



Picking Citrus in Conway.
Orange County Regional History Center



*Produced by the Orange County Board of County Commissioners,
Department of Family Services, and Orange County Regional
History Center.*

Frederick May in Conway.
Orange County Regional History Center



For more information about Conway, Florida, and other historical points of interest, visit the Joseph L. Brechner Research Center at the Orange County Regional History Center, (407) 836-8541 or thehistorycenter.org.

Welcome!

The community of Conway, located seven miles southeast of Orlando, was originally called Prospect and was first settled in the early 1870s. In 1843, a government surveyor named the largest lake in the area Conway, probably after his boss, V. Y. Conway. In time, the settlement adopted this name change as well. By 1887, Conway's population had grown to 25 citizens. This small community boasted two stores (one of which also operated as a post office) and both Methodist and Episcopal church organizations. The center of the community was located on Conway Road where it now intersects with Anderson Road.

Orange County Government has marked historically significant points along Conway Road to highlight the area's past. Follow this trail to learn more about the Conway area.



OF
*Conway,
Florida*



A SELF-GUIDED
WALKING TOUR
THROUGH ONE OF
CENTRAL FLORIDA'S
MOST HISTORIC AREAS.

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ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR OF Conway, Florida

Images from left to right:

Sailboat on Lake Conway.
*Orange County Regional
History Center*

Datson Dairies truck.
Courtesy of William Kustis

Datson Dairies milk
bottles. *Courtesy of
Rick Kilby*



SIMMONS

CONWAY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH / BRICK ROAD

Conway Road and Anderson Road

The original church started services in a log cabin in 1874; Conway Road, bricked in 1914, was one of the first paved roads in Orange County.

CONWAY SCHOOL / THE CITRUS INDUSTRY

Red Hill Groves

The school for grades one through five began in 1875; the devastating freezes of the 1980s had lasting effects on the community's agricultural industry.

ST. MARY'S MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH / DATSON DAIRIES

Conway Road and St. Mary's Lane

The church, built in 1915, served the African American community; Datson, founded in 1916, was the first commercial dairy in Orlando.

CONWAY ROAD

CONWAY ROAD

THE ENGLISH COLONY/ THE POLO CLUB

*Conway Road and
Lake Margaret Drive*

English settlers migrated to Conway in the 1880s and organized the Orlando Polo Club in 1890.

CONWAY FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH / FORT GATLIN

Conway Road and Gatlin Avenue

The church, organized in 1910, dedicated the current sanctuary in 1950; Fort Gatlin was built in 1838 and the area kept the name Ft. Gatlin after the fort was abandoned.



Images from left to right:
The Polo Club, the Rogers
building, English Colony
citrus grove. *Orange County
Regional History Center*

Above: St. Mary's Missionary
Baptist Church. *Courtesy of
Hattie Biggers*