

The Historical Quarterly of The St. Lucie Historical Society, Inc.

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Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, shown in 1910 photo. First lit in 1860, the lamp was disabled by Confederate sympathizers and remained dark for most of the war.

Union loyalists remained active in Indian River region

By Jean Ellen Wilson

Second of two parts. In the summer edition, the first part detailed activities of this area's Confederate sympathizers such as the Russell and Paine families, plus blockade runners. Here are accounts of union sympathizers, plus the war's aftermath.

While the **Russells** and the **Paines** were still on the river, no doubt thinking the situation could not become worse, the scourge of these southernmost secessionists descended upon them.

In the fall of 1862, 53-year old **Henry Crane**, accompanied by **Levi Whitehurst** and **James Thompson**, took the Capron Trail from Tampa to Indian River Inlet. There, **James Armour**, **Isaiah Hall** and two other unionists joined them. On Oct. 27, Crane signaled the federal gunboat *Sagamore* and the seven were taken aboard. They volunteered to fight for the flag; Crane was subsequently sworn into service as a master's mate and his followers as landsmen.

Why did Henry Crane, who had signed up with the Silver Grays, a military company formed to defend Tampa against the Yankees, change sides to become such a dedicated unionist? Historians surmise it may have been the killing, by radical Southern supporters, of his friend

and fellow Indian fighter and unionist **John Whitehurst**.

On Jan. 4, 1863, Crane and his men were taken inside Indian River Inlet by the *Sagamore's* cutter. They boarded a cracker sloop hidden in the mangroves. This was the beginning of a year on the Indian River in which they captured the crews of several blockade runners and took or burned their ships, destroyed hundreds of bags of salt, confiscated numerous bales of cotton, rescued Union sympathizers, and found the Lighthouse apparatus hidden by Paine.

One of the blockade runners captured on the river by Henry Crane was the schooner *Charm*, along with its captain, **Henry Titus**, and a dozen prisoners. After the war, Confederate Titus settled in Sand Point in 1867; by 1873, that place name had been changed to Titusville.

As the lines of loyalty and secession were being drawn early in the war, there must have been some kind of enlistment forced upon those less than enthusiastic for the Southern cause, for there is a record of one James Armour enlisting in Co. G of the 8th Infantry, Confederate, on June 12, 1862 and deserting one month later. Armour was employed by the federal government as lighthouse keeper at Jupiter and when Crane appeared on the Indian River,

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Welcome - New Members

Sue Favorite, Membership Chairman

New (or returned) members: Don Zimmerman, Greg & Nancy Ryder, William & Debi Wilson, Robert Redman, Randall E. Gebhardt, Bill Linde & Mary Ann Reeves, Doris Tillman (Main Street Fort Pierce), George & Linda Smiley, Douglas Samia & Tina Wright, Steve & Jan Phillips, Amanda Carranza, Doris & John Coryell, Meera Beharry & Yann Gartier, Jim Wilson, Tristram Colket, Rob & DJ Gardner, Elizabeth Lambertson, Wendy & Lavon Bishop, Bruce & Sherry Center, Steve & Susan Cassens, Cleo Stern

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The President's Message

by Nancy Bennett

Welcome to another new season of interesting programs and activities for our historical society. Even without regular dinner meetings, the summer months were busy ones. Attendance at the museum set new records and we thank all the volunteers who greeted visitors and helped explain our area's fascinating past.

In addition, the Bud Adams Gallery of Vintage Photographs remained open all summer, thanks to volunteers **Jean Ellen Wilson, Jim Moses** and Victoria Bush. After being closed during September, is once again open for visitors.

The SLHS board of directors is again meeting regularly, planning more programs and activities. In addition, our society now provides articles on area history to the Treasure Coast newspapers for their Sunday editions.

Here's a reminder for holiday season gift-giving: Check out the wide variety of Florida-related items in our museum bookstore. There are nonfiction titles on many subjects, plus novels – including some for younger readers. Δ

Bulletin Boosters

Help support 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. Please give your \$10 donation to Treasurer Bob Burdge. Many thanks. Names of current bulletin Boosters are listed below (with expiration month and year).

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Cynthia Putnam	10/22	Bill & Letha Fowler	10/21	Pam & Larry Blandford	10/22		

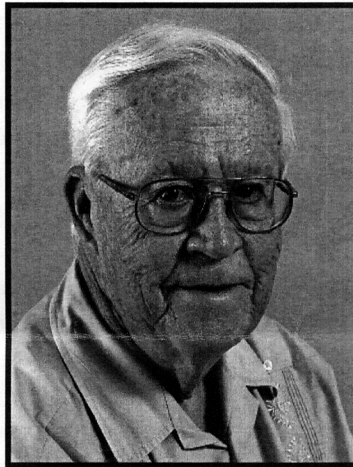
Joe Crankshaw made Florida's history come alive for us

By Ted Burrows

This past summer the St. Lucie Historical Society lost one of its most illustrious members. **Joseph Clarence Crankshaw III** (known to all as just plain "Joe") died July 5 in Stuart at age 90. He enriched our understanding of Florida history through his decades-long series of columns and feature stories recalling events and personalities of times past. He was a much-admired reporter of important events for the *Florida Times Union*, the *Miami Herald*, the *Stuart News/Port St. Lucie News* and its Scripps companion papers, the *Fort Pierce News-Tribune* and *Vero Beach Press-Journal*. He retired in 2014.

Until his health declined, Joe was a familiar presence at many SLHS dinner meetings. He served on the SLHS board of directors and supported many of our society's projects. He also was a longtime member of the Florida Historical Society and in 2008 that statewide organization honored him with a lifetime achievement award. He earned numerous other awards from civic and journalistic groups.

We can remember him best as a kind and generous soul, a devoted family man, a steadfast friend and a good-natured companion.



He rarely talked about his military career (23 years combined active duty and reserves) though he was a genuine hero of the Korean War. In 1950, as U.S. forces pushed the enemy steadily back up the Korean peninsula, his infantry platoon was the first U.S. Army unit to enter the North Korean capital of Pyongyang. For that he and his comrades were personally decorated with the Bronze Star medal by Gen. Douglas MacArthur. A few months later, as hordes of invading Chinese joined the war, Joe was badly wounded and earned the Silver Star and Purple Heart medals for his courageous action during a fighting withdrawal protecting other U.S. troops.

On his return from the war, Joe attended Stetson University where he earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and political science.

It was my privilege to work closely with Joe for more than a decade after his return to *The Stuart News*, where I was editorial page editor. We talked together daily, shared ideas, collaborated on projects and often commiserated together on the political follies of our times. I learned so much from Joe. I enjoyed his company immensely. He was an unforgettable colleague and friend. We may be sad that he is gone, but let's be glad we had him with us for a while. Δ

Stuart much different today than when I arrived in 1958

The following is a column describing Joe Crankshaw's arrival in Stuart to interview for a job at The Stuart News. This originally appeared in the newspaper on Oct. 27, 2013 shortly before his retirement, and is used by permission.

By Joe Crankshaw

When I arrived in Stuart in late August 1958 it was quite a different place.

You might have called the relatively tiny town rustic. It was the off season and there were few vehicles and people about, a far cry from the sophisticated, bustling city of this era.

I arrived on a Florida East Coast passenger train. That was one of the ways to get here. The others were by boat, car, the Greyhound bus or, if you were wealthy, a plane to tiny Witham Field.

Some measure of the change may be seen in the events surrounding my arrival in Stuart.

Gordon Lockwood, publisher of *The Stuart News* – then a weekly paper – had sent me a round-trip train ticket from Jacksonville to Stuart and was to put me up for three nights at **James Rand's** old Bahamian-style hotel.

The hotel stood on the river near where the city stage is now.

I was there to interview for a job as a reporter and was fresh out of the Army and Stetson University.

As the train pulled into the station, which stood opposite the Lyric Theater on Flagler Avenue on the Florida East Coast Railway tracks, I saw 15 or 20 people standing on the platform. They had no baggage and seemed to be waiting for someone.

Maybe there was a news story? Knowing the paper had no reporter, I grabbed my notebook, tipped the porter to throw my bags on the platform and jumped off.

No one else got off and the train continued south.

A tall man wearing blue pants, a white shirt and black visored cap with a gold shield that read "Chief"

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Union Loyalists... continued from page 1

Armour became pilot and guide for his missions.

Henry Crane's success in clearing the river of rebels earned him high praise from the admiral of the fleet but he changed his boat for a horse when he was convinced, in 1864, to go to Fort Myers and stop the movement of cattle to feed Confederate troops.

In the course of that service, he enrolled the patriarch of one of Fort Pierce's founding families in the Northern cause.

The Carltons naturally fell on the side of the South in 1861. Cattlemen were then excused from service as they were providing beef for the Confederate armies. By 1863, however, in a war that had become one of attrition, conscription officers invaded cattle country to find men from 16 to 60 to replace the killed and wounded. One can only imagine the scene at the **Reuben Carlton** compound when they came to take the father away from the family by force.

When the pioneer clearing was quiet again, **Reuben Carlton Jr.** rode to Fort Myers and enlisted in the Second Florida Cavalry, U.S.A. on May 28, 1864. Others of the Carlton and Crews families also signed up: **Albert Carlton**, brother to Reuben; **James E. Whidden**, his brother-in-law; **Dempsey** and **William Crews** (Mrs. Reuben Carlton's maiden name was Crews); **Archibald** and **John Hendry Jr.**

Five years after being discharged from the Union Army on Nov. 29, 1865, Reuben Carlton moved his family and his cattle to what would become Fort Pierce.

The Bell legacy is all over St. Lucie County. **Alexander Bell** homesteaded the land at the mouth of Taylor Creek. Son **Frank Bell** is remembered in Bell Avenue in White City. The Riverview cemetery on U. S. 1 in Fort Pierce was Bell property. Son **James Bell** married **Emily LaGow**. The LaGows founded Edgartown after the war and called the original main street Union Street and there an American flag flew proudly as long as the LaGows presided over the little town, for they were unionists.

Alexander Bell of Hamilton County opposed secession and spent the war in the federal outpost of Cedar Key. After the war, shunned by his north Florida neighbors, he moved south. His apostasy was not forgotten. When running for office in 1885, he had to be defended thus in the newspaper: "The case against Mr. Bell was that he voted against secession; that he refused to fight against the Federal government, that he is a *scalawag* but the old cry that no southern man is fit to hold office, who upheld the government of the United States during the war, does not

and will not meet the approval of any true northern man in this part of Florida."

Capt. **William B. Davis** was said to be an excellent seaman, "familiar with the entire Florida coast from Key West to St. Augustine." Now, in the Civil War, his old commander at Fort Capron, **Abner Doubleday**, was an officer in the Union Army and one can conjecture that Davis had made friends with the bluecoats in his long association with them in the Indian wars. As animosity between Indian River settlers grew as the war waged on, **Capt. Baxter** of the U.S. brig *Gem of the Sea*, heard that Davis was under threat, picked him up at Indian River Inlet and took him to Key West where he sat out the war.

Robert Bowler, an Englishman, married **Celia Padgett** of Fort Drum in 1861. He made a living for his family by turtling somewhere along the Indian River near Blue Hole. Two children were born to the couple, **Robert** in 1862, and **Mary** in 1863 whilst the chaos of Civil War swirled around them. This family's interaction with blockade runners and their chasers is a mystery.

John C. Breckinridge was vice president of the United States, then senator from Kentucky, which office he left to join the Confederacy. He was the last Secretary of War for the C.S.A. and after Gen. **Robert E. Lee's** surrender, he was sentenced to be hanged. Escaping, Breckinridge and party traveled south from Richmond eventually reaching the St. Johns. They contacted friends, including **Mills Burnham**, who ever after wore "a gold dollar hanging at his watch-chain which he said Mr. Breckinridge gave him as he stepped aboard the boat as the only remuneration he could offer for his kindness."

After leaving Burnham at Canaveral Lighthouse, the wanted men entered the Indian River. On the night of June 2, 1865, in the light of a campfire at Fort Capron, the escapees can discern the blue coats of Federal troops, part of the corps dispatched across Florida to capture them. They mute the sound of their oars with shirts and slip by undetected.

James Paine brought his family back to reclaim his holdings on the Indian River after Appomattox. He became the proprietor of an inn that attracted wealthy Northerners to the fabled fishing for marlin at the Inlet and the hunting grounds in the surround. Most of his boarders were former Union soldiers. One of the inn's most valued guests of this ardent follower of **Jefferson Davis** was **Matthew Stanley Quay**, United States senator from Pennsylvania and holder of the Medal of Honor for valor in the service of the Union. One wonders if there was ever tension between these old enemies. Δ

Stuart different... continued from page 3

approached me. He introduced himself as the police chief. His name was **Sam Harless**. He began asking me a lot of questions. I noticed the crowd gathered in around us and listened intently.

“You a reporter?” he finally asked me. I said I was and he said his officers had a burglar cornered in a field off Fourth Street (now East Ocean Boulevard). Would I come along to witness the event?

The four men who made up the Police Department were standing around a vacant lot where the suspect was hiding in some bushes. They knew who he was and when the chief arrived he called for the man to surrender. And the man did. The chief told him to get in the patrol car and he did, and we rode back to the police station.

“Go ahead and interview him,” said the chief. I did. The man said he was walking along when he had to go to the bathroom and went and knocked on **Olney Eurit’s** door. Then he said police stated showing up, he got scared and ran into the field.

With the prisoner safely in the single-cell lockup, I

Unusual novel chronicles war through Seminole eyes

Most of what we know about the three Seminole wars in Florida comes from the white viewpoint, in documents such as army orders, government reports, diaries, letters, etc. Very little comes to us from the Seminole viewpoint. They kept no written accounts of their long ordeal, but instead rely on a rich oral history little known to outsiders.

New in print from the Florida Historical Society Press is an unusual book by a trio having deep knowledge of both sides. Florida historians **John** and **Mary Lou Missal** have joined with Seminole historian and Tribal Court Chief Justice **Willie Johns** to produce *What We Have Endured – A Novel of the Seminole Wars*.

The story spans the years from 1813 to 1890 as **Aheedja**, an elderly Seminole woman, tells stories of her long and turbulent life to a young girl. The actors in the

Remembrances

Jeannie Carpenter Stark

Longtime St. Lucie Historical Society member Jeannie Carpenter Stark died on July 16 at age 73. She grew up in Fort Pierce and was graduated from Dan McCarty High in 1966.

She was a legal secretary and real estate agent, and active in civic organizations.

She was predeceased by her husband, **William D. “Chop” Stark** and by her parents **Amos Emery Carpenter** and **Mary Elizabeth Durbin**. Survivors include a sister, **Shirley Carpenter Rowland** and several nieces and nephews.

started to leave and head for the paper’s office three blocks away. Before I left, I asked the chief why those people were at the station.

“Not much happens around here,” he said, “so they come down to see who gets off. I ask whoever that is the questions I asked you. They listen and go back to work. They will know you all over town by now.”

As I walked up Osceola to Fourth Street, strangers would say, “Hello, Joe. Welcome to Stuart.”

The city you see around you is the result of all that has happened during the past 50-plus years. Once it was simpler, with fewer amenities. The people relied on sport fishing, citrus and flowers for their livelihood. On Wednesdays, the town shut down and everyone went to the beach, fishing, or Fort Pierce or West Palm Beach. Stores stayed open late Saturday night so the ranchers, grove owners and farmers could come shop.

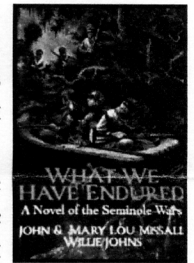
Ask yourself: If the train still stopped here today, do you think anyone would go down just to see who got off? But the same friendly attitude that existed then still lives in the community. Δ

story are fictional. Some actual persons are mentioned for historical context but they do not participate in the narrative.

In an introductory note to readers, the authors are clear about their intent: “The strength of the Seminole perspective isn’t in dates and places, but in the very human story of their struggle to remain in Florida. For all of us, a novel that was well-rooted in history seemed the best way to correct the imbalance and allow the story to be told.”

For Willie Johns, this book apparently was the last major project of his life. He died last October in Brighton at age 69.

This thoughtful and provocative book is available in paperback at the museum. Δ



Valentine R. Martin

Book publisher and local history enthusiast **Valentine R. “Val” Martin** died July 28 at age 89. A Florida native, he moved to Martin County in 1958 and for more than 60 years operated bookstores in Stuart and Hobe Sound.

He was a lifelong advocate for making Florida history materials easily accessible to the public. Val Martin’s publishing firm, Florida Classics Library, acquired reprint rights to many out-of-print items, including *Jonathan Dickinson’s Journal*, *Everglades—River of Grass*, *The Barefoot Mailman* and others.

He is survived by a niece, **Julie Alexander**. She now operates the bookstore in Hobe Sound. Δ

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St. Lucie Historical Society, Inc.

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

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Spouse's Name _____

Names and ages of minor children:

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Telephone _____

Business Telephone _____

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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 \$13.00 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.