

6-1-1982

***Largo . . . Then 'Til . . . A History of Largo, Florida* by Largo
Bicentennial Committee**

James E. Jones
Largo Senior High School

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/tampabayhistory>

Recommended Citation

Jones, James E. (1982) "*Largo . . . Then 'Til . . . A History of Largo, Florida* by Largo Bicentennial Committee," *Tampa Bay History*: Vol. 4 : Iss. 1 , Article 14.

Available at: <https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/tampabayhistory/vol4/iss1/14>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Open Access Journals at Scholar Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Tampa Bay History by an authorized editor of Scholar Commons. For more information, please contact scholarcommons@usf.edu.

Largo . . . Then 'Til . . . A History of Largo, Florida. By Largo Bicentennial Committee. Largo, 1980. Largo Litho, Inc. Maps. Photographs. Pp. 218. Cloth.

Largo . . . Then 'Til is the work of the Largo Bicentennial Committee chaired by the mayor, Thomas Feaster. Longtime Largo resident Sadie Johnson did much in compiling this book. The book has the format of a high school yearbook divided into sections of writings, photographs, and other primary source documents. The table of contents includes such divisions as: A Chronicle, Schools, Churches, Police, Recreation, Banks, Reminiscences and Civic and Fraternal Organizations. The section, A Chronicle, begins with family histories of the pioneer families and then continues with a summary of important events that happened year by year since. The collection of photographs and old documents make this a valuable resource for historians and history buffs alike.

“Reminiscences” is a delightful series of stories told by old timers of life in the last seventy or eighty years in Largo. Some of these stories come from the oral history library at Heritage Park, the Pinellas County Historical Museum located in Largo. The reader must remember that the facts presented in this section are only as good as the memories of the storytellers.

One interesting quote to those who now fish in the Tampa Bay Area was Taver Bayly's comment on local fishing at the turn of the century. “Fishing in those days was just wonderful. You cannot imagine today how it could be so good. We would go down to Bayly's Bluff – particularly in that spot – you could get all the stone crabs you wanted in no time at all. If Mother said she wanted a five-pound red fish, we would go to the mouth of McKay's Creek and with just a hand-line with a fiddler crab for bait, we would catch a ten-pounder, put it back, catch a little one, put it back until we caught one just the right size.” It is good that we have history books, because if you visited McKay Creek today you would never believe that this story could be possible.

There are several weaknesses in the book. One of these is a lack of an index. For a book of 218 pages it is very difficult to find a name or place. The lack of footnotes and bibliography also make it difficult to use for further research. Throughout the book there are corrections made by hand in ink which should have been corrected by the proofreaders.

Largo has grown from a town of several thousand people in 1960 to a city which now ranks as the fourteenth largest in the state of Florida. This book should contribute to the community's sense of pride and unity.

James E. Jones

Lightfoot, True Tales of a Pioneer Wanderer as Told to Marian Hobson Gruthers. By Marian Hobson Gruthers. Tampa, 1976. N.P. Photographs. Map. Pp. 147. Paper.

Lightfoot is a collection of stories about Thomas Claude Lightfoot, a pioneer who was born in 1893 in San Antonio, Florida, a community about twenty-five miles north of Tampa in Pasco