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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PIONEERS & LEGENDS OF LEE COUNTY'S PAST 125 YEARS

Fort Myers, Fla., Feb 1, 2012 – Lee County is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year. Lee County was carved from Monroe County and incorporated on May 13, 1887. It was named for Robert E. Lee, Confederate general in the American Civil War. To commemorate this anniversary the County will host events throughout the year. To kick off the celebrations the Lee County Library System will present *Pioneers & Legends of Lee County's Past 125 Year ~ A Lecture Series*. The series is based on the resonant history and rich heritage of the people lucky enough to call Lee County home throughout the past 125 years. The lectures are free to the public, however registration is required. The lectures will also include personal mementos and photos of the people of the past. “When you hear the stories that have been handed down for generations it makes them much more interesting and real,” says Sheldon Kaye, Director of the Lee County Library System. “This County has a very exciting past with the fort, the Indians, the waterways and the early tourists. These personal accounts and photos are highly entertaining.” For more information call 239-479-4643 or go to www.lee-county.com/library.

PIONEERS & LEGENDS OF LEE COUNTY'S PAST 125 YEARS ~ A LECTURE SERIES

Tales of Fishing and Lore of the Waters of Lee County

Wednesday, Feb. 22 from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Fort Myers-Lee County Library

Join Ralph Woodring and Dave Westra as they share stories of the pioneering people who have fished the waters of Lee County. Hear stories of the Woodring Family's colorful fishing history, which dates back to 1888, and the evolution of fishing in Southwest Florida.

Registration is required. Go to the calendar at www.lee-county.com/library and click on the event.

A Century of Strife and Strides of Lee County's African American Pioneers

Friday, Feb. 24 from 2 to 3 p.m. at Lakes Regional Library

Fort Myers has a rich and varied African American history in Lee County. Join Daisy Upshaw Benjamin and Jim Jordan as they talk about their pioneering relatives and influential African Americans in Lee County's history.

Registration is required. Go to the calendar at www.lee-county.com/library and click on the event.

The Legends of Baseball in Lee County Florida

Monday, Feb. 27 from 2 to 3 p.m. at the South County Regional Library

21100 Three Oaks Parkway Estero, FL 33928

Legends such as Babe Ruth, Jimmie Foxx, Roberto Clemente and dozens of other baseball Hall of Famers have played in Lee County ballparks. Now, a few days before the Boston Red Sox play their first game in JetBlue Park, longtime News-Press staff writer Glenn Miller will discuss the history of spring training and other sports in Lee County.

Registration is required. Go to the calendar at www.lee-county.com/library and click on the event.

The Early Pioneering and Influential Families of Lee County

Tuesday, Feb. 28 from 2 to 3 p.m. at South County Regional Library

21100 Three Oaks Parkway Estero, FL 33928

Hear Woody Hanson talk about his five generations of family history beginning in 1866 with his great, great grandfather Manuel A. Gonzalez, the first settler in Fort Myers. One of his ancestors was the physician to Thomas Edison and the Seminole-Miccosukee Indians. Another ancestor was dubbed the “White Medicine Man” hear their stories and many more.

Registration is required. Go to the calendar at www.lee-county.com/library and click on the event.

About Lee County’s Quasquicentennial Anniversary

Lee County invites the community to join in its year-long 125th anniversary celebration. The county— named in honor of Civil War Gen. Robert E. Lee—was carved from Monroe County and incorporated on May 13, 1887.

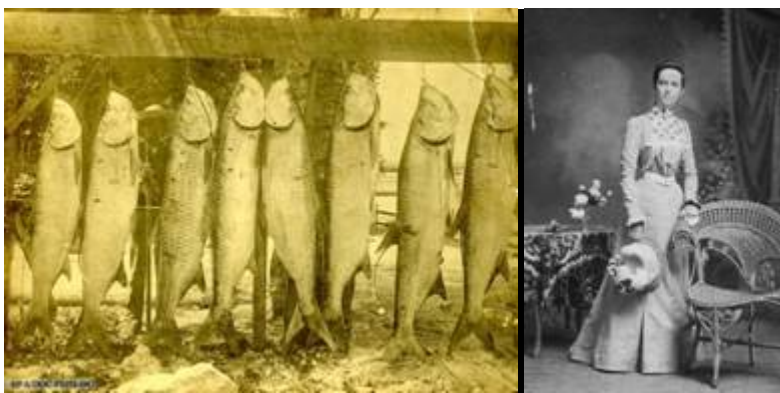
Visit www.lee-county.com/125th for a schedule of events throughout 2012 as well as a recommended reading list, historical photo gallery, trivia questions and more.

About the Lee County Library System:

The Lee County Library System serves Lee County with free books, downloadable eBooks, digital content, books-by-mail, bookmobile, electronic resources, music and movies, programs and meeting space. The Lee County Library System: strengthens the community by informing and enriching individuals; ensures equal and open access; defends intellectual freedom and the right to privacy; ensures that an individual’s economic status does not deter library use; commits to meeting customers’ needs; fosters a climate of mutual respect and trust; values and supports individual initiative; promotes cooperation, collaboration and connections; promotes lifelong reading; practices financial accountability and supports Lee County’s vision, mission and values.

All programs are free and open to the public. A sign language interpreter is available with 5 business days notice to library staff. Assistive listening system available; request at desk. Information about Lee County Library System is available for your convenience 24 hours-a-day at www.lee-county.com/library where you can find out about library services, programs, locations, view an online events calendar or place a hold on library items. Telephone Reference is available at 239-479-INFO (4636).

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Photos courtesy of Hanson Family Archives (available on request)

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Under Florida law, email addresses are public records. If you do not want your email address released in response to a public records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact this office by phone or in writing.