

SOUTH BREVARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. Box 1064
Melbourne, FL 32902-1064

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

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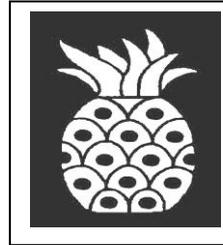
This is a gift membership from:

Membership Levels:

Individual	\$ 20.00
Family/Library	25.00
Senior (age 65)	10.00
Student	10.00
Business	50.00
Lifetime	250.00
Donation	_____

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

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South Brevard Historical Society, Inc.

Founded 1966

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

www.southbrevardhistory.org

Newsletter Editor, Patricia Fabian

April 2015

Saturday, April 11, 2015

3:00 PM

Melbourne Public Library

540 E. Fee Avenue, Melbourne

German Troops in America During World War II

Presented by Colonel Gene Davis

Please join us as we listen to Colonel Davis recount this unusual twist in American history. Learn what brought the Germans here and how they ended up being a positive development for the United States.

Few people know that German combat troops were present in the United States during World War II. They were scattered throughout the United States, including Florida and even Brevard County. Fewer people yet know that these troops made a significant contribution to the U.S. and Allied war effort, even though they were forbidden to work in the war industries.

The first German "visitors" were crewmen who prowled the Atlantic Ocean, sinking American ships. Some of the Germans mingled with the Americans, some were hardly seen at all; and all returned to Europe at the end of the war - although not necessarily to Germany.

Our speaker, Gene Davis graduated with the third class of the United States Air Force Academy. He retired from the Air Force as a Colonel, having flown 6500 hours, including 650 combat support hours in Viet Nam. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and several Air Medals during his career. Since moving to Brevard County in 1991 he has worked for DynCorp, an aviation services company and was a Brevard County Supervisor of Elections for seven years. He has served on many community committees and boards and currently is on the Board of Directors for the "Save Green Gables Committee".

DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

The City of Melbourne’s involvement in support of the troops during World War II took place at the Naval Air Station (NAS), now known as Melbourne International Airport. Approximately 1,500 Naval personnel were stationed at NAS as part of the advance flight training program for pilots. Another group stationed in Melbourne was the *Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service* (WAVES), a division of the United States Naval Reserve. Charged with supporting operations within the United States while the men were serving around the globe, the WAVES provided invaluable support to the war effort at home.

While most people are probably aware of these groups being in Melbourne during the 1940’s, a group of folks you may not be aware of were the German POWs. Working as laborers in the base laundry and mess facilities, more than 250 German POWs were housed at the NAS during the war. Please join us for the April program, *German Troops in America During World War II*, and you will have the opportunity to learn much more about the German POWs in Melbourne.

For more information about Melbourne during this period I suggest visiting the Liberty Bell Memorial Museum, containing many military exhibits including one on the NAS. Another location to visit is the 1,000-square-foot museum within Melbourne Airport where exhibits are on display detailing the facility’s history.

Also, do not forget to visit the “Around Brevard” page on the South Brevard Historical Society’s website (www.southbrevardhistory.org) for “where to go and what to do in Brevard”.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Don Jennings, President 2015 – 2016
Donaldjennings.fl45@gmail

UPCOMING SBHS PROGRAMS

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May 9, 2015 **3:00 PM**
SBHS Archival Collection
An interactive display of select pieces from the SBHS collection will be available.

June 13, 2015 **3:00 PM**
Second Seminole War Journal
Presented by Ben DiBiase, Florida Historical Society
Programs are free and held the second Saturday of each month (except during July and August summer break) at the Fee Avenue Melbourne Public Library 540 E. Fee Avenue, Melbourne, Florida



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AROUND BREVARD

Friday, April 10, 2015 **7:00 PM**
Photo Presentation – Terry Hooker
Tips on how best to preserve family photographs. Ms. Hooker will give the latest “best practices” for both print and digital photos. A little history of the photograph will also be thrown in!
Florida Historical Society
435 Brevard Avenue, Historic Cocoa Village
321.690.1971 Ext. 205

Sunday, April 26, 2015 **2:00 PM**
Annual Ceremony to Honor Civil War Veterans
The ceremony honors all Civil War Veterans, Union and Confederacy. There are 11 Union and 9 Confederate gravesites.
Presented by the local chapter of The United Daughters of the Confederacy and The Sons of Confederate Veterans.
Melbourne Cemetery, located on East Hibiscus Avenue at the intersection of Lake Street.
Participants should bring lawn chairs for their comfort.
Contact Nell Mussler, 321.723.6068 for further information.



**WATERFRONT PROPERTY-
\$10 DOWN - \$10 a MONTH**

Diane Barile

It was at the base of the stairs at the Saigon Hilton – a kiosk glowing with images of a retiree planning his boat trip to the Atlantic.

The Florida dream created by the General Development Corporation (GDC), and spun at military bases worldwide, included waterfront property for a meager down payment and monthly installments. And by the 1980’s, 978 lots were sold as “waterfront” in Port Malabar, a place with water stretched thin behind every one of those lots.

However, public awareness and environmental regulations had changed since Saigon. Still pressed to raise depths in canals, GDC proposed a dam and boat lock and a 400 foot wide channel through an oak forest.

An agreement between the City of Palm Bay, its drainage district and Florida Audubon provided protection for the meandering Turkey Creek and construction of the lock and dam.

The manufactured dream of boating to the Atlantic would never be reloaded. The boat transit of five miles of canals, a winding jungle cruise to the Indian River Lagoon followed by 20 miles to the treacherous Sebastian Inlet was impractical.

You can however, navigate the trails and waterways of the Turkey Creek Sanctuary in Palm Bay. Just turn south off Port Malabar Boulevard to get started.

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 and archives. We also wish to thank Y. (Rusty) Rutstein, SBHS member and owner of A Better Copy/Applied Graphics, located at 102 East New Haven Avenue, for providing discounted printing services for the newsletter.

Destination: Civil War

In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, the Florida Public Archaeology Network has developed *Destination: Civil War* - an online listing of Civil War heritage sites located in Florida open for the public to explore. All are worthy of a visit and respectful reflection.

Among the sites listed are battlefields, fortifications, the state capitol, plantations, arsenals, cemetery plots, monuments, shipwrecks and museum exhibits. Visit <http://fpan.us/civilwar> to begin your journey. iPhone app also now available!

Nothing is certain except the past
- Latin Proverb

FLORIDA OCEANOGRAPHIC SOCIETY PRESENTS

**“Our Florida Reefs:
A community based effort to protect
Southeast Florida’s coral reefs”**

Presented by Vincent Encomio, PhD
Director of Scientific Research
Florida Oceanographic Society

Monday, April 6, 2015
Blake Library
John F. Armstrong
2351 S.E. Monterey Road
Stuart, Florida

ADMISSION IS FREE
772.225.0505 * FloridaOcean.org

A program worth leaving the county for!!