



Neighbor Annie Sullivan & Mary Tindall

In the 1920's the house was sold to Olivia Cadwallader Pennock Laird. Anna Minear, her daughter, donated the house to the Loxahatchee River Historical Society in 1995. At midnight on February 4, 1997, Brownie & Sons, using two semis, a trailer and a payloader, began the job of moving the house to Burt Reynolds Park, the former Historical Society location where it was fully restored.

On April 1, 2007 the 25-ton pine building was secured on another Brownie moving truck and brought to its final home in Lighthouse Park to be a permanent exhibit at the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum.

For over a decade the Loxahatchee Guild, founded by Anna Minear in 1981, has focused on the restoration and completion of the George W. Tindall Pioneer Homestead project. Thanks to the focused dedication of the Loxahatchee Guild, over a quarter of a million dollars has been raised to preserve this important piece of Jupiter's history. Residents and visitors can now catch a glimpse of the roughly hewn lifestyle of our early pioneers. The struggle to thrive and prosper in a harsh untamed Florida wilderness is a story told in Tindall Pioneer Homestead.

The Loxahatchee River Historical Society gratefully acknowledges The Loxahatchee Guild, The Jupiter-Tequesta Garden Club, Steve Varhola, Richard Roberts and Donald Richardson for their support, donations, and labor of love for our heritage.



Tindall Pioneer Homestead

Jupiter, Florida ~ Built In 1892

Sponsored by the Loxahatchee Guild

Operated by the Loxahatchee River Historical Society



Watercolor by Barbara Carswell

The historic cracker-style Tindall House was built by George Washington Tindall on the Loxahatchee River in Jupiter in 1892 on his 128-acre homestead and is considered one of the oldest houses in Palm Beach County. The area is now known as Palm Point, just off Center Street in Jupiter. According to his testimony for Homestead Proof, George built a frame house with an attached kitchen, a well, a hen-house, and cleared 5 acres planted in tropical fruits and pineapples in the Fall of 1892.

The pioneer adventures of the Tindall family did not begin with their arrival in Jupiter. As a young man, Alexander Dowling Tindall left SC and in 1846, married Benety Alligood in Laurens Co., GA. Alexander had studied to become a doctor and was an itinerant preacher who traveled back and forth from Georgia to Florida, finally settling in Narcoossee, near present day Kissimmee.

George W. Tindall was born March 11, 1850 in Columbia Co., FL, third son of seven born to Alexander Tindall and Benety Alligood. His wife, Mary Victoria Pilcher Tindall was born March 6, 1851 in Thomas Co., GA and they were married about 1872. George Tindall was a hunter, trapper, cattleman and farmer for many years before coming to Jupiter. With such a large family, he would have needed to do these things in order to keep them fed. George was prospering in Georgia as a farmer when his health began to fail. In 1886, he decided to move to a warmer climate, bringing his family to Florida.

Because of the narrow roads, mostly Indian trails, the trip from Georgia took the family four months in two covered wagons drawn by two mules and a horse (their youngest child, Mamie, born in January 1886, was only 6 weeks old at the time of the move to Jupiter). Mary Pilcher Tindall suffered a stroke a few years after they moved to Jupiter that left her crippled the remainder of her life. They built a palmetto shack and the family lived there one year when a gentleman arrived and announced they were living on his homestead. Once again, they picked up and moved approximately 300 yards onto the property they had originally filed for, building another palmetto shack for the family. Another child died at birth after 1890 and was said to have been buried on the homestead. Their meals were cooked in the open on a brick stove, so when it rained, they didn't eat or ate food that didn't have to be cooked. The table was made from old boards found on the beach and they sat on boxes. Daughter Stella wrote "You had to hold on tight to your bread or the Jay birds (scrubjays) would have it!"



Original Tindall Homestead in Jupiter along the Loxahatchee River



George W. Tindall and Grandchildren

The yellow pine and cypress house withstood several major hurricanes, although the legendary storm of 1928 blew its roof off. It now has a cracker style tin roof. The home was constructed of wood brought in by boat, but the crude furniture was made of wood picked up on the beach. Eventually the family acquired regular furniture, including a pedal organ on which George played hymns. Because of the fear of fire, cooking was done in an outbuilding that was connected to the main house by a covered breezeway. That original portion of the house is gone, but has been reconstructed. G. W. Tindall is listed as a fruit and vegetable grower in Jupiter on the 1896 Dade Co. Directory.