

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

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

(Please include your email address.)

This is a gift membership from:

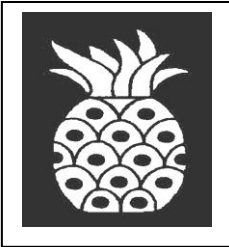
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***Membership Levels:***

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](http://www.southbrevardhistory.org)  
Newsletter Editor, Patricia Fabian

**January 2015**

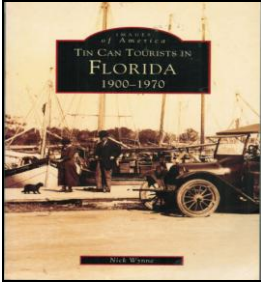
**Saturday, January 10, 2015**

**3:00 PM**

Melbourne Public Library  
540 E. Fee Avenue, Melbourne

**TIN CAN TOURISTS**

**Presented by Nick Wynne**



Please join us as Nick Wynne presents a colorful look at the members of a unique group of Americans known as Tin Can Tourists. These rugged individuals set out to explore America after World War I, loved the wide open spaces and enjoyed quaint places in Florida before the rapid development that occurred in the 1920's. Using surplus military equipment and expensive camping gear, they took to the dirt roads and by-ways of the Sunshine State with a passion. The joke was that "they came with ten dollars and two sets of underwear, and by the time they left, they had changed neither." A humorous reference to the fact that early automotive tourists brought everything they needed with them because Florida was still largely undeveloped and there were very few amenities, garages, or places to buy necessities.

Floridians quickly realized the economic potential of this new brand of tourists who eschewed the rivers and railroads and plunged into the wilderness. The end result was the rise of "mom and pop" attractions, stores along rudimentary roads that catered to tourists, and resulted in the rapid development of better roads. The Tin Cannners led the American middle classes as they spent their newly acquired industrial dollars on vacations and adventure.

Nick Wynne is a retired educator and Executive Director Emeritus of the Florida Historical Society. A prolific writer, he holds a doctorate in history from the University of Georgia and is the author, editor, co-author, or co-editor of over twenty books.

## DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

### MEMORIES...

January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 will mark the end of my seventh year as president of the SBHS. In 2008 we began to rebuild and recreate the organization.

We relocated and organized the “stuff” of our rented storage units now referred to as our “archives”. We were able to continue a working relationship with the Marine Resources Council and maintain our exhibit at the Lagoon House. Our Newsletter was upgraded and dedicated local historians and history based organizations provided outstanding programs and event partnerships. That was our new beginning.

We held events: “History Comes Alive in the Melbourne Cemetery”, Archaeology Day at the Lagoon House, the Riverview Village Walk Saturday program that became more than a members’ meet up. We published Weona Cleveland’s “Mosquito Soup” in collaboration with the Florida Historical Society. The Home Tours of 2012 and 2014 revealed significant historical neighborhoods. Our library exhibits are popular and our Christmas display at the Melbourne Library has become a tradition.

### THANK YOU...

Thank you to all who served on the 2014 Board: Officers, Kathi Harbaugh, Nan Roberts, Sandy Wilson. Directors, Barbara Arthur, Diane Baccus Horsley, Diane Barile, Nancy de la Moriniere, Wiley Elliott, Patty Fabian, John Fergus, Keith Flotte, Dory Fredrickson, Don Jennings, and off-Board Web Site Manager Denise Bozeman.

Special thanks to those individuals who provided outstanding programming, volunteered to help with events, became a member, helped financially, and to those who contribute information and moral support every day.

### VISION...

My wish for the SBHS is that we remember that WE ARE A SOCIETY..... a group of people dedicated to preserving and sharing the uniqueness of Brevard’s history. My hope is that we continue to meet and share information, work on projects, expand our collaboration with other organizations, utilize modern technology and become a vital, valuable resource to the Community.

**Carol Andren, SBHS President**  
321.725.4115

## UPCOMING SBHS PROGRAMS

**February 14, 2015 3:00 PM**

### *Oak Lodge*

Presented by Ann Downing

**March 14, 2015 3:00 PM**

### *The Civil War*

Presented by Bob Gross

*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 7, 2015 Begins at Noon**

### *Annual Eau Gallie Founders Day Celebration and Fish Fry*

A celebration of Eau Gallie’s history; will include live entertainment, street vendors, food and much, much more! Located in the Square, on Highland Avenue in downtown Eau Gallie.

**Save the Date – Saturday, March 7, 2015**

9<sup>th</sup> Annual Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Lobster Fest  
Details to follow next month.

### Ongoing

#### *University Archives Exhibition Room*

#### *Evans Library, Florida Institute of Technology*

Enjoy varied displays of documents & artifacts, including items from the SBHS collection, marking FIT’s 56 year history.

#### *Florida Frontiers: The Weekly Radio Magazine of the Florida Historical Society*

Listen to the weekly half-hour program, airing on public radio stations 90.7 WMFE and 89.5 WFTT. The program can also be heard anytime by going to [www.myfloridahistory.org](http://www.myfloridahistory.org).

## DUES REMINDER!!

2015 SBHS Annual Membership Renewals are now due.  
Please complete the form on the back of this newsletter and mail in, or bring to the monthly meeting with your payment.

## FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY COLLABORATES WITH SBHS

Donald Jennings

Last spring, SBHS was pleased to loan a few items to the Florida Institute of Technology which were incorporated into its Online Historical Timeline ([timeline.fit.edu](http://timeline.fit.edu)). This program was developed along with the University Archives Exhibition Room which opened on April 29<sup>th</sup> of this year. “Vision Extraordinaire: The History of Florida Institute of Technology” is the title of the room’s inaugural exhibit and features documents and artifacts that highlight key points in Florida Tech’s 56-year history and its role in Brevard County’s growth.

Florida Tech has demonstrated its dedication to collect, preserve and display items and documents from its history by hiring the first university archivist, Erin Mahaney. Erin, an archivist and educator, along with other members of the Evans Library staff will work to create exhibits and events that detail Florida Tech’s history and its relationship within the community. SBHS and its members will be valuable in this process. We met with Erin and are excited about the opportunity for SBHS to work with FIT to incorporate items from our collection into future displays that tie the university to the Space Coast as well show what was previously on the Melbourne campus’s site.

Along with increasing awareness of Brevard’s history to the students on the Florida Tech campus, SBHS is also in the process of expanding the number of historical displays in Brevard’s local libraries, museums and places of business.

## FIELD TRIP TO THE CAPE CANAVERAL LIGHTHOUSE

November 22<sup>nd</sup> proved to be a perfect day for the SBHS field trip to the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse. Over forty enthusiastic people gathered for this unique opportunity to explore up to the fourth level of this 167 foot tall structure. Docents from the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation met us at each level to tell about the history and detail of this historic site - the only operational lighthouse in the United States owned by the United States Air Force.



Group gathers at base of the lighthouse



Staircase inside lighthouse



Walkway leading to lighthouse

Photographs courtesy of Roger McCormack

Thank you to Yvonne Thornton and Ginny Davis of the Foundation for working with us to arrange the tour and to the many volunteers who guided our group. The Foundation’s current project is to rebuild the Keepers Cottages and connecting brick walkways.

*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.*