

South Brevard Historical Society, Inc.

Founded 1966

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

www.southbrevardhistory.org

May 2012

PLEASE JOIN US

Saturday, May 12th

3:00 P M

Melbourne Public Library

540 E. Fee Avenue, Melbourne

**SPANISH LAND GRANTS:
The Pritchard Example**

**A presentation by Historian
and Genealogist.....**

Michael Boonstra

**Michael will share his research on land
grants and the history behind a Brevard
legacy you can visit.**

**Read Michael's background
article inside.**

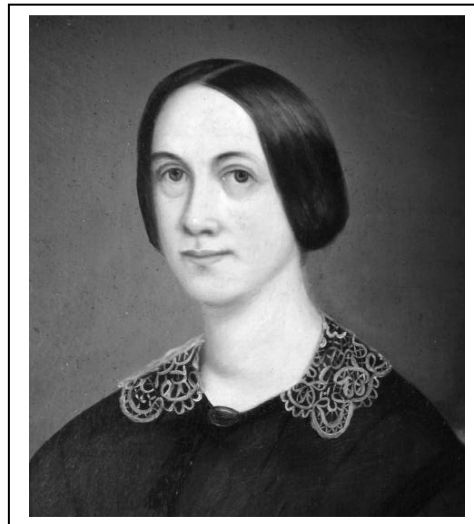


photo of painting used by special permission
Portrait of Francis Jane (Delespine) Boye,
mother of Mary Haley (Boye) Pritchard.
Painted C. 1845

Michael J. Boonstra, is a certified genealogist and serves as Brevard Library genealogy librarian and as Director/Archivist for the Brevard County Historical Commission both located at the Central Brevard Library in Cocoa. Michael has a B.A. in International Relations from The American University in Washington, D.C. and a M.A. in Humanities and American History from California State University.

Dear Members and Friends

About a Brevard Legacy: The Pritchard House
Several weeks ago, Carl and I stopped by the wonderfully restored Historic Pritchard House in Titusville. The restoration was led by North Brevard's History Dynamo Roz Foster and was accomplished through the dedication of the members of the North Brevard Heritage Foundation.

We were only able to view the outside of the building but it was quite beautiful. The gardens were in bloom and were delightful as well.

CONGRATULATIONS to them for such an achievement. I urge all Brevardians to support their efforts by arranging a tour, perhaps for a group, sending a donation, or attending an event or fund raiser.

Contact information for the Pritchard House appears after Michael Boonstra's article on land grants. Put it on your GO DO list !

Carol Andren, President, SBHS 725-4115

Melbourne Beach Casino Pool c.1923

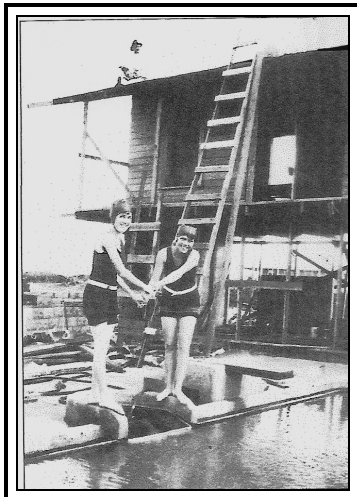


Photo courtesy of Frank Thomas
From his book :Melbourne Beach & Indialantic
Check out the new Melbourne Beach Old Town Hall History Center exhibit opening May 12th.

SBHS CALENDAR

Saturday, June 9th 3pm

Frank Perkins

“How Radiation, Inc. changed the world and South Brevard and had a good time doing it.”

Melbourne Public Library, 540 E. Fee Avenue

JULY/-AUGUST Summer Break

*****A

Around Brevard

Melbourne/Eau Gallie

Historic Rossetter House Museum & Gardens

Open Wed - Fri - Sat 10 am - 4 pm

1320 Highland Ave. in the Eau Gallie Arts District

phone: 254-9855 for reservations and information.

The Florida Historical Society and FPAN

(Florida Public Archaeology Network

You can research the archives of the FHS and browse their bookstore.

435 Brevard Avenue in Cocoa Village.

For information phone: 321-690-1971.

Melbourne Beach

THE OLD TOWN HALL HISTORY CENTER.

Opening Saturday, May 12th

THE MELBOURNE BEACH CASINO

Featured will be photos and information about this community gathering place that served Melbourne Beach and the surrounding area from its construction in the early 1920s until it burned in 1973.

The History Center is open on Saturdays from 11:00 to 3:00.

Located at 2373 Oak St (across from Spessard Holland Golf Course

For information call 321-536-3336.

Palm Bay

LAGOON HOUSE

The Marine Resources Council of East Florida 3275 Dixie Hwy (US 1) on the Indian River Lagoon, just south of the Honda dealership.

Exhibits, activities and programs on the science and history of the IRL. Admission is free.

Phone: 321-725-7775 or go to www.mrcirl.org

The SBHS thanks **AAA Malabar Mini-Storage**, located across the street from the Malabar Town Hall, for their generous donation of air-conditioned secure storage for the Society's collections .

Spanish Land Grants: Background

by Michael Boonstra

"Throughout the Second Spanish period 1784-1821 the Spanish government awarded land grants to loyal citizens for a variety of reasons. The colony was perpetually underfunded and short of cash to pay its bills so land was often given as payment in lieu of gold or silver. When Spanish East Florida was invaded by the Americans in the War of 1812 the Spanish government turned to private individuals to provide food and needed supplies to its citizens and soldiers. One of the individuals who came to the government's aid was Joseph "Jose" Delespine a resident of St. Augustine and a successful merchant with his own ships. Although the Spanish government succeeded in holding onto Florida it ended the conflict greatly indebted to Jose Delespine and others. In return Joseph asked for and received a grant of 43,000 acres in present day Brevard County that stretched from the East bank of the St. John's River to the west bank of the Indian River. Joseph was not content with this tract and he purchased other grants of land throughout Florida from other grantees, eventually making him one of the largest landholders in the state.

When Florida was turned over to the United States in 1821, Joseph and the owners of grants throughout Florida were forced to prove their claims to the new government or lose their land forever. The Delespine Grant was confirmed by the Supreme Court to the heirs although some other purchases were denied. The Delespine Grant is unusual in that while most of the grantees or their families never set foot upon the land they were granted, Joseph's daughter Francis Jane decided to settle upon the grant with her son and daughter, who was the wife of Capt. James Pritchard. After residing on the Grant for several years the Pritchards moved to Titusville where they built the Pritchard house and were prominent citizens. Direct descendants are still in Titusville making them by far the oldest family in the county if you consider the 1817 date of the grant."

**The Historic Pritchard House (1891)
424 Washington St. Titusville, FL**

**Tours of the house are available by reservation
Tuesday to Friday at 10:30am and 1:30pm.
(321) 267-4480 • roz@callhenry.com**

GO TO:

<http://nbbd.com/npr/preservation/PritchardHouse/index.html>

Email Newsletter
of the

*SOUTH
BREVARD
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY*

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

***S.B.H.S.* MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION & RENEWAL**

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Telephone _____

Email _____

(Please include your email address.)

___ **Please check here if you want an electronic
Newsletter**

This is a gift membership for :

Membership Levels:

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___ Family/Library 25.00

___ Senior (age 65) 10.00

___ Student 10.00

___ Business 50.00

___ Lifetime 250.00

Donation _____

TOTAL enclosed _____

Please make checks payable to South
Brevard Historical Society and mail to P.O.
Box 1064, Melbourne, FL 32902-1064.

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of the official registration and financial information may
be obtained from the Florida Division of Consumer
Services by calling 1-800-HELP FLA.