

The Smith Family



Help Preserve Fort Lauderdale's Legacy

History Fort Lauderdale celebrates our community

Fort Lauderdale's history is that of our families, friends and neighbors. Its legacy is of all who've called it home. At History Fort Lauderdale, we are dedicated to the preservation of the stories of our citizens.

Your support strengthens our mission and ensures the tales of Fort Lauderdale will inspire future generations. This includes stories like that of Shelby and Louisa Gutierrez-Gonzalez Smith who are well-known throughout our city for their pharmaceutical legacy, and grandparents of our very own board chair, Pat Scott.

In the early 1900s, it was uncommon to find a woman in pharmaceuticals, but Louisa was motivated, intelligent and determined to follow her fascinations regardless of the norm. Born and raised in Cuba, Louisa would earn her pharmacy degree from Louisville College of Pharmacy before returning to her homeland to further her studies, eventually receiving her doctorate in pharmacy from the University of Havana alongside her two sisters.

Louisa married Shelby some months after her graduation, the two having met during their undergraduate years at Louisville. The couple would relocate to Florida and settle down to begin their family and their pharmacy empire.

Throughout the years, Shelby's keen sense for business would allow him to expand his portfolio of pharmacies, beginning in 1930 with Smith Drugs in the Gateway Shopping center, which is noted as the first drug store east of U.S. 1. Shelby would go on to operate 19 different stores under his Smith Drug Store chain in the years following, including Arcade Pharmacy, Las Olas Pharmacy and others.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith's story is only one of the many in our historical treasure trove. With many to tell and even more to be uncovered, your help is essential in the success of our mission. Please consider this opportunity to give back to your neighbors and community. All donations will play a direct role in preserving stories like that of the Smiths.

Thank you for your support!



HISTORY
Fort Lauderdale

DONATE TODAY!

<https://historyfortlauderdale.org/museum/donate>

History. It's a family affair!

