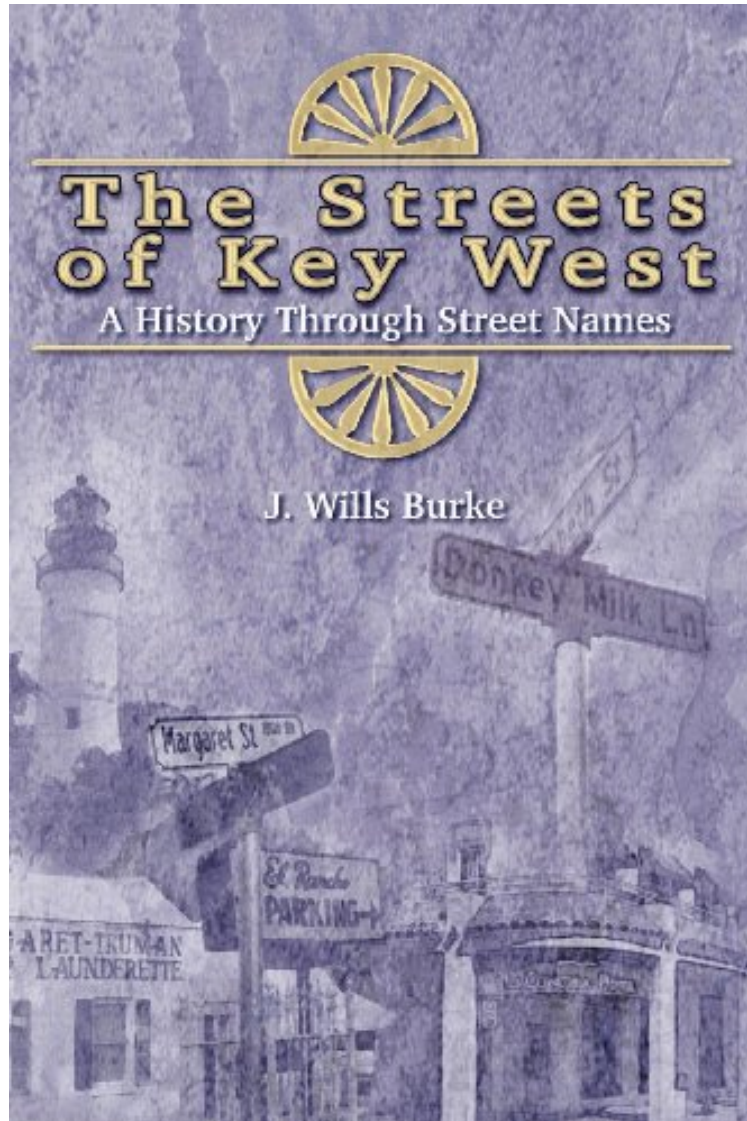


(Download pdf ebook) The Streets of Key West: A History Through Street Names

The Streets of Key West: A History Through Street Names

J Wills Burke

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#975212 in Books J Wills Burke 2014-04-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.93 x .30 x 5.97l, .0 #File Name: 1561647306240 pagesThe Streets of Key West A History Through Street Names | File size: 73.Mb

J Wills Burke : The Streets of Key West: A History Through Street Names before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Streets of Key West: A History Through Street Names:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Enjoyable Read With Some Interesting InformationBy FCD1171 purchased this book used through in anticipation of a trip to Key West. I read and used the book during my visit. I made a point of taking my own "walking tours" using this book. It is mostly accurate as to what is contained. I did enjoy the book and I did learn a good deal. I particularly enjoyed seeing the various residences occupied at one time or another by various authors such as Ernest Hemingway, Tennessee Williams and others.I feel it would be impossible to

put everything about Key West in a relatively short book. I was surprised to find some items included while other notable items were not mentioned. Some of that is of course subjective. Another reviewer pointed out that this is not strictly limited to a discussion of the streets of Key West. I agree with that statement. There is some historical information that may or may not interest various readers. In summation, I am glad I purchased this book. However I now know enough about Key West to say this is not the only book that one should rely on. I have read other such books, but as of yet do not have a single favorite. If and when I find one I intend to edit this review. This book is adequate for a basic familiarization of Key West. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A "Beyond The Tour Guidebooks" Review of Locally Written Literature. By Sandra Cares. The Streets of Key West by J. Wills Burke offers a fun and informative read about the history of Key West, by taking the reader on a leisurely stroll around its streets. The book shows how the very names of the streets are the key to the city's history. Familiar Key West street names like Simonton, Duval, Flagler and Fleming harken back to the early settlers and offer up fascinating facts and little-known secrets about how these entrepreneurial and philanthropic founders shaped the destiny of the "End of the Rainbow." The origins of Key West are inseparable from its geographical location, set in the perfect position to become a vital player at the hub of commercial shipping activities in the 1800s. "On a direct path between Europe and Mexico, Cuba and Gulf Coast ports, and en route (via the Straits of Florida and the Gulf Stream) to the East Coast, Key West was well positioned to serve as grand Chandler for ships passing by." This location and the proximity of a long and hazardous chain of coral reefs gave rise to the wrecking industry where the so-called wreckers stood sentry at points along the reef at the ready to swoop in and save marooned and shipwrecked crews and share the bounties of the salvaged cargo. Arriving at the scene in the 1500s, the Spaniards named the island Cayo Hueso, or Bone Island, for all the bones scattered about, grim reminders of souls meeting a violent end, either from the shipwrecked ravages of sea and storm, or at the hands of indigenous Indians or marauding pirates. The original Spanish name, Cayo Hueso, in time was corrupted to Key West. From a veritable tapas of facts about Key West's history offered up on the tray of an enticing menu of street names, I have pulled a mere baker's dozen of interesting facts you may not yet know about Key West. 1) Intrinsically integrated with Key West's modern history, starting with the purchase of the island from the Spanish in 1822 by John Simonton, are the streets named for these early founders, including Simonton, Whitehead, Duval and Fleming. These streets are replete with important historical landmarks, including Ernest Hemingway's first Key West residence and the site of the old Gato Cigar Factory and the latest generation of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, St. Paul being the patron saint of the shipwrecked, and the Aquarium, Key West's first tourist attraction. 2) Perhaps the most widely visited place among all these streets is at the corner of Fleming and Whitehead, universally known as "Mile Zero" where stands a street sign marking the start of U.S. 1 stretching from this point all the way north to Ft. Kent, Maine. 3) Did you know turtles were so abundant in Key West, a thriving turtle canning industry grew out of it? The first of these turtle canneries stood on Margaret Street near the docks where every day four hundred of the hapless critters were collected to be processed into "Fine Green Turtle Soup." 4) Sponging was another early industry in Key West. If you walk to the corner of Fleming and Margaret, you will come upon Signs and Designs, a company that occupies a one-time sponge warehouse remembered only by the aqua pastel bas-relief of a mermaid beneath the apex of the roof. 5) I salivate knowing there was once a job for people like me who happen to love to read out loud. A squat building at Grinnell and Catherine used to house the Armas de Oro Cigar Factory where cigar rollers and packers listened to readers hired especially to read out loud to the workers so as to help distract them from their tedious work. 6) No known origin for the name of Arctic Court exists but it may reference two Arctic expeditions financed in the 1850s by Henry Grinnell, a businessman and philanthropist who founded the American Geographical and Statistical Society and was immortalized by the naming of Grinnell Street in his honor. 7) Writer, Tom McGuane, of "Ninety-Two in the Shade" fame was once married to Rebecca Crockett, descendant of Day Crockett while living in Key West at 1011 Von Phister. After divorcing Rebecca and carrying on with a string of affairs and marriages and divorces, he ended up marrying Laurie Buffet, ex-wife of Peter Fonda and sister of Margaritaville Jimmy "who was wasting away over on Waddell Street." But the plot thickens because in turn, Peter Fonda turned around to marry Rebecca Crockett, and then in a total twist of irony purchased the house at 1011 Von Phister from McGuane. 8) Speaking of writers, no visit to Key West is complete without at least a cursory mention of the writers of note who lived there or passed through at one time or another. Topping that list is, of course, Ernest Hemingway whose house at 907 Whitehead Street is today one of the major local tourist attractions. Tennessee Williams, John Hersey, Tom Corcoran, John Leslie, Thelma Strabel, Burt Hirschfeld, Thomas Sanchez, Thomas McGuane and Jimmy Buffett stand among the legions of eminent writers who have chronicled the place in a diversity of literary forms establishing for Key West its rich literary legacy. 9) Poinciana Housing, a complex built by the US Navy to serve as home for Navy families, is bounded by Donald and Duck Avenues. 10) A row of twenty-six floating houseboats once formed a seaside community in Cow Key Channel south along Roosevelt Boulevard. It wasn't a hurricane that caused the charming and whimsical Houseboat Row to disappear, but the threat it posed to some city dwellers who considered it too kitschy and claptrap and it subsequently was disbanded in favor of the concrete esplanade that replaced it. 11) Fleming Street was probably named for the English born John W.C. Fleeming who lived in Key West intermittently and was in the process of developing the island's salt manufacturing industry with the natural salt ponds until his efforts were

interrupted by his sudden death in 1832.12) The First National Bank building on Front Street refused to cash some royalty checks from "A Farewell To Arms" so Hemingway walked a little further on down the street to a bar called "Sloppy Joe's" where the owner obliged Hemingway with cash and won his loyal patronage for evermore.13) Howe Street may be named for the same Charles Howe who, along with his wife and five children, narrowly escaped with their lives an Indian massacre on Indian Key in 1840 and either Charles or a son continued in the salt business. The Streets of Key West is a clever and inviting book that turns a stroll down the streets into a veritable history lesson and offers up many unexpected facts and secrets about Key West. It is engaging, lively, accessible, and time and money well spent for anyone planning to visit or just wanting to know a little more about Key West.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. My boyfriend and I will have a fun time using this book while walking the streets of ...By Heidi Elizabeth VokesMy boyfriend and I will have a fun time using this book while walking the streets of Key West. Sometimes knowing the history behind something makes it that much more interesting! I'm sure it doesn't cover every street since the book isn't that thick, but it still looks like a fun book to use and we can't wait to use it.

Simonton, Duval, Eaton, Whitehead, Southard, Trumanif you discover how these Key West streets, and all the others, came by their names, you will know much of the history of this little island at the nethermost end of the continental United States. You will learn of the rise and fall and rise again of the fortunes of this island town, which has played such a rich role in the history of the country as a whole. The author starts each section with an engaging history of the person for whom the street is named. Then he takes us along the street, pointing out the buildings and sites of historic interest along the way. This method builds and reinforces our grasp of Key West's history as the island is crisscrossed with sites that evoke nearly every aspect of its past. What emerges is a unique and quirky history of Key West, as well as a fascinating guide to wandering its streets, boulevards, alleys, and lanes.

About the AuthorJ. Wills Burke is a pen name the author coined in Southeast Asia when he wrote Aftermath for the Bangkok Post in 1973. More recently he wrote Origines: The Streets of Vietnam, a book similar in approach to this one. He is a graduate of Florida State University.