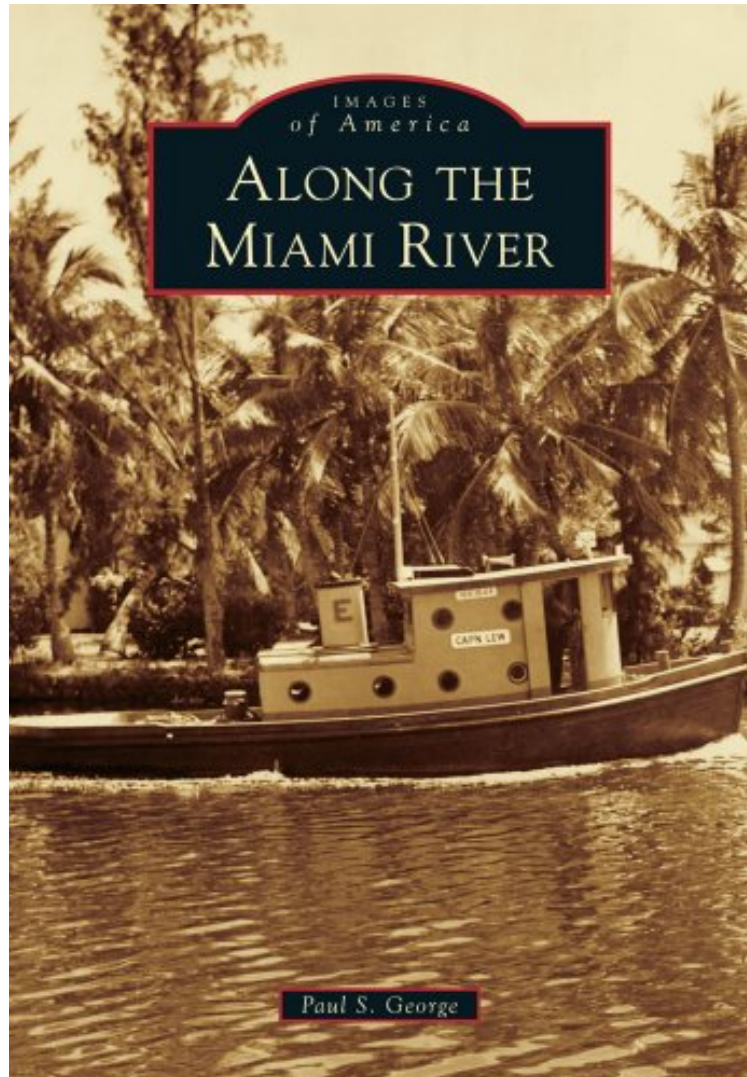


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Along the Miami River (Images of America)

Paul S. George

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Although the Miami River was originally just 4.5 miles in length, it has been a robust working river since the incorporation of Miami in 1896. With a volume of trade exceeding \$4 billion annually, the Miami River has been central to the story of Miami for thousands of years. Native Miamians lived along the river for millennia and used it as their expressway, as well as their source for food and water. The riverbanks have been home to exotic animals, Jesuit missions, slave plantations, Army forts, Julia Tuttle (the Mother of Miami), and a grand Gilded Age hotel. Even with the postWorld War II rise of suburbia and the flight of residents away from the center of the city, the river has remained busy. Today, with a renaissance in central Miami, there has been a significant increase in appreciation for the role of the river in this revival and in the rich history of the city.

About the AuthorPaul S. George is a native Miamian who holds a PhD in history from Florida State University. Dr. George is a professor of history at Miami Dade College, Wolfson, and historian with HistoryMiami. He is a past president of both the Florida Historical Society and the Lynn and Louis Wolfson II Florida Moving Image Archives. The author of 15 books and more than 200 articles, Dr. George conducts more than 50 different historical tours of Miami and southeast Florida, the most popular of which is his boat tour along the Miami River.