

PIONEERING HISTORY

THE MARCO ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

2019 | Vol. 26, No. 3



Burrowing Owls | Kathy Miracco | Pirate Day | Summer Intern

25

Years of Preserving
the History
and Heritage
of our Community

1994-2019



MIHS

Marco Island Historical Society



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Michael J. Rourke III

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Greetings to all of our members and friends.

We are very fortunate to have extremely talented people who share such a passion for preserving our history. It is exciting when their efforts are recognized and it highlights the impression the Marco Island Historical Museum makes.

Recently, the collaborative "Key Marco loans" effort between Collier County Museums and The Marco Island Historical Society was selected to receive the 2019 Florida Association of Museums Award for Museum Excellence. This is the highest honor for a museum in the State of Florida. It is also the second time our two organizations have shared the award. The first was in 2014 for the "Paradise Found" exhibit.

But that's not all. The "Marco Memory Project" also received an award in the 2019 Southeastern Museums Conference Technology Competition. This is the third year in a row that the Marco Island Historical Society has been recognized in this competition. The project was spearheaded by a talented intern. Both awards are fantastic news for all of us to celebrate!

With tremendous exhibits and such a positive buzz in the community, the museum and MIHS events at the RHA have attracted a combined 32,175 visitors to the museum campus through July for 2019. To give you some perspective last year there were 23,784 visitors for the entire year of 2018. This fall is a wonderful time to introduce new guests and members to our museum and the Marco Island Historical Society. The MIHS Speakers Series resumes October 21st with Master Naturalist Bob McConville. Introduce your friends and family to an award winning experience they will love!

Your participation and contributions continue to make this wonderful experience possible. We welcome members interested in volunteering their time and/or participating on MIHS committees. We are making progress but we realize that we can do so much more to preserve our history and add to this incredible community. We are very excited about this year and the future of the MIHS as we build upon the momentum. Let's continue to make this a year to remember!3

OWL HANDS ON DECK

HEATHER OTIS & SUSAN PERNINI

For Allison Smith it was just a typical morning. For us, however, it was an incredible opportunity to get up close and personal with Marco Island's favorite feathered friends. Burrowing owls are quickly becoming endangered across Florida; however, not on Marco Island! Due to the efforts of the Burrowing Owls of Marco Island, there are 350 lots with burrows on the island. This year, 241 pairs of owls nested, for a total of 442 adult owls, plus a few bachelor males that didn't find mates! As part of her graduate research with the University of Florida, Alli is working with Audubon of the Western Everglades and local volunteers to band and draw blood samples from our charismatic and adorable owls in order to monitor and track changes in the population for scientific purposes.

On June 27th, Alli invited MIHS staff to accompany and assist her band an owl at the Marco Island NCH Urgent Care site. She first placed a mesh of light fishing line into a pre-selected burrow along with a speaker that projected a male burrowing owl's call. This elicited a response from the male owl to defend its territory, drawing him into the burrow and allowing Alli to collect him for banding. She then brought the owl into the quiet and cool backseat of her car and held the bird still while first weighing it and then carefully beginning the meticulous process of applying one aluminum and three colored bands to its legs. The aluminum band issued by the federal Bird Banding Laboratory at the U.S. Geological Survey has a 9-digit identification number, sort of like an owl social security number. The unique combination of the four bands together create a "name" for the owl. To us, the cutie in the backseat was Alexander, but to Alli he was GX-LR (green, metal, light blue, red). The vibrant colored bands enable the Burrowing Owls of Marco Island to easily identify the owls as individuals. This allows them to keep

a close eye on banded owls' behavior throughout nesting season and keep track of long-term data like where they move to, how many chicks they have throughout their lives, and how old they live to be.

While Alli prepped the materials needed to take his blood sample, Susan assisted by holding our new friend. To our surprise, the owl remained calm throughout the process, which Alli said was typical for this species of bird (puffins on the other hand...). After Alli collected a small sample of blood from its wing for another graduate student's research that will show how closely related different owl populations in Florida are, he was ready to go home. Heather had the honor of releasing him under the supervision of Smith. While there was no dramatic toss into the air, the slow, gentle placement of GX-LR into the opening of his burrow was no less thrilling to the MIHS staff. We felt immensely grateful and privileged to have a window into the work she is doing, which will be critical to the successful coexistence of these cute little creatures with humans in an increasingly developed area.



You can help too! If you spot a banded owl, send a photo or message to: OwlWatchMarco@gmail.com

Please note: the scientific work here is being done by a professional with training and special permits. Do not ever attempt to handle or harass these birds; it is against the law. If you see a burrowing owl in distress, call the von Arx Wildlife Hospital at the Conservancy of Southwest Florida at (239)-262-2273.



(Above) Alexander and Allison Smith. Photos by Heather Otis.



(L to R) Susan Pernini, Allison Smith, and Austin Bell. Photo by Heather Otis.

EVENTS

November 14, 2019

“Selfie Scene” LIVE

J.J. Stinchcomb, Artist

Live painting by the artist.

Appetizers, drinks, raffle prizes.

4:00-5:00PM

Marco Island Historical Museum



Artist J.J. Stinchcomb. Photo by Susan Pernini.

October 21, 2019

Presentation by Bob McConville,
Master Naturalist

7:00-8:30PM

Rose History Auditorium

Door: Free (members) / \$10 (non)

November 5, 2019

*Wild, Wild South: The History of
Florida's Cattle Industry*

Presentation by Theresa Schober

7:00-8:30PM

Rose History Auditorium

Door: Free (members) / \$10 (non)

November 18, 2019

Building Artificial Reefs

Presentation by Katie Laakkonen

7:00-8:30PM

Rose History Auditorium

Door: Free (members) / \$10 (non)

December 4, 2019

Holiday Shopping Event

4:00-6:00PM

Marco Island Historical Museum

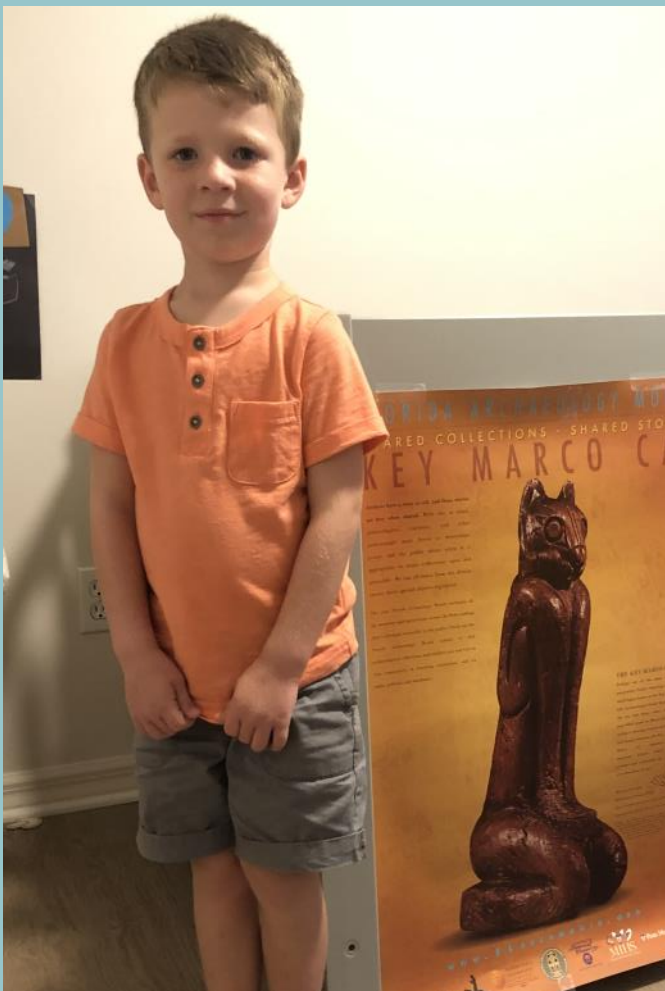
December 6, 2019

Annual Meeting and Holiday Lunch

11:30AM-1:00PM

Marco Island Yacht Club

HISTORY HAPPENINGS



Left top: Langdon Thimmer (age 4) of Sebastian, Florida proudly displays his Key Marco Cat poster (free at the MIHM) by his bedside. Photo by Megan Thimmer. Left middle: Collier County Convention Visitors Bureau quarterly roundtable meeting in the Rose History Auditorium on August 1, 2019. Left bottom: Craig Woodward speaks to the new Leadership Marco class on July 31, 2019. Right top: (L to R) J.J. Stinchcomb, Marty Ardren, Heather Otis, and Jennifer Perry alongside Stinchcomb's artwork at the MIHM, which was chosen to be featured on the cover of the Trail of Florida's Indian Heritage brochure (August 5, 2019). Right bottom: Austin Bell presents a poster at the AASLH Conference in Philadelphia, PA on August 30, 2019.

MIHS UNVEILS NEW MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

Patricia Rutledge, Executive Director

We are pleased to announce that the Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) has been accepted as a member of the North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) program. The NARM is one of the largest reciprocal membership programs in the world with over 1,000 arts, cultural, and historical institutions along with botanical gardens, children's museums, science and technology centers and more that offer their individual NARM qualified members reciprocal benefits. Countries currently participating in NARM include Bermuda, Canada, El Salvador, Mexico and the United States. Individuals who join a participating NARM Institution such as the Marco Island Historical Society can receive reciprocal benefits such as free admission and shop discounts.



So, as a member of the MIHS - where do you want to go today? Just visit: <http://narmassociation.org> and view NARM's map to discover all the places where you will be treated as a member. This benefit will be available to new and renewing MIHS members beginning in October 2019. For more information, please contact Susan Pernini at administration@themihs.org or call (239)-389-6447.

MIHS AND COLLIER COUNTY HAUL IN AWARDS

Austin J. Bell, Curator of Collections

The Marco Island Historical Society (MIHS) and Collier County Museums (CCM) are being recognized by the Florida Association of Museums (FAM) on September 17, 2019 with the Museum Excellence Award for their efforts to return the Key Marco artifacts on loan to the Marco Island Historical Museum. This is the second time these organizations have shared this award, receiving it previously in 2014 for co-opening the exhibit *Paradise Found: 6,000 Years of People on Marco Island*. Austin Bell will be accepting the award alongside Amanda Townsend, Director of Collier County Museums, and Roger Barganier, President of Creative Arts Unlimited, at the FAM Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida.

The MIHS and CCM are also being recognized by the Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC) in several regional museum competitions. The MIHS is being honored (prize TBD) in the 2019 SEMC Technology Competition (Student Project category) for its "Marco Memory Project," completed by MIHS Intern and UNC-Greensboro graduate student Meagan Boritz. This is the third year in a row that the MIHS has been recognized in the SEMC Technology Competition.

The MIHS also received the Bronze Medal in the 2019 Publications Competition (Invitations category) for its "Dreams Do Come True" gala invitation, designed by Sherri Morrison Creative Design. The MIHS last received recognition in this competition in 2015 for its "Windows and Doors to History" campaign materials.

Finally, the MIHS and CCM received Honorable Mention for their revamped *Paradise Found* exhibit in the 2019 SEMC Exhibition Competition (Over \$250K category), which opened on January 26, 2019. The MIHS received further recognition for its *I Remember Marco* exhibit (Summer 2018), notching Honorable Mention in the Under \$25K category. The MIHS and CCM previously received recognition in this competition in 2017 for their exhibit *The Pioneer Era: A Tale of Two Villages*. Heather Otis, MIHS Collections Manager, will be attending the 2019 SEMC Conference in Charleston, South Carolina and will accept the awards on behalf of both institutions.

MIHS WELCOMES SUMMER INTERN IVY JOHNSON

Ivy Johnson, University of South Florida

Hello, my name is Ivy Johnson! I am a recent graduate from the University of South Florida where I earned my Bachelor's degree in Anthropology and minored in International Studies. Growing up as an Army Brat allowed me to travel to and live in multiple countries, which instilled in me a boundless appreciation for history and culture. Naturally, I was drawn to museums and set out to pursue a career that would enable me to be a part of the preservation of history and culture.

Over the summer I interned in collections with the Marco Island Historical Society's Collections Manager Heather Otis. Together we inventoried the entire MIHS collections including artifacts currently on display in the museum, properly housed documents and objects, cataloged artifacts in the PastPerfect database, and initiated a project to properly document the entire Marco Eagle photograph collection. Additionally, I assisted with the Marco Memory Project and public education outreach programs with Camp Stellar and Camp Mackle.

Working and learning with everyone at the museum has been a fulfilling experience to say the least. I have gained valuable knowledge and skills regarding the preventive conservation and

safekeeping of thousands of artifacts pertaining to Marco Island's unique history. Starting in the fall, I intend to take the GRE and begin the application process for graduate school to pursue a Master's degree in Museum Studies. With my background in anthropology and application of digital archaeology, I aim to combine my experiences to protect and provide access to invaluable remnants of our shared history.



MUSEUM PROGRAMS DRAW CAMPERS AND KIDS

Jessica Patel, Museum Assistant

Museum staff hosted the City of Marco Island's Camp Mackle and Camp Stellar kids again for the third consecutive year. The campers learned about what all five Collier County Museum sites represent and even re-created their own Archaeological Dig and presented their findings after learning about the Key Marco Artifacts! Pirate Day, held June 21, 2019, was open to both Campers and the general public alike, and included numerous crafts, games and loot. We would like to thank the following organizations for their assistance to make this event a success: Marco Island Library, Marco Island Center for the Arts, Marco Island Civic Association (MICA) and the Gulf Coast Girl Scouts, as well as participating MIHS and Collier County Museum Division staff and volunteers.



RHA A FAVORITE VENUE FOR LOCAL LEADERS

Patricia Rutledge, Executive Director

This summer the Rose History Auditorium (RHA) and the Marco Island Historical Society and Museum were hosts to leaders from throughout Collier County. On July 31st, the Leadership Marco Class of 2019 participated in History Day which began and ended in the RHA. This perennial favorite session was led once again by local historian and time-travel guide Craig Woodward and included a tour through the Marco Island Historical Museum, with a special stop to view the Key Marco Artifacts on loan from the Smithsonian Institution and the University of Pennsylvania.

The very next day, August 1st, the RHA was once again front and center as the venue for the Collier County Convention Visitors Bureau Quarterly Roundtable Meeting. Over 70 business, tourism, and arts and cultural leaders met to discuss a wide range of topics including the County Arts and Culture Strategic Plan and Health and Wellness Tourism Promotions. The meeting was followed by a tour of the Marco Island Historical Museum and a visit with MIHS Collections Manager, Heather Otis and MIHS Intern, Ivy Johnson, to view actual artifacts on display from the Historical Society collections.



Pat Rutledge and Peggy Sealfon.

PIRATE DAY

Marco Island Historical Museum

June 21, 2019

Photos by Heather Otis



Face painting in the Sandlin Gallery.



Costume contest winners.



'Too Tall' Torrie and some young pirates.





ESTABLISH A LEGACY OF **SUPPORT**

▶ HOW IT WORKS!

Throughout our lifetime, we strive to make a difference in the lives of others, providing support to the people and causes.

The Marco Island Historical Society **Endowment Fund** is our promise to tomorrow – that the preservation of our history and heritage will continue in perpetuity. You can give a gift that will last forever!

OUTRIGHT GIFT

Immediate gifts of cash and appreciated securities are welcome additions to the Marco Island Historical Society.

WILLS & TRUSTS

A gift to the Marco Island Historical Society by will or trust allows you to retain your assets during your life. Designations may be for a percentage of your estate, or a specific amount.

LIFE INSURANCE

When added protection of an insurance policy is no longer needed, transferring the policy's ownership to the Marco Island Historical Society can result in tax benefits for you and a generous gift to the MIHS.

IRA CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION

An IRA distribution allows people age 70½ and older to reduce their taxable income by making a gift directly from their IRA.

▶ A gift to the Marco Island Historical Society **Endowment Fund** is an investment in the mission that guides us. The MIHS invites you to make a gift of a lifetime that keeps our dynamic history alive.



A Gift That Lasts **FOREVER** Endowment Fund



THANK YOU

For Your Consideration.
Your Legacy Gift will Continue
to Make History

The Marco Island Historical Society was founded in 1994 and is dedicated to the discovery, research, acquisition and preservation of the multi-faceted history of Marco Island and the surrounding communities. Our museum complex gives the Society a physical place to fulfill our goals of educating and informing the community and visitors of our dynamic

WE CAN HELP

We would love to work with you to help create a lasting legacy that honors your values for many years to come. Please contact us today to learn more about establishing an endowment with the Marco Island Historical Society.



180 S Heathwood Dr, Marco Island, FL 34145
239.252.1440 | exec@themih.org
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The Marco Island Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization and is registered with the State of Florida Division of Consumer Services and the IRS. Federal Registration number - EIN 59-3425001. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services at 1-800-435-7352 or www.floridaconsumerhelp.com. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

KATHY MIRACCO

How well do you know the people behind the friendly faces of the Museum? In honor of our amazing group of volunteers, the MIHS is launching a series of interviews spotlighting one of the many whose dedication and efforts are vital to this institution.

When did you start volunteering?

I began volunteering in 2007. We used to have all the archives stored at the Marco Eagle building, so I would go through the file cabinets, organize the stuff, and get them all in order. So that was my first job. Plus, once I got there, and the computer was there, Bill Perdichizzi had me prepare the monthly programs. Now, I volunteer at the gift shop and the front desk.

How or why did you get involved?

Shirley Beckwith and my husband met on the beach – he’s a runner and she was a walker – so he was the one who was actually volunteering first, and he brought me into it. Then he left and did his thing, and I stayed with it.

What is it that you love most about volunteering here?

The interaction with the staff and with the public. That’s the best. I think it’s wonderful to be able to share the early years of the MIHS and the role that the society played in building the museum and the exhibits. So much of the history is lost when people move away, and you like to be able to continue it since it is a historical museum. There’s a lot of volunteers that you talk to who have been here for a while and have that history too, which is nice.

How long have you lived on Marco Island?

I moved to Marco in 2006.

What brought you here for the first time?

I’m originally from New York City, and then Maryland, but my aunt and uncle had been coming to Marco Island since the eighties, so we used to vaca-

tion here. And so my husband said we should move here, and I said okay, and so that’s what we did!

What is your favorite story from volunteering?

Actually, this just happened this weekend. The best thing, the *best*, it gives me chills even thinking about it right now. The Collier Family was in, Captain Bill’s great-nephew and niece and their son and daughter, and each of their children came. So I said, “I have to shake your hand! If it wasn’t for Captain Bill, you wouldn’t be here, we wouldn’t be here.” How thrilling is that? I have other people I’ve met – you know my husband and I re-enact the Olds, and we met the great-great-niece of one of the Olds family members also, so I think that’s the most thrilling part about volunteering, being able to meet the people.

What is the most surprising question you’ve been asked by a museum visitor?

Many of the visitors don’t have a lot of understanding of how the Cat was found, and when they ask you how it was found “in muck,” they kind of look at you to say, “what’s muck?” So, I like to describe muck (laughs).

What is your favorite object in the museum?

Well, the Cat! But out of what we own, you know what I really *really* find interesting is the necklace that was uncovered with the shells from the 1995 dig. I think that is the coolest thing.

Do you volunteer for any other organizations?

Rookery Bay. I started doing that with my husband, and we kind of diverged. He stuck with that, and I stuck with this. I also volunteer at San Marco Catholic Church. I’m a Eucharistic minister on Sundays.



Kathy Miracco on the museum campus. Photo by Heather Otis.

What is one thing people might not know about you?

My career – I was an investigator with the Food and Drug Administration. I started in '72, so there weren't very many women doing that kind of work at the time, and it was in New York City, so that means I had to go out on inspections to food, drug, and cosmetic manufacturers. For a woman, walking into one of those kind of facilities was very shocking to the owners. They were just not used to us. One funny story – I did an inspection of a nut roaster, and so you have burlap bags of the nuts coming in, and usually there are insects in it, and I was up in my coveralls on the top of this pallet finding all these insects and they actually accused me of bringing them in and planting them! My husband and I – he also worked for the FDA – we met the day we were both interviewed for the job, so that was kind of cool. And then we were transferred to Headquarters, and we both worked for the Center for Drugs, and I was a Deputy Division Director.

What is your favorite food?

Soft serve ice cream. Favorite flavor? Chocolate! Or Culver's vanilla chocolate swirl.

What is your favorite color?

Blue, all shades.

Favorite place or thing to do on Marco Island?

Other than the museum? I walk the beach six days a week from Residents Beach to South Beach and back again. And I try to get up before the sun is up, so I don't have that sun thing to deal with, so yeah, the beach, walking the beach.

What are your hobbies outside of volunteering at the Museum?

I'm a crafter kind of person, so I go in and out of craft kinds of things. I was knitting for a while. I sew. I made my grandsons' names in shell on wood. I am in two book clubs, including a classic book club, which I find really interesting.

If you were to improve the museum in some way, what would you do?

I know that Collier County is working on additional programs, but I think we do need some established programs on a weekly basis, so that people can come in and see the living history that is here. Lots of people see museums as stagnant, things that are past, but history is growing; it's them, they're making the history. So I would have a full-time person whose job it is to create programs for a variety of ages.

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

JUNE - AUGUST 2019

Single Membership

Bergemann, James	Emanuel, Mildred	Markle, Barbara
Boy, Sandra	Ferrigno, Jo-Ann	Nickles, Merita
Boyer, Nancy	Goetzmann, Katie	Raney, Patricia
Chambers, Linda	Gore, Carol	Russell, Louise
Deanna, Janet	Iwinski, Mary Ann	Schere, Joan
DeLucia, Anthony	Jermanok, Herbert	Silvestri, Debbie
Donovan, Fran	Kubat, Susan	Thompson, Barbara

Family Membership

Brinkoetter, John & Martha	Lussenhop, Charles	Ponder, David & Kelly
Cummings, Joe & Mary Beth*	McConville, Bob & Price, Catherine	Quetti, John & Lisa*
Dahlquist, Bruce & Peggy	McKenzie, Susan & Miller, Dana	Robertson, Bruce & Vertin, Mary
Dyskow, Phillip & Sharon	Montgomery, Charles & Marilyn	Rosenfeld, Richard & Carolyn
Geberth, Laura & Vernon	Nicolay, Marion & Pershing, Lee	Sakuta, Robert & Diane
Goldstein, Ed & Arlene	Page, Harry & Sandi	Shmihluk, Robert & Karen
Hansen, Richard & Erickson, Eleanor	Patten, George & Gwen	Swiacki, Gerald & Turner-Swiacki, Linda
Irwin, Richard & Sharon	Pavin, Georgia	Waldren, Christine
Kerpchar, Michael & Kathryn		

*New Member

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

JUNE - AUGUST 2019

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Darryl & Linda Johnson
Gerald & Rita Lawrence

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Maureen McFarland
Thomas & Carol Paterson
Sandra Schmadeka
Chris Sullivan
Victoria Turton
Matthew & Jeanne Wakenight

Benefactor Membership (\$500)

Heyward & Ann Boyce
Corrie Grado
Robert Schultheis

Tommie Barfield Circle (\$1,000)

Vicki & Neil Bretthauer



*New Member

Portrait of Tommie Barfield. Artwork by Malenda Trick

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Since 1994, the Marco Island Historical Society has been preserving and sharing the history and heritage of our community. Join us as we make history!

Student (\$25 annually)

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- Invitations to Sustaining Membership Events

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- Listing as a Benefactor on our Website & Newsletter
- Invitations to Sustaining Membership Events

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- All the Benefits of Family Membership
- Listing in the Tommie Barfield Circle on our Website & Newsletter
- Invitations to Sustaining Membership Events
- Exclusive Invitations to Exhibit Previews & Receptions with Visiting Museum Guests
- Annual Luncheon with MIHS Staff and Tour of Collections

Yes! I/We Want to Make History & Join the MIHS!

LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Patron |
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Thank You For Your Support!

Collections Corner

Thanks to your generous support, the MIHS works every day to preserve and share the more than 50,000 items in its collections. Each issue, we will feature a new item from the collections.

OPA Form R-1188

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COUPONS MUST BE KEPT WITH THIS FOLDER AT ALL TIMES

PERIOD FOR WHICH RATION IS ISSUED:
FROM June 30 1945 TO Dec 31 1945

VALUE OF COUPONS ISSUED:
160 GALLONS

SERIAL NUMBERS OF COUPONS ISSUED:
FROM 00042139 TO 170 INCL.

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Marco, Fla
Elo B. Smyke
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Any Person Finding Lost Coupons Should
Mail or Return Them at Once to the
Nearest War Price and Rationing Board

Roy A. Rimes
Marco, Fla

Size of folder optional—use entire card, or cut away along lines indicated

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American warships alone used 1,890% more fuel oil in 1944 than in 1941. These ships guard the supply lines that feed and protect our men overseas.
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1945

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Gift of Vance Rimes (MIHS 2019-20-2)

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