



A Brief History of the Smallwood Store in Chokoloskee, Florida

by Marya Repko

- ✦ Background History of Florida
- ✦ Charles Sherod (Ted) Smallwood's early life
- ✦ Building the Store, trading with the Seminoles
- ✦ Chokoloskee causeway and the next generation
- ✦ Saving History – converting the Store into a Museum

The Smallwood Store is a landmark in Southwest Florida history. Almost 100 years ago, local settlers came to get their mail at the Post Office and to buy supplies. The Seminoles visited to trade pelts and deer meat for cloth and ammunition. The Store closed after 65 years but the building and artifacts have been preserved as a Museum.

“This is not a Museum where you reproduce history – it’s where history was made.”

(Lynn Smallwood McMillin, Ted Smallwood, Inc.)

Author Marya Repko grew up in Hadlyme, CT, and attended local schools before graduating from Hollins College in Roanoke, VA. She lived most of her adult life in Europe as a software engineer until she retired to Everglades City, FL, where her first book *A Brief History of the Everglades City Area* has sold thousands of copies. Other brief historical studies of Sanibel Island, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, Deaconess Harriet Bedell, and the Fakahatchee have been well-received, as have the children’s versions of the Everglades and Sanibel books. Marya is Secretary of the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation and newsletter editor of the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades.

“A Brief History of the Small Store in Chokoloskee, Florida”

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