

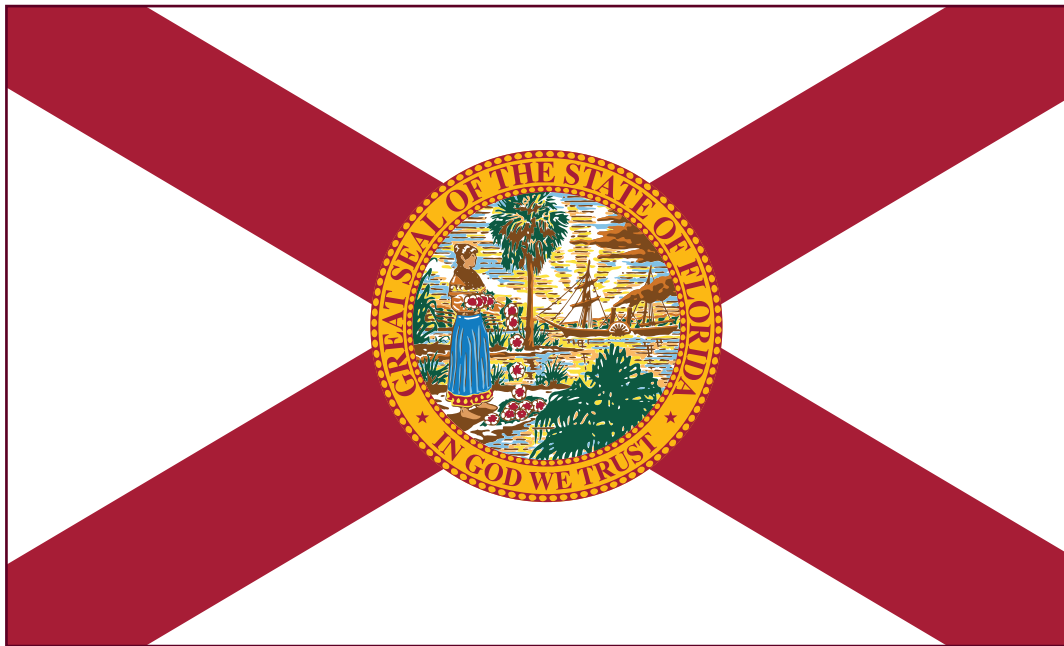


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Hobe Sound Beach Shop's Turtle Times

Volume 6 • Number 1 • February 2025

Our History is a Treasure: Chapter Thirty-Two *By Jan Otten*



The current design of Florida's state flag was adopted in 1900. In that year, Florida voters ratified a constitutional amendment based on an 1899 joint resolution of the state legislature to add diagonal red bars, in the form of a St. Andrew's cross, to the flag. Between 1868 and 1900, Florida's state flag consisted of a white field with the state seal in the center. During the late 1890s, Governor Francis P. Fleming suggested that a red cross be added, so that the banner did not appear to be a white flag of truce or surrender when hanging still on a flagpole. (Florida Department of State.)

I decided to do the next Chapter of our treasured history about the flag that represents the State of Florida. And, oh my goodness, that has led me to a lot more information than I was expecting. Therefore, before we start learning specifically about our state flag, let's take a look at what a flag actually is, what it represents and where it originated.

VEXILLOLOGY (vek-suh-lol-uh-jee), is the study of flags. This includes their history, symbolism, and use. It is derived from the Latin vexillum for flag or banner and the Greek -logia (study).

It follows then that a **VEXILLOLOGIST** is one who studies flags, is interested in what a flag's specific colors and symbols mean and determines the meaning behind a specific flag. In particular, this study involves going deep into meanings integral in a flag's design, whether it represents a nation, a state, or an athletic team. It includes the colors of a flag's stripes, the presence of icons (like a cross, a crescent, or a

shield) the number of stars, all of which symbolize specific things in **VEXILLOLOGY**. And a **VEXILLOGRAPHER**, is one who designs flags.

According to Flag-post.com, *Many Voices One Flag*, these terms are relatively new in our vocabulary going back nearly seventy years to 1957 when a seventeen-year-old from Boston was a summer intern at the United Nations headquarters in New York City. Whitney Smith (Feb. 26, 1940-Nov. 17, 2016) was always fascinated by flags and with all the flags flying around the U.N. building he thought it would be the place to study flags. Unfortunately, the U.N. did not have a special department to categorize and record the flags of its member nations. He found that the map department sometimes had illustrations of flags around the borders of the maps. Young Whitney wondered, if one who studies maps is a "cartographer," what is the word for one who studies flags? Amazingly, there was no such word. Using dictionaries that

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included Latin and Greek languages he created the words to describe the study of flags, vexillology, and the scholars who study them, vexillologist. With his passion for the study of flags he not only created appropriate new words but also the scholarly discipline which the words describe. Whitney Smith went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Harvard, a master's degree and a doctorate from Boston University. There was not a PhD in vexillology, so he received his degree in Political Science. He established the Flag Research Center, that later became the North American Vexillological Association. Over the years he wrote the flag articles for almost every prominent encyclopedia, among them Britannica Americana and World Book. During his lifetime he wrote 27 books and over 250 articles on the subject of flags. He designed the flag of Guyana, 21 Saudi Arabian navy flags, was part of the committees that designed the flags of Bonaire and of Aruba and served as a vexillographer to a number of governments and organizations.

Flags have existed for thousands of years. In today's world every country has a flag as do many cities, regions, movements, identities, and organizations. Flags are powerful symbols that can invoke feelings of patriotism, pride, hate, and many other emotions even to the point where some people will literally die for their flag.

Research tells us that a flag is a piece of fabric, most often rectangular, that includes distinctive colors and design. It is used as a symbol, a signaling device, or for decoration. Flags have evolved into a general tool for rudimentary signaling and identification, especially in environments where communication is challenging (such as maritime environs). National flags are patriotic symbols often including strong military associations due to their original and ongoing use for that purpose.

In the Middle Ages in Europe flags were used primarily in battle, allowing easier identification of a knight. Cities, states and communes in the late Middle Ages began to use flags as field signs. Beginning in the 17th century during the peak of the sailing age, it was customary, and later legally required, for ships to fly flags designating their nationality, eventually evolving into the national flags and maritime flags of today. Flags became the preferred means of communications at sea which resulted in various systems of flag signals known as semaphores. At this time in history one of the most popular uses of flags is to symbolize a nation or country.

The shapes of flags are usually rectangular but may be of any shape or size that is practical for flying, including square, triangular, or swallow tailed. Common designs on flags include crosses, stripes, and divisions of the surface, or field, into bands or quarters. In general, parts of a flag are: canton (any quarter section of a flag, commonly the upper inner section); field or ground (the entire flag except the canton); charge (a symbol or figure appearing in the field of the flag); the hoist (the edge of the flag nearest the flagpole); and the fly (the furthest edge from the hoist end).

A few of the terms relating to flags to help with the understanding of the Florida flag:

- **To Hoist** – The act of raising a flag
- **To Lower** – The act of taking down a flag
- **Distress** – Flying the flag upside-down
- **Half-mast** – Flag display where the flag is flown at least the width of the flag between the top of the flag and the top of the pole. Frequently used to honor a particular dignitary or perhaps a first responder recently deceased, i.e. the recent 30-day half-mast decree after the passing of President Jimmy Carter.
- **Ensign** – The flag of a ship or military unit or a synonym for a flag of any kind.
- **Civil ensign** – A merchant flag or merchant ensign. A version of the national flag flown by civil ships to denote nationality.
- **Civil flag** – A version of the national flag flown by civilians on non-government installations or craft.
- **Courtesy flag or courtesy ensign** – A flag flown by a visiting ship in foreign waters as a token of respect.
- **Saltire** – [sal-teer] a heraldic symbol in the form of a diagonal cross, also called Saint Andrew's Cross.
- **Heraldic** – relating to coats of arms. Special shields or shield-shaped patterns that are the sign of and the history of the families, universities, etc. that they belong to: a heraldic banner.
- **Heraldry** – relates to showing people who you are. Started in England late in the 1100s, when knights began to wear helmets which covered their faces, and they couldn't be recognized. They began to paint unique combinations of colors, shapes and animals, called their 'arms', on their shields and banners.
- **White Flag** – a white flag or cloth is used as a symbol of surrender, truce, or a desire to parley. In warfare, a white flag is a symbol of ceasefire or surrender. Should enemy troops wave a white flag during battle, the opposing side must not attack them. International law says that displaying a white flag indicates a request to pause fighting in order to negotiate.

continued on page 5



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William S. Barstow's Philanthropic Footprint on Hobe Sound and Martin County

Thursday, February 20, 2025 - Jackie Williams

A jack of all trades and a master of all of them, Jackie worked at the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) and was an assistant golf professional, then head pro, at Martin County Golf Club (now Sailfish Sands). She has been a freelance writer, a book author, a television host, and a film producer. William S. Barstow's career of philanthropy is almost as varied. His largesse is evidenced in, among others, the building of Martin Memorial Hospital (now Cleveland Clinic North Campus), Christ Memorial Chapel on Jupiter Island, St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Stuart, and the Banner Lake Club in Hobe Sound.

Clewiston in the 1920s with a parallel to Hobe Sound

Thursday, March 13, 2025 - Donnie Drake

A relative newcomer to Hobe Sound but not to Florida, Donnie grew up in Clewiston and graduated from Clewiston High School, as did his parents and his siblings before him. He has a great love for Clewiston, its amazing history, and how it came into being. He maintains an active Facebook collection of old photos and articles about the town. Since coming to Hobe Sound, his interest and passion have expanded to include his new hometown.

Prehistoric Snowbirds

Thursday, April 10, 2025 - Sara Ayers- Rigsby

An archaeologist and Florida Atlantic University professor of Anthropology, Ms. Ayers-Rigsby is the director of the Southeast and Southwest regions for the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN). She will present an overview of the history of humans in Florida until the Spanish arrived in the 1500s. Learn about the first "snowbirds" in this program, which will include a PowerPoint presentation and artifacts.

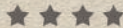
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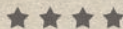


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I've only scratched the surface here of "vexillology" or the study of flags. It's evolution from the days of heraldry (her-uhl-dree) to today is complex and very interesting, but I'd like to share some information about our Florida flag and leave some of the details of the heraldic connections to those interested in researching further.

Through the years, since Ponce de Leon first arrived in 1513 in what he called "La Florida", several different flags have flown over this peninsula. Beginning in the early sixteenth century have been the flags of five nations: Spain, France, Great Britain, the United States, and the Confederate States of America.

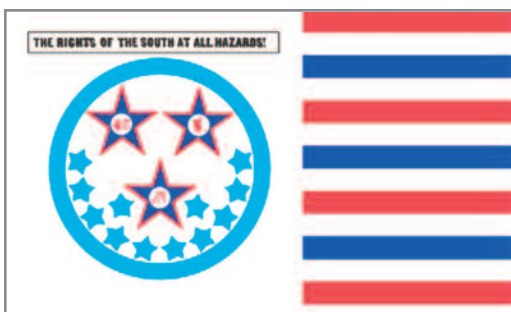
From about 1821 to 1861, Florida had no official flag. However, on June 25, 1845, at the time of the inauguration of Florida's first governor, William D. Moseley, a flag was hoisted that featured five bars of blue, gold, red, white and green, along with the motto "Let Us Alone." The U.S. flag served as a canton. However, this never was an official state flag.



State Flag – 1845

The flag shown is reconstructed from a written description. (Florida Department of State.)

During the Civil War (April 1861-April 1865) Florida was a vital source of beef and salt for the Confederacy. It was the third state to secede from the Union, but due to its small population and meager industrial resources it was of little strategic importance to either side of the warring parties and is sometimes referred to as the forgotten state of the Confederacy. During those years three different "Flags of the Confederate States of America" flew over the state. According to the Florida Department of State, "Unofficial "secession" flags were flying in many parts of the state even before Florida left the Union. "The Ladies of Broward's Neck" in Duval County presented this flag to Governor Madison Starke Perry. It was displayed at the Capitol when the Ordinance of Secession was signed on January 11, 1861."



Secession Flag – 1861

(Florida Department of State.)

Soon after secession from the Union, they used the Naval Ensign of Texas, or lone star flag, as a provisional flag until September of that year. It also used this flag when Floridian forces took control of U.S. forts and a Navy yard in Pensacola. Commander of Floridian troops at the time was Colonel William H. Chase and that flag is sometimes referred to as the Chase Flag.



The Lone Star Flag – 1861

During the crisis preceding the outbreak of the Civil War, state forces took control of the federal forts and navy yard at Pensacola. At the Pensacola Navy Yard, Colonel William H. Chase, commander of Florida troops, raised this provisional flag. Colonel Chase's lone star flag had the same design as that used by the Republic of Texas Navy between 1836 and 1845. (Florida Department of State.)

Later that year Governor Perry was authorized by the Florida Legislature to design an official flag for Florida. He designed the tri-band of the Confederacy with the blue field extending down and the new seal of Florida placed within the blue field.



State Flag – 1861

The general assembly passed an act directing Governor Madison S. Perry to adopt "an appropriate device for a State flag which shall be distinctive in character." Six months later the governor had the secretary of state record the description of Florida's first official flag. Whether it was ever raised over the Capitol or in the field is unknown. The flag shown here is reconstructed from a written description. (Florida Department of State.)

After the Civil War, Florida was the first Southern state to adopt a flag of its own. On August 6, 1868, the state seal was designated to appear in the center of a white flag. In that year the Legislature of Florida established the elements and basic design of The Great Seal of the State of Florida, as follows:

"That a Seal of the size of the American silver dollar, having in the center thereof a view of the sun's rays over a high land in the distance, a cocoa tree, a steamboat on water, and an Indian female scattering flowers in the foreground, encircled by the words, 'Great Seal of the State of Florida: In God We Trust', be and the same is hereby adopted as the Great Seal of the State of Florida."



State Flag – 1868

The Constitutional Convention of 1868 provided Florida with its second official state flag. It declared that the legislature should, as soon as convenient, "adopt a State Emblem having the design of the Great Seal of the State impressed upon a white ground of six feet six inches fly and six feet deep." (Florida Department of State.)

At that time, they adopted "In God We Trust" as the state motto representing a slight variation from Florida's first state motto, "In God is our Trust." (In 2006 "In God We Trust" was officially designated in state statute as Florida's motto.) The original design of the state seal showed an American Indian woman on a promontory extending into water where a steamboat was sailing.

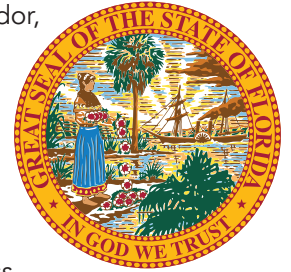


State Flag – 1900

Because the flag when furled lacked color, the Legislature in 1899 submitted to the electorate for ratification in 1900 an amendment to the Constitution adding diagonal red bars. (Florida Department of State.)

The symbolism of the original chosen representations on the Great Seal of the State of Florida:

- **Sun** – Represents glory, splendor, and absolute authority
- **Highlands and water** – Represent the state's typical landscape
- **Steamboat** – Represents the state's commerce and progress
- **Flowers** – Represent hope and joy, and the influence of the Seminole people on the state
- **Sabal palm tree** – Represents victory, justice, and royal honor
- **Seminole woman** – Represents the Seminole people, who inhabited parts of Florida before European settlement
- **Motto** – Represents the state's values



Through the years, interpretations of the elements of The Great Seal have differed considerably. Most recent corrections were made to The Great Seal of the State of Florida in 1985. The revised Seal doesn't have a background of mountains. Something most definitely not present in Florida. The various images of the Indian female have drawn criticism from historians conscious of her clothing as well as a feather headdress; a mistake because Indian males wore the headdresses. Now depicted is a Seminole Indian woman rather than a Western Plains Indian, shown dropping flowers which represent Florida's name, referencing its abundance of flowers. The steamboat is more accurate, and the cocoa palm has been changed to a sabal palm, the state tree. All in front of the rays of a rising sun.

Late in the 1890s, then Governor Francis P. Fleming suggested that a red cross be added to the flag, so that when hanging limply on a flagpole, the banner did not appear to be a white flag of truce or surrender. In 1900 Florida voters approved a constitutional amendment to add the red St. Andrew's cross. The St. Andrew's cross, or saltire cross, is a diagonal cross, a heraldic symbol that is used in flags, such as the Scottish flag and the flags of Alabama and Florida which comes from the Cross of Burgundy, a Spanish military flag used from the 16th to the 18th century to identify warships, forts, and regiments of troops loyal to the king of Spain. The basic pattern is of a red saltire ("cross") resembling two crossed, roughly pruned branches on a usually white field. Tradition states that this symbol represents St. Andrew, who is believed to have been crucified at Patras, Greece on a cross of that form (called a crux decussata). Sentenced to death by crucifixion by the Romans, he asked to be crucified on a diagonal cross because he felt he wasn't worthy to die on the same shaped cross as that of Jesus. And so, evolving through the years, the flag that currently represents the Sunshine State is a white field, crisscrossed with the red saltire St. Andrew's Cross of Burgundy and featuring at its center The Great Seal of the State of Florida.

Some trivia of interest:

- The saltire of Alabama's flag closely resembles the saltire of the flag of Florida. Southern Alabama was originally part of Spanish Florida and subsequently West Florida.
- The saltire was used as a field sign in medieval times, but it was not associated with Saint Andrew until the late 14th century.
- The Scottish flag, also known as the Saltire, is believed to be one of the oldest flags in the world that is still in use today.

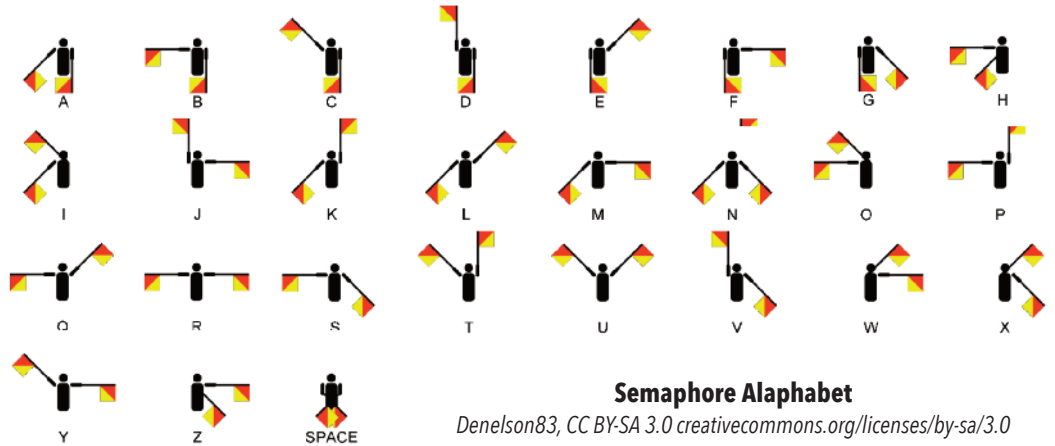


Alabama State Flag



Scottish Flag

- Coat of arms is a term that comes from the surcoat, a garment worn over armor to protect it from the sun and rust. The surcoat displayed the same heraldic insignia as the shield.



Semaphore Alphabet

Denelson83, CC BY-SA 3.0 creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0

- A semaphore is a device or system that sends signals that can be seen from a distance; a system of flags or lights that are used to send signals.

- During the Civil War the flags of the Confederate States of America historically had three successive designs. Those flags were known as the "Stars and Bars", used from 1861 to 1863; the "Stainless Banner", used from 1863 to 1865; and the "Blood-Stained Banner", used in 1865 shortly before the dissolution of the Confederacy. A rejected national flag design was also used as a battle flag by the Confederate Army and featured in the "Stainless Banner" and "Blood-Stained Banner" designs. Although this design was never a national flag, it is the most commonly recognized symbol of the Confederacy.

Stars and Bars



First flag with 7 stars representing the seven states of the South that originally composed the Confederacy: South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas.

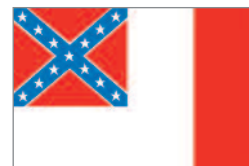
(March 4 - May 18, 1861)



From May 1863 to March 1865, the official flag of the Confederate States of America incorporated the design of the battle flag as a major feature. This flag, now called the second national pattern, was nicknamed the "Stainless Banner" because of its large white field.

Flag with 9 stars representing the addition of Virginia and Arkansas.

(May 18 - July 2, 1861)



On March 4, 1865, the design of the Confederate national flag was altered because its white field could be mistaken for a flag of truce or surrender. The new "Blood Stained Banner," today called the third national flag, featured a vertical red bar added to the outer edge.

Flag with 11 stars representing the addition of Tennessee and North Carolina

(July 2 - November 28, 1861)

Last flag with 13 stars representing the addition of Missouri and Kentucky.

(December 10, 1861 - May 1, 1863)



Confederate field commanders in Virginia began using the square "Southern Cross" as a battle flag in the latter part of 1861. Within two years, Southern military units serving in parts of Florida also received flags of this design. In 1863 a rectangular version, without a white border, became the official Confederate naval jack.

The author of the *Hobe Sound Beach Shop's Turtle Times* has now created a book featuring the history of Hobe Sound. This lovely coffee table book will provide you with the incredible history of this beautiful town, surrounded by all things nature nestled on the east coast of South Florida.

Signed copies for sale at the Hobe Sound Beach Shop

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by Janet Kleine Otten

with Nancy Lee and Dan Mackin



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A little Trivia from Dictionary.com:

shilly-shally [shil-ee-shal-ee] verb
 to show indecision or hesitation; be irresolute

There's no time to shilly-shally! Head on down to the Hobe Sound Beach Shop to get your signed copy before they're all gone -- ***Our History is a Treasure, Hobe Sound, Florida, A Jewel on the Treasure Coast*** by Janet Kleine Otten, author; with cover artist, Dan Mackin; and Illustrator/design editor, Nancy Lee.

Hobe Sound History Becomes Reality

There is **great good news!!!** It's official, the **Hobe Sound Railroad Depot is now located at its new permanent home** on Old Dixie Highway in Hobe Sound. It sits just a stone's throw from its original location. It was transported in the wee hours of January 26, 2025 by Brownie Structural Movers to its prime setting in downtown from its most recent location at the Polo Grounds on Bridge Road west of Federal Highway.

Hobe Sound is very fortunate to have the iconic depot still intact and in great condition. Most depots were arbitrarily destroyed when passenger service was no longer happening along the Florida east coast. Even many of the large architecturally remarkable depots were taken down.

After the shutdown of the passenger lines, the Hobe Sound building became the possession of Hobe Groves Ltd. and was placed on the land at Hobe Groves off Bridge Road where it was used as an office. Later it was purchased by the Becker Companies and became a sales office for the proposed polo community. Now the Becker Companies and the Discovery Land Company have generously donated it back to the people of Hobe Sound.

In cooperation with Martin County and the Hobe Sound Historical Society this remarkable original depot will become available for visitors to learn about the significant contributions the railroad made to this unincorporated village during the early years of its development.

In days gone by train depots were the social hub of each community fortunate enough to be a stop on the passenger railway. Those depots received the incoming mail and packages as well as sending bags of mail on their way out of town. Families welcomed loved ones and visitors and woefully watched as others left home for college or new opportunities. Vacationers excitedly stepped off the train at their destination and left from there rested and sunburned. During war time, soldiers boarded trains waving to loved ones on the platform as the train pulled out of the station and returning soldiers were cause for great joyful welcomes. Railroad depots saw tears of joy, tears of sadness, hugs and kisses, excitement and despondency, anticipation and disappointment, a lifeline to the outside world.

Our own Hobe Sound Depot, along with the preserved and restored Apollo School, will proudly stand as reminders of the foundation of this beautiful community; as reminders of the families and visionaries who saw the extraordinary potential of what nature has provided here and who have done so much to preserve its beauty and integrity for us and for future generations.

Now that it's here and going forward, this exceptional project will require some major renovations prior to its opening to the



Photo courtesy of Pat Martin, Hobe Sound Historical Society.

public as a living exhibit of the history of Hobe Sound. This work will take some time and naturally require financial contributions to make this remarkable opportunity a reality.

To find out how you can help, please contact hobesoundhistoricalsociety@gmail.com You can be a very real part of bringing to life an iconic part of Hobe Sound History that will be here for residents and visitors to take a step back into an era gone by and to learn about it and enjoy it.



Photo courtesy of Diana Owens, Hobe Sound Historical Society.



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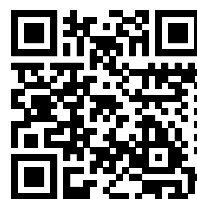
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Chapter 32 Crossword

Hint: All Answers Can be Found in the Chapter Thirty-two Article.

Across

2. In what month in 1861 did Florida secede from the Union?
3. What does an upside down flag indicate?
8. What country also uses the St. Andrew symbol on its flag?
9. What other state also uses the St. Andrew symbol on its flag?
11. After the Civil War what southern state was the first to adopt its own flag?
12. What is the quarter section of a flag called?
16. A white flag is used for what purpose?
17. What color is the St. Andrew's symbol on Florida's flag?
18. What is the nearest edge of the flag to the flagpole is called?
19. Some people will literally do what for their flag?
21. What symbol is the Seminole dropping in the Great Seal of the State of Florida?
22. Is a male or female Seminole represented on the current Great Seal of the State of Florida?
23. First name of renowned vexillologist?
24. What is the title for one who designs flags?
26. Florida is sometimes referred to as the "Forgotten State of the What?"

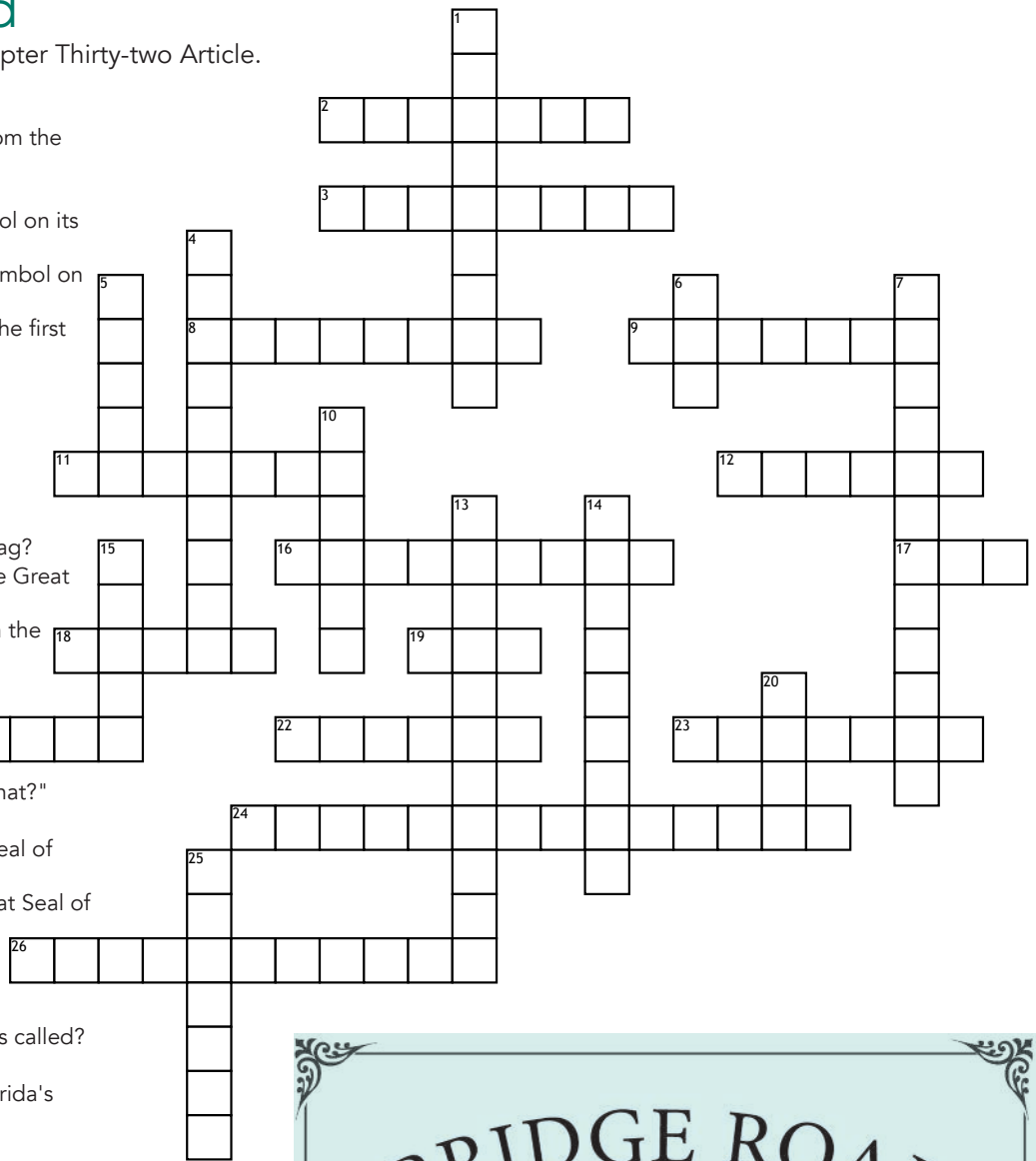
Down

1. What symbol was removed from the Great Seal of Florida because it does not exist here?
4. Who criticized the Indian on the original Great Seal of the State of Florida?
5. What type of palm tree is represented on the current Great Seal of the State of Florida?
6. What is the farthest edge from the flagpole is called?
7. What is the title for one who studies maps?
10. The motto "In God We Trust" represents Florida's what?
13. What word refers to the study of flags?
14. A system of flags or lights to send signals over a great distance is called what?
15. What representation of St. Andrew appears on the Florida State Flag?
20. The flags of how many nations have flown over Florida?
25. What governor suggested adding the St. Andrew's symbol to Florida's flag?

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Real Estate Corner

The age-old question I hear all the time is "How's the market?" Well, it is what it is, and there are many answers I could give depending on what market. There is the Single-Family Residential Market, The Condo Market, Town House Market, The New Home Building Market, The Commercial Market, The Land Only Market, The Investors Market, The Rental Market, etc! Every sector is a bit different with effects coming from many factors. Geographics like location, weather like recent storms, fires, floods, the political scene, and on and on. Everything affects the general housing market. The real estate market, like the stock market, fluctuates up and down depending on the many factors surrounding the specific market in question.

Basically, the housing market, like any other market, is controlled by supply and demand. If there is more real estate for sale than there are buyers then it is called a buyer's market, conversely if there are more buyers than inventory, then it would be a seller's market. Ideally a balanced number of buyers and sellers would stabilize the market.

Is Florida's housing sector on the cusp of transitioning to a buyer's market? The answer could be yes, especially in some local areas, according to Florida Realtors® Chief Economist Dr. Brad O'Connor.

"If we go by the general rule of thumb that five to six months of supply is a balanced market, single-family homes ended 2024 still just barely in a seller's market at 4.7 months of supply, while condos and townhouses are now firmly in buyer's market territory, at 8.2 months' supply," O'Connor said.

Here is some data for single family homes in Hobe Sound: The Market is good in Hobe sound, there are slightly more sellers at the close of last year than buyers trending to a buyer's advantage. This is more stable than many other areas. The year closed with 4.9 months of supply in Hobe Sound slightly in the buyer's market! Fortunately, Hobe Sound will remain a Great place to invest and live!

Just sayin! Rich

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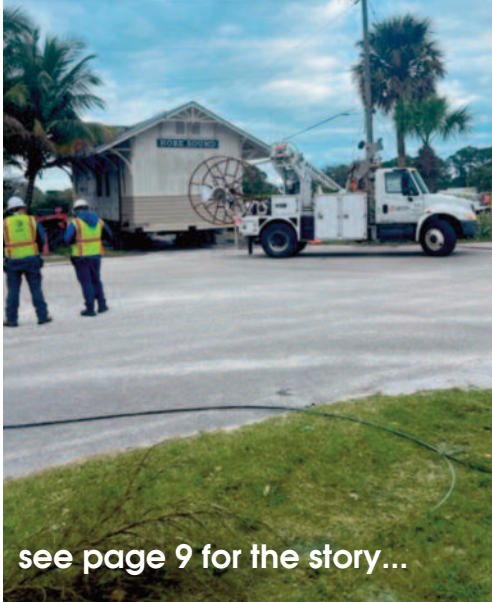


Photo courtesy of Pat Martin, Hobe Sound
Historical Society.

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