

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

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

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(Please include your email address.)

This is a gift membership from:

Membership Levels:

Individual	\$ 20.00
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Lifetime	250.00
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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

March 2015

Saturday, March 14, 2015

3:00 PM

Melbourne Public Library
 540 E. Fee Avenue, Melbourne

The Civil War on the Indian River

Presented by Bob Gross



US Sloop Wanderer
Ordered to investigate the Indian River, July 1862

As the 150th anniversary of the conclusion to the American Civil War approaches, we welcome local historian Bob Gross to talk about the impact the Civil War had on the central east coast of Florida. His presentation will focus on the Indian River in particular. He will discuss what life was like in Brevard County leading up to the war, and in the years immediately following.

Bob Gross has been studying Brevard County history for over 55 years. His passion for history sparked by an elderly neighbor telling young Bob tales of her birth in a log cabin on a local Indian mound, in an area still inhabited by Indians.

Bob was a charter officer in the founding of the South Brevard Historical Society. He has an undergraduate degree in Anthropology from the University of Florida, is a member of the Indian River Anthropological Society, and a life member of both the Florida Anthropological Society and the Southeastern Archaeological Conference.

DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

The city of Melbourne, originally referred to as Crane Creek, served as a Confederate military training area. Ironically, both Confederate troops and former slaves settled in the area after the Civil War. What was once a very small settlement along the Indian River Lagoon still has reminders of the old way of life as well as indicators of what lies ahead. We are a community that takes on technological challenges but also strives to preserve and remember the past. With places like the Eaton House, Eau Gallie Yacht Club, and the Rossetter House already designated "historic properties" by the city, there is a group currently working hard to preserve the Green Gables house and another group looking into saving the old Melbourne High School building. This increasing public interest in the past is driving the many offerings of historic venues around our county.

In February, two events presented snapshots into Brevard's history in two distinctly different ways. The first was the History Tent at Eau Gallie Founders' Day where SBHS members Ed Vosatka and Ann Flotte dressed in the era of their respective presentations, making the learning that much more enjoyable. Next was "An Evening of Readings" at Florida Institute of Technology's Evans Library. Nine authors each read an excerpt from a book of their choosing that entertained and informed the audience with a variety of stories ranging from Evangeline Moore, daughter of slain civil rights leader Harry Moore and his wife Harriette, to Green Gables. There seems to be an event every weekend for those looking for something to do beyond the typical movie. Please be sure to regularly visit the "Around Brevard" page on the SBHS website: (<http://southbrevardhistory.org/aroundbrevard.html>) for "where to go and what to do in Brevard".

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

UPCOMING SBHS PROGRAMS

April 11, 2015 3:00 P.M.

German War Prisoners in America

Presented by Gene Davis

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

*March is Archaeology Month
The Florida Historical Society
Archaeological Institute*

Presents:

Sunday, March 8, 2015 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Archaeology Day – Free outdoor activities

Friday, March 20, 2015 7:00 PM

"Everything You Know is Wrong! Community Archaeology at Fort Shackelford" – Annette Snapp

Wednesday, March 25 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

*An Archaeologist Tour of St. Augustine
All inclusive bus tour of the Oldest City - \$75 per person*

First two events to be held at:
The Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science
2201 Michigan Avenue, Cocoa, FL
Call 321.632.1830 for further information on all of the above events.

* * *

Thursday, March 19, 2015 2:00 PM

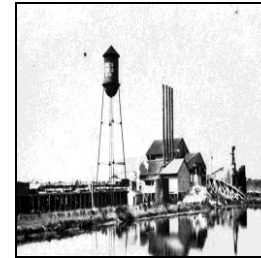
Tin Can Tourists - Presented by Nick Wynne

If you missed the SBHS program now is your chance to hear this wonderfully interesting presentation.
South Mainland Library
7921 Ron Beatty Blvd., Micco, FL
772.664.5801 for further information

Month of March

Ed Vosatka's exhibit - Melbourne's Logging Era
Melbourne Public Library, 540 E. Fee Avenue, Melbourne

MELBOURNE'S LOGGING ERA: 1912 – 1932



Union Cypress Company Sawmill



Giant cypress felled in 1917

Melbourne's Industrial Revolution is the subject of an educational exhibit at the Melbourne Library throughout the month of March. Using models, maps, vintage photographs and artifacts, historian Ed Vosatka shows the era of sawmills, iron horses and steam logging which transformed Melbourne from a quiet, rural village on Crane Creek into an industrial city.

The Union Cypress Company built a large cypress/pine sawmill and the company-owned town of Hopkins on the south side of Crane Creek in 1912. They were Melbourne's first big industry, bringing employment, growth, development and the first electrical power to the city.

Their railway to Deer Park in Osceola County not only served the mill, but opened up the vast prairie lands along the St. Johns River for settlement and carried much of the regional commerce. It was the first direct route across the St. Johns River marshes in the 80 miles south of Enterprise on Lake Monroe, preceding the Kissimmee Highway (U.S. 192) by six years.

Ed Vosatka's book *Melbourne's Logging Era: 1912-1932* was published by Arcadia Publishing in 2012.

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.

TEDDY ROOSEVELT SHOW

The Indian River Historical Society will host the Teddy Roosevelt Show at Sebastian River High School Friday, March 13 at 7:00 PM

Ticket Prices: Show Only \$10
Dinner & Show - \$35
The dinner menu will consist of Teddy's favorite foods.

For tickets call Janice Sellers at 772.778.3435

OLD MELBOURNE HIGH UPDATE



Support is rapidly growing for the re-use of the Old Melbourne High School as a cultural center. The property's current governing organization (BRAG) proposes to sell the property to a developer with plans to build an apartment building. The Henegar Center school and the high school building were once home to the SBHS and other community organizations.

For more information or to support efforts to save Old Mel Hi go to:
<http://www.oldmelhi.com> or
Twitter #SaveOldMelHi.