

# 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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Full Moon over Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse in April 2024.

# The Jupiter Wreck

Since the 19th century, local residents suspected there was an old shipwreck near the Jupiter Inlet. The children of longtime lighthouse keeper James Armour had found silver coins on the beach. In 1968, a group including historians Dr. Eugene Lyon and Bessie Wilson DuBois secured a state lease to search for the wreck, but they failed to find it – probably due to searching too far south. There were supposedly glimpses of underwater artifacts beneath the waves by others over the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but shifting sands and limited resources prevented anyone from definitively locating the elusive wreck, much less salvaging it.

On 13 Jul 1987, Palm Beach County lifeguard Peter Leo was out for his morning swim off Jupiter Beach Park when he spotted an anchor and then a cannon. He was excited by the discovery, but had no way to recover the finds. Peter turned to Dominic Anthony “Dom” Addario Jr., owner of Jupiter Hills Marina, whom he had met five years earlier at a local bar. By the end of the month they raised the cannon with a 20-ft barge and put it in an electrolysis bath at the marina. It became quickly apparent the cannon and anchor were part of a 17<sup>th</sup> century shipwreck. A professional archaeologist and a lot of financial backing were needed (Addario estimated at least a million dollars).

Leo had been in Florida since 1973. As a teenager, he’d lived on a cabin cruiser with his father and attended the Chapman School of Seamanship. He became a Palm Beach County lifeguard in 1977.

Addario had grown up in Massachusetts. After a few years teaching, he became a ship’s cook then a marina manager, moving to Tequesta in 1979.

The salvagers formed Jupiter Wreck, Inc. (JWI) on 6 Aug 1987. They also hired lawyer David Paul Horan, who had previously defended famous treasure hunter Mel Fisher. According to the incorporation meeting minutes, Leo was chosen as President, Addario as Vice President and Salvage Master, and Cecil McIver joined as Secretary-Treasurer. Earl Young and Dan Hedberg also joined as early partners.

Dominic Addario would later declare: “Our heritage should be treasured, not left on the bottom of the ocean forever.”



Dominic Addario shows the first recovered cannon to a group of Cub Scouts.  
(LRHS Bob Shanley Collection)

Addario got a U.S. Marshall to place the shipwreck in his temporary legal custody on July 26 (amended to JWI in September) to keep away other salvagers and treasure hunters. It didn’t take the State of Florida long to issue a restraining order, on the grounds that

## The Jupiter Wreck... continued

Jupiter Wreck, Inc. didn't yet have a salvage permit and, in any case, the location was part of a designated state shipwreck refuge. JWI petitioned for the issue to be heard by the District Court rather than the state courts. In July 1988, a federal judge ruled that Jupiter Wreck, Inc. could salvage the shipwreck, but had to reach an agreement with the State of Florida about conditions.

The group was lucky to make the find when they did. The Abandoned Shipwrecks Act was winding its way through Congress, and would be signed into law in April 1988. This legislation severely restricted shipwreck salvage.

Jupiter Wreck pledged early on to donate artifacts to the Loxahatchee (River) Historical Society, although at the time the organization was trying to get their new museum finished and could offer little assistance. The historical society did serve as a conduit for a professional surveyor, Jim O'Brien, to donate his services for the shipwreck site.

By Sep 1987, Jupiter Wreck salvors had found five cannons, two anchors, and enough dated silver coins to narrow it down to a Spanish vessel from the period 1652-1659. In November, the Jupiter Hospital Wellness Center hosted the first public viewing of shipwreck artifacts: coins, cannonballs, and a 78 lb silver bar.

On 11 May 1990, Jupiter Wreck, Inc. held a press conference at the Loxahatchee Historical Museum in Jupiter where they signed the agreement they had reached with the State of Florida. The State could take up to 20% of recovered artifacts, by value, and had first choice of any unique artifacts. The salvors got to keep the rest. The aforementioned silver bar was taken by the State, as were the two 4-lb gold bars found by diver John McSherry in 1991.

Not long after the press conference the cannon recovered in 1987 was placed on display at the museum, mounted on a replica gun carriage. Excepting temporary closures, the cannon has remained on display there ever since, under lease from the State of Florida to LRHS. Other notable artifacts long on exhibit are a large copper pot and a pewter powder shaker, both crushed by cannon landing on them.

Peter Leo struck up a friendship with Teddy Tucker, a Bermuda shipwreck hunter. Tucker leased his primary salvage vessel, *Miss Eula*, to JWI. Leo described the 39-ft steel-hulled vessel as "a beast of tug" that "served us well." It was not only used for the Jupiter wreck, but also taken to Miami in 1992 for towing and salvage work in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew.

JWI's first divvy with the State occurred in March 1991, with \$500,000 worth of treasure and artifacts recovered including over 1,000 coins.

Over the early years the identity of the shipwreck remained a mystery. Various suspected lost vessels included *Desario Antonio*, *San Francisco y San Antonio* (which research eventually determined had not wrecked after all but had belatedly reached Spain), and *San Francisco y San Diego*. Identification of the lost vessel as *San Miguel de Arcangel* was first suspected in 1991 and confirmed by further research in 1998. *San Miguel* wrecked at Jupiter Inlet in a nor'easter in December 1659. 33 survivors spent a month with the local Jobe people before Juan Sanchez de Ubiza arrived from St. Augustine with a rescue ship and took the survivors to Havana, Cuba. The Jobe burned the wrecked vessel to the waterline. Significantly, the shipwreck is an "aviso" – a smaller, faster courier/messenger ship – not one of the large, slow treasure galleons usually associated with Spanish shipwrecks in Florida waters.



## The Jupiter Wreck... continued

The wreck occurred just north of the natural Jupiter Inlet. However, the inlet was moved in 1922-1923 to its present location, resulting in the wreck now lying south of the inlet. Dredging between 1922 and 1987 undoubtedly disturbed some of the wreck site.

Dominic Addario became very focused on the shipwreck. He sold Jupiter Hills Marina and his houseboat for funding, and grew a beard which, along with his pet macaw, made him look like a classic pirate. In 1992 he was nominated for the Rolex Award, given by the watch company to recognize individuals who “overcame obstacles” and show a “spirit of enterprise linked with perseverance and originality.”

In 1991, Jupiter Wreck, Inc. struck a deal with Marex International to help with salvage equipment and

financing. Marex's *MRV Beacon* was a substantial improvement in search capability, but the following year the two companies had a falling out with each other over management differences and finances. JWI's salvage permit also lapsed, although it was later renewed. Contracts made in 1997 by JWI with Allen Gardiner and Wally & Michele Williams proved more amicable. Gardiner's *Ella Warley III* and the Williams' *Ocean Star* both worked the shipwreck site. In 2005, Addario launched his own research-salvage vessel, *MRV Enterprise*, a 60-foot aluminum catamaran.

By 1998, approximately 10,000 silver coins had been recovered, many of them in clumps and most with their features heavily worn. As of 2024, over 20,000 silver coins have been found, but very few gold coins. The legible coins all date from 1652-1659 from

five different Spanish mints: Potosi, Bolivia; Lima, Peru; Bogata and Cartegena, Columbia; and Mexico City. The coins were crucial in identifying the shipwreck. As with most saltwater shipwrecks, most clumps of coins and other artifacts were found encrusted with calcium carbonate.

Also in 1998, Bob Clargy and Ed Cooke used the barge *Hawg* to hoist five cannons and both anchors from the shipwreck. They were left in the water by the lighthouse dock for safekeeping, pending conservation. They were all subsequently transferred to State ownership. The Town of Jupiter agreed to split the



Moving the Jupiter Wreck cannons and anchor by the lighthouse dock. Left-Right: unidentified, Peter Leo, Dominic Addario, Earl Young, David Foster, Red Brennan. (Courtesy of David Foster)

## The Jupiter Wreck... continued

cost with the State to restore two cannons and one anchor for permanent display in Lighthouse Park, where they have been since 2003. Two other cannons from the wreck are on permanent display in Jupiter Beach Park and DuBois Park.

Peter Leo continued his career as a lifeguard, but became a minor local celebrity through his public talks about the shipwreck. Around 2007 he sold his stake in Jupiter Wreck, Inc. to Scott Thomson. Earl Young, JWI's other charter member with Peter and Dom, sold his JWI shares in 2022. Dominic Addario left the JWI board in 2012 and sold his last shares in the company in 2022. Dom and his wife, Yvonne, produced two books, [Treasure Diving with Captain Dom](#) and [A Guide to Responsible Underwater Exploration](#). Dom supplemented his salvage work by

being a public speaker at corporate events (through the Walters International Speaker's Bureau) and on cruise ships. Dominic passed away on 1 Oct 2023 at age 74, after a long battle with cancer.

David Foster, a maritime engineer and fellow treasure hunter, was one of those who later worked the *San Miguel* wreck with Dominic Addario. He recalls Dom as someone who "liked to play the role of a pirate" but was "very smart and absolutely passionate about the history of the wreck site and historic shipwreck archaeology. He loved telling the story and watching people's eyes light up when he would show them the fascinating treasures that were being recovered. He lived a rare and amazing adventure that most people only dream of."



Peter Leo with the outdoor shipwreck exhibit in Lighthouse Park. (LRHS James D. Snyder Collection)

*The main source for this article was the extensive newspaper coverage of the Jupiter Wreck, supplemented by other archival material. Thanks to the following for their review and comments: Tom Gidus, David Foster, Peter Leo, Yvonne Addario.*



# Edna Runner & The West Jupiter Community Group

Edna Mae Wallace Runner (1951-2023) was the daughter of Charles Wallace and Edna Rosa Williams Wallace. Following in the footsteps of many of the Limestone Creek community's pioneers, the Wallace family moved to Jupiter in 1955, when Charles found a good construction job here. The Wallace family originally lived near the north end of Limestone Creek Road, adjacent to where The Reserve subdivision is now. In 2001 interview, Edna praised her mother as a strong person who was always loving, supportive, and "made us feel special" – attributes Edna took to heart for the rest of her life.

The Wallace family arrived in Jupiter on the eve of the community beginning extensive changes. The agriculture-oriented local economy was coming to an end and substantial real estate development was getting underway. Edna also went through public school in the last decade of a divided public school system. She started at the segregated L. M. Davis Elementary School less than a quarter mile from her front door and graduated in 1969 from an integrated Jupiter High School. Edna would recall she tried to make friends with everyone, and joined practically every high school club. Many of her classmates would be drafted and sent to Vietnam; a few, including her older brother Charles Wallace Jr., would not come home alive.

Driven by the desire to help young people, Edna worked at a Riviera Beach daycare center until Thelma Pittman recruited her in 1971 for the Jupiter Pre-School (later renamed in Pittman's honor). She worked there until leaving in 1989 to teach at the new Limestone Creek Elementary School.

While teaching preschool, Edna Runner started an afterschool tutoring program at her home on 180<sup>th</sup>

Lane. The kids had to complete their homework before they could go outside and play in the adjacent field. The afterschool program clearly needed more resources than Edna could provide alone. County Commissioner Karen Marcus helped get a grant to fund the creation of the nonprofit West Jupiter Community Group (WJCG). The group started in 1986 with 2 employees and 25 students, meeting in the dining hall at the Jupiter Church of God.

In 1996, Edna Runner decided to leave her teaching position to become full-time Program Coordinator for the Community Group, which by then had a small building near the west end of Church Street. In 2001, she became Executive Director. A very religious woman, Edna felt directed by God to make the Tutorial Center her full-time mission.



Edna Runner with the sign for the West Jupiter Tutorial Center in 2010. (Richard Gravlich / Palm Beach Post)

The West Jupiter Community Group specifically worked with academically at-risk children. They originally enrolled all grades, but eventually dropped high school tutoring to focus on younger children. Edna's goal was not simply to help the children stay in school and get good grades, but also "on building

## Edna Runner... continued

a “total person” – responsibility, respect, empathy, safety, conflict resolution. Her compassion was legendary and she believed in “meeting people where they are,” but Edna could be forceful when necessary. She believed in teaching the importance of structure – not just to the children, but also to their parents when necessary.

Edna saw the center as a second home where children would feel safe and loved, and have someone listen to them. Edna also helped children from low-income families get clothing, shoes, food, and other necessities.

Travis Conway, Edna’s nephew and successor, summed up her goals thusly: “making you feel like you had a lot while you were here” and “helping people find their better selves.”

Edna Runner sought to open the children’s minds to opportunities and possibilities while ensuring they had practical life skills. A variety of professionals - from military veterans to lawyers to garbagemen - came to the Center to talk about their careers. The Center’s staff and volunteers not only helped with homework, but also taught home economics. Aided by a grant from the Impact of the Palm Beaches, the Center started a community garden. Children learned to plant, tend, harvest, and cook the crops; surplus was given to local families in need.

Roxann Rickenbach remembers her time as a teacher at Limestone Creek Elementary School. She was surprised by the extreme poverty some of her students had to deal with, especially the uncertainty of their next meal. Many students needed help beyond what school counselors could provide – help that, time and time again, came from reaching out to Edna Runner. Rickenbach also credits Runner with helping White teachers build trust and bond with their Black students.

Every year since 2000, the West Jupiter Community Group has given out Thanksgiving dinner baskets to families in need – 450 per year by 2017. The same year they also started hosting an annual Christmas party for community seniors, including taking them out to see local Christmas lights.

One holiday-related incident in particular illustrated how Edna always looked for the core of a problem and new ways to reach others. As Lori Houchin, a longtime supporter of the Edna Runner Center recalled:

Once around Christmas time, a gift was taken off Edna’s desk. Edna told the students that she was disappointed, but wanted the person who took it to come and talk to her. A couple of days later a child appeared at the door to her office. He explained that all the kids in his Limestone Creek Elementary class were bringing gifts in for the teacher. He didn’t have the money for a gift, but thought the gift on Edna’s desk might be just right for his teacher.

Instead of punishment, Edna was inspired to help this child and others enjoy the spirit of Christmas through giving by developing a new program at the Center, the Annual Shop-A-Thon. At the beginning of the school year, children could earn points for good behavior, honor roll, and being kind and helpful. In December, the children would cash their points in for gifts to give to their teacher and family. The Annual Shop-A-Thon is going strong today. [The gifts are donated for the program by Tutorial Center supporters.]

## Edna Runner... continued

By late 2003, the Tutorial Center had grown to a paid staff of 9 and about 20 volunteers with 65 students enrolled in the after-school program. However, the Center also had a waiting list and needed to grow. The much-needed expansion finally came in 2011, funded mostly by a grant from Palm Beach County Housing & Community Development and a large donation from Ed and Leah Frankel. Edna was stunned - not only by news of the donation, but also by the decision to honor her lifetime of work by naming the new facility the Edna W. Runner Tutorial Center: "I felt like I was in a wonderland."

The enlarged center was able to divide the students into rooms by grade for more personalized help, instead of having everyone in one large room. New computers were also added as a learning tool. The Tutorial Center was able to expand their summer camp and a seniors program. Another capital campaign in 2019 brought further growth and improvements. As of 2024, summer camps enrolled 125 children, and 110 were served by the after-school program.

Edna's warm smile and positivity were infectious and inspirational to those who met her. Her email signature carried the reminder "Do good every time it is possible." Her favorite parting words were "Love y'all." For all her professional accomplishments, Edna said her proudest accomplishment was her own children, especially that her three sons all went to college.

In 2023, at age 72 and after two and half decades at the Center that now bore her name, Edna Runner retired. A week before Thanksgiving, a grateful community honored her with a retirement party. But celebration turned to mourning when Edna unexpectedly passed away early the next morning.

"If anyone was ready to meet her maker, it was Edna," Lori Houchin reflected several months later.

"She lived her life for service to others and to honor God. I have never met anyone like her."

Travis Conway, Edna's nephew, came up through the center as a child. He was going to start a job with the Martin County School District when Runner persuaded him to take a temporary job at the Tutorial Center in 2012 while she was on medical leave; he never left. In 2017, Travis became Program Director, then Executive Director in 2023. Conway is proud not only of how the Edna Runner Tutorial Center continues to help the Limestone Creek community, but also how alumni take the lessons they learned to other communities around the state and around the country.

"This place has some kind of magic," said Travis. "Edna would say it was Jesus."



Edna Runner spoke at the 2019 dedication of Cinquez Park



# Bob Graham

Daniel Robert “Bob” Graham (1936-2024) served for 38 consecutive years as a state legislator, governor, and senator. Some of his political accomplishments were especially relevant for the Loxahatchee River region. In 1972, he sponsored the Florida Land and Water Management Act, which among other things created the Development of Regional Impact (DRI) process. DRI helped end several local real estate development proposals, including Hobe Sound Plantation next to Jonathan Dickinson State Park in the late 1980s and Loxahatchee Slough in the early 1990s. The Act also led to an Endangered Lands Inspection of the upper Loxahatchee River in 1975.



Dick Roberts, FPS District Biologist, paddles a canoe down the Loxahatchee River with Gov. Bob Graham. The paddle from Trapper Nelson’s camp to the Jonathan Dickinson State Park riverfront picnic area immediately preceded the National Wild & Scenic River dedication ceremony, allowing the Governor to see first hand the river he’d helped save. (LRHS Richard E. Roberts Collection)

As Governor, Graham initiated the 1983 Save The Everglades program. As Senator, he brokered the 2000 Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), a joint federal-state program. The Loxahatchee River is included in CERP because it is a historic outflow of the Everglades.

Gov. Graham was a proponent of protecting the Loxahatchee River. In 1984, he directed the Florida Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to prepare the first Loxahatchee River Management Plan. This plan was the last major step in having the Loxahatchee River Northwest Fork designated as Florida’s first National Wild & Scenic River. Gov. Graham personally attended the dedication ceremony on 14 Dec 1985.



Bessie Wilson DuBois, Jupiter historian and author of *The History of the Loxahatchee River*, shakes hands with Gov. Bob Graham at the river dedication ceremony. Dick Roberts, FPS District Biologist, looks on. (LRHS Bessie Wilson DuBois Collection)



Bill Lund, prominent river advocate, shakes hands with Gov. Bob Graham over the plaque recognizing the Loxahatchee River Northwest Fork as a National Wild & Scenic River. Assistant Secretary of the Interior Paul Smith (left) and Senator Doc Myers (center) look on. (LRHS Lund Collection)

# Mary Hinton

Mary Dulson (1946-2023) was born and raised in South Florida, first in Fort Lauderdale then in West Palm Beach. Her mother's family had deep roots in Florida, including the Curry family of Key West. Mary recalled the West Palm Beach of her youth as a "paradise" which was ruined by uncontrolled growth. Mary grew up less than a mile from her future husband, James Wiley Hinton IV (1943-2023), but they didn't meet for the first time until a party in their 20s. It was love at first sight; they married four months later.

Mary worked as a RN (registered nurse) at St. Mary's Hospital in West Palm Beach. She was the first RN hired by the new Jupiter Medical Center in 1975, which prompted a move to Jupiter. One of her first projects was moving nursing home patients from Salhaven to a new facility at the hospital – a particularly difficult task with the residents who had dementia.

In Jupiter, the Hintons originally lived in a duplex in Eastview Manor before buying the Turner House, a 1920s Sears house at the end of Turner Quay. Emily Carlin Turner had resided there until her death in 1977. The Hintons became well-acquainted with their neighbor (and Emily's son), William Carlin White. Mary considered Carlin to be a "strange little guy" but a "dear friend."

In 1977, Mary and James Hinton founded the Professional Child Care and Learning Center in Jupiter (later shortened to the Professional Learning Center). The preschool came about based on the recommendations of several pediatricians whom Mary knew through her work as a pediatric nurse. Dissatisfied with existing resources for teaching pre-K children and having some training in education, Mary wrote her own curriculum. Professional Learning Center was originally located on Hepburn Ave, later moving to the corner of Pennock Lane and Indiantown Road. (Today, those locations are Tiny Turtles Preschool and Jupiter Academy, respectively.) In 1982, Mary and James

also started a daycare program for employees at Good Samaritan Hospital.

Mary's first involvement with local government was serving on the Jupiter Planning & Zoning Board. When she went in front of the town council to get approval for opening Professional Learning Center, they originally rejected her request. Mary believed the public opposition was led by friends of another daycare center that didn't want competition. Incensed, Mary told Mayor Don Faucher she would take his job. She delivered on the promise, winning the election in 1980 after having, in her own words, "walked every section of the town" during her campaign.



Mary Hinton (driver's seat) and other local mayors during the annual Christmas parade in 1981 or 1982. (Tequesta Village Archives)

Mary Hinton served four consecutive terms as Mayor (1980-1988). She said she made "huge changes" right away and went on to accomplish everything she wanted to by the time she left office. Mary considered her two greatest accomplishments to be Jupiter Community Park on Island Way and the creation of a regional water system. When Jupiter built a reverse osmosis system, Mary insisted it be the largest in Florida at the time – large enough to accommodate future growth of the Jupiter-Tequesta area.



## Mary Hinton... continued

Hinton considered Jupiter's growth inevitable. She believed the density and building height restrictions passed during her time in office succeeded in controlling growth, but lamented how later town councils reduced some of these restrictions. Mary said she believed in denying any proposed development that didn't "benefit the town in some way."

Mary described her negotiating strategy thusly: "Get 'em where they don't want to talk to you anymore" and you'll get a good deal.

After leaving office in 1988, Mary declined an invitation to run for Congress. Instead, she became a "baby wrangler" - someone who specializes in working with child actors during filmmaking - for 12 years on Hollywood movies. Her first such film was "Look Who's Talking." She was originally recommended for the job through her friendship with Burt Reynolds.

In 1997, rising property taxes prompted the Hintons to move from Turner Quay to Tequesta Oaks. After retiring from Hollywood, Mary's final project was helping the organization Warriors Renewal Coalition. The group supports combat-wounded veterans and their families, assisting their recovery from the physical and mental trauma. As of 2023, the organization had helped over 1100 veterans.

Besides helping run Professional Learning Center, James Hinton worked for FPL then managed the Square Grouper bar in its early years.

Mary and James Hinton both passed away in the fall of 2023, ages 80 and 76, respectively.



Mayor Mary Hinton speaking at the 1981 site dedication for the Loxahatchee History Museum in what is now Burt Reynolds Park. Looking on are pioneers John and Bessie DuBois (left), pioneer and former Mayor Carlin White, and LRHS founder Ethel Gravett (right).

Another proud accomplishment was not directly related to government. In 1981, the Hintons and Assistant Town Clerk Sharon Wright started The Humane Society of Jupiter-Tequesta, the first animal shelter in the Jupiter area. The organization continues today as Furry Friends.

Hinton inherited Town Manager Cliff Burgess, whom she fired before the end of her first term. William Kiriloff was hired from Royal Palm Beach as the next Town Manager, but Mary found him unsatisfactory as well, leading to his resignation before the end of her second term. Griff Roberts was hired in early 1984 and would serve until 1991.

Much of the information for this article comes from an oral history interview conducted at Tequesta Village Hall by Josh Liller, Marcia Nielsen, and Pat Watkins on 10 July 2023, only a few months before Mary's death. Additional information comes from various articles in the *Palm Beach Post*.



# Richard Procyk

Richard J. Procyk (1925-2023) was born in Philadelphia. He briefly served in the Navy at the end of World War II before moving to Miami with his parents. He graduated from the University of Miami with a major in Public Administration and a minor in Anthropology.

For three decades, Richard worked as a Miami Beach police detective. A high point of his career was busting famous jewel thief Jack Roland Murphy aka "Murph the Surf." He eventually became head of the homicide division. However, he also had to deal with numerous crimes of a very ugly nature, including a string of cat killings and the 1979 fatal beating of his own father. Julius Procyk was viciously and senselessly attacked in own his front yard.

When not hunting criminals, Richard Procyk enjoyed visiting Meso-American sites, diving on shipwrecks, and volunteering on archaeological digs in the Miami area where he became acquainted with Robert S. "Bob" Carr, who was then the Dade County

Archaeologist and later the head of the Archaeological & Historical Conservancy (AHC).

Retiring to Jupiter in 1985, Procyk soon realized he had an archaeological site literally in his own back yard: the 1838 Tennessee Volunteers encampment (8PB6175) associated with Fort Jupiter.

Unfortunately, the construction of The Shores subdivision immediately west of Richard's house would soon destroy the site. Although unsuccessful in stopping the development, he did manage to get permission for an archaeological dig of the site. Bob Carr's AHC and local volunteers recovered what they could before bulldozers arrived.

Due to the lack of legal protection for sites like the Tennessee Volunteers Encampment, Procyk became an advocate for the creation of a Palm Beach County historical and archaeological preservation ordinance. After the ordinance passed, he served as charter member of the county Historical Resources Review Board (HRRB).



Archaeologist Joe Davis prepares a grid square at the Tennessee Volunteers Encampment Site. The lawn in the background shows how close the site was to an existing residential neighborhood. (LRHS Procyk Collection)

Procyk also became interested in the Loxahatchee Battlefield, especially after the encampment dig. Learning of the efforts of various amateur archaeologists searching along the river around and south of the Indiantown Road crossing, he became a tireless advocate for the battlefield's preservation. In 1999, he published the first edition of Guns Across The Loxahatchee, a history of the two Battles of the Loxahatchee and Fort Jupiter. Procyk organized annual battle commemoration events, led battlefield tours, helped found the Loxahatchee Battlefield Preservationists (LBP), and advocated for part of Riverbend Park to be officially named Loxahatchee River Battlefield Park. He would be pleased to know the battlefield was recently added to the National Register of Historic Places, less than six months after his passing.

## Richard Procyk... continued



Richard Procyk at a Loxahatchee Battlefield Preservationists meeting circa 2010. (Courtesy of Andrew Morris Foster)

Richard's work was recognized with the 2000 Judge James R. Knott Historical Contribution Award from the Historical Society of Palm Beach County and a 2010 Historic Preservation Medal from the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. In 2021, the Seminole Wars Foundation presented Richard Procyk with the Frank Laumer Legacy Award, recognizing his preservation and research work. Foundation President Steve Rinck likened him to the award's namesake, an author and tireless advocate for the Dade Battlefield.

While others worked quietly, Richard Procyk didn't hesitate to raise hell on behalf of the causes he championed. He openly butted heads with DiVosta over the Tennessee Volunteers Encampment and publicly criticized the county government's decisions on countless occasions. "He wasn't going to take no for an answer," recalled longtime County Commissioner Karen Marcus. But it was Bobbi, his wife of 48 years, who aptly summed Richard up in one word: "tenacious."

Procyk was active with the Loxahatchee River Historical Society. He volunteered with LRHS for two and half decades, including serving as summer camp instructor and one of the first lighthouse tour guides. He later served as interim Director of Collections and spent five years on the Board of Directors, with many more on the Advisory Board. LRHS recognized his volunteer contributions with the third-ever Bessie Wilson DuBois Award in 2005.



Richard Procyk as an early lighthouse tour guide in the mid-1990s.



# Loxahatchee Battlefield Searchers & Advocates

Besides Richard Procyk, many other avocational archaeologists and history buffs were interested in the 1838 Battles of the Loxahatchee, with multiple searches occurring in parallel. These amateur discoveries helped guide subsequent work by professional archaeologists. Who deserves credit for specific discoveries remains a point of contention. The following list is an effort to give acknowledgment to many people who played a part in identifying and preserving the battlefield.

## Kenneth Hughes

Over the years, various Pennock Point landowners and their friends recovered artifacts from Fort Jupiter. The US Army established the fort in 1838, immediately after the Second Battle of the Loxahatchee. Some artifacts were donated to LRHS while others undoubtedly remain in private hands.

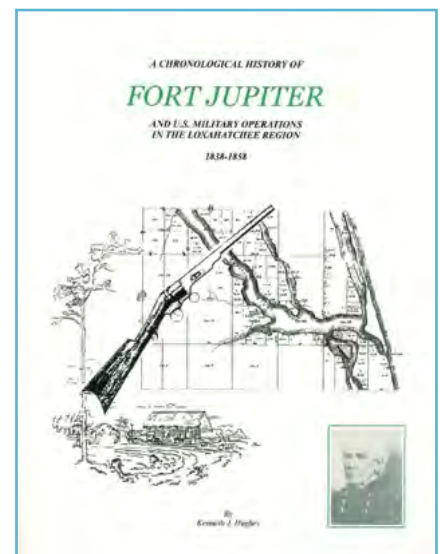
By far the most significant of these searchers was Ken Hughes. He researched and wrote [A Chronological History of Fort Jupiter and US Military Operations in the Loxahatchee Region, 1838-1858](#) (published 1992). This book was the result of the first extensive primary source research on the subject, and remains a vital reference on the Seminole Wars in the Jupiter area. Hughes stated he found evidence of the Loxahatchee Battlefield in 1978.

## John B. Wolf

Wolf worked as a National Park Service historian and then as a college history professor specializing in European history. He retired to Jupiter in 1975 and later volunteered with the Loxahatchee (River) Historical Society. In 1988, Wolf wrote [The Battle at the Loxahatchee River](#), a 32-page booklet published by LRHS. While not groundbreaking, it was the first publication ever focused on the Battles of the Loxahatchee and helped increase public interest in and awareness of the subject.

## William Jerald Kennedy & Scott P. Lewis

Kennedy and Lewis co-lead the 1991 Florida Atlantic University archaeological survey, assisted by Natileene Cassel and Jim Pepe. The survey resulted in a report titled "Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey of the SR 706 / Indiantown Road Realignment".



## Mike Daniel & Graham Huls

John B. Wolf's aforementioned booklet inspired Mike Daniel, a maritime consultant and salvager, to go looking for the battlefield. He enlisted the help of Graham Huls, a professional surveyor and longtime Jupiter Farms resident interested in history. Daniel and Huls explored the upper river and alerted the government to potential archaeological sites around the Indiantown Road crossing, leading to a professional archaeological survey by Florida Atlantic University in 1991.



## The Battlefield Searchers... continued

### Jeff Wittmann, Steve Carr, and Kevin Maranville

Jeff Wittmann was inspired by local historian Bessie Wilson DuBois to search for the Loxahatchee Battlefield. He was joined by his longtime friend Kevin Maranville and Steve Carr, whom Jeff met at a Civil War reenactment.

After fruitless searching in Jonathan Dickinson State Park, an aerial reconnaissance of the entire upper river corridor led to the realization of a short westward jog in the river south of Indiantown Road that matched an account of the battle. By 1991, they were confident they had found enough metal artifacts to positively identify the site of the battle. They contributed their knowledge to the professional archaeological survey conducted in 1994. They collected a large number of artifacts; some were given to the County while others remain in their private ownership, displayed at special events and intended for future donation to a local history museum.

Steve Carr (who is not related to Bob Carr of AHC) was a founding member of the Loxahatchee Battlefield Preservationists.



Bob Carr (left) and Steve Carr (right) discuss battlefield artifacts during the 1994 archaeological survey of Riverbed Park. (LRHS Courier Collection)

### Isa Hamm Bryant

Bryant was a Black Seminole who founded the Florida Black Historical Research Project and authored the booklet “We R Florida.” Steve Carr invited Bryant to join in the searches for the battlefield. Starting in 1993, Bryant and Richard Procyk led an annual remembrance ceremony at the battlefield a week before the battle’s anniversary. Bryant was a founding member of the Loxahatchee Battlefield Preservationists.

### Robert S. Carr

Bob Carr and his Archaeological & Historical Conservancy (AHC) team – Willard Steele, Jim Pepe, and Linda Spears Jester - conducted the professional archaeological survey of Riverbend Park in 1994 resulting in the report “An Archaeological & Historical Assessment of Riverbend Park.” The survey not only confirmed the location of the Loxahatchee Battlefield that had been deduced by amateur archaeologists, but also identified numerous Native American sites throughout the park – both Seminole villages and pre-contact peoples (Jobe/Jaega and their ancestors) – and what remained of the park’s agricultural era from the 20th century.

### Glenn Bakels

Longtime Palm Beach County firefighter Glenn Bakels answered a newspaper ad seeking volunteers to help with the archaeological dig at the Tennessee Volunteers Encampment in 1989. He’s been involved with local Seminole Wars history ever since, including a term as Board President for the Loxahatchee Battlefield Preservationists. In recent years he’s served as LBP’s liaison with the Seminoles.

# Lynn Drake

Along with her family, Lynn Lassetter Drake (1953-2024) moved to Jupiter in the late 1950s, originally living in Suni Sands. One of her early memories was playing in the abandoned Carlin House next door. She grew up in Jupiter and spent the rest of her life here. Many locals knew her as a bartender at Good Friends Pub, Brian's Place, and Uncle Mick's.

History was a great passion in Lynn's life. She was an active member of the local Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) chapter. She was an avid genealogist, both her own family tree and doing freelance work to help others learn about their ancestors. Lynn extensively researched the burials at Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church and the Jupiter Pioneer Cemetery (now part of Riverside Memorial Park). She compiled substantial genealogy databases of Jupiter's pioneer residents. Much of this work was done before modern online genealogy sites like Ancestry.com.

Lynn knew many of Jupiter's last pioneers, including her friend William Carlin White. The two co-authored a photographic history book, Images of America: Jupiter. She helped persuade Carlin to entrust LRHS as the forever home for his beloved Carlin Family Collection. Later, Lynn Drake co-authored A Place In My Heart: The Story of Jupiter's First Families with Marilyn Dexheimer Lawrence. From 2006 to 2010 Lynn wrote "Our Heritage Revisited," a series of history vignettes for a local publication, The Beacon.

Drake was particularly proud of helping preserve the history of the Limestone Creek community. Her work contributed to the LRHS community exhibit "Black Jupiter: Untold Stories" and historical markers for Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church & Cemetery and L.M. Davis Elementary School. She also served on the Town of Jupiter's History Web Committee and Historical Resources Board. Local newspapers often sought her for comment on stories related to local historic sites and individuals.

In 2007, Lynn's avocational work in the history field led to her being hired as Archivist for the Loxahatchee River Historical Society (LRHS). She called it "the dream of a lifetime." In that role, she helped create the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum's permanent exhibit, "Five Thousand Years on the Loxahatchee." She also found and restored an antique Hooser cabinet for display in the 1892 Tindall Pioneer House. Lynn started the process of cataloging LRHS



Lynn Drake at her home office and research center, circa 2002. (LRHS James D. Snyder Collection)

collections with Past Perfect software. When health issues necessitated her retirement in 2013 she was, at the time, the longest-served collections staff member in the organization's history.

Tragically, Lynn was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's when she was not yet 60. After more than a decade struggling with the condition, she passed away on 20 May 2024. We will never know how much history knowledge was lost with her.

Fortunately, Lynn Drake's legacy lives on. Her local genealogy databases continue to be maintained and updated by LRHS. They are available to anyone with an Ancestry.com account. Those without an account can reach out to LRHS Historian Josh Liller with questions. Her work transcribing and summarizing local relevant articles from the 1890s *Tropical Sun* newspaper inspired similar work with other historic Florida newspapers as they became available. The LRHS Drake Collection preserves many history books, historic photos and postcards, and other items Lynn collected in her lifetime.



Ashtray from Artie Sapp's Mexican Bamboo Bar (later Brian's Place). Found and donated by Lynn Drake.

# Keepers' Update

**Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum is open Tuesday-Sunday.** Admission is sold 10AM-4PM and the Gift Shop is open until 5PM. Access for daily admissions and all programs is through the former PX gate on the east side of the Lighthouse Park parking lot. Please plan for the summer heat during your lighthouse visit, and remember that the lighthouse and grounds close in inclement weather.

**The historic World War II Navy housing building on the waterfront is closed until further notice** due to the US 1 bridge project. Lighthouse Park, operated by the Town of Jupiter, remains open normally.

**Annual Closure:** The Lighthouse and grounds will be closed September 30 through October 7 for annual preservation work and staff planning.

**Summer Guided Tour Schedule:** Through the end of September, our *Five Thousand Years on the Loxahatchee* general history tour will be offered Tuesday-Friday at 12 PM. Specialty tours will continue normally at 1PM. **Tuesdays:** *Native Plants*. **Wednesday:** *Military History*. **Thursdays:** *Native American History*. **Fridays:** *Lighthouse Keepers*. General and specialty guided tours are free with daily admission. **Sunset Tours** on Wednesdays will be held every other week. All tours are weather permitting.

**Pathway to History:** After more than two decades, our engraved bricks program has come to an end. The more than 3,000 engraved bricks will remain in place in the pathway, but we are not able to accept any new orders. We thank everyone who supported us through this program.

**Twilight Yoga at the Light:** Starting in July, the weekly yoga class price will be \$10 for lighthouse members and \$15 for non-members. Mary Veal continues as yoga instructor.

**Staff Changes:** We are sorry to say goodbye to Olivia Gibbs (Visitor Services Supervisor) and Darby Brown (Education Manager).

**Site Changes:** Quarters 1 has been renovated by Bureau of Land Management contractors. Lighthouse and event visitors can now enjoy public restrooms on site. In addition, part of the building is now a multipurpose room for educational programs and wedding prep. Quarters 2, the other former Coast Guard single-family dwelling east of the lighthouse, has been demolished.

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## Newsletter Credits

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