

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

**SBHS MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION & RENEWAL**

___New ___Renewal

Name _____

Email: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

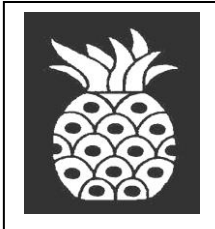
___ *Yes, I would like to help with SBHS projects*

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.

The South Brevard Historical Society, Inc., is a non-profit corporation and an IRS 501 (C) 3 organization. All contributions are tax-deductible by limits of law. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Florida Division of Consumer Services by calling 1-800-HELP FLA.



South Brevard Historical Society, Inc.

Founded 1966

P.O. Box 1064, Melbourne, Florida, 32902-1064
www.southbrevardhistory.org

Newsletter Editor, Patricia Fabian

Saturday, January 14, 2017 – 3:00 PM

Melbourne Public Library
 540 E. Fee Avenue, Melbourne

**South Beaches of Brevard,
 Honest John's Fish Camp and Oak Lodge**

Remembrances Presented by Barbara Smith Arthur



Pioneers R.T. Smith (left) and his brother Charley Smith (right)

Under the United States Government Homestead Act of 1862, brothers Robert Toombs Smith and Charley Smith laid claim to 159 acres on Mullet Creek in 1887. They discovered the property while searching the Indian River Lagoon shoreline by sailboat looking for land to homestead. They improved the land, clearing it by hand, building a permanent structure made of palmetto cabbage logs and planting crops. Today the property is known as Honest John's Fish Camp. Honest John Smith was the son of R.T. Smith and his descendants still inhabit the property.

In 1891 Charles Latham purchased a 164 acre property on the eastern shore of the Indian River Lagoon opposite of what today is the city of Grant. Oak Lodge, a ten bedroom hotel and boarding house was built on the property. It had the distinction of being the first hotel in South Brevard and was favored by visiting scientists, biologists and ornithologists for its natural, untouched beauty and location. Today the Aquarina Golf Course occupies the former Oak Lodge property.

Please join us as Barbara Smith Arthur, daughter of Honest John Smith, takes us through the fascinating history of Brevard's South Beaches, Honest John's Fish Camp and Oak Lodge.

DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS....

Looking back at 2016, I am thankful for our guests, program presenters and especially you, our members, for a great 50th anniversary year. Our meetings had very interesting and informative lectures and our agricultural themed traveling trunk made its debut at a local home school group. Our June meeting was especially memorable as we had Bob Gross (a charter member of SBHS) moderate a panel of three local members of our community, Dian Milligan (granddaughter of Ernest Kouwen-Hoven, founder of Indialantic), Bob Barwell (a local postman for thirty-seven years), Leon Tucker (owner of Tucker's Cut Rate Plumbing). The program was a great dialogue of experiences growing up in Brevard.

Looking forward to 2017, we will be in the field in February "celebrating the history of Merritt Island" with a booth at "Pioneer Day". In March we will have Rick Smith, son of author Patrick Smith "A Land Remembered", present a visual story about the experiences that enabled his father to write the books that detail Florida's culture and heritage.

As always, SBHS enjoys "Keeping History Alive". I ask each of you to consider helping us in this effort by volunteering. Your interest in history combined with any specific talents can help us to assemble more traveling history trunks, record oral histories, and many other opportunities. If you have an interest, we have a place for you. Please contact me or one of the Board Members for additional information.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Don Jennings, President 2017
South Brevard Historical Society
donaldjennings.fl45@gmail.com

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**2017 SBHS Annual
Membership Renewal
Now Due**



This year when you renew your membership, we will ask for your email address information.

SBHS will be transitioning to an electronic newsletter beginning February, 2017. As printing and postage costs rise we ask that you help us to go green by saving trees and the SBHS budget!!

To renew your membership:

- Please complete the membership form on the back of this newsletter.
- Attach a check or cash
- Mail to So. Brevard Historical Society
Post Office Box 1064, Melbourne, FL 32902-1064

If you do not have an email account, we will continue to mail a paper version.

As a bonus, members who renew now or those joining for the first time, will pay only \$5 for the Patrick Smith presentation in March. General admission for this program will be \$10.

The newsletter will also be available on the SBHS website at:
www.southbrevardhistory.com

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UPCOMING SBHS PROGRAMS

**Saturday
February 11, 2017**

**Merritt Island Pioneer Day
Celebrating Pioneer John Sams**

Celebrating the history of Merritt Island on "Pioneer Day" is an annual event that has an exciting appeal for history, art, music and nature lovers.

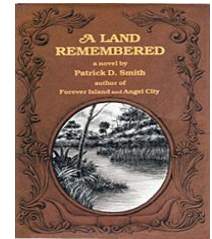
The event is a partnership between *Sams House* at Pine Island and *St. Luke's Episcopal Church* located on a sleepy little stretch of North Tropical Trail.

More information will follow next month. For an overview of the day's events please go to www.mipioneerday.com

Please note in place of the regular monthly meeting, SBHS will be "in the community" with a booth at this event. We encourage all members and friends to come out. Sams House and St. Luke's will host a wide variety of activities, most of which are free.

**Saturday
March 11, 2017**

SBHS is Proud to Present
**Patrick Smith's Florida Is
A Land Remembered**



Patrick D. Smith, Jr. will present a multi-media show about his father, Patrick D. Smith, author of the beloved novel *A Land Remembered*.

Rick Smith's presentation will highlight his father's life in literature and "Old Florida". If you are a fan of the classic novel, you will not want to miss this program.

**Program will held at
Melbourne High School Auditorium
74 Bulldog Boulevard, Melbourne 32901**

Admission is \$5 for members, \$10 for general public. Ticket pricing is to help cover costs for this wonderful program. Seating is limited pre-registration required. Please call 321.480.7570 to register & purchase tickets.

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.