

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

**SBHS MEMBERSHIP  
APPLICATION & RENEWAL**

\_\_\_New \_\_\_Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Please email my newsletter: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

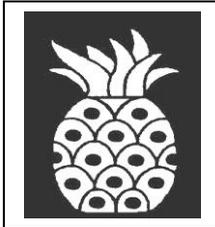
\_\_\_ *Yes, I would like to help with SBHS projects*

***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

**CELEBRATING 50 YEARS**

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

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

Newsletter Editor, Patricia Fabian

*Saturday, February 13, 2016 – 3:00 PM*

Melbourne Public Library  
540 E. Fee Avenue, Melbourne

**The Lives of Harry T. and Harriette V. Moore**

*Presented by Sonya Mallard, Museum Coordinator*

*Harry T. & Harriette V. Moore Memorial Park and Museum – Mims, Florida*



Moore Home After 1951 Bombing



The Moore's



Moore Memorial Park & Museum



Sonya Mallard

Please join us as Sonya Mallard, Coordinator at the Harry T. and Harriette V. Memorial Park and Museum will speak on the exceptional lives and accomplishments of The Moore's, considered the first martyrs of the Civil Rights movement.

Harry T. Moore traveled the boggy marshes of Florida, devoting himself to helping African-Americans learn their constitutional rights. He was almost single-handedly responsible for creating, and then expanding the Florida NAACP, which in 1951 was the only viable civil rights organization in the country. A schoolteacher by profession, fired after twenty years for his political activities, Moore fought against racial injustice long before there was a civil rights movement. He launched his own investigations of brutal lynchings and unspeakable acts of mob violence in an era when a sixteen-year-old black boy was killed merely for sending a Christmas card to a white girl -- forced to jump into the Suwannee River in front of his own father, where he drowned.

Harry Moore wore out countless typewriter ribbons writing eloquent protests against such brutality, knowing they would be met with outright hostility or indifference from white officials. On a hand-cranked Ditto machine set up on his dining room table, he churned out thousands of circulars attacking lynchings, segregated schools and unequal salaries for black teachers. Wearing his second hat, as the executive secretary of the Progressive Voters' League, which he co-founded in 1944, he was the singular driving force in the registration of 100,000 new black voters in Florida.

On Christmas night, 1951, an explosion ripped through the little frame cottage Harry & Harriette shared with their family for 25 years in Mims, Florida. However, they couldn't kill his dream.

## DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS....

In 1969, the voters of Melbourne and Eau Gallie approved the consolidation of the two cities into the contemporary City of Melbourne. At this time of year, I feel it is good to look at the fascinating history of each of city individually.

The first Saturday of this month, SBHS will be participating in the Eau Gallie Founders' Day (<http://eaugalliefoundersday.org/>). This annual event celebrates the history of Eau Gallie. Established 156 years ago by former Lieutenant Governor William Henry Gleason, its first industry was agricultural ventures that included sugar cane, rice, and citrus groves.

Just south of Eau Gallie, the earliest permanent settlers of Melbourne were three black men: Peter Wright, Balaam Allen and Wright Brothers. For a little more background on these pioneers please read the article on the adjacent page *What's in a Name*.

The close proximity of these two towns to the Indian River Lagoon was no accident. Until the railroad was built, steamboats were the primary means of passenger and cargo transport. Like today, the lagoon provided both economic and recreational benefits to the inhabitants along its shores.

I hope you are able to carve out some time on Saturday, February 6th to attend Eau Gallie Founders' Day. Please stop by the History Tent and then continue on down Highland Avenue and join the SBHS Historic Home Tour. Tickets will be available for purchase in the History Tent.

I also look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Don Jennings  
South Brevard Historical Society President, 2016  
donaldjennings.fl45@gmail.com

## UPCOMING SBHS PROGRAMS

**Saturday – March 12, 2016 3:00 PM**  
***MARCH MEETING WILL BE HELD AT:  
THE LIBERTY BELL MUSEUM***

1601 Oak Street, Melbourne (on street just west of Melbourne Fee Avenue Public Library)  
Program will highlight the Museum's collection of historic documents, Florida-related exhibits and patriotic memorabilia.

*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*

## AROUND BREVARD

**Saturday February 20 4:00 PM**  
***The Moore Heritage Freedom 5K Run/Walk***

Celebration of Florida African American History will include food, drinks, and fun after the 5K.  
The Harry T. & Harriette V. Moore Cultural Complex  
2180 Freedom Avenue, Mims  
321.264.6595

**Tuesday, February 23 2:00-4:00 PM**  
***Antiques Appraisal Day***

Bring in your vintage items for appraisal  
Titusville Public Library  
2121 S. Hopkins, Titusville  
321.264.5026

**Sunday, February 28 3:00-4:45 PM**  
***Highwayman Robert Lewis***

Will perform live painting demonstrations  
Central Brevard Library  
308 Forrest Avenue, Cocoa  
321.633.1792

*We are saddened to note the passing of former SBHS Board  
of Directors member Nancy de la Moriniere.  
Sincere condolences are sent to her family and many friends.*

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

As you drive by *Brothers Park* located at 2528 Race Street, Melbourne, you will find it to be like any old neighborhood park. However, there is a story to this property that makes it more than just a baseball field and picnic area.

In 1920-1921, John S. Stone, a pioneer land owner, donated property and the two-story Melbourne School was built for the black children of South Melbourne. The building stood until December 1953 when a fire destroyed the structure. After the fire, the County School Board turned the property over to the City of Melbourne who then removed the structure and built Brothers Park, named after one of the first settlers of Melbourne, **Wright Brothers**. (ref. the *Historic Brevard Landmark Guide*)

The earliest permanent settlers of Melbourne were three black men: Peter Wright, Balaam Allen and Wright Brothers. (ref. *African American Sites* by Kevin M McCarthy). After the Civil War, these freedmen, arrived at what was the Crane Creek area, about 1870-1872, and chose to settle this area as it was "beyond the last southern outpost" (ref. *The Melbourne Bicentennial Book*).

Wright Brothers settled near Crane Creek and grew citrus with the help of his wife Mary Silas Brothers. In 1882, their son, William Rufus Brothers, was born and has the distinction of being the first black child born in Melbourne. Growing up, William attended the little red schoolhouse, originally located on what is now South Riverview Drive. Today the restored schoolhouse resides in the botanical gardens at The Florida Institute of Technology.

Only about 200 people lived in Melbourne until the 1920's. Building a house and making a living, let alone surviving, in Melbourne was very difficult. Peter Wright, Balaam Allen and Wright Brothers not only survived, but they, along with their families opened up successful businesses and began to settle what today is a great place to live, work and play.

*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, located at 102 East New Haven Avenue, for providing discounted printing services for the newsletter.*

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

There is still time to renew your SBHS membership. However, this will be your last newsletter unless your dues are received by February 29<sup>th</sup>. Don't miss one issue – mail your check today!! Receiving this newsletter is one of the best ways to stay informed about the many programs and events happening around Brevard County. For your convenience a renewal form is located on the back panel along with our address. You may also bring your payment to the February meeting.



New Members Diane Newman & Louise Skellings  
At the Elliott Museum on SBHS Trip

## Green Gables Update

*Florida Today* reports The Melbourne Preservation Board has unanimously recommended Green Gables is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, a significant step toward saving the beloved home. The Florida National Register Review Board will meet in February to decide if a formal nomination is in order. Stay tuned!!