards who founded and organized the club. At its peak, El Centro Asturiano de Tampa had some 6,000 members.

On June 11, 2022, El Centro hosted a gala to celebrate the club's 120th anniversary. At right is a photo of some of the attendees, who gathered in the ornate 1,000 seat theater, where cultural programs have been presented since the club's early days.



COOKING CORNER



(Photo and recipe from [allrecipes.com](https://www.allrecipes.com))

Banana Pudding

Today's recipe is in honor of my father. Banana Pudding was his favorite dessert and one that he ate religiously on his birthday every year. Enjoy this delicious dessert and make your own special memories. ~ Arminda Mata

[Get the Recipe](#)

Our Community



Tampa Baseball Museum at the Al Lopez House. Experience 135 years of Tampa's iconic baseball heritage through exhibits, artifacts and interactive displays. **June 29 and July 20, 2pm:** "Storytime with Coach Mulry" for children ages kindergarten through 2nd grade. [Information and Registration](#), TampaBaseballMuseum.org

Tie the Knot Ybor, Sunday, July 24, 2022, 12pm-5pm. Spend the afternoon exploring six iconic venues in an immersive bridal experience. Your ticket includes light bites and 2 cocktails, free transportation on the Jolley Trolley, a tote bag with goodies, and a chance to win a honeymoon valued at \$5,000! [Register today!](#)

Ybor City Saturday Market. Operating since 2000, it is the largest continually operating outdoor market in the Tampa Bay Area. Centered in Tampa's Historic District, the market is one of the most popular shopping destinations for locally

produced items unique to the Tampa Bay Area. Open every Saturday year-round, summer hours are 9 am - 1 pm (May - September). [Learn More](#)

Saturday Yoga in Ybor, every Saturday at 9:30am. Join others in the community for yoga in the Garden of the Ybor City Museum State Park. Classes are donation based and proceeds benefit the Park. [Learn more](#)



Pride month is celebrated every June in honor of the Stonewall Uprising of 1969 in Manhattan, with the last Sunday of June initially being set aside in the United States as “Gay Pride Day.” Pride Month commemorates and recognizes the impact that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals have had on history. The first Pride March was held in New York City on June 28, 1970, on the one-year anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising. A coalition of education-based organizations designated October as LGBT History Month in 1994 and in 1995, the General Assembly of the National Education Association passed a resolution to include LGBT History Month as a commemorative month.

Ybor City Museum State Park

A visit to the Ybor City Museum State Park is a terrific way to share Tampa's cultural heritage with friends, family, and out-of-town guests.

You can also inquire about renting the Garden, a beautiful 10,000 sq. ft. outdoor space, by [clicking here](#). This unique venue creates its own ambience for your wedding, corporate meeting, or other special event.



The garden is one of six venues included in [Tie the Knot Ybor](#) on July 24, 2022.

New Hours of Operation : 9 am - 4 pm Wednesday-Sunday

The "Casita" is currently closed for maintenance.

Admission: \$4 per person, free for children 5 years and younger

1818 E. 9th Avenue, Tampa, FL 33605, 813.247.6323



Membership

Join or renew your Ybor City Museum Society membership so that you can enjoy free admission to the Ybor City Museum State Park, special events, and discounts.

Membership donations support exhibits and educational programming.

Join or renew today.



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ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES



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The Ybor City Museum Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization,
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donations are tax deductible to the extent the law allows.

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