

Loxahatchee River Historical Society Quarterly

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The Loxahatchee River Historical Society (LRHS) is the 501(c)3 non-profit organization that operates Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum.

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A manatee passing by the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, viewed from the new observation pier.

The Loxahatchee Drive School (1927-1945)

Jupiter's 1911 Pennock School (see preceding issue) was barely a decade old when Jupiter's White residents began to advocate for a bigger, better school building. F. J. "Pop" Laird Sr. of Jupiter was "intensely active" in his support for the new school upon being elected to the county school board in 1925 – the same year the Town of Jupiter incorporated. The school district acquired 15 acres for the new building which was built facing the intersection of Loxahatchee Drive and 2nd Street. It's not currently known why this particular location was chosen, although research in the school board minutes might yield answers. The school predates the modern Military Trail.

The new school's cornerstone was laid in a ceremony in early February 1927. The new two-story building cost \$150,000 at the time (approximately \$2.4 million today). It was stoutly constructed from brick, stone, and tile in the popular Mediterranean Revival style of the time. The building included 12 classrooms, an auditorium, and a gymnasium. The firm of King & Campbell designed the building and John Thieme of Delray Beach was the contractor. The school opened on Monday September 19, 1927 for the new school year. A dedication ceremony was held the following Friday.



Undated postcard showing the Loxahatchee Drive School. Photos of the school pre-1945 are surprisingly rare.

The Loxahatchee Drive School continued

The Loxahatchee Drive School was formally known as “Jupiter High School” and it was the first school in Jupiter history to offer grades 1 through 12. Four teachers handled two grades each for elementary and middle school. The high school classes were split between four teachers. Samuel C. Haddock was the inaugural principal; his wife taught third and fourth grade. The only male faculty, besides the principal, was Harry E. Browning. He had been principal of the Pennock School for the 1923-1924 school year. Teaching both math and history, Browning also coached all of the school’s sports teams (baseball and basketball). Other high school courses offered were English, Latin, science, and home economics, plus music classes for all grades. The initial enrollment was 145 students, with a third of those in either first or second grade. The first graduating class in the summer of 1929 consisted of four students.



Since many of the teachers were young, single non-local women, the home economics outbuilding from the Pennock School was renovated to provide a “teacherage” i.e. a dormitory for the teachers. It’s unclear if the building remained on the old school grounds or if it was moved to the new school. The new school also finally saw some stability in the faculty, with several teachers working at the school through most of the 1930s. Among them was Elizabeth Malcomb, who married Jupiter native Neil DuBois in 1932. Coincidentally, Neil’s mother had met his father when she taught at Jupiter more than three decades earlier.

Jupiter High School
Girls Basketball Team, 1927-1928.
(Carlin Collection)

Back Row (L-R): Coach Browning,
Naomi Rood, Grace Wilson,
Clara Hamm?, unidentified.
Middle: Aardis Lanier, Lucy Savage,
Bertha Seabrook.
Front: Felicia Tomasello and
Dorothy Jackson

The Loxahatchee Drive School continued

If you think standardized testing is a new fad, think again. News of the school’s opening was accompanied in the *Palm Beach Post* by assurances that “a strenuous effort will be made to measure our school and the students in comparison to the schools throughout the United States by means of Standardized Educational and Intelligence Tests.”

The Loxahatchee Drive School did not originally have a cafeteria, but some enterprising recent graduates of the previous Jupiter school saw this as an opportunity. Shirley Pennock and Casilda Tomasello opened The Campus Shop across Loxahatchee Drive from the school. They began selling sandwiches and cold drinks at lunchtime. They intended to construct a building where they would also offer hot meals during cooler months, but the business apparently did not succeed.

Melton Marcus Greene served the Loxahatchee Drive School Principal for eight years – by far the longest of anyone at a Jupiter White school prior to 1965. Greene originally came to the Loxahatchee Drive School for the 1928-1929 school year, but only served about a month as a teacher and athletic director before being transferred to Palm Beach High School to fill a sudden vacancy there. Greene returned as principal and athletic director for the 1929-1930 school year and would remain in that position through 1936-1937. Greene not only coached the baseball and basketball teams, but also Jupiter’s first, short-lived high school football team in the early 1930s. His wife, Sadie Bozeman Greene, was an occasional substitute teacher and likely a distant cousin of the Bozeman family of Jupiter.

When Herbert Wilkinson started teaching at the Loxahatchee Drive School in 1931 he was the only male faculty member other than Principal Greene. He was also one of the very few teachers at an all-White Jupiter school during this era that was a local resident prior to working at the school. After a decade as a teacher Wilkinson was promoted to principal for the 1941-1942 school year. He would have returned for a second year had he not taken a leave of absence for war work during World War II.

Loxahatchee Drive School Principals	
1927-1929	Samuel C. Haddock
1929-1937	Melton M. Greene
1937-1939	Claude F. Bridges
1939-1941	Josh A. Permenter
1941-1942	Herbert J. Wilkinson Jr.
1942-1943	Donald Stewart
1943-1945	Clifford M. Redding

Jupiter’s population declined during the Great Depression. The school probably never had more than 8 graduates in a single school year. By the 1940-1941 school year, Jupiter’s student body had dropped to 66. This was not only less than half of what it had been when the school opened, but also fewer students than attended the Pennock School most years. World War II did little to increase attendance, mostly from the handful of married radiomen at Station J (Naval Radio Station Jupiter, next to the lighthouse). Few servicemen at Camp Murphy lived in Jupiter.

After the 1944-1945 school year, Jupiter stopped offering high school courses entirely. At that point the future of the school was uncertain.

Jupiter Rosenwald School (1928-1945)

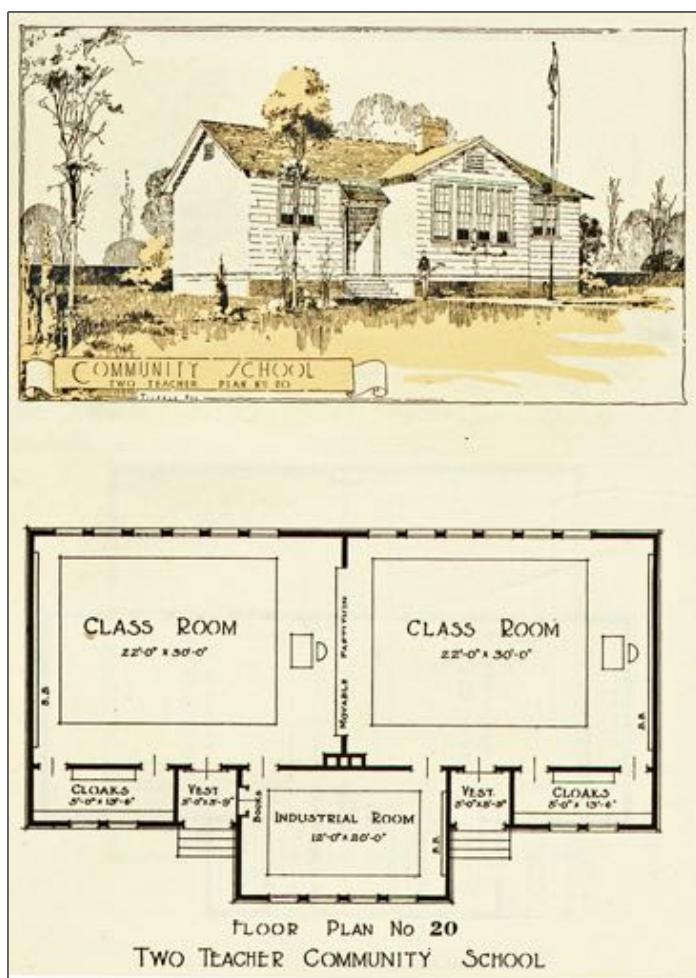
While Jupiter's White residents enjoyed their new, sturdy, two-story school in 1927, its Black residents remained stuck with a two-room wooden building that needed replacement. Then in September 1928, disaster struck. The infamous category four Okeechobee Hurricane wreaked havoc in Jupiter. Many African Americans sought refuge in the school building, thinking it sturdier than their modest homes; it was not. The Davis-Roundtree School collapsed during the storm, killing at least three people in the process. It's unclear if or where classes were held for Jupiter's Black students between the hurricane and the construction of a new school.

In the wake of the devastation, many Black residents fled to the White school. The Loxahatchee Drive School would not be desegregated as an educational institution until the 1960s, but for a short time in September 1928 it was an impromptu shelter and Red Cross aid distribution site for both White and Black residents.

With so many Black schools damaged or destroyed by the 1928 hurricane and the entire state sinking into the Great Depression ahead of the rest of the country, the Palm Beach County Board of Public Instruction faced a major challenge. Relief came from the Julius Rosenwald Fund. Rosenwald was head of the Sears & Roebuck

Company and one of his major philanthropic causes was improving education for African Americans. Over 5,000 Black schools were built using matching funds and standardized designs provided by the Rosenwald Fund, including one in West Jupiter.

Black homesteader L. M. Davis donated another acre of his homestead to expand the existing school site. The new building featured two classrooms, with a partition that could be opened between them for events or large meetings, plus a multi-purpose "industrial room." The 1929 school cost \$4,238 - less than 3% of its White counterpart. \$500 came from the Rosenwald Fund along with \$2,938 from the county government and \$800 donated by local residents. The J. W. Austin Company got the construction contract. Six other Rosenwald schools were built in Palm Beach County in 1929 by another company.



Stock plans for the type of Rosenwald school built at West Jupiter in 1929.

(Courtesy of the [Rosenwald Schools of Palm Beach County](http://www.rosenwaldschools.org) website)

Jupiter Rosenwald School

continued



The Jupiter Rosenwald School under construction. This is the only known photo of the school.
(Courtesy of the Fisk University Rosenwald Schools database)

The new school building still did not provide classes past 6th grade. Due to segregation, the nearest Black high school was in West Palm Beach. During the 1930s, L. M. Davis drove a community-built school bus over 20 miles each way, transporting African American students from Jupiter to Industrial High School. He was succeeded by his son, Lonnie, then by neighbor James Caves.

Beginning in 1940, the school was once again reduced from two teachers to just one. By comparison, Jupiter’s White population on the 1940 census was three times greater than the Black population, yet the White school had seven teachers to the Black school’s one.

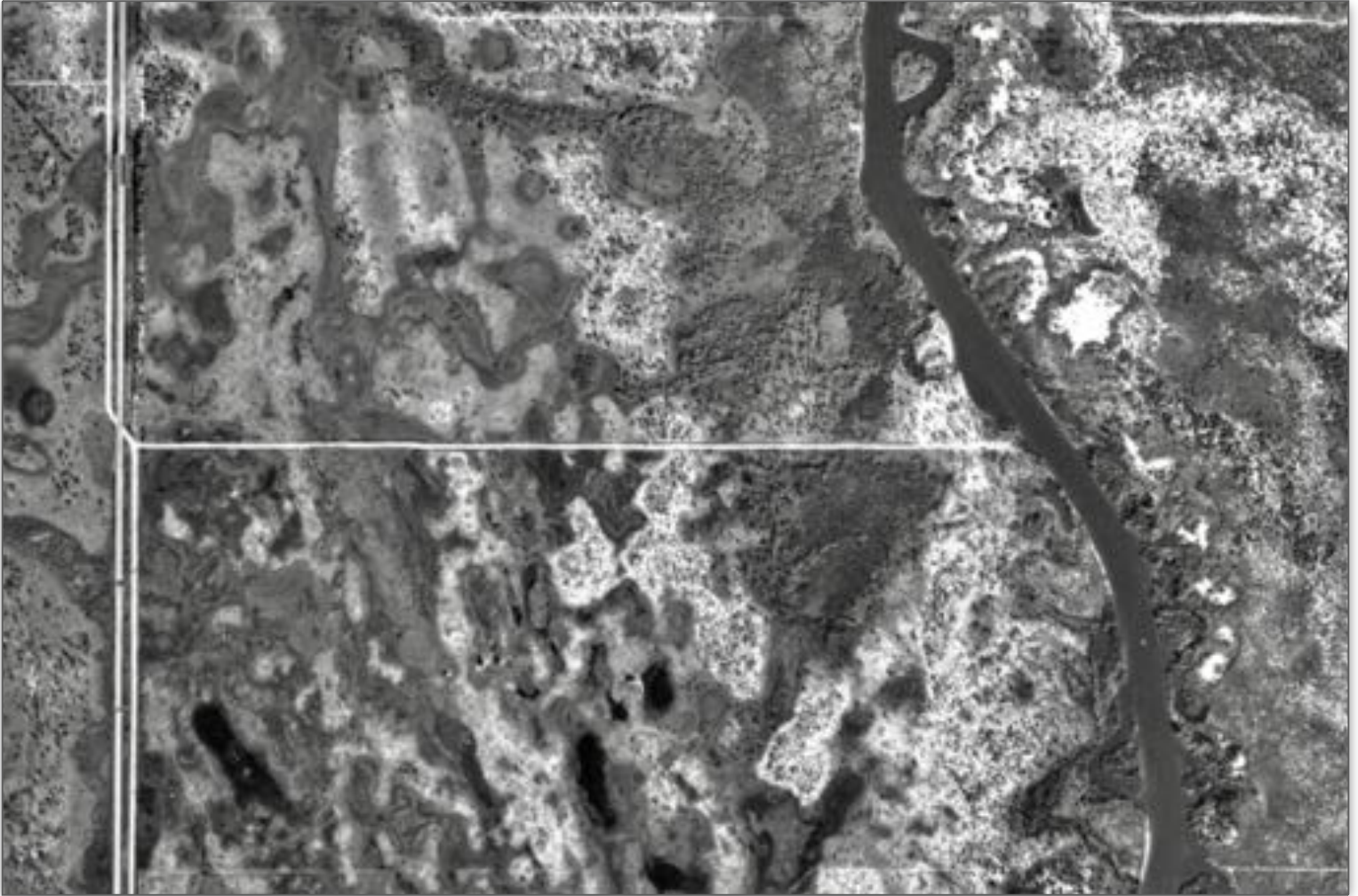
The Jupiter Rosenwald School bore the same official name as its predecessor: “Jupiter Colored School.” However, it would later be renamed in honor of L. M. Davis.

Jupiter Rosenwald School Teachers, 1928-1945

1928-1930	Elmira Waldron Ashley	1936-1937	Portia H. Mallard & unknown
1930-1931	unknown	1937-1938	Portia H. Mallard & Gertrude Walker
1931-1933	Annie Hogan Brewer & unknown	1938-1939	Mercedes Powell Patrick & Elnora Speed
1933-1934	Annie Hogan Brewer & Ella Louise Sealey	1939-1940	Mercedes Powell Patrick & Valerie Williams
1934-1935	Annie Hogan Brewer & Ruby Brooks	1940-1943	Elmira Waldron Ashley
1935-1936	Annie Hogan Brewer & unknown	1943-1954	Valerie Williams Sanchez

If you can fill in any of the blanks or have photos, artifacts, or memories related to any of the schools in Jupiter’s African American community, please contact LRHS Historian Josh Liller to help us preserve and share local history.

Frederick Small: A Road with Forgotten History



Frederick Small Road as it appeared in 1953. Old Dixie Highway and FEC Railway on the left. Intracoastal Waterway on the right. The camp is the cleared area at the east (right) end of the road.
(Department of Agriculture photo courtesy of the University of Florida Digital Collection)

Frederick Small Road in southern Jupiter is not the original road to bear that name. The road's namesake represents an obscure part of both local African American history and also the Jupiter-Tequesta area's long history with scouting.

In the 1930s, Nathaniel J. "Nat" Adams became the first Black executive in the Gulf Stream Council. This local branch of the Boy Scouts of America had been chartered by Whites in 1914 to serve a seven-county area of southeast Florida. Boy Scout troops were segregated during this time. Nat Adams worked hard to provide funding for uniforms and activities, but most of all he

Frederick Small Road continued

wanted a camp for the Black scout troops who were denied use of the White camp at Lake Osborne.

In the 1940s, Adams made connections with Palm Beach Island philanthropists. Frederick M. Small was especially sympathetic to Adams' cause. Small was president of the Martin-Parry Corporation, an automobile company in York, PA. If Adams found a good location for a camp, Small offered to buy the property outright and donate it to the Gulf Stream Council. True to his word, Small conveyed a 55-acre tract on the Intracoastal Waterway in April 1945.

Work on the camp rapidly got underway. It included two tent campgrounds, cabins, dining hall with a seating capacity of 100, and a launching area for canoes and rowboats. As of 1945 there were about 600 African American Boy Scouts in the Gulf Stream Council's region. To reach the camp a one-mile sand road was built due east from where Old Dixie Highway crossed the FEC Railway. The camp and road were both named in honor of Frederick Small.

In 1953, the Florida Park Service conveyed 640 acres from Jonathan Dickinson State Park to the Gulf Stream Council. This became Tanah Keeta, which remains an active Boy Scout camp today. Once Tanah Keeta integrated (date unknown), Camp Frederick Small became superfluous and closed. In 1970, the property was sold to John D. MacArthur for \$370,000 – vastly more than the original purchase price. The funds were used to improve Tanah Keeta.

The development of Admiral's Cove in the 1980s wiped out all traces of Camp Frederick Small. It also eliminated the original Frederick Small Road. The present road bearing that name was built along the south border of Admiral's Cove as a replacement. The main entrance to Admiral's Cove is in approximately the same location as the start of the old road. By that time the railroad crossing was gone too, having been rendered unnecessary by the construction of Alternate A1A up the east side of the railroad.

Details of the Camp Frederick Small's operations are scarce and LRHS is unaware of any photos. Please contact LRHS Historian Josh Liller if you have any information about this camp, including memories of having attended it.

Chronology of the Loxahatchee River Historical Society

Nov 2, 1970	First meeting held to discuss forming a historical society for the Jupiter-Tequesta area.
Mar 1, 1971	Loxahatchee Historical Society chosen as the organization's name.
Jan 27, 1972	Loxahatchee Historical Society incorporated as a non-profit organization.
June 2, 1973	Oil House Museum opened at Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse.
Aug 15, 1977	DuBois Pioneer Home Museum opened in DuBois Park.
Mar 27, 1988	Loxahatchee Historical Museum opened in Burt Reynolds Park.
1993	Majority of the Bessie Wilson DuBois Collection donated to LRHS.
July 1994	Lease signed with the Coast Guard for the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse.
Dec 1994	Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse guided tours began.
1997	1892 Tindall House donated by Anna Minear and moved to Burt Reynolds Park.
1999-2000	Major restoration of Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and Oil House.
2001	Pathway to History engraved bricks dedicated at Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse.
Apr 2002	Organization renamed the Loxahatchee River Historical Society (LRHS).
Sep 2004	Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne severely damaged the Loxahatchee River Historical Museum and also impacted Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse.
Dec 2006	Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum dedicated. LRHS begins use of the entire restored Barracks at Lighthouse Park (originally Navy Married Mens' Quarters in World War II).
2007	Tindall House moved to Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum.
May 8, 2008	Congressional legislation establishing Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area signed into law. This was the result of a campaign led by LRHS.
2008-2010	Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum facilities expand with the restoration of the Tindall House, planting of the native tropical hammock, the restored Pennock Plantation bell being placed on display, and the construction of the Seminole chickee.
2009	Carlin Family Collection donated to LRHS.
2010	Restoration of the Keepers' Workshop. Construction of the lighthouse deck under the ficus tree, following a major archaeological dig. Lighthouse repainted.
2018	"Tour Your Way" begins at Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse; guided tours become optional.
2019	Gladwin Family Collection donated to LRHS. Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse repainted.

More LRHS history will be covered in the other three issues this year.

LRHS 50th Anniversary

On January 27, 2022 the Loxahatchee River Historical Society gathered its volunteers, staff, board, and a small group of VIPs to celebrate the 50th anniversary of organization's incorporation as a non-profit. Unfortunately, the pandemic precluded a larger event.

Commissioner Maria Marino presented a proclamation issued by the Palm Beach County Commission recognizing the event. Mayor Daniel Comerford also presented a proclamation on behalf of the Town of Jupiter Inlet Colony. Ethel Gravett, LRHS founder, spoke about some of her experiences in the organization's early days. Historian Josh Liller shared some highlights from research in the society's history. President/CEO Jamie Stuve spoke about how far the historical society has come over 50 years and thanked all those who have helped make that possible, especially during the 20 years she has been the organization's chief executive.



LRHS President Jamie Stuve, County Commissioner Maria Marino, and
LRHS Board Chair Dr. Robin Sykes.
Photos by Flashy Mama Photography.

LRHS 50 Anniversary continued



Three volunteers who have made major contributions to LRHS over the last 50 years. L-R: William S. "Bill" Wood, Evelyn Bates, and Ethel Gravett.

Bill was the historical society's first legal counsel (1971-1982) and filed the nonprofit incorporation paperwork. He was also Board Chair 2011-2013. Bill and his wife, Judie, have been docents for almost 28 years.

Evelyn has been a volunteer for 29 years. She was one of the first lighthouse tour docents, the first sunset tour guide, and has been "The Brick Lady" chairing the Pathway to History engraved bricks project since its inception in 2001.

Ethel Gravett is the founder of the Loxahatchee River Historical Society, having spearheaded its

creation in 1970-1971. She was a charter board member and served on and off until 2015, including Board President 1973-1979. Ethel has volunteered in numerous roles over 50 years. Among these were co-chairing the first SeaFare, organizing and leading the Jonathan Dickinson Tricentennial Walk from Jupiter to St. Augustine, and living history portraying pioneer Mary Carlin.

The current LRHS staff.

Back Row (L-R): Josh Liller, Historian & Collections Manager; Katrina Heller, Operations Manager; Kelsey Cote, Assistant Operations Manager & Social Media Specialist; Hannah Lundell, Education Curator; Jamie Stuve, President/CEO. Front Row: Kathleen Glover, Marketing & Public Relations Director; Joe Martino, Maintenance Chief; Lisa Ridgway, Administrative Assistant; Jessica McGraw, Development Assistant; Jim St. Pierre, Maintenance Assistant. Not pictured: Steven Morales, Volunteer Coordinator.

Josh, Kelsey, Jamie, Jim, and Stephen started with LRHS as volunteers. Katrina and Joe have been staff members since 2015, Josh since 2014, Kathleen and Lisa since 2005, and Jamie since 2001.



Collection Donation Highlights 2021

Some collections donations were covered in last years' issues of this newsletter. Here are some items we didn't have the opportunity to acknowledge:

- Masks and other items related to the COVID-19 pandemic (collected by LRHS staff)
- Lighthouse history books and Harbour Lights lighthouse models (Elizabeth Broach, John Criddle, and the Estate of Robert A. Knight)
- 24 letters written by Cpl. Robert Hughes while stationed at Camp Murphy in 1943
- Newspaper clippings and photos related to the Jonathan Dickinson State Park wildfire of 1971 (Richard E. Roberts)
- Painted decorative ceramic tiles featuring Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse
- Celebrate Our History on Success (Pratt & Whitney 40th anniversary booklet)
- Oversize mounted photo showing Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, the US1 bridge, and the construction of Jupiter Cove in 1982 (Jo Ann Jacobsen)
- Hand bell from the 1872 Victor shipwreck and additional photos for the Bessie Wilson DuBois Collection (Lisa Thayer Jefferson, Bessie's granddaughter)
- Jupiter High School band uniform and megaphone (Sparger Family)
- Jupiter area archaeological artifacts (transfer from the Archaeological & Historical Conservancy)
- Photos of Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse by David F. Butler (Hillsboro Lighthouse Preservation Society)
- Loxahatchee River environmental studies and color photo slides (Fred Van Vonno Collection; transfer from the Loxahatchee River District)
- Mantel clock, model surfboat, and Pennock Plantation map (Eric Lowenhaupt)
- Precontact sand-tempered clay cooking pot (John Canada)
- Paintings of local bridges by local artists (Eva Lou Swenson)
- USS Oregon Pacific American Expo Medal (Paul Gaumer)
The battleship Oregon famously visited Jupiter Inlet in 1898 during the Spanish-American War.
- Framed Loxahatchee River photo by Kevin Boldenow (Sue Yorke)
- 1960s scrapbooks from St. Jude's Catholic Church of Tequesta (Judy Wehage)

Collection Donation Highlights 2021 continued

LRHS strives not only to collect local historical items, but also preserve them. Pictured is one of the St. Jude's Catholic Church scrapbooks as we received it. The scrapbooks had numerous issues stemming from non-archival material and improper storage, including rusty metal and deteriorated plastic. Staff performed emergency conservation work to transfer photographs and letters to archival-safe pages or sleeves and photocopy newspaper clippings. Fortunately, the scrapbook was well-labeled and in chronological order. Captions were added to the photo backs in pencil and they were numbered to maintain their original order. These scrapbooks provide a look at the early history of the first Catholic church in the Jupiter-Tequesta area.



Keeper's Update

Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum is currently open Tuesday-Sunday. Admission is sold 10 AM to 4 PM each day, with the site and Gift Shop closing at 5 PM. We will be closed Easter Sunday, April 17.

Guided tours have resumed! Enjoy a docent-led tour of our site's history weekdays at 12 PM and 2 PM. This optional tour is included with regular admission. Check our online calendar of events and monthly member e-newsletter for additional special tours and programs.

Our museum permanent exhibit "Five Thousand Years on the Loxahatchee" has closed and we have removed the artifacts to protect them against any impacts from the US Highway 1 bridge replacement project. Our Gift Shop, Admissions, and Offices will relocate to temporary facilities in the former CGX parking lot in the near future due to further preparations for the bridge project. The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse, Keepers' Workshop, Tindall House, observation pier, and historic corridor grounds will remain open throughout the multi-year project.

You may notice some nights that the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse is not sending out its familiar beams. The rare, historic first-order Fresnel lens will be secured whenever demolition, piledriving, or other bridge work presents any risk to the lens and its 397 glass prisms. In the meantime, the US Coast Guard has placed a temporary modern LED beacon on the lantern gallery with the same characteristic (flash pattern) as the Fresnel lens so that the lighthouse can remain an active public aid to navigation. We look forward to the lens returning to full operation when the bridge project permits. As noted above, the lighthouse remains open for visitor climbing, including sunset and moonrise tours.

Our 8th annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival took place on Saturday April 9, in-person and online. The in-person event sold out. Mark your calendars for next year's event on April 8, 2023.

Stay connected with us through your social media outlet of choice:

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<https://twitter.com/JupiterLH>

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