



WILTON MANORS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Louis H. and Maude Smith-“The Old Smith House” Mini-Archive

by

Ron Ulm, August 2023

MINI-ARCHIVE BACKGROUND NOTES

What follows is a compilation of the documents found while researching an article for the Fall 2023 issue of the Wilton Manors *Town Crier* newsletter – “*Old Smith House-recalling a missed opportunity*” (also included). It was inspired by an undated document, compiled and annotated by Paul Kuta, digitized by WMHS in July 2008. These notes provide more details about the family history than could be included in the brief article. For those who have not yet read the article, the Smith House was located at 1209 NE 24th St (then Mahannah Road), across the street from what is now The Metropolitan.

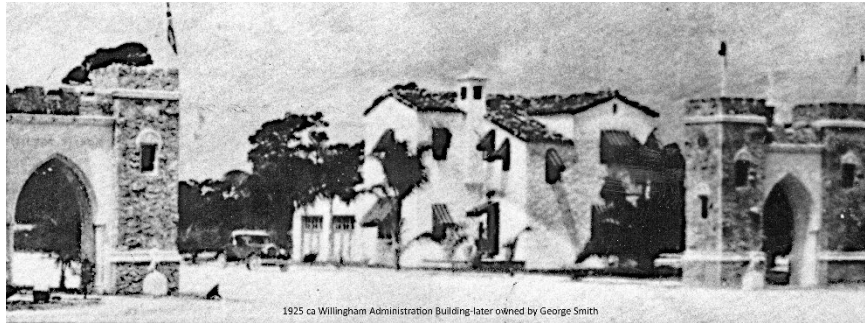
As is often the case, follow-up research not only turns up new information, but also raises inconsistencies with earlier documents. Such was the case here.

The extract from the 1955 “*Wilton Manors Story*” has the Smith House being built in Colohatchee in 1910, and the family remaining in the same house and location at the time that the article was written. Guy Smith’s obituary for his mother in 1959 describes the family home and history in much more detail; but also, quite differently. A 1971 article, found while completing these notes, and quoting Guy’s wife Nadine, seems to bridge the differences. It also required a re-write of the originally-submitted article. Combining the three sources it would now seem that the family indeed built a house when they arrived in 1910, but in the “North Andrews Gardens” section of Colohatchee, not Mahannah Road. That house was destroyed in the 1926 hurricane. For reasons undetermined, they rebuilt a new house that year in the “Mahannah Road/Wilton Manors” section of Colohatchee. That is also consistent with the known history of “our” Smith house; including the photograph of the home appearing in the Willingham Wilton Manors sales brochure “*as a newly built home in Wilton Manors*”.

Other parts of the 1955 narrative do seem to be supported. The family arriving in 1910, would have been one of the first White families to settle in Colohatchee. Guy’s birth in 1915 would appear to make him the first White child born in Colohatchee. He would have pre-dated the 1926 birth of Darlene Chadwick Mitchell—who is oft-quoted as being the first White child born in Colohatchee/Oakland Park. (Interestingly, in 1926 the Chadwick homeplace was located at what is now the Pride Center, just a few blocks from the second Smith home.)

It appears from Census and other records that much of the first-two generations of the Smith family (father, mother, and sons Kenneth and Guy) all lived at the 1209 NE 24th Street home until their respective deaths. By the 1945 Florida Census, Guy’s wife Nadine, stepson Daniel White (age 12), daughter Mary (age 4) and son Henry (age 1) are also living at that address. But for father Louis and son George, the 1950 Census continues to show three full generations of the Smith family all living in the same home on NE 24th Street.

George is still shown living at that address in the 1940 Census; but not in 1945. But Stuart McIver's 1997 history of Wilton Manors states: *"In the early 1930s the land north of Middle River and east of Wilton Drive had to be sold for taxes. Perry Mickel retrieved the land for the Willinghams by selling ... the house at the entrance gates to George Smith, who owned a furniture store and a tire shop."*



George, indeed, owned a furniture store from the early 1930s to mid-1940s. A 1944 Ft. Lauderdale News article has he and his wife living at 1101 Wilton Boulevard—roughly the address of the Willingham Administration Building. So, we do not know when George actually vacated the family homeplace.

[As an aside, while called the "Administration Building", it seems likely that Willingham built the structure to serve as a "model home" for the type/size/quality of house he expected to be constructed in his subdivision.]

At the time of his death in 1981, Guy would have been the longest-tenured living resident of Wilton Manors. Strangely, both his Ft. Lauderdale News and Miami Herald obituaries contain no biographical information or mention of his wife, children or brother Kenneth and George. Researching their names on Newspapers.com, FamilySearch.org and the WMHS archive turns up no useful information and makes no mention of same. That leaves us with a puzzle—what happened to the rest of the family? Readers of this document are welcome to provide any insight by contacting us at wmhs@wmhistory.org.

Included as an interesting aside are the articles suggesting that father Louis H. was more than just a farmer; and was involved in bootlegging in the 1930s. (Given the geographic proximity of their land, one also has to wonder if his two colleagues John Reed and Ben Reed were related to the Phillip Reed and spouse who appear in the "Mahannah eggplant field" photo.) In any case, turns out Wilton Manors had a number of individuals engaged in illegal liquor activities and other vices within its sparsely populated limits during that period. More on that in another article under development!

The Mini-Archive begins with the Town Crier article and the remaining pages are in chronological order.

[Note: The entire 1955 *"Wilton Manors Story"* publication is included in this compilation for period reference. It contains known factual errors, including the origin of the name "Colohatchee", that we have not attempted to correct here. Please verify any information that you wish to cite or quote from that document with more recent publications; or contact us at wmhs@wmhistory.org.]

The “Old Smith House”—recalling a missed opportunity

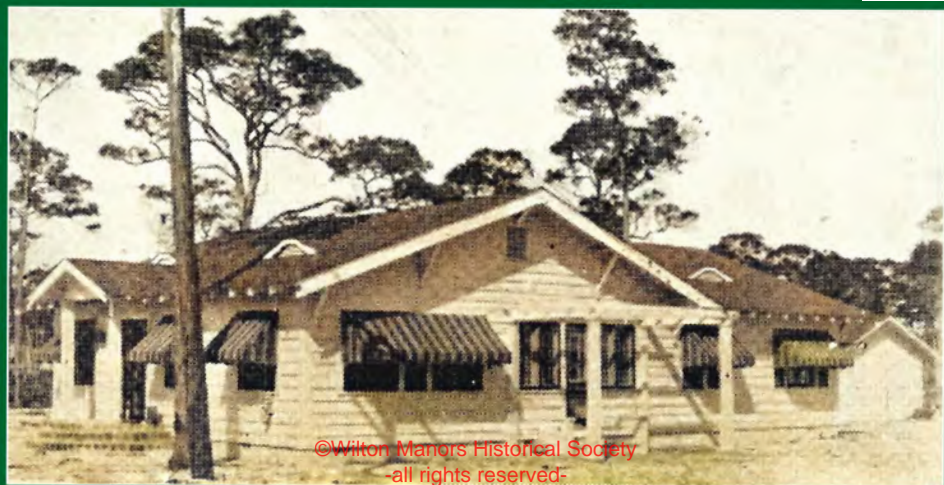
In **1910**, Louis H. Smith, his wife Maude, and two sons George and Kenneth, left Echols County, Georgia for Florida, the land of opportunity. Three weeks later, traveling by horse and wagon, they arrived at Colohatchee. Mr. Smith was a farmer. His first property was 15 acres in in the area we now call North Andrews Gardens—where he built his first home. That same year Mrs. Smith became a founding member of the Colohatchee Woman’s Club. Son Guy was born in **1915**—likely the first white child birthed in the little hamlet. Guy provided details of the family’s history in his mother’s 1959 obituary. From that, and other documents we learn ...

Their first home was destroyed by the “**1926 Hurricane**” (the family had taken shelter in the FEC RR depot with a number of other local residents). That same year they built a new home on Mahannah Road (now 1209 NE 24th St.), east of the FEC RR tracks and adjacent to the Colohatchee depot.. Willingham’s 1926 Wilton Manors sales brochure included a photo of that house (see below). It was labeled “*A newly built home in Wilton Manors*”—even though it was technically “across-the-tracks”. By 1945 Maude, Kenneth, Guy and his wife and two children were all living in the home. Guy and family remained until his death in **1981**. Three generations of a pioneer family living in their original Colohatchee/Wilton Manors home for some 55 years!

Around **1989** Horton/Jones Electrical Contractors purchased the property—needing the land to expand the business. The house was then in disrepair, but recognizing it was probably the oldest historic residence in town, Horton/Jones offered to donate it to the City (possibly as headquarters for the Historical Society), if the City would agree to move it. Accounts vary as to what happened next. Ultimately the City failed to take further action, and the house was demolished—another vintage/historic structure lost.



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STATE Florida

9-187

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

(191-878)

COUNTY Polk

FOURTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1920—POPULATION

SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT NO. 4X SHEET NO. 11
ENUMERATION DISTRICT NO. 9TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY PolkNAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE XWARD OF CITY XNAME OF INSTITUTION XENUMERATED BY ME ON THE 13 DAY OF February, 1920.ENUMERATOR W. W. W. W.

PLACE OF ABODE.				NAME of each person whose place of abode on January 1, 1920, was in this family. Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Include every person living on January 1, 1920. Omit children born since January 1, 1920.	RELATION. Relationship of this person to the head of the family.	SEX.		PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.				CITIZENSHIP.		EDUCATION.				NATIVITY AND MOTHER TONGUE.						Whether able to speak English.	OCCUPATION.			Other remarks.
Street, avenue, road, etc.	House number or farm, etc. (See instructions.)	Number of dwelling house in order of visitation.	Number of family in order of vis- itation.			Male.	Female.	Age.	Color or race.	Age at last birth- day.	Single, married, widowed, or divorced.	Years of immere- nce in this country.	Naturalized or alien.	If naturalized, date of natural- ization.	Attended school any time since Sept. 1, 1919.	Whether able to read.	Whether able to write.	Place of birth.	Mother tongue.	Place of birth.	Mother tongue.	Place of birth.	Mother tongue.		Trade, profession, or partic- ular kind of work done, as spinner, salesman, labor- er, etc.	Industry, business, or estab- lishment in which at work, as cotton mill, dry goods store, farm, etc.	Employer name, or work- ing on own account.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
51	✓	242	262	Smith Henry H.	Son			M	W	24	S				yes	yes		Georgia		Georgia		Georgia		yes	Farmer	Home farm	W	
52	✓			Dempsey	Son			M	W	18	S				yes	yes		Georgia		Georgia		Georgia		yes	Farmer	Home farm	W	
53	✓			Maggie	Daughter			F	W	15	S				yes	yes		Georgia		Georgia		Georgia		yes	none			
54	✓			Frank	Son			M	W	10	S				yes	yes	yes	Georgia		Georgia		Georgia		yes	none			
55	✓			Frank	Son			M	W	4	S							Georgia		Georgia		Georgia		yes	none			
56	✓	243	263	Kimsey Luke	Head			M	W	40	M				yes	yes		Georgia		Georgia		Georgia		yes	Farmer	Truck farm	OA	112
57	✓			Senora	Wife			F	W	38	M				yes	yes		Georgia		Georgia		Georgia		yes	none			
58	✓			Iris	Daughter			F	W	13	S				yes	yes	yes	Georgia		Georgia		Georgia		yes	none			
59	✓			Ira D	Son			M	W	10	S				yes	yes	yes	Georgia		Georgia		Georgia		yes	none			
60	✓	244	264	McBride Robert J.	Head			M	W	60	M	1866	na	-	yes	yes		Ireland	English	Scotland	English	Scotland	English	yes	Farmer	Truck farm	OA	113
61	✓			Ella M.	Wife			F	W	60	M				yes	yes		W. Virginia		West Virginia		West Virginia		yes	none			
62	✓			Robert V.	Son			M	W	27	S				yes	yes		Oklahoma		Ireland	English	W. Virginia		yes	Farmer	Packing house	W	796
63	✓			Bessie S.	Daughter			F	W	21	S				yes	yes		Oklahoma		Ireland	English	W. Virginia		yes	none			
64	✓			Orvan	Son			M	W	16	S				yes	yes	yes	Oklahoma		Ireland	English	W. Virginia		yes	none			
65	✓	245	265	Goodbread George B.	Head			M	W	48	M				yes	yes		Florida	English	unknown		Florida		yes	Farmer	Truck farm	OA	114
66	✓			Mary L.	Wife			F	W	30	M				yes	yes		Florida		Florida		Georgia		yes	none			
67	✓			George S.	Son			M	W	11	S				yes	yes	yes	Florida		Florida		Florida		yes	none			
68	✓			Doris E.	Daughter			F	W	9	S				yes	yes	yes	Florida		Florida		Florida		yes	none			
69	✓			North D.	Boy son			M	W	22	S				yes	yes	yes	Florida		Florida		Florida		yes	none			
70	✓			Delegal Edward J.	Brother-in-law			M	W	14	S				yes	yes		Florida		Florida		Georgia		yes	Farmer	Home farm	W	
71	✓	246	266	Butler Charlie	Head			M	W	30	M				no	no		Florida		Florida		Florida		yes	Farmer	Truck farm	W	
72	✓			Viola	Wife			F	W	23	M				yes	yes		Florida		Florida		Florida		yes	none			
73	✓			Benjamin	Son			M	W	5	S							Florida		Florida		Florida		yes	none			
74	✓			Charles	Son			M	W	3 1/2	S							Florida		Florida		Florida		yes	none			
75	✓			James C.	Son			M	W	1 1/2	S							Florida		Florida		Florida		yes	none			
76	✓	247	267	Johnson Geo. W.	Head			M	W	38	M				yes	yes		Florida		Florida		Florida		yes	Farmer	Truck farm	OA	115
77	✓			Clara	Wife			F	W	39	M				yes	yes		Florida		Florida		Florida		yes	none			
78	✓			Clara W.	Wife			M	W	15	S				yes	yes	yes	Florida		Florida		Florida		yes	none			
79	✓	248	268	Smith Lewis H.	Head			M	W	39	M				yes	yes		Georgia		Georgia		Georgia		yes	Farmer	Truck farm	OA	116
80	✓			Maude	Wife			F	W	38	M				yes	yes		Georgia		Georgia		Georgia		yes	none			
81	✓			George	Son			M	W	10	S				yes	yes	yes	Georgia		Georgia		Georgia		yes	none			
82	✓			Guy	Son			M	W	5	S							Georgia		Georgia		Georgia		yes	none			
83	✓			Kenneth	Son			M	W	13 1/2	S							Georgia		Georgia		Georgia		yes	none			
84	✓	249	269	Leaton James W.	Head			M	W	44	S				no	no		Georgia		Georgia		Georgia		yes	Farmer	Truck farm	OA	117
85	✓	250	270	Durbin Elsie J.	Head			F	W	60	M				yes	yes		Georgia		Georgia		Georgia		yes	Farmer	Truck farm	OA	118
86	✓			Dora	Wife			F	W	55	M				yes	yes		Georgia		Georgia		Georgia		yes	none			
87	✓			Dora	Daughter			F	W	16	S				yes	yes		Florida		Georgia		Georgia		yes	none			
88	✓			Nancy	Son			M	W	13	S				yes	yes	yes	Florida		Georgia		Georgia		yes	none			
89	✓	251	271	Durbin John	Head			M	W	34	M				yes	yes		Georgia		Georgia		Georgia		yes	Farmer	Truck farm	W	
90	✓			Lula	Wife			F	W	25	M				yes	yes		Georgia		Georgia		Georgia		yes	none			
91	✓	252	272	Slater George J.	Head			M	W	22	M				yes	yes		Florida		Alabama		Alabama		yes	Farmer	Truck farm	OA	119
92	✓			Ladine E.	Wife			F	W	22	M				yes	yes		Florida		Florida		Florida		yes	none			
93	✓			Slater John S.	Father			M	W	49	M				yes	yes		Alabama		Alabama		Alabama		yes	Farmer	Home farm	W	
94	✓			Ida	Matron			F	W	47	M				yes	yes		Alabama		Alabama		Alabama		yes	none			
95	✓			Ida	Sister			F	W	28	S				yes	yes		Florida		Alabama		Alabama		yes	none			
96	✓	253	273	Widman Janette J.	Head			F	W	21	Wid				no	no		Georgia		Georgia		Georgia		yes	none			
97	✓			John	Son			M	W	27	M				yes	yes		Florida		Georgia		Georgia		yes	Farmer	Truck farm	OA	120
98	✓			Lula	Daughter-in-law			F	W	23	M				yes	yes		Florida		Florida		Florida		yes	none			
99	✓			Louis	Grandchild			M	W	6	S				no	no		Florida		Florida		Florida		yes	none			
100	✓			Nellie	Grandchild			F	W	4	S				-	-		Florida		Florida		Florida		yes	none			

TWO INVOLVED CASES DISPOSED OF BY COUNTY

Two cases that involved lengthy legal battles have been disposed of in the county court.

Six alleged moonshiners - all rights reserved-

Smith, R. D. McLaughlin, Ira Fitch, Ben Reed, Malcolm McLaughlin and John Reed, were found guilty by jury for unlawful manufacture and possession of liquor before Judge Fred B. Shippey.

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Trial of John Reed and Louis H. Smith, charged with operating a still two miles east of Oakland Park was begun.

A jury found John Reed and Louis H. Smith not guilty of possessing and operating a still which prohibition agents found in the woods two miles east of Oakland Park on September 24, 1932. They said they were farming nearby and had nothing to do with the still.

L. H. SMITH DIES LAST NIGHT AT COLOHATCHEE

Louis H. Smith, 55, who has been a resident of Colohatchee for the past 24 years, died at his home last night. Mr. Smith was born in Valdosta, Ga., and came to Colohatchee from that city. He had been farming in Colohatchee.

Surviving are his father, Walker Smith of Valdosta; wife, Maud; three sons, George, Guy and Kenneth of Colohatchee; three sisters, Mrs. Ludy Covington of Fort Lauderdale, Mrs. Lovie Fenny of Dunedon and Mrs. Sally Staten of Statenville, Ga., and two brothers, Jesse of Bradenton and Willie of Statenville, Ga.

Funeral services will be held at 3 p. m. Thursday at Fannin Funeral home with Rev. Dallas Gibson in charge. Burial will be in

Pompano cemetery.
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FLORIDA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

19941

1. PLACE OF DEATH
County Broward District No. 6-01
Precinct _____ Precinct No. _____
(Write name, not number)
or
Inc. Town _____ City or Town No. 6-512
or
City St. Landersdale No. Colahatchee St. _____ Ward _____
(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number)
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred 24 yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds. How long in U. S. if of foreign birth? _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds.
2. FULL NAME Louis H. Smith
(a) Residence: No. Colahatchee St. _____ Ward _____
(Usual place of abode) (If nonresident, give city or town and State)

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3. SEX Male 4. COLOR OR RACE White 5. Single, married, widowed or divorced (write the word) Married
6a. If married, widowed or divorced HUSBAND of (or) WIFE of Maud Smith
6. DATE OF BIRTH (month, day and year) Aug 3rd 1879
7. AGE Years 55 Months 4 Days 1 If LESS than 1 day, _____ hrs. or _____ min.
8. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as spinner, sawyer, bookkeeper, etc. Farmer
9. Industry or business in which work was done, as silk mill, sawmill, bank, etc. _____
10. Date deceased last worked at this occupation (month and year) Unknown 11. Total time (years) spent in this occupation 14
12. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) Waldosla (State or country) Ga.

13. NAME Walker Smith
14. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or country) Ga.
15. MAIDEN NAME Worceilla E. Emsy
16. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or country) Ga.
17. INFORMANT George Smith (Address) St. Landersdale, Fla.
18. BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL Place Griffin, Fla. Date Dec. 6th 1934
19. UNDERTAKER Garmin Funeral Home (Address) St. Landersdale, Fla.
20. FILED 12-6-1934 Charles Penhath Registrar

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

21. DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) Dec. 4, 1934
22. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from here 1934 to here 1934
I last saw him alive on here 1934 death is said to have occurred on the date stated above, at 9:05 P.M.
The principal cause of death and related causes of importance in order of onset were as follows:
#85
Cerebral hemorrhage
Contributory causes of importance not related to principal cause:
Name of operation _____ Date of _____
What test confirmed diagnosis? _____ Was there an autopsy? Yes
23. If death was due to external causes (violence) fill in also the following: Accident, suicide, or homicide? _____ Date of injury _____ 19____
Where did injury occur? _____ (Specify city or town, county, and State)
Specify whether injury occurred in industry, in home, or in public place: _____
Manner of injury _____
Nature of injury _____
24. Was disease or injury in any way related to occupation of deceased? No
If so, specify _____
Signed W. A. Johnston M.D. (Address) St. Landersdale, Fla.

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING

N. B.—WRITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.

V. S. No. 4

PRECINCT NO. 3

POPULATION CENSUS 1935

Broward COUNTY

NAME	ADDRESS	INSIDE OR OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS	AGE		RACE	RELATION TO FAMILY	PLACE OF BIRTH—IF IN U. S. GIVE NAME OF STATE, OTHERWISE NAME OF COUNTRY	DEGREE OF EDUCATION	OWNER OR RENTER	OCCUPATION
			MALE	FEMALE						
Louis Steinke	Oakland Park	outside	58		White	Husband	Indiana	Grammar S.	Owner	Farmer
Nellie Steinke	Oakland Park	" "		47	" "	Wife	Louisiana	" "	" "	House wife
Margaret Steinke	Oakland Park	" "		14	" "	Daughter	Florida	" "	" "	" "
Pauline Steinke	Oakland Park	" "		12	" "	Daughter	Florida	7th grade	" "	" "
Carl Steinke	Oakland Park	" "	7		" "	Son	Florida	1st grade	" "	" "
Dan B. Lacy	Oakland Park	" "	27		" "	Son	Florida	Grammar S.	" "	Public Works
William F. Freeman	Oakland Park	" "	53		" "	Husband	Florida	" "	Renter	" "
Sarah A. Freeman	Oakland Park	" "		43	" "	Wife	Florida	" "	" "	House wife
William Freeman Jr.	Oakland Park	" "	19		" "	Son	Florida	" "	" "	Public Works
Robert H. Freeman	Oakland Park	" "	10		" "	Son	Florida	" "	" "	" "
Malcolm E. McLaughlin	Oakland Park	" "	65		" "	Husband	Florida	Grammar S.	" "	Relig Works
Zela B. M. C. Laughlin	Oakland Park	" "		45	" "	Wife	Florida	" "	" "	House wife
John S. M. C. Laughlin	Oakland Park	" "		14	" "	Son	Florida	7th grade	" "	" "
Alice R. M. C. Laughlin	Oakland Park	" "		12	" "	Daughter	Florida	4th grade	" "	" "
Joseph W. M. C. Laughlin	Oakland Park	" "		9	" "	Son	Florida	2nd grade	" "	" "
Betty Lou M. C. Laughlin	Oakland Park	" "		5	" "	Daughter	Florida	0	" "	" "
Samuel R. Johnston	Oakland Park	" "	61		" "	Son	N. Carolina	High School	Owner	Farmer
Alexander George	Oakland Park	" "	69		" "	Husband	Mo.	Grammar S.	" "	Portman
Anna George	Oakland Park	" "		63	" "	Wife	Mo.	" "	" "	House wife
William George	Oakland Park	" "	32		" "	Son	Mo.	" "	" "	" "
Walter S. Williams	Oakland Park	" "	31		" "	Husband	Texas	High School	Owner	Portman
Bessie Williams	Oakland Park	" "		25	" "	Wife	Tennessee	College	" "	House wife
Claude Williams	Oakland Park	" "	1		" "	Son	Florida	0	" "	" "
James Randle	Oakland Park	" "	54		" "	Husband	Georgia	Grammar S.	Renter	Farmer
Kate Randle	Oakland Park	" "		59	" "	Wife	Georgia	" "	" "	House wife
Janie Randle	Oakland Park	" "		20	" "	Daughter	Georgia	High School	" "	Laundress
Micollious Randle	Oakland Park	" "	20		" "	Son	Georgia	" "	" "	Farmer
Jack Randle	Oakland Park	" "	18		" "	Son	Georgia	" "	" "	Western Union
Walter C. Simon	Lauderdale by Sea	" "	47		" "	Husband	Louisiana	College	Renter	Broker
Dorothy B. Simon	" "	" "		26	" "	Wife	Mich.	High School	" "	House wife
Tommy D. Simon	" "	" "	1		" "	Son	Mich.	0	" "	" "
Ann Marie Simon	" "	" "		2	" "	Daughter	Florida	0	" "	" "
Maudie Smith	Colobatchee	" "		52	" "	Mother	Georgia	High school	Owner	Public work.
George Smith	" "	" "	25		" "	Son	Florida	" "	" "	Oredge boat
Luby Smith	" "	" "	19		" "	Son	Florida	" "	" "	" "
Kenneth Smith	" "	" "	17		" "	Son	Florida	" "	" "	Postal-Telegram
James Liston	" "	" "	60		" "	Son	Georgia	Grammar S.	Renter	Farmer
Charles S. Mahammad	" "	" "	69		" "	Husband	India	College	Owner	Farmer
Ella F. Mahammad	" "	" "		70	" "	Wife	India	High School	" "	House wife
John S. Read	" "	" "	80		" "	Son	Scotland	College	Owner	Retired
Willie Johnson	" "	" "	54		" "	Husband	Florida	Grammar S.	Owner	Farmer
Clara Johnson	" "	" "		54	" "	Wife	Florida	" "	" "	House wife
Tom W. Adams	" "	" "	38		" "	Husband	Georgia	" "	Renter	F. & S. Employee
Esther Adams	" "	" "		34	" "	Wife	Georgia	" "	" "	House wife
Francis Adams	" "	" "	16		" "	Daughter	Georgia	High School	" "	" "
Fruitt Adams	" "	" "	13		" "	Son	Georgia	6th grade	" "	" "
Merle C. Slagle	Ft. Lauderdale	" "	51		" "	Husband	Nebraska	College	Owner	Postman
Elis A. Slagle	Ft. Lauderdale	" "		46	" "	Wife	Kansas	College	" "	House wife
Lowell E. Slagle	" "	" "	15		" "	Son	Florida	10th grade	" "	" "
W. H. Cleason	Oakland Park	outside	60		" "	Son	Virginia	High School	" "	Carpenter

Your report is required by Act of Congress. This Act makes it unlawful for the Bureau to disclose any facts, including names or identity, from your census reports. Only sworn census employees will see your statements. Data collected will be used solely for preparing statistical information concerning the Nation's population, resources, and business activities. Your Census Reports Cannot Be Used for Purposes of Taxation, Regulation, or Investigation.

16-522 A

State Florida Incorporated place Unincorporated place Ward of city Wakeland Park Unincorporated place Wakeland Park S.D. No. 4 E.D. No. 6-23 Sheet No. 4 A

County Pinellas Township or other division of county Pinellas 3 Block Nos. Line 20 and 21 Institution Line 20 and 21 Enumerated by me on April 22, 1940. Genevieve Jane Bane Enumerator.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940
POPULATION SCHEDULE 100

LOCATION		HOUSEHOLD DATA				NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION		EDUCATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	RESIDENCE, APRIL 1, 1935	PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER—EMPLOYMENT STATUS																				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
Name of each person whose usual place of residence on April 1, 1940, was in this household.						Relationship of this person to the head of the household. (If "other," specify: daughter, father, mother-in-law, grand-son, etc.)		Color or race	Age at last birthday	Single (S), Married (M), Widowed (W), Divorced (D)	Attended school or college any time since March 1, 1937 (Yes or No)	Highest grade of school completed	CODE (Leave blank)	Native born in the United States, give State, Territory, or Possession (Leave blank)	Foreign born, give country in which birthplace established on January 1, 1937.	CODE (Leave blank)	County	State (or Territory or foreign country)	City, town, or village having 2,500 or more inhabitants (Leave blank) Enter "R" for all other places.	Whether born in this country	Whether born in this country	Whether born in this country	Whether born in this country	Whether born in this country	Whether born in this country	Whether born in this country	Whether born in this country	Whether born in this country	Whether born in this country	Whether born in this country	Whether born in this country	Whether born in this country	Whether born in this country
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16-522 A

State Florida Incorporated place Unincorporated place Ward of city Wakeland Park Unincorporated place Wakeland Park S.D. No. 4 E.D. No. 6-23 Sheet No. 4 B

County Pinellas Township or other division of county Pinellas 3 Block Nos. Line 20 and 21 Institution Line 20 and 21 Enumerated by me on April 22, 1940. Genevieve Jane Bane Enumerator.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940
POPULATION SCHEDULE 100

LOCATION		HOUSEHOLD DATA				NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	EDUCATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	CITIZENSHIP	RESIDENCE, APRIL 1, 1935										PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER—EMPLOYMENT STATUS										INCOME IN 1939		Number of Farm Schedule	Line No.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34		
IN WHAT PLACE DID THE PERSON LIVE ON APRIL 1, 1935?												OCCUPATION, INDUSTRY, AND CLASS OF WORKER										INCOME IN 1939													
For a person who lived in a different place on April 1, 1935, write "Yes" in Col. 17, "Same house," and for one living in a different house but in the same city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 18, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 19, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 20, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 21, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 22, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 23, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 24, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 25, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 26, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 27, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 28, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 29, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 30, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 31, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 32, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 33, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 34, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 35, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 36, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 37, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 38, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 39, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 40, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 41, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 42, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 43, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 44, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 45, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 46, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 47, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 48, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 49, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 50, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 51, "Same house," and for one living in a different house and in a different city or town, write "Yes" in Col. 52, "Same house," and for one 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1945 Florida Census

PRECINCT No.	NAME	COUNTY	RACE
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
NAME	ADDRESS	IN OR OUT	AGE
			Male Female
PLACE OF BIRTH	EDUCATION	OCCUPATION	
HAIR, JOSEPH	1333 NE 7 TH AVE.	In	52
" IDA	"	"	38
BLOOM, JAMES A	1335 NE 7 TH AVE.	"	29
" LEONA S	"	"	25
" GARY M.	"	"	3
COURSON, RAYMOND W.	1332 NE 7 TH AVE.	"	30
" EDITH	"	"	35
SHERMAN, RICHARD	"	"	16
" JOYCE	"	"	13
COURSON, RONALD	"	"	4
JENKINS, JOHN E.	1341 NE 7 TH AVE.	"	49
" ETHE	"	"	45
" WILLIAM	"	"	34
" JOHN C JR.	"	"	17
" JOSEPH R.	"	"	7
COOK, JOHN A.	1748 NE 25 TH ST	OUT	44
" ADA B.	"	OUT	51
KINCAID, JOHN C.	30 BOX 153 DAYLAND RD.	OUT	69
" ADA L.	"	OUT	76
VINSON, HOMER A.	P.O. BOX 792	OUT	45
" LOIS G.	"	OUT	41
" HOMER A. JR.	"	OUT	19
MCDUAIG, DORIS	"	OUT	34
" MARY J.	"	OUT	4
" GENE A	"	OUT	5
SMITH, GUY	Box 451 P.R. # 2	OUT	30
" NELLIE N.	"	OUT	34
WHITE, DANIEL L.	"	OUT	12
SMITH, MARY L.	"	OUT	4
" HENRY L.	"	OUT	1
SMITH, MAUDE L.	"	OUT	6-3
" KENNETH	"	OUT	28

14 TO 18 19 TO 20

M	F	T	S	M	F	T
2	1	3	3	0	2	
6						

20 10 male

20 5 female

out 8 male

out 3 female

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18 14

22

21 TO 24

9 9

18

1

25 & OVER

1

1

2

(55)

Florida
Brown
INCORPORATED PLACE OR TOWNSHIP
6-46-B

MIDDLE RIVER TRAILER PARK
TRAILER PARK
Date No. 27 to 30 inclusive

CONFIDENTIAL

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
1950 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING

DATE OF BIRTH April 24
J. W. Burroughs
McBarrick 5-70

SHEET NUMBER 3

FOR HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD

NAME
What is the name of the head of this household?
What are the names of all other persons who live here?
List in this order:
1. The head
2. His wife
3. Married sons and daughters (in order of ages)
4. Married sons and daughters and their families
5. Other relatives
6. Other persons, such as lodgers, roomers, boarders, transient boarders who live in, and their relatives

RELATIONSHIP
State relationship of person to head of household, as:
Head
Wife
Daughter
Mother-in-law
Lodger
Lodger's wife
Maid
Boarder
Transient boarder, etc.

RACE
White (W)
Negro (N)
American Indian (AI)
Japanese (J)
Chinese (C)
Filipino (F)
Other (O)
Specify race

SEX
Male (M)
Female (F)
Specify sex

How old was he on his last birthday?
Date of birth (Month, Day, Year)
Date of birth (Month, Day, Year)

What State (or foreign country) was he born in?
If born outside Continental United States, enter name of Territory, possession, or foreign country
If born outside Continental United States, enter name of Territory, possession, or foreign country

What was this person doing last week—working, keeping house, or something else?
If he was working, was he doing any work at all last week, not counting work around the house?
If he was working, was he doing any work at all last week, not counting work around the house?
If he was working, was he doing any work at all last week, not counting work around the house?

What kind of work was he doing?
For example:
Sales clerk in store
Chemistry teacher
Farmer
Army doctor
Secret worker

What kind of business or industry was he working in?
For example:
Retailing
Private university
Farming
Manufacturing

Class of worker
For PRIVATE employer (P)
For GOVERNMENT (G)
In OWN business (O)
WITHOUT PAY on family farm or business (NP)

LINE NUMBER

1 UN 24 Calumet Newman Anna G. WIFE W Fe 29 MAR OHIO WK 44 Secretary Doctors Office P 509621

2 25 No No Liberty Robert J. HEAD W M 43 MAR MICHIGAN WK 50 Radiator Repair Radiator Rep- O 508106

3 Borgia M. WIFE W Fe 42 MAR MICHIGAN WK 44 Bookkeeper HOWARD STORE P 310686

4 26 No No Wells, Harry C. HEAD W M 41 MAR NEW JERSEY WK 50 ENGINEER MANUFACTURING P 12

5 EDITH E. WIFE W Fe 35 MAR NEW JERSEY H No No No

6 HARRY J. SON W M 10 Nov NEW JERSEY

7 Shirley A. DAUGHTER W Fe 8 Nov NEW JERSEY

8 27 No No YDE, NIELS A. HEAD W M 56 MAR DENMARK WK 40 Sample Maker HFGRS. JALOUSY P

9 JANE WIFE W Fe 51 MAR DENMARK H No No No

10 28 No No VACANT

11 29 No No VACANT

12 30 No No Pierce, Frank K. HEAD W M 45 MAR FLORIDA WK 40 CARPENTER BUILDING CONTRACTOR P 511246

13 Buline C. WIFE W Fe 36 MAR MASS

14 THOMAS G. SON W M 10 Nov FLORIDA

15 31 No No VACANT

16 32 No No Stahoski, Leo S. HEAD W M 42 MAR PENNSYLVANIA WK 45 Bookkeeper BUILDING CONTRACTORS P 602461

17 Erika C. WIFE W Fe 46 MAR NEW YORK WK 45 Solder Maker Motel P 790731

18 33 No No VACANT

19 34 NOT HOME See Sheet 71 - Lines - 21

20 35 No No Smith, Maude HEAD W Fe 69 WD GEORGIA H No No No

21 HENRIETTA C. SON W M 32 Nov FLORIDA WK 40 LAY OUT MAN BUILDING CONTRACTORS P

22 36 No No Smith, Guy A. HEAD W M 35 MAR FLORIDA WK 40 PLASTERER PLASTERER O 402462

23 MADIE N. WIFE W Fe 40 MAR GEORGIA

24 WHITE, DANIEL L. SON W M 17 Nov GEORGIA OT No No No

25 SMITH, MARY L. DAUGHTER W Fe 9 Nov FLORIDA

26 HENRY L. SON W M 6 Nov FLORIDA

27 37 No No NOT HOME See Sheet 71 - Lines - 22 - 23

28 38 No No NOT HOME See Sheet 72 - Lines - 7 - 21 - 3

29 39 No No Schmidt, William C. HEAD W M 56 MAR GERMANY WK 40 OPERATOR TRAILER PARK O 270836

40 BERTHA WIFE W Fe 58 MAR GERMANY H No No No

HOUSEHOLD CONTINUED ON NEXT SHEET ☐ UN 24 N.E. 24 Street
Notes 1/18 House of #1516 N.E. 24 St. on corner

THE QUESTIONS BELOW ARE FOR PERSONS LISTED ON SAMPLE LINES

FOR ALL AGES

FOR PERSONS 14 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER

Was he living in this house a year ago? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Was he living in a farm a year ago? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Was he living in this same county a year ago? ☐ Yes ☐ No

What county and State was he living in a year ago?
County: (If county unknown, enter name of place or nearest place)
State or foreign country

What country were his father and mother born in?
(Enter US or name of Territory, possession, or foreign country)

What is the highest grade of school that he has attended?
(Enter one grade below)

Did he finish this grade? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Has he attended school at any time since February last?
(For those under 30 years of age check Yes or No
For those 30 years old or over, check 30 or over)

If looking for work (Yes in item 17)
How many weeks has he been looking for work?
(Number of weeks)

Last year, in how many weeks did he earn money doing any work at all, not counting work around the house?
(Number of weeks)

Income received by this person in 1949
Last year (1949), how much money did he earn working as an employee for wages or salary?
(Enter amount before deductions for taxes, etc.)
Last year, how much money did he earn in his own business, profession, or farm?
(Enter net income)
Last year, how much money did he receive from interest, dividends, veteran's allowances, pensions, rents, or other income (aside from earnings)?
(Enter amount before deductions for taxes, etc.)

If this person is a family head (see definition below)—
Income received by his relatives in this household
Last year (1949), how much money did his relatives in this household earn working for wages or salary?
(Amount before deductions for taxes, etc.)
Last year, how much money did his relatives in this household receive from interest, dividends, veteran's allowances, pensions, rents, or other income (aside from earnings)?
(Net income)

If Male—(Ask each question)
Did he ever serve in the U. S. Armed Forces during—
World War I ☐ Yes ☐ No
World War II ☐ Yes ☐ No
Any other time, including present service ☐ Yes ☐ No

21 County: 22 Father: 23 Mother: 24 State or foreign country: 25 Father: 26 Mother: 27 State or foreign country: 28 Father: 29 Mother: 30 State or foreign country: 31a Last year (1949), how much money did he earn working as an employee for wages or salary? 31b Last year, how much money did he earn in his own business, profession, or farm? 31c Last year, how much money did he receive from interest, dividends, veteran's allowances, pensions, rents, or other income (aside from earnings)? 32a Last year (1949), how much money did his relatives in this household earn working for wages or salary? 32b Last year, how much money did his relatives in this household receive from interest, dividends, veteran's allowances, pensions, rents, or other income (aside from earnings)? 32c Last year, how much money did his relatives in this household receive from interest, dividends, veteran's allowances, pensions, rents, or other income (aside from earnings)? 33a Did he ever serve in the U. S. Armed Forces during—World War I? 33b Did he ever serve in the U. S. Armed Forces during—World War II? 33c Did he ever serve in the U. S. Armed Forces during—Any other time, including present service?

50 21 FLORIDA 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31a 31b 31c 32a 32b 32c 33a 33b 33c

51 21 FLORIDA 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31a 31b 31c 32a 32b 32c 33a 33b 33c

52 21 FLORIDA 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31a 31b 31c 32a 32b 32c 33a 33b 33c

53 21 FLORIDA 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31a 31b 31c 32a 32b 32c 33a 33b 33c

54 21 FLORIDA 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31a 31b 31c 32a 32b 32c 33a 33b 33c

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56 21 FLORIDA 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31a 31b 31c 32a 32b 32c 33a 33b 33c

57 21 FLORIDA 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31a 31b 31c 32a 32b 32c 33a 33b 33c

58 21 FLORIDA 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31a 31b 31c 32a 32b 32c 33a 33b 33c

59 21 FLORIDA 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31a 31b 31c 32a 32b 32c 33a 33b 33c

60 21 FLORIDA 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31a 31b 31c 32a 32b 32c 33a 33b 33c

61 21 FLORIDA 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31a 31b 31c 32a 32b 32c 33a 33b 33c

62 21 FLORIDA 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31a 31b 31c 32a 32b 32c 33a 33b 33c

63 21 FLORIDA 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31a 31b 31c 32a 32b 32c 33a 33b 33c

64 21 FLORIDA 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31a 31b 31c 32a 32b 32c 33a 33b 33c

65 21 FLORIDA 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31a 31b 31c 32a 32b 32c 33a 33b 33c

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71 21 FLORIDA 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31a 31b 31c 32a 32b 32c 33a 33b 33c

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83 21 FLORIDA 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31a 31b 31c 32a 32b 32c 33a 33b 33c

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171 21 FLORIDA 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31a 31b 31c 32a 32b

MRS. MAUDE LOTA SMITH

Mrs. Maude Lota Smith, 79, of 1209 NE 24th St., Wilton Manors, died at her residence Tuesday.

Born in Eckles County, Ga., Mrs. Smith moved here in 1909.

She was a charter member of the Colahatchee Women's Club.

Surviving are one son, Guy of Ft. Lauderdale; three brothers, James T. Culbreth and Lloyd of Statenville, Ga., and William of Eloy, Ariz.; two sisters, Misses Alma and Josie Culbreth, both of Statenville and three grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at the Fannin Funeral Home Chapel at 10 a.m. Thursday with the Rev. J. Burch Cooper officiating.

Articles clipped from Newspapers.com

Thursday Rites For Early Settler

WILTON MANORS — Mrs. Maude Smith, a resident here for 50 years, died Tuesday at her home, 1209 NE 24th St. She was 71.

Born in Eckles County, Ga., Mrs. Smith and her late husband came here to farm.

A son, Guy, said his parents bought a 15-acre tract in what is now North Andrews Gardens, and later leased additional farmland.

"They were among the first white residents to settle here," he said. "They built a home in Wilton Manors, but it was demolished in the 1926 hurricane. The following year they built another home in Wilton Manors.

"We weren't in the house at the time the storm hit. We stayed in a railroad section house with about 100 other persons."

Mrs. Smith was active in lodge work a number of years and was a charter member of the Colahatchee Woman's Club. Her husband and two sons are dead.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday at the Fannin Chapel. Burial will be in Pompano Beach Cemetery.

Little World . . . WALLIE NELSEN

NADINE SMITH of Wilton Manors, reports that her husband was born here in 1915, which makes him older than the 54 years we men-

tioned. Incidentally, they have a daughter born in 1941 and a son in 1943; both were born in the same house they now live in, which has been enlarged several times. The house was built in 1926 from lumber that was left from the terrible hurricane of that year which destroyed a house built in 1910. The Smiths live at 1209 NE 24th Street.

Ft. Lauderdale News, May 27, 1981

SMITH

**Guy E. Smith of Wilton Manors, died on Tuesday.
Arrangements pending R. JAY KRAEER FORT
LAUDERDALE FUNERAL HOME 4061 North Fed-
eral Highway, 565-5591**

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THE OLD SMITH HOUSE

1225 N.E. 24th Street - Wilton Manors, Florida

Built in the 1920's, it is authentically the oldest residential structure in Wilton Manors.

Presently owned and occupied by Horton/Jones Electrical Contractors, it is soon to be donated to the City of Wilton Manors. It will be moved to another location chosen by them. We are proud to be a part of the preservation of such an historical building.

TOM P. JONES



LICENSED AND INSURED

HORTON / JONES ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS, INC.
1225 N.E. 24TH STREET, WILTON MANORS, FL 33305
BUS. (305) 564-4220 • RES. (305) 493-8489

In 1910, Louis H. Smith and his wife left Echols County, Georgia for Florida, the land of opportunity at that time as well as today. Their transportation was by horse and wagon, and after three weeks they arrived at Colohatchee, Florida, and located a home at Mahanna Road immediately east of the FEC RR tracks (NE 24 St.) Mrs. Smith, courteously referred to as Miss'us Maude by old timers in the county, has lived in Wilton Manors continuously since 1910 at the same site, making her without doubt, the longest living resident of the community. Miss'us Maude raised three boys - Guy, George and Kenneth. Guy and Kenneth live in Wilton Manors, and Guy is probably the oldest living person born within the boundaries of the city having been born in 1915. The Smiths can rightfully be called a pioneer family.

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NOTE: ALTHOUGH
HORTON/JONES OFFERED
THIS HOUSE TO THE
CITY OF WILTON MANORS,
THE CITY REFUSED THE
OFFER BECAUSE OF
THE COST IN MOVING
THE STRUCTURE.
THUS, IT WAS TORN
DOWN TO ALLOW
FOR EXPANSION OF
HORTON/JONES

-PAK

[Editor's Note: Not fully consistent with
account of same in B.B. Little's "Wilton
Manors" history book.]

← SOURCE:

THE WILTON MANORS
STORY, 1955, BY
THE WILTON MANORS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

[Editor's Note: Not fully consistent
with account of same in 1959 Maude
Smith obituary by son Guy.]

[Editor's Note: not all information in this publication is completely accurate.
Suggest confirming with more recent research before citing/quoting.]

THE



WILTON

MANORS

STORY...

AS TOLD IN 1955

Many persons have noted sidewalks long laid and lamp posts on Wilton Drive, design of the twenties, and have been curious as to the background of Wilton Manors; when it was founded and how it derived its name. With the celebration of the re-building of Wilton Drive, your editor thought it timely to bring the history of Wilton Manors up to date and with the aid of early residents, Mr. Dave Turner, Mayor Perry Mickel, Alvar Hagen, Norman Malcolm, and the newspaper files of the former Wilton Manors Bulletin (Tom Hinds, Editor) we have been able to piece together the following story.

The first deed on record involving present Wilton Manors was executed in 1890. It came about as a step in the romantic story of the reclamation of the mangrove swamps and sand dunes and their transformation into the present dream-come-true-land for tourists, and a wonderful place to live for the year 'round residents.

In the year 1881 a group of St. Augustine people headed by John Wescott, incorporated the Florida East Coast Line Canal and Transportation Company, capitalized at \$100,000 for the purpose of "Constructing, maintaining and operating a canal, or artificial waterway for the passage of boats and vessels, with the necessary locks, for public use in the conveyance of persons and property, to extend from some point near the head of Matanza River, in St. Johns County, southward to the head of the Halifax River" - a distance of about 12 miles. In 1882 the project was enlarged to extend the canal all the way to Biscayne Bay in Dade County. The canal was to permit passage of vessels drawing three feet of water or less.

In 1885 the Legislature made a grant of land to the canal company to make up deficiencies along its "present and proposed extended line" and in 1889 confirmed the grant of land to the company, at the rate of 3,840 acres per mile for the entire distance of 320 miles - St. Augustine to Biscayne Bay. The canal was to be 50 feet wide and 5 feet deep, at mean low water.

The Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund of the State of Florida had, meantime, been designated as custodians of all swamp lands of the state. Thus it came about that the Trustees in 1890 issued the first deed to lands in Wilton Manors and other lands. The total was something over a million acres.

High hopes that the canal, which later became the Inland Water Way, would play an important part in developing the Southeast Coast, became partly true, but the coming of the railroad in 1895 pushed development rapidly. A railway station was located at Mahanna Road (now called NE 24 Street). It was called Colohatchee and was moved at a later date to Oakland Park where it sometime later burned to the ground.

Colohatchee is an Indian place-name of local origin, current before the railroad came. It is said that William C. Collier was the first white settler in this northeast section not long after Stranahan settled on New River. He had a rich little area along the South side of the North Fork of Middle River, east of the present railroad. He had an orange grove and the Indians developed quite a fondness for his oranges. They called him Colo, and Hatchee meant river, hence the location was Colohatchee--Collier at the River.

Stranahan and Frank Oliver were owners of land here in Wilton Manors. In fact, in 1910 Oliver, Moody and Weaver platted the land lying between the railroad and Old Dixie, south of Mahanna Road and called it Colohatchee.

The oldest house now standing in Wilton Manors is at the corner of Old Dixie and Mahanna Road (NE 24 Street) and is owned by C. H. Hutchinson. The old-time structure was built around 1912 by a man named Johnson, called Uncle Billy, who farmed and kept a dairy. As an example of how well built the house is, the floors are of three inch Dade pine. Uncle Billy bought his farm from Oliver and sold out to E. J. Willingham in 1924 and there begins the story of Wilton Manors proper. Willingham appeared on the scene in this community as the developer of Lauderdale Beach in 1923.

After having that well underway, he acquired the ground here and platted Wilton Manors Unit Number 1 in 1925. The plat of Unit No. 1 showed, but did not include the land lying along the North side of the South Fork of Middle River, although it apparently was owned by Willingham. He resided in the present Richardson house, having remodeled a smaller one on the side into the present commodious residence.

From present Lazy Lake came rock for construction. Wilton Manors was an ambitious project for a high grade subdivision. Wilton Drive, 90 feet wide, was improved with paving, sidewalks and light standards to be the axis of the residential district. Emphasis was placed upon the Northeast corner at the intersection of The Drive and Old Dixie. Block 69, adjacent to the FEC RR was reserved for business to be improved with two story buildings only. Sidewalks on Old Dixie were 10 feet wide. The entrance to the residential district was made impressive with two crenulated towers. But they were not just false fronts of stucco on lathe as were many similar structures which decayed and fell apart in succeeding years to become as many such did, gastly reminders of disappointed hopes and lost investments. They had concrete foundations and belt courses at each story with steel reinforcements as though built under present day building code. They were beautiful with decorative inserts of Coquina rock, and after the fashion of the famous architect, Addison Mizner, were given face relief. Between the towers a cable was strung to display a "Welcome to Wilton Manors" banner. The South tower had stairways to the upper floors and was used to take prospective purchasers to the top and show them the area. This tower and the block on which it stood were acquired some years ago by M. D. Mace. After completion of his own handsome residence, the tower with additions was converted into a unique and convenient residence while still preserving the original design.

It is said that the name Wilton was selected to perpetuate a branch of the Willingham ancestry in England, of which he was very proud and in order to be a credit to that name the Manors was restricted to Caucasians and the improvements were to be of non-combustible materials. Residents on the Drive were to cost not less than \$8,500; on Dixie Highway \$7,000, and all others in proportion. Indian names were given to all streets except the present 26th Street which was called Prospect Road. The restrictions were to run for 20 years or until 1946. Lots were sold for high prices. Wilton Drive lots near the towers sold for \$7,000; on what is now 23rd Street, for \$3,000.

The first home in the new subdivision was erected by Mr. Hiaasen on what is now 621 NE 21st Street. E. J. Willingham, Jr., erected the house nearest to the towers and it was the real estate office of the project. About eight residences were erected, all but one being of the adapted Mediterranean design.

Matters were progressing happily toward fulfillment of Willingham's dreams to make Wilton Manors a place of distinction as a select locality, and to augment his considerable capital. Then, suddenly disaster came in the form of the '26 hurricane. All activity ceased here and everywhere in Florida. That wind blew away all hopes and plans including, it is said, some three million dollars of Mr. Willingham's investment. But misfortunes seldom come singly... He returned to Byron, Ga. where his wife died in January. Two months later he followed her.

Persons responsible for the start of present day expansion on Wilton Manors are mainly: Dave Turner, Alvar Hagen, John Pedersen and Perry Mickel. Dave Turner, first Mayor of Wilton Manors is a Floridian, having been born in St. Augustine. He came to Pompano area in 1906 and moved to Ft. Lauderdale in 1912. About 12 years ago he and his family moved to Wilton Manors. In 1943, on expiration of the original deed restrictions, Mr. Turner bought out

the Willingham estate holdings. He had it surveyed and began to market the lots at a reasonable price, and soon disposed of them. In the last few years he has, in an association with James Dean and others plotted a large tract of land East of the FEC RR lying between NE 26 Street and North Fork of Middle River, which is being sold as Middle River Estates. Mr. Turner donated the land to the city on which the present City Library is built.

Alvar Hagen came upon the scene in '40 from Berwyn, Illinois. He acquired property adjacent to the Richardson Golf Course and along the South bank of Middle River, and some on the south end of the Drive. He built and sold residences. Built important business houses along Wilton Drive. He was one of the main persons responsible for starting the Wilton Manors Civic Association. Mr. Hagen donated a 100' x 500' piece of ground for use as a City park.

John Pedersen came here about the same time as Hagen and acquired considerable amount of land through purchase of tax property, which he sold at a reasonable price. He helped many people start a home by se-ling at low cost and loaning of construction money at reasonable payments.

Our present Mayor, Perry Mickel is an old timer here, having been Willingham's right-hand man during the development of both subdivisions of Lauderdale Beach and Wilton Manors. He also represented the Willingham estate for some time, paying taxes and looking out for the properties. Mickel bought a farm West of Andrews Avenue which he farmed in the winter. He has said he farmed in the winter and built homes in the summer to make up for what he lost during the season. However, Mr. Mickel was successful in business of operating a farm. He recently plotted his property and began selling lots and building homes.

In 1910, Louis H. Smith and his wife left Echols County, Georgia for Florida, the land of opportunity at that time as well as today. Their transportation was by horse and wagon, and after three weeks they arrived at Colohatchee, Florida, and located a home at Mahanna Road immediately east of the FEC RR tracks (NE 24 St.) Mrs. Smith, courteously referred to as Miss'us Maude by old timers in the county, has lived in Wilton Manors continuously since 1910 at the same site, making her without doubt, the longest living resident of the community. Miss'us Maude raised three boys - Guy, George and Kenneth. Guy and Kenneth live in Wilton Manors, and Guy is probably the oldest living person born within the boundaries of the city having been born in 1915. The Smiths can rightfully be called a pioneer family.

In looking for the oldest living resident of Wilton Manors we found that John Durden, now living at NE 6th Lane and 26 Street, has lived in the community for 41 years, having bought a farm in the vicinity of Oakland Park Blvd. and Andrews Avenue in 1914. When the boom started, Mr. Durden went into the road building business, and says that he finished paving Wilton Drive after Hatch, the road contractor, had failed to finish his contract. He also contracted streets and sidewalks for Willingham and other developers. He says the first street paved in Wilton Manors was the present route of 26th Street, from the Drive to Andrews, and was called Prospect Road. He tells many amusing stories of the time, among them about high-falutin' parties put on by the social set of those days.

In 1947 Wilton Manors was incorporated as a non-profit organization, municipal type, in circuit court of Broward County. An election was held and Alvar Hagen was elected President of the Council with J. Marvin Brown, Arthur Chabot, James Boyd and William Robinson rounding out the roster. Dave Turner was elected first Mayor of the new village and Katherine Johnston was made Village Clerk. Bill Robinson doubled in his duties as Councilman by acting also as the first attorney of the village.

Wilton Manors is considered one of the fastest growing communities in South Florida, especially during the past five years. Not only has there been a tremendous home development, but the influx of business has been most noteworthy. Today in the city of Wilton Manors there are 85 business establishments, comprising almost every type of business and professional service, including three doctors, a dentist, a dental laboratory and bookkeeping service.

As a comparison, five years ago 18 business persons were doing business on the Drive. Out of the original 18 business men five years ago, six are operating today: Lamar Braddy and Frank Starling of Manor Market; Bill Hickson of Old Bills Bar and Package store; Doc Williams of Williams City Drugs; Bert Muzzell of Electra-Pliance; Don Grose of the Grose Barber Shop and Les Bagwell of Tropical Paint Supply.

Five years ago, 250 homes comprised Wilton Manors, whereas today 1500 homes are occupied, and many more are under construction. The city boundaries, five years ago, comprised about one square mile while today the city takes in all the land between the south and north forks of the Middle River, about three square miles. About five thousand lots are still available for development. In a short time, at our rate of growth, the population could reach 15,000.

The village of Wilton Manors was incorporated by an act of the State Legislature into a city in 1953. The people of the city five years ago depended on wells for their water supply, whereas today there are over 1400 water meters in operation providing city water. The system is valued at \$350,000. The growth of the city is reflected in the number of paid employees on the payroll. In 1950 there was only one on the payroll, while today the total is 12, not counting the city attorney and bookkeeper. The city has a volunteer fire department, recreation program, park

facilities, garbage pick-up service. Other improvements include the drainage, and rebuilding of Wilton Drive into a four lane highway by the State Road Department.

The social life of the community five years ago was taken care of by a golf course, Wilton Manors Civic Association, Woman's Club. Today, in addition to the above, other organizations active in the city are the Highland Civic Association; Kiwanis Club; Sinawiks; Wilton Manors Business group; PTA; Jaycees; Jaycee-ets; Jr. Woman's Club; Teenage Club; Lions Club; Little League Organization and Wilton Manors Sports, Inc.

The religious life of the people is taken care of by Covenant Church, Wilton Manors Baptist Chapel, St. Anthony Catholic Church, a new Christian Church and a newly organized Lutheran Church.

An added boost to the business outlook is the completion and opening of the new Wilton Manors National Bank.

Wilton Manors today would be a surprise to the founder if he could see it. The business district did not develop on Dixie Highway as he had hoped, but is mainly along Wilton Drive, which he had planned to be lined with stately two story homes. Mr. Willingham planted the beautiful royal palms that you see on the bank of the South Fork of Middle River, west of the Drive. He had hoped to line not only Wilton Drive with them, but all other of the important streets he longed to develop as well.

All in all, the community has grown and will continue to grow, for Wilton Manors is the "homey" type of community where people are interested in making it "the best place to live".