

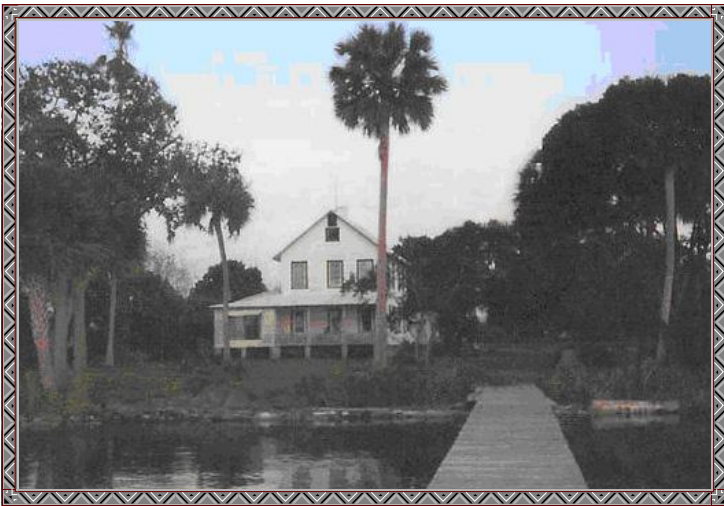
**THE INDIAN RIVER
JOURNAL**



**THE JOURNAL OF
THE BREVARD COUNTY
HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Volume XI, Number 1

Spring / Summer 2012



The Lucas Place, Built 1907

Story on page 18

**Brevard County Historical
Articles & Features
Organizations & Activities**

Brevard County Commission:

Robin Fisher, District I
Charles Nelson, Chairman, District II
Trudie Infantini, District III
Mary Bolin, District IV
Andy Anderson, Vice Chairman, District V

Brevard County Historical Commission:

District I:

Dr. Benjamin Brotemarkle
Rachel K. Wentz, PhD
Roz Foster

District II:

Douglas Hendriksen
Bob Swenson
Dianne Marcum

District III:

Ann Downing
Alan Brech
Joseph Morgan—Chairman

District IV:

Helen Stubbs
Dr. William “Jack” Sidoran
Henry U. Parrish, III

District V:

Dr. David Paterno
Samuel C. Lopez
Jeff Boston

Archivist:

Michael J. Boonstra, CG

Librarian:

Martha J. Loss

Historical Commissioner Emeritus: Ada E. Parrish
Historical Commission Director Emeritus: Stephen R. Benn

THE INDIAN RIVER JOURNAL
THE JOURNAL OF THE BREVARD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Editor:

Bob Swenson

Contributing Authors:

Weona Cleveland
Ann B. Downing
Dr. William “Jack” Sidoran
Martha J. Loss
Ray Osborne
Joseph R. Morgan

Copyright 2012 by the Brevard County Historical Commission
Central Brevard Library and Reference Center, 308 Forrest Ave., Cocoa Florida, 32922.
Telephone (321) 633-1794 See our website at: <http://www.brevardcounty.us/history/>

THE INDIAN RIVER JOURNAL

THE JOURNAL OF THE BREVARD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Volume XI, Number 1

Spring / Summer 2012

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- 2** The McFadden Family of Melbourne / Eau Gallie
Weona Cleveland
- 10** Fort Ann—U.S. Army Post
Dr. William "Jack" Sidoran
- 12** Oak Lodge—1881-1910
Ann B. Downing
- 16** NASA Photos
From the Historical Commission Collection
- 18** The Lucas Place
Martha J. Loss
- 22** A Presidential Oceanfront Lot in Cocoa Beach
Ray Osborne
- 26** Hitler's Soldiers In Florida
Joseph R. Morgan
- 26** History Detective on Special Mission to Spain
Ray Osborne

DEPARTMENTS:

About the Historical Commission.....	28
Museums in Brevard County	30
Historical Organizations	31
Online Services	32

THE MCFADDEN FAMILY OF MELBOURNE/ EAU GALLIE

BY WEONA CLEVELAND

The first appearance of the McFaddens (to the best of my research) is in the 1885 Florida State Census where an H. McFadden (age 55) and son Leroy (age 16) were listed. The father is shown as a "fruit grower." The ages coincide with the Michael McFadden and Roy McFadden who were the subjects of my research. The census indicated they lived in Melbourne.

My research was done primarily in the pages of the *East Coast Advocate/Indian River Advocate*. I have 20 years' worth of this newspaper (photocopies). Friends did a little research for me in the *Florida Star* (a competing newspaper published in Titusville).

From the *Florida Star* of Feb. 9, 1887, was this item: "Mr. McFadden's new schooner was launched during the past week and shows good lines for speed."

The schooner was named *Queen* and the main focus of her travels was to take flour, lumber, and various other supplies to the Bahamas and bring back pineapple slips [*a slip is an immature plant that has grown from the side of another plant—Ed.*] for the burgeoning pineapple industry here in Florida. Michael McFadden and Roy McFadden, at various times, were the captains of the *Queen*. She generally sailed from Melbourne, where the McFaddens had a boat ways [*a nautical term for a boat slip—Ed.*], about halfway in the Indian River between Melbourne and Eau Gallie. (We've determined that it was probably about where the old Rathmann Marina used to be.)

In October 1890, Roy McFadden got married. The account of his marriage, given in the *East Coast Advocate* of Oct. 17, 1890, was more colorful than any I have come across in my research.

"I send a slight account of the marriage of Roy T. McFadden of Eau Gallie and Miss Bertha A. Cook of Campbell, Minn., which occurred on Thursday Oct. 9th.

"They left River View Cottage (presumably in Melbourne) about 3 o'clock p.m. and embarking on Capt. Roy's schooner, proceeded to the church at Eau Gallie, accompanied by Miss Mamie Starck, bridesmaid, and Master Chester McFadden, best man, also the father and mother of the groom and Mr. Henry Starck and family of Malabar.

"On arriving at the church (Baptist) they found it filled with anxious friends. The bride looked (as usual) lovely, and was dressed in cream-colored nuns veiling, trimmed in silk lace and natural flowers; the groom wore a handsome black suit, and looked—as some of the girls said—just

lovely; the bridesmaid wore cream-colored flannelette, trimmed in blue, with flowers; Master Chester did justice to his first trial as best man.

"The ceremony was performed by Rev. Mr. Bolton in a graceful, impressive manner that affected all present, many saying it was superior to any marriage ceremony they ever witnessed.

"Congratulations over with, all went to the Treutler House (a hotel on the Eau Gallie River near what is now Young Street and U.S. 1) for the reception supper and dance. About 150 guests were seated and after a few remarks by the Rev. Mr. Bolton, all fell to eating the bountiful supply of good things furnished them, after which dancing was begun and kept up until daylight appeared. The music was fine and all enjoyed themselves and uniting in declaring Capt. Roy's wedding would long be remembered with pleasure, and the good time that all want repeated in the near future. There were many presents given the bridal couple for which thanks are returned. The happy couple will divide their time, living at River View Cottage, the home of the groom's parents, and at their homestead on Banana River, alternately."

An item in the *East Coast Advocate* of Mar. 27, 1891, said that Roy McFadden was "building a house and clearing three acres of land on his wife's homestead on the Banana River." This is the only insight we have as to the location of the younger McFadden's residence. Just where on the Banana River is not known.

Just a month after the McFadden-Cook wedding, an item in the *East Coast Advocate* reported that Chester McFadden was a student at the Melbourne school, where he had been hurt (broken nose) while playing ball.

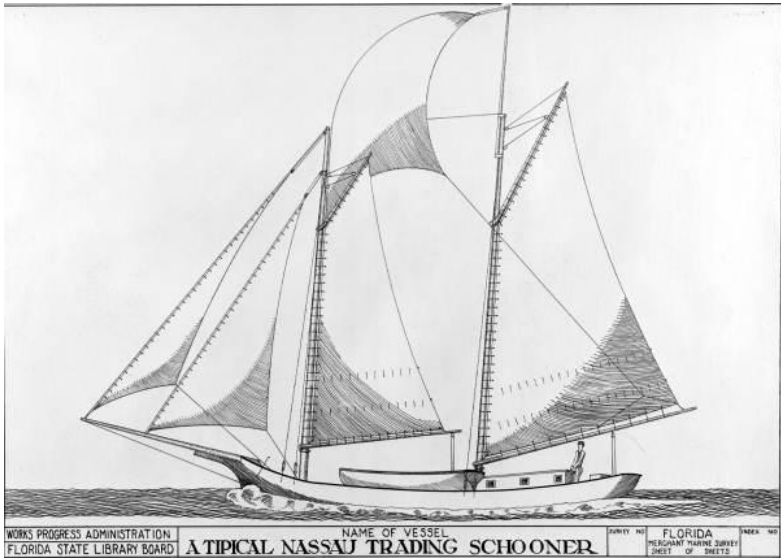
The McFaddens seemed to put most of their energy into building boats for local people at their boat ways for some time, but gradually Roy McFadden (usually) made trips to the Bahamas or even took parties up the Banana River for duck hunting. Sometimes the two men would charter another schooner and take both the *Queen* and a schooner *Cygnus* on trips to the Bahamas.

In October, 1891, Chester McFadden left Melbourne to go to Ann Arbor, Mich., "to complete his studies at one of its noted institutions," the *East Coast Advocate* reported.

The following month, Roy and Bertha (Cook) McFadden became the parents of a daughter. The birth was announced in the *Indian River Advocate* (same newspaper but name changed).

"Capt. Roy McFadden had the starboard watch called about four bells on Sunday morning week, to see and help launch one of the finest little crafts that was ever launched on the Indian River. She is full rigged, well put

together, and has plenty of ballast aboard. Any person that is curious enough to wish any more information respecting this strange little craft need only to look at the beaming faces of Grandpa and Grandma McFadden."



Florida Department of State
Division of Library and Information Services
<http://www.floridamemory.com>

What a Typical Nassau Trading Schooner may have looked like

Just two months before the birth of his daughter, Roy McFadden had the misfortune of having the schooner *Queen* blown ashore south of Lake Worth. She was bound for the Keys, loaded with lumber and merchandise, and was then headed for the Bahamas to get pineapple slips. Efforts were made by the personnel at the House of Refuge near Lake Worth to help the ship, but eventually she broke up and was a total loss. Fortunately the cargo was saved. By March 1892, McFadden had the keel of the *New Queen* laid at his boat ways. She would be a larger schooner.

In July 1893, C.J. Hector [see the *Spring / Summer 2006* edition of the *Indian River Journal* for an article on C. J. Hector—Ed.], an early settler of Melbourne and its first postmaster, brought a law suit against Michael McFadden (reason unknown) and McFadden's property (or part of it) was sold at auction on the courthouse steps in Titusville to settle the lawsuit. The *New Queen* continued her trips to the Bahamas, not just for pineapple slips, but she began taking tourists (and local people) on board. The round trip (usually to Green Turtle Cay) cost just \$25. That included a berth and meals.

It appeared for a time that Michael McFadden was the one doing most of the work at the boat ways, while son Roy captained the *New Queen* on trips to the Keys and the Bahamas. On one return trip from the Bahamas, he brought 125,000 pineapple slips and "a lot of fruit." An item from St. Augustine reported, "The schooner *Queen*, Capt. McFadden, master, arrived yesterday from Green Turtle Cay in ballast with her topmast broken." St. Augustine, Jacksonville and sometimes Fort Pierce, were the *Queen's* entry ports.

The first edition of the *Melbourne Times* (April 5, 1894) carried a colorful account of a trip on the *Queen* to Big Abaco Island.

Pineapple slips and fruit were not the only cargoes brought back from the Bahamas. In April, 1894, the *Queen* brought "a lot of shipwrecked sailors on their way to New York." Two months later Roy McFadden, returning from the Bahamas, took a carload of pineapples to Kansas City where he sold them for \$7 per crate. That same month young Chester McFadden makes his appearance as a captain on the *Queen*.

In July of 1894, an article in the *Indian River Advocate* writes of a woman who is in the Marietta, Georgia jail. She identifies herself at various times as a Mrs. Woodward, Mrs. Edna White, Mrs. Thompson, or Mrs. Hicken. She is in jail for "forgery and swindling." She displays a photograph to the authorities of her husband and herself taken at Titusville, Florida. The following month a dispatch from Atlanta stated that the woman was in the Atlanta jail, having "successfully forged checks" in St. Augustine, Macon, and Boston.

In September 1894, the *Atlanta Constitution* newspaper wrote, "Mrs. George Hicken has proven to be the most mysterious prisoner that Atlanta officers have ever had to deal with. In the course of her meteoric career she has sailed under no less than twelve aliases, and with every change of the moon comes new tale of her exploits or incidents as to her past life."

"Now comes a letter from Titusville, which shows the lady in a new light, and which, if true, proves that the man now with her is not her husband. The letter, which was received by Chief Connolly yesterday, was written by the cashier of the Indian River State Bank and it says that the lady is the wife of Mr. M. McFadden, a man well known in that section."

"Mrs. Hicken" denied everything.

Later that month Walter S. Graham, then editor of the *Indian River Advocate*, happened to be in Atlanta. He paid a visit to the Atlanta jail and identified the prisoner as the wife of Michael McFadden of Melbourne.

An item in the *Indian River Advocate* of October 1, 1894, states, "Capt. Roy McFadden and wife, lately returned from Minnesota, spent Sunday with Mr. Starck in Malabar."

Then in the October 19, 1894, issue of the *Indian River Advocate*, "Roy McFadden, a son of the woman now confined in the Fulton County (Georgia) jail on various charges of forgery and cheating and swindling, who calls herself Mrs. Hicken, has visited the jail and has seen his mother. He satisfied himself of the fact that she is living with Hicken or Thompson, as his name may be, as his wife, and Roy has returned, bowed down with grief, to his home in Melbourne."

Three weeks later Capt. McFadden (the newspaper did not say which one) returned in the *Queen* from the Bahamas reporting that "the last storm had done a deal of damage to property in the islands."

The *Atlanta Constitution*, at the end of November, reported that Mrs. Hicken and her "husband" were to have a "hearing" in court. But in January of 1895, another newspaper article wrote, "Attorney Robinson stated Monday that suits would be filed by Mrs. M.E. Hicken and her supposed husband against the Eden-Neel Company, and yesterday they were handed to the clerk of the Supreme Court."

"Hicken sues for \$10,000 damages and his wife wants the same amount. They allege that the warrants against them were groundless and that the prosecution has been malicious."

Both of the "Hickens" were in jail under \$500 bond. The February 1, 1895, issue of the *Indian River Advocate* reported that Mrs. "Hicken" had been tried and had been sentenced to two years in the Georgia penitentiary.

An April 19, 1895, article in the *Indian River Advocate* had the headline, "Mrs. McFadden Free." It went on to say, "News to hand from Atlanta says that Mrs. M.E. McFadden, formerly of Melbourne, who was, a few months ago, convicted on a charge of forging checks, is free. She was released on Monday, owing to the fact that the Supreme Court reversed the sentence of the lower court. The prisoner was known as Mrs. Hicken."

During these months the schooner *Queen* continued to make trips to the Bahamas, one time bringing back vegetables, another time taking lumber and shingles to the Bahamas. Michael McFadden may have been the captain on most of these trips, as on one occasion it was reported in the *Indian River Advocate* that Roy was in Fort Pierce where he expected the *Queen* "any time with a large cargo of pines (pineapple slips)."

Trouble seemed to dog the McFaddens that year of 1895. The *Indian River Advocate* reported in the September 13, 1895, issue, "The shooting affair which occurred at Green Turtle Cay on July 26th, when Neil Roberts, a resident of that place shot a seaman named William Hutchinson belonging to the American schooner *Queen* of Eau Gallie, Florida, has had a serious termina-

tion. Hutchinson, the wounded man, not being able to receive medical assistance at the Cay, was sent homeward on the *Queen* leaving the same night, and Roberts was held under bond by the Magistrate to await the result. Monday's mail brought dispatches from Washington to the Hon. T.J. McLain, U.S. Consul (in the Bahamas) informing him of the death of Hutchinson who died on the voyage from the effects of the wound in the abdomen. Roberts at the time was on the shipping articles of the *Queen* and both men were on shore leave and were said to have been drinking." This article was from the *Nassau Guardian*, reprinted in the *Indian River Advocate*.

I have searched the book *The Two Cemeteries at Melbourne* and did not find Hutchinson's name listed. So perhaps he was buried at sea or perhaps Fort Pierce or whatever port of entry the *Queen* used at that time.

Mrs. McFadden, aka Mrs. Hicken, had not entirely disappeared from the McFadden's lives. In December, 1895, two items were printed in the *Indian River Advocate* stating that she was in Waycross, Georgia, where she claimed to be a dermatologist from Canada. She was selling "face bleach."

In addition to bringing pineapple slips from the Bahamas, the *Queen* began bringing seashells "and other curios" back to Florida. A February 14, 1896, item in the *Indian River Advocate* said, "The *Queen* arrived in our harbor (Melbourne) about one o'clock on Wednesday and at two o'clock was crowded with ladies and gentlemen, all after shells and other curios."

Captain Roy McFadden was also anxious to build a 100-ton light draft ship for trips between St. Augustine and the Bahamas. But by November, 1896, McFadden had bought another schooner; named the *Tortugas*, apparently giving up the idea of building one. It appears that Michael McFadden was the captain of one ship, while Roy remained with the other. The *Tortugas* generally sailed out of St. Augustine. Sometimes Chester McFadden took the *Queen* on its trips. More and more the voyages became "sightseeing" trips as well as carrying cargo. Three prominent Melbourne men went on one voyage and even one young woman, Jennie White, sailed on a three-week journey to the Bahamas.

The hazards of sea life are often brought to light in the pages of the *Indian River Advocate*:

October 30, 1896: "The schooner *Queen*, laden with coal and other things, made an attempt to put to sea last week, but owing to the stormy weather, Capt. McFadden had to put back to Fort Pierce. The *Queen* expected to make another attempt to reach the Bahama Islands yesterday."

January 15, 1897: "The Melbourne people were made happy over the safe arrival of the schooner *Queen* from the Bahama Islands, as she had been

reported lost at sea with all on board; and three of Melbourne's brightest young men were on board her, having gone for a trip to Nassau."

During the Spanish-American War of 1898 were printed these reports in the *Indian River Advocate*.

April 15, 1898: "The schooner *Queen* was in port (Melbourne) last week with a party en route to Key West. Capt. Chester didn't mind if he does see a few war ships on the way."

May 6, 1898: "The schooner *Queen* arrived safe in port last Friday. Capt. Roy McFadden reports things lively in Key West now."

In September, 1898 reports again circulated that the *Queen* had been lost at sea. But she docked safely in Eau Gallie. It appears that on occasion Roy McFadden's wife and daughter go on board the *Queen* for her voyages. The daughter, named Queen, by this time was seven years old.

The schooner *Tortugas*, captained by (presumably) Michael McFadden encountered severe weather in June, 1897. She sprung a leak and had to jettison a deck load of lumber. She was at Green Turtle Cay undergoing repairs. In March, 1899, with Roy McFadden as captain, the *Queen* went aground at Lake Worth Inlet with a party of tourists from Rockledge on board.

In December, 1899, was this report: "The schooner *Queen* touched at the railroad dock in Eau Gallie last week. This is probably the last trip of the *Queen* on Indian River, the schooner having been sold to parties who will run her among the Florida Keys. Capt. McFadden will build a larger boat for his voyages to and from the Bahamas."

However, it appeared that McFadden did make several more trips in the *Queen* before beginning to build a larger schooner. Subsequent newspaper articles report that the McFaddens are sailing in a schooner named the *Nebraska*. They spent the winter of 1900-1901 in Daytona. But the *Nebraska* was hauled out on Hodgson's boat ways in Eau Gallie in November, 1901, for repairs. We can only assume that the McFaddens no longer had their own boat ways on the Indian River.

In October, 1901, the *Florida Star* reported that Bertha McFadden "had been ill for some time, but is now rapidly improving."

The *Florida Star* also wrote in early 1902 that "Capt. McFadden and his schooner is at Rockledge Wharf and his fine collection of shells and curios are attracting considerable attention."

In September, 1902, the McFaddens sailed to Tybee, Ga. (near Savannah) but returned to Melbourne. Small items in the newspapers indicated that Roy and

his father were increasingly bringing shells and curios back from the Bahamas. The pineapple industry in Florida was on the wane after 1900.

In 1904 (according to the research of descendant Joan Jones), Bertha McFadden gave birth to a son, Elson Roy, in March. The child died in May, 1904. The baby may have been born in Daytona, because by 1905, we know that the McFaddens sold shells and curios from their schooner in Daytona and planned to build a store for his curio business.

Just how long the McFaddens remained in Daytona is not known, but the *Florida Star* reported in its May 28, 1909 issue: "Many friends on Indian River will learn with regret the death of Mrs. R.T. McFadden at Tybee, Ga. After a brief illness." She was 41 years old.

Joan Jones of The Villages, Florida, has done considerable research on the McFadden family. She reports that Roy McFadden later married Mary Daniels and at some point migrated to Baltimore, along with his father, Michael. Roy died in Baltimore on February 9, 1920, at the age of 50. He is buried in Savannah, Georgia.

What became of Chester McFadden is not known. He was well liked in Melbourne and vicinity where he often took groups of friends in the *Queen* to the beach, docking at the Melbourne Beach pier.

Queen Esther McFadden, the daughter of Roy and Bertha, was married in September, 1911 (age 20) to James Dale (age 25) in Savannah. They moved to Asheville, North Carolina, because of James' health. Prior to the move, they had two children, a daughter and a son.

Mrs. Jones reports that Queenie "was an entrepreneur—she owned four beauty salons in Daytona, Palm Beach, and two in Asheville." She died in November, 1934, at the age of 43.

Michael McFadden, Queenie's grandfather, apparently went to Asheville to be near his granddaughter after Roy's death in 1920. Michael died in Asheville on October 26, 1925, at the age of 86. He is buried in Savannah, Georgia. He was the great-great grandfather of Joan Jones of The Villages.

This story of the McFadden family was written to provide Joan Jones information for her genealogical search. As indicated, my search was done in old newspapers. Both Bob Gross and Ed Vosatka helped with bits of information. //R//J

In 2006 Weona Cleveland was named an Honorary County Historian of Brevard County.

FORT ANN—U.S. ARMY POST

BY DR. WILLIAM “JACK” SIDORAN

How does the prettiest girl in Pennsylvania become the center of the first earliest structures built in Brevard County?

Fort Ann (1837-1838) - Established in November 1837- formed the original settlement of northern Brevard County.

The area played home to Native Americans as long as 12,000 years ago. Andrew Jackson's invasion of Florida in 1818, in pursuit of the Seminoles, served as a catalyst for the cession of Florida from Spain and the eventual construction of Fort Ann.



Ft. Ann was built along with Ft. Christmas, Ft. Taylor, Ft. Pierce, and Ft. Lauderdale. Along with additional forts, Fort Ann completed a string of forts across the Florida peninsula from Tampa Bay to Ft. Pierce. Some of those names are still with us today. This string of forts would subsequently become the “line of separation” between the Seminoles who remained in Florida and the advancing white settlers.

Brevard County got its start when Fort Ann was established late in 1837. Considered an important supply depot on the east shore of the Indian River, Ft. Ann was located near the boat Haulover point on a narrow strip of Merritt Island. Florida militia commander General Joseph Hernandez and his force encamped in the general vicinity of Mims and constructed a wagon road southward to Fort Capron and Fort Pierce that became known as the “Hernandez Trail.” Today the modern County includes the towns of Titusville, Rockledge, and Melbourne.

1st Lt. James R. Irwin, 1st U.S. Artillery and one company of troops occupied Fort Ann in 1837. Ft. Ann protected troops engaged in the second Seminole Indian War, fought between 1835 and 1842. The Fort was built to guard the

"Haulover" portage between the Indian River and Mosquito Lagoon in the present day Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. The Haulover was a strategic portage place used by Indians and Traders to transition from the Indian River to the ocean access through the Mosquito Lagoon.

The building materials for the Fort are a matter of some conjecture. We do not know if it was an "earthwork" or "pine pickets." We do know that Lt. Irwin was directed to erect "some kind" of a fortification capable of being defended by one company in support of the protection of this strategic portage. Eventually, Fort Ann was garrisoned by a naval unit and three companies of artillery. At one time in its short history, the Fort must have been quite substantial.

U.S. Army Surgeon Jacob Motte, claims in his journal, *Journey Into the Wilderness*, that Lt. Irwin named Fort Ann after "the prettiest girl in Pennsylvania." Army records indicate that the Fort was garrisoned by U. S. troops until it was ordered abandoned in April 1838. One wonders what ever happened to pretty Ann of Pennsylvania... did she wait for Lt. Irwin, did she marry someone else, was she abandoned like the fort that bore her name... We may never know what happened to "Ann of Pennsylvania"...but one thing is for certain, she will always remain the center of the first earliest structures built in Brevard County!



Fort Ann Haulover Canal Bridge

- The map point, while approximate, is the best approximation of location on the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Brevard County, Florida: Latitude: 28.736392 Longitude: 80.754756
- You will also find Fort Ann Haulover Canal and Fort Ann Haulover Bridge *IRJ*

OAK LODGE 1881–1910 THE FIRST HOTEL IN SOUTH BREVARD

BY ANN B. DOWNING

Oak Lodge was a ten room hotel and boarding house meant to serve scientists, ornithologists and naturalists whose interests were to study and write about the virgin flora and fauna of the surrounding area.

The Lodge was built on the east coast of the Indian River Lagoon opposite Grant and approximately 8 miles north of Pelican Island. That land is now occupied by the Aquarina Golf Course and a small plaque indicates the site.

The owners were Charles Latham, a Civil War veteran, and Frances “Ma” Betts Latham. Charles Latham was able to purchase the 164 acre tract of land for \$1.25 an acre through “A Soldier’s Claim of Land.” The Latham’s purpose was to build a structure to house researchers and environmentalists such as renowned ornithologist Frank Chapman; Brown University Professor W. P. Jenks; and Paul Kroegel, the first wildlife warden of Pelican Island.

Frances “Ma” Latham seems to have been the important presence at the lodge. She is spoken of as a collector of specimens and had a great interest in animals. There is a picture of her with a stork and holding a hat made of palm fronds. Laura Smith Hiott was quoted as saying that Ma Latham wore overalls like the other visiting scientists and helped them collect saw palmetto berries which were shipped north to pharmaceutical companies.



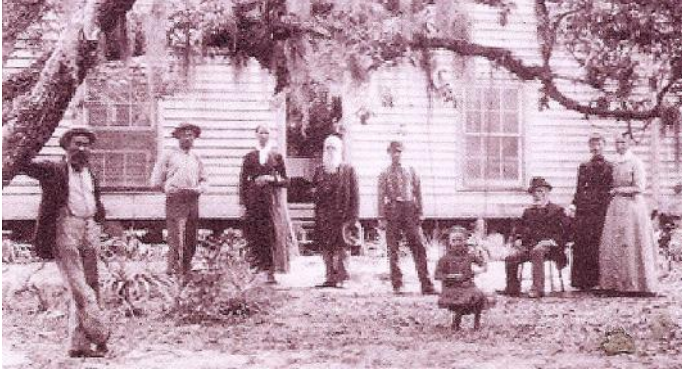
Almost all of the information about this unique place comes from the research of H. Walter Obermayr, a resident of the Aquarina Golf Community. He originally found interesting objects such as bottles, bricks, pottery and two cisterns. Some of his neighbors, and probably other persons, also dug around the area for objects. Then Walter learned from Eleanor Dillon, a realtor in South Brevard, of a book titled IN FLORIDA written by Frank Chapman, and that book increased his interest. Then came a meeting with Mary Anne Carter of Tampa, a great-granddaughter of Charles Latham who was working on her genealogy and was able furnish a great amount of information about the Latham family.

In a Newspaper article, Walter wrote that according to a local historian Fred Hopwood, the Oak Lodge building was constructed by Joseph McGruder of Rockledge.

One must try to imagine the difficulties of building such a large structure in an area where there were no roads. Everything had to be brought in by boat,

probably from the pier in Melbourne. And even after completion, all visitors, supplies and mail came by various boats.

AND the visitors did come. In addition to those previously mentioned, there was Prof. Hitchcock of Dartmouth, Newton Dexter, Louis Agaseiz, Outram Bangs, and Charles Knight.



Oak Lodge in 1889

(l-r) Frank Latham, brother of Charles Latham; Charles Latham, owner; Frances “Ma” Latham; Prof. W.P. Jenks, of Brown University; unknown man; Queenie, daughter of Charles & Frances; unknown man; Eva Seills, daughter of Frances’ first marriage; Clarissa Burch, mother of Frances

Although not a visitor, Ma Latham’s mother Clarissa Burch lived at Oak Lodge during the 1880s. Before she died on August 24, 1890, she had declared that she did not want to be buried “in this wilderness”. However a descendant of the family remembers seeing a grave on the north side of the trail to the ocean which had a design of angel wing sea shells. Then it seems that Ma Latham hired Will Scott, Melbourne’s harbormaster, to take a headstone to the Georgiana Cemetery. Obviously there is more to this story than has been uncovered.

Another remarkable person who lived at Oak Lodge was a daughter of Charles and Ma Latham. In 1883, this daughter was born and named Queenie. Frank Chapman was very fond of the child and called her “Our little Naturalist”. Having no human playmates, she filled her life with wanderings on the trails with her dog Sport, the mule Nero, several chickens and an assortment of frogs, small alligators and insects.

As mentioned before, a frequent visitor was Paul Kroegel who often came by to talk to Ma Latham, Frank Chapman, and other naturalists and discuss the

problem of the plume hunters. This was a situation which eventually caused Frank Chapman, William Dutcher and Paul Krogel to convince President Theodore Roosevelt of the need for legislation. In 1903, the President issued the proclamation naming Pelican Island as a National Bird Refuge. Paul Krogel was the first Island Warden and earned \$1.00 a month.

Walter Obermayr has been able to continue his research and in 2009 he read “*A Survey of Indian River Archeology, Florida*” by Irving Rouse. It contained a report in the Yale University Peabody Museum of Natural History written by Charles N. Jenks. Mr. Jenks was led by Ma Latham to an Ais Indian mound located ¼ mile east of Oak Lodge and 350 ft. from the ocean. A precise archeological dig was performed and Mr. Jenks described the scene as follows:



Frank Chapman

“The Chief was sitting on a throne or bier of oyster shells. Two women sat at the feet of the bier facing the Chief in the same general positions of head and limbs. A shell pendant was between one woman’s knees, having dropped in front. It apparently had been around her neck or on her head and had dropped as time went on. I failed to find any beads or ornaments on the second woman’s body.”

According to Mr. Rouse’s book, Mr. Jenk’s collection is at the Yale Peabody Museum and includes the skeleton of the Chief and some checkered stamped potter that indicates that the mound was built during the Malabar 2 period, 750 to 1565 A.D.

This amazing discovery was so appreciated by Walter Obermayr that he has written a small pamphlet describing the find. He also consulted with artist and historian Vera Zimmerman and asked her to visualize and paint the scene of the Chief and maidens. The Pamphlet and beautiful painting by Vera Zimmerman have been exhibited at the Old Town Hall History Center.

The first Oak Lodge was located on the banks of Mullet Creek from 1882 to 1893. Unfortunately, it burned down in 1893 but was soon rebuilt by the Lathams. The second Oak Lodge burned on the night of May 18, 1910, the night Halley’s Comet was seen crossing the southern sky.

The coincidence of the spectacular fire and the spectacular comet has been mentioned in several history books and many persons recorded recollections of

that event. One description was written in a letter that Honey Smith, a Grant bee keeper, had written to his wife and daughter on May 19, 1910.

He writes that he was in his boat Kismet during a storm and had delivered some mail and liquor to Ma Latham. When the strong northeast wind continued, he decided to stay the night. But about midnight he awoke and started to sail home. When he reached shore, he looked back across the river and was surprised to see the Comet Halley, but then even more surprised to see that OAK LODGE WAS ON FIRE.

Although this article is principally about the two Oak Lodges and the persons who were associated with it, there is one more relatively recent event which deserves mention. On March 6, 1997, there was a reunion of descendants of Charles and Frances Latham. This came about through the research of Walter Obermayr when he discovered that family members were living in Florida in such cities as Tampa, Stuart, West Palm Beach, Fort Pierce, and Titusville. Charles Latham had children by his first marriage and then Charles and Frances had one child, Queenie, who had five children. This led to a remarkable assembly of "cousins" who had never previously known each other and many relationships resulted from this meeting. Researcher Walter Obermayr is extremely proud that many descendants were connected and he feels that this was his most meaningful achievement.

The Oak Lodge Historical Site will be preserved and plans are ongoing. There is a Pelican Island Capsule to be opened in 2103. In the meantime, Walter Obermayr continues to give exhibits at various locations.

And it is fortunate that he continues his interest and research so that the story of Oak Lodge can be known and enjoyed. *IRJ*

Sources of information:

H. Walter Obermayr

Weona Cleveland

Vera Zimmerman

The Times (Newspaper)

August 23, 1995; August 30, 1995; March 26, 1997

ADDITION

The *I Dream of Jeannie Lane* article by Joseph R. Morgan in the Fall/Winter 2010 edition of the *Indian River Journal* should have contained a credit line for the book *I Dream of Jeannie Days* by Ray Osborne.

Also, Buzz Aldrin's name was misspelled.

FROM THE BREVARD COUNTY HISTORICAL



10/30/1986—Discovery is rolled back to the Orbiter Processing Facility from the Vehicle Assembly Building where return to flight modifications will be made. This is the first step in preparing the orbiter for the next scheduled launch [STS 26] in February 1988.

This overall view shows the orbiter Discovery at an angle [right side] being rolled from the Vehicle Assembly Building [VAB] to the Orbiter Processing Facility [OPF] where preparations and modifications will be made for the STS 26 Return to Flight mission. There are personnel around the orbiter guiding and watching the process. Behind the orbiter is a portion of the VAB. *IRJ*

COMMISSION NASA PHOTO COLLECTION



2/3/1987—Workers examine the area where the body flap meets the aft fuselage as structural inspections continue on Discovery in High Bay 1 of the Orbiter Processing Facility. Discovery is scheduled to fly the next Space Shuttle mission STS 26. Launch is presently targeted for February 18 1988.

This close view shows a worker holding a flashlight and another worker checking inside the body flap of Discovery as the orbiter goes through structural inspections in preparation for Return to Flight mission STS 26. Good view of the thermal protection system under the body flap of an orbiter. Work is being performed in the OPF High Bay 1. *IRJ*

THE LUCAS PLACE
MERRITT ISLAND, FLORIDA
BUILT IN 1907

BY MARTHA J. LOSS

Part of the allure that the study of history has for most people is the way it allows the student to transcend time and place, and it allows us a window into the lives of earlier people. This is the closest to time travel that we will probably ever see in our lifetimes and it casts a powerful spell. The following previously unpublished letter is from the correspondences of one of Brevard County's pioneers, Mrs. Clarence E. (Loue) Lucas, who moved here with her husband from Illinois in the earliest days of the 20th century and settled on Merritt Island, eventually homesteading a plot in what is now Cocoa Beach. It was obtained through an interview with Mrs. Lucas' granddaughter, Mrs. Kay Grooms, who is the daughter of Ada May who is mentioned in this letter.

The storm which Mrs. Lucas describes so vividly in this letter was apparently the one referred to as Tropical Storm 5, which originated on October 15, 1921 in the Gulf of Mexico just north of the western end of Cuba, made landfall very close to Tampa and moved eastward across Florida and out into the Atlantic a few days later. It dissipated on October 24th in the eastern Atlantic Ocean near the Azores. This information, including the map at the end of the article, was obtained from the historical storms database on The Weather Underground website, www.wunderground.com.

Merritt, Fla. Oct. 30, 1921

My Dear Sister,

Again I am back to civilization with a roof over my head and a floor under my feet. Clarence came over to the homestead Saturday and brought me home for a week or two. He is going to take the lumber over next and build us a house.

First, I would trade you all a bit of my ocean for a bit of your lovely park. I do get homesick for the woods and grass, and if you could have been with me through this storm, I know you would have enjoyed it after the worst was over. You know we had an old army tent and a white box tent with a fly, but the box tent was not waterproof, as we used it to loaf in during the day. It was nice and cool with the fly over it. Well one night the army tent gave way up at the top and just slid down the pole as far as a big high box that I had under it would let it come and did not break a thing. The men fixed that up good, but Clarence told me I had better move out as the threads and rope was getting rotten, but I failed to do so, and the night

of the storm- it was a snorter- over went the pole with the canvas ripping and tearing. That was about ten PM. I grabbed my blankets and mattress and slid out of and under my bed and, as I was warm and fairly dry and it was dark as pitch, and I could not see which way to crawl to get out, I just laid there till morning. I slept most of the night too. But believe me, it was some mess the next day. I had packed all my belongings into a large tight box and all my extra bedding and pillows on a cot and put them into the dryest part of the tent, as our fall rains had begun. But gracious me, the storm swept around and lifted the tent right up and over the cot, knocked the top off the box and left them both setting out with nothing but the sky over them. My food supplies and stove were all covered with the canvas so were not wet up at all. Mr. & Mrs. Householder and small son, who had their tent on the ocean bluff, had the same experience, but they had a tall dresser at the head of their bed and that held the canvas up so they laid dry till morning, but their tent was ripped to shreds. Mr. & Mrs. Wilkinson and Mr. Drawdy had new tents from Sears & Roebuck and they were small and low, so they stood the storm all right. Well next morning you would have laughed at the refugees wending their way to the Wilkinson tent for breakfast. We all cooked and ate there two days. The men slept in Mr. Drawdy's tent and we women and the boy in the Wilkinson's tent. Then it kept on raining torrents so we could not dry out anything till the third day. But the ocean was wonderful in its rampage. We spent most of our time on the beach watching it break over the bluff carrying great slices of the bluff away with it. When the tide went out we would walk along the beach, great timbers, planks and pieces of boats went by, some we snatched with ropes.

Then when things calmed down and dried out, the men took the remains of the army tent and made the box tent rainproof and I moved into that and took Mrs. Householder in with me. And that family will stay there till they get a roof of their own.

Two weeks before the storm, three darkies floated on shore a mile north of our place in an open sea skiff. They had been five days without food or water. They had been bootlegging booze from Bimini to Palm Beach, a run of 14 hours, but their propeller shaft broke and they drifted North in the Gulf Stream until a little blow came along and pushed them out of it, then they drifted ashore. After all that misfortune, one of our darkies stole most of their booze and skipped. We fed them up and one of the men took them across the river to the train. Mr. Householder hooked his Cleveland tractor to the boat and hauled it high and dry behind his tent. After the storm he knocked the plug out of it and moved their dried out belongings into it and spread the remnants of the tent over it all. If they had not been blown down, the ocean would have swallowed them, for the bluff was cut

away where the tent had stood. I have always said if we ever had another storm I wanted to be on the ocean to see it, and I did. Would not have missed it for anything, but we all had some loss at that. I didn't know as I wrote you that Mr. & Mrs. Wilkinson and Mr. Drawdy moved onto our homestead and are going to farm it this winter. They had their seed beds planted and everything was up and would have been ready to set out the next week. Most of them were and are under a lot of water. We had bought \$500.00 worth of fertilizer and it was piled up down by the Banana River all covered securely, but the river came up several feet and we lost quite a lot of it. But our loss is so small in comparison to so many, we have nothing to say.

Ada May says Corrine is the worst cook she ever saw, but she bosses her around and shows her how to cut the bacon and how to cook things, and Corrine does keep the house so clean and orderly and looks after them, and I will be home every week or two to save their lives. Corrine says they are the nicest children she ever saw.

The lovely tea towels and the stockings were here when I arrived, thank you for them and especially thank you for thinking of me and my birthday. It is only 14 days till your birthday and I had been thinking I would write to you at that time. It may be that I will at that. I am going to be nightly busy sewing over at the beach, as Mrs. Householder keeps her lovely machine in my tent.

It sounds as if you all would not get down to see me this winter, but there seems to be a possibility that Netta may come. Mae wrote that Elberta wanted her to come down for awhile, as she is so broken up. One of the girls wrote though that Ross was digging right in and working with a will. He is so young and had been spoiled; he may grow out of that and make an all-right man. I have never heard anything against the Bonnett men, they have always been honest and workers, I think. And if he is Elberta's choice and she would not be happy without him, it may turn out satisfactorily. I certainly hope so. I sent them some guava jelly and had quite a nice letter from Elberta, she seemed quite eager to get to housekeeping, but thought it would be spring before the house was ready. She is certainly starting in much grander and with more conveniences than her Mother and Father, which of course is as it should be. Each generation should begin and go on from where the other left off, and make things easier for the next, etc.

Mary has invited Lucy up to spend next summer with her, and Ada May raised a great fuss because she is not invited also, says she's not a baby anymore and is old enough to go if Lucy is. I told her I thought Aunt Mary was being mighty nice to invite one.

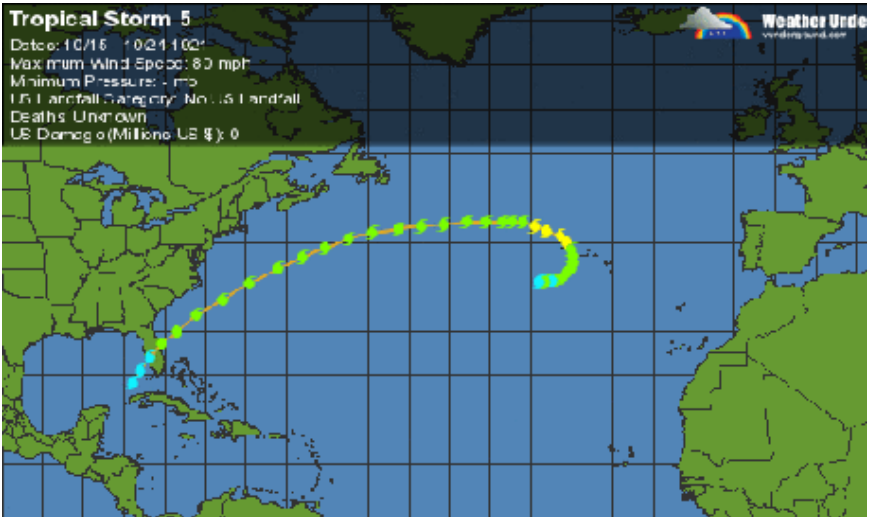
We have electric lights from Cocoa on the island now, and we will have it as soon as they can get it attached. Will take our outfit to the beach when the time comes. Merritt has an up-to-date Casino, dancing and moving pictures, also a fine garage with the best mechanics anywhere around here. We feel that we are growing apace.

Mrs. Tucker has sold her place and will live in Cocoa this winter. We will miss her so much. A man and wife from Galesburg, Illinois bought her place, they are lovely people. I get homesick to see Thor and Virginia and Paul to say nothing of their parents. Just wish you all could drive down. The Bucks drove up to Columbus this fall and had a grand trip, camped out for all their meals and slept at hotels.

Think the girls and I will go to the movies in Cocoa this evening, if it is not too stormy.

Our best love to each of you and thank you again for the lovely tea towels and stockings.

Affectionately, Loue



A PRESIDENTIAL OCEANFRONT LOT IN COCOA BEACH

BY RAY OSBORNE

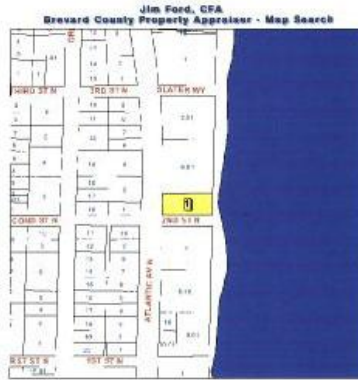
Ray Osborne is the city historian for the City of Cape Canaveral, author of several history books including Images of America: Cape Canaveral, founder of several historic resources in social media and gives history seminars to tourists at the Resort on Cocoa Beach.

President Warren G. Harding loved spending vacation time here in Florida. In fact he spent a considerable amount of time in Brevard County prior to his Presidency, as his in-laws “The Klings” owned property in Merritt Island and it was said that the President had many friends in the local area. The historic newspapers; *The New York Times*, *Cocoa Tribune* and *Indian River Advocate* often published detailed accounts of his visits to the Brevard County area. President Harding was an avid golfer and loved playing on the Florida fairways including the Rockledge Country Club. He was also a sports fisherman and would often sail aboard a luxurious houseboat into the area. Evidence of his visits can be found in various collections throughout Brevard including a picture of him and the First Lady can be found at the Porcher House in downtown Cocoa. (see footnote)

From the Florida Collection of Douglas Hendricksen



The *Indian River Advocate* reported on February 11, 1921 that he arrived on-board a houseboat called the *Victoria*. However the fine craft got stuck in Mosquito Inlet and wallowed in the mud the better part of two days. At one point President Harding got out of the vessel and stretched his legs in Titusville at the recently built Gulf Refining Company wharf, here he shook hands with a hundred or more of his Titusville constituents. He even took a ride in a ‘for hire’ Ford with its driver and bought some mullet from a local fisherman.



His final visit was in March 1923. After leaving St. Augustine and on the way to Miami for a fishing trip, he stopped in Rockledge aboard his Presidential Yacht, the *Pioneer*. The *Cocoa Tribune* reported President Harding’s arrival on this beautiful houseboat on March 8, 1923. The paper reported a gathering of local business people and city officials where Cocoa Beach real estate developer Gus Edwards presented the President and Mrs. Harding with a deed for an ocean-front lot at Cocoa Beach. (see picture on the next page). Mr. Edwards and party invited the President to make their home there when the President retired from the most important job in the US. Unfortunately President Harding was never able to take him up on this offer as he died during his administration in August of the same year.

Previous historic authors hinted that this ocean-front property was an urban legend, but this author, with a penchant for being a history detective, thought he’d research this. After a search through the land records department in Titusville the warranty deed bearing the President's name on it was discovered. A follow-up was made with the head of the Brevard County Surveyors Department, Susan Jackson, who after research was able to pinpoint exactly where the property was located. (see picture above) Of course as with any history story, questions remain. Did the President ever visit his ocean-front lot—not likely. But who inherited the lot? Was anything built on the lot? Inquires and research continue. A geocache marks the location of this lot and every week geocachers visit and make their entries at President Harding's Oceanfront Lot. *IRJ*

For more stories on this and other Presidential visits (including a historic slideshow that has the Porcher House picture and the warranty deed) go to:

<http://www.FloridaTales.us>

RECORD VERIFIED

MAR 5 1925

J.P.P. D.C.

This Warranty Deed of Conveyance, Executed this 7th day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and Twenty three by and between
 W.S. Edwards and his wife, U.M. Edwards; L.P. Allen and his wife, Margaret M. Allen, and M.W. Weinberg and his wife, Elina M. Weinberg, of the first part, and Warren O. Harding and Florence King Harding, of the second part, WITNESSETH, That the said parties of the

first part, for and in consideration of the sum of 125 DOLLARS AND OTHER VALUABLE CONSIDERATIONS DOLLARS lawful money of the United States of America, to them in hand paid by the said parties of the second part, at or before the signing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, by these presents, do Give, Grant, Bargain, Sell, Alien, Enfeoff, Remise, Release, Convey and Confirm unto the said parties of the second part, and their heirs, that certain property in the County of Brevard, and State of Florida, described as follows:

Lot No. 12, Block II, on Atlantic Avenue, according to the record to plat of Donna Beach, Florida.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the land above described subject to the following obligations and restrictions hereby imposed upon the said grantees, their heirs and assigns for ever.
 1st. No buildings other than a residence and necessary outbuildings shall ever be constructed upon the lot hereby conveyed, the residence and garage together to cost not less than \$5000.00 to be of modern construction, and the front of same to be not nearer normal high water mark than eight (8) feet; and no obstructions of any kind are to be placed or allowed upon the beach in front of said lot.
 2nd. No sewers or other refuse shall be emptied from the lot hereby conveyed into the ocean in front of said lot.

TOGETHER with all and singular the riparian rights, appurtenances, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging, or in anywise appertaining, and the reversion and reversions, remainders and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof; and also all the estate, right, title, interest, homestead, dower and right of dower, separate estate, property, possession, claim and demand whatsoever, at law and in equity, either and both, of the said parties of the first part, of, in and to the same, and every part and parcel thereof. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above described premises, each and every, unto the said parties of the second part, their heirs and assigns, in fee simple, absolute, indefeasible and unincumbered.
 And the said parties of the first part, for themselves and their heirs, executors and administrators, jointly and severally, covenant, promise and agree to and with the said parties of the second part, their heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, that the said parties of the first part, at the time of the signing and delivery of these presents, are lawfully seized in fee simple of a good, absolute and indefeasible estate of inheritance of and in all and singular the above described premises, each and every, and have good right, full power and lawful authority to convey the same in manner and form aforesaid; and that the said parties of the second part, their heirs and assigns, shall and may at all times hereafter, peaceably and quietly, have, hold, use, occupy, possess and enjoy the above described premises, and every part and parcel thereof, without any let, suit, trouble, molestation, selection or disturbance of the said parties of the first part, their heirs or assigns, or of any

117

other person or persons lawfully claiming or to claim the same, that the same, all and singular, are free, clear, discharged and unincumbered of and from all former and other titles, clouds and incumbrances of what nature and kind soever; that the said part 1st of the first part, their heirs, executors and administrators, each and every, shall make, execute and acknowledge such further and other deeds and assurances as by counsel learned in the law may be considered reasonably proper to effectuate the full intent and meaning of this instrument.

And the said part 1st of the first part, for themselves and their heirs, the above described premises, and every part and parcel thereof, unto the said part 2nd of the second part, their heirs and assigns, against the said part 1st of the first part, and their heirs, and against all and every person or persons whomsoever lawfully claiming or to claim the same, shall and will warrant and by these presents forever defend.

This allocation is with the joint consent of husband and wife, where that relation exists.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The said part 1st of the first part have hereunto set their hands and seals, and in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in Presence of us:

B. Bruner
Thos F. Chalker
Gus C. Edwards
C.M. Edwards
L/P. Allen
Margaret M. Allen
M.W. Weinberg
Elinor S. Weinberg
Gus C. Edwards

STATE OF Florida at County of Brevard I HEREBY CERTIFY, That on this 7th day of July 1928 before me, Thos F. Chalker, a Notary Public personally appeared Gus C. Edwards and C.M. Edwards his wife, to me well known and known to me to be the individuals described in, and who executed the foregoing conveyance to Warren C. Harding and Florence Kling Harding, and severally acknowledged the execution thereof to be their free act and deed for the uses and purposes therein mentioned, and the said C.M. Edwards the wife of the said Gus C. Edwards on a separate and private examination taken and made by and before me, and separately and apart from her said husband, did acknowledge that she made herself a party to the said deed of conveyance for the purpose of renouncing, relinquishing and conveying all her right, title and interest, whether of dower or of separate property, statutory or equitable, in and to the lands therein described, and that she executed said deed freely and voluntarily and without any constraint, fear, apprehension or compulsion of or from her said husband.

WITNESS my signature and official seal, at Cocoa in the County of Brevard and State of Florida, the day and year last aforesaid.

Thos F. Chalker Notary Public My Commission Expires 8th day of July, 1928.

STATE OF Florida at County of Florida I, an officer authorized to take acknowledgments of Deeds, hereby certify that personally known to me to be the individual described in and who executed the foregoing instrument, and that said individual this day acknowledged before me that he executed said instrument.

WITNESS my hand and official seal, this 7th day of July 1928 in said County and State.

(Seal)

STATE OF FLORIDA COUNTY OF BREVARD

I HEREBY CERTIFY That on this 7th day of July, 1928, personally appeared Gus C. Edwards, who acknowledged before me that he executed the within and foregoing deed of conveyance for and in behalf of L/P. Allen, Margaret M. Allen, M.W. Weinberg and Elinor S. Weinberg as attorney in fact, under powers of attorney duly executed by said parties to Gus C. Edwards empowering the said Gus C. Edwards to convey all of the right, title and interest of said parties, whether of dower or of separate property, statutory or equitable in and to the land described in this deed of conveyance. WITNESS my signature and official seal at Cocoa, Brevard Florida, the day and year last aforesaid.

STATE OF FLORIDA (N.P. Seal) Thos F. Chalker Notary Public My Commission Expires 8th day of July 1928 County of Brevard February 18th day of

BE IT REMEMBERED That on this 18th day of February A. D. 1928, I have duly recorded the foregoing Deed in the public records of said County.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of said Court, the day and year above written.

H. T. Froisher Clerk Circuit Court

Deed Record No. 111, Brevard County, Florida, Book, Jacksonville, 4504

HITLER'S SOLDIERS IN FLORIDA

BY JOSEPH R. MORGAN

Florida has a long history of putting state and county prisoners to work, but few realize that some of those workers were prisoners of war. German POWs ended up on U.S. soil during World War II because the Nazis controlled much of Europe, leaving the Allies few choices. Holding German POWs across the Atlantic was safer than setting up prison camps in Britain. Most of the time, people didn't know we were hosting POWs on American soil.

As many as 10,000 German POWs were held at Florida camps. They worked in citrus groves, packinghouses, lumber mills, laundries, building supply yards, plant nurseries, cement plants and box plants. Florida needed workers during the war because so many people were serving in the military or working at defense-related jobs.

The United States opened camps for 378,000 prisoners of war from 1942 until 1946. Many of the Florida prisoners were German U-boat sailors. German boats operated along the Atlantic coast and the Caribbean and there were even scattered historical references to U-boats spotted in the St. Johns River. Many of these prisoners were from the North Afrika Korp, which were settled in the 48 states, with 10,000 located in 27 camps in Florida. Some of the POWs were from Italy.

A small camp of 127 POWs was located in Melbourne and another 148 in Clewiston to harvest sugarcane, where they slept in tents and it was very hot in the fields. The POWs were guarded by 20 Americans.

Many POWs were not released after the war, but were sent to France and Britain to work to clean up damages from the war, including digging up old bombs, cleaning out rivers and streams, installing sewerage systems and otherwise putting things right. Nobody wins in war. *JRJ*

Source: Jim Robinson, *Orlando Sentinel*, February 22, 2004.
Robert D. Billinger Jr., *Hitler's Soldiers in the Sunshine State*,
January 1, 2000

HISTORY DETECTIVE ON SPECIAL MISSION TO SPAIN

BY RAY OSBORNE

The search is on. Now Brevard, Volusia, St. Johns and Indian River Counties have a history detective on a mission of rediscovering some exciting 17th century history of our areas.

A young history major student, Arthur is planning a research mission to the General Archive of the Indies in Seville, Spain. And the subject? Alvaro Mexia

and the lost Derrotero . As a reminder to many historians and new information for others Alvaro Mexia visited the Indian River area in 1605 and not only made a map of the area but befriended the Ais Indians, which ultimately led to a “Period of Friendship” between the Native cultures and the Spanish.

Although Mexia's map is in the archive, the location of his Derrotero is unknown since Charles Higgs quoted from it in a 1942 Florida Historical Quarterly publication. Mexia's manuscript is expected to give readers a description of the Indian River area and insights into what the native cultures that lived South of St. Augustine were like.

Arthur’s history professor is none other than Dr. Michael Francis of the University of North Florida. ”I began a program at UNF to teach students how to read sixteenth-century Spanish documents. Since then, I've supervised research projects of more than forty students, fifteen of whom spent considerable time conducting original research at the Archive of the Indies in Seville. Next May I plan to send four students to Seville, two of whom will spend twelve weeks there,” said Professor Francis.

The mission is sure to lead to some exciting rediscovery of local history in a time period that not a lot is known. Interested readers are invited to follow the progress of this project by visiting <http://www.FloridaTales.us>

For more information on Mexia visit his Wikipedia article by doing a keyword search on Alvaro Mexia *IRJ*



Images of America: Cape Canaveral page 15

Alvero Mexia's 1605 Map shows old locations contrasted with modern geographical locations.

ABOUT THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Brevard County Historical Commission was established in 1963 by ordinance of Brevard County to "*collect, arrange, record, and preserve historical materials*" and to perform other functions such as obtaining narratives of the early pioneers, marking historical locations throughout the county, and recording historical information.

The Historical Commission is made up of fifteen members appointed by the County Commissioners. Each of the five County Commissioners appoints three members to sit on the Historical Commission.

We store our collections at our Historical Records Archive located at Central Brevard Library and Reference Center, 308 Forrest Ave., Cocoa, Florida 32922. The collections are normally available to the public during regular business hours. Please call in advance at 321-633-1794, to schedule an appointment to view our collections. We are attempting to put our collections online, however, to date we haven't reached that goal.

The Historical Commission holds regular monthly meetings at the Archive. The public is always encouraged to attend. Please call the Historical Commission's office at for a schedule of our meetings.

We have undertaken a number of projects, including:

- Publication of an official Brevard County History
- Designation of Historical and Archaeological Landmarks
- Publication of a booklet identifying the Landmarks
- Preservation of early newspapers, maps and records
- Collection of individual oral histories on video
- Publishing of a journal entitled The Indian River Journal

The Historical Commission works with many other groups and organizations in the community to preserve the County's history and archaeology. *IRJ*

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT
BREVARD COUNTY HISTORY?**

Purchase a set of

The History of Brevard County

See the inside back cover for more details

LIST OF HISTORICAL COMMISSIONERS

The list includes all of the Commissioners who have served through the years.

David Anderson	Fred Hopwood	Karen Raley
Jim Ball	Brooks Humphrys	Orlando Ramirez
Jeff Boston	Johnnie Johnson	John Rawls*
Ed Bradford*	Darcia Jones Francy	Margaret Senne
Alan Brech	Greg Jones	Ronald Senne
Tom Breen	Georgiana Kjerulff	Susan Sheppard
Ben Brotemarkle	Shirley Kidd	Yvonne Shingler
Gil Carlson	Ed Kindle	Jack Sidoran
Kim Carmen	Alan King	Ann Smith
Cheryl Carson	Bud Knoderer	George Smith
Ann Christensen	Betty LaRoche	Bob Stevens
Deborah Clarke	Mildred Lawrence	Helen Stubbs
Jabez Coggan	Jack Lembeck	Bob Swenson
Jim Culberson	Elaine Liston	Robert Taylor
Angel Dick	Betty Longenberge	Mary Lou Thombleson
Eleanor Downes	Sam Lopez	Cherie Thompson
Ann Downing	Sharon Lucas	Tonie Vogt
Harold Edwards	Mary Mace	Ed Vosatka
Claire Ewertz	Barbara McClure	Hester Wagner
Clyde Field	T.J. McElroy	Richard Wallace
Joe Fisher	Jan McLarty	Rachel Wentz
Fred Flansburgh	Cindy Michaud	Les Widick
Roz Foster	Joseph R. Morgan*	David White
Anne Frame	Sandee Natowich	Bob Whitney*
Jo Gay	Mike Newquist	Vera Zimmerman
John Geil	Dave Nisbet	
Donald Good	Debbie Palmer	*denotes Chairman
Carey Gleason	Ada Parrish	
Holly Grant	Henry Parrish, III	
Hubert Griggs	David Paterno*	
Bob Gross*	Tom Penders	
Joan Haas	Kay Phillips	
George Harrell	Lynn Pickett	
Doug Hendriksen*	Carole Pope*	
Lynn Hollenbeck	Charlie Powell	

*We have Landmark Guides to Historic Brevard County available
Contact the Commission office for your copy.*

MUSEUMS

Air Force Space & Missile Museum

Space Launch Complex 5&6, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, FL
<http://www.airforcespaceandmissilemuseum.org/>

American Police Hall of Fame & Museum

6350 Horizon Dr., Titusville, FL 32780 <http://www.aphf.org/museum.html>

BCC Planetarium & Observatory

Brevard Community College, 1519 Clearlake Rd., Cocoa, FL
<http://www.brevard.cc.fl.us/planet/index.html>

Brevard County Historical Records Archive

Central Brevard Library & Reference Center, 308 Forrest Ave., Cocoa, FL 32922
<http://www.brevardcounty.us/history/>

Brevard Museum of Art and Science

1463 Highland Ave., Melbourne, FL 32936 <http://www.brevardartmuseum.org/>

Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science

2201 Michigan Ave., Cocoa, FL 32926 <http://www.brevardmuseum.org/>

Cocoa Beach Surf Museum @ Ron Jon Surf Shop

4275 N. Atlantic Ave., Cocoa Beach, FL 32031
<http://www.cocoabeachsurfmuseum.org>

The Grant Historical House

5795 Highway 1, Grant, FL 32950

The Harry T. & Harriette V. Moore Cultural Center

2180 Freedom Ave., Mims, FL 32754 <http://www.brevardparks.com/hthvm/index.php>

Historic Rossetter House Museum & Gardens

1320 Highland Ave., Melbourne, FL 32935 <http://www.rossetterhousemuseum.org/>

Liberty Bell Memorial Museum

1601 Oak Street, Melbourne, FL 32901 <http://www.honoramerica.org/>

Library of Florida History

435 Brevard Ave., Cocoa, FL 32922 <http://www.myfloridahistory.org/>

Old Town Hall History Center

Ann Downing, Public Relations, 2373 Oak St., Melbourne Beach, FL 32951

The North Brevard Historical Museum

301 S. Washington Ave., Titusville, FL 32782 <http://www.nbbd.com/godo/history/>

U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame

6225 Vectorspace Blvd., Titusville, FL 32780
<http://www.kennedyspacecenter.com/astronaut-hall-of-fame.aspx>

U.S. Space Walk of Fame Museum

4 Main St., Titusville, FL 32796-3567 <http://www.spacewalkoffame.com/>

Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum

6600 Tico Road, Titusville, FL 32780 — <http://www.vacwarbirds.org/>

Veterans Memorial Museum

400 South Sykes Creek Parkway, Merritt Island, FL 32952
<http://www.veteransmemorialcenter.org/>

HISTORICAL ORGANIZATIONS

Brevard County Historical Commission

Central Brevard Library & Reference Center, 308 Forrest Ave., Cocoa, FL 32922

Brevard Cultural Alliance

2725 Fran Jamieson Way, Building B, Room 104, Viera, FL 32940
<http://www.artsbrevard.org/home.php>

Brevard Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 1123, Cocoa, FL 32923-1123 <http://www.flbgs.org/>

Brevard Heritage Council

P.O. Box 31, Cocoa, FL 32923 <http://brevardheritagecouncil.org/>

Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation

P.O. Box 1978, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920 <http://www.canaverallight.org/>

Civil War Round Table of Central Florida

P.O. Box 255, Sharpes, Florida 32959-0255

Cocoa Beach Pioneers

580 South Brevard Ave., Cocoa Beach, FL 32931-2529
321-783-8389, mmayorjoe@aol.com

Cocoa Beach Resident Historians

c/o City Clerk's Office, City of Cocoa Beach, P.O.Box 322430, Cocoa Beach, FL 32932-2430
321-868-3286

Daughters of the American Revolution

Mrs. Bill H. Keller, 336 Rio Villa Blvd., Indialantic, FL 32903 321-773-6271

Florida Historical Society

435 Brevard Ave., Cocoa, FL 32922 <http://www.myfloridahistory.org/>

Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN)

Florida Historical Society, 435 Brevard Ave, Cocoa, FL 32922
321-690-1971—<http://www.fpaneastcentral.org/>

Genealogical Society of North Brevard

P.O. Box 897, Titusville, FL 32781-0879 <http://www.nbbd.com/npr/gsnb/index.html>

Grant Historical Society

P.O. Box 44, Grant, FL 32949

The Historical Society of North Brevard

301 S. Washington Ave., Titusville, FL 32789 <http://www.nbbd.com/godo/history/>

Indian River Anthropological Society

Dave McDonald, President P. O. Box 542022, Merritt Island, FL 32954-2022
<http://www.nbbd.com/npr/archaeology-iras/>

The Mosquito Beaters

George "Speedy" Harrell, President 435 Brevard Ave., Cocoa, FL 32922
<http://www.mosquitobeaters.org/>

National Railway Historical Society

Florida East Coast Chapter, P.O. Box 2034, Cocoa, FL 32923-2034
<http://www.trainweb.org/fecnrhs/>

North Brevard Heritage Foundation, Inc.

Roz Foster, President, P.O. Box 653, Titusville, Fl. 32781
<http://www.nbbd.com/npr/preservation/>

HISTORICAL ORGANIZATIONS (CONTINUED)

Preservation & Education Trust, Inc.

1219 Rockledge Drive, Rockledge, FL 32955 <http://www.petrust.org>

Rockledge Heritage Foundation

11 Orange Avenue, Rockledge, FL 32955—321 632-2712

http://rockledgeheritage.org/_wsn/page4.html

Sons of the American Revolution

Ben DuBose, 950 Falls Trail, Malabar, FL 32950. 321-952-2928

South Brevard Historical Society

Carol Andren, Pres. P.O. Box 1064, Melbourne, FL 32902-1064

<http://www.southbrevardhistory.org/>

Town of Melbourne Village Historic Preservation Commission

Jean Henderson, Secretary, 321 724-0070

ONLINE SERVICES

Brevard County Historical Commission

<http://www.brevardcounty.us/history/>

Brevard County Historical Maps

<http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/maps/county/brevard/brevard.htm>

Florida Historical Museums

http://www.floridasmart.com/attractions/museums_hist.htm

The Florida Historical Society

<http://www.myfloridahistory.org/>

The Florida Memory Project

An interactive Web site of Florida history, photos and letters

<http://floridamemory.com/>

Public Records Management

Services to state and local governments

http://dlis.dos.state.fl.us/index_RecordsManagers.cfm

Services to Genealogists

Researching your family history at the State Archives of Florida

<http://dlis.dos.state.fl.us/barm/fsa.html>

The State Library of Florida

Collecting, preserving and making available the published history of Florida

<http://dlis.dos.state.fl.us/stlib/>

The State Archives of Florida

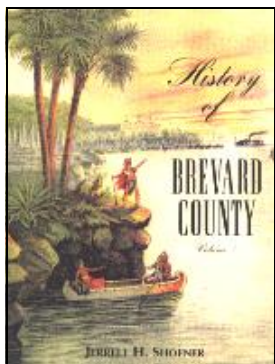
Preserving the past and present for future generations

<http://dlis.dos.state.fl.us/barm/fsa.html>

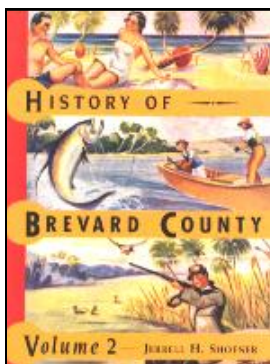
Try as we might to keep the previous lists accurate with up-to-date information, it seems that changes occur that we don't know about until after publication. If you know of a needed change, see an error or have an addition to what we've presented, please let us know. Call us at (321) 633-1794.

THE HISTORY OF BREVARD COUNTY

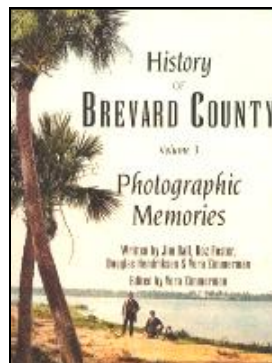
*in Three Illustrated Volumes—By Jerrell Shoffner et al,
published by the Brevard County Historical Commission*



Volume I 31.95
Tax 1.92
Total \$33.87



Volume II 31.95
Tax 1.92
Total \$33.87



Volume III 45.00
Tax 2.70
Total \$47.70

Shipping and handling \$3.50 for the first book,
\$1.00 each additional book

Save \$14.95, buy all three for \$99.59 (\$93.95 + \$5.64 tax)

Shipping and handling \$5.50 for the first set, \$3.00 each additional set

Make check payable to Board of County Commissioners
and mail to the Brevard County Historical Records Archive
Central Brevard Library and Reference Center, 308 Forrest Ave.,
Cocoa, FL 32922

Questions?

Call 321-633-1794 or e-mail historical.commission@brevardcounty.us

Save S&H by picking up your copies at our office.

THE INDIAN RIVER JOURNAL

The Brevard County Historical Commission
Central Brevard Library and Reference Center
308 Forrest Ave.
Cocoa, Florida 32922

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED