

Loxahatchee River Historical Society Quarterly

Volume I, Number 2

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

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With A Little Help From Our Friends

Historical research is a collaborative effort. Sometimes our fellow historical societies, lighthouses, and independent historians share their discoveries which prove just as important as donations from local residents. Here are a few examples.

During his research for An (Almost) Complete History of Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse, Ralph Krugler recognized the importance of two letters in the National Archives that referred to a Fresnel lens formerly used at Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse. These letters, which did not have corresponding copies in Jupiter's file, helped solve a longstanding mystery about our original Fresnel lens.



Ralph also shared a photo scanned from the Coast Guard Historian's Office. Although labeled as Hillsboro Inlet Lighthouse and filed under that lighthouse, the damaged bullseye lens in the background of the photo identifies it as being taken at Jupiter. This arrangement of three 250-watt bulbs was experimental when first used here in 1928. It was considered successful and subsequently used at other lighthouses, including Hillsboro Inlet. A CG2P bulb changer replaced this arrangement in 1966 and remains in use today with two small 1000-watt incandescent bulbs – one active and one backup.

Another team effort can be seen on the cover of this issue. This photo was located by Bob Shanley in the digital collection of the J. Paul Getty Museum who correctly recognized it as an unnumbered and previously unknown Spencer Stereoview. Ginger Pederson did a great job colorizing the photo. The brief handwritten caption provided just enough information to cross-reference with research in the *Florida Star*

newspaper. This photo was taken in 1882 and shows Col. James N. Kreamer's survey party looking for potential Everglades drainage routes. Kreamer worked for Hamilton Disston who famously purchased four million acres of land from the State of Florida in 1881.

Robert E. Lee was long rumored to have surveyed the Jupiter Inlet area in 1849, but the truth of this could never be confirmed because Lee's report of the survey expedition had never been found. Rich Sanchez, President of the Egmont Key Alliance, was interested in this report as well because it was also thought to cover Egmont Key. Candace Clifford, the late great National Archives researcher, successfully found the report in the Army Corps of Engineers records. Knowing Jupiter's interest in the report, Sanchez kindly shared a copy with LRHS. The report finally answers the question in the negative: Lee's party was looking for potential military reservations, not lighthouse locations. They bypassed Jupiter Inlet because it was too shallow to admit their schooner.

Much thanks to all those over the years who have helped us learn more about our history!

Karen Marcus Receives Outstanding Stewardship Award

The Loxahatchee River Historical Society presented its annual Outstanding Stewardship Award to Karen Marcus at its 2nd Annual Luminary Luncheon on March 11.

Karen Marcus served 28 years (1984-2012) as County Commissioner for northern Palm Beach County. When she left office, the *Palm Beach Post* applauded her for leaving an “environmentalist legacy.” During her time in office, she supported numerous voter-approved bond issues to preserve public beach access and acquire vast undeveloped portions of the county, especially in and around Jupiter, for preservation as natural areas. Marcus worked to have Scripps Research Institute built in Abacoa instead of west of the Beeline Highway. Her support was instrumental in the creation of Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area in 2008.

After being term-limited out of her commissioner seat, Marcus co-founded Sustainable Palm Beach County, an organization whose mission is to “encourage sustainable solutions for the county’s long-term future so that our children and great-grandchildren will have the same opportunity to enjoy the Florida we love and cherish.” She has also served on the boards of the Jupiter Maltz Theater, Loggerhead Marinelife Center, Friends of MacArthur Beach State Park, and the Everglades Law Center.

Karen Marcus is the namesake of two areas of public land in northern Palm Beach County: a preserve between US Highway 1 and A1A, and a park on PGA Blvd.



LRHS President Jamie Stuve, Karen Marcus, and Charles Modica (Luminary Luncheon Honorary Chair)

Highlights From 160 Years of Jupiter Lighthouse History



The naval radio station, light station, and weather station in 1906.

In honor of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse's 160th birthday here are some highlights from the lighthouse's history. This includes new research discoveries made since our big 150th anniversary celebration.

New York maritime interests appealed to Congress in 1848 and 1850 for a lighthouse near Jupiter Inlet. They thought it important to have a major seacoast lighthouse between Cape Florida (Miami) and Cape Canaveral. When the new Lighthouse Board reviewed the situation in 1852, they agreed Jupiter Inlet was the area on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts with the greatest need for a lighthouse. Our lighthouse marks the northern end of the Florida Straits that funnel nearly all ship traffic between the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Coast. Southbound ships often pass only a few miles off the Florida East Coast to avoid the north-flowing Gulf Stream. Not only must they know their location to avoid reefs and shoals, but they also must avoid the easternmost point of Florida - Singer Island, just south of Jupiter.

Lt. George G. Meade, Engineer of the 7th Lighthouse District, selected the location for the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and created the original design. His successor, Lt. William F. Raynolds, improved

Highlights From 160 Years of History, continued from page 4

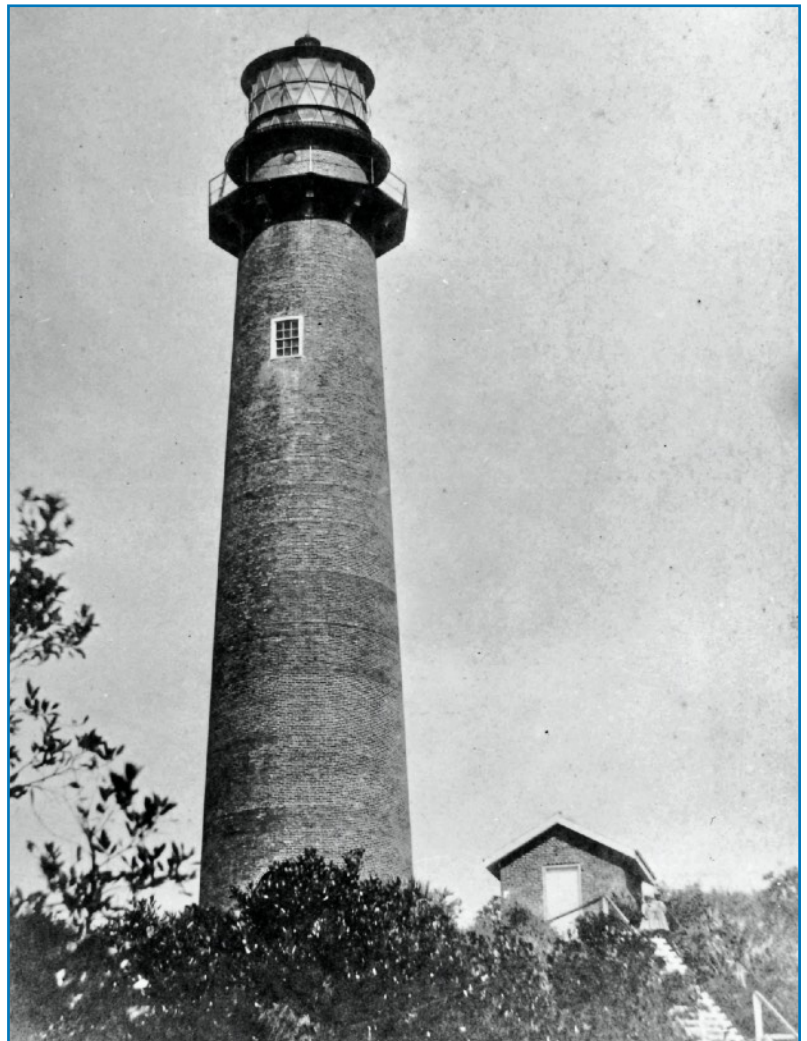
that design. As a Union general during the Civil War, Meade became famous for winning the Battle of Gettysburg. Reynolds led an important survey expedition to Yellowstone, but saw only limited Civil War service as a staff officer.

Construction of Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse was postponed because of the outbreak of the Third Seminole War in 1855. Capt. Edward A. Yorke supervised the construction when it restarted in early 1859. Work progressed very slowly and the lighthouse was only about 25% complete when the workers left that summer. Yorke returned with workers and supplies in January 1860 and was able to finish the lighthouse, oil house, and keepers' dwelling by May 1860.

Capt. Yorke was a civilian mariner who spent most of the 1850s working for the Lighthouse Service as a ship captain and construction supervisor. He was subsequently a merchant, steamship agent, and sugar plantation owner in Louisiana.

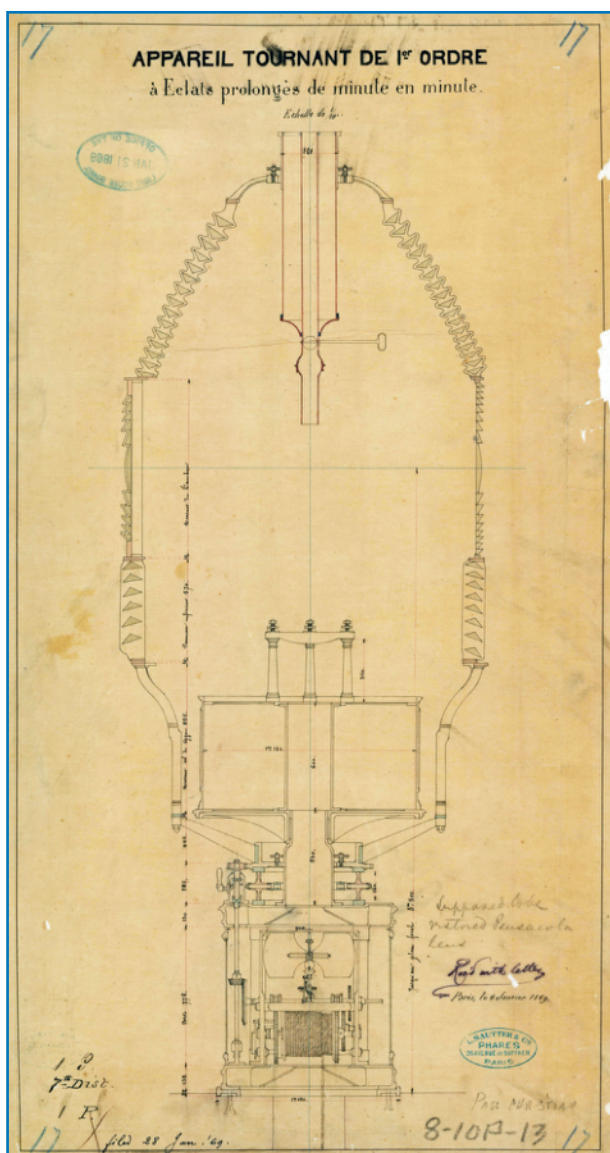
Jupiter's first lighthouse keeper, serving only temporarily, was Walter Wofkiel. The first appointed keeper was Dr. Thomas Turner of St. Augustine. For 160 years, his last name has been misspelled "Twiner" in lighthouse records, an error only recently discovered.

Confederate sympathizers chased off head keeper Joseph Papy and put the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse out of service on August 15, 1861. The Fresnel lens was not removed, but the lamps, oil and other critical supplies were removed and hidden along the Indian River. Union Navy blockade expeditions and Confederate blockade runners occasionally used the lighthouse as an observation platform. The lens suffered some damage during the war, either by malice or simply neglect.



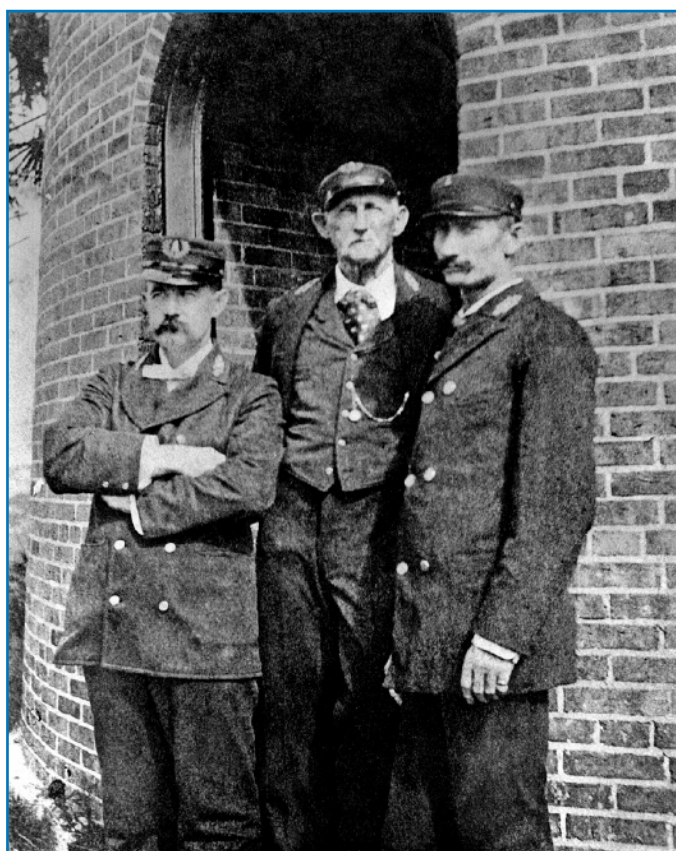
The lighthouse and oil house as they appeared in the 19th century, before the tower was painted. The banding on the tower is likely due to the bricks for the 1860 construction coming from several different sources.

Highlights From 160 Years of History, continued from page 5



Drawing of a first-order Fresnel lens very similar to Jupiter's current lens, including the clockwork mechanism and wheels that made it rotate. (National Archives)

In the summer of 1866, the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse was returned to service. As part of the repair work, the original Fresnel lens was replaced by a new first-order lens. The replacement lens, manufactured in France by the Henry-Lepaute Company, is now 1 of only 13 first-order Fresnel lenses still active in the United States. (At one time there were more than 60 nationwide, including 12 in Florida.)



Jupiter's lighthouse keepers in 1896. L-R: Thomas J. O'Brien, James Armour, Joe Wells.

Jupiter's longest-serving lighthouse keeper was James Armour who was here for 40 years. Seven of Armour's in-laws served as assistant keepers at different times and his successor was his son-in-law, Joseph Wells. The road into Lighthouse Park is named Captain Armour's Way in his honor.

One of Armour's assistants was Hannibal Pierce. Pierce is best known because of his son, Charlie, who wrote a memoir published as Pioneer Life In Southeast Florida. He is also the main character of "The Adventures of Charlie Pierce", an award-winning children's historical fiction series by Harvey Oyer.

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The second-longest serving lighthouse keeper was Charles Seabrook, from 1919 to 1946. He was also the first Coast Guard head keeper at Jupiter, enlisting in 1941. Nearly 200 civilian and military personnel served as lighthouse keepers or caretakers at Jupiter between 1860 and 1987.

The civilian Lighthouse Service merged with the US Coast Guard in 1939. Coast Guard personnel were assigned to the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse until 1987. Personnel from Coast Guard Station Lake Worth Inlet lived in the housing near the lighthouse until 2013.



The lighthouse in 1977 when it was pastel red. The keeper's workshop is in the center. (Coast Guard Historian's Office)

For the first several decades the ironwork at the top of Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse was painted red or brown. It has been painted black since about 1905. The granite brackets that support the gallery deck were painted black for most of the 20th century, but are now left unpainted. The tower's bricks were originally unpainted, but they have been painted red since around 1905. The Coast Guard switched the lighthouse from dark red to pastel red in 1973 and to fire engine red in 1985. The lighthouse returned to a dark red in 2000. The current paint is Keim Red, the same paint used by the Lighthouse Service. It is formulated to let the bricks "breathe" out moisture and salt.

Jupiter's oil house was built in 1860 and expanded in 1905. It is one of the oldest free-standing oil houses in the country. The lighthouse lamps originally burned whale oil then later used lard oil and kerosene. The lighthouse has used electric light bulbs since 1928.

The three lighthouse keepers at Jupiter originally shared a single house. Built in 1860, it was destroyed by a fire in 1927. The site is now marked by the large ficus tree and wooden deck. Other

Highlights From 160 Years of History, continued from page 7

dwelling for our lighthouse keepers were a head keeper's house (1883-1959) and a replacement duplex for the assistant keepers (1929-1979), both demolished by the Coast Guard. The two concrete block stucco houses east of the lighthouse were built in 1960 for Coast Guard lighthouse keepers.

From 1928 to at least 1987, a radio beacon was located near the lighthouse. Operated and maintained by the lighthouse keepers, it broadcast the Morse code letter "J" as an aid to navigation. This was part of a network of radio beacons on the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts plus the Great Lakes. Most were located at lighthouses or on lightships. The building that once held our radio beacon transmitters (and a backup generator for the radio beacon and lighthouse) is still standing and will be restored with an exhibit.



The newly built head keeper's dwelling in 1883. The 1860 assistant keepers' dwelling is undergoing repairs in the background.



One of the earliest color photos of the lighthouse. The lantern is surrounded by a screen to protect it from disoriented birds. The radio beacon antenna wire connects to the deck.

The Jupiter Lighthouse Reservation was established by an executive order in 1854. A survey in 1855 measured it as 61.5 acres in size. In 1922, a road was built across what was thought to be the northern border of the lighthouse reservation, with an accompanying bridge to Jupiter Island (now known as CR 707 / Beach Road and the Wood-Cato Bridge). However, it turned out this original survey was erroneous and a new survey found the reservation actually measured 122 acres (erosion and Intracoastal Waterway expansion have since shrunk it to less than 120 acres). For a variety of reasons, the federal government was never able to dispose of this "surplus property." In 2008, the Loxahatchee River Historical Society led a successful campaign to have the entire property Congressionally-designated as the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area, part of the Bureau of Land Management's National Conservation Lands system. This provides vital protection for the property. The Bureau of Land Management officially received ownership of the lighthouse in 2019.



The lighthouse reservation during World War II. Tequesta did not exist yet. (Coast Guard Historian's Office)

The nonprofit Loxahatchee River Historical Society (LRHS) incorporated in 1971 to preserve local history. LRHS opened the Oil House Museum in 1973 and steadfastly opposed any proposals to discontinue the lighthouse. In 1994, the historical society secured a lease with the Coast Guard to fully restore, operate and maintain the lighthouse. This has ensured the lighthouse remains preserved, active with its historic Fresnel lens, and open to visitors (pandemics notwithstanding). LRHS conducted a major lighthouse restoration in 1999-2000. Additional restoration and repainting occurred in 2005 (from hurricane damage), 2010, and 2019. LRHS preserves an extensive collection of photos, postcards, documents, interviews, and other material related to local history including the lighthouse, its keepers, and the military stations that have used the lighthouse reservation. LRHS' role as the modern keepers of the light continues under the Bureau of Land Management's ownership.

Epidemics in Jupiter

The coronavirus pandemic might have you wondering whether our area has ever experienced anything like this before.

The first serious disease outbreaks in the Loxahatchee River region would have occurred amongst the early Native Americans living here when Europeans first arrived. These relatively small populations of hunter-gatherers would have been especially susceptible to European diseases such as smallpox, measles, typhus, and cholera. We don't know what specific diseases affected the local Jobe ("hoe-bay") native peoples, only that they had died out by 1763.

The first clearly documented disease problems occurred locally during the Second and Third Seminole Wars when the US Army occupied Fort Jupiter. Soldiers stationed there suffered from what they dubbed "Jupiter Fever" - probably a form of malaria. Malaria and yellow fever are diseases spread by mosquitoes, but this was not understood until the 20th century.

During the American Civil War, a yellow fever outbreak forced the *USS James L. Davis* to abandon blockade duty off the Jupiter Inlet.

No yellow fever outbreaks occurred among our pioneers, but outbreaks in other parts of Florida caused a great deal of concern. Quarantine stations were established at all points of entry. Any vessels with sick individuals on board or that had come from an infected area would be required to wait as long as two weeks before being allowed to come ashore. Dade County (which included Jupiter at the time) followed this procedure in 1887 due to a yellow fever outbreak in Key West, with quarantine stations for Jupiter Inlet, Lake Worth Inlet, and Biscayne Bay (Miami). The county government was so small that ad-hoc local committees had to be formed to deal with the issue. A county Board of Health, chaired by Dr. Richard B. Potter, formed in time to deal with another outbreak the following year in Jacksonville. Fred S. Dewey, a notable West Palm Beach pioneer, served as Jupiter's quarantine officer in 1888. The *Florida Star* newspaper reported "Nobody here is scared, but [we] put on the quarantine as a precaution."

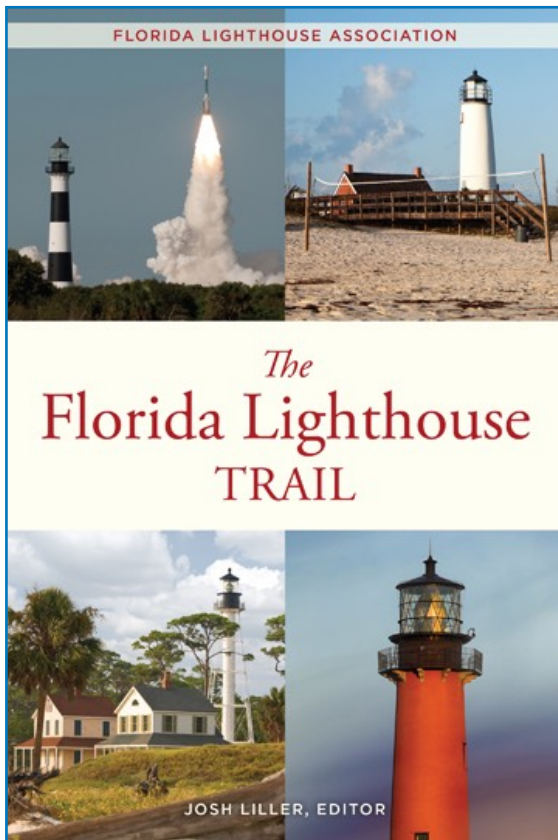
Jupiter seems to have gotten lucky during the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918-1919. Local historian Bessie Wilson DuBois, who was living here at the time, makes no mention of it in her various writings. All schools in Palm Beach County closed temporarily in October 1918. Jupiter and Hobe Sound were small agricultural communities of only a few hundred people each at the time so the largest impact may have been curtailing visits to West Palm Beach. It's unknown whether church services - held in the school at that time - were cancelled. The lighthouse was already closed to visitors during that period because of World War I.

In more recent times, Palm Beach and Martin Counties have seen cases of mosquito-borne diseases such as St. Louis encephalitis in 1990 and 1997, and Zika in 2016-2017. Fortunately those were very limited outbreaks and nothing comparable to Florida's 19th century yellow fever epidemics.

The Florida Lighthouse Trail Second Edition Now Available

The nonprofit Florida Lighthouse Association (FLA) was barely five years old when it produced the first edition of The Florida Lighthouse in 2001. Nineteen years later, the editor and many contributors to that first edition have passed away or are otherwise no longer active with FLA. Many lighthouses have been restored, relighted, and opened to the public during the last two decades. One lighthouse has been moved and another collapsed, only to be rebuilt stronger than ever. Not only have present conditions changed in the last two decades, but a great deal of new resources are available to lighthouse historians and much new research has been done.

The new second edition retains the same general layout as the first edition, with 45 individual chapters taking the readers around the coast from Amelia Island to the Dry Tortugas to Pensacola. Paul Bradley's beloved artwork once again illustrates each of the 45 lighthouses, past and present.



But don't let the framework fool you. The new edition of The Florida Lighthouse Trail represents a *substantial* update in content from its predecessor, with writing and editing performed by Josh Liller, Historian for the Loxahatchee River Historical Society and also FLA. Every single chapter has been updated and expanded. Several chapters saw extensive changes and a few were completely rewritten, including Jupiter's. Updates came from the staff at individual lighthouses and Neil Hurley (the other FLA Historian), but a great deal also came from research into newspaper and National Archives records sources now available online, especially thanks to the US Lighthouse Society.

In addition to the lighthouse chapters, the book features a new introduction giving an overview of Florida's lighthouse history and extensive appendices. These include a Glossary, information on the Life Saving Service in Florida, an extensive listing of every Fresnel lens known to have been used or exhibited in Florida, and a history of the Florida Lighthouse Association.

The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum gift shop will have the new edition in stock in the near future. Sales of the Florida Lighthouse Trail benefit FLA and, by purchasing through our Gift Shop, the sales also support Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse directly.

Happy Birthday, Brick Lady!



Evelyn McAviney Bates & Dianna Bates Nuquist

Wally and Evelyn Bates moved from Connecticut to Tequesta in 1969, and still live in the same house today. Wally spent 30 years as a Tequesta mailcarrier and volunteered with the North County First Aid Squad. Evelyn worked for the Lighthouse ArtCenter for 48 years as an administrative assistant and volunteer coordinator. The job taught her to love art so much that when the ArtCenter's School of Art opened she was one of the first instructors, teaching children's ceramics.

Evelyn began volunteering at the lighthouse in 1993. She was one of the earliest lighthouse tour guides, the first sunset tour docent, and "The Brick Lady" coordinating the *Pathway To History* engraved bricks program since it began in 1999. So of course when we announced our special 160th anniversary bricks Evelyn was the first person order one.

Her daughter, Dianna Nuquist, became a sunset tour docent in 2017, continuing the legacy.

"A volunteer is someone who dedicates themselves to a position," says Evelyn, "paid in knowledge, smiles, and gratitude."

In April, Evelyn celebrated her 90th birthday. A literal parade of friends and well-wishers passed by her home to celebrate while practicing appropriate social distancing.

Keeper's Update

The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum closed to the public on March 16 because of COVID-19. We reopened for Members on May 28-29 then to the public on May 30 with limited hours, facilities, and capacity. Please check our website www.jupiterlighthouse.org for the latest details before visiting.

While our facilities were closed, the Loxahatchee River Historical Society staff continued working to maintain the lighthouse, other historic structures, grounds, and collections. Staff has also created many online programs, including educational videos for fourth graders now being used by Palm Beach, Martin, Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Collier Counties!

You can subscribe to our new YouTube channel to see these interesting Charlie Pierce videos with author Harvey Oyer for yourself. Storytime for Kids is great for watching with young children, too:
<https://bit.ly/JILMYouTube>

With the loss of several months of high-season revenue in admissions and gift shop sales, community support is *more important than ever* to our non-profit historical society. Here are some ways you can help us and celebrate the 160th Lighthouse Anniversary at the same time:

Anniversary Membership Special: new and renewed memberships get an *extra three months free!* Donations and membership payments can be made through our website:
<https://www.jupiterlighthouse.org/join-give/membership>

Unique **160th Engraved Bricks** at the Lighthouse - now available for a limited time at \$160, instead of \$225 can be ordered here: <https://www.jupiterlighthouse.org/join-give/bricks-plaques/>

Visit our new **online Gift Shop** for mailed items or easy pickup, including the beautiful new edition of *Five Thousand Years on the Loxahatchee*: <https://jupiterlighthousestore.square.site/>

Stay connected with us through your social media outlet of choice:
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<https://twitter.com/JupiterLH>

Check out the view from the lighthouse webcam:
<https://www.jupiterlighthouse.org/live-camera/>

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