

The Indian River
Journal



The Journal of
The Brevard County
Historical Commission

Volume XIV, Number 1

Spring / Summer 2015



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The Journal of the Brevard County Historical Commission

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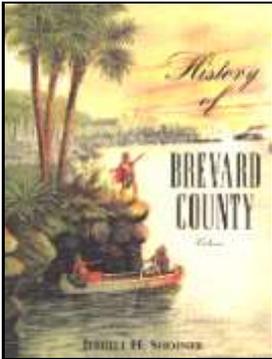
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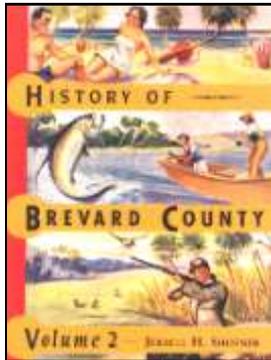
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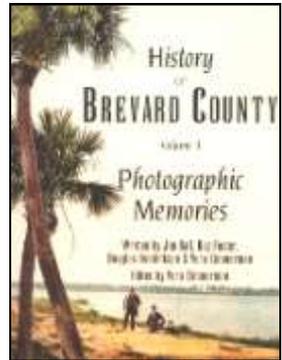
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The Indian River Journal

The Journal of the Brevard County Historical Commission

Volume XIV, Number 1

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Some Early Brevard County Newspapers

Jim Garmon

Brevard County historians and genealogists are lucky—many of the early newspapers of this county have been microfilmed and made available to the public at the Central Library and Reference Center in Cocoa. These are generally the major, more well-known papers that were published for lengthy periods of time. Other papers were published for shorter periods and have been almost forgotten by history. For some of these latter papers there are no known printed copies or microfilm images available and very little mention in historical writings. Although we can't read what these newspapers had to say about the happenings of the day, it is still important to document their existence.

Here is a collection of notations found in several newspaper directories published at the time these newspapers were being printed here in Brevard County, along with extracts from other local newspapers. Three of the early directories are the *N.W. Ayer & Son's American newspaper annual*, the *Rowell's American newspaper directory* and *Edwin Alden & Bro.'s American Newspaper Catalogue*. These directories were published to inform potential advertisers of the paper's location, circulation, date of establishment, rates, etc.

Indian River News

The *Indian River News* was one of the early newspapers published in the Cocoa area of Brevard County. The *Ayer* directory issue of 1883 lists it as a Rockledge paper:

Rockledge; *Indian River News*; Thursday; established 1882; size 24X38; pages 4; subscription 2.50.

The *Edwin* directory contains the same description and publication location.

The *Rowell* directory for 1883 also lists a paper called the *Indian River News*:

Titusville; *Indian River News*; Thursdays; four pages; size 24X36; subscription \$1.50; established 1882; Minor S. Jones, editor and publisher.

Is the *Rowell* listing in error or are there really two papers in this county named the *Indian River News*, one in Titusville another in Rockledge? Both newspaper directories claim to list according to what is furnished by the publishers of each paper.

The arrival of the *News* is noted in Titusville's *Florida Star* in their issue of November 2, 1882. Unfortunately, it does not mention the location of the publication or the editor's name:

On our table, we have the *Indian River News*, Vol. 1, No. 1. In its greeting it says:

We put arrogance and conceit beneath our feet, and announce to you our purpose to be a plain and earnest advocate of progress under democratic auspices.

We believe in those principles of freedom which the Constitution of our country expounds; and we advocate or believe nothing antagonistic to its guarantees. Summarily, we declare for free speech, free schools, free thought, free trade and, above all, manhood suffrage.

In conclusion it says:

Let us forget party in the furtherance of our general and home interest.

Our contemporary's creed covers broad areas and we welcome it to the rough seas and breakers on the great ocean of Florida journalism.

The above notice of the initial issue of the *Indian River News* comes after several months of dropping hints of a new paper coming to Brevard County. The *Florida Star*, on July 19, 1882, says:

We are informed that another paper is to be born in this place between now and winter. What its name, form and color, or whom its sponsors are to be has not as yet transpired.

And on October 11, 1882 the *Star* says:

The printing material for the Indian River Publishing Company arrived on yesterday's steamer.

Ten months later, July 19, 1883, the *Florida Star* comments:

The *Indian River News* has donned "patent outsides." That's a heap better than doubling several columns of "ads" every week—Reporter

Patent insides or patent outsides is a name given to newspaper sheets printed on one side with general and miscellaneous matter, and furnished wholesale to offices of small newspapers, where the blank pages are filled up with recent and local news.

The *News* may not have been as successful as hoped, or the competition from Titusville's *Florida Star* may have been too fierce, for shortly afterward, on February 21, 1884, this notice was published in the *Florida Star* concerning the pending auction of the property of the paper:

NOTICE

I will sell to the highest bidder, at public auction on the first Monday in April A. D. 1884, at Willard & Brother's store, in Brevard County, Fla., the press and all the type and other material connected therewith, known as the property of the Indian River Publishing Co., of Brevard Co., Fla.

E. H. Covar,

Feb 15th 1884

The Willard & Brother's store was located at northwest corner of Delannoy Ave. and Willard St. in Cocoa.

Florida Star, April 17, 1884:

We learn that the material of the *Indian River News*, which sold at auction, on the first Monday of the present month, at Rockledge, was purchased by a party from Orlando, Fla., for \$450.

The *Indian River Sun*

Florida Star, April 24, 1884:

Mr. Barton Smith, of Orlando, who recently purchased the material of the *Indian River News*, at Rockledge, will issue the first number of the *Indian River Sun*, at that place next week. Mr. Smith comes well recommended from Mr. Gore of Orlando, and we wish him success with his enterprise.

The paper is listed in the *Ayer* directory in 1884:

Rockledge; *Indian River Sun*; Thursday; Independent; Four pages; size 24X36; subscription 2.00; established 1884; William Barton Smith, editor and publisher.

The 1885, '86 and '87 issue of the *Ayer* directory lists Cocoa as the place of publication.

An article in the *Miami Herald*, October 18, 1921 gives a little history of the Cocoa building where the *Sun* was printed:

Another time honored landmark is being razed in Cocoa. The ancient stone building on the corner of Harrison street and Brevard avenue, is being torn down to make room for a modern building, to be erected by the real estate firm, Trafford and Field of this city. The new structure is to be two stories in height and of the same architecture as marks all the buildings erected in Cocoa in the last few years. It will be known as "The Professional Building." Nearly all the office space has been spoken for in the new edifice and with this addition to the commercial life, Cocoa will take another decisive step forward. The old stone building, now being wrecked was one of the first ever built in Cocoa and was built for D. W. McQuaig about 1884 by Sam Childs, one of the pioneers of the Indian River. This building was first occupied by the "*Indian River Sun*," a weekly newspaper published by Barton Smith. After the newspaper moved into other quarters, the post office occupied the structure with G. N. Andrews [R. N. Andrews] postmaster.

Another *Indian River News*?

Although Smith bought the *Indian River News's* press and other material in 1884, the name "*Indian River News*" may not have been part of the deal. The 1888 and 1890 edition of the *Rowell* newspaper directory lists a Melbourne paper called the *Indian River News*, edited and published by Guy I. Metcalf, established in 1887.

The Lake Worth Pioneers' Association, Inc. has posted online a short history of Guy Irvin Metcalf which reads, in part:

One of the first newspapers of southeast Florida was the *Indian River News* in Melbourne, founded 21 February 1887, of which Metcalf was the owner and editor. He moved to Juno March 18, 1891 and changed the name to the *Tropical Sun*. Juno was the county seat of Dade County at that time. Dade County reached from the St. Lucie River to the Upper Keys. The *Tropical Sun* was the only newspaper in Dade County.

In 1895 this paper moved on to West Palm Beach after the railroad reached the new city on Lake Worth.

**The *Indian River Sun* is sold to R. N. Andrews in 1888,
becomes the *Cocoa Public Spirit*.**

Robert Newton Andrews of Athens, Georgia came to Cocoa, Florida in 1886 with his wife and family, traveling up the St. Johns River to Lake Poinsett, then on to Cocoa by wagon. By 1888 he was editor and publisher of a newspaper called the *Cocoa Public Spirit*. His daughter Ruby says in an article in *Tequesta*, the Journal of the Historical Association of Southern Florida, University of Miami:

During my adolescent years I had frequent opportunity to cultivate and cement my acquaintance with the craft, [the newspaper business—editor] so that when I reached Indian River country on February 22, 1886 I found an established printery in Cocoa. I almost immediately found employment therein and for several ensuing years "held a case" in the local office. My father bought the paper in 1888 and for the next several years I remained with him in a general capacity, gradually enlarging my duties to include writing. In time I established connections with outside papers that took all descriptive matter I submitted from the Indian River country.

The "printery" referred to by Ruby Andrews was the *Indian River Sun*. Her father bought the paper in 1888 and began publishing his own paper called the *Cocoa Public Spirit*.

Volume 1, No. 1 of the *Public Spirit* was published February 11, 1888.

From the *Florida Star*, February 16, 1888:

We welcome amongst our exchanges this week the initial number of *Public Spirit*, a new 5-column folio paper just started at Cocoa by Messrs King and Andrews. The publishers, as expressed in their editorial, has made a hit by not trying to print a "blanket sheet." The cost and time generally expended on a large paper frequently breaks them ere they are able to weather their first annual. The new *Public Spirit* is newsy and crisp, and it should be generously supported by the citizens of Cocoa. Mr. Andrews is a versatile and interesting writer as well as speaker, and with the aid of the excellent "local" will give Cocoa an interesting journal.

The *Public Spirit*, with Andrews as editor, is listed in the *Ayer* directory in 1888, '90 and '91. Although the *Star* says the paper was started by King and

Andrews, King is not mentioned in the directory listing. Perhaps King was the “money man.”

Cocoa; *Public Spirit*; Founded in 1888; published Wednesday; four pages; page size 28x40; subscription rate \$1.50; editor and publisher R. N. Andrews.

In the 1893/1894 issue of the *Ayer* directory, the editor and publisher is listed as Mrs. Ellen J. E. R. Wilson. In 1895 the editor and publisher is listed as Jas. L. and Ellen J. E. R. Wilson.

An article in *Woman's Column*, Vol. 5, No. 34, Boston, Mass., January 20, 1892, describes Mrs. Wilson's connection with the paper:

Made the Paper a Success

Mrs. Ellen J. E. R. Wilson is editor of *The Public Spirit*, of Cocoa, Fla. The whole responsibility and work of the paper devolves upon her. She sets all her own type, corrects proofs, writes copy, makes up forms, does her own reporting and sometimes runs the press. At the same time she takes care of her three-year-old baby girl. Mrs. Wilson took hold of this paper in December, 1891, when it had been suspended for about two months. It was a four sheet with about half a column of local news each week. People said the place was too small and there was too little going on to get locals. Mrs. Wilson has not found it so, and her paper is fairly bristling with interest. —*Woman's Tribune*

The last listing for the *Public Spirit* in the *Ayer* directory is in the 1895 issue and no further mention of the paper can be found in Internet searches. No copies of the original paper are known to exist.

Cocoa and Rockledge News

That same year, 1895, R. N. Andrews again tries his hand at the newspaper business when he and J. F. Wooten establish a paper called the *Cocoa and Rockledge News*. It appears to be a new newspaper and not a continuation of the *Public Spirit*, though he may have acquired the printing equipment from the owners of the *Public Spirit*.

The 1897 issue of the *Ayer* directory lists the paper:

Cocoa and Rockledge News; Thursday, four pages 18X24; subscription \$1.50; established 1895; R. N. Andrews, Editor; J. F. Wooten, publisher; circulation “less than 1000”.

The same description is found in the 1898 edition of the directory.

The 1900 issue of *Ayer* directory notes a change in the editor and publisher:

Cocoa and Rockledge News; Thursdays; four pages 18X24; subscription \$1; established 1895; T. Ray [Roy] Puckett, editor and publisher; Circulation "less than 1000".

Sometime before 1900 T. Roy Puckett became the owner of the paper, and then married the daughter of the *News* founder R. N. Andrews. The announcement of the wedding is made in the *Florida Star*, May 18, 1900. The marriage took place in Washington, D. C., where Puckett was employed by the Government Printing Office.

In the afternoon of May 12, 1900, in Tenth Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in the city of Washington, D. C., by the pastor, Rev. Chas. T. Houser, Mr. T. Roy Puckett, editor and proprietor of the *Cocoa and Rockledge News*, and Miss Fannie O. Andrews, of Cocoa, Fla., were joined on the holy bonds of matrimony.

Mr. Puckett was for several years connected with *THE STAR* [the *Florida Star*, a Titusville, Florida newspaper] force as foreman and in charge of the job printing department, and is well known to a wide circle of friends here, all of whom wish him and his bride many years of happiness and prosperity.

As well as publishing the *Cocoa and Rockledge News* Puckett was employed by the Government Printing Office in Washington D. C., off and on, in the early 1900s, as seen in these articles from the *Florida Star*:

Florida Star, April 5, 1901:

We hear that T. Roy Puckett has given up his position in the government printing office at Washington, D. C., and expects soon to return to Cocoa to take charge of his paper, the *Cocoa and Rockledge News*.

Florida Star, April 1901:

Mr. T. R. Puckett, wife and baby, Walter Roy, have gone to house-keeping in one of the Stiling cottages on Brevard avenue.

Florida Star, September, 1901:

T. Roy Puckett, editor and proprietor of the *Cocoa and Rockledge News*, has been summoned to Washington to resume his position in the government printing office.

Florida Star, December 13, 1901:

Mr. T. R. Puckett, proprietor of the *News*, left Thursday for Washington, D. C., accompanied by his wife and baby, where he will resume his position in the government printing office.

After 12 years of publishing the *News*, Puckett sells the paper to E. D. Oslin:

Gainesville Daily Sun, August 3, 1907

E. D. Oslin, for many years publisher of *The Melbourne Times*, has purchased *The Cocoa and Rockledge News*, published at Cocoa, on the Indian River, and assumed control as editor and proprietor. Mr. Oslin is an all-round newspaper man and one of the finest gentleman connected with the Florida press. Success to you, E. D.

The St. Lucie County Tribune, August 9, 1907:

T. R. Puckett, editor and proprietor of the *Cocoa and Rockledge News*, has sold out lock, stock and barrel to E. D. Oslin of the *Melbourne Times*. Mr. Puckett retires from the tumults of journalism to the peace and quietude of farm life, having purchased a beautiful plantation near Lotus. Brother Puckett is a fine newspaper man and we hate to lose him. If he exercises the same degree of energy and enterprise in agriculture as he has in journalism there will be no doubt as to his success.

T. Roy Puckett didn't stay out of the newspaper business for long—in 1912 he buys the *Florida Star* from Ellis Wager of Titusville.

Florida Star, October 25, 1912, page 4:

Change of Ownership

With this issue *THE STAR* changes ownership and the entire management of the paper passes into another hands. The undersigned has sold the news and the job plant, good will, etc., to Mr. T. R. Puckett, who will remove it to Cocoa, where it will be issued next Friday, Nov. 1st. The sale is made on account of steady increase in all lines of business that are controlled by me, and we want to emphasize the statement

that it is NOT due to any DECREASED business in the printing or newspaper line, as *THE STAR* records show a steady increase of business for the past several years. But my ability to give personal supervision and attention to several lines of business account solely for this transfer. We believe, however, that the removal of this paper from the county seat leaves an opening that will be surely taken advantage of at an early date, as all county seats on the whole East Coast support two or more newspapers.

For several years past Mr. Puckett has been with the government printing office in Washington, but feeling that he wanted to establish himself in the newspaper business, returned to Florida, investigated several opportunities of purchase and decided upon buying *THE STAR* plant and selected Cocoa as the place for that business for good and sufficient reasons of his own. Our advice to him was to retain the plant here, but his best judgment was otherwise and should prevail.

We feel *THE STAR* has been taken on by deserving hands and that the new publisher will fully merit all the support that can be tendered him. The fact that he is not new at business on Indian river, having very successfully managed the *Cocoa-Rockledge News* several years ago should bespeak for him the support of those who already know him, and we hope he may receive the support of those who have favored *THE STAR* therewith in the past.

And now a parting word to the many friends who have so nobly stood by *THE STAR* during all the thirty-two years that it has been owned and controlled by the writer. We have sung your praise and wept with you in your distress until the attachment between us has seemed inseparable. In leaving the editorial chair we will always cherish and remember your good deeds, your good will and your support; we earnestly hope the future will be bright and prosperous to you all alike; this is our valediction.

ELLIS B. WAGER

The News and Star

In 1914 the *Florida Star*, owned by Puckett and the *Cocoa and Rockledge News*, owned by Oslin combine to become *The News and Star*:

Florida Star, June 5, 1914, page 4:

Announcement

Notice of incorporation of the News and Star Publishing Company appears in another column on this page.

After July 1 the *Cocoa-Rockledge News* and *THE FLORIDA STAR*, both of which have for years been identified with the development of this section, will be consolidated and published as *THE NEWS AND STAR*.

We believe the change will be for the benefit of the community as well as the owners of both plants, for while making a better paper possible the consolidation will eliminate considerable expense in the way of duplication.

The job printing department will also be in position to render a better service and its equipment will be kept up with of a little ahead of all demands, and the quality of its output equal to any on the East Coast.

The history of the paper is not clear for the next few years. On April 21, 1916 there is a reference to the paper in the *New Smyrna Daily News*. Somehow the paper had passed on to J. W. Traer, who had then sold the paper:

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Traer of Cocoa were in the city Saturday afternoon. They had been in Kissimmee to attend the state press association meeting and returned home this way, Mr. Traer has been editor and manager of the *Cocoa News and Star* until he recently disposed of his interest in that paper.

Indian River Star

By 1917 W. B. Dobson had bought the paper and, by 1919, had changed the name to *Indian River Star*. The *Ayer* newspaper directory for 1919 and '20 has this entry:

Cocoa; *Indian River Star*; Friday; Democratic; established 1880; 13 pages; size 13 1/2X19 1/2; subscription 1.50; W. B. Dobson, Editor and Publisher

The date the paper was established, 1880, is the date the original *Florida Star* was published in Titusville by the Wagers and shows a continuous line for operation from that time.

Star Advocate

An article in the *East Coast Advocate* tells of the next event in the history of the paper:

East Coast Advocate, March 5, 1920, page 1:

ANNOUNCEMENT

W. B. Dobson, editor and publisher of the "*Indian River Star*," of Cocoa, Florida, has purchased of Chas. H. Walton the "*East Coast Advocate*," of Titusville, Florida, and will consolidate the two papers under the name *Star Advocate* with publication office at Titusville, Florida.

The publishing company (now incorporated) will be reorganized as the *Star Advocate Company* (incorporated), with capital stock increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000, and the following

Officers and Directors

Vice-President—R. J. Glenn, Mayor of Titusville.

President—W. F. Allen, President of the Titusville Civic League.

Secretary-Treasurer-Manager—W. B. Dobson, of Titusville.

E. B. Wager, of Titusville.

T. R. Dobson, of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The first issue of the consolidated papers, the *Star Advocate*, will be published from the Company's plant at Titusville on Friday, March 12, 1920 (next Friday).

The *Star Advocate* plant will be equipped with a latest model Standard Two-Magazine Mergenthaler Linotype, known as Model 18, enabling the Brevard county-seat newspaper to publish a greater amount of reading matter every week than before. With the choice of everything in the way of printing material now in the two plants, the *Star Advocate* will have the best equipped newspaper and job printing plant on the East Coast.

Under Mr. Dobson's editorial management the *Star Advocate* will devote especial attention to Brevard county-seat news; and will publish each week all the news from the various county offices, county commissioners' and school board news, circuit court and county

judges' court news, real estate transfers, marriage licenses, and everything of a public nature at the county-seat—making the *Star Advocate* a county-wide paper that every resident of Brevard county interested in what is going on will have to read to keep posted.

The *Star Advocate* will start off with the combined circulation of both the “*Indian River Star*,” of Cocoa, and the “*East Coast Advocate*,” of Titusville, and will cover Brevard county like sunshine, reaching every nook and corner in the county, making the *Star Advocate* invaluable to advertisers—with a greater circulation in Brevard county than all other county papers combined.

Subscribers who have paid in advance to either paper will receive due credit on the *Star Advocate's* subscription list. Subscribers in arrears should become advance-paying subscribers at an early date, as the Postoffice Department requires all newspaper subscriptions to be paid in advance.

Respectfully,

W. B. Dobson
Chas. H. Walton

The history of this paper continues in an article called *A Brief History of the Advocate, a Newspaper With Many Names*, published in the Fall/Winter 2013 issue of the *Indian River Journal*.

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<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/vols/loc.gdc.sr.sn91012091/default.html>

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Tequesta Number XLIII (1983)

Newspaper Pioneering on the Florida East Coast, 1891-1895

By Ruby Andrews Myers

IRJ

The Glass Bank: Masterpiece to Dust

by Dan Reiter

Originally published in The Beachside Resident, February 2015

The inside story of Cocoa Beach's First Federal Savings and Loan Building is too squalid and tangled a yarn to weave into the space of this column. But forget the inside story for a moment. The outside story provides a simple enough object lesson, and might just illuminate the secret tragedy at the heart of the thing.



Glass Bank c. 1961 - courtesy of Dr. Lori Walters

The Glass Bank—brainchild of world-renowned architect Reginald Caywood Knight—arose from the barrier island in 1961. It was an audacious gesture, even for the Cocoa Beach of a burgeoning space age, a five-story marvel encased in concave sweeps of glass, with all four walls yearning heavenward.

In 1963, Ramon's Rainbow Room, zenith lounge of modern times, took over the penthouse. The Rainbow Room was a cocktail and jazz joint, a place for astronauts and celebrities to tinkle their ice over river and sea. 1963 was a mythological year for this white-sand city of Project Mercury, a launchpad of young heroes and geniuses, a time when the Glass Bank styled itself among the icons of modernity.

Fifty years later, the landmark stood cracked and grotesque, a hulking shambles, spewing lumber and rot, spending its last days like a famous actress made unrecognizable by years of botched surgery attempts: wheezing, forgotten, rattling her bones under the cold glare of the hospital staff.

the Indian River Journal of Brevard

What path leads from glamour to ruin? You might blame it on the space bust of the 60's, or the drug-riddled aftershocks of Nam, or the malaise and despair of the disco age. You might blame it on recessions, on layoffs, on depressed property prices, on the steady, gradual degradation of downtown, on hurricanes or lawyers or men possessed... but that would be the inside story.

The tragic flaw of the Glass Bank was clear enough to anyone who cared to look at her façade: it was her ill-fitting crown, the 1981 concrete penthouse addition, so willfully antagonistic of the intentions of Architect Knight—a windowless box, devoid of glass, off-kilter, a brutalist plug, blockading the cosmic flight of her skirt walls.

The 1981 team stuccoed over the lower corner windows, further reducing the organic feel, and mounted a concrete fortification wall across the sleek col-



Glass Bank c. 2011 - by Nomeus

umns of the balcony level, which had kept the upper floors in harmony with the angled, modernist colonnade of the ground floor.

This concrete afterbirth, this lobotomizing of the Glass Bank, serves as a cautionary tale for estheticians and libertarians alike. Any municipal system that allows permitting of what amounts to a "floating strip club" atop its one true architectural masterpiece has deeply flawed historical ordinances. No consideration was made, even, to hide the maintenance staircase from the road. Rather, it was flaunted, like a jagged scar atop the beast's head.

But the 1981 renovations did not technically kill the Glass Bank. They only killed its context. The business of laying the actual structure to rest would fall, in the end, to the people of Cocoa Beach.

Last month, Dr. Lori Walters, a professor of history at UCF, presented her lecture, "The Glass Bank: History of an Icon," at the Cocoa Beach library. Over the Journal of the Brevard County Historical Commission

two hundred people crowded the hall. Another two hundred were sent away for fire safety concerns. Attendees were invited to participate in the conversation. They reminisced about the fabled Caesar salad dressing at the Rainbow Room, of the A&P in the First Federal Plaza, of the Polaris and the Starlite Paladium, of Wolfie's and Brassy's.

Across the street, the people of Cocoa Beach were hard at work, demolishing their 82-foot-tall white elephant. The scream of steel girders and the crunch of stucco played strange accompaniment to the historical discussion.

A couple of weeks later, a long-necked track hoe with a jackhammer dashed its head into the structure in crushing blows, worked its way around the old landmark like a laborer trying to remove a section of sidewalk with a hand chisel. It was a tiresome process. Rubble swelled at her haunches. The demolition crews lingered for weeks.



Glass Bank c. 2015 - by the author

People watched from street corners, dodging hunks of concrete, contemplating her deconstruction, first her skirt walls, then her stucco, then her bearing columns. They had expected a wrecking ball, maybe, or dynamite. Something more expeditious. Her inside story drifted in whispery vapors and tufts of insulation about their heads. They coughed, shielded their eyes from the dust. Bitter memories resurfaced: negligent property owners locking horns in the court systems, the nearly half million dollars in forgiven city fines, the decades of mold and broken glass, the municipal coffers spread open to loan money for the demolition of the "long-standing eyesore."

But forget the inside story for a moment. "Certainly the year you were first exposed to the building plays a role in how you feel about it," Dr. Walters

said. "But regardless of your vantage point, the community has lost yet another link to an era when the space program defined Cocoa Beach." She will be giving a repeat performance of her presentation on February 13, at 2 PM, at the Cocoa Beach Library, for those who were turned away from the first run.

The people of Cocoa Beach will wax nostalgic; they will reflect upon her ghost, and comb over faded pictures and computer renderings. A few will remember the Glass Bank as she once was, stripped of the corrosion of the decades, in her crowning days. By then, the crews should be sweeping her remains off the asphalt. The outside story of an icon: put to rest in dramatic, conclusive fashion.

The inside story will not go down so easily. Lawyers, it would seem, are more persistent than steel and concrete. The property retains its 82 feet of air rights, and in the end, something more massive, and less visionary, might go up in its stead.

In the meantime, the sun will shine in places that haven't seen the light in fifty years. And the people of Cocoa Beach will begin the work of forgetting. *LRJ*



Correction

In our Fall/Winter 2014 issue, we inadvertently published an incorrect address for the First United Methodist Church of Melbourne. The church is located at 110 East New Haven Ave. in Melbourne.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Are you enjoying reading about Brevard County History?

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Fifth in a Series

Explore Your History: Lost Communities of North Merritt Island

Roz Foster

SHILOH

Shiloh was named after the Civil War battle by early settler George Kuhl. It was the northernmost town located at the north end of Merritt Island in Brevard County, which at one time was the south end of Volusia County. The dividing line between Brevard and Volusia Counties ran straight through the little town and about one half of the population lived in Volusia County, where the post office was originally located. The nearest railroad station was Oak Hill on the Florida East Coast Railway.

The history of the community of Shiloh was written during the 1924-1925 school term by Elizabeth F. Evrard, a teacher at the Shiloh School for several years and published in the Star Advocate newspaper as a series of chapters. The following has been compiled in part from these writings.

THE JOHN KUHL FAMILY

In January of 1883, John Kuhl, a German immigrant of Goloconda, Ill., came to this vicinity in search of better health. He travelled to Oak Hill and while there heard about the fertile land in that section, and being a man of means, purchased approximately 3,000 acres. In the spring he returned to Illinois and in January of 1884 he moved his family to Florida. John brought with him his 21 year old son George, son Carl and daughter Miss Hattie. They travelled by freight train from Illinois to Jacksonville, bringing the family's household goods, horses and mules. This part of the journey took one week and was rough riding and exposure. Upon arriving in Jacksonville, George purchased two new wagons, and with brother Carl travelled 4 ½ days overland from Jacksonville with mule teams carrying provisions. When the Kuhls came to Florida there were no wagon roads anywhere in this section, only trails thru the wild scrub, palmetto and timber. The pair met a bunch of "cowboys" near Port Orange who inquired where they were going. On being informed of their destination they replied, "Why, man, the damned alligators die with chills and fever down there!" George asked if any people lived there, and being informed that a few did he replied, "Then, maybe I can too, at least for a while."

John Kuhl and daughter Hattie boarded the steamer, "City of Jacksonville," that carried them from Jacksonville up the St. Johns River to Enterprise near Lake Monroe. The following day they travelled overland by stage to New Smyrna where they spent the night. The next day they travelled by sailboat on the Hillsborough River to Oak Hill, and finally by

mule team that took them from Oak Hill to the hammock camp. The trip must have been laborious and tiring after spending one week travelling by train and then 3 days by boats, stage and wagon to reach their final destination.

While the men built a palmetto shack of two rooms and a hall, Miss Hattie boarded at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Howes of Oak Hill. They all lived in the palmetto shack for about 6 months while their 11-room house was being built, which also housed a general store. When they moved from the palmetto shack to their new home in 1884, Miss Hattie rode horseback carrying little chickens in a basket. She did not see a woman for 9 months at one time. There were 6 children in the Kuhl family, 2 boys and 4 girls. George was the oldest, born May 20, 1862, and was the only son that remained in Florida. Miss Hattie became Mrs. J.W. Griffis and Elizabeth became Mrs. Nolle and stayed in Florida. Annie became Mrs. Pittman and moved to Blackshear, Ga.

BCHC—Taylor Family Collection



Shiloh Post Office (undated)

In 1885 George established a post office that was kept in the general store and became the first postmaster. He wanted to name it "Annie" in honor of his youngest sister, but after learning that there was already a post office with that name in Florida, he chose to name it "Shiloh," possibly after the Civil War battle. Most travel was by water, so the post office was located on the Lagoon and Kuhl had a boat called the "Golden Rule" which he used for mail deliveries. Mail came by boat 3 times a week. A

letter traveled by boat from Jacksonville, down the St. Johns River to Enterprise, from there overland to New Smyrna Beach and then by sailboat down to Shiloh. Mule teams were used to deliver to homes not on the riverbank. Mail was carried from Titusville to Port Orange up and down the river by sailboat 3 times per week, and mail received and dispensed by the Shiloh post office was done in the same manner. The little settlement of Shiloh straddled the Brevard-Volusia county line, but the Kuhl house with the store and post office was on the Volusia side. In 1903 the post office was moved to the home of his sister Mrs. Hattie Griffis, who was postmistress for approximately 18 years.

The father and mother, who were both born in Germany and emigrated to America several years before the birth of George, did not come to make Florida their permanent home until the son and daughter had been here several years. The father passed away in 1890, about 3 years after coming to Florida, leaving about 3,000 acres of land. The mother lived in Shiloh for 15 years until her death in 1917.

After several years of remaining a bachelor, George Kuhl married Miss Myrtle Buky from Livingston County, Kentucky July 3, 1907 in Louisville, Kentucky. They had one daughter Henrietta, who became a school teacher and taught school in Eau Gallie. They moved from the Kuhl home on the Lagoon to another home in 1914.

Mr. Kuhl was a successful citrus grower and held positions of secretary and treasurer as well as one of the four directors of the Shiloh Packing Co. He also was secretary and treasurer of the Exchange of Oak Hill and a member of the Woodsmen of the World. He took an active part in the development of the community and was held in the highest esteem.

SHILOH WAS A TRADE CENTER FOR INDIAN RIVER COUNTRY IN 1885

Sailboats were much in evidence on the Indian River and not only used for transportation. Three of these boats made regular trips between Titusville and New Smyrna, two used for mail service and the other as a trade boat. Merchandise was brought as far as New Smyrna by steamer and then down the river by sailboats. George Kuhl owned and operated the "Golden Rule," and made regular monthly trips down the Indian River trading with small towns along the route, selling groceries and merchandise from his Shiloh store. The haulover canal at Allenhurst had not been dug yet, and in order to get his load of merchandise through the old narrow canal – which was located a mile south of the present one – it was necessary to transport the load to a barge, take it through the canal, then several men would get behind the "Golden Rule" and push it though. George owned another trade boat, several years before this one named the "Swallow," and the flag pole that was put up was the boom pole from

this boat. Sailboats were not used only as a means of travel, but also for entertainment. Sailing races were held often with a big sailboat race in May.

JAMES ALEXANDER TALYOR

James A. Taylor was raised by an austere German stepfather on a Kentucky farm and was compelled to work long days during boyhood and youth, beginning at the age of five. This left him little time to obtain an education. As a young man 19 years of age, he came from his Bayou Mills, Livingston County, Kentucky home to Florida in August of 1884 to visit his aunt, Mrs. Jane Dixon of City Point, who had come to Florida in 1870. His beloved mother had recently passed away, and being restless with his great loss, he sought change and adventure among the pioneers and wild life in Florida. He remained at the home of his aunt ten months, and enjoyed success in raising tomatoes which he sold for \$4.00 per bushel. By June of 1885, James had grown homesick for Kentucky and returned home and resumed farming. In 1886 he married Miss Ollie Gains of Livingston County. As he continued to farm he dreamed of the time he would be able to return to Florida with his wife and children. In April of 1893 he left his home state of Kentucky with his wife and three infant children—Mamie, David and DeWitt. They came by railroad to Titusville, then by sailboat to Kuhl's Landing at Shiloh, and walked from there to the home of Mr. Buky, an unmarried uncle of Mrs. Taylor's. They brought with them provisions for one year and \$35, with \$11 being due on freight. At the time there was one horse and a one-horse wagon owned by Mr. Buky, and a mule and a one-horse wagon owned by George Kuhl.

BCHC—Taylor Family Collection



Undated Photograph of the Taylor Family

Mr. Taylor set out a grove of 5 acres in the Indian River hammock land in a mosquito infested area. He labored hard, clearing the land and converting it to a citrus grove, only to have it destroyed by the 1894-95 freezes – the first ruining the fruit and the second freezing the trees to the ground. Mr. Taylor and several other men had invested \$1800 in planting fruit trees and did not realize any money from the destroyed trees. Mr. Taylor had borrowed the money to pay for his share and had to either sell his land or mortgage it, and with wise judgment he chose the latter. He was a man of high integrity and strong convictions and believed that anyone could overcome practically all difficulties if he exercised sufficient will power and tenacity.



BCHC—Taylor Family Collection

Shiloh Packing House (undated)

In the spring he moved to Eldora and secured work for pay, and by careful management of his funds, he was able to add to his five acres and planted new groves. He struggled with this tract for ten years before realizing any income from it, and repaid all of his debts, together with 10%, compound interest. At last he was able to sell part of his property for \$20,000, and with this he bought more and at one time he owned about 1500 acres. He sold a large tract of land, but kept many acres of unimproved land and about 120 acres in groves.

In the early days packing houses were palmetto shacks and fruit grading was done by eye and washing fruit by hand. Capt. A.M. Terwilligar was the principal buyer and packer. Terwilligar came from Canada and located at Jacksonville, later operating at St. Augustine and packed there.

Mr. Taylor's greatest ambition was to educate his six children and keep them from the trials and tribulations which their parents had endured. The small community had no school and no means of transportation for pupils. When his children became school age, he moved often to ensure the children had a good teacher—to Eldora, sometimes at Oak Hill and Shiloh. The county allowed \$15 per month toward the services of a teacher and Alexander supplemented this by often boarding the teacher free of charge in order to obtain a good education for his children. The school year ranged from 2-6 months with an experienced teacher. Three of his children achieved success in the field of education.

THE DEFRIES PROPERTY

written by son, T. DeWitt Taylor who was living in Pierson, FL. at the time of this writing.

At the turn of the century a good part of the real property of Shiloh was owned by a Doctor Seville of Jacksonville. He was a gruff old character, with whom it was difficult to do business. He did not understand Shiloh values, and to buy land from him was almost impossible. At that time the James A. Taylor family was living on this property, which consisted of a dilapidated old house of one 20 x 20 room with a half-story over a small, neglected grove of old seedling orange trees, and a few 100 acres of undeveloped land.

One afternoon 3 of the Taylor children, the writer and his brothers, were trudging along the deep sand road on their way home from school, and [met] 2 strange men—one was a tall, gaunt, raw-boned man of early middle age. With his companion, he was returning from the Indian River prairie, and was carrying a shotgun and a few snipe, the fruits of a day's hunt. It was soon learned that this man was L.H. DeFries, a lawyer of London, England, and an acquaintance of Doctor Seville. James A. Taylor spent sixteen hours of every week at hard labor in the groves, so never had an opportunity to become personally acquainted with DeFries, but his visit to Shiloh marked an interesting relationship between the two men, one of mutual respect and trust. A few days after this visit Taylor was notified by Seville that he, Seville had made [to] a friend, DeFries, a gift of 10 acres of hammock land and was recommending to DeFries that he employ Taylor to clear and set the land to a citrus grove. Although Seville called it a gift, DeFries paid a good price for the land.

A contract between DeFries and Taylor was negotiated by Seville. By its terms Taylor was to clear, fence and set the land. He was to pay all expenses, including the cost of clearing the land and the purchase of fencing material and 1000 citrus trees. To cover this, he was paid by DeFries \$750. Up-

on completion of this work Taylor began the work of maintenance of the grove, for a recompense of \$50 every 3 months. The result of this service for \$200 a year was such that every grower in the community coveted this grove.

The above grove was set in 1904, and a few years later Seville "gave" DeFries 10 adjoining acres, which were added to the grove, and DeFries finally bought the entire Seville estate.

Defries enjoyed travel, and Taylor's letters from him were postmarked at various places. Prominent among these were London, Paris, Cairo and New York. As a boy, the writer enjoyed at Christmas time, preparing for shipment gift boxes from this grove to friends of DeFries, prominent among them being His Majesty the King and Ambassador Brice.

In 1920, DeFries wrote to Taylor that he was growing old, and wanted to concentrate his property in England, and asked if he could sell his Florida property for him and Taylor made him an offer, which he readily accepted. He had never seen this property, nor the man who had developed it for him, but it had paid him well for his investment, and he was glad to accept Taylor's offer. The business relationship of these two men was based on mutual trust and confidence, and although they never [met], neither questioned the integrity of the other, and both found the relationship profitable.

The area in grove has been added to from time to time, and this property, was later owned by Ira Nobles of Titusville, and was one of the fine old landmarks of the Indian River Citrus Industry.

James had been supervisor of the school in Shiloh for many years and had paid many of its expenses. He built a beautiful modern home, and most of his children lived in Shiloh except his first born, Mamie who became a school teacher and married Arthur Dunn, and son Truman Taylor who married Eva Kyzer, both making their homes in Mims, Florida.

DAVID TAYLOR, the 2nd child was only 3 years old when the family arrived in Shiloh. He married Miss Lilly Silver July 12, 1911 in New Smyrna. They had 2 children, Lois and Donald who died at the early age of 18 months, and his mother died shortly after. David remarried January 23, 1924 at Deland to Miss Claude Brablam. They had one son, Allen. Mr. Taylor operated a store and was appointed postmaster of Shiloh August 13, 1924, a position he held for 30 years, followed by his wife who was post-mistress for 9 years until it closed in April 1964 when the government took the land. David was in partnership with his brothers in the ownership of large nurseries, operated a grove maintenance business and was a citrus grower.

T. DEWITT TAYLOR was born in Kentucky February 10, 1893, and was only 6 weeks old when his parents came to Florida. He married Miss Stella Kyzer of Mims December 26, 1922 in Titusville. Mr. Taylor served

in WWII but because of illness was not sent overseas. He was a highly regarded scholar and graduated from Rollins College in Winter Park. He was principal at Pierson for many years, and Taylor High School in Pierson was named in his honor.

AARON TAYLOR, 4th child, was the first of the Taylor children born in Florida. He married Miss Eva Cole, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Cole, December 27, 1921. They had one daughter, Carolyn. Aaron followed Mrs. Hattie Griffis and became Shiloh postmaster in 1921 and held that position until brother David became postmaster in 1924.

R. TRUMAN TAYLOR was born in Shiloh, FL. He married Eva Kyzer, daughter of Pink L. and Venetia M. Kyzer in Mims, Florida. She was a school teacher and taught and lived in Mims her entire life. They had two daughters, Martha Cornelia (Mrs. Gordon Dickerson of Winter Garden) and Enid (Mrs. Ken Sumner of Titusville). When first married they lived in an apartment over the Candy Kitchen which was in an adjoining building to Dunn's Garage where he worked and eventually became owner. He also operated a trucking business - Walker & Taylor Trucking – with J.B. Walker for several years. He was also a citrus grower.

James A. Taylor owned controlling interest in the Shiloh Fruit Packing Company located just south of Oak Hill. Sons Aaron and T. DeWitt were stockholders, and small blocks of stock were held by others.

Taylor also owned a store which he established at Shiloh around 1920 that sold groceries, fresh meats and dry goods. It also housed the Shiloh Post Office.

An article published in the *Star Advocate* Newspaper November 29, 1940 was written as follows:

SHILOH FRUIT PACKING COMPANY GETS A GOOD START
A.A. Taylor, Manager, Finds Fruit to Be of Good Quality

Shiloh Fruit Packing Company began operating November 8, and A.A. Taylor, manager of the plant, said quality of the fruit this year was slightly better than last. "Your guess is as good as mine," is the way he summed up prospects for prices over the season, but he added that early returns were better all-around than this time last year. Taylor said the fruit was a little later than last year.

The Shiloh Company packs Indian River fruit exclusively, but markets it under four brands – Shiloh, Indian Chief, Hi-Lo, and Squeezit brands. Oranges, grapefruit and tangerines are shipped. Most of their carloads go to Philadelphia but the company also has connections in Boston and New York where some of the crop is shipped when it is found to be to the benefit of the grower.

Officers of the Shiloh Packing Company are: Mr. James Taylor President as well as one of its Directors, and is Vice-President of the Exchange at Oak Hill, T. DeWitt Taylor Vice-President, and Aaron A. Taylor Secretary-Treasurer.

THE PATTILLO FAMILY

J.E. Pattillo moved from north Georgia to Florida in December of 1885, with his wife and three children, Herbert, Edna and Ada. They travelled from Jacksonville to Enterprise by steamer "City of Jacksonville," then by wagon through seven miles of sand to their new home in Osteen. The family lived here until 1889 when they moved to Shiloh. Their first home consisted of one room 16 x 20 feet. He set out a grove of 20 acres the following spring, which froze to the ground in 1895. He immediately set to work replanting the 20 acres and adding to his grove until at one time he had 150 acres in citrus, as well as more than 1000 banana plants which bore extremely well. They had a beautiful 3 story house with many tenant houses and tenants on their 300 acre estate. A light plant of 110 voltage furnished electricity to light their beautiful home, also the home of son Crawford, and the several machine shops and garages. Mr. Pattillo passed away January 13, 1925 and Herbert died years before his father. All the Pattillo children married except Edna, who lived with her mother in the big house. Crawford, the youngest and only child born in Florida married Miss Olivia Taylor, daughter of J.A. and Ollie Gains Taylor, December 23, 1919 at New Smyrna. They had two children Robert and Margaret-Edna. Crawford spent 10 months overseas during WWI.

THE KUEBLER BROTHERS

The Kuebler brothers, F.A. and B.O., were born and reared in Livingston County, Kentucky, and were half-brothers to J.A. Taylor. F.A. Kuebler was born December 8, 1883 and came to Florida in 1909. He was married in New Smyrna March 29, 1917 to Miss Susie Arline who was born in Levy County, Florida March 26, 1894. They had three daughters, Mildred, Juanita and Frankie Sue.

B.O. married a young lady in Golconda, Ill, June 20, 1900. They moved to Florida in September of 1919. They had 2 daughters, Mrs. Leonard Mosby of Oak Hill and Miss Freda who graduated from Rollins College and became a teacher. Both brothers became successful citrus growers like their half-brother J.A. Taylor.

THE MANNING GRIFFIS FAMILY

Manning Griffis came from St. Joseph, St. Johns County, Florida to this area with his wife and seven children September 20, 1876. They had 3 sons - Manning, Jr., Leonard, and Nola; and 4 daughters - Martha, Minnie, Serena and Georgia. J.W. Griffis was a stepson who later married Hattie Kuhl.

Manning and his sons built a palmetto shanty for their first home and the large and growing family lived there for four years. Jerry Griffis was the first child of the family to be born in the area, which was then part of Volusia County. J.W. Griffis' grandmother was the first white woman to live in a palmetto shanty between Oak Hill and Dummitt's Grove.

A schooner full of Georgia lumber that was consigned to a firm in the Bahamas was wrecked on the Beach during a storm in September 1880. Locals made a track from the beach to the Lagoon and then rafted the lumber as far as it was possible from the wreck to as near to the places where it was needed, and then carried it on their backs the rest of the way. Manning Griffis built a house with some of this lumber, enabling the family to move out of the palmetto shanty.

J.W. Griffis was the first person in this area to start a nursery. When the Griffis family came to this area there was no budded grove except the Dummitt Grove, and the only way to get a budded grove was to set wild sour orange trees and bud them from bud wood secured from the Dummitt Grove trees. He conceived the idea of a nursery when he was a 12 year old and living on his father's place. A strong wind had blown down many oranges in the Dummitt Grove during a storm, and J.W. gathered a quart of seed from the fallen sweet oranges. He planted the seeds and when the trees were 1 ½ years old he budded them with bud wood from Dummitt Grove. Then he planted two quarts of sour orange seed and watered this nursery from an old sweep well. Some of the first groves set out in the Shiloh area were from this nursery. In 1887, Manning Griffis sold his home place and nursery to J.A. Patillo.

The next nursery started by J.W. Griffis was on the place where the old Griffis Packing House was located. This was the second packing house in Shiloh and the first to contain any machinery, which was a grader.

The first packing house at Shiloh was a palmetto shack, where fruit grading was done by eye and washing of fruit by hand.

J.W. Griffis later started another nursery, "Rockdale Nursery" which grew to 34 acres, with his home in the midst of it.

THE TOMMY GRIFFIS FAMILY

This account of the Tommy Griffis family, who homesteaded on North and South Merritt Island, was written by Kath Griffis Bishop and published in the *Central Brevard Mosquito Beaters 1999 Memory Book*. It was later compiled by historian Weona Cleveland and published in the *Florida Today* newspaper. There is no mention of the Manning Griffis family or any relatives living on North Merritt Island.

Tommy Griffis, who was born in the late 1800s, was living in Melbourne when he married Ethel Anger in 1912. Her family had come from Califor-

nia in a covered wagon. Shortly after marriage they moved to Eau Gallie to live.

Tommy and Ethel Griffis later moved to North Merritt Island and homesteaded 80 acres. Their first home was a palmetto hut just like the rest of the pioneers starting out.

Ethel boiled clothes outside in a big iron kettle over an open fire and scrubbed them on a washboard before draping them over bushes to dry. To help her husband finance the building of a proper house, she pedaled a bicycle 20 miles to Cocoa where she worked in a fish packing house. She eventually helped squirrel away enough money to build a two-story house.

One of their six sons, Bill Griffis, recalled how bad the mosquitoes were, "The dadgum skeeters were so thick we would light a dried palmetto branch, then swing it around and step over the pile."

Tommy Griffis later traded the 80 acres on North Merritt Island for 40 acres on South Merritt Island. This land spanned the width of the island from Sykes Creek Harbor (Newfound Harbor) to the Banana River. He divided the 40 acres and gave each of his children a plot of land. The plots lay side by side along Angel Avenue in the hamlet of Angel City.

Tommy and his six sons made scant livings from fishing from handmade flat-bottomed row boats. They built their houses close to the Indian and Banana Rivers, where each day at dusk they parked their fishing boats in watery garages beneath barnacle-covered docks. They repaired their nets by the light of oil lamps.

THE FIRST SCHOOLHOUSE IN SHILOH

The first schoolhouse in Shiloh was a palmetto shack, and the first teacher was Mr. Quinton. Another term was taught by Manning Griffis, a cousin of J.W. Griffis. Later an abandoned one-room house that had been the home of Leonard Griffis and his sister, before there was a Shiloh, was used as a schoolhouse where several terms were taught. This building was also used as a church and Sunday school.

At last a one-room schoolhouse was built across the road from Mrs. Hattie Griffis, using donated materials and labor. Miss Willie May was the first teacher to use this building and Miss Ida Dodson of Titusville taught there for several years. This structure was remodeled and used as a home when a small room for school purposes was built nearer the center of Shiloh. Later it was purchased by a Mr. Palmer of Michigan who lived there. In 1919 a new school was built near the center of Shiloh, and the discarded small room structure was bought by Mr. Aaron Taylor and became part of his home.

In keeping with his great interest in education, James A. Taylor served as supervisor of the Shiloh school for many years and met many of the expenses.

The following article was published in the *Star Advocate* newspaper in May of 1925 entitled "Shiloh School News," and talks about the closing of the school term:

School closed Friday the eighth with a picnic at Coronado Beach. Practically all the parents and friends of the school were there. We had a wonderful time, a wonderful dinner, with wonderful people.

On Wednesday evening before school closed there was a display of school work including a quilt made by the teacher and sixth, seventh and eighth grade girls. The boys helped with the quilt by contributing cloth, along with the girls. The name of every child attending the school during the year appears on the back of the quilt, in indelible ink.

To defray expenses of lining it, a collection was taken. When the exercises of the evening closed, the community was \$8.82 richer and owned the quilt.

The Children rendered a patriotic program which included a Safety First Program. The program opened with "The Star Spangled Banner" on the Victrola followed by salute and pledge by the school. Besides purchasing a flag and three beautiful Artotype pictures for the school, the history of Shiloh has been written this school year. The Shiloh booklets were seen for the first time by the community the night of display of school work. When the State Rural School Inspector visited [t]he school a few weeks ago, he put us in class "A" and graded us 100 per cent on community activities.

One of the interesting features about our school year is the flag pole put up this spring. It was the boom pole on the "Swallow," a sail boat owned and operated by George Kuhl, the founder of Shiloh, forty years ago.

It would be wonderful if someone still had possession of the school quilt, or at least photos of it, and photos of the American Flag blowing in the wind from the "Swallow" sailboat boom pole and would share them with the community.

David Taylor recalled his childhood days at Shiloh in an article that was written in the *Spaceport News* in 1963. *"There was a gator cave over by the schoolhouse and me and Horace Bennett used to go over there at noon time. Horace could grunt just like a gator and when he did, these little bitty gators – not over a foot long – would come out of the cave. We'd put those little fellers under our shirts and carry them back in the schoolhouse. Teacher put a stop to that right fast though," as he remembered, grinning from ear to ear. Snakes? They were all over the place! It's a wonder to me more people weren't bit, but nobody paid much attention to them."*

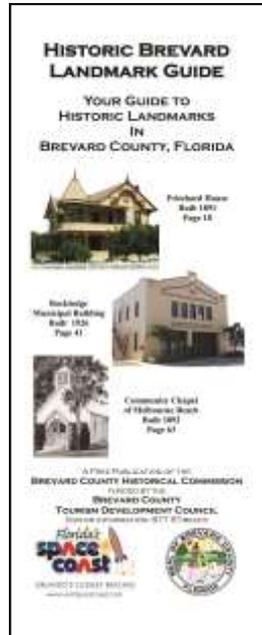
The name of Mosquito Lagoon was aptly named according to Dave as he recalls what it was like. *"We used to say, that when mosquitoes were out, you could strain a pint cup through the air and catch a quart of them. Many's the time when we were kids, we would stand in the house at night and put our hands against the window screen. The mosquitoes would light on our hands so thick that if you jerked your hand back fast, you could clearly see its shape in the mosquitoes on the other side of the screen."*

The 1926-27 Polk County Directory provides a list of residents and their occupations as well as amenities of the community. The postmaster at this time was David A. Taylor and mail carrier Eugene Lay who was living on the Volusia side. Shiloh Community Church pastor was Rev. T. DeWitt Taylor, and Shiloh Public School teacher was Ruth Hodnett. Most of the resident's occupations were listed as fruit growers: O.O. Carter, Jerry Griffis, Arthur Jackson, Ben and Frank Kuebler, George Kuhl, Crawford Pattillo, Robert Ragin, James Taylor (all of the Taylors were fruit growers although not listed as such), and Bert and William Watton. Millard Webster was a farmer, Jesse A. Hall and Columbus O'Quinn were laborers and Lacy Ramer a mechanic. J.A. Taylor was president and George Kuhl was secretary/treasurer of the Shiloh Packing Company. *IRJ*

Historic Brevard Landmark Guide

The Landmark Guide provides the location and a brief description of some of the historical landmarks in Brevard County. We have included the GPS coordinates for those that have historical markers. We don't have all of the historic locations in there yet, but we're working towards that end. In the meantime enjoy the 80 plus that we have documented. Get your copy free of charge through the Brevard County Historical Commission by writing or calling us.

**Brevard County Historical Commission
Central Brevard Library and
Reference Center
308 Forrest Ave.
Cocoa, FL 32922
Telephone: 321-633-1794**



Want to know more about Brevard County History?

We have history books available.

Go to the inside back cover for details

Douglas Dummett

By Jeff Boston

Brevard County's Douglas Dummett was a determined man who did things differently and whose nineteenth century life mirrors, in surprising ways, that of an increasing number of today's Americans.

Born in Barbados in 1806, Dummett's family fled to Florida with the goal of continued success with sugar. Thomas Dummett recognized the talent and drive of his oldest son, and although only age 22, Douglas was deemed the dean of the sugar mill plantation not far north of present day Brevard, and there he supplemented his sugar and rum income by growing oranges.

The long Second Seminole War broke out in 1835. Unlike many others, Dummett did not run from sporadic Indian raids. Dummett was a loyal member of a Mosquito County militia named the Mosquito Roarers. He served as Captain until being wounded in the neck. During rehab in Saint Augustine, he married a socialite in 1837 and that proved to be a constant pain in that same neck. A handful of years later, she did what was practically unheard of in those times – filed for divorce. She simply wanted out.

With his sugar mill long ago having been burned to the ground by Indians (but remnants remain), Dummett resettled in Merritt Island to concentrate on oranges, with a brief stint as the Titusville area's first state representative after Florida gained statehood. He established a grove compound between two lagoons and mastered the technique of grafting (aka top-working): blending sweet orange buds onto the stronger sour orange trees, rendering them resistant to frost that killed competitors' groves. His once experimental oranges were also delicious and northerners paid a premium for them. Dummett supplied the demand for what became known as Indian River citrus.

Except for sharing his secrets of success with others in the area, Dummett largely kept to himself in his waning years. He had three children with his long-time companion, a mulatto woman named Leandra Fernandez. In 1860, their teenage son tragically lost his life after being shot. The beaten down old man sold his slaves at the start of the Civil War and died a recluse eight years after its end.

A pioneer who paved the path for what Florida is largely still known for, the daring individual Douglas Dummett had a dramatic personal life. Major aspects of it were unique in his era but uncannily in resemblance to what our era is, more than ever, known for - foreign birth; miscegenation - and largely still known for: abandoning the homeland for the idea of America; essentially no fault divorce; cohabitation sans much, or any, thought of marriage; a young male family member's demise by firearm; procuring outdoor workers via slavery (as some label illegal alien field labor); living through a large scale attempt to gain freedom for slaves, an attempt resisted by the vast majority of citizens whom would be affected by it (as with non-stop latter-day amnesty efforts); and steadily, systematically shutting off one's self from the outside world.

In the year of our nation's bicentennial, the Brevard County Historical Commission honored Douglas Dummett by establishing a roadside marker in the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. *IRJ*

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.

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 for a schedule.

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*

LIST OF HISTORICAL COMMISSIONERS

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

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

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.afspacemuseum.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/HistoricalCommission/Home>

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.cocoa beachesurfmuseum.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.canaveralight.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 Historical Society Archaeological Institute (FHS AI)

2201 Michigan Ave., Cocoa, FL 32926

321-632-1830 <http://www.myfloridahistory.org/fhsai>

Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN)

74 King St, St. Augustine, FL 32085

904-392-8065—<http://www.flpublicarchaeology.org/ecrc/>

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

Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society

P. O. Box 73, Cocoa, FL 32923-0073

irasarchaeology@yahoo.com <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/HistoricalCommission/Home>

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
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308 Forrest Ave.
Cocoa, Florida 32922

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