



## Society Sage Glossary



**Walter Haldeman** - Considered the “Father of Naples”, because in 1890 at an auction held here in Naples, he bought all of Naples for \$50,000. He was the only person to show up at the auction! Walter Haldeman opened the “Hotel Naples” on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1889. He had Historic Palm Cottage built in 1895 as a home for his good friend and colleague, Pulitzer Prize winning writer, and the editor of the Louisville Courier Journal, Henry Watterson. Historic Palm Cottage was also used as an annex for the hotel. His newspaper, the Louisville Courier had ads to visit Naples and brought people from around the United States and around the world to Naples.

**Naples, Italy** - Naples, Florida got its namesake from the ancient city Naples, Italy. Supposedly in the 1870s, an unnamed U.S. government land surveyor was looking at our bay, with its warm waters and palm trees, and said it reminded him of the Bay of Naples in Italy. However, in reality in order to attract investors, the area was named after a city that would evoke a sense of being in “America’s Italian Peninsula”

**Tabby Mortar** - Tabby is a cement made of a conglomerate of shells, sand and water. Bringing materials to Naples would have been difficult and expensive as most products traveled by boat along the Gulf. There was no railroad or a highway (the Tamiami Trail) until 1927 and 1928 respectively. Tabby was made by roasting the abundant seashells over buttonwood, which burns very hot. The roasted shells were then ground into a fine lime powder. This mixture was then poured into a wooden frame, for Palm Cottage, one foot wide and four feet deep; the process was repeated three times resulting in Palm Cottage having walls one foot thick and twelve feet high. Sometimes locally available bamboo or pine boughs were used as rebar. “Tabby” is derived from the Spanish word “Tapia” for wall. The Spanish were building structures from tabby here in Florida as far back as the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The oldest stone fort in the United States, The Castillo De San Marcos (1672) in St. Augustine is made of tabby mortar.

**Cistern** - Before modern day plumbing. Cisterns were used to collect rainwater for washing and drinking water. At Historic Palm Cottage a series of copper pipes would collect water and drain it into the covered cistern behind the back door of Historic Palm Cottage.

**Historic Palm Cottage** - Historic Palm Cottage (the oldest house in Naples) was built in 1895. Walter Haldeman, owner of the Naples Hotel, built it as both a house for his colleague and friend, Pulitzer Prize winning writer Henry Watterson, as well as an annex for The Old Naples Hotel. The home had various owners over the years and was purchased in 1978 by Naples Historical Society, when the last owner, Mrs. Alexandra Brown passed away.

**Naples Pier** - Construction of the Naples Pier began in 1887 by the Naples Company. There was no railroad or a highway (Tamiami Trail) until 1927 and 1928 respectively. The ferry from Fort Myers, *The Bon Temps*, would go to Naples in the early years only once a week. During the 1920's a Victrola was setup at the end of the pier at sunset and hotel guests would dance at the end of the pier –while anglers fished. A sign had to be put up to encourage anglers to not throw bait or fish guts on the pier so that long dresses and nice shoes would not get soiled. During WWII, the pier was a lookout point for U-Boats, with one being spotted. The Naples Pier has had to have been rebuilt many times over years, mostly due to hurricane damage. However, it has always been a gathering space for the community and has always been rebuilt in its original location.

**Naples Hotel** - Construction of the Naples Hotel began in 1888. It opened its doors for the first time on January 1<sup>st</sup> 1889. Then President Grover-Cleveland's sister, Rose Elizabeth Cleveland, was the first guest to sign the hotel's registry. Located on what would become 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, the Naples Hotel faced the Gulf of Mexico and the Naples Pier. The Naples hotel earned a reputation for its unhurried hospitality and quickly became the center of social life in Naples. The hotel was in business until 1964.

**Tamiami Trail** - On April 25th, 1928 the Tamiami Trail (U.S. 41) is opened, linking Tampa and Miami. This allowed motor travel to and from Naples. The Tamiami Trail was one, of many achievements by Barron Gift Collier who invested \$1 million on the construction of the Trail. After its completion it was one of the first highways in the nation to have a highway patrol and rest stops.

**Library** - The Library would have been a relaxing spot on a rainy day or in the evening where guests could relax, socialize and of course read a good book!

**Chickee** - Is a traditional Seminole House constructed out of palm thatch and cypress logs. In fact, "Chickee" is the Seminole word for "house." The structure was developed as a fast efficient shelter during the Seminole Wars in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Chickee in The Norris Gardens provides shelter to visitors and was built by Seminole contractors.

**Alligator** - A “living fossil” the American Alligator (*Alligator Mississippiensis*) has been in North America for over 8 million years. An Apex predator, the Alligator has a range from southeastern Texas all the way up to coastal North Carolina. Their range includes the entirety of the state of Florida. They are the Florida State Reptile. Early visitors to the Old Naples Hotel would have gone big game hunting for alligators. They also would have been on the menu in the hotel's dining room!

**Sabal Palm** - The Sabal Palm also known as the Palmetto and Cabbage Palm is Florida's official State Tree. Sabal Palms can be found throughout the coastal southeastern United States, the Bahamas and Cuba. They can grow up to 65 feet in height. The bud at the top of the tree has been consumed by Floridians for thousands of years as a dish known as “Hearts of Palm” or “Swamp Cabbage”. Historic Palm Cottage got its name from Mr. and Mrs. Parmer who owned the home from 1916 to 1938. The inspiration came from the Sabal Palms growing in front of Historic Palm Cottage and our green awnings.

**Telephone** - In 1901 the first telephone service was extended to Naples from Ft Myers. The first telephone was installed at the Naples Hotel. This phone is a later version that may have been installed in a Library or office like the one at Historic Palm Cottage.

**Typewriter** -The type writer located in the library is a 1931 Royal Typewriter. The typewriter was the predecessor to the modern day keyboard and would have been used for word processing. Pulitzer Prize winning writer, Henry Watterson, who Historic Palm Cottage was initially built for, utilized a typewriter like this during his career.

**Wash Basin/Pitcher and Chamber Pot** - Before indoor plumbing was installed in Historic Palm Cottage in the 1920's . People would have had to use an outhouse that was located in the back of the property. However, at night, especially in bad weather, each bedroom would have had a washbasin/pitcher, soap, and a chamber pot under each bed. The pitcher would have been filled with water from the cistern before bed. In the event someone had to use the bathroom in the middle of the night, one could simply pull out the chamber pot from underneath the bed, utilize it, fill the basin with water and wash their hands. The next day the pot would be emptied into the outhouse and then cleaned.

**Teddy bears/Toys/Doll Carriage** - The various toys in the Children's Room of Historic Palm Cottage reflect the types of toys children would have certainly had in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

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