

We've had a very busy summer in the archives. With five college interns, ten volunteers, and researchers all vying for work and/or computer space, it has been a real shuffling act, but we have made real progress processing new collections and cataloging old ones.

Dick Brown, who joined us as a volunteer in January, has been working several days a week on our General Collection subject photograph files. This includes examining each photograph for clues as to date, place, event, and subjects and entering this information into our museum collection database. He also scans good, representative photographs from the files and attaches thumbnail images to the database. This accomplishes two goals; it adds to our large format digital image collection and supplies the basis of what we will be putting on the web in the near future.

Jennifer Brown, a senior at USF, returned this summer. Last year she helped Sharon Friedheim, a volunteer, finish cataloging our books. This year Sharon has been working on entering our General Collection of people research files into our database. Jennifer jumped in to help with this task, and they have cross-referenced through the Ns. There is still a long way to go, but this is real progress. This is very time consuming work. Everything in a file must be read and culled for keywords that can be added to the database. So, besides people's names, they are looking for items that supply context and are possible research items themselves—street names, jobs, events, places, construction, etc.

Lindsay Rogers, a sophomore from Wake Forest in North Carolina, spent several days a week cataloguing our General Collection people photograph files. Kristi Lawson, a recent graduate from FAU, also worked on this project. They both felt a great sense of accomplishment when they finished. While they didn't scan any of the images—that's something we can do as we need them—we now have a complete listing of the people in the files, making it much easier and faster to retrieve items when requested.

This summer we've had four large collections of photographs and research material loaned to us for copying, as the families want to retain the originals. Justin Petersen, a graduate student at FAU, processed these loaned collections. He had to scan hundreds of photographs, which he then added to our database, and spent hours copying letters, brochures, newsclippings, and other ephemera so we could have a record for the archive.

These collections include material from the Anders Andersen family loaned to us by Edith Harris, Andersen's daughter. Captain Andersen owned the Andersen Dredging Company, Inc., which cut through the rock of the island of Palm Beach to create the Lake Worth Inlet. In later years, he was the city manager for West Palm Beach, owned a dairy farm, and was a real estate agent. In the coming months, he will be added to our Notables interactive exhibit in the People Gallery of the museum. Stacey Wroble, a graduate student at FAU, spent most of her internship researching and writing articles about various people for the Notables exhibit, and she had a lot of great new material at her disposal.



Another loaned collection came to us from the granddaughters of George and Daisy Butler Lyman. George is from the family that helped settle Lantana. His wife, Daisy, was the first school teacher in West Palm Beach in 1894. She had an amazing life, the details of which will soon appear in our Notables exhibit.

Yet other loaned material came to us from the grandsons of Dr. William E. Van Landingham, who collected newsclippings, photographs, and other ephemera about the medical field in Palm Beach County. We are still processing these materials, but they appear to be a comprehensive record of disease and medical care in the county, including the establishment of Pine Ridge and Good Samaritan Hospitals.

Nancy Kerrigan, a volunteer, and I visited with Jane Farmer Van Son in May. We recorded her oral history; and she loaned several photographs, newsclippings, and other ephemera to be copied and/or scanned to help support the oral history. Jane's family settled in West Palm Beach in the 1920s where she attended various schools, graduating from St. Ann's Catholic School during World War II. She then worked at various military jobs in south Florida, including the ultra-secret Camp Murphy in Martin County. She married Nelson Van Son and they purchased and ran Brigg's Moving and Storage on Fern Street for many years. The oral history has been transcribed and as soon as the final text has been approved by Jane Van Son, it will be available for researchers.

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Her oral history will be an invaluable source for current and future researchers about life in Palm Beach County from the 1920s through the first decade of the twenty-first century.

We have also updated our PastPerfect Museum Software, our museum collection database. This will enable us to purchase the module that we will use to upload collection records to the web. Watch this space for further developments!

Debi Murray is a native of Palm Beach County, Florida, and has been Director of Research & Archives at the Historical Society of Palm Beach County since 1999. In 2010, Murray became Chief Curator.

She attended Florida Atlantic University where she graduated *magna cum laude* and eventually received her Master of Arts in history. Murray was the point person for the Historical Society's most recent project, the Richard and Pat Johnson Palm Beach County History Museum. She is co-author of *Palm Beach* (Arcadia Publishing, 2009); co-author of *Palm Beach County at 100: Our History; Our Home* (The Palm Beach Post, 2009); and executive producer and co-writer of the Historical Society's one-hour documentary "Puddle Jumpers of Lantana: The History of the Civil Air Patrol's Coastal Patrol 3" (2007).

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wit and kind of heart. My grandmother always had a gentle smile and a kind word for everyone. I do not believe I ever saw her frown."

William H. Sanders died in St. Joseph, Missouri, on September 18, 1967. It was both Will's and Hattie's wishes that their ashes be scattered along the Suwannee River. And so they were. Both Will and Hattie Gale Sanders now remain forever a part of their beloved and cherished Florida home.

References:

A Centennial History of the Founding of the Dade County Public Schools, by Asterie Baker Provenzo and Eugene F. Provenzo, Jr.

Gale-Sanders Genealogy, copies from John Elbridge Sanders at the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach.

Janice Owens, co-Executive Director of the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach, is a native of West Palm Beach, Florida. She graduated from Florida Atlantic University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in education and has been at the Preservation Foundation since 1993. She has developed numerous programs including the living history program at the Little Red Schoolhouse and co-writer of the tabloid "History in Your Own Backyard" with the Historical Society of Palm Beach County, the School District of Palm Beach County, and *The Palm Beach Post* (2007).

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The pioneer hotels are, for the most part, forgotten and overshadowed by the memory of the Royal Poinciana Hotel and by Flagler's other hotel, The Breakers, which is still operating. The first hotels may not have been as grand and magnificent as their larger counterparts built by Flagler but the rustic environment, mild climate, and the great hospitality of the owner-operators appealed to many northern visitors. The early hotels were the beginning of tourism and the service industry in a semi-tropical jungle that was soon transformed into a world-class resort.

Selected References

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