

In and Around Naples
A Series of Presentations
for the Collier County Library
by Paul Pacter

Collier County Museum
at Government Center

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www.paulvisits.com

Collier County Museum at Government Center

Website: www.colliermuseums.com

One of five Collier County Museums.

Where: At Government Center, 3331 Tamiami Trail, East Naples 34112.

Get There: South on US-41, left on Harrison Rd (just before Wal-Mart), Follow signs.

When: Tues-Sat 9am to 4pm.

Admission: Free.

What: Museum offering historical exhibits about early settlers and American Indians in Southwest Florida.

Examples of exhibits:

- Colossal sharks.
- Prehistoric mastodons.
- Calusa Indian civilization.
- Indian Wars.
- Seminole people.
- Collier pioneers and developers.

Buildings include:

- Main gallery: 10,000 sq feet of displays.
- Native gardens.
- Restored Naples cottages.
- Archaeology lab.
- Seminole village.
- Seminole war fort.
- Calusa Indian camp.
- Original Keewaydin Ferry Boat to Keewaydin Barrier Island (still accessible only by boat today).

Collier County Museum
Main Exhibit Building



Pre-History
Giant Sloths

SOUTH FLORIDA'S FIRST PEOPLE
Mammoths
 Walked across from Asia

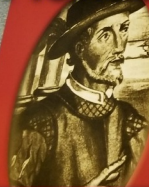
In SW FL just 10,000 years ago!

Sabre-toothed Tiger



Sabre Cats
 with 9-inch
 fangs in SW FL

Discovery of Florida



JUAN PONCE DE LEÓN
 Discoverer of Florida

The former governor of Puerto Rico and a sailing companion of Columbus, Juan Ponce de León is credited with leading the first European expedition to Florida in 1513.

Spanish slave hunters and unknown mariners almost certainly reached Florida's shores before him, but left their voyages unrecorded.

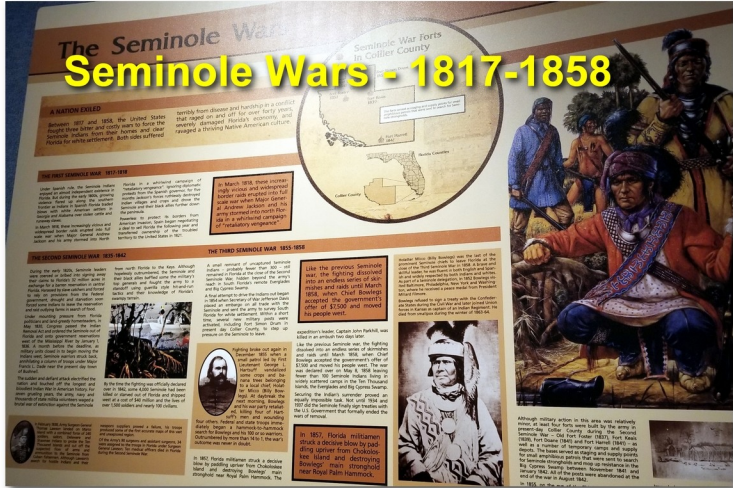
Attracted by the prospect of finding gold and adventure, Ponce set sail from Puerto Rico in March 1513 and made landfall on April 2 somewhere along the Atlantic coast near present-day St. Augustine. He named his new discovery La Florida (the "flowery land") in honor of Easter Week.

During the next several months, Ponce's three ships sailed south around the tip of Florida, exploring the Gulf coast as far north as Charlotte Harbor and charting the Gulf Stream, Florida Keys and Dry Tortugas for the benefit of future navigators. Local historians believe that Ponce may have put ashore at Cape Romano or at Caxambas on Marco Island to resupply his crews with fresh drinking water.

Although met by hostile Indians wherever he landed, Ponce returned safely accompanied by Calusa warriors.

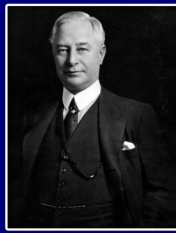
Juan Ponce de Leon led the first European expedition to Florida in 1513. Same year he sailed around the tip to SW FL.

In the summer of 1585, King Philip II of Spain sent a powerful armada of ships and soldiers to America to prevent French settlers from establishing a rival



Barron Gift Collier

- Born Memphis 1873.
- Made \$1 million in street lighting by age 26. Then printing and streetcar advertising.
- Visited SW Florida 1906. Loved it.
- By 1916 had bought 1 million acres of land.
 - He became the largest landowner and developer in Florida.
 - He also owned a chain of hotels, bus lines, banks, newspapers, telephone company, steamship line.



- State wanted a road from Tampa to Miami.

- No money for Naples-Miami section. In 1923, Collier offered to build the road if the State would split Lee County in two and name the lower half Collier County. State agreed.
- Tamiami Trail cost him \$13 million to build 1923-1928.
- He built Everglades City. County Seat to 1962.
- Collier died 1939 New York City.



Collier Memorial at Collier-Seminole St. Park

Collier Family Today

Owens 280,000 acres of land.

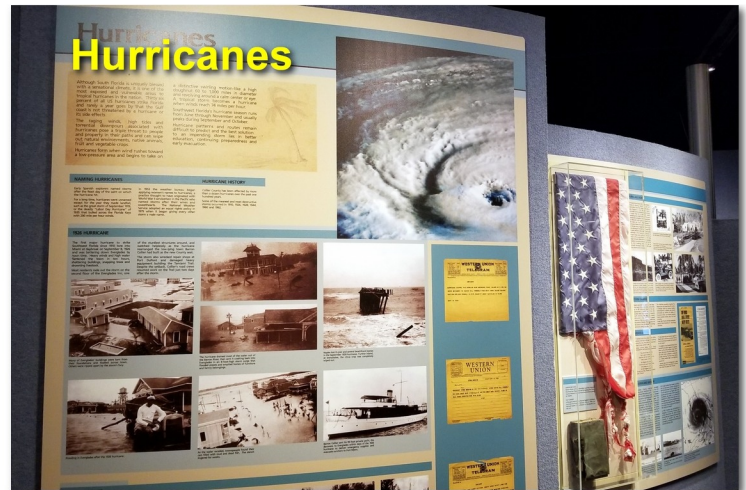
- Primarily in Collier County.

Activity divided into two companies:

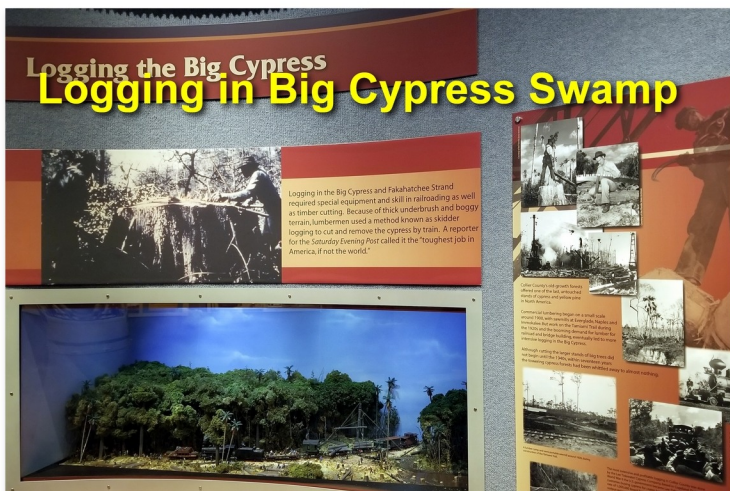
- Collier Enterprises: Real estate, agriculture (citrus, vegetables, cattle, sod), oil exploration, golf courses, private equity investments.
- Barron Collier Companies: Real estate, engineering, agriculture, utilities.

Both headquartered in Naples, FL.

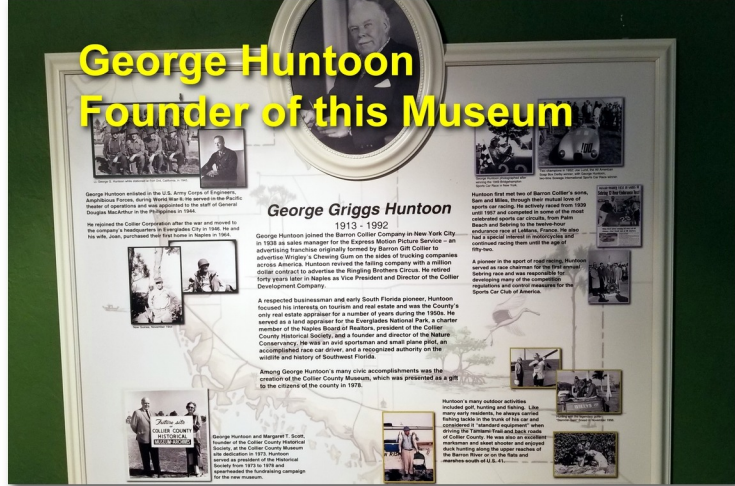
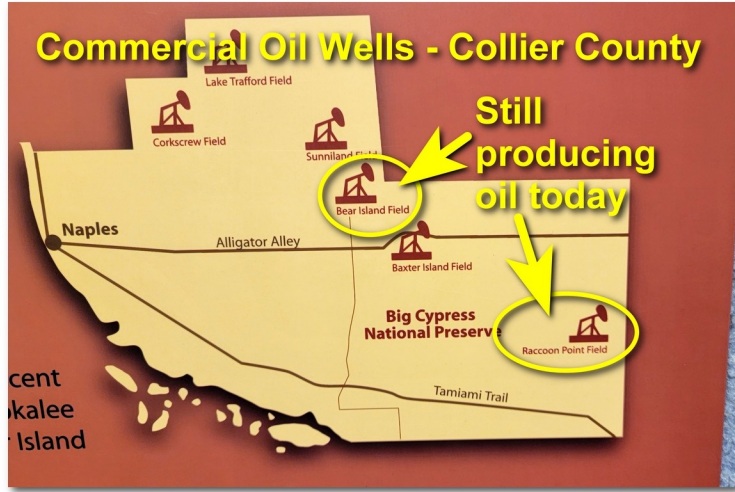
Family est. net worth \$2.3 billion.

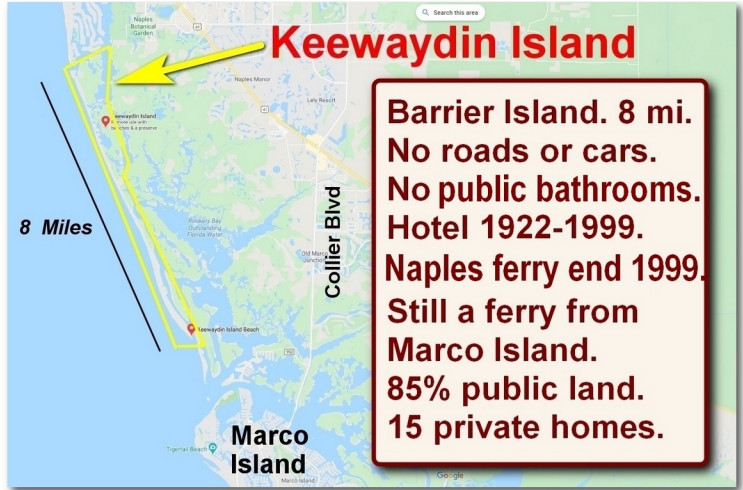


In Collier-Seminole State Park you can see a 1924 walking dredge used to build Tamiami Trail.



Logging Train "The Deuce" c. 1915 Used by Lee Tidewater Cypress Co. in Lee-Collier Counties Retired 1957







Sherman Tank - WW2



Seminole War Fort



Seminole Wars between US Army and Seminoles 1817-1858



Seminole Camp



Calusa Indian Mound Ritual Platform



Everglades Cabin



Sugar Cane Press - 1914

Turned by mule, ox, or small tractor