

Historical Society of Martin County

The Elliott Museum

The Art of James Frederick Hutchinson



# Mission

The mission of the **Historical Society of Martin County** is to collect, preserve, interpret, share, and educate the public about the historical artifacts and the rich history of the St. Lucie River region.

The House of Refuge Museum at Gilbert's Bar and the **Elliott Museum** support this mission through the conservation and protection of historical artifacts, artwork, and archives in their care and through permanent and temporary exhibits that impart our local history, culture, and ideals.





The [Elliott Museum](#) opened in 1961 with funds provided by seasonal resident, Harmon Elliott. Son of a prolific inventor, Sterling Elliott, the museum's intent was to honor his father's work, exhibit the historical artifacts of Martin County, and serve as an educational and cultural resource for the region. One of the highlights of the museum is the evolution of vehicular progress in America. The original museum was demolished in 2011 and a new building with expanded exhibit space was opened on the same site in 2013.



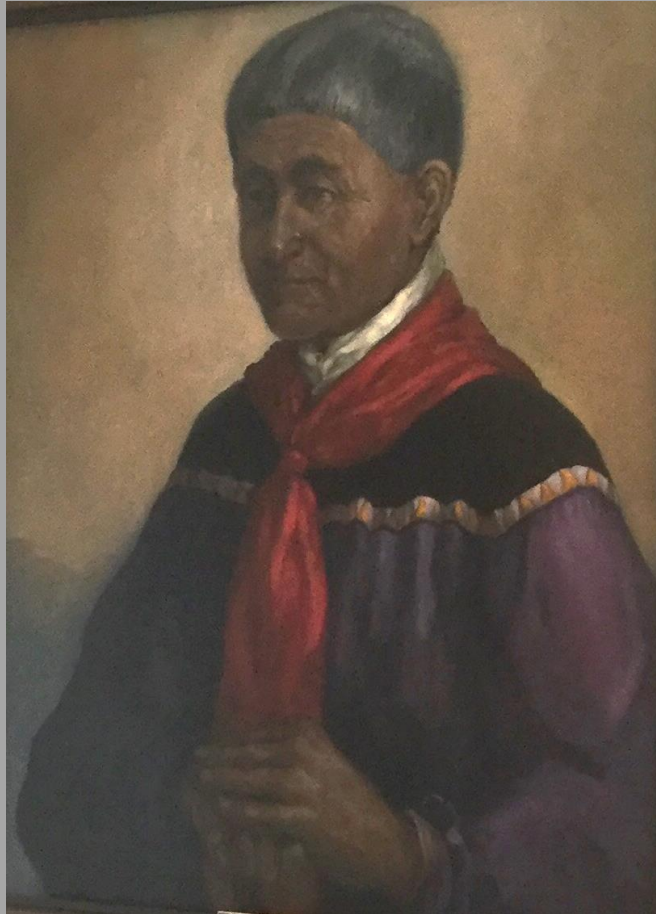


James Hutchinson moved to the north fork of the St. Lucie River in Martin County as a young boy, and since that time has been captivated by the beauty and diversity of Florida's natural environment and heritage.

James F. Hutchinson  
Brighton Reservation, FL  
ca. 1960

Artist Personal Collection





In the 1970s Hutchinson received an Arthur Vining Davis Foundation grant to illustrate the Seminole Indians. He lived among the Seminole community for 6 years recording their lives and culture in 50 paintings.



Courtesy State Library and  
Archives of Florida

*Charlie Cypress*  
1869 - 1960  
Canoe Builder  
Big Cypress Indian Reservation  
1967:22





Courtesy State Library and  
Archives of Florida

*Lucy Tiger Billie*

1901 – 1983

Wife of Josie Billie Seminole  
Medicine Man

Big Cypress Indian Reservation  
1967:20



Eli Morgan was the son of Billie Bowlegs III. Billie Bowlegs III was originally named Billie Fewell and was born to an African American father and a Seminole mother. He renamed himself after Billie Bowlegs the prominent Seminole chief during the Seminole Wars.



Billie Bowlegs III  
Courtesy State Library and  
Archives of Florida

*Eli Morgan*  
Son of Billie Bowlegs III  
Brighton Reservation  
1967:20

The *chickee* style of architecture consists of a palmetto thatch roof over a cypress log frame with open sides. It is placed on a raised platform to keep the occupants away from bugs, snakes, and water. It developed during the early 1800s when Seminole Indians, pursued by U.S. troops during the Seminole Wars, needed fast, disposable shelter while on the run.



Courtesy State Library and Archives of Florida

*Indian in Chickee*  
1964  
1967:18

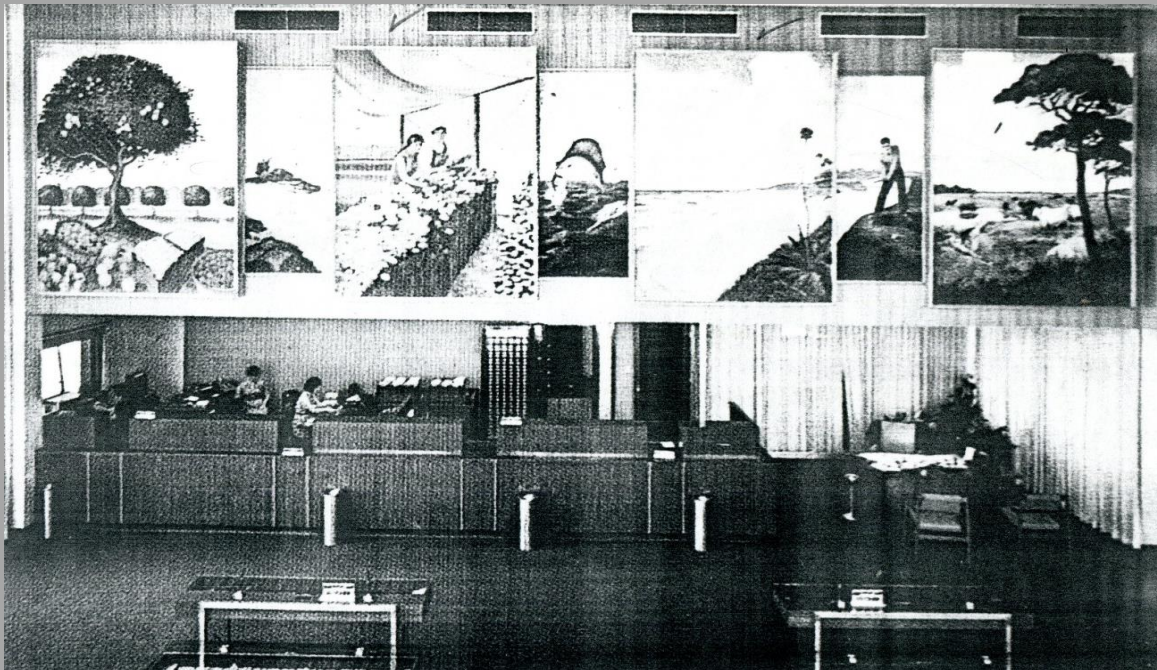




## *Murals of Florida*

In the 1960s Hutchinson was commissioned to create murals for the First National Bank of the Treasure Coast that represent the local citrus and flower industries and regional shoreline.

1997:16:01-03





This vibrant scene depicts a woman shelling coconuts in a shed. The coconut palm is the cultural icon of the tropics. One of the most useful trees in the world, it is often referred to as the "tree of life". Not only does the palm tree provide shade, the meat of the coconut may be eaten, coconut water is believed to have medicinal properties, and coconut oil is used in cooking.

*Coconut Oil Shed - Jamaica*

Ca. 1960

1967:19





The *sabal palmetto*, also known as the cabbage palm, is native to the southeastern United States. The sabal palmetto is the official state tree of both Florida and South Carolina.

*Florida Sabal Palms*

Ca. 1960

1968:01



This lovely portrait was commissioned by Amy Smith Drtina in memory of her sister, Rachel. She was seven years old when Rachel, aged ten, died suddenly at school. Their father, Reverend Arthur A. Smith was the rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Stuart and a colonel in the Chaplains Corp of the U.S. Army Reserves.

*Portrait of Rachel Smith*  
1964

2017:09







James and Joan Hutchinson volunteered at the Elliott Museum in the 1960s under the Director, Steve Schmidt.

In 2011 James Frederick Hutchinson was inducted into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame.

The Elliott Museum is proud to present and preserve these significant works of art.

