

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: _____

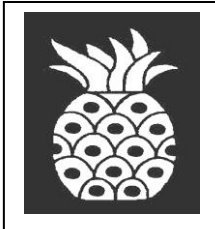
___ *Yes, I would like to help with SBHS projects*

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

Newsletter Editor, Patricia Fabian

Saturday, October 8, 2016

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. The Aquarina Golf Course now 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....

To me, nothing makes history more interesting than a personal connection. "Seeing" the story in your mind as it is being told can make you feel like a participant.

I think that good storytelling is one of the things we, as a society, have lost as we left the 20th Century behind. Today, sound bites and abbreviated messages are the norm.

HOWEVER, at SBHS we do appreciate storytelling and know its power to convey information as well as bring enjoyment to the listener. I am happy to say that each month, members and guests are treated to a presentation that is both engaging and interesting. Like the first-hand story of traveling across the Atlantic in a replica of Christopher Columbus's Nina (thank you, Bob Marx) or the story of the Dickenson family, read from the father's journal, as they made their way along the Florida coast after their ship wrecked in 1696. These stories bring history alive and make the world a much more interesting place.

This month I am excited to hear SBHS board member Barbara Arthur speak about the people, places and events of Melbourne Beach. She will share stories of her family as they settled along the Indian River Lagoon in 1887 as well as the history of the surrounding community.

I look forward to seeing you at what will be a very interesting, fun and informative meeting.

Don Jennings
South Brevard Historical Society President, 2016
donaldjennings.fl4@gmail.com

UPCOMING SBHS PROGRAMS

Saturday, November 12, 2016 3:00 PM
3D Archaeology
Kevin Gidusko, Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN)

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, October 15 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Grant Historical House Annual Flea Market
Treasures galore! Refreshments will be available.
5795 US Highway 1, Grant

Tuesday, October 18 5:00 – 8:00 PM
Music at the Manor
Jazz concert on the lawn of historical Field Manor. Bring chairs and a picnic. Tickets are \$12 each and include 2 drink tickets.
750 Field Manor Drive, Merritt Island
For more information call 321.474.9142

Thursday, November 10 6:00 – 7:30 PM
Rating the U.S. Presidents: The Good, the Bad and the Unbelievable!
Presented by Dr. Robert Taylor, as part of the FIT Lifelong Scholar Society's 2016 program schedule.
Center for Aeronautics and Innovation
1050 W. Nasa Boulevard, Melbourne
Tickets \$20/members \$10
For more information call 321.674.8382, option 2 or email pdpregistration@fit.edu.

Saturday, November 12 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
First Annual Florida Frontiers Festival
A celebration of Florida's history. The day will include presentations, demonstrations, vendors, food.
Adults \$10 (\$15 at the door) - Information and tickets www.FloridaFrontiersFestival.com
Brevard Museum of History & Natural Science
2201 Michigan Avenue, Cocoa

TIME TO GO GREEN

The South Brevard Historical Society will start 2017 off by transitioning to an electronic newsletter format. Printing costs and postage add up quickly, and it's time to move into the 21st century. Please help us save trees and the SBHS budget!

When you renew your membership for 2017 we will ask for your email address. If you do not have an email account, we will continue to mail a paper version to you during the transition period.

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



FIRST ANNUAL OYSTER ROAST AND FISH FRY AT FIELD MANOR

November 5, 2016
4:00 – 7:00 PM

On the lawn at Field Manor
750 Field Manor Drive
Merritt Island

Tickets \$30 per person
More information at the Field Manor Facebook page or call 321.474.9142

FALL BACK IN TIME



Green Gables

November 5, 2016
4:30 – 9:30 P.M.

Fall Back in Time at Green Gables: A 1920's Speakeasy

For advance tickets or sponsorship opportunities call Natalie at 321.768.0555 or email Treasurer@greengables.org
For more information visit us at: www.Facebook.com/SaveGreenGables or on our website at www.greengables.org

This is our first major fund raising event ~ invitation to follow!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE JACKSON FAMILY

On July 26, the Melbourne City Council unanimously voted to rename Line Street as W.H. Jackson Street. William Henry Jackson, the street's namesake was a longtime Melbourne barber and prominent community member. He lived on Line Street until his death at age 103 in 1953.

*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.*