

# REFLECTIONS

FROM CENTRAL FLORIDA



SPRING 2019  
VOL. 17 NO. 1

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF THE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

ISSN 1543-5423

*Handwritten signature and date:*  
H. Thomas  
Feb. 2019



*The Historical Society's mission is to serve as the gateway for community engagement, education, and inspiration by preserving and sharing Central Florida's continually unfolding story.*

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Lenny Bendo, President
- Hilary Marx, Vice President
- Suzanne Weinstein, Treasurer
- Brian Wetzell, Secretary
- Thomas A. Cloud, Legal Counsel
- Lauren Bloom
- Jody Burttram
- Ray Colado
- Frank H. Cover, Jr.
- D. Michael Driscoll
- Ashley Figueroa
- Shanon Larimer
- Kyle Shephard
- William "John" Slot

Michael Perkins  
Executive Director

Cover: Illustrator Thomas Thorspecken's artistic interpretation of Hiram Calder, based on descriptions in 1887 newspapers.

*Unless otherwise noted, all archival images in this issue are from the Historical Society's collection at the History Center.*



*Sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.*

The History Center is handicapped accessible with elevators on every floor.



**ONE SMALL STEP**

History is often defined by big events, and we often identify those occurrences as the moments when we as a nation, or as humanity, changed forever.

The 50th anniversary of one of these moments is upon us this year, as we commemorate the moon landing of Apollo 11 on July 20, 1969, less than ten years after President Kennedy challenged the nation to send a crew to the moon and return them safely to Earth.

Witnessed by approximately 500 million viewers, Neil Armstrong's first step on the moon was also the first shared televised experience for humanity. With a world population of 3.7 billion, this means that one in six people on Earth saw the event as it happened. Although I was old enough to have childhood memories of the landing, I'm envious of Central Floridians who were able to watch the launch of Apollo 11 from their backyards and remember it well.

It is interesting that this momentous event was capped by "one small step." While Neil Armstrong's step from the lunar module onto the moon's surface was the culmination of years of work by thousands of people, it is the moment in time that

is forever remembered. In reality, history is shaped through time by people doing sometimes ordinary, and sometimes extraordinary, things. In this way all of us, through our actions and shared experiences, shape and change the course of our nation, and of humanity.

We now know that the extraordinary team behind Armstrong's first step included African-American women whose mathematical skills helped make pioneering space flight possible. Their story is captured in the book and subsequent movie *Hidden Figures*. Much of this issue of *Reflections* concerns the varied lives of women who have called Central Florida home and women's role in shaping history. As we refurbish the History Center's permanent exhibits, we intend to uncover more stories like theirs, so that these stories can be told and appreciated by future generations.

I hope that you visit us soon, and discover some of the small steps taken by those before us that shaped the world we live in today.

*– Michael Perkins, Executive Director  
Historical Society of Central Florida, Inc.*



**IN THIS ISSUE**

<b>EPHEMERA.....</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>WHO WAS HIRAM CALDER?</b>	
<b>CONTRIBUTORS .....</b>	<b>4</b>	WHITNEY BROADAWAY.....	<b>15</b>
<b>THROUGH THE CAMERA LENS.....</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>MYSTERY HISTORY WOMEN</b>	
<b>MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE: EDUCATOR, ACTIVIST, AND BUSINESSWOMAN</b>		MELISSA PROCKO .....	<b>20</b>
WHITNEY BARRETT .....	<b>6</b>	<b>THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT THE HISTORY CENTER!</b>	
<b>THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA</b>		PAM SCHWARTZ .....	<b>22</b>
ANN PATTON.....	<b>11</b>	<b>HISTORIC HAPPENINGS .....</b>	<b>23</b>



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### FIRST FRIDAY LUNCH & LEARNS

**APRIL 5, MAY 3, JUNE 7, & JULY 5**

On the first Friday of each month at noon, History Center staff lead an interesting program about the museum, Central Florida history, and more. Members free; non-members \$5. With lunch: Members \$8; non-members \$13. Bring a lunch or let us order one for you by calling 407-836-7046 – lunch orders must be made at least 24 hours in advance.

### BRECHNER SPEAKER SERIES

Presented this year in partnership with the League of Women Voters of Orange County, Florida, this series honors the late Orlando journalist and freedom-of-information advocate Joseph L. Brechner. All programs take place from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Chapin Gallery on the fourth floor.

• **SUNDAY, MARCH 10**

**Making Modern Florida: How the Spirit of Reform Shaped a New Constitution, with Mary Adkins**

• **SUNDAY, APRIL 14**

**Warriors for Democracy: The Story of the Orange County League of Women Voters**



### CENTRAL FLORIDA HISTORY 101

Join museum director Michael Perkins on the third Friday of the month as he reviews the seminal events that shaped Central Florida history from the Civil War to the present. This four-part series will delve into the rich history of our area from long before the opening of Walt Disney World to today.

• **FRIDAY, MARCH 15**

**Recovery, Growth, and War (1900 to 1945), 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

• **FRIDAY, APRIL 19**

**Spaceships, Land Booms, and a Mouse (1950 to 1971), noon – 1 p.m.**

• **FRIDAY, MAY 17**

**Tourist Destination, International Community, and Big City Problems (1972 to present), noon – 1 p.m.**



### RETRO GAME NIGHT: COLLEGE EDITION

**FRIDAY, MARCH 29**

Represent your alma mater at this college-themed Retro Game Night. Play treasured games from the past and show off your skills at trivia. Enjoy free nostalgic snacks and a cash bar for those of age. The event is for ages 18 and up. College-themed attire is encouraged. Members free; non-members \$8.

**FOR MORE EVENTS, VISIT [THEHISTORYCENTER.ORG](http://THEHISTORYCENTER.ORG)**

*(All events are subject to change.)*

### 2019 SUNSCREENS FILM SERIES

• **SUNDAY, MAY 19**

**Cocoon (1985)**

When trespassing seniors in a St. Petersburg retirement community swim in a pool containing mysterious objects, they find themselves brimming with youthful vigor.

• **SUNDAY, JUNE 16**

**Easy to Love (1953)**

Esther Williams water skis and swims to Busby Berkeley's aquatic choreography at Florida's fabulous Cypress Gardens in its prime.

• **SUNDAY, JULY 21**

**First Man (2018)**

A look at the life of astronaut Neil Armstrong and how he became the first man to walk on the Moon.

• **SUNDAY, AUGUST 18**

**Where the Boys Are (1960)**

Four very different college girls drive to Fort Lauderdale for spring break and discover adventures and romance for themselves.

### HISTORY IN A GLASS SERIES

Local craft bartenders compete for bragging rights by creating libations linked to historical themes and artifacts.

• **THURSDAY, JUNE 27**

**Rocket Fuel**

• **THURSDAY, AUGUST 22**

**Take a Walk on the Wild Side**

• **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**

**Do the Queen Kumquat Sashay**

• **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12**

**Grand Finale: Yuletide Night Terrors**

### DON'T MISS

**FAMILY DAY: VINTAGE VACAY  
SATURDAY, MAY 4**

**HIGHWAYMEN MEET & GREET  
SATURDAY, JUNE 1**

# REFLECTIONS

FROM CENTRAL FLORIDA

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE  
OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, INC.

SPRING 2019 • VOL. 17, NO. 1

Publisher

**Historical Society of Central Florida**

Editor-in-Chief

**Michael J. Perkins**

Managing Editor

**Rick Kilby**

Senior Editor

**Joy Wallace Dickinson**

Associate Editor

**Whitney Broadaway**

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Chief Curator

**Pamela Schwartz**

Education Curator

**Amanda Parish Walters**

Curator of Collections

**Lesleyanne Drake**

To receive the latest *Reflections* by mail, email [Amanda.Henry@ocfl.net](mailto:Amanda.Henry@ocfl.net) to become a member. To contribute an article, email [rkilby@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rkilby@cfl.rr.com).

#### *Reflections from Central Florida*

The quarterly magazine of the Historical Society of Central Florida Inc. focuses on the Florida counties included within the History Center's reach: Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Volusia, Lake, Brevard, and Polk. The History Center is located at 65 East Central Blvd., Orlando, FL 32801. Visit our website at [thehistorycenter.org](http://thehistorycenter.org)

Design by Kilby Creative. Printing by Curtis 1000. Copyright © 2019 Historical Society of Central Florida, Inc. ISSN 1543-5423

The Orange County Regional History Center is financed in part by the county through its Community and Family Services Department under Mayor Jerry L. Demings and the Board of County Commissioners. The contents, views, and opinions of contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the publishers and editors, county or state officials, or any other agency. No part of this publication may be reproduced or distributed without permission in writing.

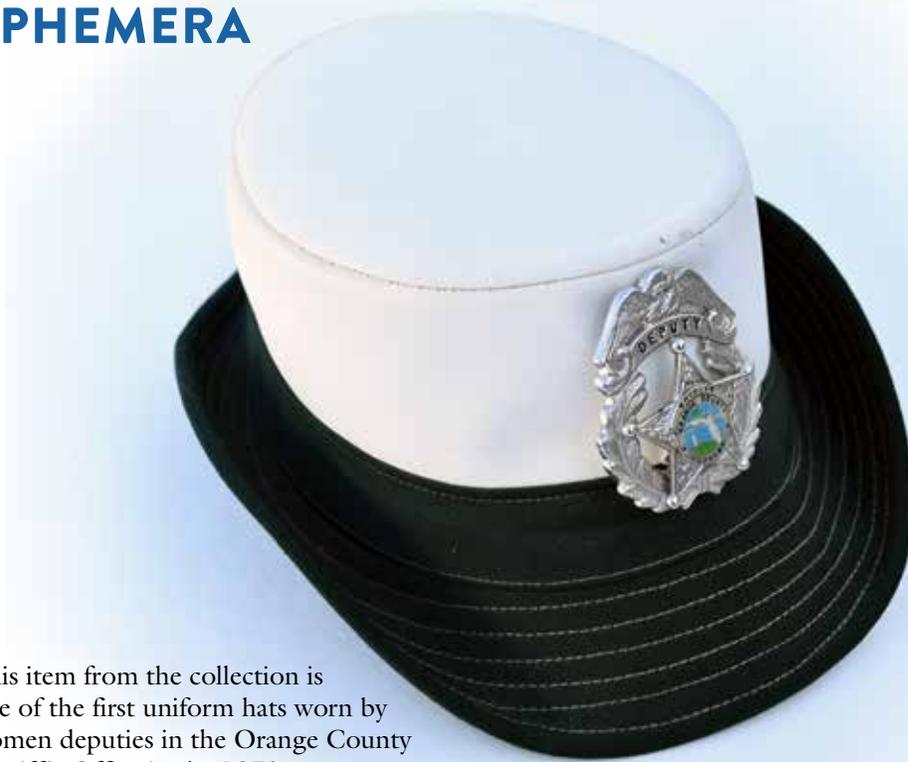
#### **The Joseph L. Brechner Research Center**

The Brechner Research Center houses the special collections of the Historical Society of Central Florida, documenting nearly 200 years of Central Florida history. The center includes a research library, an archive, and space for researching items from the collection. The Research Center was created through a donation from the late Marion Brody Brechner in honor of her husband, Joseph (1915-1990), an award-winning journalist, community leader, and freedom-of-information advocate.

Find us on social media



## EPHEMERA



This item from the collection is one of the first uniform hats worn by women deputies in the Orange County Sheriff's Office in the 1970s.

### IN THIS ISSUE

#### **WHITNEY BARRETT**



Whitney Barrett, a native of Alberta, Canada, has a bachelor's in History from Bethune-Cookman University (BCU) and a master's in Library Science from Florida State University. She worked in BCU's archives and the Mary McLeod Bethune Foundation House before becoming the History Center's archivist.

#### **WHITNEY BROADAWAY**



Whitney Broadaway, collections manager, is a fourth-generation Central Floridian with a rich family history in the Orlando area dating back to 1893. Previously the book conservator at the UCF Library, she has been a collections professional for 10 years.

#### **MELISSA PROCKO**



A native Floridian, Melissa Procko is a proud alumna of the University of Central Florida. After graduating with a B.A. in Anthropology, she worked as the One Orlando Collection's digital archivist before becoming the History Center's research librarian.

#### **ANN PATTON**



Ann Patton is an Orlando-based writer whose work is dedicated to telling the stories of local heroes. Her fifth book, to be released this spring, is named *Warriors for Democracy: The Story of the League of Women Voters of Orange County, Florida*.

#### **PAMELA SCHWARTZ**



Pamela Schwartz, the History Center's chief curator, has 17 years of museum experience as a director, curator, and designer. She also serves on the American Alliance of Museum's MAP Peer Reviewing and Accreditation committees in service to the field.



# THROUGH THE CAMERA LENS

From the photo archives of the Historical Society of Central Florida

If you have any more information about the history of the Red Cross in Central Florida, or photos you would like to donate to our collection, please contact our collections manager and photo archivist, Whitney Broadway, at 407-836-8587 or [Whitney.Broadway@ocfl.net](mailto:Whitney.Broadway@ocfl.net).

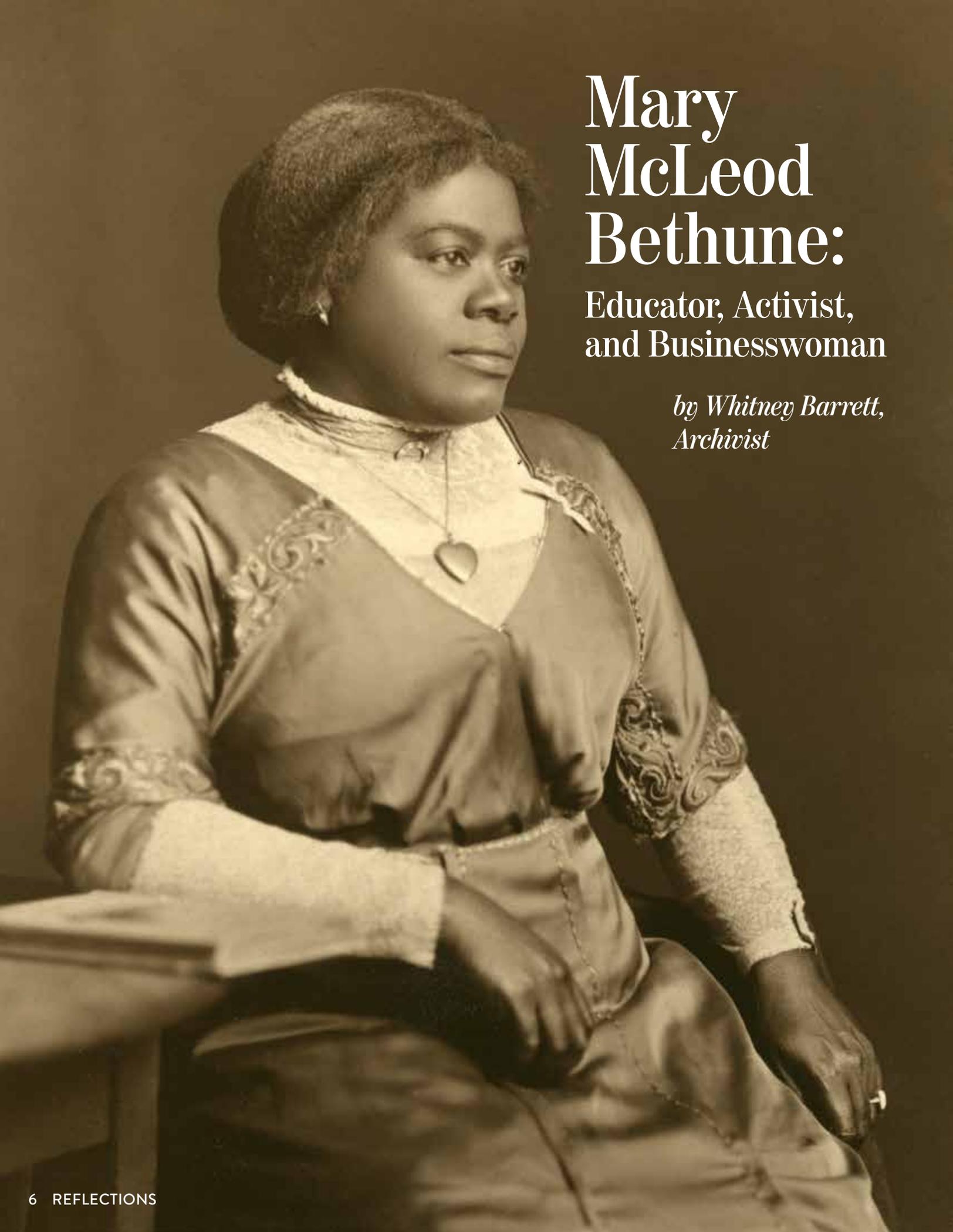


## Orlando Women of the Red Cross

During World War II, the American Red Cross provided a number of services geared toward providing aid to sick and wounded civilians and troops. To support those services, President Franklin Roosevelt proclaimed the month of March 1943 “Red Cross Month,” and the organization raised an overwhelming \$146 million – \$21 million over its goal. President Roosevelt called the effort the “greatest single crusade of mercy in all of history,” and the Red Cross repeated the March fund-raising through the rest of the war years. The photo above shows the staff of the Red Cross War Fund headquarters in Orlando, located on West Pine Street, at work on their 1944 March campaign.

The Red Cross volunteer typing away in the photo at left is no ordinary face in the crowd. That’s Jeanne Carr, wife of Bob Carr, who would become Orlando’s mayor from 1956 to 1967. She was a dedicated Red Cross volunteer from the late 1940s through the 1970s. At the time of this photo, the Orange County Chapter had 130 trained volunteers who served as staff aides, motor-service drivers, production workers, canteen workers, hospital aides, and social-welfare aides. ■





# Mary McLeod Bethune:

Educator, Activist,  
and Businesswoman

*by Whitney Barrett,  
Archivist*

**K**nown during her lifetime as the “First Lady of Negro America,” Mary McLeod Bethune is remembered for her contributions as an educator and civil rights activist. Although the founding of Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Florida, is probably her most well-known accomplishment, it is one of many.

In addition to being one of the first women to have established a historically Black college, Bethune was also very politically and socially involved at both national and international levels. She did not tolerate discrimination and continually fought for the rights of herself and others, whether the issue was voting rights, civil rights, or human rights. Although not a native, she called Daytona Beach her home for most of her life.

### Early Years and Education

Mary Jane McLeod was born on July 10, 1875, in Mayesville, S.C. She was the 15th of 17 children born to her formerly enslaved parents, Samuel and Patsy McLeod, and was the first in her family born into freedom as well as the first to receive a formal education. However, before being given the opportunity to attend school, she helped support her family by picking cotton to sell, as many Black families did after slavery was abolished.

When Mary was around ten years old, she began her schooling at the Trinity Presbyterian Mission School in Mayesville. She proved to be a bright student who loved to learn. She once said, “The whole world opened up



Mary McLeod Bethune with students from the school she founded for girls in Daytona Beach. She opened the school on Oct. 3, 1904, in a rented house. Her first class had 5 students.

to me when I learned to read.” After graduating from the mission school, she was fortunate to receive funding from a woman named Mary Crissman to attend the Barber Scotia Seminary School in Concord, N.C., from which she graduated in 1894. She went on to Moody Bible College in Chicago with the hope of traveling to Africa to become a missionary, but her hopes were crushed when the missionary board informed her, after her graduation in 1895, that they were not sending Black people to posts in Africa.

Needing a new plan, she focused her attention on becoming an educator and returned back to Mayesville. She taught at the mission school where she first had learned to read and later moved to Augusta, Ga., to teach at Haines Normal and Industrial Institute. It was here under the leadership of Lucy Craft Laney that she became inspired to one day start her own school. She then went on to teach at the Kendall Institute in Sumter, S.C. It was there that she met her husband and fellow teacher, Albertus Bethune. They were married in 1898, and their only child, Albert McLeod Bethune, was born on February 3, 1899.

### Starting a School in Florida

The Bethune family moved to Florida in 1899 and first settled in Palatka. Here Mary McLeod Bethune helped to start a mission school run by the Presbyterian Church. After about five years, she moved to Daytona Beach with plans to start her own school.

“The whole world opened up to me when I learned to read.”

When she and 5-year-old Albert arrived in Daytona Beach in September 1904, all she had was \$1.50 to her name. (Albertus planned to join them later; however, the couple soon separated.)

Bethune’s lack of funds and support did not stop her from renting a house in which she opened the Daytona Literary and Industrial School for Training Negro Girls on October 3, 1904. Her first class had five students.

Her mission was to educate young Black children, specifically girls. However, she did not underestimate the ways in which White philanthropists could contribute to her school’s success. It was common to see her in the



Left: The cabin in Mayesville, S.C., where Mary McLeod Bethune was born in 1875. Opposite page: This portrait of Bethune was taken about 1915, when she was 40.

beginning days of her endeavor riding her bike down the street, going door-to-door searching for support for her school. Early members of her board of trustees included Thomas White of the

## “If I have a legacy to leave my people, it is my philosophy of living and serving.”

White Machine Sewing Company and John D. Rockefeller of Standard Oil.

White first came to visit Bethune’s school after he heard about her

educational endeavors. He arrived at an unfinished four-story building with dirt floors and followed her around as she passionately explained her vision. He listened quietly, but what really caught

his attention was an old Singer Sewing Machine the students had been using. A few days after his visit, a

brand new White Sewing Machine arrived at the school. He continued as a generous benefactor.

Bethune first spoke to Rockefeller

over the telephone to arrange a meeting. When she arrived on the doorstep of his winter home in Ormond Beach for the appointment they had arranged, he was quite surprised – he had been certain the woman he talked with on the phone was White! This did not deter Bethune, and she was able to persuade the oil baron to invest in her dream.

After expansion, several name changes, and a merger with the Cookman Institute (a co-ed school in Jacksonville), Bethune retired as president of Bethune-Cookman in 1942. She was named president emeritus and continued to be active in the school’s



Mary McLeod Bethune says goodbye to a group of students after resigning as president of the Bethune-Cookman College.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



Eleanor Roosevelt visits her friend Mary McLeod Bethune at Bethune-Cookman College in 1937.

considered it quite scandalous for the first lady to stay in the home of a Black woman.

### The Founding of Bethune Beach

Jim Crow laws affected almost every aspect of life in the South in the 1940s, even the beaches. This meant Black residents of Daytona Beach did not have an area of the beach easily accessible to them. Bethune's solution was to create her own beach in the neighboring town of New Smyrna Beach. She reportedly said that the ocean was "God's water" for everyone to enjoy. On December 9, 1945, the board of directors for what would become Bethune-Volusia Beach (now known as Bethune Beach) met and signed a charter. The board was composed of Black individuals with local influence and status. Bethune was named treasurer. She envisioned a year-round resort where her people could enjoy themselves.

And as a businesswoman herself, Bethune always advocated for African-American ownership of businesses and properties. As lots went up for sale and news spread, people all over the country began to capitalize on this investment opportunity. In May 2017,

affairs, even briefly serving as president again from 1946 to 1947. With her home located on the campus, it was difficult for her not to stay involved!

### Presidential Adviser

Though Bethune's contributions to education are myriad, she was also extremely influential politically. She advised four United States Presidents: Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, Franklin Roosevelt, and Harry Truman. Under Hoover, she worked on the National Committee on Child Welfare, and under Coolidge she served as a delegate to the Child Welfare Conference.

During Truman's presidency, she served as a consultant on interracial relations at the United Nations Conference on International Organizations in San Francisco in 1945, which established the U.N., and as a member of the United States delegation that traveled to Liberia in 1952 to attend the inauguration of President William Tubman. It was during this trip that the Liberian government awarded her the Star of Africa.

It was, however, under President Roosevelt that Bethune played a much larger role. He first appointed her as a representative on the advisory committee for the National Youth Administration (NYA). This led to her appointment as the first Black woman to head a federal agency – the Office of Minority Affairs. She was also the only

woman on President Roosevelt's Federal Council on Negro Affairs, more commonly known as the "Black Cabinet." This was an unofficial cabinet of African Americans who advised Roosevelt on matters concerning the Black community.

Bethune was also good friends with first lady Eleanor Roosevelt and her mother, Anna. Eleanor Roosevelt even stayed at Bethune's house twice, at a time when many White Southerners



An interpretive panel at Volusia County's Mary McLeod Bethune Beach Park at 6656 S. Atlantic Ave., New Smyrna Beach, tells the history of Bethune Beach, which Bethune founded in 1945 after students at the college she led were turned away from Daytona Beach in the 1940s.

Volusia County placed interpretive panels and a historical marker on the site honoring the significance of the beach and its namesake.

### The Bethune Foundation

As Bethune aged, she began to consider her legacy. On March 17, 1953, the Mary McLeod Bethune Foundation opened with offices in her home in Daytona Beach.

Guests were allowed to come and tour to see where and how she lived. She wanted to inspire others and create a space where her story would live on. She also envisioned her

home as a research facility and created plans for the arrangement and housing of her personal papers, which are now preserved in the Bethune-Cookman University Archives. In 1974, the home was recognized by the National Park Service as a Historic Landmark.

**“Without faith,  
nothing is possible.  
With it, nothing is  
impossible.”**

### Death and Legacy

Mary McLeod Bethune passed away at the age of 79 on May 18, 1955, at her home. Her death was mourned by many and announced in newspapers across the nation. As requested in her will, she was laid to rest behind her house on the campus of Bethune-Cookman University. Both her home and her grave are visited daily by

people who wish to pay tribute to her and to learn more about her life and contributions.

In February 2018, Florida’s governor, Rick Scott, signed a bill that provides for a statue of Mary

McLeod Bethune to be placed in the National Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C. Her image will replace that of Confederate General Edmund Kirby Smith, installed in 1922. She will be the first African American represented in the hall.

From the cotton fields of South Carolina, Mary McLeod Bethune rose to become one of the most prominent figures in African American history. She devoted herself to fighting for the rights of the less fortunate and disadvantaged. Her legacy and the strides that she made for equality should not be forgotten. To learn more about her, we recommend reading *Mary McLeod Bethune in Florida: Bringing Social Justice to the Sunshine State* by historian Ashley N. Robertson, Ph.D., of the University of Florida. ■



STATE ARCHIVES OF FLORIDA



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

### Excerpts from Mary McLeod Bethune’s Last Will and Testament

*I leave you love  
I leave you hope  
I leave you the challenge of  
developing confidence in one  
another  
I leave you a thirst for education  
I leave you respect for the uses of  
power  
I leave you faith  
I leave you racial dignity  
I leave you a desire to live  
harmoniously with your fellow men  
I leave you finally a responsibility  
to our young people*

Left: Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, founder and former president, walks to Sunday afternoon chapel (the building in the background is her home that was located on campus). Above: Mary McLeod Bethune, circa 1943.

# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA



*Eighty Years  
of Empowering Voters  
and Defending Democracy*  
by Ann Patton

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Suffragists, such as these women parading in New York City, crusaded for generations to win the vote for women in 1920. Below: The League of Women Voters of Orange County, Florida, began with a meeting in May 1939 at the historic Angebilt Hotel in downtown Orlando.



**T**HEY COULD NOT HAVE KNOWN, that small band of stalwart women in their crisp dresses, sturdy shoes, gloves, and hats, that they were making history in Central Florida.

Or perhaps we should call it HER-story.

It was May 15, 1939. A handful of somber women from Winter Park and Orlando marched into Orlando's Angebilt Hotel – long on vision and idealism, short on power – to create their own homegrown branch of a national organization founded in 1920. They named their new group the Winter Park-Orlando League of Women Voters.

If nothing else, they were determined – determined to defend their families by defending democracy as a great war loomed, and determined to empower voters.

The *Winter Park Post* predicted they would soon be “back in the kitchen baking the pies that mother used to make.” According to the custom of the time, newspapers referred to them only by their husband's names – Mrs. Wendell Stone, for example. There were those who mocked them.

In the early years, they lost more than they won. But they were neither deterred nor daunted. And in time, successes would come, and abound, and people would allege that they had “woman power.” They would help modern Florida take shape.

The year 2019 marks the 80th birthday of that little group that became the League of Women Voters of Orange County, Florida. Now more than 900 strong, the Orange County League has become the largest county chapter in the nation. This spring, to mark 80 years of hard work for fair government, the Orange County League embarks on a two-year celebration of women's attainments and of Americans' precious right to vote.

### *Enthusiasm for voting*

The story of the Orange County League begins before its beginning. Even before the passage of the 19th Amendment in August 1920, Central Florida suffragists, led by Unitarian minister Mary Safford, won the right for Orlando and Winter Park women to vote in local elections, starting in May 1919. The *Winter Park Post* printed the names of women who dared to register to vote.

The fight of suffragists in the United States had dragged on for 72

years before they won the right for women to vote, beginning nationally in the election of November 1920. (Although it didn't prohibit Florida women from voting, the Sunshine State's Legislature refused to endorse the 19th Amendment until 1969.)

Also in 1920, the national League of Women Voters was created, as a grand experiment to help support and educate women voters, many of whom were not prepared for voting. Strictly nonpartisan, the League does not endorse candidates or parties. But members advocate fiercely for public issues, such as Florida's Sunshine Laws and natural-resource protection – after careful study and consensus.

It took nearly two decades for Floridians to embrace the League idea. "There does not seem to be in this neighborhood an enthusiasm over the importance of voting," wrote a Winter Park newcomer in a 1938 letter to the editor, boldly signing her name as Gertrude Trowbridge – her own name, not her husband's. What the Orlando area needed, she wrote, was a



EVE BACON, "CENTENNIAL HISTORY OF ORLANDO"

Central Florida suffragists were organized in 1913 by the Rev. Mary Safford.

League of Women Voters.

Gertrude Trowbridge became part of a group of 25 thoughtful women, who came together from institutions and organizations such as Winter Park's Rollins College, Orlando's



LWVOC

In the spring of 1946, this League of Women Voters group studied and toured Orange County low-cost housing, according to a handwritten note with the photo in Orange County League of Women Voters archives.

Sorosis women's club, and the Woman's Club of Winter Park. They led the charge to create the Winter Park-Orlando League.

Organizers included three more from Winter Park, in addition to Gertrude Trowbridge: Mrs. Theodore E. Emery, Mrs. William Melcher, and Rollins College Dean Christine Balazs. They joined four women from Orlando: Mrs. J.B. Asher, Mrs. D.F. Batchelder, Mrs. R.F. Maguire, and Mrs. Harry Voorhis. (Married women continued to be identified by their husband's names in newspapers and other media into the 1970s.)

The Orange County League's first president, elected May 15, 1939, was Mrs. Wendell (Virginia M.) Stone of Winter Park. The first officers also included Mrs. Ed Newald, Mrs. John

Tilden, and Mrs. Willard Ayres. Their first working meeting took place at the Winter Park Chamber of Commerce.

Some reports say the group they founded in May 1939 was the first League in the state. As it turned out, the same Central Florida leaders, with other women in St. Petersburg and Winter Haven, also created the Florida League of Women Voters in 1939.

### *Grace, grit, and gumption*

The new Leaguers set their sights high. Early projects included voter education for issues that ranged from milk safety to (after World War II) atomic power. Their first job was and continues to be voter services – educating voters, protecting voter rights, and providing information and access to empower voters.

In their journey across the years, members of the Orange County League have racked up a remarkable record of adventures and accomplishments, with a characteristic combination of grace, grit, and gumption. Over the decades and across the nation, the League has provided a bridge from private life to community service for women such as Eleanor Roosevelt, who served as the national League's vice president of legislative affairs in the 1920s. In Orange County, women who used their League training as a bridge to public office have included:

- Ethel Melcher, Winter Park's first woman city commissioner, 1943
- Beth Johnson, the first woman to serve in Florida's Senate, 1963
- Pat Schwartz, Orlando's first woman city commissioner

## Mrs. Melcher, State President Visits League of Women Voters

Two guest speakers contributed stimulus to thinking yesterday at the luncheon meeting of the League of Women Voters at the Shrine club. They were Mrs. William Melcher, state president of Non-Partisan League of Women Voters, here on her first visit to the local organization, and William Jacobs, assistant state for-ester.

Mrs. Melcher, speaking on "Responsibility of Citizens towards Government" outlined four steps in the progress of the individual citizen in becoming a responsible member of democracy. First, he should acquire a background of education in economic and political studies as preparation for understanding present and future problems of civic, state, national and international problems.

Second, he should acquire specific information on policies and officials in government, starting always with those nearest at hand, his own city and county, and then enlarging his knowledge towards international affairs.

Third, he should understand comparative values of policies in order to develop sound judgment about issues brought before the legislature.

Fourth, he should vote. Mrs. Melcher explained that many persons avoid their responsibility of voting because they lack confidence due to lack of information. A purpose of the league, Mrs. Melcher pointed out, is to educate the public to its responsibilities.

"If," she said, "our democracy is to work successfully, it depends upon citizens intelligently exercising their rights."

The second speaker, William Jacobs, spoke on "New wood developments and their importance



MRS. WILLIAM MELCHER

day night at the clubrooms and a committee was appointed to organize a fun club within the organization. On the committee are Mesdames George Burke, Clyde Blanton, W. H. Chaffee, Robert Guthrie and Thomas Robbins.

Welcomed as new members were Mesdames William Chaffee, Harold Bishop, Francis Haffey, Frank Quesada, Helen Watts and Aleta Renney.

TAMPA BAY TIMES, OCT. 26, 1945



### *Celebrating the Right to Vote*

The League of Women Voters of Orange County will celebrate its history and the theme of "Votes for All" in a series of events in 2019 and 2020, including:

- The 2019 Brechner Speaker Series, presented in partnership with the History Center
- The 100th anniversary of Orlando and Winter Park women voting in city elections, May and July 2019
- The founding of the Orange County League on May 15, 1939, celebrated by the publication this spring of *Warriors for Democracy: The Story of the League of Women Voters of Orange County, Florida*
- The founding of the national League on Feb. 14, 2020
- The 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing women the right to vote in the United States, August 2020

Left: Winter Park's Ethel Melcher was an early League leader and the first woman elected to the Winter Park City Commission.

- Linda Chapin, the first mayor of Orange County, 1990
- Glenda Hood, the first woman mayor of Orlando, 1992

Perhaps the League's greatest public-policy accomplishments in Florida can be traced directly back to the Orange County leadership when, as early as 1940, Orange County Leaguers identified their top priorities for change: Florida's 1885 "Jim Crow" Constitution, which enshrined racism, injustice, and poor government, and, a related issue, the state's "malapportioned" Legislature, elected from gerrymandered districts that were skewed to keep power in the hands of a few to the detriment of the many.

From that day in 1940, Leaguers worked to create a fair Constitution and equitable election process. It would take them 28 years, until 1968, to change the Constitution; and another 48 years – 76 years, in all – to get fair legislative districts and more balanced elections in 2016. The League's battles started in Orange County and then expanded statewide, often with Central Florida League leadership.

That last step, the fair-districts fight, required the Florida League coalition to win 13 separate lawsuits and raise \$13 million, according to Deirdre Macnab, former president of both the Orange County and the Florida Leagues.

Since 1974, the Orange County League has welcomed male members, too, and now about a quarter of members are men.

Looking back at the group's history is giving members a fresh perspective, said Gloria Pickar, 2018-2019 co-president.

"It's inspiring to learn about our *fore-mothers*," she said, "and about their battles, their vision, and their perseverance. We do, indeed, stand on the shoulders of giants, whose spirits inform us as we pursue our mission – empowering voters, defending democracy – over the next 80 years." ■

**Top:** Members of the Orlando-based Equal Suffrage group crusaded in an auto parade before the Orange County Court House, circa 1913.



### Orange County League Milestones

Throughout its 80-year history, the Orange County League has effected change in diverse areas, often working with other groups. Achievements include:

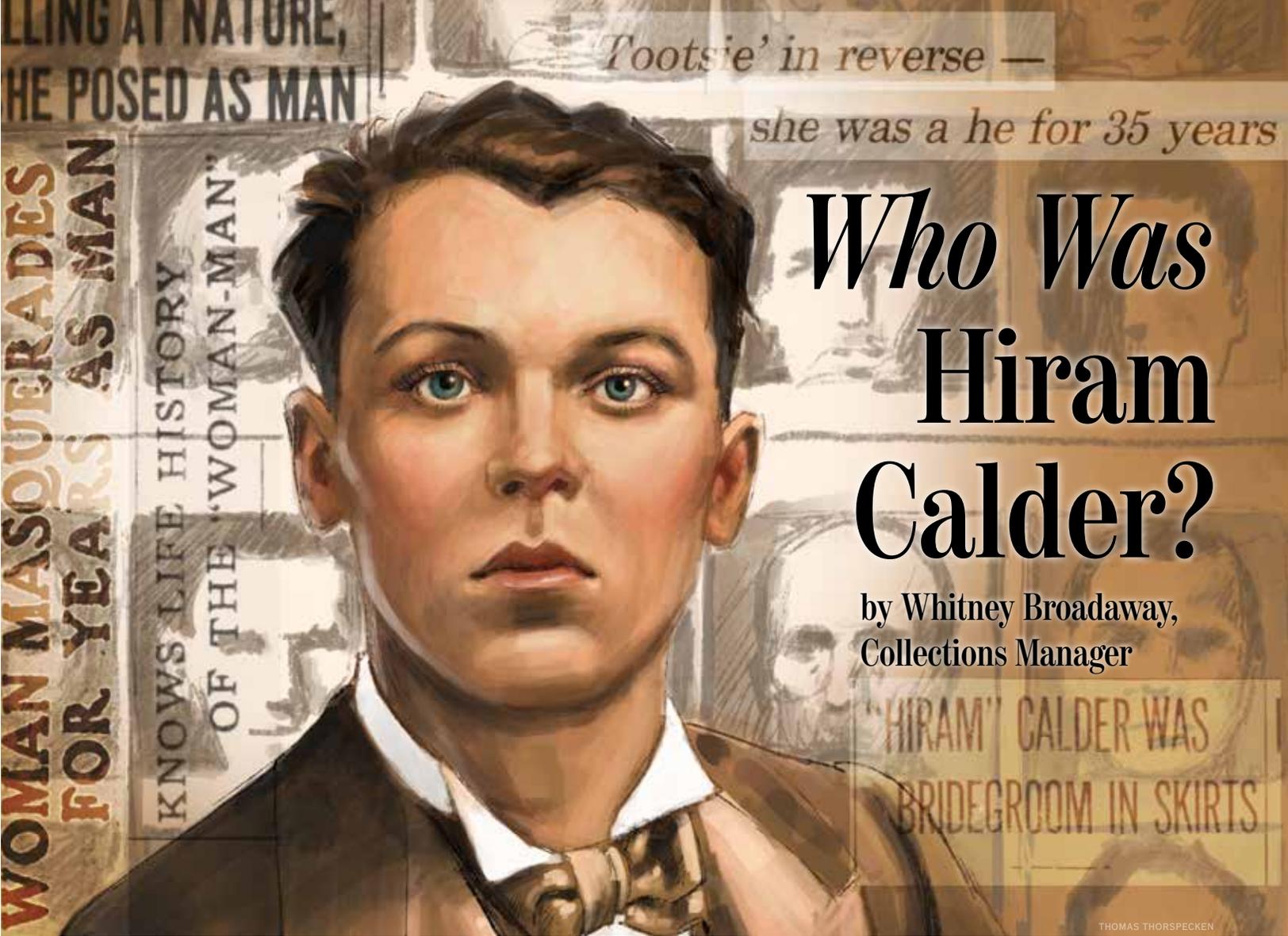
- Improvements in milk safety in the 1940s
- Florida's landmark 1947 School Act, designating one school district per county and creating co-ed colleges
- Sunshine laws, which opened up Florida governments
- Juvenile justice reforms, creating safer, more humane treatment for children
- Vast environmental improvements, including Florida's Water and Land Legacy Amendment 1
- Florida's 1968 Constitution, which authorized local home rule and paved the way for modern Florida
- Updated charters for Orange County and local governments
- Improvements in conditions for migrant workers, in an Orange County crusade that went national
- Support for SunRail and mass-transit initiatives



STATE ARCHIVES OF FLORIDA

- Support for renewable energy and a program that created 1,000 solar homes statewide
- Current crusades for gun safety and restoring voting rights to felons, except those convicted of murder or felony sex crimes
- And, perhaps most important, landmark fair-district victories, 2010-2016, that created more equitable Florida elections

**Beth Johnson**, iconic leader of the Orange County League, served in the state Legislature from 1957 to 1967 and was the first female state senator in Florida history.



# Who Was Hiram Calder?

by Whitney Broadaway,  
Collections Manager

**A revelation after an Orlandoan's death in 1914 shocked the city. Now, new research reveals much more about one of Central Florida's enduring enigmas.**

On the morning of July 11, 1914, Dr. Calvin D. Christ was summoned to the Orange County home for indigents. A 64-year-old Orlandoan, Hiram E. Calder, lay dying of pellagra, a disease caused by a lack of the vitamin niacin. When Dr. Christ arrived, Calder, who was delirious, confessed that he was born a woman.

The news shocked Orlando. Ever since Hiram and his wife, Sarah Calder, had moved to Orlando years before, no one had ever thought to question his gender. Sarah had died four years previously.

Calder died two days after Dr. Christ's visit, on July 13, and the sensational news stories were already hitting the stands. Orlandoans were desperate

for answers as to why Calder had lived in "disguise" for so long, and how Sarah could have been his wife if he was in fact a woman.

## Intelligence and voting

The *Morning Sentinel's* writer was especially impressed with how Calder had blended so naturally into male society, "talking intelligently upon many subjects." Women's suffrage was a big issue in 1914, and reporters quickly put together that Calder had enjoyed the then exclusively male privilege of voting for at least 14 years. Many proclaimed Calder to be the first woman to vote in Florida.

All eyes went to Charles T. Hungerford, who had long employed

Calder in his bakery at 116 S. Orange Ave. In a 1983 *Sentinel* article, Donald Cheney, a retired judge and founder of the Historical Society of Central Florida, recalled boyhood memories of Calder at the bakery.

Cheney, who was born in 1889, said he and his chums often stopped at the bakery after school, especially for the homemade candy. Calder was the silent counter man. "He hardly ever talked, hardly ever smiled, just sat there behind the counter," Cheney recalled. "He dressed very simply, usually without a coat or vest, just a pair of pants and a shirt."

Upon Calder's death, Hungerford was as dumbfounded as the rest of Orlando. Calder had begun working for him at the bakery shortly after

58

## UNDERTAKER'S MEMORANDA.

Date of Death July 13 - 1914  
 Name H. C. Calder  
 Residence Unknown  
 Age 57 Y'rs Mon's Days  
 Keeping Body \_\_\_\_\_  
 Robe \_\_\_\_\_  
 Casket 59 Oak 850  
 Metallic Jacket \_\_\_\_\_  
 Digging Grave \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cemetary County Home  
 Section Lot  
 Stranger's row, White, No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Stranger's row, Colored, No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Potters Field County Home  
 Body Shipped to \_\_\_\_\_  
 Physician Dr. Christ  
 Hearse \_\_\_\_\_  
 Carriages \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cause of Death \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks:  
*Bill made to  
 Orange County -  
 Hiram C. Calder  
 & woman  
 Disguised as a  
 man for several yrs  
 Died at County  
 Home*

moving with Sarah to Orlando in 1902 from Highland Springs, Va. The Calders would often leave Orlando in the summer, and it was rumored that they traveled with a circus during these months. Sometime before 1909, the couple moved to Tampa, where they operated a grocery store at 1308 Nebraska Ave.

Sarah Calder died of paralysis in Tampa's Hampton Sanitarium on Oct. 2, 1910, and was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Tampa, where Hiram Calder purchased a lot and placed a white marble monument at the grave, all with the intention of being laid to rest beside her in the future. Calder spent hours at Sarah's grave, according to news accounts after Calder's death, and was described as "heartbroken and frantic with grief." A July 28, 1914, *Tampa Tribune* article reported that Calder had told the cemetery's sexton, W. D. Burgess, that "nobody could ever know how much he loved his wife."

After Sarah's death, Hiram Calder returned to Orlando and began working at the bakery again. His own

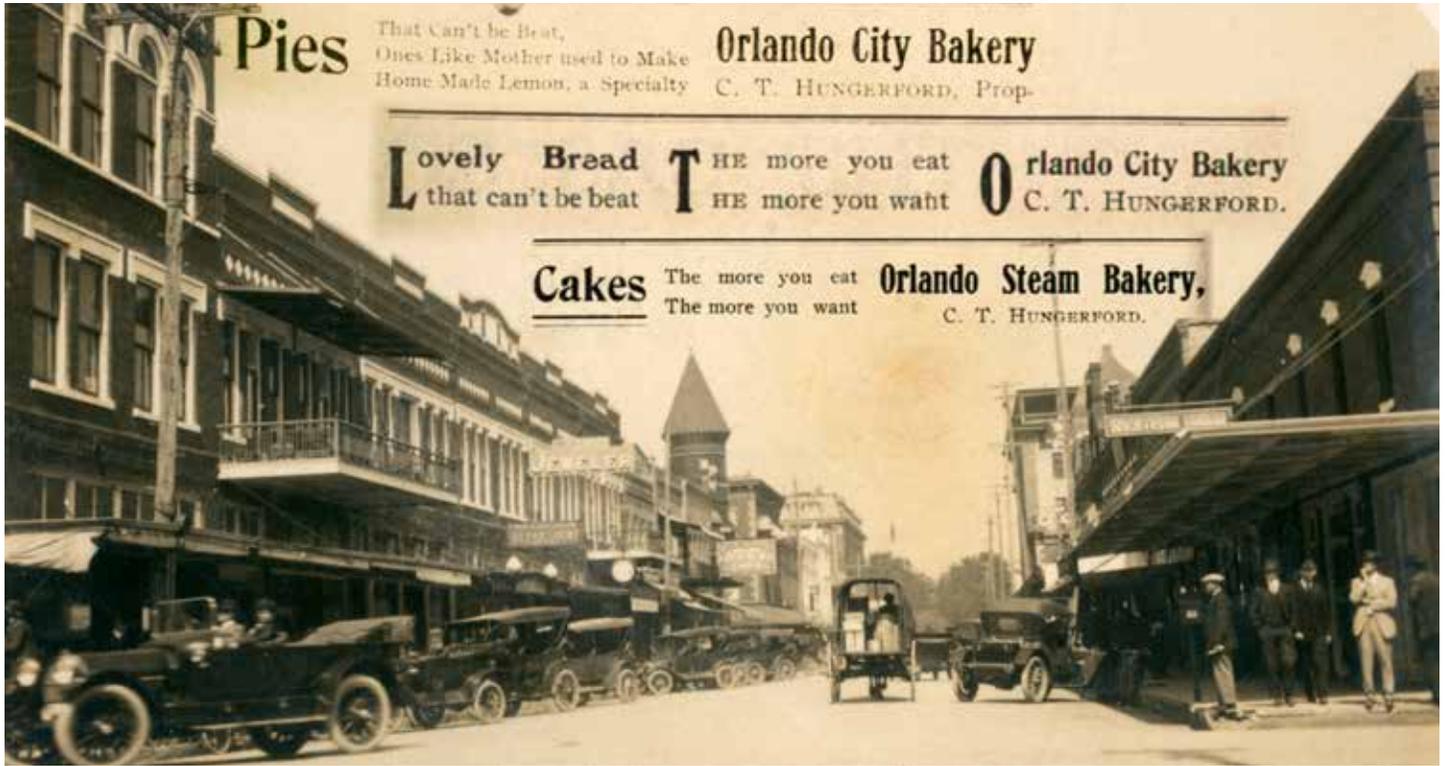
health began to fail, and he was soon at the mercy of his friends' charity, sometimes only able to work a couple days a month. Eventually he became too sick to remain in his friends' care and had to be moved to the county home. Doris Topliff, one of the bakery's new owners, became a frequent visitor. After Calder's death, the county home's superintendent gave Calder's Bible to Topliff; no family had appeared.

### The receipt in the Bible

Topliff already knew Calder to have been a devout Catholic. Searching through the Bible, she discovered an old receipt tucked into its pages from St. Joseph's Union, LaFayette Place, New York City, for payment for "the homeless child" until March 1, 1888.

Believing this receipt to be proof of an illegitimate child, Topliff reported to the press her theory that Calder "made one unfortunate misstep in her early life" and had begun to live as a man to provide for the child. According to this scenario, once the child, Sarah, reached adulthood, Calder

Previous page: Thomas Thorspecken's cropped illustration of Calder overlaid with selected headlines. Left: Memoranda from Calder's burial performed by Carey Hand. Below: Orange Ave. looking north from Church St. circa 1914 overlaid with advertisements from Hungerford's bakery in Miller's Orlando City Directory from 1907. This is how Orlando looked while Calder worked at Hungerford's bakery, located in one of the store fronts on the left-hand side of the street.





Sarah A. Calder's grave marker at Woodlawn Cemetery in present-day Tampa.

began introducing her as Mrs. Calder. In 1914, a *Sentinel* writer could not believe someone hadn't put that explanation together sooner, because "it is so logical and is the only theory upon which the deep affection of the two can be explained." Orlandoans had an answer about the Calder puzzle that made sense to them.

But they were wrong. It turns out the receipt in Calder's Bible had nothing to do with an illegitimate child; it was for a newspaper subscription. St. Joseph's Home on LaFayette Place in New York City was actually a boy's home that sold subscriptions to a publication titled "The Homeless Child."

For more than a century, the theory about Sarah being Calder's illegitimate child would be repeated – but now, after months of research, we know much more about Calder than ever before.

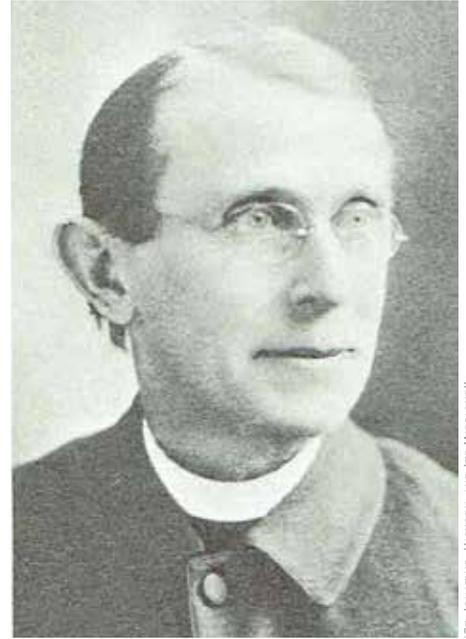
The first key to unlocking the mystery came from news reports of a letter by E. L. Flory of Wilmington, N.C., sent to Tampa's police chief, S. T. Woodward, shortly after Calder's death. Flory had seen the news about Calder's death in his local paper in the days after his death, for by this time the story had made headlines across the country, and it reminded him of a story from years before, when he lived in Maryland: a story about a woman named Hanna Calder.

## The story of Hanna Calder

Born on January 26, 1850, Hanna Calder was the fourth of six children born to Martin and Nancy Calder, a prosperous blacksmith and his wife who lived on a farm in Harford County, Md. According to friends and family, Hanna Calder was a strong-willed child who began smoking and chewing tobacco in her teens and took great joy in riding horses around the countryside. She attended the county school at North Bend and later the Bethel Academy. Her father believed her to be a good scholar with a bright and ready mind.

Even though she was in no need of money, Calder started a small barbering business when she was in her twenties. She became known as the "Harford County Barber," riding to and from farmhouses to provide shaves for the men and trims for them and their children. She kept her own hair short.

After a study of several religious works, Calder converted to Catholicism at the age of 29 and began attending St. Mary's Catholic Church in Clermont Mills. Ten years later, in May 1888, Calder approached a priest, the Rev. J. Alphonse Frederick, to discuss the subject of marriage to Catherine Beall, known as Kate.



The Rev. J. Alphonse Frederick, the second pastor at St. Mary's, served until 1889.

According to news reports, Calder provided Father Frederick with a news clipping about a case from 1884 to help explain the situation.

The article from four years earlier was about Elizabeth Rebecca Payne of Winchester, Va., who never suspected she was anything but female until she began to notice a romantic attachment toward another woman, the article said. Payne visited a doctor, who



Baltimore newspaper notices from 1889 about Hanna or Howard Calder, later Hiram Calder.

discovered, perhaps due to latent development, that Payne was in fact a man. Beginning the transition into a new life as a man, Payne married, began dressing as a man, and took a male name.

Calder sympathized with Payne's story. Born a woman, Calder noticed a change around the age of 25. It is important to note that this explanation comes from an interview in which Calder told reporters, "I felt I was becoming a man," but this testimony may still not reflect Calder's true feelings. In historical accounts of women who have lived their lives as men, the few people who had the opportunity to address their actions often had to curtail their justifications to avoid serious repercussions.

In the world Hanna Calder lived in, a woman loving another woman was unacceptable, but a woman discovering that she was meant to be a man all along – and in love with a woman – that, perhaps, was a situation society could tolerate. Although it seems clear from Calder's explanation that he identified as male, there is a chance that Calder was doing and saying what seemed necessary in order to marry whom he loved.

## The wedding of Hanna and Catherine

After careful consideration, Father Frederick procured a marriage license in the names of E. Hanna Calder and Catherine Beall. But, when the couple arrived for the marriage, Father Frederick discovered that Kate was not yet 18, as he had been led to believe. He insisted on proof of her parents' consent, for which the couple produced a letter signed by both parents but all written in the same handwriting. Kate explained that her father asked her mother to sign it for him. The priest would not accept the note and suggested he perform the ceremony at the Beall home, but both Kate and Hanna hastily objected to the idea, explaining that Kate's father was a staunch Protestant and would never allow a Catholic ceremony to take place under his roof. Reluctantly, the couple agreed to postpone the marriage.

Hanna Calder was 38 years old when they finally wed on September 5, 1888 – Kate's 18th birthday. After the marriage, they returned to their respective families until February 1889, when they ran away to Baltimore. There, Calder reportedly bought a men's suit and began using the name Howard.

It was only after their disappearance that the families learned of the marriage the year before. According to Hanna Calder's sister Sophia, Calder had tried to marry another woman before, when she was 18, and it cost their father a large sum of money to clear up the business.

Martin Calder was greatly moved by the absence of his child and worried what the shock would do to his wife Nancy's already failing health. They were both 72 at the time. On February 21, 1889, less than 10 days after the couple ran away, the *Baltimore Sun* reported the death of Nancy Calder. Hanna, now Howard, Calder would later tell newspaper writers that

he thought this announcement was a ploy to draw the couple out of hiding.

After stashing away in the homes of friends for over a month, Kate began to feel the secrecy taking its toll. She longed to see her family, so Calder sent a letter to reveal their whereabouts. On March 16, detectives escorted Kate back to her family. When reunited with her father, she asked to have a telegram sent to Calder arranging for her to rejoin her husband, but her father refused.

Calder spoke with several reporters following the couple's separation and noted an intention to appeal to the courts to have Calder's rights as a husband upheld if the Beall family refused to release Kate. Calder bragged of their cunning in eluding detection, including the time they were upstairs when detectives came to a house on Mount Street and listened in on every word. Even during his courtship with Kate, when their families forbade any communication, they set up a secret "post office" on the road between

Two cards from the Baltimore City Marriage Index documenting Calder's marriage to Kate in 1888 and later Sarah in 1891.

MALE		FEMALE	
CALDER, E. HANNA		BEALE, CATHE	
HARFORD Co MD		ADDRESS HARFORD Co	
AGE 37	COLOR WHITE	AGE 18	COLOR WHITE
SINGLE		CONDITION SINGLE	
-		OCCUPATION -	
NONE		RELATION NONE	
ISSUE MAY 30 1888		MARRIED SEP 5 1888	
		FILED SEP 13 1888	
MINISTER J. ALPHONSE FREDERICK			
REMARKS BK 1 JTG 1886-88		FOL 95	

MALE		FEMALE	
CALDER, HOWARD E.		KEMP, SARAH A.	
BALTO - CITY		ADDRESS BALTO - CITY	
AGE 39	COLOR WHITE	AGE 32	COLOR WHITE
DIVORCED		CONDITION DIVORCED	
-		OCCUPATION -	
-		RELATION -	
ISSUE APRIL 3 1891		MARRIED APRIL 3 1891	
		FILED JULY 24 1891	
MINISTER GEO. W. BACON			
REMARKS BT 13 J. T. G. 1890-92		FOL 10-81	



**BEFORE.**



**AFTER.**

Illustrations of Calder that appeared in the *Buffalo Evening News* on March 12, 1889, accompanied by a reporter's interview conducted at the home of Calder's uncle, "Farmer Slade." These illustrations are most likely not true to life.

their houses to leave letters. Reporters characterized Calder as displaying a ravenous consumption of tobacco and a readiness to pull a gun and "secure an apology" when an offensive comment was made.

When reporters visited the Bealls to ask Kate's feelings, she replied, "I am happy to be once again with my mother and my sisters . . . but I still wish to rejoin him. I know the difference between filial and conjugal affection, and I feel both." And when asked about the secret post office, she grinned, saying, "Yes, we were quite too sharp to be caught."

The couple did not continue as man and wife. After a court ordered medical exam on April 18, 1889, they went their separate ways, leaving the public to assume the doctor had found Calder to be a woman biologically. Kate married John Barnes Bailey seven years later in 1896.

For a brief period of time after the marriage was dissolved, in May 1889, Baltimore ads touted "The Free

Exhibition of the Human Mystery of this Century, Mr. Howard nee Miss Hanna Calder," at several concert halls around Baltimore until the authorities put a stop to it.

### **A new life in Florida**

Continuing to live as a man in Baltimore, Calder became a bartender, and, on April 2, 1891, married again, this time to Sarah A. Kemp. Sometime between then and 1898, they moved to Highland Springs, Va., where Calder became the proprietor of a successful store named the Farmers' Exchange. Now using the names Hiram and Howard interchangeably, Calder departed with Sarah for Florida in 1902.

After Hiram Calder's death in the county home in 1914, the body was laid to rest in an unmarked grave in the "potter's field" at Michigan Street and Fern Creek Avenue in Orlando, then an unmarked pauper's burial ground and now known as Orange Hill Cemetery.

Calder had left instructions with

friends asking to be buried next to his beloved Sarah, but either his friends were slow to remember or the burial happened too fast for them to intervene. Doris Topliff did take up a collection to have Calder's body moved, but, sadly, Woodlawn Cemetery in Tampa has no record of Hiram Calder rejoining his wife, and his lifelong fight to be with whom he loved remains unfinished. ■



This sign for Orange Hill Cemetery now marks what was once the "potter's field" next to the County Home at Michigan St. and Fern Creek Ave.



These women have worked hard and accomplished much. Photos were for special occasions



County Fair Prize rooster

# MYSTERY HISTORY WOMEN

by Melissa Procko, Research Librarian

The National Women’s History Project, a nonprofit organization dedicated to honoring and preserving women’s history, began in 1980 when a group of five women from California recognized that women were nearly absent from historical textbooks. The organization saw the need for recognizing women’s role in history on a regular basis and successfully petitioned for the annual celebration of women’s history.

On March 12, 1987, Congress passed Public Law 100-9, which officially designated March as Women’s History Month. Since its inception, the goal of the National Women’s History Project remains unchanged: to promote and teach as many people as possible about women’s history from an intersectional perspective.

Recognizing women was a step forward for gender equality and for including all people in the tapestry of history, but it didn’t solve the problem of making sure that when stories about women were told, they were told fairly and accurately. From the Women’s March to the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements, women are fighting as hard today as they were 30 years ago to confront modern disparities between men and women.

When museums acknowledge women, they show that women were players in history who haven’t merely stood on the sidelines. But moving women from the sidelines of history can be a daunting task. It allows us to question why their stories went untold in the first place. By recognizing these distortions, we are taking the first step toward regularly including women into the main narrative.

The images on these pages are only a few of the photographs in our collection that feature unidentified women. Many of them have never been shown before. If we don’t know the context of a photo, it’s less likely that we will display it in an exhibition or have a patron ask to view the image for research purposes – which is unfortunate, because sometimes the mysterious photos are the most intriguing.

Although we’re not sure the mystery photos on the pages are all from Central Florida, we believe most of these women experienced and helped shape Orlando as the city it is today. From women in the workplace to women at play and at rest, these photos showcase the lived and diverse experiences of women in years past.

## GIRL SCOUTS SALUTE

Museum conservation and cataloging techniques have changed over the years, and in some cases we don’t have much information about where photos originally came from. The small note “1941” in the corner of the image below is the only information we have about this image. After a bit of research, we determined that these types of Girl Scout uniforms date to around the 1930s. The 1941 date could be correct, but this is an example of how we cannot always assume that information that’s been written on a photograph is accurate. ▼



## SIGNATURES FROM EUNICE WILLIS' FAN CLUB

The image below has handwritten notes on the back addressed to "Eunice." By looking at other records donated with this photograph, we identified the woman in this photograph as Eunice Willis. Her name appeared in multiple newspapers spanning from the 1940s to the 1960s for her achievements in bowling. In 1972, she became the first person inducted into the Orlando Regional Chapter of the United States Bowling Congress' Hall of Fame for her contributions to the organization. ▼



May 1971  
 Mrs. O. S. McMantry (my mother)  
 Betty L. McMantry (she)  
 Princess (Betty Jean's cousin)

## A TRIP FIT FOR A PRINCESS

All we know about the photograph at left is what is written on the back. Handwritten notes provide names for both women and their dog. As collections and museum professionals, we do our best to research and confirm these details. ◀

## TRYING TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY

When we displayed some of these photographs at the History Center in March 2018, we asked our visitors to offer their ideas about the stories behind the images. We supplied visitors with sticky notes and pencils and let their imaginations do the rest. We've displayed a few of our favorite responses on these pages. ▼



They are going to become a big singing star. ★

## A FAMILIAR FACE

While we expected to receive a variety of responses, we didn't expect to actually solve one of our photographic mysteries. A woman came into the museum and actually identified herself as the girl in the photo at right from the Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival! We learned she was 14 years old when the image was taken, which allowed us to properly date this photo to 1969. ▶



*Our collection is full of photographs of women whose stories we don't know. If you have information about photos in the collection or if you have photos you'd like to donate, please contact our collections manager, Whitney Broadway, at 407-836-8587 or whitney.broadway@ocfl.net.*

# Things Are Happening at the History Center!

If you haven't heard, we are redesigning the History Center's entire visitor experience. Over the course of the next few years, you'll slowly see our museum beginning to transform into an even more fun and exciting place!

For nearly three years, History Center staff members have been diligently researching Central Florida's history and crafting a plan for the amazing things to come, which includes brand new exhibitions. If you have visited recently, perhaps you've noticed that the orange dome with Central Florida iconography that used to be above our entrance area is ...poof! Gone! ▼



▲ And looking up to the second floor, you'll see we have opened up outer walls to reveal our historic courthouse windows. Let there be light (with UV filters and blinds to protect our precious artifacts) and color, and movement!



*Keep your eyes open for more information and sneak peeks of our ongoing project to bring you the best museum right in your own backyard.*  
– Pam Schwartz, Chief Curator

Though our new exhibitions and visitor spaces are a work in progress, we can tell you that our exhibitions will be much more interactive. Also, we're designing them with the goal to have something for everyone. Here's a sneak peek at a few of great things we have planned for you to enjoy.



Explore the Melbourne Bone Bed archaeological site. What prehistoric creatures and signs of human life will you dig up? Just how big was a beautiful armadillo – the larger, now extinct cousin of armadillos today? How about a stout-legged llama? ▲



◀ Engage with nearly 300 years of history in just a few short, action-packed animations about how contemporary Central Florida came to be. From the conquest for gold to wars and pirates, these stories bring history to life.

Step into Celebrating Central Florida, an interactive and ever-changing exhibition space featuring stories of residents like you. Find yourself walking through various neighborhoods, learning something new, or enjoy a trip down memory lane. ▶



# HISTORIC HAPPENINGS

## DONALD A. CHENEY AWARD CEREMONY



In October, the Historical Society of Central Florida presented its Donald A. Cheney Award to James W. “Chief” Wilson, beloved band director at Jones High School for 40 years. Wilson passed away Dec. 5, 2018.

## GENOME EXHIBIT OPENING



At the debut of the Smithsonian exhibit “Genome: Unlocking Life’s Code,” state Rep. Geraldine Thompson talked about her participation in our local genealogical section of the exhibit, and discovering a new nephew!

## TRICK OR TREAT SAFE ZONE



Young ghouls and goblins enjoyed safe and fun trick or treating throughout the History Center and the Orlando Public Library at this popular event that featured face painting, cool treats, and a scavenger hunt.

## LUNCH & LEARN: 100 YEARS OF CARING



Special guest speaker Mark Jones, president of Orlando Regional Medical Center and senior vice president of Orlando Health, offered a fascinating look at the century-long heritage of Orlando Health.

## HISTORY IN A GLASS FINALE



The Florida Highwaymen was the theme for 2018’s craft cocktail championship. Congrats to Renate Spurlock from Domu and The Woods Orlando for winning with her gin-infused libation.

## HERITAGE DAY



On January 27, 2019, we celebrated the day in 1845 when Mosquito County officially became Orange County. Visitors enjoyed free admission, family activities, and a humorous skit about life on the Florida frontier.



# HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

65 E. Central Boulevard • Orlando, Florida 32801



NONPROFIT  
ORG  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Orlando, FL  
Permit # 4124

## SAVE THE DATE

13th Annual

# John Young HISTORY MAKER CELEBRATION

**TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2019**

**5:30 – 8:30 P.M.**

Honoring Ford Kiene as the John Young  
History Maker for 2019 and Richard  
Fletcher Sr. as our History Maker Past.

History and fun collide at our Adventures in History summer camp program. We provide a safe and fun learning environment that combines cool historic facts with STEM content through hands-on activities, interactive guest-speaker programs, and exciting field trips. Campers will discover the history that surrounds us every day!

We offer three classes divided by age group: ages 6-7, ages 8-9, and ages 10-11.

### CAMP HOURS

Camp: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Morning care: 7:30 – 9 a.m.

After care: 4 – 6 p.m.

Register online at  
[thehistorycenter.org](http://thehistorycenter.org).



*History* HAPPENS HERE

JUNE 3 –  
AUGUST 9, 2019

### CAMP TUITION INCLUDES:

- Field trip
- Morning and after care
- Camp T-shirt
- Pizza party for all campers on Friday

