

March 17, 2022



Mission

Preserving, promoting, and celebrating the unique cultural heritage of Ybor City and supporting the Ybor City Museum State Park

NEWS BRIEF

Happy St. Patrick's Day! Today we celebrate a day surrounded by myth and legendary tales. Although not Irish, we took this opportunity to feature a story about Hugh C. MacFarlane, who helped Tampa earn the moniker as the "Cigar Capital of the World" by establishing West Tampa, another cigar-making "town" populated by immigrants, just across the Hillsborough River from Ybor City. I hope you find the history of St. Patrick interesting. Thank you to Arminda Mata for contributing this and the story on MacFarlane. If you are still in the mood for celebration next week, join us for *Baseball, Bourbon and Cigars*, hosted in partnership with the Florida Sports Hall of Fame and the Tampa Baseball Museum at the Al Lopez House. Cheers!

Chantal Ruilova Hevia, President and CEO

Hugh C. MacFarlane, West Tampa Pioneer

Although St. Patrick's Day is a day to celebrate Irish heritage, this week's newsletter focuses on Scottish born, Hugh C. MacFarlane. Born in Scotland on December 28, 1851, MacFarlane and his family immigrated to the United States when he was 16. He attended St. John's College in Minnesota and received a law degree from Boston University in 1876.



MacFarlane moved to Tampa in 1884 and helped organize the Tampa Board of Trade on May 7, 1885. He was appointed Tampa's city attorney in 1887 and served for 3 years. It was during this time that MacFarlane purchased 200 acres of marsh land on the west bank of Hillsborough River and founded what would become West Tampa.

In 1892, MacFarlane built the Fortune Street Bridge to connect the immigrant communities of Ybor City and West Tampa, which drew cigar factory owners and led to Tampa becoming known as the "Cigar Capital of the World." A detailed article in a 1904 *Tampa Tribune* claimed that West Tampa grew from 200 residents and an assessed land value of \$150,000 in 1895, to a population of 6,000 and assessed value

of \$1,500,000 in 1904.

Hugh C. MacFarlane was a pioneer in Tampa and his contributions went beyond the founding of West Tampa. After his death on January 7, 1935, he was remembered in the *Tampa Tribune* as having "the canniness of a Scot, the resourcefulness of the American, and the genuine wit and wisdom of the Florida "cracker".

(Hugh C. MacFarlane, photo courtesy of the USF Special Collections)

St. Patrick's Day



As we celebrate another St. Patrick's Day, many wonder where the tradition originated. Due to the lack of written sources from the 5th century, the holiday has been often surrounded in myth. Two of the largest myths are Patrick's heritage and the color synonymous with the tradition. Patrick was not Irish, rather he was born in Britain around 385 AD and sold into slavery in Ireland at the age of 16. After 6 years of slavery, he escaped to Gaul and studied to be a Bishop under Saint Germain for 15 years. Secondly, Patrick's color was blue not green. It wasn't until as early as the 17th century that shamrocks and green became associated with St. Patrick.

St. Patrick's Day began as a religious observance in Ireland in remembrance of Patrick's death, AD 461 or possibly 493. Over time, the religious observance blended with Ireland's nationalist movement and became an official public holiday in 1903.

In the United States, St. Patrick's Day was a day to celebrate Irish identity. The first recorded St. Patrick's Day celebration was in St. Augustine, Florida in 1600, which overturns Boston's claim of being the first in 1737. Boston can claim the first parade which was held in 1762.

So put on your green and celebrate the day with all its myths and legends.

BASEBALL, BOURBON AND CIGARS

Spend the evening with Lou Piniella, Wade Boggs, and more than a dozen Major League alumni from Tampa Bay and throughout Florida! The Florida Sports Hall of Fame and the Tampa Baseball Museum at the Al Lopez House have teamed up to present ***Baseball, Bourbon and Cigars*** on **Friday, March 25, 6:30 - 9:30 pm**, in the Garden of the Ybor City



Museum State Park.

This is an exclusive opportunity to engage with baseball legends, get their autographs, and ask them your favorite baseball questions. Dave Wills, who has served as the voice of the Tampa Bay Rays since 2005 during game broadcasts, will emcee a panel with several MLB alumni.

Your all-inclusive ticket to *Baseball, Bourbon and Cigars* covers complimentary food, music, live and silent auctions, and amazing swag bags. There are a limited number of tickets available for this event.

Just added! A Double Play ticket for two at \$200, a 33% savings over single tickets.

Get information or call 813.400.2353.

[Get Your Tickets Today!](#)

COOKING CORNER



Guinness Beef Shepherd's Pie

Irish tables are not strangers to a good shepherd's pie. Traditionally made with lamb, this recipe calls for ground beef. Each family has their own special touches. My suggestion is to substitute Kerry Gold butter and cheese to this recipe and a Guinness Blonde if you are not a fan of Guinness. Arminda Mata

(Photo courtesy of Baked by Rachel)

[Get the Recipe](#)

Membership

Join or renew your Ybor City Museum Society membership so that you can enjoy free admission to the Ybor City Museum State Park, special events, and discounts.

Membership donations support exhibits and educational programming.

Join or renew today.

The Ybor City Museum State Park

A visit to the Ybor City Museum State Park is a

terrific way to share Tampa's cultural heritage with friends, family, and out-of-town guests.

You can also inquire about renting the Garden, a beautiful 10,000 sq. ft. outdoor space, by ***clicking here***. This unique venue creates its own ambience for your wedding, corporate meeting, or other special event.



New Hours of Operation : 9 am - 5 pm Wednesday - Sunday
The "Casita" is currently closed for maintenance.
Admission: \$4 per person, free for children 5 years and younger
1818 E. 9th Avenue, Tampa, FL 33605, 813.247.6323

Our Community

Baseball, Bourbon and Cigars, March 25, 6:30pm - 9:30 pm. Join the Tampa Baseball Museum and the Florida Sports Hall of Fame for an intimate evening shared with Tampa baseball legends and other MLB Player Alumni. The event includes Latin food, live music, drinks and cigars in historic Ybor City.

Save the date for ***El Reloj's 100th birthday celebration*** on March 31. Tickets to the event at J.C. Newman Cigar Company are now available. Those who attend will enjoy a fabled part of Ybor City's history.

Donate

The Ybor City Museum Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Federal Tax ID No. 59-2274494. While we do not give tax advice, donations are tax deductible to the extent the law allows.

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