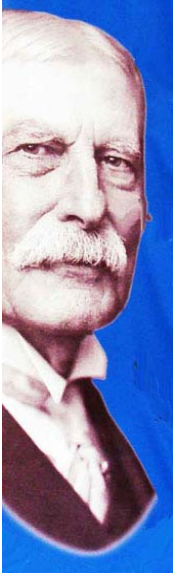


Henry Morrison Flagler: Palm Beach, Florida



Born on January 2, 1830 in Hopewell, NY, over the next 30 years, Flagler was engaged in various sales and business dealings. He was a resourceful man from his early poor beginnings. He dabbled in salt, grain and eventually oil refining. He was able to acquire financial support from relatives to enable him to partner with John D. Rockefeller which company became the Standard Oil Company in 1870.

Due to his wife, Mary's poor health they went to Jacksonville, Florida for the winter. Because of his wife's death in 1881 and the need to raise his young son, he married Ida Alice Shourds two years later, age 35 and an attendant of his wife Mary. The wedding couple visited St. Augustine, Florida, but found inadequate hotel facilities and transportation capabilities.

He returned to St. Augustine in 1885 and began to construct the Hotel Ponce de Leon and the Jacksonville rail system. This was the beginning of seven other hotel ventures throughout Florida. The Hotel Royal Poinciana, Palm Beach, Florida, was the largest resort in the world in 1894. In 1895, Flagler renamed his railroad the Florida East Coast Railway. By then the railway had reached Biscayne Bay. His second wife, Alice, succumbed to mental illness and was institutionalized in 1895. Flagler divorced Alice and married Mary Lilly Kenan in 1901. She was a 34-year-old socialite who met Henry in a mutual friend's home in Newport, Rhode Island in 1891. Henry wed Mary Lilly 10 days after the divorce

decree was final from Ida. Henry was 72. Mary Lilly died four years later.

As a present to Mary Lilly, he constructed their winter home and called it Whitehall in 1902. It was designed by John Carrere and Thomas Hastings. It comprised 100,000 square feet with more than 75 rooms. Whitehall was saved from demolition by a granddaughter who established a non-profit museum corporation in 1959. Whitehall is a National Historic Landmark.



Henry Flagler's rail system growth was destined to go to Key West. His Over-Sea Railroad made the city of Key West popular and trade between Cuba and connections with the Panama Canal. As a founding partner of Standard Oil and his hotel development, he helped grow Florida. "No individual has had a greater or more lasting impact on a state than Flagler has had in Florida." (quote: flaglERMuseum.us) Henry Morrison Flagler died on May 20, 1913 at 83 years of age.

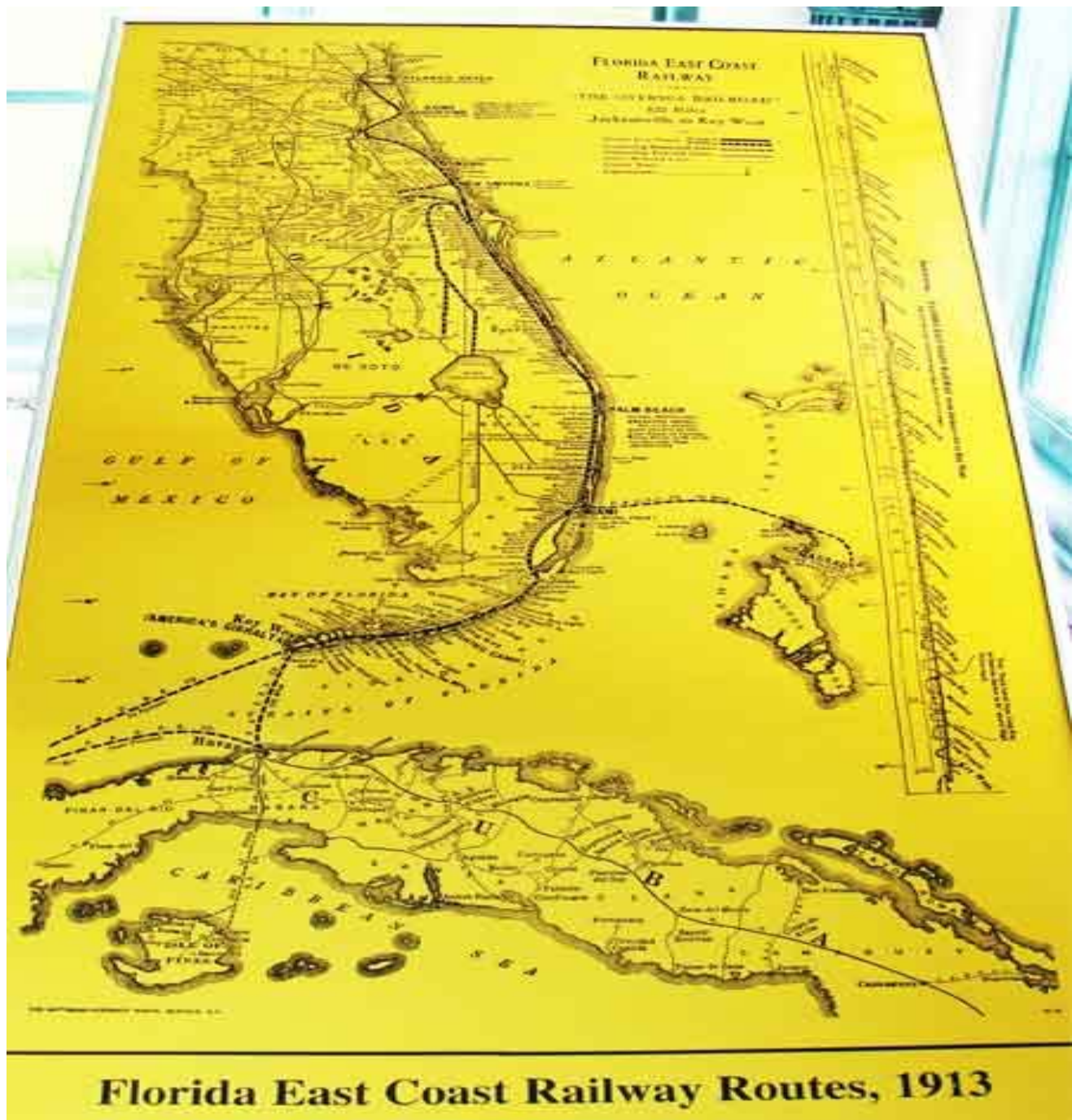
This photo program visits the Whitehall property in Palm Beach.











acuri.net John R. Vincenti Henry Morrison Flagler and Whitehall

Sources: <https://www.flaglermuseum.us/>, <https://www.thepalmbeaches.com/blogs/5-must-know-secrets-about-flagler-museum>, <http://www.westpalmbeach.com/attractions/flaglermuseum/>, <https://www.visitwpb.com/henry-m-flagler-museum/>, <http://www.flaglerstation.net/history.htm>, <http://www.pbchistoryonline.org/page/flagler-timeline>, <https://16160124.weebly.com/list-of-hotels-built-by-henry-flagler.html>, <http://www.kislakfoundation.org/millennium-exhibit/profiles4.htm>, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/10351761/mary-lily-bingham>, and <https://www.biography.com/people/henry-m-flagler-36937>.