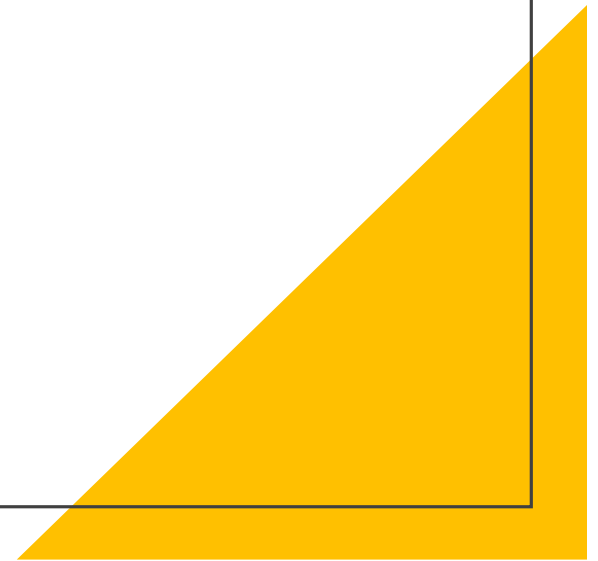


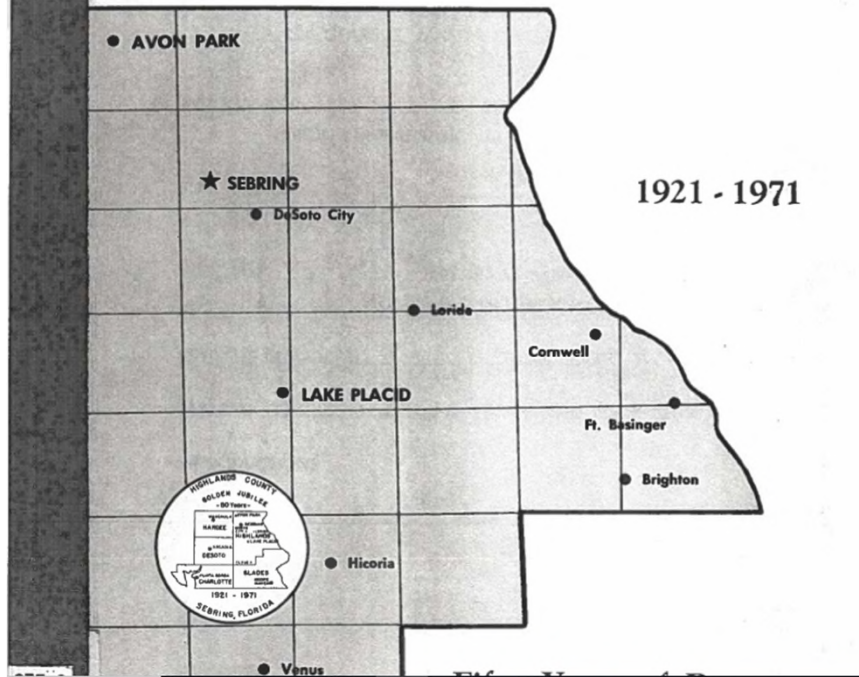
Hicoria: A Historic Highlands County Town



50¢

Highlands County

Golden Jubilee



HICORIA

This settlement was first known as "Redlands." The early settlers of central Florida had many scientific methods of determining the quality of good land. In the ridge and sand hill area the sure way of knowing the quality of good land was simply to examine the soil bank around gopher holes. The gopher usually digs his hole down to a depth of 8 to 10 feet and the dirt they remove gives a good cross section of the soil beneath. In the Hicoria settlement the red clay is very near the surface and therefore the gophers removed soil that was red. This indicated that the soil was good and that the clay deposit beneath would hold moisture. The area became known as Redlands.

The first settler (squatter) here was James Carlton, who moved to the sand hills about 1894-1895. A few years later his sons, Ceylon Carlton and Tommy Carlton followed and settled near their father. These pioneers were primarily cattlemen and grazed their cattle on the flatlands south and west of Redlands. They also planted several acres of citrus on the hills, and these trees survived the freeze of 1895 and 96. As more settlers moved to this area a petition was circulated for a post office which was established on Sept. 4, 1915. The first postmaster was Charles B. Collins.



DESOTO COUNTY 1907

NEW ENCYCLOPEDIA AND GAZETTEER



ATLANTIC COAST LINE RAILWAY—Continued.

Haines City to Moore Haven.

0.0	Avon Park.....	38.5	Hicoria	74.2
6.9	Sebring	46.5	Venus	79.9
15.4	Istokpoga	55.6	Palmdale	88.9
21.3	Stearns	63.4	Moore Haven.....	105.5
27.8	Childs	69.4		

Nichols to Mulberry.

0.0	Mulberry	4.0		
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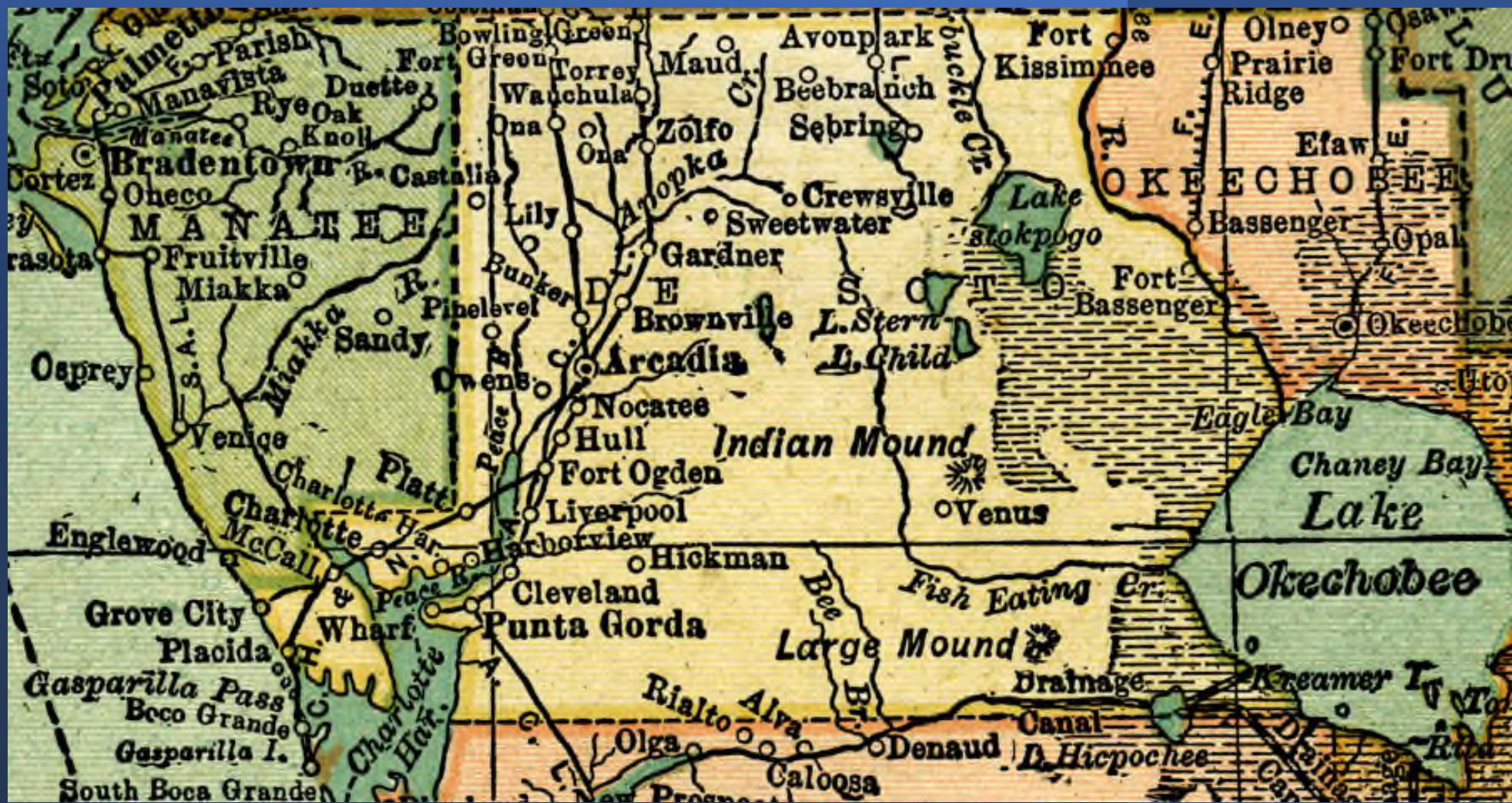
Fanlew to Thomasville.

0.0	Capitola	13.1	Stringer	27.9
6.4	Wadesboro	17.4	Fincher	31.7
8.6	Miccosukee	24.1	Metcalf, Ga.....	34.2
10.3	Copeland	27.9	Thomasville, Ga.....	44.2

Uceta to Palmetto.

0.0	Ruskin	19.0	Gillett	31.0
1.0	Ross	22.0	Palmetto	36.0
9.0	Piney Point	27.0		

Atlantic Coast Line Train
 FEBRUARY 18, 1922 RAILROAD TIMETABLE
 FROM 1922 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA,
 VOLUME 25



De Soto County.....	25,434
Precinct 1, Fort Green.....	620
Precinct 2, Wauchula, including Wauchula city.	3,255
Precinct 3, Lily.....	243
Precinct 4, Pine Level.....	436
Precinct 5, Charlotte Harbor.....	256
Precinct 6, McCall (Grove City).....	189
Precinct 7, Punta Gorda, including Punta Gorda town.....	1,671
Precinct 8, Fort Ogden.....	448
Precinct 9, Arcadia, including Arcadia city.....	4,307
Precinct 10, Crossville.....	602
Precinct 11, Zolfo, including Zolfo town.....	1,486
Precinct 12, Venus.....	381
Precinct 13, Brownville.....	287
Precinct 14, Avon Park, including Avon Park town.....	1,608
Precinct 15, Bowling Green, including Bowling Green town.....	1,259
Precinct 16, Gardner.....	610
Precinct 17, Nocatee ¹⁰	10 1,310
Precinct 18, Owens.....	201
Precinct 19, Cleveland.....	133
Precinct 20, Oak Hill (Bunker).....	221
Precinct 21, Lake Childs (Lake Stearns).....	307
Precinct 23, Ona.....	734
Precinct 25, Bermont.....	67
Precinct 26, Murdock.....	145
Precinct 27, Sweetwater.....	175
Precinct 30, Bassenger.....	57
Precinct 31, Limestone.....	367
Precinct 32, Sebring, including Sebring town.....	1,313
Precinct 33, Adrian.....	78
Precinct 34, Palmdale.....	396
Precinct 35, Lakeport.....	169
Precinct 36, Lake Branch.....	280
Precinct 37, Moore Haven, including Moore Haven town.....	1,583
Precinct 38, Gasparilla.....	154

DESOTO COUNTY POPULATION 1920 US CENSUS

VENUS, AVON PARK, LAKE CHILDS
(FUTURE LAKE PLACID)
BASSENGER AND SEBRING ALL
WILL BE PART OF FUTURE
HIGHLANDS COUNTY.

TOTAL POPULATION OF 5 TOWNS
WAS 3,756 OR ABOUT 1/7 OF
DESOTO COUNTY'S TOTAL.




1922 COUNTY SEAT
ELECTION- TEXT AND
PHOTO CREDIT
JASON BYRNE 5/3/16
(HAINZ BUILDING
1923)

- “It was a given that Avon Park and Sebring voters would, in effect, cancel each other out. Therefore, the fate of the county seat was largely in the hands of the southern half of the county, with Venus and Hicoria also being relevant constituencies.
- **A reported state record 96.8% of the county’s eligible voters showed up at the polls that Tuesday.** Avon Park residents voted 697–15 for their municipality; Sebring citizens 594–5 for theirs. However, once the other precincts reported, the pendulum swung back to Sebring with 78% of those 351 votes going toward their closer neighbor. The total vote counts were 884 for Sebring to 778 for Avon Park.[106 Votes]”

NALACA WAS FOUNDED IN 1918, THE TOWN HAD 250 PEOPLE AT ITS PEAK...{It} DIDN'T DECLINE SO MUCH AS IT WAS SIMPLY DISMANTLED AND UPROOTED. THE TURPENTINE OPERATIONS USUALLY CAME BEFORE THE TREES WERE CLEARED, AND ONCE THE AREA CLEARED, THE TOWN WAS DISASSEMBLED. AT THE AVON PARK AIR FORCE RANGE, MORE THAN 10,000 CLAY CUPS, DATED FROM THE 1920S, ARE THE CLEAREST REMNANTS OF [THIS]...THE TOWN EXISTED FOR ONLY 6-10 YEARS AS THE NOW-DEFUNCT CONSOLIDATED NAVAL STORES DISMANTLED IT AND MOVED. BY APRIL 1929, IT MOVED TO HICORIA, SOUTH OF LAKE PLACID.

DOUG CARMAN HIGHLANDS TODAY 13 JUNE
2007/1939 Highlands County Road Map





NOV.6,1928- DAY
THE CONCRETE
FOOTINGS FOR THE
MILL WERE
POURED

PHOTO CREDIT JEN BROWN

Sherman Sawmill (Hicoria or Sherman Town)



Highlands County ¹⁷	9, 192	-----	-----
Prec. 1, Avon Park.....	3, 528	-----	-----
<i>Avon Park city</i> ¹⁷	3, 355	890	-----
Prec. 2, Sebring.....	3, 227	-----	-----
<i>Sebring city</i> ¹⁷	2, 912	812	-----
Prec. 3, De Soto City.....	380	-----	-----
<i>De Soto City town</i> ¹⁷	231	-----	-----
Prec. 4, Lake Stearns.....	819	-----	-----
<i>Lake Placid city</i> ¹⁷	582	-----	-----
Prec. 5, Venus.....	302	-----	-----
Prec. 6, Hicoria.....	587	-----	-----
Prec. 7, Bassenger.....	158	-----	-----
Prec. 8, Brighton.....	92	-----	-----
Prec. 9, Istokpoga.....	99	-----	-----
Wichita County ¹⁸	152, 510	69, 057	79, 074

HIGHLANDS COUNTY POPULATION BY TOWN 1930 US CENSUS

- ““Man must pay his part in creating the scars of civilization... Ours is a big country, a giant well of natural resources. But we fail to take warning. Man can dip often enough into the vat of plenty and before long vainly will scrape the bottom with a clattering cup held in a shaking hand... I don't' pretend that I have not been guilty... I have... And I am just one of thousands throughout these United States who thought only in terms of the vastness of our country, who marveled at the apparently unlimited supply of natural resources. But we were shortsighted... No man has the moral right to devastate natural resources which might be needed by future generations. Without Careful planning we will soon be bogged down in a morass of our own making.”

- Ververka 1957, Quote From W.C. Sherman about his company's impact
- “R-10 lumber store token”

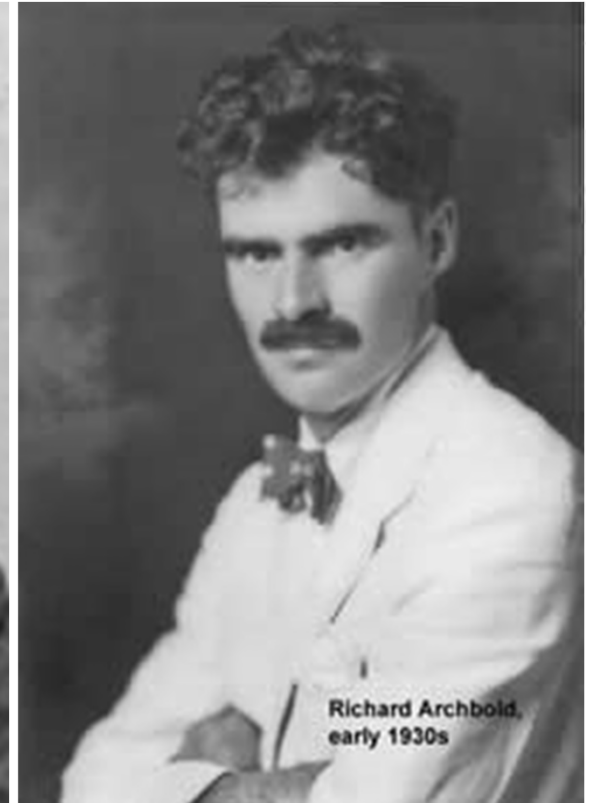
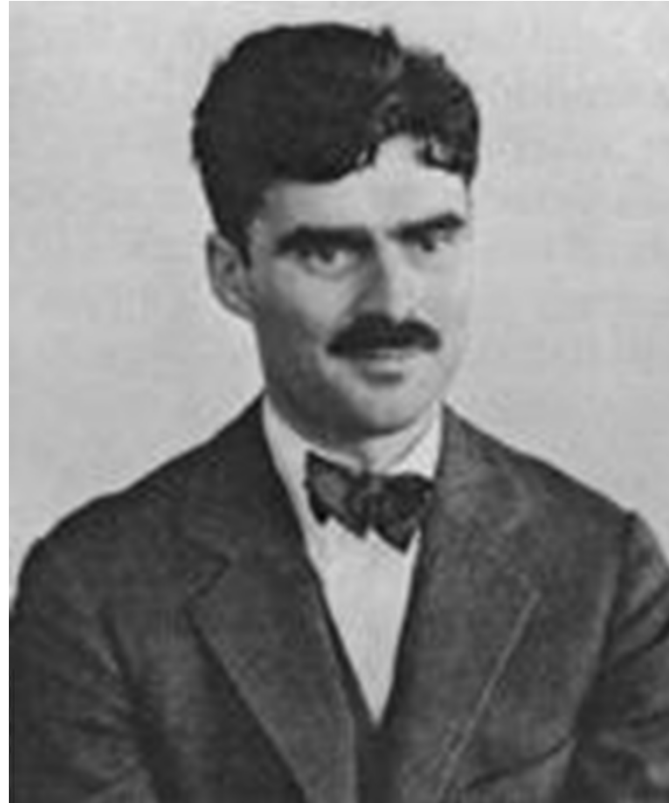


HIGHLANDS COUNTY POPULATION BY CITY

1940 US CENSUS

Highlands County-----	9, 246	9, 192	(²⁵)
Prec. 1, Avon Park ²⁵ -----	1, 256	3, 528	-----
<i>Avon Park city, total</i> ²⁵ -----	3, 125	3, 355	890
<i>In Prec. 1</i> -----	876	3, 355	890
<i>In Prec. 1A</i> -----	2, 249	-----	-----
Prec. 1A, Avon Park ²⁵ -----	2, 496	-----	-----
<i>Avon Park city (part)</i> -----	2, 249	-----	-----
Prec. 2, Sebring ²⁵ -----	1, 126	3, 227	-----
<i>Sebring city, total</i> ²⁵ -----	3, 155	2, 912	812
<i>In Prec. 2</i> -----	1, 017	2, 912	812
<i>In Prec. 2A</i> -----	2, 138	-----	-----
Prec. 2A, Sebring ²⁵ -----	2, 180	-----	-----
<i>Sebring city (part)</i> -----	2, 138	-----	-----
Prec. 3, De Soto City-----	351	380	-----
<i>De Soto City town</i> -----	131	231	-----
Prec. 4, Lake Stearns-----	968	819	-----
<i>Lake Placid city</i> -----	340	532	-----
Prec. 5, Venus-----	354	302	-----
Prec. 6, Hicoria-----	129	587	-----
Prec. 7, Bassenger-----	125	158	-----
Prec. 8, Brighton-----	60	92	-----
Prec. 9, Istokpoga-----	201	99	-----

RICHARD
ARCHBOLD
STATION
FOUNDER
ABS ARCHIVES





2020 ABS BOUNDARY IN GREEN

TODAY NEARLY ALL OF HICORIA IS CONTAINED
WITHIN ARCHBOLD STATION GROUNDS

BILL PARKEN HICORIA STORYMAP PROJECT

Red- Cockaded Woodpecker

- Archbold has studied at Avon Park Air Force Range since 1992.
- Federally Endangered Species
- 47 groups currently (21 in 1992)
- Their habitat was logged sometime in 1900's but they need trees that have been alive since the 1800's.





Florida Sand Skink

- Hicoria town is great habitat for them
- Threatened Species
- “The Florida sand skink is found only in seven Central Florida counties: Osceola, Polk, Lake, Highlands, Putnam, Orange, and Marion.” (FWC)
- Their numbers are probably recovering since people stopped living in Hicoria (more research needed but anecdotal evidence, Mark Deyrup)



CONCRETE PILLAR PYRAMID AT HICORIA MILL SITE

BILL PARKEN PHOTO CREDIT

“HICORIA WAS AN EPHEMERAL LUMBER MILL TOWN. POSSIBLY, PROBABLY SOME BUILDINGS WERE PORTABLE, EASILY MOVED TO THE NEXT SITE BY RAILROAD. SOME HICORIA BUILDINGS PROBABLY WERE ABANDONED, SUBJECT TO BURNING IN ANY WILDFIRE. ONE HICORIA BUILDING, A SMALL SHACK / HOME EXISTED ALONG SR8, ON A SMALL RISE +100 FEET BACK FROM THE ROAD, IN THE TRACT JUST SOUTH OF THE JAY HOUSE TRACT. I PHOTOGRAPHED IT FROM THE ROAD, DURING THE 1970’S.”

Fred Lohrer Librarian Emeritus



Acknowledgements

Angela Tringali

Charlotte Wilson

Bill Parken

Fred Lohrer

Vivienne Sclater

Greg Thompson

Mark Deyrup