



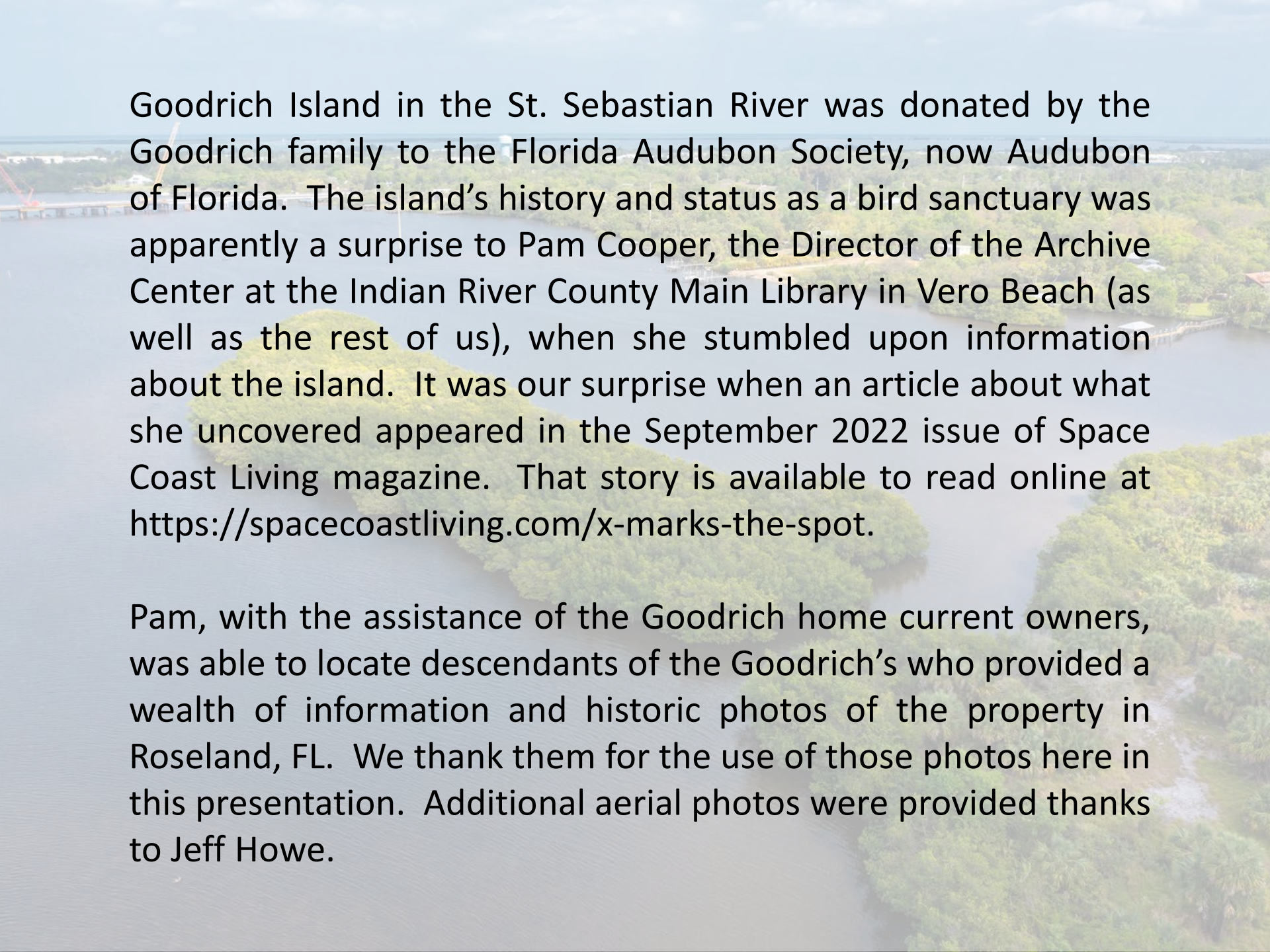
# Goodrich Island

A Forgotten FL Audubon Bird  
Sanctuary

FSSR – May 23, 2023

Aerial photos by Jeff Howe



An aerial photograph of a river with a bridge in the distance and lush green trees in the foreground. The text is overlaid on this image.

Goodrich Island in the St. Sebastian River was donated by the Goodrich family to the Florida Audubon Society, now Audubon of Florida. The island's history and status as a bird sanctuary was apparently a surprise to Pam Cooper, the Director of the Archive Center at the Indian River County Main Library in Vero Beach (as well as the rest of us), when she stumbled upon information about the island. It was our surprise when an article about what she uncovered appeared in the September 2022 issue of Space Coast Living magazine. That story is available to read online at <https://spacecoastliving.com/x-marks-the-spot>.

Pam, with the assistance of the Goodrich home current owners, was able to locate descendants of the Goodrich's who provided a wealth of information and historic photos of the property in Roseland, FL. We thank them for the use of those photos here in this presentation. Additional aerial photos were provided thanks to Jeff Howe.



James and Ella Goodrich

The Goodrich's first came to the Sebastian area, from Connecticut, in 1919 and purchased their property in Roseland in 1925, building their home there in about 1927.





Original Goodrich home, built c. 1927 and burned in the 1930s



View of St. Sebastian River from Goodrich home, c.1928





Being one of the only pools in the area at the time, baptisms were often held at the Goodrich's home. It was a deep pool and therefore had to be partially drained to accommodate. C.1929



Mary Hanmer Goodrich, c. 1928, daughter of James and Ella, with lion fountain which supplied water for the pool from a well.

5/14/23, 10:42 AM

Mary Goodrich Jensen - Wikipedia

**WIKIPEDIA**  
The Free Encyclopedia

## Mary Goodrich Jensen

**Mary Goodrich Jensen** (November 6, 1907 – January 4, 2004) was an early woman aviator and journalist who became the first woman in Connecticut to earn a pilot's license and the first woman to fly solo to Cuba. She was inducted into the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame in 2000.

### Education and personal life

Mary Goodrich was born in Hartford, Connecticut on November 6, 1907 to Ella E. (Reed) Goodrich and James Raymond Goodrich.<sup>[1][2]</sup> Her grandfather Elizur Stillman Goodrich ran the Hartford–New York Steamboat Company and the Hartford–Wethersfield Horse Railway.<sup>[3]</sup> She attended the Collegio Gazzola in Verona, Italy, and Gibbs College before moving on to Columbia University.<sup>[1]</sup>

In 1940, she married Carl D. Jensen, with whom she had two children.<sup>[1][3]</sup>

### Career as pilot and journalist

Jensen earned her pilot's license in 1927, at the age of 20, thereby becoming the first woman in Connecticut to achieve that milestone.<sup>[1]</sup> While she was still training for her pilot's license, she also pursued a career in journalism. The *Hartford Courant* hired her as its first aviation editor on condition that she obtain her pilot's license before a rival reporter for the *Hartford Times*, which she did.<sup>[3]</sup> She would later become the first woman to have a bylined column in the paper.<sup>[1]</sup>

A year after obtaining her license, Jensen bought her first plane, a Fairchild KR-21 single-engine biplane.<sup>[3]</sup> She competed in air shows in events such as racing and "bomb throwing," which involved dropping bags of flour at ground targets.<sup>[3]</sup>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary\\_Goodrich\\_Jensen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Goodrich_Jensen)

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Mary Goodrich Jensen — CT Women's Hall of Fame

**30**  
CONNECTICUT  
WOMEN'S  
HALL OF FAME

[« Return to all Inductees](#)

## Mary Goodrich Jensen



Mary Goodrich Jensen - aviator



Mary Goodrich Jensen - aviator

<b>Born</b>	November 6, 1907 Hartford, Connecticut
<b>Died</b>	January 4, 2004 (aged 96–97) Hartford
<b>Nationality</b>	American
<b>Occupation</b>	journalist
<b>Known for</b>	Ninety-Nines
<b>Spouse</b>	Carl D. Jensen

**Induction**

**Category:**

Writers &

Journalists

**Inducted:**

2000

**Born:**  
1907

**Died:**  
2004

**Town:**  
Wethersfield

**During This Time:**

Thway - text

1/7

Mary Goodrich was quite an accomplished young woman. She was the first licensed pilot in Connecticut, a founding member of the Ninety-Nine women's aviation organization, and a colleague of Amelia Earhart. She was inducted into the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame in 2000. Click on each of the images above for a link to more information about Mary Goodrich Jensen.



Goodrich pool deck with Mary's initials, photo by Jason Hook





Goodrich pool today with original lion fountain. Photo by Jason Hook



Frank and Kay Basiden were neighbors of the Goodrich's. Frank was an artist and Kay was quite active in civic and conservation issues. Kay's assistance in Goodrich Island becoming a bird sanctuary is outlined in the following letter and news clipping, provided by Audubon of Florida.

Front porch, Baisden home, Roseland, c. 2010. From the blog "Bless Our Hearts" by Mary Moon. [Click here](#) to read more.





FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY  
The Voice of Conservation  
P. O. Drawer 7  
Pensacola, Florida 32501  
Phone-MI 7-2631

IMMEDIATE July 5, 1966

## NEWS RELEASE

### GOODRICH ISLAND BECOMES AUDUBON SANCTUARY

Mrs. Carl D. Jenson of Wethersfield, Connecticut, has made a gift of an island in the Sebastian River opposite the town of Roseland, to the Florida Audubon Society, in memory of her mother, Ella Reed Goodrich. The gift was accepted with thanks by the Executive Committee of the Society at their June meeting. Attracted to the Roseland area because of the abundance of birds, Mrs. Goodrich spent her winters there until two years before her death in April, 1963. Born in 1871, she made her first trip to Florida with her husband, James Goodrich, and his father, in 1919. Later they bought property in Roseland. Mrs. Goodrich was an ardent conservationist, and petitioned the Governor of Florida to establish a local area including Hirseldonno Bluff as a State Park. She would probably have succeeded had she had the necessary local support. In 1928 the Goodriches bought the island off their property in the Sebastian River for a wildlife sanctuary, and from that time it was known as Goodrich Island. Over a year ago Roseland Garden Club members were startled to learn that the island was slated for destruction under a project of the Florida Flood Control program, those carrying on this program apparently not realizing that the island was privately owned. Mrs. Frank Baisden contacted Mrs. Jenson, and on the latter's protest other areas were found for deposition of spoil that would exclude this island. Mrs. Jenson then promptly took measures to place Goodrich Island in the hands of the Florida Audubon Society as a permanent wildlife sanctuary, with the natural beauty of the property to be retained.

# A Sanctuary For Birds On Islands?

By NANCY JAFFER  
TODAY Staff Writer

The Brevard County Commission is exploring the possibility of turning three mangrove islands in the Sebastian River, now on the Indian River County tax rolls, into an Audubon Society bird sanctuary.

Commissioner Richard Muldrew of Melbourne Thursday told the commission the islands belong to Brevard because maps show them north of the county lines, and he suggested they be put "on our tax rolls."

Indian River County Commissioner Donald Macdonald said he thinks his commission would be "happy to join them" (the Brevard Commission) to make sure the islands are used for bird sanctuaries.

The islands have "very little intrinsic value" because they are so low, according to Macdonald.

"Before they could be used for anything it would require a lot of fill, and we'd all just fight it until we're bloody as hogs," he said.

"If Brevard County can establish the fact that they

north of the county line.

Historical association members feel that by placing the islands in a "perpetual deep freeze" of Audubon Society ownership, it would prevent trespassing on nearby Indian burial mounds that are of historical interest.

Macdonald, who is in his 12th year on the Indian River commission, said the question of ownership of the islands has come up before, but has never been settled.

Standish F. Crippin of Roseland thinks he has the ownership problem solved, however.

Florida Today article  
July 19, 1968, courtesy of  
Audubon Florida





Goodrich Island looking northeast, photo by Jeff Howe





Goodrich Island looking north towards Micco, photo by Jeff Howe





Goodrich Island looking south towards Roseland, photo by Jeff Howe





Goodrich Island looking northwest towards Micco, photo by Jeff Howe





Goodrich Island looking west towards C-54 Canal, photo by Jeff Howe





Goodrich Island looking west towards St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park  
Photo by Jeff Howe