

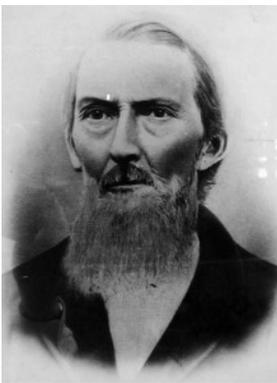


WEST PASCO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Newsletter

July 2016

### The Hudson family came here in 1878



In the early days small towns in Florida obtained their names when the post office was established, typically in the residence of an early settler. The first postmaster could usually select the name of the post office. The first postmaster of Hudson was John William Hudson (1859-1927), but presumably he chose the name to honor his family or his father. His father was Isaac Washington Hudson Sr. (1825-1892), pictured here with Amanda Luverna Cobb (1831-1922). They married in Georgia in 1848.

According to one source, they were the parents of 11 children, 9 of whom reached adulthood. They left Alabama in 1868, locating first in Madison County, Florida. In 1870 they moved farther south to Chipco, in what is now eastern Pasco County. The family then moved to what would become Hudson, believing the salt air of the Gulf improve Isaac's health. It is believed that they arrived here in February 1878.

Advertisements for Parker's Tonic found in several newspapers in 1887 include a testimonial by Joseph B. Hudson, one of Isaac's sons.

"For 20 years my father was an invalid, with Cough and Bronchitis, and tried everything he could hear of without obtaining more than temporary relief. Being advised of Parker's Tonic, he began to use it, and before he had taken five dollars worth was cured. He is 57 years old, and has been well now over a year."—Jos. B. HUDSON, Hudson, Fla.

I. W. Hudson Sr. prospered through a shipping trade to Cedar Keys and was able to buy 200 acres of land from the state at \$1.25 per acre. He employed Henry Clay Bush to survey and plot the town site. According to a local history, in about 1890 sons Joseph Byrd Hudson and William Hudson established the first mercantile business in Hudson.

A recently-discovered document written by J. A. Hendley, an important early resident of Pasco County who knew Isaac W. Hudson, includes a description of him:

“Isaac W. Hudson was a man of the old school. His house was open to all without charge. We candidates running for different offices traveled in buggies and on horse, dragging through sand and mud would camp out until we reached Mr. Hudson’s. He would house a dozen of us in some way, feed us on fish, cornbread, and coffee, and would not take a cent from any of us.”

Probably the two most notable sons of Isaac W. Hudson were **Isaac Jr.** and **Joseph Byrd Hudson.**

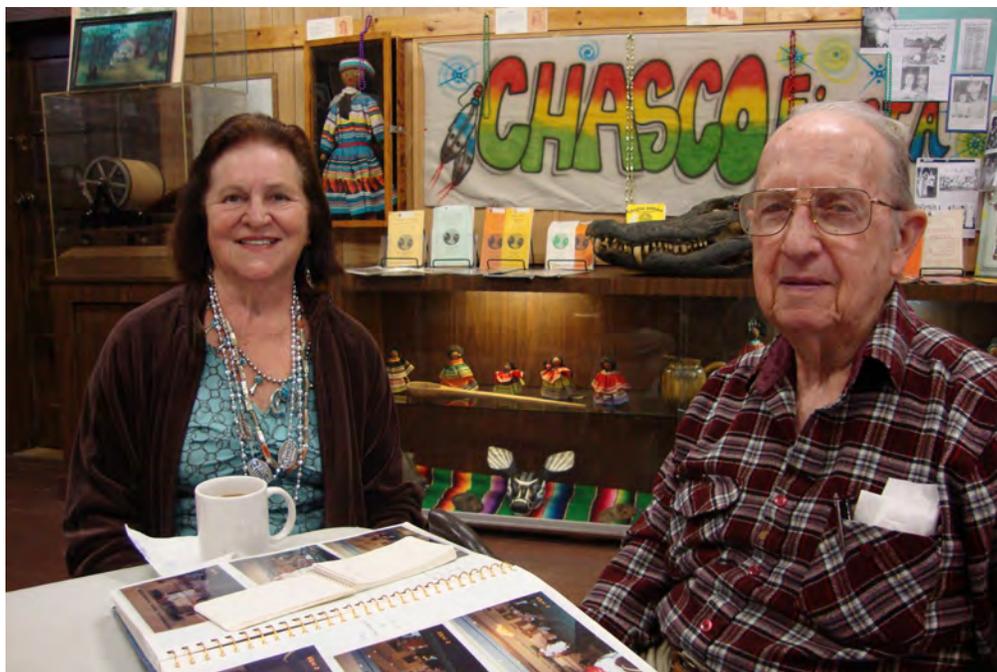
**Isaac W. Hudson Jr.** (1870-1972) recalled attending school three months of the year in a log house. He recalled that his father and brothers planted corn, sweet potatoes, sugar cane, peas and peanuts, not only to feed the family but to produce good hog meat, which was their main crop.

At age 20 Isaac Jr. was attending Fort Dade Academy near Dade City, but he walked all the way back to Hudson to court Miss Nettie Elizabeth Hay, carrying his shoes in hand to prevent them from wearing out. He married her at age 25.

Isaac Jr. served as a Pasco County commissioner and was twice elected sheriff. In 1917 he carried out the second of two legal hangings in Pasco County history. In his first six months in office, he raided 164 moonshine stills in Pasco County.

**Joseph Byrd Hudson** (1856-1950) was one of the original members of the Pasco County Commission in 1887.

Many descendants of the I. W. Hudson Sr. family still live in Pasco County. We were saddened to learn of the death of Claude Hudson Jr. on April 2 of this year. He was born on May 10, 1924, and was 91 years old. He was a member of the Gulf High School Class of 1941. He was one of the youngest pilots in World War II.



Shirley (Casper) Hudson and Claude W. Hudson Jr. at the museum in 2010.

**WEST PASCO HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**  
**Maxine Clayton, WPHS charter member**



Maxine Clayton, a life member and charter member of the West Pasco Historical Society, died on April 24. She was 92 years old. She was a great supporter of many projects at our museum. Her husband Collie funded the printing of our 1975 hardcover history West Pasco's Heritage.

Maxine Clayton was a Pasco County 4-H Foundation member and was named to the Florida 4-H Hall of Fame. Each year she showed her support by purchasing at least one project animal raised by a 4-H member.

Collie Clayton, a former president of the Pasco County Fair Association, died in 1991. The Pasco County Agriculture Auditorium was renamed Clayton Hall in his honor.

Here are excerpts from the eulogy read at her memorial service follows. The entire eulogy can be found on our web site.

We gather today to celebrate the life of Maxine Clayton, who we knew as a dear friend or family member. Maxine touched our hearts and was the example of what a caring, dedicated Christian should be. Maxine was born in raised in the Norwood Park area of Chicago. She and her brother Bud Merta moved to St. Petersburg with their parents in 1945, following other family members who had a home in St. Pete.

Maxine went to work as a receptionist in the office of Dr. Bradley. It was there she met Caldwell Clayton, Collie to everyone. They dated for a time and then married in 1951. Collie had purchased some land in Pasco county beginning in 1949, and they moved to the rural Hudson, Bayonet Point area and had a one bedroom white house on 52. They began first raising beef cattle, and then switched to having a dairy, At one time they had 150-175 cows.

The nieces all remember going to stay with Aunt Maxine and Uncle Collie in the summer and milking the cows. Maxine told me that they had invented a new way to milk the cows that had been a true innovation at the time. She spoke of the 7 day a week work of the dairy and working with the hired men milking the cows. In those years they were very involved with everything related to the Pasco County Fair. Maxine was particularly involved in procuring items each year for the women's building at the fair. She was very involved in the Home Extension, and encouraging young people in 4 H.

Maxine and Collie never had any children but they were very involved in the lives of their nieces and nephews, and with other families as well, Diane Hiller speaks of Maxine and Collie being like parents to her and grandparents to her four children Others experienced the same as well.

In 1991 Collie had been working in a manufactured home business in Lake City, when he died suddenly of a heart attack at age 74, It was a shock to everyone and certainly for Maxine. In her typical faithful fashion, Maxine continued on with her life, pursuing the things that she loved, building a life that continued their joint legacy of service to the community, and her own interests as well.

## Museum visitor



Jack Malarkey was a visitor to the museum on May 21, driving here from Crystal Springs. We were pleased that he brought with him his collection of Pasco County postal covers. These are envelopes, usually old and usually with a postage stamp that has been canceled. Many stamp collectors collect postal covers. His collection includes a cover postmarked in Dade City in 1888 and another postmarked in Fort Dade in 1882, before Dade City existed. Another cover is postmarked Fivay in 1911. Fivay was an incorporated town with a post office in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He allowed us to photograph his collection, and you can view it online. The link is in the post about his

visit in the rolling blog on our web site. Mr. Malarkey is the author of an article on the postal history of Trilby, in eastern Pasco County.

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## Various news items from the museum

Our Stagedoor Canteen held at the Spartan Manor on May 1 was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended. Thanks to our sponsors! They were Dr. Rao Musunuru, Alma Scheuer, the African-American Club of West Pasco, Gerald and Colette Robbins, the Rotary Club of New Port Richey, Olympus Limousine, Hyundai of New Port Richey, Rose's Bistro, Mike Currie Electric, Charles and Carol Lobdell, and Jimmy Ferraro. Thanks also to J. David Wright, who took many wonderful photos at the event. You can see them on his Facebook page.

We enjoyed having 17 brownies in Brownie troop 723 visit our museum for a tour on May 21. If your group would like to arrange a tour of the museum, there is no charge and we can usually arrange it at your convenience. Email our museum administrator, Terry Kline, at [terrykline14@gmail.com](mailto:terrykline14@gmail.com), or call him at 846-0157, to arrange a tour.

The Clayton Woods Questers had a Kentucky derby luncheon at the museum on May 17. They also toured the Hacienda Hotel.

If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so as soon as possible. The form is a PDF file which can be downloaded from our web site, under "About Us."

We're always looking for volunteers at the museum. If you're interested, contact Terry Kline, at [terrykline14@gmail.com](mailto:terrykline14@gmail.com), or call him at 846-0157.

## Member profile: Bob Langford



The subject of the member profile in this newsletter is the WPHS President, Robert (Bob) Langford.

Bob was born in Louisville, Kentucky, on May 31, 1942. He studied classical music and sang in the glee club, winning superior ratings at state contests in his sophomore, junior, and senior years of high school. His very first real gig was singing during his senior year as one of four background singers in a Louisville band.

Bob's family, which included his mother Lillian Peak, stepfather Joseph Peak, and younger brother Lanny Langford, moved to Floramar (now Gulf Harbors) in 1960. Bob followed them down after graduating from high school in 1961. Lanny graduated from Gulf High School in 1963. Bob began playing in bands soon after he arrived in Florida and since there was very little going on in music in the Tampa Bay area at that time, they were largely involved in creating their own music scene.

Lanny eventually went on to play with Tommy Roe and The Roemans. His band was originally Lanny and The Impressions. The Roemans, who also featured Bertie Higgins on drums and Berry Oakley as bass player, toured widely in the U. S. and went to the UK on tour in 1965. Lanny managed to get the Beatles' autograph for Bob, who has kept it in a very safe place. Lillian sang and played music to them during both her pregnancies and feels that is why they both had such a love of the music industry. Tragically, Lanny was killed by a drunk driver in 1969 while working as a police officer in Tarpon Springs.

Bob's first band in New Port Richey was The Intruders. Bob became the lead singer and Bertie Higgins was on drums. The band later became the Capris, and then evolved into The Movers. The late Mike Olson, Pasco County's tax collector, and Bob Goluba, our longtime dentist, were other members of Bob's bands. Last but not least were Carlton Summers, Steve Uzzle, Roger Hale, and Don Reynolds, more of our New Port Richey homeboys.

Bob was 21 when the Beatles appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show. According to Bob, "Not only the Beatles, but the whole British Invasion, was like a revival of music - a fresh start." Paul Cochran, Clearwater's Parks and Recreation director, became their manager. They did gigs all over Florida and ended up in Green Bay, Wisconsin, which Bob called the "Frozen Tundra." When that gig was over Bob was done in the touring scene.

Bob moved to Atlanta in 1966 to find other avenues for his music expertise and stayed there until 1998. He joined Paul Cochran, who began a booking and management agency in Atlanta. They then got involved with the fabled Bill Lowery. He also worked with Buddy Buie and managed The James Gang, the Candymen, Bobby Goldsboro, Ray Stevens, The Tams, Tommy Roe and his good friend Billy Joe Royal, Joe South, and others.

Bob worked extensively on "Games People Play," sung by Joe South, which won Best Contemporary Song and Song of the Year Grammys in 1969. Joe South went out on his own and hired Bob as his engineer as well as a singer on his albums. Bob produced an album for Joe that has never been released called *One*

*Liners and Road Stories.* Since he was never paid for it he has the master to this day and hopes to release it some day after he remasters it in a CD format.

Bob went back working for Bill Lowery at "Studio One" with Rodney Mills. To this day, Rodney masters everything that Bob records. This is when Bob met Al Kooper and they worked on Lynyrd Skynyrd and Blood Sweat and Tears, among others. Bob actually developed the spelling of Lynyrd Skynyrd when he shortened the name to write it on the tapes and it caught the band's fancy. He met and/or worked with many big names at that time, including Jerry Lee Lewis, Al Kooper, Little Feat, Deep Purple, Atlanta Rhythm Section, and many others. In the mid-seventies Bob gave Paul Cochran the nickname of "The Old Man," and Paul reciprocated with "Tub."

In 1977 Bob invented an Audio Signal Processing System (US Patent #4,184,047), a device for guitars that just about every guitar player in the world uses to this day. He also trained himself to be one of twelve voice print experts in the U. S, working mainly for lawyers and police departments, and often appearing in court as an expert witness.

In 1982 he started his own recording studio in Atlanta called the Crystal Palace, which later morphed into The Robert Langford Group, which still exists. He recorded Doug Kershaw, Paul Davis, and others. In the 80's he got more involved in electronic design work around Atlanta and continued until he moved back to New Port Richey in 1998. He also owned and operated a restaurant in Atlanta from 1993 to 1997.

Back in New Port Richey, Bob was elected to the city council in 2003. He was then elected Deputy Mayor by the council. He ran for mayor in 2004, and lost by 40 votes. He served a total of nine years on city council. He graduated from the Institute of Elected and Advanced Municipal Officials, Leadership Pasco, Leadership Florida Local Government Leadership Class, Florida Institute of Government, and the National League of Cities-Leadership Training Institute.

Bob is the Chairman of the Board for AMI Kids Pasco and the Pasco Fine Arts Council. He serves as President of the West Pasco Historical Society, Vice Chairman of the New Port Richey Firefighters' Pension Fund, Vice President of the Richey Suncoast Theater board, and Treasurer of the Friends of the Hacienda. He has served on Friends of the New Port Richey Library and Red Apple Adult Training Center-Board of Trustees. He is a gubernatorial appointed member of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, Agency on Bay Management.

In New Port Richey Bob owns two houses, side by side, one his domicile and the other his music studio. Every spring he and his neighbors throw the famed block party. He is a very happy and satisfied man these days. His pet music production project at the moment is local blues singer Julie Black. She has an excellent band, plays around Florida, and especially in New Port Richey, every chance she gets. She has made three CD's and over the years has become like a daughter to Bob.

After losing his beloved wife to cancer in 2008 he established a loving relationship with an old flame from New Port Richey, a year ago, after over 50 years. They are one of the couples that have reunited at class reunions in New Port Richey. They travel to her home in Ohio and last year visited the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio. It was a great experience for Bob, seeing exhibits and pictures of so many of his old friends, as well as listening to his own voice on many famous songs. His invention, the Audio Signal Processing System, was even on display behind glass.

He is most fortunate to have his mother with him. At 94 years old, she is still as vibrant and beautiful as ever. Bob makes sure she he is there whenever she needs his assistance and has anything she needs, especially his time.

**Bob Langford in Pictures**



Bob in the 1960s, and as part of the group the Movers.



Bob as a celebrity waiter, volunteering for CARES, at Bonfish Grill; Bob relaxing.

WEST PASCO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Pictures from our Stagedoor Canteen (by J. David Wright)



*Photos by J David*



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