

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

**S.B.H.S. MEMBERSHIP
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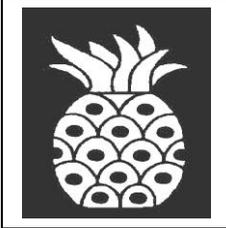
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Membership Levels:

Individual	\$ 20.00
Family/Library	25.00
Senior (age 65)	10.00
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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

February, 2015

Saturday, February 14, 2015 - 3:00 PM

Melbourne Public Library
 540 E. Fee Avenue, Melbourne

OAK LODGE

The First Hotel in South Brevard

Presented by Ann Downing



*Oak Lodge 1880-1910
 The first lodge burned down in 1893; the lodge pictured burned May 19, 1910*

Join us as Ann Downing presents photographs, newspaper articles, and a brief history of the unique Oak Lodge. The Lodge was a ten bedroom hotel and boarding house built in 1880 by Frances E. Bettis and Charles F. Latham. Located on the Barrier Island across the Indian River from Grant, Malabar and Micco it was favored for study by visiting scientists, biologists and ornithologists for its natural, untouched beauty and location. Ornithologist Frank M. Chapman wrote *"thank fortune I have a camera because the beauty of the scenes would paralyze my pen"*. Built on the east coast of the Indian River Lagoon opposite Grant and approximately 8 miles north of Pelican Island, the land is now occupied by the Aquarina Golf Course and a small plaque indicates the site.

Ann Downing settled in Melbourne Beach in 1996 and immediately became interested in local history. She was invited to work on the establishment of the Melbourne Beach Old Town Hall History Center where she became good friends with H. Walter Obermayr who had done extensive research on the Oak Lodge. Additionally, Mrs. Downing has been a consultant to the Town of Melbourne Beach Historical Preservation Board, represented District III of the Brevard County Historical Commission and is a member of the South Brevard Historical Society.

A special thanks to Rosemary DeFrancisci and Scott Maki, docents at the Old Town Hall History Center for their preparation of the this program's Power Point presentation.

DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

I am looking forward to being the next president of the South Brevard Historical Society. After arriving in the fall of 1985 as a freshman at Florida Institute of Technology, I have continuously lived in Brevard County since 1986. I enjoyed serving on the SBHS Board of Directors last year and am anxious to continue working with the 2015 board to provide great programming each month and perhaps several field trips to nearby historical sites.

This looks to be quite a busy year for us as we expand our outreach into the community by completing several traveling history trunks that will allow for some items in the SBHS collection to be temporarily displayed in our local fourth grade classrooms. The purpose of the program is for students to learn more about Brevard history through theme-based trunks that will remain in their classroom for a few weeks. Each trunk will contain historical items, photos and booklets containing the personal stories from the people and families who have called Brevard County home.

It is also going to be an exciting year as SBHS prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary. Started in early 1966, the mission of SBHS was, and remains, "to bring together citizens interested in the history of Florida and especially South Brevard County". I personally want to invite each of you to participate not only in the celebration, but in its preparation. Throughout the year, we will be asking for members to serve on committees and help us commemorate this significant milestone. I hope you will consider our requests and volunteer for a committee that could put your unique talents to good use.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Don Jennings
President, 2015-2016
donaldjennings.fl45@gmail.com

UPCOMING SBHS PROGRAMS

.....
March 14, 2015 3:00 PM
The Civil War on the Indian River
Running the Blockade
Presented by Bob Gross
.....

AROUND BREVARD

Sunday, February 15, 2015 2:00 PM
Brevard Central Library
308 Forrest Avenue, Cocoa
Contact Jamal Moss for further information - 321.633.1792

Tuesday, February 17, 2015 2:00 PM
South Mainland Library
7921 Ron Beatty Boulevard, Micco
Contact Diane Vosatka for further information - 772.664.5801

Steal Away – A One Woman Show
A dramatic show written and performed by historian Penny Musco. Set in 1880, the story weaves together historical accounts of the African American migration and those who sought land through the Homestead Act.

February 27, 2015 7:00 PM
Brevard County Cemeteries
Robert Meeks will present his research on documenting the cemeteries of Brevard County, with a focus on identifying veteran gravesites.
Florida Historical Society, 435 Brevard Avenue, Cocoa
For further information call 321.690.1971

Saturday, March 2, 2015 2:00-4:00 PM
Celebrate Indialantic's History: Eastminster's Role
A panel will share memories of the contributions made by the church and its members to the Indialantic community.
Eastminster Presbyterian Church
106 North Riverside Drive, Indialantic
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REMEMBERING WHEN.....

I arrived in Melbourne in 1958 and as with all kids who were in the 7th grade (with the exception of those who attended Eau Gallie Junior High) I attended school at the site of the former Melbourne Naval Air Station. From my recollection, 300 to 400 students from Sebastian to Rockledge attended classes in a designated group of wooden barracks that were part of the 129 buildings that had been constructed at the beginning of World War II on the property. I remember the barracks were small, and my fellow classmates and I sat shoulder to shoulder during class. We did move to other rooms at the end of each period for a different class. Our Physical Education class was the most memorable as the few hundred-yard walk from the classroom barracks was rewarded by having this class at the old training area. After quickly changing our clothes, we spent about 20 minutes playing handball, tennis, and other activities that took advantage of the recreational facilities from the former base. When Phys-Ed was over, there was just enough time for a 3-minute shower and change before taking the long walk back to the next class, which in August sometimes negated the recently-taken shower!

A historical marker identifying the site's former use as a Naval Air Station is located at the intersection of Eddie Allan Road and Playhouse Road. A study of the history of this property will reveal that it has been more than just an airport to our community.

Thank you to Wiley Elliott for sharing one of his many fond memories of growing up in Melbourne. If you have a story of local interest you would like to share please email to Patty Fabian at fabinger@aol.com.

EAU GALLIE FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION and FISH FRY

Saturday, February 7, 2015
Begins at Noon

This annual tradition celebrates the historical roots of the town of old Eau Gallie established 155 years ago. The festivities include many *FREE* activities, including live music, entertainment and an interactive history tent. Dinner and drinks will be available for purchase.

The Founder's Day History Tent will highlight Eau Gallie history through displays and oral presentations. Displays will contain artifacts and memorabilia, handouts and books.

****** SPEAKERS and TOPICS ******

12:30 PM	Ben Brotmarkle	Carrie Rosseter
1:30 PM	Allen Brech	AIS Indians
2:30 PM	Link Johnsten	Art in Eau Gallie
3:30 PM	John Daly	Wells Family

CAPE CANAVERAL LIGHTHOUSE LOBSTER FEST

Saturday, March 7, 2015
11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

The Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation invites you to attend its 9th Annual Lobster Fest. Access to the lighthouse will be permitted up to the fifth level by stairway – wear comfortable shoes!! The Lobster Fest will feature a meal of lobster along with vegetables, beans, dessert and a beverage. An alternate meal is also available.

Tickets are \$35 per person. Reservations can be made at www.canaveralighthouse.org. The RSVP deadline is February 27, 2015. The Foundation will provide transportation to the Lighthouse by bus. Directions will be given with each paid reservation. Due to security requirements, all attendees will be asked to provide the last 4 digits of SSN, be a United States citizen and show a photo ID.



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.