



South Brevard Historical Society, Inc.

Founded 1966

E Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2021

DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS;

I was again fooled by the summer season. I had once again eagerly anticipated the slow, warm, quiet time of the year when I often planned to take advantage of the summer lull in social activity and other obligations to “catch up” on cleaning out, cleaning up, and even relaxing with a mint julip while I read my original print edition of “Gone With the Wind.” Not since I purchased that book about thirty six years ago have I had that kind of summer.

This summer was not wasted, however. Your SBHS Board of Directors has met over the summer to tend to regular business. Regular business now includes discussion of resuming program meetings, where to meet, programs, activities and recently, discussion of how we can make the organization stronger as well as better serve community members who are interested in this area’s very interesting history.

The SBHS will be “sticking our toe into the water”, so to speak, on September 25th at a Green Gables event. Thanks to Ann Raley’s sponsorship, we’ll have a resale booth at the Harvest Festival, Craft Fair and Bazaar. Our resale booth will feature books of all kinds at a very low price. We’ll also have history handouts plus our own info flyers. Please stop by and say “Hi” and check out the books. I’ve attached the GG event flyer to this email. If the Corona Virus situation drastically changes and the Board deems it necessary to cancel our participation **we will notify our Members and Friends by email.**

Sadly, we have lost a long time SBHS member and supporter, Bob Barwell. Bob was born in Melbourne, graduated from Old Mel High and like his father, became a local mailman. He frequently contributed clippings and other material to our archive. He was 94 years old and was quite an interesting fellow.

Stay Well Everyone!...Carol

Carol Andren, President SBHS

THE OUTLOOK FOR PROGRAM MEETINGS:

We have scheduled the first program meeting of this year for the fourth Saturday of October.

October 23rd 3 PM Eau Gallie Public Library

A presentation by Bob Gross: “Brevard Archaeology – From Mammoths to Missiles”

The story of man researching evidence of his forebearers.

Wearing a mask may be a requirement. We’ll have more in the October Newsletter.

The Fee Avenue Library meeting room has become available so we shall be scheduling program meetings and returning to our original schedule of the second Saturday of each month beginning in November. Next month’s Newsletter will list the upcoming program schedule.

REMEMBERING OLD MEL HIGH

Friday, October 1st 5-7PM

The Melbourne High School PTA/PTO is sponsoring a Mel-High Alumni reception at the high school gym. Alumni are invited to enjoy an evening of sharing memories and catching up with fellow Alumni and Teachers. Lite refreshments will be served.

(Donations toward the event would be welcomed by the PTA/PTO.)

Monday, November 15th 6-7pm Melbourne High School Gymnasium
School sponsored public meeting for the public to comment on the proposed name change of the school
There will be a sign up sheet for members of the public wishing to speak.

THINGS TO DO

GO TO:

GREEN GABLES

September 12th

Sunday in the Park Community Art Show

9am-3pm, Free Admission Parking at Reflections next door

September 25th

Harvest Festival and Craft Fair!

9am - 3pm. Free admission!

(See the attached flyer)

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

FIELD MANOR

October 9th

Sixth Annual Oyster and Fish Fry

3-7 pm Live Music – Local Beer – Great Seafood

For tickets: 321.848.0365 or events@fieldmanor.org

READ:

“RIVER OF LAKES”

What do John James Audubon, William Bartram, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Winslow Homer, Sidney Lanier, and Jacques Le Moyne have in common? They all visited our mighty St Johns River and were inspired to produce literary and artistic records of their experiences. A more recent adventurer on the St Johns is Bill Belleville who traveled the whole of the river and its tributaries to write River of Lakes: a Journey on Florida's St John River. This book of history, geology, ecology, and biology informs how special this river is. Human history of the St Johns begins with the Paleo-Indians and those of the Archaic, to the French(not the Spanish) who make the first permanent European settlement inside what became the USA and called the river rivere de mai, to the Spanish who massacred the French and changed the river's name to San Juan, to the British who anglicized the name to St Johns.

Belleville travels from the headwaters near Blue Cypress and Hell 'N Blazes lakes all the way to the mouth of the St Johns at Mayport. He writes of towns and villages along his route and the natural wonders he encounters. He describes plants, animals, and environments that occur no where else on earth.

We who live in Melbourne have a very intimate connection with the St Johns River. If you live south of the Pineda Causeway, part of the water that comes to your home comes from the St Johns River. So read the book and investigate some of the websites. Then fill a canteen with cold water from your tap and go out to the end of Lake Washington Rd at sunset time. Drink a toast to our mighty St Johns and all the people who have traveled her before you.

Jacques Le Moyne https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacques_le_Moyne

Sidney Lanier https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sidney_Lanier

Places and Towns to visit along the St Johns

<https://www.florida-backroads-travel.com/old-florida-towns-on-the-st-johns-river.html>

Lake Washington Park

<https://www.brevardfl.gov/ParksRecreation/ParksByCity/ParksInMelbourne/LakeWashington>

Camp Holly on RT 192 on the St Johns River

<https://www.campholly.com>

Lone Cabbage Fish Camp on RT 520 at the St Johns

<https://www.florida-backroads-travel.com/lone-cabbage-fish-camp.html>

SEPTEMBER SPECIAL FEATURE

Early Melbourne Photos from the SBHS ARCHIVE

The following photos were randomly selected to give a sense of “what life was like back then”. Lest we think of “the good old days” remember that the roads as we now know them, mosquito control and air conditioning were not part of the lifestyle.



February 1896

Entire Population of Melbourne, FL



Front Street 1896



This was the first telephone exchange office on Palmetto Avenue.
Mazie Goode (sitting on the porch) was the first operator.
(Where are the wires?)



1926 Flood West Melbourne along the Kissimmee Highway

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www.southbrevardhistory.org

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8HAaqqBGAz_GHMC3TZe-Q