

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

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

___New ___Renewal

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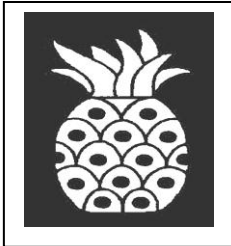
This is a gift membership from:

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
 Newsletter Editor, Patricia Fabian

October 2015

Saturday, October 10, 2015

3:00 PM
 Melbourne Public Library
 540 E. Fee Avenue, Melbourne

The Infamous 1955 Van Eeghen Double Homicide

Go back in time to a grim part of Melbourne's history, one that changed our city forever.
 It is a mystery that still haunts us today.



Convicted killer, Philip



Murdered wife, Patricia



Murdered daughter, Philys

Presented by Ann Raley Flotte

Ann Raley Flotte, local historian and author, will captivate the audience with details of the infamous 1955 Van Eeghen double homicide. It shocked the town of Melbourne AND the nation!!

On the morning of December 9, 1955, the tiny town of Melbourne would awake to the horrifying news of a brutal double homicide the night before. Soon, father and husband, Philip Van Eeghen would go on trial for the murders. The shocking crime would rock the town and the nation. Even reporters from around the world would follow the details. From the New York Times to the Melbourne Times, it was sensational news. When he was finally convicted, Van Eeghen was sentenced to life at Florida State Prison, Raiford.

But the story does not end there..What was the motive? Where was the murder weapon and the bloody clothing? Did he murder his four year old son the year before or was it an accident as he claimed? What really happened the night of December 8 and will we ever know all the answers?

This case rivals the Lizzie Borden and O.J. Simpson cases and was the *Trial of the Century* in its day. After 60 years, so much remains a mystery. But with research spanning almost 10 years, Ann has come as close to the truth as anyone ever has. She is excited to share what she has learned with the audience and thinks you will find it as intriguing as she does.

DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

I would like to thank all who attended September's meeting with Sir Robert Marx. His presentation on the 1715 Plate Fleet wrecks was a fascinating firsthand account of the recovery of some of the treasures found and the history behind these artifacts. If you enjoyed this presentation, you may consider attending his lecture at 6:30pm on October 9th, "Following Columbus", at FIT's Gleason Performing Arts Center.

As one who likes to explore new places, I recently visited the *Old Town Hall History Center*, located at 2373 Oak Street, Melbourne Beach, (phone number 321-952-7322). Open from 11:00am to 3:00pm on Saturdays and Holidays, their current exhibit is "Oak Lodge, Ais Indians & Rodeaver Colony". As you may remember, Ann Downing told us about Oak Lodge at our February meeting. The *Center* also has a permanent display of information, history and artifacts relating to Ais Indians, Ponce de Leon, shipwrecks, and photos of the early years in Melbourne Beach, interesting people and places. The building itself is approximately 100 years old and was specifically rehabilitated to be used for history exhibits and community functions. If you have not visited recently, I encourage you to do so.

Our program this month is "The Infamous 1955 Van Eeghen Double Homicide". I hope you will join us as Ann Flotte, local historian and co-author of the *Images of America Melbourne and Eau Gallie* book, presents an intriguing story of murder in the small town of Melbourne. This is a true mystery story with enough plot twists to keep you on the edge of your seat.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Don Jennings
South Brevard Historical Society President, 2015
donaldjennings.fl45@gmail.com

UPCOMING SBHS PROGRAMS

November 14, 2015 9:30 AM – 5:30 PM
Guided Bus Tour to Hutchinson Island, Elliot Museum and Gilbert's Bar House of Refuge

The monthly program this month will be substituted with a guided bus tour of scenic Hutchinson Island. \$59 per person includes transportation, tour guide, admission to listed attractions and gratuities. Lunch at Dolphin House additional or you may bring your own. For further information call Patricia Fabian at 321.480.7570

December 12, 2015 3:00 PM
Our Historic Favorites – Annual Show and Tell
An annual favorite!! SBHS Members and Friends will share their historic artifacts and mementos.

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

October 9, 2015 6:30 PM
Following Columbus – Robert Marx, Archaeologist Free Lecture

Sir Marx will share stories of his ocean voyage aboard replica 10th century Viking ships in 1964 and 1968, as well as his six-month long journey in the authentic replica of Columbus' ship Nina. Florida Institute of Technology The Gleason Performing Arts Center 150 W. University Blvd., Melbourne For further information: 321.674.8962

October 17, 2015 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Flea Market at the Grant Historical House
5795 U.S. 1, Grant
For further information: 321.723.8543

The South Brevard Historical Society Presents a Guided Bus Tour



Hutchinson Island, The Elliott Museum and Gilbert's Bar House of Refuge



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2015
\$59.00 per person, cost of lunch not included

ITINERARY

- 9:00 AM Park and meet the tour bus at Wal Mart: 1000 North Wickham Road at Sarno Road. The bus will be on the south end of the parking lot, near Murphy's USA Gas Station.
- 9:30 AM Bus will leave and proceed down U.S. 1 to Hutchinson Island as the tour guide shares tales of Florida's historical past
- 11:30 AM Lunch at Dolphin Bar and Shrimp House, originally Frances Langford's Outrigger. A picnic area is available for those who prefer to bring their own lunch. *Exceptional river views offer many photo opportunities at this stop*
- 1:00 PM Visit The Elliott Museum
- 3:30 PM Visit Gilbert's Bar House of Refuge
- 6:00 PM Return to the Wal Mart parking lot

Please note 9:30 AM departure time is FIRM!! All other times approximate.

For further information please contact Patricia Fabian - 321.480.7570 or Nan Roberts, 321.292.1965

Registration Form – Hutchinson Island Bus Tour

\$59 PER PERSON – MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO SBHS, INC.
A CHECK MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR REGISTRATION
DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION - OCTOBER 15th

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____ Email: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

I will dine at Dolphin House for lunch (additional cost) _____ I will bring my own lunch _____

Mail to: SBHS, Inc.
P.O. Box 1064, Melbourne, Fl 32902-1064

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.