



*South Brevard Historical Society, Inc.*

*Founded 1966*

*E Newsletter*

*May 2022*

**\*SATURDAY, May 14th**

**3:00 pm**

**MELBOURNE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

540 E. Fee Avenue, Melbourne

Mask wearing may be appropriate

**Join us for our monthly program meeting.**



**\*Early Settler's Palmetto Hut**

**WE CELEBRATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH WITH AN UPDATE ON  
HERITAGE PARK**

**THE PRITCHARD HOUSE**

**THE BREVARD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

**Presented by Roz Foster**

Roz Foster is Founder and President of the North Brevard Heritage Foundation and a member of the Brevard County Historical Commission. Roz will update us on activity at the Pritchard House in Titusville, the creation of Heritage Park and the activities and resources of the Historical Commission.

\*for more interesting photos go to: <https://nbbd.com/npr/preservation/palmetto-hut/index.html>

**\*IF, FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY REASONS, THIS PRESENTATION MUST BE CANCELLED, YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED VIA AN E-ALERT PLUS IT WILL BE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE: [southbrevardhistory.org](https://southbrevardhistory.org).**

GO TO:

**GREEN GABLES**

Green Gables is open for tours on Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE HISTORY OF GREEN GABLES, ACTIVITIES, HOW TO DONATE AND NEWS ABOUT THE GRANT FUNDING GO TO: <https://greengables.org/>

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> John Hughes, Executive Director of the Florida Surf Museum (Cocoa) and lifelong Brevard surfer will present "The History of Surfing."

## DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

The recent move of our “headquarters” from Melbourne’s historic Geiger building on Prospect Street to new “office/collection” space in Palm Bay was completed several months ago. The move was done as quickly as possible but into a smaller space. Bringing order from the “stowage” of the move has been challenging but I am happy to report that our new space now strongly resembles an office and collection storage/work space. Refinement is forthcoming.

I’m also happy to report that Diane Newman has continued her work organizing and creating a protocol for our paper archives and Kathi Harbaugh has continued to sort, clean, and organize the textile items of our “collection”. This month’s special feature is a report from Kathi about one of the items.

The “collection” that exists today is what remains from a museum created and operated by the SBHS. By 1984 the museum had expanded into what we knew as “old Mel High” but water damage to the building forced a closing of the museum. All museum contents had to be removed and stored. No renovation occurred and no plan to reestablish a museum was ever successful. Over the years, the files and artifacts of the SBHS have been culled and moved from storage to storage.

What is left of the museum is worthy of our special efforts to organize, carefully store, and make the history it reveals available to our community. We can make information available through hands on and on line research as well as utilize physical artifacts for traveling exhibits. If you are interested in helping with the “Collection Project” email us at: [contact@southbrevardhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:contact@southbrevardhistoricalsociety.org).

I hope to see you soon.

*Carol*

Carol Andren, President SBHS  
(321.725.4115)

## SPECIAL FEATURE:

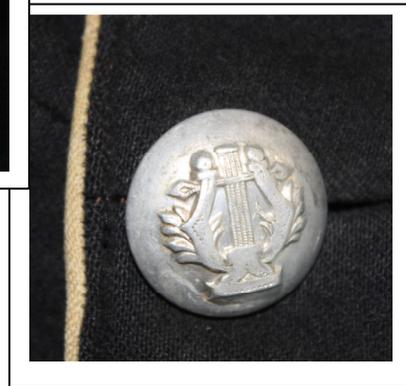
### FROM THE SBHS “COLLECTION” by Kathi Harbaugh

At the end of this month we will celebrate a cherished national holiday, Memorial Day. In honor of this day I want to highlight a special item in the society's textile collection. I have just finished doing complete inventory of the SBHS textiles and found many wonderful items and a few incredible surprises. Very few of the textile items relate to men and most are military in nature. One in particular is very special, a Marine Corps Marching Band uniform. Attached to it with a paper clip was a piece of paper stating it was from the Spanish-American war.



back view

The use of military musicians has a long history both on and off the fighting field. Just think how iconic is Archibald M Willard's painting "The Spirit of '76". So important is this musical tradition that the United States Congress established The United States Marine Band in 1798. This organization has always been associated with the President of the United States since John Adams asked the band to perform at the White House and Thomas Jefferson asked that they play at his inauguration. Of course the most famous commander of the organization was John Phillip Sousa.



Our uniform is in great condition, even though it is soiled. It has its entire special lyre buttons and its epaulettes. There are a few tiny holes in the wool and a rip at the shoulder, but otherwise it is in great shape.

One bit of important information that we don't have is who wore this uniform and where. it may be written somewhere in our archives, but we haven't had time to check them out at this time. If anyone can help us with this information, we really would appreciate it.

For further inquiry:

\*\*\*General History of The United States Marine Band:

includes links to listen to music by JP Sousa

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_Marine\\_Band](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Marine_Band)

\*\*\*Explanation of Uniforms:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch>

\*\*\*Life of John Phillip Sousa:

includes links to listen to music by JP Sousa

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Philip\\_Sousa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Philip_Sousa)

\*\*\*The Spanish American War

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish%E2%80%93American\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish%E2%80%93American_War)

\*\*\*History of Memorial Day

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial_Day)

## ABOUT OUR MAY PROGRAM:

\*After retiring from Boeing, **our presenter Roz Foster** became a dynamic force for the preservation of Brevard County's historical resources. In addition to her participation on the Historical Commission and leadership in saving the Pritchard House in Titusville, she was involved in the establishment of the Moore Cultural Center and Museum, restoration of the LaGrange Cemetery, organizing Historic Titusville Walking Tours, initiator of the Heritage Park concept and more. She continues to be a ready advisor, resource, and inspiration for others who seek to understand Brevard's unique history.

\*Brevard County has had a **Historical Commission** since about 1964. There is a copy of a letter in our SBHS archive that was sent from a newly formed Brevard County Historical Commission to local future historians. It is an invitation to attend an organizational meeting of a "Brevard County Historical Society" in November of that year. The invitation was a plea.....

"To protect our heritage, a strong vice is needed, a united voice that will dam the flood of historical destruction. We say "our" heritage, for it belongs to every one of us; whether a new arrival, or a "cracker" who has seen all of the changes that have occurred. The Society's main job will be to preserve, for the future, that which has happened yesterday and today. Will you be a part of this achievement?"

A Brevard Historical Society was formed with meetings in Cocoa. Brevard County is quite long and members in the south part of the county wanted a more local organization. The South Brevard Historical Society was formed at a meeting in Palm Bay in April of 1966.

The present Brevard County Historical Commission is a wonderful resource with online access to publications and oral history interviews. The physical archive located at the Central Brevard Library in Cocoa is varied and vast. Archivists Michael Boonstra and Tammy Moon are knowledgeable and eager to assist. The current Commission structure is well defined in a county ordinance enacted in 1974. Among the tasks of the Commission are:

- \*publication of an official three volume Brevard County History;
- \*designation of historical landmarks and publication of a pamphlet identifying them;
- \*preservation on microfilm of early newspapers and maps
- \*conducting and preserving oral history interviews on video
- \*publishing a periodic *Indian River Journal*

Today, through the internet, we can access information and the interviews by going to:

<https://www.brevardfl.gov/HistoricalCommission/Home>

Thanks to our Historical Commissioners and Staff we have a large, well run, accessible historical resource available. We must be vigilant and protect *that which we value and seek to preserve*.

\*The concept of **Heritage Park** is to create a living museum that will allow visitors to experience the lives of this area's past inhabitants from the time of the indigenous Native Americans through the Early Settlers and development of agricultural, fishing, ranching and other local industries. The Park will be composed of a collection of restored historical and replicated structures that will represent architectural, economic and cultural diversity. Negotiations are currently underway to locate the park at the Field Manor site. Roz will update us on the latest progress.

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SBHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers: President, Carol Andren; Vice Presidents, Denise Bozeman and Jim Poulos; Secretary, Barbara Arthur; Treasurer, Annita Full. Directors: Martha Beaujean Collins, Rick Dillen, Wiley Elliott, Kathy Harbaugh, Janie Stewart.

The South Brevard Historical Society, Inc., is a non-profit corporation and an IRS 501 (C) 3 organization. All contributions are tax-deductible by limits of law. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Florida Division of Consumer Services by calling 1-800-HELP FLA. P.O. Box 1064, Melbourne, Florida, 32902-1064

Visit us on:

[www.southbrevardhistory.org](http://www.southbrevardhistory.org)