

South Florida History

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Historical Museum of Southern Florida
Karl Myers Historical Museum
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Clewiston Museum
Levallahatchee Historical Museum

INSIDE:
Lighting Up the Channels
Early Crime in Dade County
South Florida's Brushes with Fame
Mother, Mail & Mosquitoes
A Sweet Refuge

Yesterday's Visions For Sale

A treasure trove of revealing, dramatic and scenic photographs of South Florida's past awaits you at the Historical Museum.



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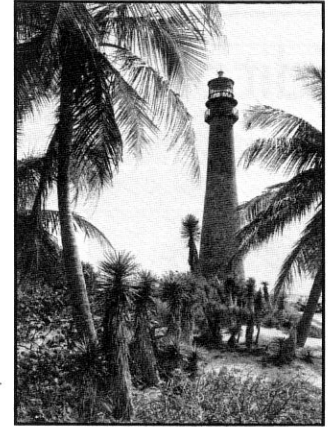
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On the Cover: The Cape Florida Lighthouse, one of several of along the Florida coast constructed or improved by General Meade. (This photo is from the upcoming exhibition at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida, April 22-July 4, 1994, featuring historic sites and landscapes by acclaimed architectural and fine art photographer, John Gillan. See page 6 for details.)



(c) 1992, John Gillan

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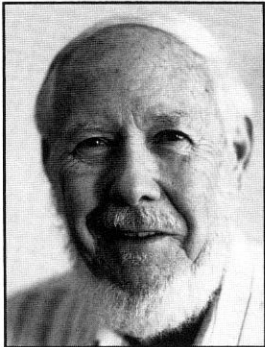
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Editor's Notes

by Stuart McIver



Crime has always been with us. Take the Biblical story of Cain and Abel. Even teenaged crimes against tourists are not new, as many of you know if you read Howard Kleinberg's fascinating account of a 1923 robbery by youthful members of the Ashley Gang in the *Miami Herald*, September 28, 1993. Seventeen-year-

old Hanford Mobley, nephew of boss gangster, John Ashley, led a band of three armed robbers who held up a Baltimore tourist who had just parked his Buick near Hallandale. Two days later the three punks held up two tourists from Atlanta near today's North Miami Beach. The following year Mobley's career in crime ended suddenly. He and three other gang members were gunned down by lawmen at the the bridge over the Sebastian Inlet in today's Indian River County.

In this issue of the *South Florida History Magazine* we will move back 98 years to a violent crime that occurred in Lemon City, then generated more killing at Juno, which in 1895 was the county seat of Dade County. The bloody career of Sam Lewis is told by Dr. William Wilbanks, a professor in the Criminal Justice Department at Florida International University's North Campus. Dr. Wilbanks is writing a book on the Dade County law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. His story on

Lewis is excerpted from his manuscript, since two of the men who died in the Sam Lewis rampages were lawmen.

To guard against an overly-simplistic conclusion that South Florida has always been and thus always will be an excessively violent area, we will look too at a gentler side of our past. Sandra Henderson Thurlow, author of *Sewell's Point: The History of a Peninsular Community on Florida's Treasure Coast*, a book about her home town, has written about Homer Hine Stuart, Jr., after whom the Martin County seat of Stuart was named. Letters written by Stuart in 1886-87 were recently donated to the archives of the Historical Society of Martin County. From these Sandra Thurlow has constructed a picture of everyday life on the St. Lucie River near the end of the 19th century when the enemies were not criminals but rather bugs, possums and chilly winters. Sandra and her attorney husband, Tom Thurlow, both history enthusiasts, have recently reprinted *A Chronology of Florida Post Offices* by Alfred G. Bradbury and E. Story Hallock. Long out of print, this valuable reference book can be ordered through Florida Classic Library, Port Salerno.

From Clewiston, which lies on Lake Okeechobee at the northern end of the Everglades, comes an article on the Clewiston Inn by George C. Cordes, director of the Clewiston Museum. The Inn, in the heart of Florida's sugar cane industry, is a charming hostelry listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Inn's cocktail lounge rewards thirsty visitors with an unusual experi-



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ence. The Palm Beach artist, J. Clinton Shepherd (1889-1975), has painted a mural of Everglades wild-life which covers every foot of space on the room's walls and bar panels. Herons, egrets, ibis and blue jays fly overhead, while the sawgrass and hammocks teem with raccoons, possum, bob cats, bear and deer. In trying to take it all in, imbibers are in danger of toppling off bar stools.

General George Gordon Meade left his name on a Polk County town — and on many South Florida lighthouses. From Key West, Susan Olsen, executive director of the Key West Art and Historical Society, tells the story of how the hero of the battle of Gettysburg lighted up the channels of the state's waters.

Among the lighthouses in which Meade had a hand was the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse. This lighthouse—the oldest standing structure in Palm Beach County—is the subject of an upcoming exhibition by the Loxahatchee Museum which will feature original, detailed linen drawings of it. For lighthouse connoisseurs, it's a must-see exhibition, slated to open in January 1994.

Dr. Paul George, Historic Tours

Dec. 12, 1993
Miami River Inn
Tour & Brunch

Enjoy a nostalgic Sunday tour starting from the beautifully restored Miami River Inn, 118 SW South River Dr. See the natural rock ridge that once dominated the river, a 400 A.D. Indian village site and other landmarks before adjourning to a courtyard brunch at the Inn.

Advance reservations and payment required. Members: \$20 & Non-members: \$25. Please call the Historical Museum of Southern Florida at (305) 375-1492.

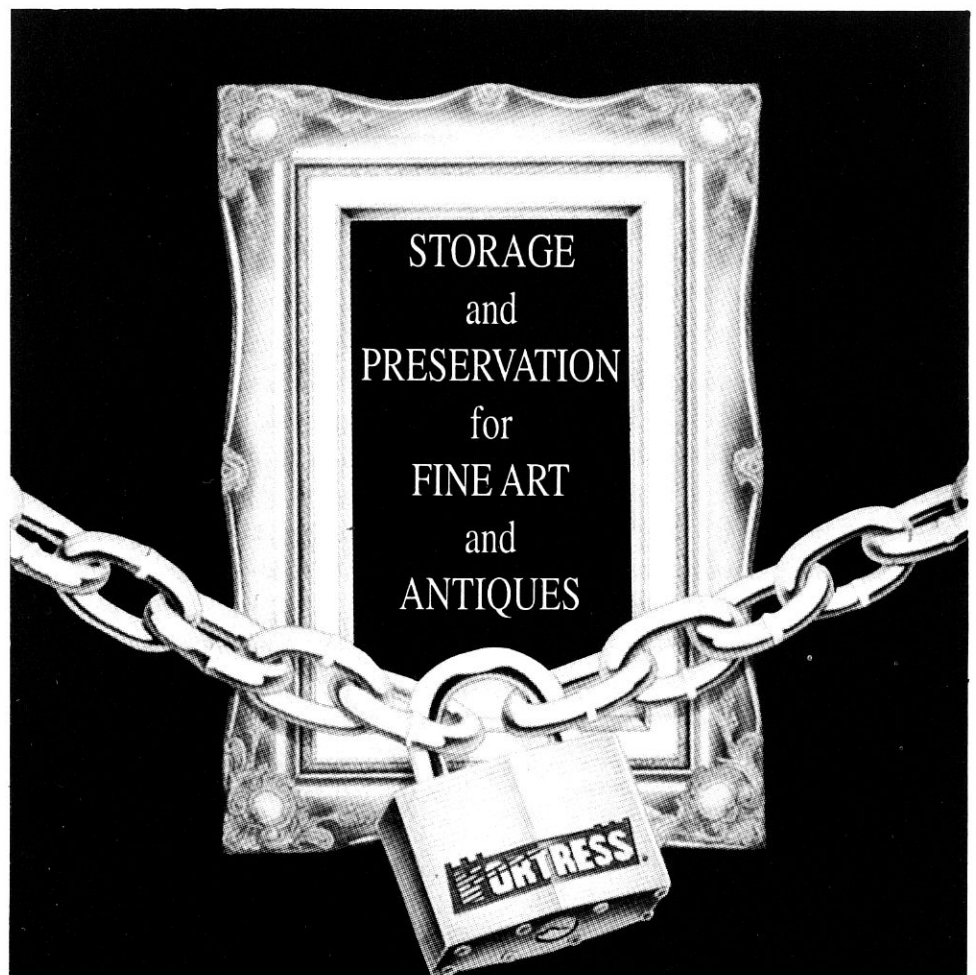
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Around the Galleries...



THE **HISTORICAL MUSEUM** OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

Metro-Dade Cultural Center
101 West Flagler Street, Miami
(305) 375-1492

Exhibitions

Tropical Colors: Images of Cuba, Florida and the Bahamas, 1898-1904

Dec. 16, 1993 - Feb. 20, 1994

This exhibition features the museum's collection of more than 80 detailed, color, stone lithographs made from black and white photos of picturesque landscapes and cityscapes taken at the turn of the century—before color photography was widely used or seen. Many scenes are by noted photographer William Henry Jackson.

Imaging the Seminole

Mar. 4 - Apr. 10, 1994

This exhibition looks at how the image of the Seminole Indian has been used since 1850 in different manners and for different purposes.

Places in Time:

Historic Landscapes and Architecture in Dade County

April 22 - July 4, 1994

This exhibition features 100+ platinum prints of historic sites in Dade County by architectural and fine art

photographer John Gillan. The timeless images captured by Gillan are printed in the platinum process, a technique distinguished by extraordinary detailed images of high quality that will last a lifetime.

General Information

The Historical Museum of Southern Florida is centrally located in Downtown Miami, at the Metro-Dade Cultural Center, 101 West Flagler Street. There are several convenient ways to get to the Historical Museum:

By Metrorail: Exit at the Government Center Station and walk south across the street to the plaza.

By Car Traveling North on I-95: Take the N.W. 2nd St. exit. Go right on N.W. 2nd St., then right on N.W. 2nd Ave. After one block., the Cultural Center will be on your left and its parking garage on your right.

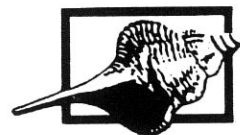
By Car Traveling South on I-95: Take the left lane Downtown Miami Ave. exit and remain in the left lane. At the end of the exit ramp, turn left onto Miami Ave. and left immediately again on S.W. 2nd St. Go to S.W. 2nd Ave. and turn right. The second light is Flagler Street. Cross Flagler; the Cultural Center will be on your right and its parking garage on your left.

Hours: Mon - Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Thur. til 9 p.m. Sun. 12 noon - 5 p.m.

Regular Admission: Free for members. Adults \$4; Children (6-12) \$2; Children under 6 free.

LOXAHATCHEE MUSEUM

JUPITER, FLORIDA



Burt Reynolds Park
805 North U.S. Highway One
Jupiter, Florida 33477
(407) 747-6639

Exhibitions

No Laughing Matter: Political Cartoonists on the Environment
 Nov. - Dec. 1993

An exhibit from the Smithsonian Institute of witty and provocative international cartoons dramatizing the earth's crisis as it affects the world.

By Hand on Linen: Original Architectural Drawings of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse
 Jan. - Mar. 1994

An exhibit of the 29 original detailed linen drawings of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, the oldest standing structure in Palm Beach County.

Special Events

Holiday Reflections - Dec. 1993
 Artfully decorated by floral and interior designers, visitors are invited to walk through the gallery and cherish the memories, sight and sounds of this joyous time of year.

General Information

Open Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and weekends 1-4 p.m.



2300 Peck Street
Fort Myers, Florida
(813) 332-6879

Exhibitions

Nov. 22, 1993 - Jan. 18, 1994
Monet Style Paintings by Tom Kollar

Dec. 2, 1993 - Jan. 15, 1994
Fossils
Antique Toys

Jan. 5 - Feb. 28, 1994
Black History/African Art
Edison Pageant Newspapers

Jan. 20 - Feb. 28, 1994
Children's Illustrated Books
Grandpa's Library
Edison's Voice Writers

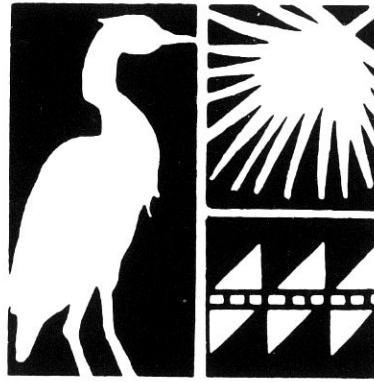
Special Events & Classes

Dec. 4, 1993 - Jan. 8, 1994
Painting with Watercolors by Tom Kollar

Jan. 4 - Feb. 9, 1994
Reading Discussion Group - Led by Edith Pendleton: "Making Florida Home"

General Information

Open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Sun. 1-5 p.m. Closed Sat. and major holidays. Admission for adults is \$2.50 and \$1 for children (under 12).



Collier County Museum

3301 Tamiami Trail East
Naples, Florida
(813) 774-8476

Special Event

Coming in February 1994
Black Cultural Arts Festival
Please call for further details.

General Information

The Collier County Museum explores the people, places and everyday events that have shaped Collier County's heritage—from prehistoric fossils and long vanished Indian civilizations, to the settlers and visionaries of the area's pioneering past.

The museum's four-acre historical park offers a look at a typical Seminole Village, an archaeological laboratory, a Children's Discovery Cottage, extensive native Florida gardens, a restored swamp buggy and a 1910 steam logging locomotive.

The museum is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.



CLEWISTON MUSEUM

112 South Comercio Street
Clewiston, Florida 33440
(813) 983-2870

Exhibitions

Through December 1993
Antique Toasters
Pop in to see more than 100 antique electric toasters—including nine stove-top models—on display.

Antique Fishing Lures
See how the earliest catches were made in this exhibition created from the collection of the Clewiston Museum.

Artwork of Marion DeVore
Featuring scenes from Clewiston by this Boynton Beach artist.

The Clewiston Museum, founded in 1984, is a growing museum, collecting and displaying items, large and small, important and trivial, which reflect the past of Clewiston and its surrounding area.

General Information

Open 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, with seasonal adjustments. No admission fee is charged, however, donations are encouraged.

In the Line of Duty

Dade Law Enforcement's First Slayings

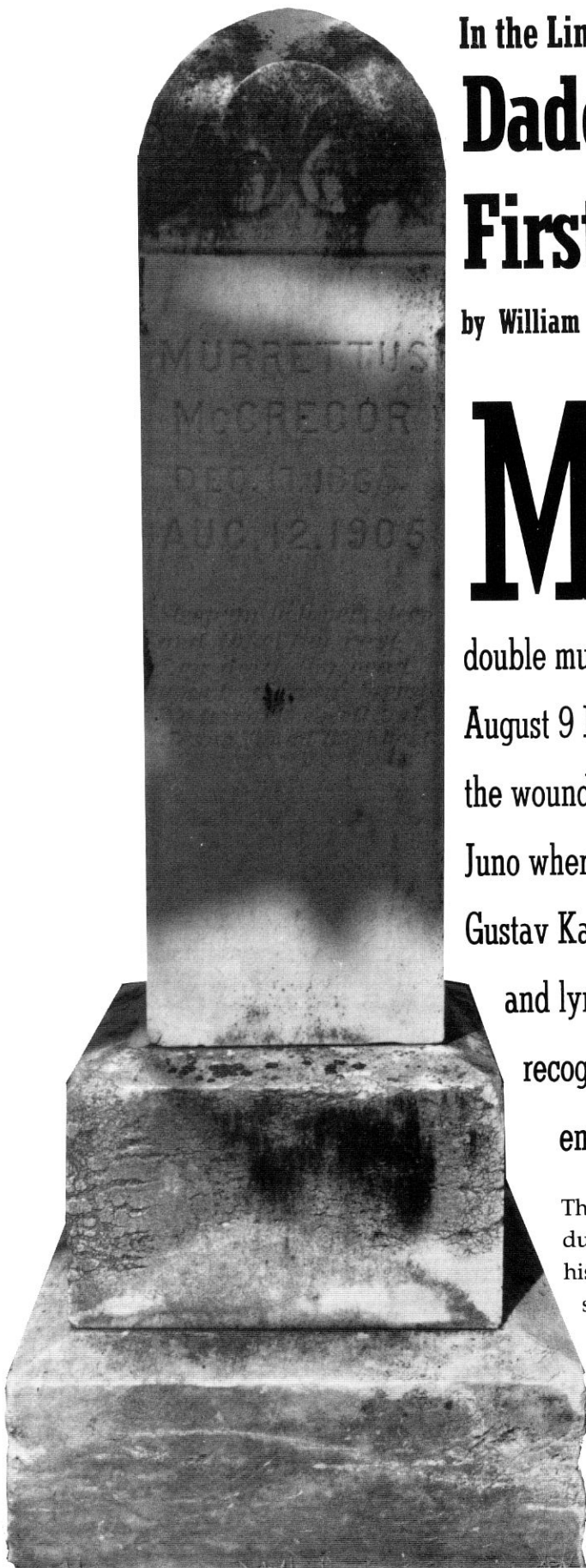
by William Wilbanks, Ph.D.

Murrettus "Rhett" McGregor, 26, was a deputized member of a posse seeking the capture of Lemon City saloon keeper Sam S. Lewis for the double murder of two bar patrons on July 27, 1895. On August 9 Deputy McGregor shot Lewis but was then killed by the wounded fugitive. Lewis was taken to the county jail in Juno where on August 24 a member of a mob shot and killed Gustav Kaiser, the jailer, as the mob took Lewis from the jail and lynched him. Rhett McGregor and Gustav Kaiser are recognized by Dade County as the first and second law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

The total of five murders during a 26-day period led historians to later call the summer of 1895 "Dade's bloodiest period." Miami was still an unincorporated town of a few hundred persons and Dade County (which included much of what is now Palm Beach and Broward Coun-

ties as well as modern Dade) had a total population of less than 5,000. Considering the sparse population of Dade County at the time, and the five murders in 26 days, Dade had a murder rate in 1895 of approximately 12,000 per 100,000 or 342 times the rate of 35 per 100,000 in 1980.

Lemon City was an outpost of civilization, just a frontier town. Transportation south of Palm Beach was mostly by foot or boat and the country was quite rough. Wild game



was plentiful and so were the mosquitoes. Expansive Dade County was administered from the county seat at Juno, 80 miles from today's Miami.

The first circuit court was not established until 1886. The *Weekly Gazateer* in Palm Beach reported an upsurge in violent crime in Dade beginning in 1893 with the extension of the railroad and the beginning of the development of the area. Railway workers frequented the saloons which were legalized in 1894—before that date Dade County was “dry”—and the drinking and brawling led to a great deal of violence. The *Miami Tribune* reported that the rate of killings during the construction of the railroad from Palm Beach to Miami was “one killing a mile.”

The fear of similar violence once the railroad was extended to Miami led Henry Flagler and Julia Tuttle to forbid the sale of liquor in the City of Miami, which was founded in 1896. The women of Lemon City reacted to the Lewis “saloon brawl murders” by petitioning the county commission to issue no more liquor licenses. The commission deferred to the male electorate in rejecting the request. Women did not have the vote in 1895.

The *Gazateer* reported that in the 40 years preceding 1893 there had not been a single murder while from 1893 to 1896 there were 17. According to the *Palm Beach Post-Times* in August 1946, the first murder indictment in Dade County was handed down on April 25, 1894, and the first death sentence issued on May 8, 1901.

The five killings began by Sam S. Lewis, 31, who managed a saloon in Lemon City on Lemon Ave., now NE 61st St. in Miami. On the night of July 26, 1895, Lewis tried to quiet a group of his saloon patrons who were playing pool and had become

drunk and noisy. The patrons included James T. Sanders, Dade County's prosecuting attorney; John F. Highsmith, “an easygoing old bachelor” and former deputy sheriff and county tax collector; and his nephew, George A. Davis. Some accounts suggest “that there had always been bad blood between Highsmith and Lewis.”

When Lewis (who was sober) yelled at the intoxicated pool players to quiet down, he was pelted with pool balls—and by a glass according to one account. In the brawl that followed two men were cut. Lewis got his gun and attempted to shoot Highsmith but a patron knocked the rifle barrel up in time so the shot went wild. The bullet missed Highsmith and lodged in the wall just over his head. Cooler heads prevailed and broke up the brawl but Highsmith and Davis “cursed everybody in sight” and “used their choice epithets on Lewis, who responded in kind.”

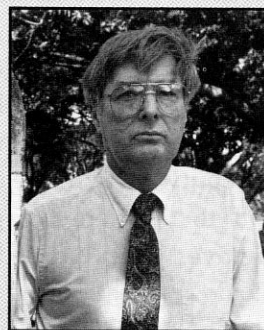
Highsmith and Davis left the saloon but exchanged threats with Lewis as they left. The two men, who were both drunk, vowed to “get even” with Lewis in the morning. Lewis boasted that they would have to apologize or he would kill them both on sight. The next morning, Highsmith and Davis, now sober, were persuaded by “some brother Free Masons and friends” to drop the matter rather than seek charges against Lewis for the shooting.

The next morning Lewis saw Highsmith and Davis and a third man, George Fryar, walking down the street in front of his saloon

and stepped into the street with his rifle and confronted them from 50 feet away. Lewis, “applying several foul epithets,” demanded that the men kneel down in the street and apologize for their actions the previous evening or he would shoot them. Fryar, who had not been involved in the brawl the previous evening, stepped in front of Highsmith and Davis to shield them from Lewis but Highsmith stepped from behind Fryar and held up both hands to indicate that he was unarmed. He shouted, “Shoot you cowardly son of a bitch. Shoot! Shoot!” or, according to other accounts, “Shoot and be damned!” Lewis then promptly shot Highsmith. Highsmith staggered into the entrance of the nearby Higgs building, where he fell to his hands and knees, bleeding profusely.

When Davis attempted to run he was shot in the back by Lewis. Fryar, stood bewildered in front of Lewis, “You want some of it too?” yelled Lewis. When Fryar answered “No!” Sam Lewis let out a big belly laugh and walked back toward his saloon with his rifle, “Nancy,” across his arm.

Davis died instantly in the street by a bullet that severed his spinal cord. The crowd that gathered



William Wilbanks is a professor of Criminal Justice at Florida International University, and resides in Dade County. He received his doctorate degree from the State University of New York-Albany.

An expanded version of this article will be included in his book, *Forgotten Heroes: Police Officers Killed in Dade County, 1895-1994*. Slated for publication in late 1994, the book will include narratives about the 103 officers from 21 agencies killed since 1895. Wilbanks has located the families and descendants of the slain officers in 97 of the 103 cases, and they have provided information about the background of the officers.

around Highsmith heard him say, "It was a dastardly, cowardly act to shoot a man that had nothing to defend himself with." A few moments later Highsmith told the crowd gathered around his deathbed, "I die like a man and not like a coward, but, boys, I brought it all on myself." He died a few minutes later.

Highsmith and Davis were buried on the Davis property near what is now the corner of N.E. 71st St. and N.E. 2nd Ave.

Lewis returned to the saloon. No one attempted to arrest him as he was obviously armed and dangerous.

A coroner's inquest was convened at 3:00 p.m. that same day under the direction of Justice of the Peace James W. Jackson of Coconut Grove. The coroner's jury debated the case until late in the evening. One might think that there was little to debate but there was testimony that the two dead men had threatened to kill Lewis and the jury may have been intimidated knowing that Sam Lewis was "watching the proceedings from an upstairs window and was still fully armed." Finally, near midnight, a warrant for murder in the first degree was issued. However, Lewis was not immediately taken into custody as there was neither sheriff nor deputy present and no one cared to take the risk of arresting a man so desperate.

As soon as the news of the double murder reached the county seat at Juno 80 miles away, Sheriff L. L. Dodge dispatched his chief deputy, George W. Pierce, to Lemon City to form a posse and arrest the fugitive. However, by that time Lewis had fled Lemon City.

Ten men, including Murrettus "Rhett" McGregor, 26, were deputized. However, the search party was larger than the 10 members of the official posse as everyone else with a

gun was pressed into service to watch the natural bridge at Arch Creek, to patrol the bayfront or to guard outlying homes.

It was thought that Lewis would attempt to flee to the east from Miami rather than into the Everglades and thus the only road and the waterfront were watched.

Unfortunately, Sam Lewis had escaped to Bimini (42 miles away) and was living in a boardinghouse. The fugitive had commandeered a boat and forced the captain to take him from Norris Cut to Bimini. However, the boat captain alerted the authorities in Lemon City upon his return and a request was sent to the Bahamian government in Nassau to extradite Lewis.

A contingent of 30 Bahamian soldiers located Lewis and quickly took him into custody. However, Lewis had charmed the residents of Bimini in the few short days he had been there and had become the "idol of the island in a very short time." Many island residents came to his defense when he was arrested by the soldiers. Lewis told the soldiers they had made a mistake but indicated that he would go peaceably if they would allow him to go by the boarding house to pay his landlady. Lewis was handcuffed but upon arrival at the boardinghouse he convinced the soldiers to remove the cuffs so that he could get out his money.

The soldiers had stacked their rifles against the porch of the rooming house and Lewis, once his hands were free, grabbed one of the rifles, and turned to the first soldier and said, "The first man who moves will be killed." Lewis then held them all off with the soldier's rifle ("Nancy" was left behind) and backed away toward the waterfront.

At the waterfront, the fugitive (who was also armed with a pistol

which he had kept concealed in his waistband) ordered two men in a rowboat to take him out to a sailboat which was anchored offshore. Lewis then commandeered the sailboat for his escape from Bimini as he held his pistol on the men in the boat while simultaneously pointing the rifle at the regiment on the shore.

After a two-day trip with little food or water the boat arrived in Biscayne Bay on August 7. Lewis then ordered the boat to pull up alongside a sloop which he commandeered. After demanding and receiving food and water, he ordered the captain to provide him with a small boat to transport him to Lemon City. Lewis apparently planned to seek provisions from some of his friends in Lemon City before fleeing to the lower Keys. One account—that by Angus McGregor, Rhett's nephew—suggests that one reason Lewis decided to return to Lemon City was to fulfill a vow to Captain Brady to kill Rhett McGregor on sight because of some disagreement. The nephew's account also suggested that the townspeople tried to persuade McGregor to leave town for a few days but that he refused saying he didn't have a family and that "it would be better for some of you men who have a wife and children to get off the posse." This account is confirmed by the 1909 *Miami Metropolis* record of the incident.

Whatever the reason, Lewis' return was not kept secret as the two Bimini boatmen alerted the authorities in Miami and the word spread swiftly that he was back. The posse (which had disbanded several days earlier) was reassembled and strengthened.

On Friday night, August 9, two members of the sheriff's posse, Rhett McGregor and Will Russell, were assigned to guard the isolated bay-

front home of Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Hadley just south of Bay Point (the site was later Judge George A. Worley's home). Mrs. Hadley had been a friend to Lewis and some believed he might seek provisions there. McGregor rode a horse to the Hadley place and told the Hadleys that he and Russell would be in the coconut grove between their house and the bayfront that night and for them not to be afraid.

The two deputies hid behind palm trees near the Hadley dock. They soon spotted a small boat in the water which they suspected was to be the get-away vessel for Lewis. Two hours later around 11:00 p.m. they heard a knock on the back door of the Hadley house. The visitor admitted to Mrs. Hadley through the locked door that he was Sam Lewis and she refused to open the door.

The deputies had agreed that they would shoot Lewis on sight without warning or challenge. As McGregor said, "You wouldn't challenge a mad dog." After Lewis had walked 10 steps from the back door of the Hadley house McGregor fired three times in rapid succession. One account suggests that McGregor "shot low intentionally to disable and not kill" the fugitive.

"Shoot him again," Russell called to McGregor.

"I can't shoot a man when he's down," McGregor replied.

Russell yelled to the Hadleys that they had got him. McGregor struck a match and saw that Lewis was writhing in pain. Mrs. Hadley ventured to stick her head out the door and said, "If you have not shot him severely, he will shoot you. Did you hit him?"

"Yes, we got him all right," McGregor replied and struck another match. In the second it lasted McGregor reached across Lewis to pick up the rifle.

"You'd better shoot him again," Mrs. Hadley yelled. Her advice came too late. Lewis quickly rolled over, got his hand on his pistol and shot McGregor three times. When Russell came to McGregor's aid, Lewis fired the remaining cartridges at him, not wounding him but rendering his gun useless and setting his shirt on fire.

"Mr. Hadley, Mr. Hadley!" McGregor cried, "Come here, I'm shot!" Before Hadley could light a lantern and come down the steps Lewis crawled away through the bushes to a nearby shack and ordered the black man who lived there to go to Lemon City and get him food and medicine.

The sound of gunfire brought other members of the posse to the Hadley home. Russell had fled after his weapon was disabled by a shot from Lewis' pistol but returned with the reinforcements. Mr. Hadley had rushed down the steps and lifted up Rhett's head, cradling the wounded deputy in his arms. The mortally wounded McGregor was then carried inside the house and someone was sent to Julia Tuttle's home on the Miami River to get her boat to go to Coconut Grove to get Dr. Eleanor Simmons. The doctor arrived at 3:00 a.m. on August 10th and dressed the deputy's wounds. He was in great pain and weak from loss of blood. McGregor died three days later on

August 12 of the fatal wound to the heart. He had also been hit in the throat and arm.

Dr. Simmons announced that she would go to the nearby shack, which was now surrounded by the posse, to attend to the wounded Lewis. When the doctor approached the shack she asked if Lewis needed help and he replied, "Yes, I am all shot up. Come in quick. If anyone comes with you I will kill him." Once inside Dr. Simmons removed two bullets from the right thigh and one from the left leg. The bone of the left leg was broken, and she splinted it as best she could.

The killer of three told Dr. Simmons that he expected to be lynched and begged her for enough chloroform to kill himself. She refused.

By morning Lewis surrendered to the posse after being promised that he would not be lynched but would be taken to the county jail at Juno. Lewis was handcuffed and taken (accompanied by Dr. Simmons) by boat to Juno on the schooner, *Pearl*, which was owned and operated by Guy Bradley. (Bradley became the first law enforcement officer from Monroe County killed in the line of duty when he, as game warden, was shot by a poacher off Flamingo in 1905.) Lewis was placed in one of the two iron cages inside the county jail.

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Authorities at the scene of Lewis' capture were hard pressed to keep the crowd from lynching the triple murderer after he was taken into custody. Also, before the surrender several at the scene (including Mr. Hadley) had suggested that the posse burn down the shack, thus burning the fugitive alive. Authorities vetoed that suggestion in favor of the negotiations through the doctor.

After deputy McGregor died, Lewis' fears that he might be lynched seemed more and more likely to be realized. The Juno jailer, Gustav Kaiser, fearing that a mob might attack the jail to take his prisoner, hired a "negro" deputy jailer, George Perkins, to help guard the prisoner. Perkins was disliked by many citizens as a result of his shooting and killing of Tom Harris, an inoffensive negro man.

The sheriff and jailers were concerned that it would be five long months before Judge Broome was scheduled to be in Juno again for a court session as he came only twice a year. Two competing rumors spread across the South Florida community. One was that Lewis' enemies (and the friends of McGregor) would try to lynch him and the second that some of his West Palm Beach friends (termed by the newspapers as "the liquor element") would try to rescue him from the jail. In either case the prisoner would be removed forcibly from the jail and thus the two jailers were alert.

The first rumor became a reality as a lynch mob (perhaps eight to 12 men) approached the Juno jail on the night of August 24. The mob arrived at Juno on a commandeered steamer that crossed Lake Worth from Lantana. The "get-away" steamer was left with "steam up" ready to return the mob to Lantana.

Thelma Peters, in her *Lemon City:*

Pioneering in Biscayne Bay, 1850-1925, wrote:

The jail was a one-story building adjacent to the two-story courthouse. Inside were two iron cages that had been purchased from a mail-order house for \$759. Lewis shared a cage with a black prisoner named Shorty. The jailer, Gustav Kaiser, a responsible and well-liked 'yellow' black, lived in a room adjoining the cage room of the jail. When the mob knocked on his door and demanded he open the jail he refused. But when he saw that they were breaking down the door he unlocked it.

In the jail the deputy jailer now fired out the door into the crowd. The mob fired back, shots intended for Perkins, who was in bad repute anyway for having recently shot down an inoffensive member of his own race. Perkins escaped out the back door unharmed.

One bullet killed Kaiser instantly and another set on fire mosquito nets over the beds. In the pandemonium that followed Lewis begged his cellmate to lend him a knife so he could cut his own throat but Shorty refused. Then Lewis

began to tear up the bedclothes in an effort to hang himself. But it was too late. Hands were reaching him, dragging him outside, dragging him along the railroad track. They hanged him from the crosspiece of a telegraph pole. Then they emptied their guns into the swinging body.

Two men disappeared after that night. One was Shorty, the negro who was in jail with Lewis, and who was thought to be Lewis' "body servant." He had been jailed for aiding Lewis' escape to Bimini. In the confusion of the jail break and lynching, Shorty "crawled out and disappeared."

A different perspective on the jailbreak was suggested by the *Miami Metropolis* suggesting that Kaiser was willing to surrender Sam Lewis but was afraid that the mob intended to lynch others (perhaps Perkins and Shorty) as well.

The next morning a man's body was seen suspended from the telegraph wires down the track. It was the depopulator, Sam Lewis. He had paid the penalty.

WANTED

In his upcoming book, *Forgotten Heroes: Police Officers Killed in Dade County, 1895-1994*, William Wilbanks tells the story of the 103 officers killed in the line of duty in the past century. Wilbanks solicits help from readers in locating the descendants in the few still "missing" cases. (Please call 305-595-6102 if you can help.)

1. **John Rhinehart Riblet**, 31, was a Miami officer who was killed by the Ashley Gang in an aborted jail break in Miami in 1915. His wife, **Madge Emily Bell Riblet** of Fort Pierce, was buried at Miami Memorial Park in 1949 alongside several members of her family. Information is sought about descendants of any of the Bells (e.g., **Herold Bell** [1974], **Pauline Bell** [1981]) buried in the Bell family plot.

2. **John D. Marchbanks**, 64, was a Miami Police officer killed while directing

traffic in Miami in 1926. He and his wife Elizabeth are buried at Woodlawn. Her sons by a previous marriage, **P.M. Colbert** and **John O. Colbert**, also lived in Miami. **Pierce M. Colbert**, 55, of Miami Springs (son of John O.) died in 1955 and is buried at Woodlawn and was survived by his daughter, **Carol Danzis**.

3. **Robert Boyle**, 30, a Miami Beach officer, was killed in a traffic accident in 1936. His uncle's descendants included **Albert J. and Michael B. Hickland** and **Dorothy Lee Witters Hickland** who lived in Miami as late as the 1960s.

4. **Owen Karl Bender**, 49, was an auxiliary FHP officer killed while directing traffic in 1965. His widow, **Martha Bender**, worked for Claude Pepper in 1966 and later married **Robert Kerr**. The Kerrs lived in Hialeah until his death in 1980.

The Visual Record

Objects of Attention

South Florida's Brushes with Fame

by Remko Jansonius

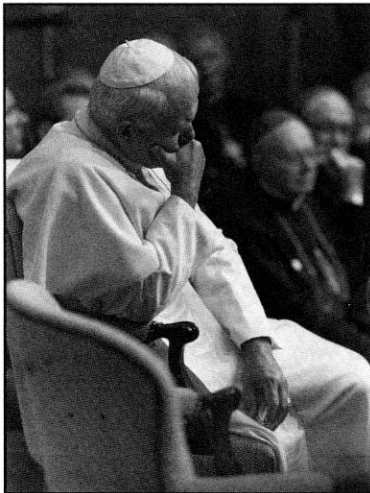
Lately the media has featured many stories about celebrities choosing Florida as their temporary or permanent homes. A number of movie stars and sports personalities have started clubs, restaurants and other business enterprises.

Celebrities among us is certainly nothing new for Floridians. The climate, the beach-

es, the vast Everglades and the region's multicultural flavor have for many years attracted the famous and infamous to Miami and South Florida, the crossroads between the United States, South America and the Caribbean and many other major world centers.

At times objects belonging to, used by

or in some other way associated with these attention-getting celebs find their way to the Historical Museum of Southern Florida's collections. Occasionally they represent important pieces that help to tell the sometimes puzzling southern Florida story; more often they serve as whimsical reminders of times when we were brushed by fame.

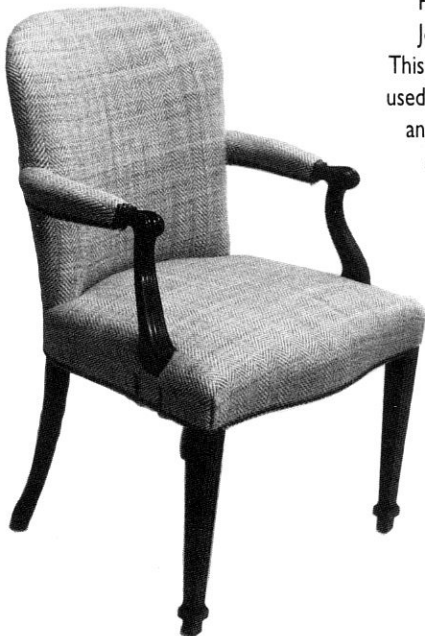


Pope John Paul II

When ordained, Pope John Paul II made it his personal goal to visit as many different countries as humanly possible, and to meet with Catholics and leaders from other religions all over the world. In September 1987, Miami had the honor of hosting a meeting between the Pope and the National Jewish Leadership.

This chair is one of a pair used by Pope John Paul II and Rabbi Waxman during their meeting at the Center for the Fine Arts on September 11, 1987. (HASF, gift of Archdiocese of Miami, 1987.68.1)

Above, Pope John Paul II at the Center for the Fine Arts in the Metro-Dade Cultural Center. (HASF, 1987-256-83)



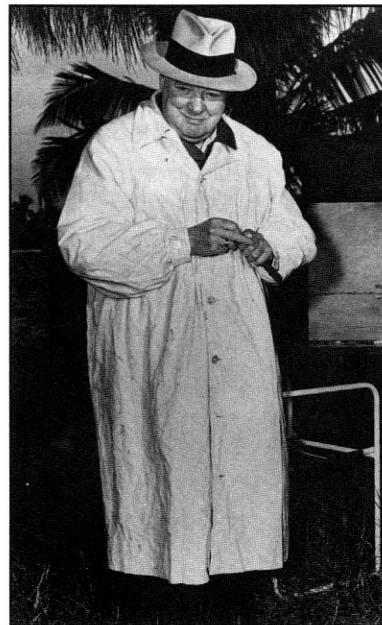
Sir Winston Churchill

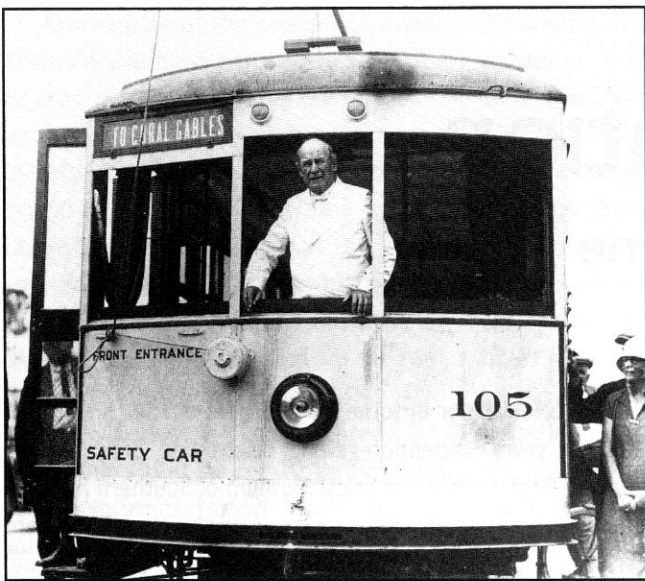


After World War II and into the 1960s, Sir Winston Churchill, former Prime Minister of Great Britain, was a frequent visitor to South Florida. He went to the races at the Hialeah racetrack, and relaxed off the coast of Palm Beach aboard the yacht *Christina*, owned by shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis. Several photos in the Historical Museum's archives show him with his usual cigar, seated behind an easel, painting his impressions of the South Florida coastal scenery.

When visiting Miami in the 1940s, Churchill was often a house guest of the Firestone family at the Firestone Estate on Miami Beach. The fedora shown above was left behind at the house by Sir Winston in his rush to catch a plane. (HASF, gift of Stanley Kiem, 1983.26.1)

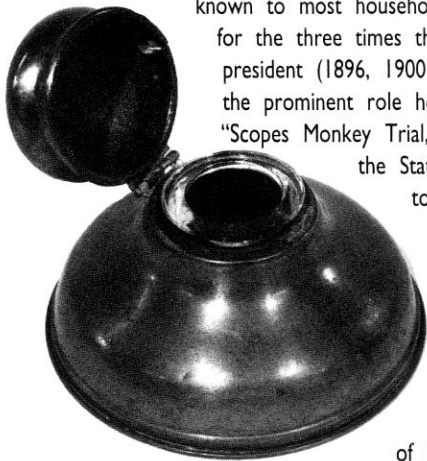
Left: Sir Winston Churchill taking a break from painting a DiLido Island scene, Jan. 19, 1946. (HASF, Miami News Collection, 1989-011-19771.)





William Jennings Bryan

Early in this century, the name of William Jennings Bryan was known to most households in America. Was it for the three times that he ran for U.S. president (1896, 1900 and 1908)? Was it for the prominent role he played in 1924 in the "Scopes Monkey Trial," in which he defended the State of Tennessee's right to prohibit the teaching of evolution? Most likely, it was his skill as a great orator which captured the attention of those in South Florida.



When construction of his home, Villa Serena, was completed in 1921, he moved to Miami. His oratorical skills landed him a job with George Merrick, developer of Coral Gables. Almost daily, Bryan gave speeches at the Venetian Pool in front of an audience of mostly tourists on the real estate deals in Coral Gables. How does \$100,000 per year sound for a salary in the early 1920s?

This brass inkwell is from the home of William Jennings Bryan, and is assumed to have belonged to Mr. Bryan. (HASF, 1984.37.4)

At the top of the page William Jennings Bryan is posing for a publicity photo in 1925 on a Coral Gables streetcar. (HASF, 1977-29-2)



Dr. Bascom Palmer

For most Miamians the name Bascom Palmer probably sounds familiar. Indeed, the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute has the reputation of being one of the top ophthalmology centers in the world. But as in so many cases, Dr. Palmer preceded this fame. Who he was, or that he was an actual living person, is a lesser known fact.

Dr. Bascom Headon Palmer, a native of Lake City, Florida, was one of the area's ophthalmological pioneers, and opened a practice in downtown Miami in 1923. For many years he was actively involved in the Lighthouse for the Blind: from 1947 to 1952 he served as its president, and he started a Lighthouse in Overtown for the black community. He was one of the co-founders of the University of Miami Medical School, which was established in 1952. He died in 1954, before seeing his dream of establishing an eye institute in Miami come true.

The above pictured medical chair was used by Dr. Bascom Palmer in his practice in Miami. (HASF, gift of Dr. Van Browne, 1982.46.1)

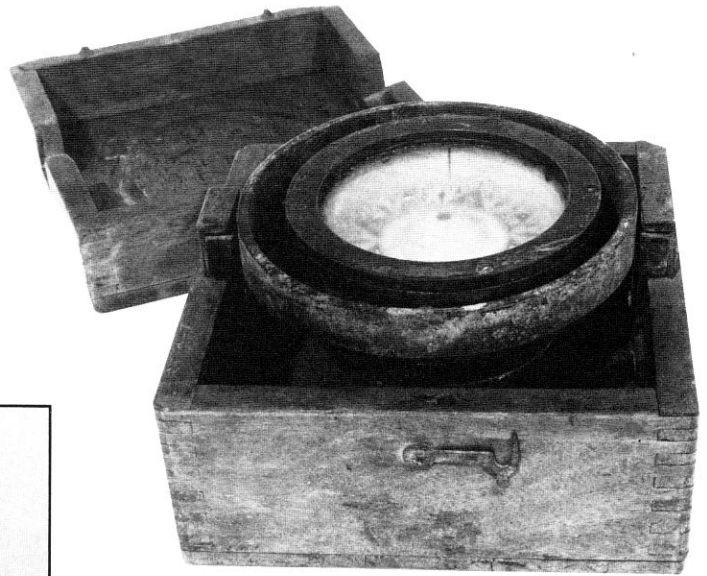
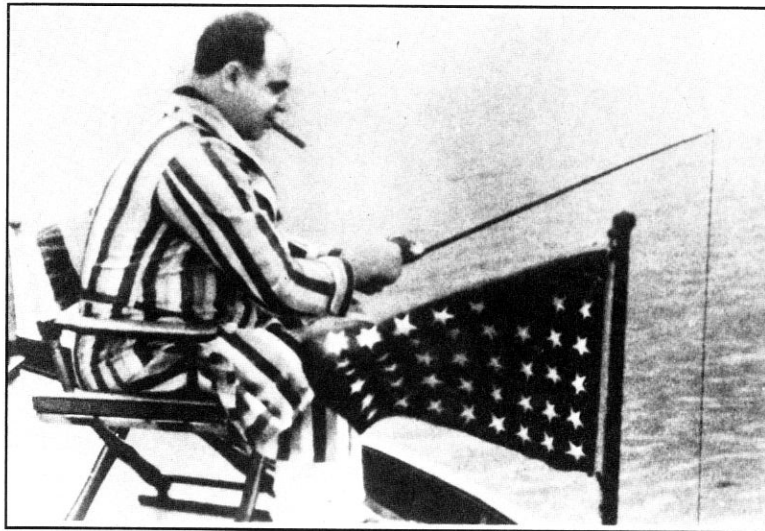
Dr. Bascom Palmer, 1950. (HASF, Miami News Collection, 1989-11-22790)



Al Capone

In 1927 gangster Al Capone decided that Miami was the right place to retreat when the weather in Chicago was too cold, or the climate for business too hot. Miamians themselves were not so sure though. After convincing local business and political leaders that he had no intention of operating any illegal ventures here, he bought a residence on Palm Island. In spite of — or rather thanks to — his reputation, both year-round Miamians and snowbirds were often guests at the frequent parties at the Capone residence.

The compass shown above suggests, or should we say proves, that



not all of Al Capone's business ventures were as noble as promised. The inscription in the lid of the box that holds the compass reads "Seized from rumboat of Al Capone's off Key Largo, Fla. by Geo. A.L. Cook 2-18-1929 V-14001." (HASF, gift of Raymond H. Baur, 1979.55.275)

This photo shows Al Capone during an activity which may be considered one of his more innocent pastimes, possibly in Florida. (HASF, 1981-91-11.)

Giuseppe Zangara



On February 15, 1933, Franklin Delano Roosevelt visited Miami to make a speech at Bayfront Park, less than three weeks before his inauguration as U.S. president. A large crowd of Miamians had gathered at the park to see and hear their soon-to-be president. One of the dignitaries who had come to meet Roosevelt was Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak.

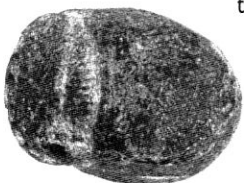
Also among the audience was Giuseppe Zangara. His intention was to shoot Roosevelt, which seemed to be his idea of solving some social injustices in the world. However, things turned out differently: Zangara missed the president, and instead wounded four other persons, one of them Mayor Cermak. On March 4

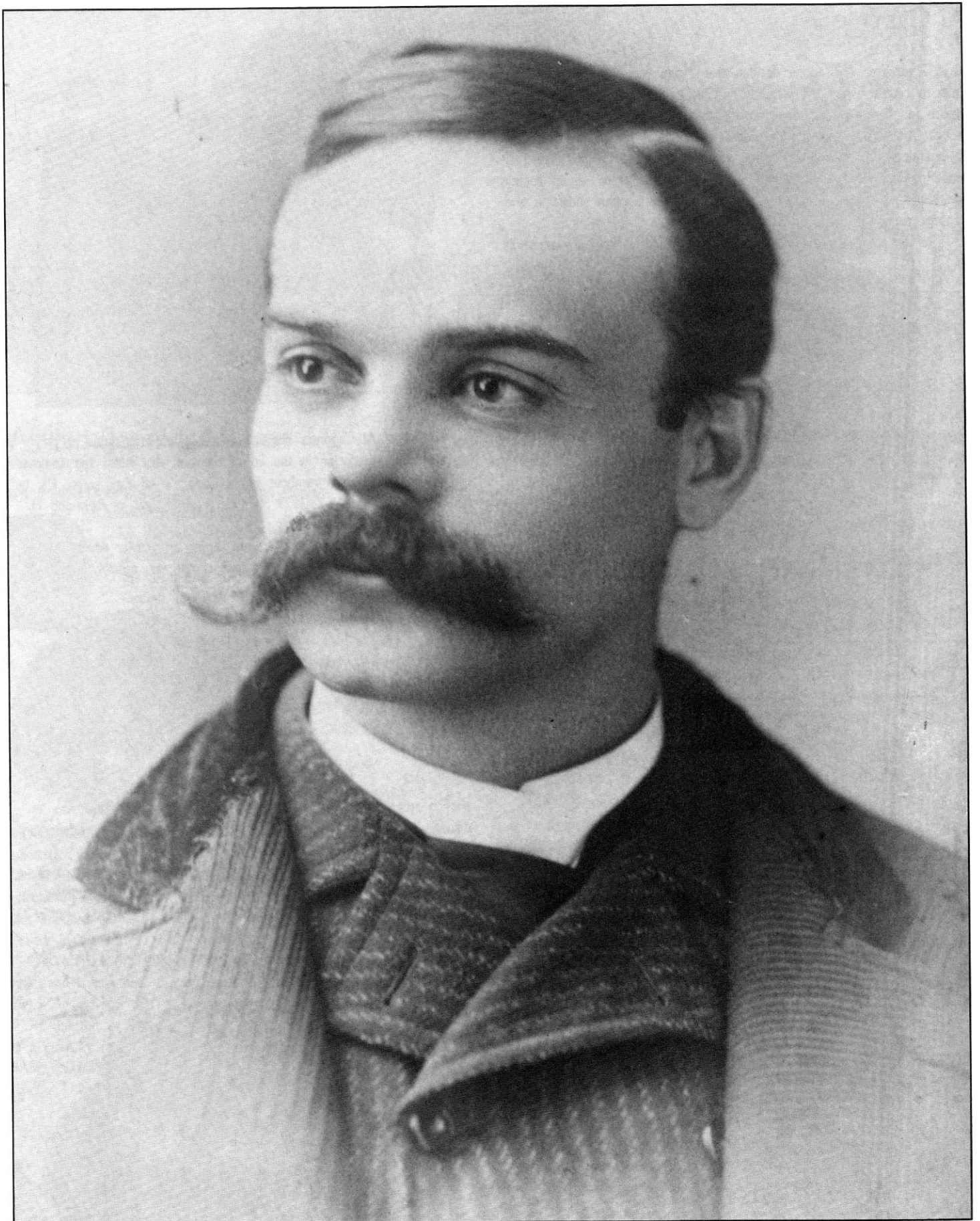
Roosevelt was inaugurated; Cermak died on March 6. Zangara was sentenced for murder and executed on March 20.

The straw hat below belonged to Giuseppe Zangara, and was collected on the scene of the attempted assassination of president-elect Roosevelt. (HASF, gift of Mrs. Charles Schwelm, 1965.14x.1)

Zangara fired his gun five times. Russell Caldwell was one of those wounded. This bullet, which was meant for Roosevelt, hit Caldwell right between the eyes, but he lived to tell his story. (HASF, gift of Russell L. Caldwell, 1975.48.1)

The photo of Giuseppe Zangara was taken while in prison awaiting execution. (HASF, 1981-91-27)





Homer Hine Stuart, Jr. ca. 1883. (Courtesy of Sandra Thurlow)

Mother, Mail & Mosquitoes

Letters from Stuart, 1886-87

by Sandra Henderson Thurlow

Miami and Waveland were embryonic communities a hundred miles from each other in the huge county of Dade when Homer Hine Stuart, Jr. wrote a series of letters to his fiance Maggie that date back more than 100 years.

Though there are conflicting stories, the evidence is convincing that the town of Stuart in Martin County was named in honor of Homer Hine Stuart, Jr. who owned acreage and grew pineapples on the north side of the St. Lucie River in the mid-1880s. His younger brother Inglis, an attorney whose friendship with Henry Flagler's lieutenant, James R. Parrott, brought about the choice of the name, left substantiating letters and documents. It was in the papers of Inglis Stuart, a life-long bachelor, that Homer's letters to Maggie were found.

After his junior year at Dartmouth College, Homer Hine Stuart, Jr. worked in New York City for a manufacturer of cream of tartar and later became general manager in charge of the factory. One wonders what brought such a man to the St. Lucie River. Was he acquiring pine land with coontie, a plant that was processed to make starch, sometimes used as a substitute for cream of tartar? It is only a guess. The letters do not mention anything about coontie, but there is reference to pineapple cultivation. Homer was 32 years old when the letters were written during the winter of 1886-1887.

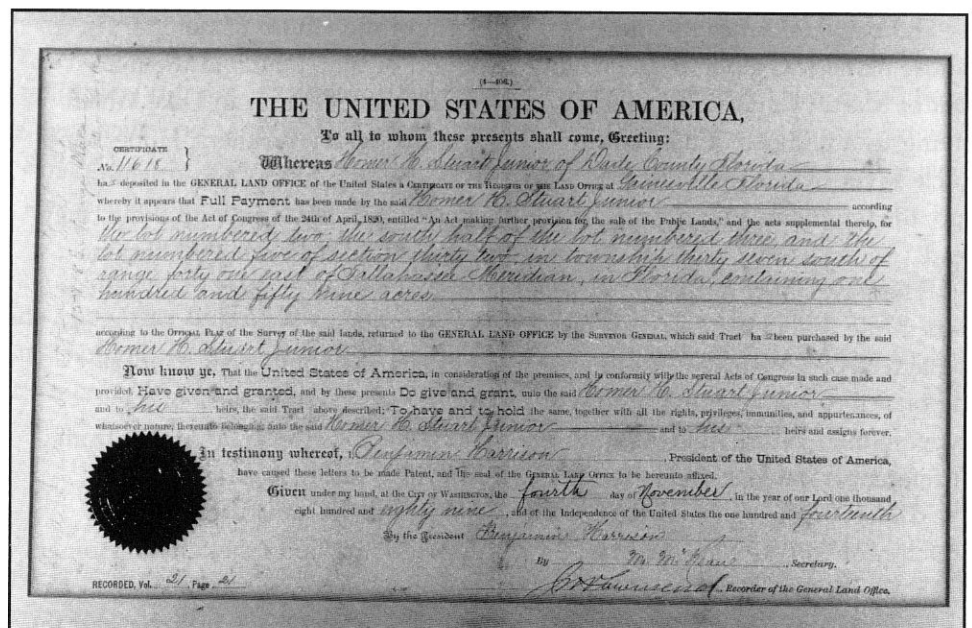
Homer's bungalow was situated

on the peninsula jutting into the St. Lucie River from the north, near today's U. S. Highway 1 at the Roosevelt Bridge. Although it was located in Brevard County, he used the Waveland Post Office, located across the Dade County line, as his address. He reached the post office by sailing a short distance down the St. Lucie River, tying up on the peninsula later to be named Sewall's Point, and walking across it to the Indian River where the Waveland Post Office stood.

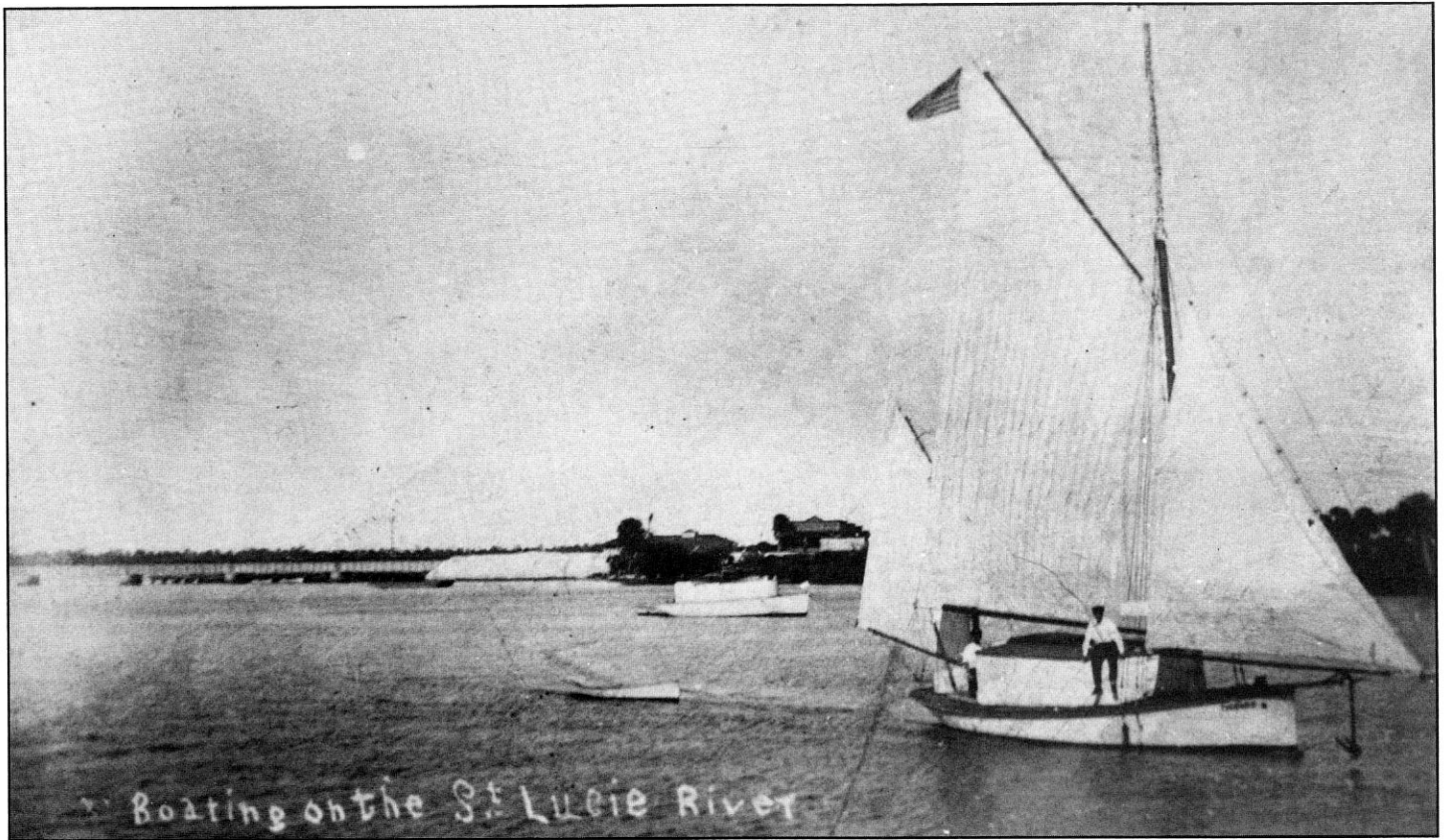
All of the letters are written on fine stationery with a printed letter-head:

H. H. STUART
WAVELAND POST OFFICE
DADE CO., FLA.

It is hard to comprehend that, at the time Homer Stuart's letters were written, Miami and Waveland were comparable. Both communities consisted of a few primitive dwellings, a commissary-trading post and a post office. Today, Miami is a world famous city and Waveland is long for-



The original U. S. Government patent of the Stuart land on the St. Lucie River, signed November 4, 1889. (Courtesy of Sandra Thurlow)



This photo shows the yawl *Trochee* which was built by the Bessy Bros. for E. C. B. Tyndall in 1894. In the background the Walter Kitching Store, Florida East Coast freight depot and the Stuart Ferry Landing can be seen. (Courtesy of Sandra Thurlow)

gotten. It was located in what is today Martin County and was absorbed into the existing towns of Sewall's Point and Jensen Beach.

The letters mention our area's earliest settlers and reveal the character and background of the man whose name was given to the county seat of Martin County. Aside from giving us a glimpse of life on the St. Lucie River over a hundred years ago, the letters are just plain funny to read.

There was only a handful of settlers in the St. Lucie River area when the letters were written. The following bits of relevant information will increase the reader's understanding of references made in the letters:

Gilbert's Bar House of Refuge on Hutchinson Island was one of a series built on the Southeast Florida coast to give assistance to stranded sailors. Constructed in 1875, it is the only one remaining and is now a

popular museum listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

The Gardner brothers, Leonard and George from Maryland, had their camp Crusoe on Hutchinson Island north of the House of Refuge. For a period of time they had the mail route from St. Lucie to Lake Worth.

The Bessey Brothers, Hubert and Willis, hailed from Ohio. Disillusioned with pineapple growing, they began building boats that became famous on the St. Lucie and Indian rivers. Homer Stuart's 22-foot *Goose* was a Bessey-built boat. Hubert Bessey served as keeper of the Gilbert's Bar House of Refuge from July 1890 until December 1901.

Although he was never mentioned by name in the letters, Homer would have come in contact with Dr. William H. Baker who established the Waveland Post Office. It was located on the peninsula between the St.

Lucie and Indian Rivers in what is today known as the Town of Sewall's Point.

When Homer mentions the first white child born on the St. Lucie River, he is referring to Alwina, daughter of Ernest and Frances Hunter Stypmann. When Alwina was four years old she strayed into the St. Lucie River and drowned. The mother died after the birth of a second daughter.

These letters were written during an extended visit of Homer's mother, Margaret Dunbar Stuart. Homer's father, a successful New York attorney, died in 1885. The trip to Florida no doubt proved to be distracting for Homer's mother who was so recently widowed:

Sunday, Nov. 21st 1886

My Dearest Maggie,

Yours Oct. 25 & November 2

received on my arrival last Thursday night

with Mother. It is a good thing she is as tough as hickory or she never would have stood the trip. She left the city Wednesday by the fast express & was roasted in a hot car until reaching Jax, where not making connections, she spent the night & Saturday ran to Enterprise & then connecting with Titusville train where I met her at 7 PM. We at once went to the Titus House for supper & then talked until most morning Sunday in the afternoon we left on the "Goose" sailing all of Sunday night & until 10 Monday night when we anchored.

Nov. 24th 1886

My Dearest Maggie,

Mother has been here long enough now for the place to be in some sort of shape. Yet we still use a trunk standing on end for a table in my room & a barrel in mother's. She spends most of her time chasing roaches or driving our Thanksgiving rooster out of the kitchen.

Today we concluded to take a pleasure trip & ran over to Besseys where we ate a water melon. It is a great undertaking to get mother sailing as the dock is not yet all made & she will not let me put her aboard the same as I would a bag of flour or you. Today she got part of the way on the dock & then of course began to laugh & at last sat down on one of the stringers unable to go or come. These heavy people are hard to manage, but once aboard the boat are splendid ballast. . . .

Mother says she intends to live well [even] if the fleas, snakes, roaches, toads, lizards, spiders, sand spurs, ticks, scorpions, wasps, hornets, flies, bats, owls, & hard beds do make her get up at sunrise. They say pitch pine boards are healthy to sleep on. Try one.

Those of us who live in South Florida know that our cold weather can slice right through you. Though she was fresh from the north, Homer Stuart's mother discovered this.

November 28, 1886

My Dearest Maggie,

It was so cold today that even mother had to give in & as I was arranging the table for supper on the piazza as usual, she came shivering out of her room with all the clothes she brought here on & said, "Homie I'm afraid it is too cold on

the piazza."

"Oh no I can stand it."

"But I can't."

"Oh!"

So we dined in the kitchen, helping ourselves from the top of the stove to a crane (Sand Hill) shot this morning. Even mother, who when she went sleigh riding in the North brought a fan, admits that this is a cold place in a "Norther." This morning she was glad enough to have her cup of hot coffee before making the awful dash from bed clothes to warm clothes.

In addition to the surprisingly cold weather, Homer's mother had to endure a case of red bugs:

We are not properly provided with blankets & have sent up the river for more which I trust will be here before we have another such night. Mother today, in consequence of her rough night, has a stiff neck. If it is a warm day tomorrow will take her walking in the sun & hope to limber her up. Just at present she is also suffering from "red bugs." I don't know as you ever had any on you. They are so small it is with great difficulty you can see them & with some people they are very irritating. She wanted to make a pillow out of pine needles & I brought a dead tree top on the pizza In a few moments she began

to wonder what was the matter. I gave her a slice of salt bacon & told her to go anoint herself: She protested a while but at last could stand the agony no longer & did as told. Now she is comfortable.

Homer's accounts of his mother's encounters with the creatures that tried to share his bungalow make us laugh more than a hundred years after they were written:

Monday Dec 13th 1886

As usual before turning in last night mother called me into her room & while she stood on a chair screaming I chased a harmless little mouse about until he gave up & let me mash his head with a stick. I shut her door tight & went into my room. Such a racket. It seemed as if all the rats in creation were in the house. Every once in a while frantic screams from

" . . . She spends most of her time chasing roaches or driving our Thanksgiving rooster out of the kitchen. . . . Mother says she intends to live well [even] if the fleas, snakes, roaches, toads, lizards, spiders, sand spurs, ticks, scorpions, wasps, hornets, flies, bats, owls, & hard beds do make her get up at sunrise. They say pitch pine boards are healthy to sleep on. Try one. . . . "

Mother's room: "You must get a cat, or trap." At last I got to sleep but only for a little while, I thought all the dishes were being broken & there was a Possum on the table with his idiotic smile. Of course I had to make the best of it & while mother sat eating her breakfast & saying how delicious the applesauce was & in this climate what a perfect substitute for butter, I agreed with her & to prove it ate some more of the delicate flavored applesauce thinking all the time of what she would think if I told her the picture of the night before. An Opossum standing in the dish of applesauce & munching the wing of a chicken, his tail resting on the sugar bowl . . .
 Mother sends love, Good night Mag Aff: Homer

As Christmas 1886 approached Homer wrote:

In the morning Mother & I will sail over to the P. O. where Gardner will be with his boat & take us to his camp & the next day we will sail to Ankona to the party. Just think of the trouble & time it takes to have a little fun here.

Mother's wash-woman came today with the clothes, an accumulation of five weeks. She gave mother an invitation to a "Big time" Xmas but previous engagements prevented us from accepting. This big time will consist in getting away with large quantities of bad whiskey & every man, woman, & child will get drunk. Mother received a letter from a N.Y. cousin saying "Come home at once. Do not stay in that place a moment & may God spare you long enough to get away." He had been reading in the N. Y. Tribune that the Seminoles had on their war paint. All this arose from the little misunderstanding I wrote you of just before mother came.

Thursday

A baby was born on the river last week: The first white child ever born here. [Alwina Stypmann] Poor baby. Lots of love. I am yours, Homer

Christmas Day arrived:

Saturday, Dec. 25, 1886

On Thursday Mother & I sailed over to the P. O. where Gardner met us & sailed us to his place which is no longer a camp as he has a first rate little house & the nucleus of a pretty place. Mother presented them with a Possum all dressed ready for the oven & a boat before us had just left a

Turtle which with preserves sent from home & sundries in the camp made a way up dinner. We gave Mother the up stairs & with the aid of a ladder she got there through a window. The weather was so bad we could not go to the party but spent two pleasant days in wandering about on the beach & visiting Uncle Joe 's place which I consider the most interesting one on the river. Mother got covered with wood ticks & red bugs & although she had a first rate time was glad enough to get home this afternoon to the comforts of this house. To her it has been a novel way of spending Xmas.

Food was one of Homer's favorite topics:

Don't I wish you could be here to breakfast. We are going to have doves a favorite dish of Mother's. Mother thought she would have nothing to do here but she actually does not find

time to write her letters & I do not exactly know what in the world it is that keeps her so awful busy. Life with her is one round of excitement. One week over the mail & the next because there is none. Yesterday while eating dinner a large mud turtle came walking up to the house & was immediately captured & is now anchored in the river.

Yesterday I sailed over to the P. O. alone as I expected to have considerable walking to do & as the woods were wet thought mother had better attend to her correspondence. . . . Also received your letter dated 12/5th. So you are growing fat & will be a winter girl after all? If it is only one pound a week all next year, You will made splendid ballast.

The first day of the New Year was was rainy and, lonely:

January 1st, 1887

There being no mail yesterday & as it rained all of today I have spent my time in writing .. If mother was not with me today I would go out of my head, as it is I am only about half right. I am an ungrateful wretch for I want the rain very much having just put cotton seed meal on the pineapples & this wet weather is just the thing to soak it in. So I am glad it rains. It is 1/4 of 5 & so dark I just lit the lamp. I just took up one of my diaries of 1883. There I see that January 1st I was at Fishkill at a Phantom Party. . .

Tuesday Morning

Am just starting for the P. O. A Norther & awful cold

"... Mother received a letter from a N.Y. cousin saying "Come home at once. Do not stay in that place a moment & may God spare you long enough to get away' . . ."

44°. We were both of us almost frozen last night. Hope to get mail. Aff: Homer

But there was no mail and no lamp oil:

January 13th 1887

My Dearest Maggie,

Mother & I are still in darkness & worse than all the mail for some four trips has not seen so we do not know when we will receive oil & letters. Last Tuesday I thought she would go distracted when I returned without any... The wind is south & the weather warmer today. I enclosed a room on the back piazza to be used for dining purposes. It looks more like a big bird cage than any thing else being made of lath & not yet covered with mosquito net. The Goose is on dry land, drying preparatory to painting etc. & as tomorrow is mail day & the Besseys not at home I don't see how we will get any. Monday 16th. Yours with answer at last received. All sighs. Am glad to know because one has to arrange so far ahead in this country. Can tell you one thing & that is you will not miss much by not coming. Am going to start up the river in the morning for a week or so, so good night with love. Aff: Homer

Salvaging a boat on the beach provided not only needed excitement but revenue for the Gardner brothers:

My Dearest Maggie,

Last Saturday word was sent me to get the Bessey Bros & start at once for the beach where there was a wreck going to pieces. I sailed over & started the Besseys off then returned & made a tremendous Jack Pot of venison & potatoes & with crackers & tea & mother's cot in the Goose she & I left the Bungalow at sundown arriving at the House of Refuge on the beach about 10 that evening Early in the morning a party of nine of us left M at the Station & started up the beach a half mile where the Sloop Outing of New York was ashore. We worked on her all day & part of this morning & got her far enough up the beach ridge to be out of danger. She is the property of the Gardner Bros being given to them by the master for transportation to Rockledge. She was sent out by the magazine Outing, from New York on a trip around the world. They expected to be three years on the trip but in making the run from St. Augustine to Nassau was caught in a heavy Norther & all her stays parted & she sprang a leak making it necessary to beach her. In the breakers she swamped & the captain & other man jumped overboard & swam ashore. She is

a pretty little thing 28 ft. long & came from Roundout on the Hudson. Of course there was no cargo. A few girls pictures & some groceries was all. The Gardners sold her for \$75 on the spot. She cost \$750. These fellows were only allowed \$1.25 per day expenses on this trip & I do not think they cared to continue much longer even if they had had better luck.

Homer ends his letters with remarks which would surely doom a relationship of today:

Tomorrow I think after going to the P.O. I will devote the rest of the day to Sunday as last & the Sunday before I worked hard all day & now feel as if I would like to sit down for twenty four hours. Last Friday M & I went to a party at Waveland & it was just dawning when we returned. M thought it a novel way to be taken ashore on my back. I trust before you reach the river there will be other ways of locomotion as I infer from your letters you must be very fat. . . If you are growing too fat better do as our president (the rotund Grover Cleveland) of whom you are so fond . . . Good night & lots of love. Homer

Getting mail was often a hardship:

March 18th 1887

Dearest Maggie,

What would you think of spending all day on your way from the P.O.? Such was my luck today & were it not that I was afraid Mother would be anxious I should not have attempted to get home. As it was, everything in the boat was soaked & I rounded up to the dock just at sundown. But was well repaid for the days work as we received a mail & in it yours of the 7th. Also one from Inglis in which he states he will not be able to leave before the 22nd & perhaps, not at all. I shall be very much disappointed if he does not make me a



Sandra Henderson Thurlow, a native of Gainesville, Florida, taught school and raised a family after graduating from the University of Florida in 1961. In 1986 she began to collect and compile the history of Sewall's Point, where she lives. In 1992, her *Sewall's Point: the History of a Peninsular Community on Florida's Treasure Coast* was published. In the process of writing the book she amassed an extensive collection of historical photographs and resource materials which she strives to share with others.

This article on Homer Hine Stuart, Jr., drawn from the letters and memorabilia his grandson recently donated to the Historical Society of Martin County, provides a glimpse of life on the St. Lucie River in the 1880s. Thurlow is now in the process of writing the history of Stuart, the town named for Homer Hines Stuart, Jr.

visit as this will be his last chance for years to come.

Mother says, "Tell her I want so much to write her a letter, that I have so much to say but have got to wait until I have a great deal of time, which I never have here." The fact is she is busy from morning until night & you have no idea what a comfort & help she is to me. She travels about in a boat as if she was a young girl & if it were not for the fleas would be very comfortable but they torment the very life out of her.

After his mother's departure, loneliness overwhelms Homer:

The Bungalow, May 10,
1887

My Dearest Maggie,
This is a lonesome place now.

I wish I was in Athens. Am writing this in Mother's room. Everything is just as she left it & I find myself walking about on tip toe as if afraid of awakening her. Yet there is something ridiculous about the place after all. The sun has just gone down & on the wire door are countless numbers of horseflies trying to get to my light. Articles of furniture are few, a little tin bath tub turned bottom side up in the middle of the floor. A chest full of old papers & business letters, Mother's cot

standing on end in a corner & the table at which I am writing I see she has left it furnished ready for use with your picture framed & no matter which way I turn it I can't make you look at me.

But food once again provides a distraction:

"M thought it a novel way to be taken ashore on my back. I trust before you reach the river there will be other ways of locomotion as I infer from your letters you must be very fat. . . If you are growing too fat better do as our president of whom you are so fond . . ."

I must wind up. But let me tell the dish that is cooking It is an experiment & from the looks think it will Pan out well. In a little iron pot the following articles in this order: bacon, rabbit, Irish potatoes, squash, string-beans, parsley, red-pepper, black-pepper, salt, water. It is a bungalow stew. My love to all your family & lots & lots to you. I am aff: Homer

So ends the last letter.

Homer Hine Stuart, Jr. and Margaret Beckworth Kenny were united in marriage in Athens, New York, on October 3, 1888. They had one son, Homer Howland, who was born on July 5, 1890. It was his son, Homer Howland Stuart, Jr., who donated the Stuart memorabilia to the Historical Society of Martin County.

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The Clewiston Inn A Sweet Refuge

by George C. Cordes



Top Photo: The Clewiston Inn, as built on the ridge in 1925-26. It subsequently burned down in 1938. Bottom Photo: The Clewiston Inn in 1939 after rebuilding and relocation by U.S. Sugar Corp. (Courtesy of the Clewiston Museum.)

Originally built when the city itself began to develop, the Clewiston Inn has become a symbol of the environment, the traditions and the culture of its population. An enticing landmark in "America's Sweetest Town," the Inn has been host to the famous and haven to the ordinary, promising relaxation and tranquility to all who stop in.

The original Clewiston Inn was built by Bror H. Dahlberg in 1925-26 on the "ridge"—where Lake Okeechobee used to have its banks prior to the construction of the Hoover Dike. Up until the dike's completion in the early 1930s, the Inn and most of the rest of the town were on the ridge, the highest part of Clewiston. The rest of present-day Clewiston was swamp.

In the early 1920s, the initial project to build modern-day Clewiston involved draining the land in and near Clewiston by building canals. Toward the end of the '20s, sugar production began in Clewiston from cane grown in drained swamp lands.

Clewiston was known as Sand Point in those earlier days. Lawrence E. Will, in his *Okeechobee Catfishing*,

wrote, "Where the city of Clewiston is today there used to be a fine sandy beach called Sand Point or Sugarload Beach."

The Inn was a 48-room wood frame building with exteriors and interiors of Celotex, a building material made from the bagasse of a sugarcane stalk—the fiber product that's left when the sugar, molasses and water are extracted.

In its earlier days, the Inn adjoined the old Watanabe Hotel, built in 1921-22 and named for the Japanese couple who managed it. The Watanabe's restaurant provided dining facilities for the Inn's guests.

In the special "25 Years of Progress" edition of the *Clewiston News* on February 12, 1953, the Clewiston Inn's full-page advertisement described itself as the "Embodi-

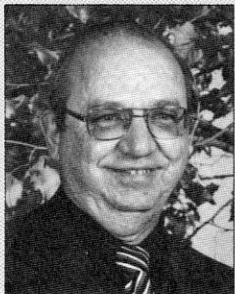
ment of Hospitality in the Everglades" and further in the

ad, described the original Clewiston Inn as follows:
Built in 1925, this unique Celotex hostelry, the original Clewiston Inn was fitted into a setting of native tropical growth on the ridge near the Lake Shore. It became noted for its comfortable accommodations, good food, and friendly hospitality.

The reference to Celotex as the original Inn's building material refers back to the original Southern Sugar Company, which officially began operations on January 14, 1929. Bror Dahlberg was the president of Southern and its parent company, Celotex Corporation of Chicago.

The corporation intended in 1925 to build a Celotex fiber board factory in southeast Clewiston. Thus, Celotex boards were used widely in the early Clewiston building program—including the Clewiston Inn.

Unfortunately the Celotex Corporation's Southern Sugar Company went bankrupt in 1933. It was taken over by investors (in the original Southern Sugar Company), namely, the Mott family from Michigan. They renamed the company United States Sugar Corporation, and found that the bagasse was better used as fuel in the boilers of the



George C. Cordes is presently the director of the Clewiston Museum. He has lived with his wife Marilyn in Clewiston for the past 19 years. He has three sons who are married and living away from Clewiston.

Cordes has spent 27 years in education as a teacher and as a counselor, and in both high school and junior college settings. Although he has retired from the education profession, his position in the Clewiston Museum gives him the opportunity to interact with visitors on sugar cane

processing, the Everglades pollution problems, Lake Okeechobee and a variety of other educational topics relating to the history of the Clewiston area.



Aerial view of the Clewiston Inn, about 1938, soon after being rebuilt by U.S. Sugar Corp. (Courtesy of the Clewiston Museum.)

sugar mill than as a building material.

Clewiston was a slow-growing farming community. Vegetables grew beautifully in the muck land—especially between Clewiston and Belle Glade. Produce was brought to Sand Point to be shipped by railroad to Moore Haven and to the north. Many of these vegetables came to Clewiston by boat. With this beginning of a thriving industry, the small area around the south edge of Lake Okeechobee became known as Clewiston. Will described what the area was like in 1926 with specific mention of the Inn:

Development at Clewiston, now the lake's second largest city, was at that time just beginning. Most of the town's businesses were still concentrated in one large building which contained a general store, a restaurant, the post office, and the bank, while the upper floor served as a hotel. Clewiston Inn had just been built on the lake shore ridge, and a few small business buildings faced the canal and the adjoining railroad, the depot for which was a box car. Several packing houses had been built in the edge of the lake to be convenient for boats which still

furnished most of the lake's transportation.

In Pioneering In the Everglades, Ruth Robbins Beardley, a school teacher who came out to the Glades area, described everyday life and the role of the Clewiston Inn during the Great Depression years:

Almost as mysteriously as it had

begun, the boom burst. Everyone had sheaves of receipts of down payments, but no deeds, just promises to pay. The days of reselling were over. . . Jim [her husband] could see the end of his job. When Mr. Williamson from Clewiston offered him a chance to return to the Glades as the head of the sales office of the Clewiston Development Company, he welcomed the opportunity. Ruth was stuck with her teaching job until the end of the school. . . . The greatest entertainment was a weekend at the Clewiston Inn visiting Jim.

This bright spot in an otherwise bleak period was lost when the old Clewiston Inn burned to the ground on September 12, 1937.

Starting in the latter part of November 1937, the young United States Sugar Corporation rebuilt the Clewiston Inn in its present location in the central part of Clewiston. The Inn is situated across the City Park from U.S. Sugar's administrative offices. The building was built in a u-shape, with an additional building of



The apartment building, to the east of the court yard. (Courtesy of the Clewiston Museum.)

courtyard. Its original function for U.S. Sugar was to house visiting dignitaries and executives and was formally opened on June 2, 1938.

This new structure was described by its owners in their 1953 advertisement:

Finest Small Hotel South, completed in 1938, the present Clewiston Inn is of British Colonial design and faces Civic Center Park in the heart of Clewiston. Of steel frame construction with brick veneer exterior, it is completely fireproof, completely air-conditioned, offers accommodations of the finest. It carries on the traditional Clewiston Inn hospitality and is ever growing in popularity with all who visit the section.

The editorial side of the newspaper also wrote about the Inn for the "25 Years of Progress" issue:

The Clewiston Inn quickly established an enviable reputation for fine food, comfortable and well equipped rooms and southern hospitality. . . . Contrasting the new inn with the old, it provides all the modern efficiency and comforts of a



The lobby of the Clewiston Inn looking toward the front entrance as taken from the stairway. Note the entrance to the dining room upper left. (Courtesy of the Clewiston Museum.)

metropolitan hotel with the quiet and dignity of a country estate. . . . it is built on three sides of a hollow square, the fourth side being closed by a one-story

eight apartment building. . . .

Facing east are deep porches on the first and second floors overlooking the enclosed garden. These porches are completely enclosed with glass jalousies. The upper porch is a popular meeting place for local residents as well as out-of-town guests. The lower porch is so arranged and is a popular auxiliary dining room with all who visit the Inn.

The lobby with its large open fireplace is paneled in birds-eye cypress, an unusual wood of interesting character. There are 64 guest rooms in the hotel, not including the apartments.

Today, the lower porch, remodeled into the "Sugar and Spice" room, still serves as an auxiliary dining area. The upstairs porch is still a meeting room.

During World War II, Riddle Field (now called Airlglades Airport, about seven miles west of Clewiston) was built to train 1,325 British cadets to fly at various levels of instruction. The cadets came in 26 groups during the period between September 1941



Lobby of the Clewiston Inn viewed from the front entrance toward the stairway and door to the lower porch. (Courtesy of the Clewiston Museum.)



The lower porch area, prior to remodeling into an auxiliary dining room, the "Sugar and Spice." (Courtesy of the Clewiston Museum.)

the period between September 1941 and September 1945.

The Clewiston Inn served as a congregation point for the cadets as well as the officers. It was here they played the piano, sang and socialized with their American hosts. Banquets were held in the dining area of the Inn.

In the late 1940s, the Inn served as a storm shelter during hurricane conditions. Two babies were born at the Inn during one of these occasions.

In 1930, then President Herbert Clark Hoover came to Clewiston to assess the disastrous situation left by the 1926 and the 1928 hurricanes, which combined claimed about 2,500 lives.

It was Hoover's decision to encircle the Lake Okeechobee with a man-made dike. Congress passed the Act on July 14, 1960, which officially named the dike the "Herbert Hoover

Dike." On January 12, 1961, former President Hoover came to Clewiston to officially dedicate the Hoover Dike. A monument to this dedication

sits atop the Hoover Dike near the locks in Clewiston. At this time, naturally President Hoover stayed overnight in the Clewiston Inn. He became one of many dignitaries to have stayed at the Inn.

Today Lake Okeechobee—on the northern edge of Clewiston—has approximately 140 miles of dike, completely surrounding the lake.

The dining facilities of the Clewiston Inn are well known in the southern Florida area. Original ladderback chairs and pine tables add a special graciousness to the dining experience. Today a salad bar is centered in the dining area, and banquets and special dinners can be scheduled to the whim of discriminating diners. Even a buffet lunch or dinner could be presented, as per the request of a special group or occasion.

A special attraction of hotel guests and visitors is the original oil "Mural of Wildlife in the Everglades" in the cocktail lounge of the



A view of the dining room. (Courtesy of the Clewiston Museum.)

Clewiston Inn. This mural on canvas by J. Clinton Shepherd, a Palm Beach artist, is a masterpiece to be appreciated. Shepherd lived at the Inn for several months and made daily trips to the Everglades to study the vegetation and wildlife. After accumulating hundreds of sketches, he returned to Palm Beach where he transferred what he had seen to a huge canvas. In 1945 it was put on the four walls of the Everglades Lounge.

Shepherd's work has been an admired conversation piece ever since. The canvas was valued at one time at \$40,000, but as each year ticks by, its value continues to climb. Shepherd died in 1975 at the age of 86; however, the mural stands as a tribute to his artistic ability to capture nature and wildlife on canvas. (A detailed identification of those natural subjects on the four walls is available in a brochure at the Inn.)

On March 22, 1991, a letter was received by the U.S. Sugar Corporation, from George W. Percy, the Flori-



The Clewiston Inn bar or lounge before the canvas painting. (Courtesy of the Clewiston Museum.)

da State Historical Preservation Officer, designating the Clewiston Inn as a historic site. It is now officially listed in the *National Register of Historic Places*. The bronze plaque at the entrance of the Clewiston Inn, reads:

The Clewiston Inn

Built in 1938
Has Been Placed on the
NATIONAL REGISTER
OF HISTORIC PLACES
by the United States
Department of the Interior



The Clewiston Inn bar present day with the addition of the canvas painting. (Courtesy of the Clewiston Museum.)

Although the Inn underwent renovation in 1991, the "new" Clewiston Inn is still the "old" Clewiston Inn; it has retained its charm and has kept intact the southern hospitality in its colonial atmosphere.

When you view its sign on Highway 27 in downtown Clewiston, signifying that this is, indeed, the Clewiston Inn, you know you have arrived at the "haven of the Glades" with stately columns bidding you to "Come. Sit a spell, hear?"

General Meade Lights Up the Channels

By Susan Olson

The lighthouses of South Florida were built in the 19th century by the U.S. Lighthouse Service. Each of the structures has its own historic and architectural significance, but those that claim the strongest pedigree are the towers attributed to General George Gordon Meade, the Union hero of Gettysburg.

Meade caught his first glimpse of South Florida waters in January of 1836. He was aboard the *U.S.S. Constellation* assigned to serve with the West Indies Squadron following his graduation from West Point. The ship docked briefly in Key West before sailing to Tampa, orienting the young soldier to the waters where he would survey and design the aids to navigation that would guide mariners for more than 140 years.

Many West Point graduates became civilian engineers as the army hired engineers outside the service to conduct surveying projects. Between 1833 and 1866 more cadets chose engineering as a profession than any other trade. Specific assignments included work as civil engineers, mining engineers and railroad surveyors. In October of 1836, Meade completed his military assignment and entered the civilian ranks as a survey engineer. He received his formal training during his four years at the U.S. Military Academy.

From 1836 to 1842, Meade was involved with railroad surveys in Florida, Georgia and Alabama. He worked on the survey of the mouth of the Sabine River, the survey of the Mississippi Delta and the survey of the northeastern boundary which divided the United States and Canada. Meade was relieved of his position following the repeal of the

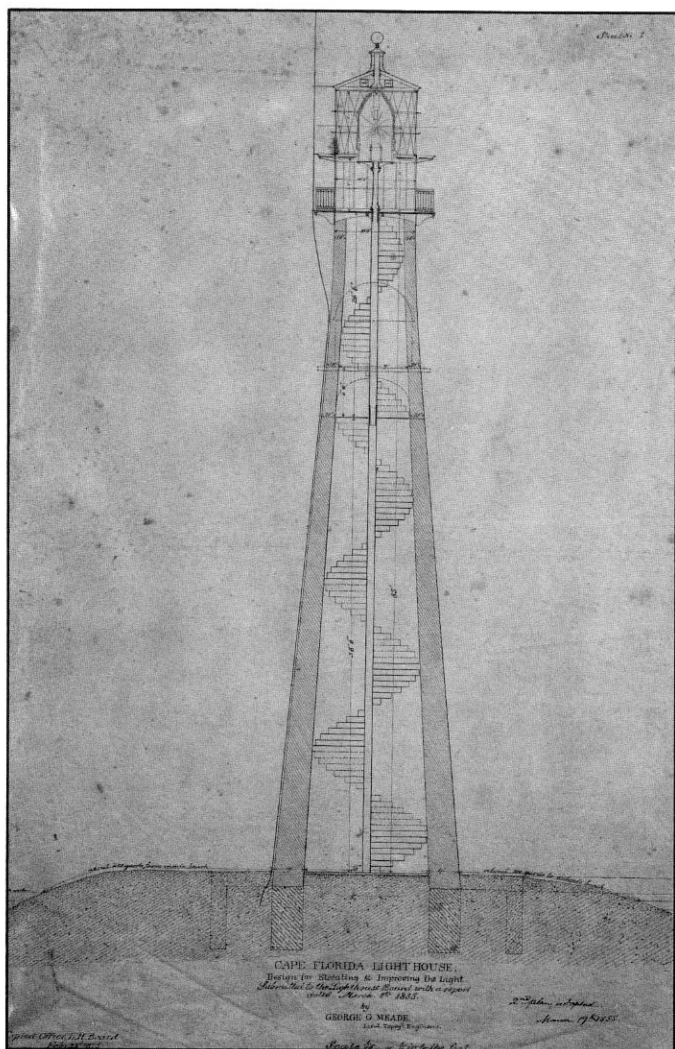
General Survey Act which excluded civilians from working on government surveys. These circumstances inspired Meade to reenlist in the Army; he had to provide for his wife, Margaret, and their infant sons. In 1842, Meade received an appointment as a Second Lieutenant in the Corps of Topographical Engineers.

The Army Corps of Topographical Engineers executed all civil engineering works directed by the United States. These duties included surveying, construction of lighthouses and beacon lights, erecting monuments and the building of new bridges and aqueducts. Initially, Meade

was assigned to continue his civilian projects as an assistant engineer surveying the boundary of Maine. It was not until November of 1843 that the young officer was conveniently transferred home to Philadelphia to serve under his brother in law, Major Hartman Bache.



Lieutenant George Gordon Meade ca. 1800s, (Courtesy of the Civil War Library and Museum.)



Plans for the Cape Florida Lighthouse. (Courtesy of the National Archives)

Bache was involved in an exciting project, the construction of the Brandywine Lighthouse. The tower was to be placed in shallow water at the entrance of Delaware Bay, so a masonry structure was considered unsuitable as it would not withstand the ocean waves. Bache decided to erect an experimental "screw pile" lighthouse, a skeletal tower composed of cast iron rods. The screw pile was invented by Alexander Mitchell of England. A tower of this design was constructed in 1838 out of iron pilings that were screwed into the rock below the surface of the water. Several cast iron lighthouses were successfully built in England and studied by U.S. Army Corps of Topographical Engineers who recom-

mended purchasing the patent from Mitchell.

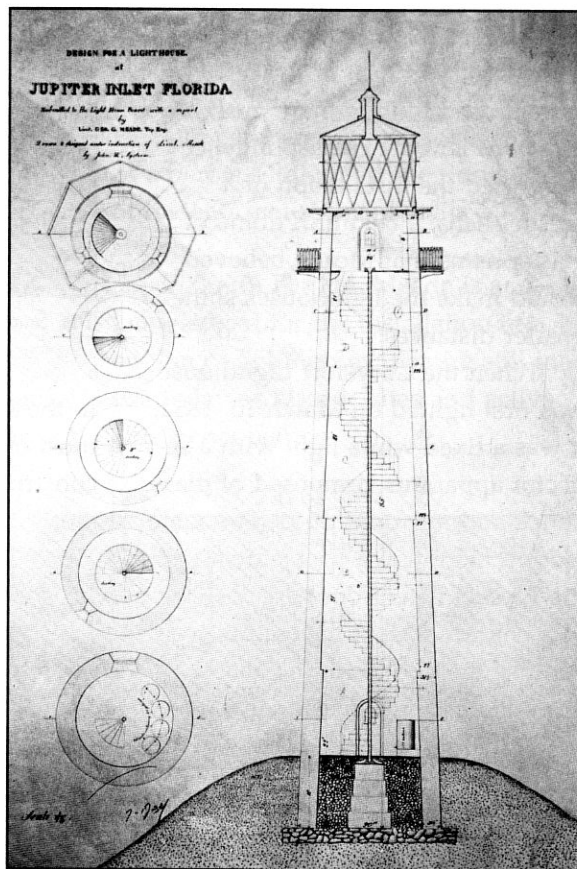
Meade's work under Major Bache in 1845 included assisting with the design of the screw pile light for Brandywine Shoal. Bache was also busy conducting an extensive survey of the shoals, reefs and harbors of the southern extremity of Florida. The survey spanned from Cape Florida (Key Biscayne) to the Dry Tortugas, a 230-mile stretch of dangerous reefs hazardous to navigators. Under Bache's guidance, Meade was introduced to the construction

and survey work he would later supervise in the Florida Keys.

Disputes over the Texas boundary disrupted Meade's lighthouse work in Philadelphia. For two years he conducted field surveys in Texas and Mexico. Constant complaining from Meade about his assignment brought an eventual transfer back to Philadelphia in 1847.

Little progress had been made on the Brandywine tower during his absence. By the summer of 1847 the platform for the driving of the screw piles was erected. As Meade became more in-

involved in the construction of the screw pile light his duties increased to include surveying sites for similar towers. In the fall of 1848 Meade was sent to the Florida Keys to survey the coastline and select locations for the chain of lighthouses. Meade's travel notes reflect his belief that the coral reefs of the Florida Keys were ideal for the iron towers. The open foundations of the skeletal towers would withstand the wind and waves of a hurricane. The brick lighthouses of Key West and Sand Key had been destroyed by the storm of October 11, 1846. When Meade made his survey in 1848, Sand Key was without a beacon and a new tower had been built inland in Key West. As Meade began planning the structures to be built in South Florida, he was once again reassigned to survey a military road. In February of 1850 he returned to Philadelphia to complete his work



Plans for the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse. (Courtesy of the National Archives)

on the Brandywine Lighthouse. The lighthouse at Brandywine Shoals was the first screw pile light to be constructed in the United States.

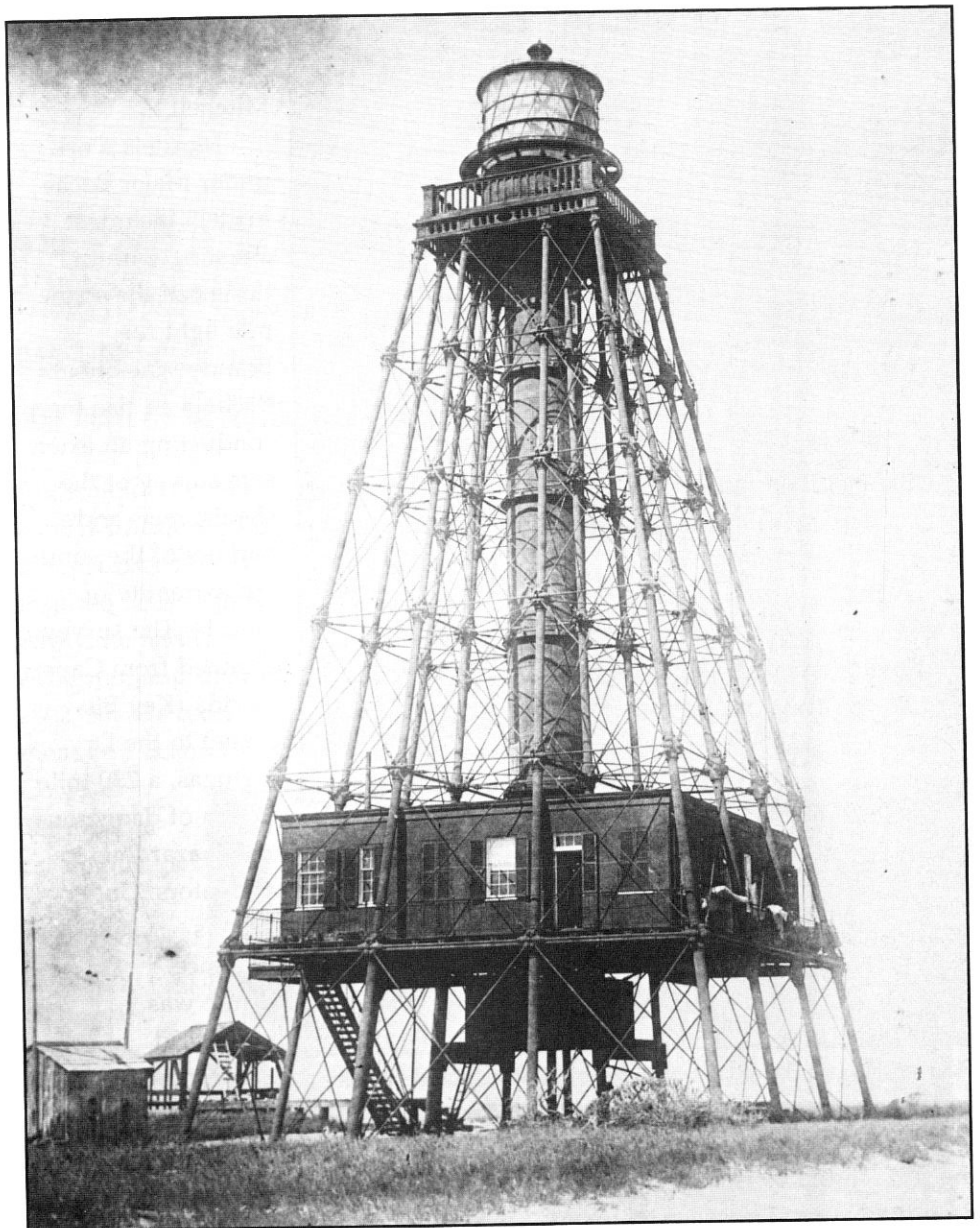
Carysfort Reef, located at the northern tip of Key Largo, was the first site selected for an iron tower in the Florida Keys. It had been the location of hundreds of shipwrecks. The tower was to be constructed 40 miles from the Cape Florida Light.

Meade suggested that "the channel from Cape Florida to the Dry Tortugas should be so lighted up at night that a vessel will always have a lighthouse in sight."

The 100-foot tower was designed by I.W.P. Lewis, an engineer who had been active with the Lighthouse Service for years. Meade was sent to supervise the construction in the spring of 1851. The massive skeleton was put together with considerable ease despite economic difficulties, allowing Meade to focus on the installation of the lighting apparatus. He was very critical of the reflector system used to illuminate most beacons. His lengthy correspondence supported the installation of a Fresnel Lens, a beautiful dome of glass prisms that Meade believed would make the lighthouses shine greater distances.

When the Carysfort Lighthouse was first lighted on March 10, 1852, it was a fixed white light with a reflector apparatus composed of glass lamps and mirrored disks. For some reason, there was a problem shipping the Fresnel Lens from Paris. Meade was concerned that navigators would confuse the light with the beacon at Cape Florida and that it needed a new rotating Fresnel Lens. As he moved his efforts toward the construction of the light at Sand Key he continued to fight for the Carysfort lens.

Sand Key was originally marked by a small brick tower that crumbled



The Sand Key Lighthouse ca. 1853. (Courtesy of the National Archives.)

in the storm of 1846. By July of 1852, most of the materials necessary for construction of a screw pile tower were stored seven miles away in Key West. Once again, Meade was pushing for the installation of a Fresnel Lens for the top of the 110-foot tower. He received notice from the Paris manufacturer that the designer of the tower, I.W.P. Lewis, halted the shipping of the Fresnel apparatus for Sand Key. Lewis was connected with the manufacturer of the reflector system. His tower designs specified reflectors despite the potential of the

glass lens for his financial benefit. Meade acted rapidly after discovering the reason behind Lewis' design and began to arrange for the shipping of a first order lens for the lighthouse at Sand Key.

Lewis and Meade battled in Key West over the construction project. In his correspondence, Meade accused Lewis of sabotaging all his efforts. Eventually, Meade's tenacity brought results. Lewis was removed from the project and George Meade was left in Key West to construct the iron framework. The project was quite a chal-



The Sombrero Key Lighthouse. (Courtesy of the National Archives.)

Cape Hatteras Lighthouse.

Following the success of the Sand Key project, Meade was given the responsibility of designing the proposed South Florida towers. Over the course of a year, the enthusiastic engineer

constructed the towers he had designed and to oversee the improvements to the Cape Florida Lighthouse which included the extension of the tower and the installation of a second order Fresnel lens.

The 40-year-old engineer never saw the completion of his chain of lighthouses that marked the treacherous reefs. On April 24, 1856, Meade was relieved from duty as the head of the Fourth and Seventh Lighthouse Districts, leaving the towers at Rebecca Shoal, Jupiter Inlet and Sombrero Key for someone else to finish. He was promoted to the rank of Captain of Topographical Engineers and assigned to duty with the Great Lakes Survey.

In 1861, Captain Meade left his work as an engineer for active duty with the Union Army. Gradually he rose up the ranks and is best known for his role as the victorious commander of the Army of the Potomac at the battle of Gettysburg. Major General George Gordon Meade returned to Philadelphia after the war. He is remembered in his home town as a heroic soldier and the designer of the enormous Philadelphia park system.

In South Florida, Meade is acknowledged for the installation of a system of lighthouses that are still in use today as historic sites and active aids to navigation.

lenge; Lewis departed with the plans and drawings, leaving Meade with no guidelines for construction.

On July 20, 1853, the Sand Key Light was illuminated for the first time. The lens room held a 12-foot tall Fresnel lens operated with a hydraulic lamp system designed by Meade. The 1853 report of the Lighthouse Service boasts, "The Sand Key Lighthouse is fitted with a first order lens on the system of Fresnel, which has no rival on this continent, except the apparatus now on exhibition in New York." The Board of the Lighthouse Service had acknowledged Meade's success and knowledge of the new lens system by requesting that he attend the Crystal Palace Exposition in New York with the specific purpose of displaying the Fresnel lighting apparatus for the

initiated plans for towers at Coffins Patches (Sombrero Key), Rebecca Shoals, the Northwest Channel, Jupiter Inlet and the extension of the Cape Florida light. These ambitious efforts were rewarded when the Corps of Topographical Engineers expanded his duties. By 1855, Lieutenant George Meade was put in charge of supervising the construction of towers in the 4th Lighthouse District which included Delaware Bay and New Jersey.

That summer, Meade made his last trip to South Florida. He traveled to the tropics to supervise the con-



Susan Olsen is the Executive Director of the Key West Art and Historical Society, which operates the Key West Lighthouse Museum, East Martello Museum and the Custom House Project. She received her bachelor's degree in history from Rhodes College and did her graduate studies in history at Vanderbilt University.

Book Review

By Stuart McIver

The Miami River and Its Tributaries. By Donald C. Gaby.

Miami: The Historical Association of Southern Florida. 194 pages. 1993, paperback. \$9.95

It isn't a long river, some 3,888 miles shorter than the Mississippi, but the Miami River has had a powerful impact on the birth and growth of South Florida's largest city.

Donald C. Gaby has followed up his shorter, pocket-sized guide book, *An Historical Guide to the Miami River and Its Tributaries*, published by the Historical Association in 1990, with a full-length historical treatment of the river, from its probable discovery by Juan Ponce de Leon in 1513 to today's working river.

In his first chapter, "The Natural Miami River," Gaby writes:

"Some say that the Miami River is the shortest in the United States, or at least the shortest commercial river in the country . . . only four miles long from its source at the edge of the Everglades to its mouth at Biscayne Bay . . ."

It's hard to imagine that the Miami was once a white-water river, one with the kind of rapids that today's canoeists and kayakers would have loved to shoot. But, prior to drainage of the Everglades, in the

area just west of 27th Avenue the "water fell about six feet while traversing some 450 feet of rapids."

After introducing the "natural" river, the author deals with man-made changes and with the pollution the development of the City of Miami brought to the river. He then takes the reader on a trip up the Miami, starting with Claughton Island and Miami Center/Bayfront Park and closing with the end of navigation on the Miami Canal at the salinity dam near 35th Street.

On the trip up the river, the reader meets a fascinating parade of Miami characters—the Ferguson brothers, who built a starch mill on a tributary in the 1840s; Henry Flagler, who brought a railroad and a luxury hotel to town; Alligator Joe; merchant Isidor Cohen; aviation magnate Glenn Curtiss, and environmentalist Marjory Stoneman Douglas.

We visit such exotic spots as Coppinger's Tropical Garden, Indian Village and Alligator Farm; Willie Willie's Seminole Indian Village; Gertie Walsh's brothel on the river;

East Coast Fisheries restaurant; and the St. Vladamir Russian Orthodox Church in Exile, which numbered among its congregation a group of Russian midgets, stranded in South Florida when the Ringling Brothers Circus was shut down by World War II.

Gaby, a retired meteorologist, is well known to readers of *South Florida History Magazine*, which has published many of his historical articles on Miami. His book on the river comes after seven years of research and interviews. In addition, he knows the river first hand. He and his wife have lived on the Miami River system for 16 years.

By combining human with natural history, Gaby has told an authoritative, yet highly readable, story of the Miami River. Enhancing the book are historical and current photos.

(*The Miami River and Its Tributaries* can be purchased at the Historical Museum's Indies Store or by mail from the Historical Association for \$13.95, which includes tax, shipping and handling.)

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TROPICAL COLORS

Images of Cuba, Florida and the Bahamas, 1898-1904

Historical Museum of Southern Florida
Dec. 17 - Feb. 20, 1994



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