



The Historical Quarterly

of The St. Lucie Historical Society, Inc.

Vol. 37 No. 4

Fall 2019

Local society ladies gathered often for gala luncheons



by Jean Ellen Wilson

This photograph catches for all time a meeting of the Bungalow Apron Club of St. Lucie County. Every month from 1927 to 1943 a group of society ladies of Fort Pierce met at the home of one of its members. The hostess made a table centerpiece to be admired, showed off her best china and prepared a menu to impress her guests.

The meeting in the photograph shows hostess **Mrs. Daniel Tobin (Frances) McCarty** at the head of the table in the McCarty home that once graced Indian River Drive. She was the mother of Gov. **Dan McCarty**. The photograph was taken Nov. 30, 1932. Standing at her side is **Adeline Adderly**. The McCarty's built Adeline a house that still stands on Avenue B. Mrs. Adderly's grandchildren lost all the

photographs they treasured of their grandmother so as far as we know this is the only existing likeness of that remarkable woman.

The ladies, from left to right are:

Mary Summerlin. Her husband, Clarence, was a boatman and farmer.

Blanche Harris. The 1926 Fort Pierce City Directory lists **William H. Harris** with wife Blanche S. at Harris Insurance Agency, 215 North Second Street. By 1935, the agency had become the Harris-Haynes Insurance Company with D. C. Haynes, president and Blanche Harris, secretary-treasurer.

Mary Elinor Ordway. **Charles F. Ordway** worked for East Coast Lumber before becoming Deputy

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Welcome - New Members

Sue Favorite, Membership Chairman

Mia Tignor
Sara and Joseph Johnson
Larry Hardie

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Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The St. Lucie Historical Society, Inc., P O Box 578, Fort Pierce, FL 34954, Telephone (772) 461-8020, stluciehistoricalsociety.net

The President's Message

by Nancy Bennett

This is another exciting time for our Historical Society. Following a busy summer at the Regional History Center, it had to be closed for a few days in preparation for hurricane Dorian in early September. Thanks to **Harry Quatraro** for overseeing the work of securing the museum and Gardner house. Fortunately the storm took a turn that spared our area, so effects were minimal.

We're expecting another season of interesting dinner meeting programs, organized by **Robyn Hutchinson**. In October, for example, our guest speakers **Ryan** and **Olga Murray** will discuss restoring and archiving old photographs.

At the museum, workers recently replaced the old wooden steps and entry deck with concrete, colored and stamped with a pattern resembling wood. The project, to include safety railings, is expected to be finished in October.

Join us for another exciting year of programs and community involvement. And remember, we always need volunteers to help in our efforts. Δ

Bulletin Boosters

Help support production of a lively and useful SLHS Historical Quarterly. A \$10 donation will add your name to the Bulletin Boosters roster for a full year of Quarterly editions. Give your \$10 donations to Treasurer **Bob Burdge**. Many thanks! Names of current Bulletin Boosters are listed below (with expiration month).

Harold & Mae Holsberg	10/20	Robert W. Summerhays	7/20	Rick Modine	1/20
Cynthia Putnam	10/20	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Essay	7/30	Pat Modine	1/20
Ed & Jackie Fischer	10/20	Deborah & Stephen Billis	4/20	Ernie & Judy Merrill	1/20
Lynn Williams Novel	10/20	Joyce Moody-McGraw	4/21	Bob Burdge	1/20
Betty Hutchinson	10/20	Jack & Sue Favorite	4/21	Robyn Hutchinson	1/20
Bonnie Reynolds	10/20	Margaret Lloyd	4/20	Linda Hudson	1/20
Jan Zahrly	10/20	Jerry & Carolyn McNeil	4/20	Roger Miller	1/20
Paul & Joann Berg	10/20	Beverly L. Traub	4/20	Jean Ellen Wilson	1/20
Ella & Jonathan Pruitt	10/20	Simone D'Addario	4/20	Norma McGuire	1/20
Gail Hope-Henchel	7/20	O.C. Peterson	4/20	Betty Jo Starke	1/20
Tish Taylor Chapman	7/20	Ron and Maggie Waites	4/20	Tom Bailey	1/20
James Hatfield	7/20	J. Michael Brennan	4/20	Richard Coffman	1/20
Michelle Franklin	7/21	Jim Turner, Apple Machine	4/20	Ann Healy	1/20
Charlene and Rupert Koblegard III	7/20	Buck & Mary Ann Bryan	4/20	Ted Burrows	1/20

Retired music educator makes valuable donations

One of the Treasure Coast's most-admired music educators and choirmasters recently made several valuable contributions to the preservation of this area's history and culture.

Earl F. Little, at age 92, has moved to Alabama to live closer to a daughter. Before he departed in early August, Little gave his collection of Lincoln Park Academy yearbooks to the St. Lucie Historical Society for inclusion in our archives. The 24 volumes span the years 1945 through 1970.

For most of that time, St. Lucie County's public schools were racially segregated. The photos in those long-ago volumes include many local African-American youth who have become active in the business and professional life of our communities.

The 1945 yearbook, published while World War Two still raged, said: "We dedicate this volume to our parents, guardians and former students who are away in the service of our country." This was followed by notes from 23 LPA alumni serving in the U.S. military around the world.

Little, who earned degrees from the Oberlin Conservatory and the University of Michigan, appears first in the 1956 LPA yearbook, pictured among young faculty members. For many years he was chorus director at Lincoln Park Academy, and later at Fort Pierce Central High School. In addition, Little served

as choir director for several area churches. He also was chorus master for many Treasure Coast Opera productions.

The LPA yearbook collection will be available for viewing in the SLHS archives at the museum.

Little also generously donated his

collection of recordings by the Lincoln Park Academy chorus to WQCS 88.9 fm, Indian River State College's public radio station. Each year, Little's chorus recorded a concert performance on vinyl discs. These recordings, rich with cultural value for this area, will be maintained in the station's music library. Δ



Earl Little is shown with several of the historic recordings he donated to the Indian River State College radio station. Photo courtesy of WQCS 88.9 fm.

Marx, diver and archaeologist, had an adventure-packed life

Robert F. "Bob" Marx, sometimes called "the father of underwater archaeology," died July 4 at his home in Indialantic. He was 82 and had lived a life of adventure on and under the world's oceans.

Born in Pittsburgh in 1936, Marx was a Marine Corps scuba diving instructor and later pursued a career as a treasure hunter, undersea explorer and historical researcher. He is credited with discovering the remains of the Spanish galleon *Nuestra Senora de las Maravillas*, wrecked in 1656 off Grand Bahama

Island. He also took part in archaeological excavation of the sunken city of Port Royal, for the government of Jamaica.

Marx wrote dozens of books and magazine articles, and consulted for television programs. Δ

Florida Facts

Casa Caprona Apartments north of Fort Pierce were built in 1926 during the great Florida land boom. During World War Two it became married officers' quarters for those stationed at the amphibious training base. Still in existence, Casa Caprona is in the National Register of Historic Places. (*World War II in Florida* by Robert A. Taylor)

Remembrances

Clayton Carlton Humphries

A descendant of one of this area's pioneer ranching families, Clayton Carlton Humphries, died on July 21. He was 34 years old. Survivors include his son, **Jaxen Heath Alexander**; his parents, **Fred** and **Joanne Humphries**; plus two brothers and two sisters.

Numerous members of the Humphries and Carlton families have supported the St. Lucie Historical Society.

Clayton Humphries focused on the operation of the family's century-old cattle ranch and he was keenly interested in livestock management and improvement of pastures.

Grace S. Bryant

Longtime Historical Society member Grace S. Bryant, a prominent health care professional, cattle rancher and civic benefactor, has died at age 91.

She was born in Washington, D.C. in 1928, trained as a nurse, worked in hospitals and was commissioned in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps. In 1958 she came to Fort Pierce and worked for many years as a surgical nurse at Lawnwood Medical Center. She also was instrumental in starting the nurse education program at Indian River Community College, and in providing scholarships for financially needy students.

With her husband **Bill Bryant**, Gracie raised cattle and was active in local livestock organizations and 4-H programs. Δ

Feedback

Here are some recent visitors' comments about the St. Lucie County Regional History Center, compiled from the guest book:

Gary & Sharon Stocker, Wildwood Crest, NJ: "Very nice and informative museum. Staff is exceptional!!"

Olesya Drozdova, Ulyanovsk, Russia: "It was amazing."

John & Margaret McGullam, Oakdale, NY: "So much to see! We enjoyed it very much!"

As time goes by...

Items from past editions of the society's Historical Quarterly.

From the Winter 2006 edition

Olive Dame Peterson has been named by the Florida Historical Society the 2006 Caroline P. Rossetter Outstanding Woman in Florida history. The award is named for the late **Caroline P. Rossetter** who died in 2001. ...

Only two women have been awarded the honor since [it was established in] 2003. Both have been members of the St. Lucie Historical Society! **Sandra Thurlow** in 2005, and Olive Peterson in 2006 have won well deserved statewide recognition for their lengthy dedication to Florida History. ...

Editor's note: In 2014 St. Lucie Historical Society President Nancy Bennett also received the Rossetter Outstanding Woman in Florida History award.

Olive Dame Peterson is the daughter of Judge **Flem Dame**. A native of Homerville, Ga., she moved to Florida in 1925, graduating from Fort Pierce High School and Florida State University. ... Olive and her husband [**O.C. Peterson**] are among the few remaining founding members of the St. Lucie Historical Society in 1952. She has been a member of our board in 1968 and from 1979-83. Her husband served on the board from 1983-85. Mrs. Peterson became president of the Florida Historical Society in 1982, serving until 1984. ...

Carrie Rossetter [for whom the award was named] was born in an era when women were not expected, in some cases not allowed, to participate in mainstream American commerce and leadership. Defying the odds, she took over her father's Standard Oil franchise in 1921 in Melbourne, operating it successfully until she sold it in 1966. She and her sister donated approximately \$500,000 to various organizations promoting Florida history and culture. In 1991 the Rossetter sisters left \$1 million to the Florida Historical Society in addition to their historic house and approximately \$5 million for a Rossetter House Foundation administered by the society. Δ

LOCAL SOCIETY LADIES... continued from page 1

City Clerk of the City of Fort Pierce. A descendant of the Ordway family kindly donated the Bungalow Apron file and photograph to the **Bud Adams Gallery of Vintage Photographs** in the Cobb Building.

Edythe Ankeny. The Ankenys were among the earliest settlers along the Indian River with the first Ankeny arriving in 1879. Edythe was **Mrs. R. V. Ankeny.** We still have Ankenys in the county. **Mr. and Mrs. Rollin Ankeny** are members of the St. Lucie Historical Society.

Kate Hill. Kate was part of the Hill family of the Florida Photographic Concern, to which we owe so many of the irreplaceable early images of Fort Pierce and vicinity.

Mother **Mary Ordway**, matriarch of the Ordway family.

(Next are McCarty and Adderly)

Margaret Whyte, widow of **Richard Whyte**, who founded the St. Lucie Ice Company. There was also once a Whyte Fish Company on Cobb's dock. He was once mayor of Fort Pierce and was elected to the State Legislature in 1925.

Rose Ankeny Lewis. Another member of the Ankeny family, Rose Lewis served as president of the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs (1918), was the

first woman to hold the office of superintendent of schools (1925-1929) in St. Lucie County, and was a charter member of the local Daughters of the American Revolution. When this photograph was taken, she had only two more years to live. **Mr. Edgar Lewis** was a vice president of St. Lucie County Bank.



The events featured elaborate table centerpieces such as this cornucopia "horn of plenty" design from another luncheon.

Katherine Paxton, widow of **Horatio Paxton**, who was a contractor in the early 1900s.

Minnie Tylander. Her husband **William**

Tylander moved from Orange City to Fort Pierce in 1902 to take over as general manager of East Coast Lumber Co. He organized the Fort Pierce Band. He was later involved in the Fort Pierce Bank and Trust Co. and was very active in the Fort Pierce Chamber of Commerce. He chaired the county's Republican Committee.

Mamie Sample. She was the wife of **John Sample**, one of three brothers who moved from North Carolina to the Fort Pierce area. All were businessmen and community leaders. The Samples' daughter **Mary** was the wife of **Rupert Koblegard**. Mamie Sample was the grandmother of **Wendy, Mary Ann** and **Koby Koblegard**.

Elizabeth Moore, a sister of **Frances McCarty**. The Moores were from North Carolina. Δ

Florida Facts

Marineland, then called Marine Studios, opened on June 23, 1938 near St. Augustine. More than 30,000 tourists, scientists and photographers attended the opening. It was first conceived as an oceanarium that could be used to film marine life. ... The park was very popular with tourists through the 1970s and was used for various movies including "Creature From the Black lagoon." (*On This Day in Florida History* by Nick Wynn)

The Jacksonville Times-Union announced on Sept. 9, 1918 that season bookings for the Alcazar Hotel in St. Augustine and The Breakers in Palm Beach had been cancelled. The military draft and a mass migration of 500,000 African-Americans to factories in northern cities (between 1916 and 1919) caused a significant shortage of labor. Other industries such as agriculture, lumber and turpentine also were hard hit. (*On This Day in Florida History* by Nick Wynn)

St. Lucie Historical Society, Inc.
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Membership Application

St. Lucie Historical Society, Inc.

Please join us in preserving our local heritage for future generations.

Name _____

Spouse's Name _____

Names and ages of minor children:

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Telephone _____

Business Telephone _____

Cell _____

Email _____

I/We wish to join the Society at the level indicated below.
Membership is from September through August.

New Renewal Individual (\$20.00)

Family (\$25.00) Business (\$50.00)

Please make checks payable to:

St. Lucie Historical Society, Inc
P O Box 578

Fort Pierce, Florida 34954-0578

For information telephone: (772) 461-8020

General Meeting are held at:

The Elks Lodge

635 South 5th Street

Fort Pierce, Florida 34950

Society General Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month, from September through May. A meal is provided before the meeting at the price of \$12.00 per person. Reservations must be made for these meals no later than two days in advance of the meeting. To make reservations telephone (772) 461-8020 and leave a message. Reservations and your RSVP information by e-mail to: dinner@stluciehistoricalsociety.net. Dinner begins at 5:30 P.M. and the General Meeting Starts at 6:00 P.M.

Volunteers are Needed

If you have 3 1/2 hours that you can give once a week either in the morning or afternoon, please consider volunteering at the Museum.

Admission, to the museum, for St. Lucie Historical Society members is FREE. So come and take a tour.

The latest exhibit is St Lucie Families-Crafters of Local History.

The Pineapple Patch Gift Shop has a large selection of books of Florida historical value, cards, handmade Seminole Indian dolls, and baubles made by volunteers.

Museum Hours:

Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.