



By Andrew M. Foster (Great Grand Son)

08/07/2013



Captain Charles Henry Coe

Andrew M. Foster, who is the Great Grandson of Charles Henry Coe, visited the Town of Jupiter on a very cloudy Monday afternoon at 3pm to share stories about his Great Grandfather, who Andrew expressed is one of Jupiter's pioneers that settled in Florida during the early growth. Needless to say, Andrew had some very interesting stories to tell about his Great Grandfather who was an entrepreneur, author, newsman, photographer, amateur archeologist, traveler and much more.—(King Wekenmann, 2014)

Captain Charles Henry Coe was born on February 3, 1856 in Torrington, Litchfield County, Connecticut. He resided there until age 4. His father (William Henry Coe, 1824-1879) and his mother (Deborah Little Archer, 1824-1912) moved to Jacksonville, St. Johns County, Florida in 1874. The family moved to Florida because of his father's health. At 18 years of age, Charles found work with the Jacksonville Tri-Weekly Union and became a member of the local 162.

In 1875 at the age of 19, Charles moved to New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida. In 1877 at the age of 21, Charles started his (and New Smyrna Beach's) first newspaper which became known as the Florida Star. Andrew Foster was able to find three full original prints of the Florida star from the 1878 period.

When Charles was just 23 years old, his father died in 1879. After his father's death, he took over his father's duty as Collector of Customs. New Smyrna was a port of entry at that time. In 1880, when Charles was 24 years of age, he became self-employed while living in New Smyrna Beach. Charles had purchased a photography outfit and learned how to make tintypes. Charles



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used a ten by twenty-foot tent, and traveled about the country, taking photographs and making tintypes. Charles was doing very well and he recalled taking in as much as \$12.00 a day, producing photographs.

In 1880, young Charles moved his residence to Glencoe, Volusia County, Florida. Charles sold the Florida Star and the newspaper company moved to Titusville.

In 1887 Charles moved to Torrington, Connecticut where he met and did marry Emma Sophia Johnson (1846—1931) on April 30, 1887 when he was 31 years of age, and they had two children together. Mayne Reid Coe Sr (1888—1980) who lived until 92 years of age and Frederick Franklin Coe (1890—1893) who died at 3 years of age.

In 1888 at the young age of 32, Charles Coe moved to Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina. Later he moved to Highlands North Carolina where he started up another newspaper company known as the Highlands Star. This only lasted a year before he accepted employment in Washington DC, taking a job with the Government Printing Office.

In 1898, Charles Henry Coe published his book known as the “Red Patriots.” This was a book about the Seminole Indians and was viewed very unpopular during that time period. His publication had to do with the plight of the Seminole Indians. The publication can be found at the Library of Congress, today. During his residency in Washington D.C., Charles worked very hard with Congress and made sure that a book about the “Seminole Plight”, was placed in the hands of every Congressman. This was helpful with getting Congress to pass the laws allowing the Seminoles to have land rights in the State of Florida.

When Charles Henry Coe turned 56 in 1912, he started to vacation up and down the Florida coast with his five ton Cabin Cruiser known as the “Buccaneer”. For over 20 years, he traveled the coast and even visited Cuba. His traveling is how he became friends with the DuBois family of Jupiter, and Jupiter’s Lighthouse Keeper.

In 1921, Charles Henry Coe retired at the age of 65 and left the Washington DC circuit, enjoying long vacation to Florida. In 1927, at the age of 71, Charles published his book: “Juggling a Rope.” This was a 114 page book on Lariat roping, spinning rope, knots and splices and also contained the truth about Tom Horn who was proclaimed King of the Cowboys. This book was published by Hamley and Company.

In 1931, when Charles turned 75 years of age, he lost his beloved wife Emma, in Washington D.C. where he still had residence. In that same year, Charles produced another book called “The Art of Knife Throwing.” This was four pages in length.



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In 1937 at the age of 81, Charles H. Coe met Mr. Ernest Lyons of the Stuart News, during a visit to Stuart, Martin County, Florida. Charles and Ernest Lyons went often to Peck's Lake and could be found exploring the Indian mounds. He stayed on his launch, the "Buccaneer" where you would find him sitting on deck sipping wine and eating fresh oysters.

In 1941 at the age of 85, while he was in New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida, he published his newest book edition known as "Debunking the so-called Spanish Mission." In 1945 at the age of 89, Charles moved his residence from Washington D.C. to West Palm Beach, Florida. He lived there on his boat until he turned 89 year of age. His son had convinced him that he should give up running his boat, the "Buccaneer II."

In 1948, Charles Henry Coe moved to Jupiter, Florida, at the age of 92. He helped his son Mayne Coe Sr. run the motel. Charles passed away on March 23, 1954 at the age of 98. He fell down the back stairs of his son's house on Center Street and broke his hip. While he was in the hospital, he contracted pneumonia and died. Charles Henry Coe is interred at the Woodlawn Cemetery, 1301 Dixie Hwy, West Palm Beach, Florida in an unmarked grave, fourth row on the left of the seventh sprinkler, to the left of mark 28. It is the family's hope that one day the Seminole Nation will help commemorate a head stone to Mr. Charles Henry Coe. (His father's [Obituary](#) as it appeared in the Florida Star)

1974 marked the Bicentennial reprint of "Red Patriots." The Bicentennial Commission of Florida reprinted the book for the 1978 bicentennial year with additional personal history, introduction and the impact that the book had on the Seminoles.

The following is a list of most widely held works by Charles Henry Coe: Red Patriots: the story of the Seminoles; Juggling a rope; lariat roping and spinning, knots and splices; The truth about Tom Horn "King of the cowboys"; Debunking the so-called Spanish mission near New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida; San Marco; Captain Mayne Reid, his life adventures; Red Patriots: the story of the Seminoles A facsimile reproduction of the 1898 edition with an introduction by Charlton W. Tebeau; The appeal: dedicated to "Roozy" (Roosevelt), to mention a few.

The following information was provided by Charles H. Coe's great grandson. These are some of the noteworthy stories and historical documents that were presented with the aforementioned story. These are meant to be shared by the Coe family when describing their ancestor's contributions to the pioneering history of Florida.



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Read the stories and see photographs of the works and collections of Charles Henry Coe, as presented by his great grandson, Andrew Foster.

<u>Armadillo and its Oddities</u>	<u>Facebook Page dedicated to Capt. Coe</u>	<u>Stanly's Nationality</u>	<u>Volusia County past and present</u>
<u>Artifacts</u>	<u>Florida Star 13-1878</u>	<u>Stuart Daily News March 5, 1936</u>	<u>William H. Coe Obit in the Florida Star</u>
<u>Book Review of Red Patriots by Charlton W. Tebeau</u>	<u>Florida Star 18-1878</u>	<u>The art of knife throwing by Charles H. Coe</u>	<u>Works by Charles H. Coe</u>
<u>Captain Mayne Reid</u>	<u>Florida Star 19-1878</u>	<u>The Florida Star</u>	<u>Old school hydroponics</u>
<u>Chief Osceola and his resistance to European Influences.</u>	<u>Introduction to Red Patriots</u>	<u>The Friends of the Florida Seminoles Society 1899-1926</u>	<u>Shipwrecks of Florida</u>
<u>Coat of Arms</u>	<u>Jonathan Dickenson Journal</u>	<u>The Loxahatchee Lament by Mayne Reid Coe Sr.</u>	<u>Short Stories list from C.H. Coe</u>
<u>Debunking the so called Spanish Mission</u>	<u>Music by Coe and Huntington</u>	<u>The Parentage of Osceola</u>	