



South Brevard Historical Society, Inc.

Founded 1966

E Newsletter

February 2020

PLEASE JOIN US ON FEBRUARY 8TH AT SAMS HOUSE AS WE HELP CELEBRATE THE 9TH ANNUAL PIONEER DAY.

Historic Sams House is located on Merritt Island. This exciting event is best described on the Sams House website:

*“Plan now to attend the 9th Annual Pioneer Day on Saturday, February 8, **10 am to 4 pm**. This yearly event is held at both Sams House/Pine Island Conservation Area and at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in north Merritt Island. Celebrating the early settlers of Merritt Island at these two historic sites will take you back in time through art, music, food, presentations, archaeology, and nature.”*

Settlers throughout Brevard County faced the same or similar circumstances as the Sams. The exhibits, demonstrations and presentations help us better understand the challenges faced. It wasn't just about mosquitos!

Our table display will feature the story of the Smith Family Homestead, our own South Brevard pioneer story. The homestead is now known as Honest John's Fish Camp and is still home to members of the founding family.

The Schedule of Events is on p. 3 of this E Newsletter.

I HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Carol

Report on the SBHS Annual Meeting.

Both the Proposed Budget and Proposed Slate of Board of Director Nominees were passed by members present at our annual January Business Meeting. Our 2020 Budget included several sponsorship opportunities and I'm happy to report that we've already received a single sponsor for all ten of our monthly meetings as well as one of four proposed donations of \$350. We'll still need more donations and to do some fund raising but we're off to a great start this year.

OUR MARCH 14th PROGRAM:

James Minus, president of the South Brevard Chapter of the NAACP, will present a history of the organization in our community.

P.O. Box 1064, Melbourne, Florida, 32902-1064

Visit us on:

www.southbrevardhistory.org

Utube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8HAaqqBGAbz_GHMC3TZe-Q

A MUST SEE: THE GREEN GABLES FILM “FORGOTTEN ENCHANTRESS”

Intracoastal Brewery in Eau Gallie

Thursday, February 20th 6PM

Free Admission

50/50 and Raffles – Great food and drinks

To view the film trailer, go to <https://greengables.org/>

IF YOU CAN'T MAKE IT TO SAMS HOUSE.....

You might like:

Eau Gallie Public Library

Myth of the Fountain of Youth

Ben Dibiase

Saturday, February 8, 2020, at 3 p.m

A COCOA FLORIDA HISTORY TOUR IS NOW AVAILABLE.

Roy Laughlin, who gave a wonderful presentation on the heyday of the Rockledge Resort District at our December meeting, is now giving tours of Cocoa Village. Roy's tour is a walk through the sites of Cocoa's history from its founding on the Florida frontier in the 1880s until the beginning of the Space Age in 1950.

Roy writes:

Historically, Cocoa was an important gateway to Florida's southern frontier; a working-class community whose residents built a nationally prominent winter resort district a mile south in Rockledge; a location for commercial, professional and banking services; and a 1920s land boom community with the region's first bridges to the barrier islands. During the Great Depression, citrus marketing and shipping made Cocoa Brevard County's most populous city and the second most active citrus shipping point in Florida.

In the 1970s, the city established the Historic Cocoa Village redevelopment district to help preserve the architectural heritage. Now a significant part of the historic village is an appealing and active commercial and recreational area for the whole community. It is also an appealing tour location for visitors with an interest in history.

His tour is listed on airbnb.com however Roy has a flexible schedule. If you want a tour at a different time than offered on Airbnb, more information about the tour or to book a personal or group tour contact Roy at nottobemissed.2011@gmail.com. Please give an advance request of at least 24 hours for a custom time.

Cocoa's historic Porcher House
Located on Delanoy Avenue



9th Annual Merritt Island Pioneer Day

February 8, 2020

10 AM – 4 PM

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
6195 N. Tropical Trail
Merritt Island, FL

Sams House at Pine Island
5555 N. Tropical Trail
Merritt Island, FL

Parking available at both locations (suggested donation of \$2)

Free shuttle service, approximately every 20 minutes, between the two locations

Service animals only

Events at St. Luke's (10 am to 4 pm)

- Ongoing Events: Self-guided tour of St. Luke's Historic Chapel & Cemetery
- 10:15 Guided Cemetery Tour "Founding Families"
- 10:45 Guided Cemetery Tour – "An Archaeologist's Perspective" with Molly Thomas, Archaeologist
- 11:00 "Grace Taylor: Bringing Culture to Brevard" with Holly Baker
- 11:15 Guided Cemetery Tour "Boot Camp Tour: Veterans from the Civil War to Viet Nam"
- 11:30 Lunch – Homemade soups (\$5) while they last
- 11:45 Pioneer Music in the Chapel
- 12:30 to 2:00 Cemetery Stroll
- 2:30 Guided Cemetery Tour "Women of Brevard"

Events at Sams House (10 am to 4 pm)

- 30th anniversary celebration of Brevard County's Environmentally Endangered Lands Program
- Florida living history demonstrations and educational exhibits that include archaeology and anthropology, historic reenactors, encampments with artifacts on display and spinning wool demonstrations.
- Live music throughout the day by Celery City String Band, Chris Kahl, Pine Trio, and Boylston Fish
- A Pioneer "parade" throughout the grounds at 11 am, led by drum and fife, of those dressed in historic attire. Suffragettes will be marching in honor of the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment.
- Local exhibitors from all of Brevard's historical societies, Field Manor, Florida Native Plant Society, Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Save The Manatee Club, Brevard Backyard Beekeepers, Marine Resources Council and others
- Crafts fair and farmer's market vendors such as The Green Marketplace, Mrs. Mango and Company, Spade and Trowel Garden Club, and others
- Pine Island guided nature trail hikes throughout the day
- 1888 Sams House tours with rarely seen antiques on display
- Voter registration table courtesy of the League of Women Voters
- Pine Island Preservation Society tent with vintage pins, doilies, pioneer bonnets, hiking sticks, nature-themed t-shirts, note cards, postcards, and gifts for sale
- Live raptors from the Florida Wildlife Hospital
- Children's crafts and games
- Heidi's Miniature Goat Petting Farm until 1 pm
- Food trucks and kettle corn!

GO TO: <https://mipioneerday.com/>