

# Southwest Florida History

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# Class 6 A Land Remembered and Other Resources

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## Six Class Meetings

Download PDF of slides:  
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- Class 1 Historical Overview
- Class 2 History City of Naples
- Class 3 South and East of Naples
- Class 4 Major Parks & Preserves
- Class 5 North of Naples
- **Class 6 A Land Remembered by Patrick Smith & Other Resources**

There are loads of resources on the history of SW Florida. In this our final class on that subject, I want to mention a few that I have found especially helpful.

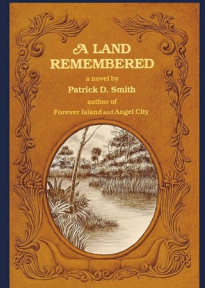


- A monumental book: A Land Remembered, by Patrick Smith.  
The #1 absolute MUST READ on Florida history.
- Naples Barnes & Noble Florida section.  
#2 Florida's Last Frontier by Charlton Tebeau.

- WGPU Untold Stories videos.
- Collier County Public Library resources.
- Arcadia Publishing Images of America Series.
- Collier County Museums Online Collections Database.
- Naples Centennial Website.
- Florida Memory: State Library and Archives of Florida.



**A Land Remembered**  
By: Patrick D Smith.  
First Pub: 1984.  
Length: 416 pages.  
Publisher: Pineapple Press.  
Genre: Historical fiction.  
Setting: Florida, 1858 to 1968.



## Patrick Davis Smith

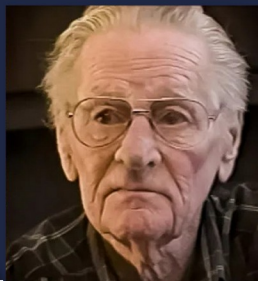
1927–2014

Author: Florida historian.

Best-known work: A Land Remembered. Florida family's struggles from pioneers to wealthy tycoons.

Awards: Nominated 7 times for Pulitzer Prize and 5 times for Nobel Prize for Literature.

Inducted: Florida Artists Hall of Fame 1999.



PATRICK D. SMITH

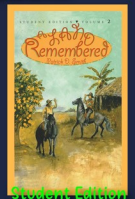
Barnes & Noble Naples: \$17 paperback.

Amazon: Hard cover \$17.

Also: Two volume student edition about \$10 each volume, Amazon.

Also: Teachers Manual: A Land Remembered Goes to School. Simon & Schuster, \$6 with lesson plans coordinated with Fla Dept of Education.

Also: Middle School Teacher Plans and Resources. Simon & Schuster \$7.



Student Edition

### Use in the Classroom

A Land Remembered is widely used as a textbook in Florida schools, especially 4th grade (2-vol student edition used), middle school, sometimes high school to teach:

- Florida history.
- Environmental awareness.
- Civic engagement.
- Language arts, reading comprehension.

### Policy of Baker Senior Center College:

- No homework.
- No reading assignments.
- No quizzes.

**That's fine. Still, I think this book is so important in learning about Florida history that I want to present a brief overview of the story (and maybe encourage you to read it).**

### Story divided into three eras based on the Maclvey family generations:

#### Part I (Chapters 1-14): Tobias Maclvey

**1820s-1892** Florida pioneer, cattle driver, and Seminole ally.

#### Part II (Chapters 15-25): Zech Maclvey

**1857-1896** Rancher torn between cultures, father of Toby (with Seminole woman) and Sol (with his wife).

#### Part III (Chapters 26-34): Solomon "Sol" Maclvey

**1883-1968** Wealthy developer seeking redemption.

### Mid-1800s: Tobias Maclvey Era

**1858:** Tobias Maclvey wife Emma move from Georgia to Florida frontier near Kissimmee.

**Late 1850s-1860s:** Tobias begins cow hunting, driving wild cattle to Punta Rassa to sell to Cuban traders. *Today a few thousand wild cattle remain in Florida. Also over 500,000 wild boar. And some wild horses.*

**1860s (Civil War Period):** Maclveys struggle to survive amid war shortages, starvation, and threats from both soldiers and rustlers.

**1860s:** Tobias befriends the Seminoles, who give him a marshtackie horse and dogs that make cattle herding easier. Tobias develops close friendship with Seminole Keith Tiger.

**Late 1860s:** Tobias begins building a profitable cattle business. Multiple drives to Punta Rassa.

**1870s:** Tobias expands into orange growing after receiving seeds from a Cuban trader. The grove becomes central to the family's future prosperity.

**1870s:** The Maclvey farm grows with hired labor and a few close friends, including the black family (Skillit, Pearlie Mae, and their children).

**Early 1890s:** Tobias dies of malaria, leaving his son Zech to inherit responsibility for the family.

### Zech Maclvey Era

**1870s and 1880s:** Zech and his father's partner, Skillit, lead successful cattle drives and expand operations.

**1880s:** Zech falls in love with and marries Glenda. They have a son (Solomon). Zech also fathers a son (Toby) with a Seminole woman, Tawanda.

**1892:** Zech takes over family cattle and orange business when his father, Tobias, dies.

**Late 1880s:** Tragedy strikes when a hurricane destroys large portions of the cattle herd.

**1890s:** Zech loses Glenda and their infant son in a horse-riding accident. The losses emotionally devastate him.

**1890s:** Zech dies shortly after Glenda, worn down and heartbroken, leaving young Solomon (Sol) to inherit the family business.

### Solomon (Sol) Maclvey Era

**Early 1900s:** Sol assumes control and aggressively expands the family cattle, citrus, and land operations.

**Early 1900s:** Florida begins developing. Sol sells land to real estate promoters, railroads, and agricultural companies.

**1920s-1940s:** Sol becomes immensely wealthy but also realizes that increasing development is destroying the natural Florida his ancestors loved.

**1940s-1960s:** Sol becomes deeply disillusioned with environmental destruction and modern land speculation.

**1970s:** In his later years, Sol tries to reverse some of the damage, donating thousands of acres for conservation to protect the land.

**1968 Sol's final reflection:** Sol dies looking back on the MacIvey legacy, recognizing both the success and the environmental cost of progress.

## Main Themes of A Land Remembered

- Survival and adaptation in Florida's harsh environment.
- Cultural conflict and identity, especially between settlers and Seminoles.
- Environmental loss and the cost of progress.
- Family legacy, guilt, and redemption.



Patrick Smith  
1927-2014

## With that background about A Land Remembered, let's look at three short videos with Patrick Smith:



A Trip Down Memory Lane 10:18 min

Patrick Smith Talks About  
A Land Remembered 6:59 min

Patrick Smith A Land  
Remembered Interview 5:54 min

**Video #1:** In Trip Down Memory Lane, Patrick Smith narrates a three-week driving tour across Florida that he and his parents and two siblings took in 1933. Many historic photos. At that time he was six years old.

- Total budget incl meals and lodging \$100.
- Florida was mostly undeveloped.
- Smith talks about driving 30 miles along the Gulf shore with no sign of civilization.
- Smith says: No paved roads in Southwest Florida.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qw5uJ3m60rk>

## Video #2 Patrick Smith Talks About A Land Remembered

In this video, Patrick Smith talks about how the lives of Florida pioneers from about 1860 to 1920 were linked to nature. They had to grow or harvest or build whatever they needed to survive. He talks about his admiration of those settlers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOo81IBMr-s>

## Video #3 Meet the Author Patrick Smith

- Comments about the difficulties trying to write about a period of history for which there is little documentation.
- And the difficulties of trying to cover 110 years (1858-1968) of Florida history.
- Importance of family values to pioneers.
- Finally, he takes pride that the book – including the special student edition – is used in classrooms throughout Florida.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzxcvoOUCmo>

## Other resources about A Land Remembered

### Planned major tv series based on the book.

- Several seasons.
- Well-known actors.
- To be filmed Tampa area.
- State grant \$500,000.
- Total budget: \$50 million.

<https://www.wusf.org/arts-culture/2025-09-12/a-land-remembered0tampa-filmmaker-turn-historic-novel-florida-television-series>

Tampa filmmaker will turn a historic novel about Florida into a television series



The series will be based on "A Land Remembered," a novel that chronicles part of Florida's history.

Two videos (each about 25 minutes) with an actor playing Tobias MacIvey – lead character in Part 1 of the book. Tobias reminisces about his life as a pioneer in the south Florida wilderness in the second half of the 19th c.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOAor11gSTI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yGuidYvW1M0>



**Patrick Smith website:**  
<https://patricksmithonline.com/>  
 Info about and purchase all of Patrick Smith's books. Site maintained by Patrick Smith's son:

- A Land Remembered
- Forever Island
- The Seas That Mourn
- The River is Home
- Angel City
- A White Deer and other stories
- In Search of The Russian Bear
- Patrick Smith's Florida—A Sense of Place DVD



## Naples Barnes & Noble Florida Book Section



## Florida's Last Frontier: The History of Collier County

By: Charlton Tebeau.

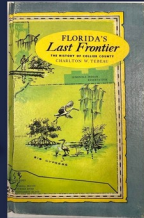
First pub. 1957. Revised 1966. 278 pages.

Detailed historical account of Collier County, Florida. Focuses on Collier's evolution from remote wilderness to settled region.

- Challenges of living in the Everglades frontier.
- Environmental transformation.
- Econ. development (ranching, fishing, real est.).

Illustrated with vintage B&W photographs.

Tebeau taught Florida history at Univ of Miami for 37 years.



## WGPU Untold Stories Videos

WGPU is the TV station of Florida Gulf Coast University.

Southwest Florida's source for PBS and NPR.

They produce a local series of Untold Stories of local history. Most episodes are around 26 minutes, some longer.

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=wgpu+public+media+untold+stories](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=wgpu+public+media+untold+stories)

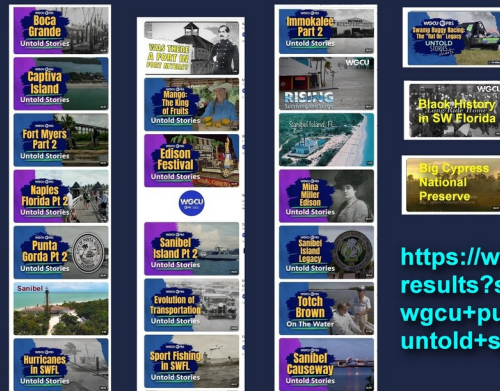
## WGPU Untold Stories: Local History Page 1



[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=wgpu+public+media+untold+stories](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=wgpu+public+media+untold+stories)

Most are around 26 minutes

## WGPU Untold Stories: Local History Page 2



Most are around 26 minutes

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=wgpu+public+media+untold+stories](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=wgpu+public+media+untold+stories)

## Sample from one of the WGPU episodes Untold Stories of Southwest Florida



## Collier County Public Library Resources

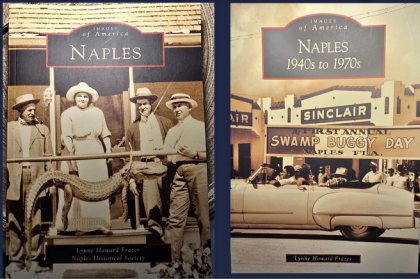
All branches have Florida history materials. All branches except HQ (Orange Blossom) have a dedicated area (group of shelves) where all Florida materials are together (history, travel, parks etc) in one place.

At HQ branch the Florida materials are in the non-fiction area by call number (start at #975 or search the online catalog).

## Arcadia Publishing Images of America Series

[www.arcadiapublishing.com/collections/images-of-america/](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com/collections/images-of-america/)

More than 250 pictorial history books on Florida. Two local examples:



These books are around 120 pages, usually 2 historic photos per page, two or three sentence historical caption for each photo.

## Arcadia Publishing Images of America

15 more SW Florida titles in this series:

Edison and Ford in Florida.  
Everglades National Park.  
The Everglades.  
Fort Myers.  
Sanibel Island.  
Cape Coral.  
Fort Myers Beach.

Marco Island.  
Bonita Springs.  
Railroads of SW Florida.  
J N Ding Darling NWR.  
Thomas Edison.  
Buckingham Army Air Field.  
Big Cypress National Preserve.  
Lee County Islands.

## Collier County Museums Online Collections Database



<https://colliermuseums.pastperfectonline.com/>

Around 7,500 historic jpg photos. Each photo has a searchable descriptive file name and a searchable four-or-so sentence description.

Nearly 3,000 historic documents (post cards, letters, envelopes, certificates etc). Search or browse.

Photos of nearly 1,200 physical objects of historical interest. Examples: Seminole doll, coin, antique jug, dinnerplate, clock, cobbler's bench.

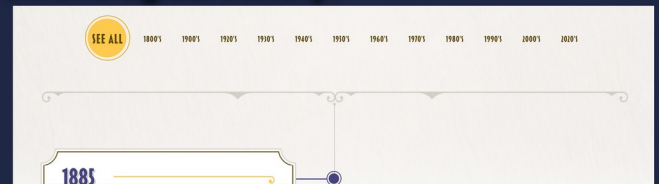
Libraries of 3,065 newsletters.

## Naples, Florida celebrated its Centennial in 2023, marking 100 years since its official founding in 1923.

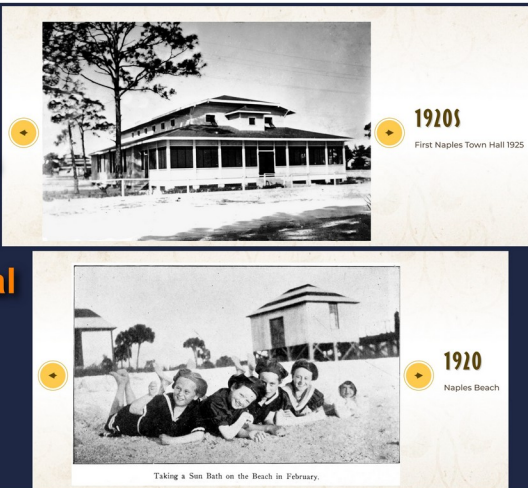
The Centennial website is still live:

<https://www.naplescentennial.com/>

That website has an extensive Naples chronological history:



## Two examples from the Naples Centennial Photo Gallery



## In closing: Historical humor 1868 Florida Legislature adopts State Seal (text only, no graphic):

“The size of an American silver dollar, having in the center thereof a view of the sun’s rays, over a highland, in the distance a cocoa tree, a steamboat on water, and an Indian female scattering flowers in the foreground.”



1880s Version  
1903 Version



## Florida Memory: State Library and Archives of Florida

<https://www.floridamemory.com/discover/photographs/>

More than 200,000 digitized photos and illustrations.

Organized by collections. Searchable.

To illustrate, "Koreshan Collection" has: 2,228 photos.

Search for "Collier": 4,164 photos.

Search for "Naples": 966 photos.

## Major problems in description and old versions:

- Cocoa tree is tropical broadleaf evergreen, not palm. Florida is subtropical. Sabal palm as of 1970.
- Florida has no mountains. Removed 1970.
- Woman was in Plains Indian dress. Changed to Seminole 1985.
- Only male Indians wore feather headdress. Removed 1985.
- Steamboat more accurate, not sinking 1985.



1903 Version  
1985 Version



We covered a lot of ground in our six classes:

**Class 1** Historical Overview.

**Class 2** History City of Naples.

**Class 3** History South and East of Naples.

**Class 4** History of Major Parks and Preserves.

**Class 5** History North of Naples.

**Class 6** A Land Remembered by Patrick Smith  
and Other Resources.

Putting all the materials together, and  
presenting them to you, has been an  
enlightenment and a stimulation for me.

**And, I hope, for you too.**



## **End of Our Course** **Southwest Florida History**

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