

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

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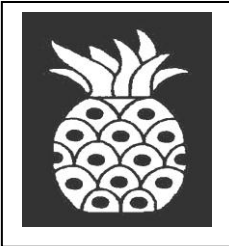
This is a gift membership from:

Membership Levels:

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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

September 2014

Saturday, September 13, 2014 – 3:00 PM
Melbourne Public Library
540 E. Fee Avenue, Melbourne

Green Gables

A Local Treasure



Photo courtesy of nmm.GreenGables.org

***Please join us as Mr. Eddie Browder, ASLA,
explores the history, significance, and people of Green Gables.***

Green Gables, also known as the W.T. Wells House, stands at the intersection of Harbor City Boulevard and Riverview Drive in Melbourne. Hidden behind overgrown vegetation, until a recent clean up by concerned citizens, one of the most historically significant homes in Melbourne has remained tucked out of view and in a state of deterioration for many years.

Built in 1896, the two-story home, constructed in the Queen Anne style, was owned by William T. Wells, one of the most prominent men of the time and a strong supporter of Melbourne. The house has the distinction of being located in Melbourne's first neighborhood, Riverview Village, thereby being at the very foundation of our community and culture.

Mr. Browder is a Landscape Architect at Littlejohn Engineering Associates, with a special emphasis on Historic Preservation. He has assisted Melbourne's Historic Preservation Officer with historic surveys, the Eau Gallie Historic District designation, and local historic designations since 2009.

DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS....

Some of us remember the Tradewinds of Indialantic. *"How sad to see it torn down!"* Many of us remember Miguels once located on U.S 192. *"Totally demolished. How could that happen?"* *"Why didn't Melbourne save that building?"* *"Someone should have done something!"*

Historic preservation isn't about saving every old structure. It is about appreciating the architecture, style, and the contribution that buildings, like people, bring to our communities.

Homes reveal the stories of families; businesses the service they perform and the customers they serve. Schools and other public buildings offer memories that bind the community together.

South Brevard County has been slow to recognize the cultural and economic value of historic preservation. Melbourne, after "the fall of Miguels" enacted a historic designation ordinance. Melbourne planner Kelly Delmonico expertly reviewed that for us at our May meeting. Melbourne also created a historic district in Eau Gallie.

South Brevard examples to be commended are the Grant House, Melbourne Beach's History Center, Pier and Rykman House, and the Rossetter House in Eau Gallie owned by a private trust and managed by the Florida Historical Society. Private examples are Susan Miller's kit home in downtown Melbourne and private homes of the Eau Gallie Historic District. The original chapel of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and the Chapel of St. John's Episcopal Church (seen on our February Tour) have been cherished, preserved and have served and inspired their congregations for over one hundred years.

Worthy buildings, such as Green Gables, the Old Melbourne High School and beautiful old homes are in danger of being demolished. I urge that we begin a campaign to recognize the outstanding buildings and neighborhoods of the South Brevard community. Let us create the programs, resources and incentives that inspire preservation. Let us partner, countywide, to show support for these valuable cultural and economic assets of our community.

Remember Miguels?

It's time to stop the lament.

Let it be a call to arms!

Carol Andren, SBHS President
321.725.4115

UPCOMING SBHS PROGRAMS

October 11, 2014 3:00 PM
Cape Canaveral Lighthouse

November 8, 2014 3:00 PM
The French in Florida
Presented by Ben DiBiase, Florida Historical Society
Director of Educational Resources & COO

December 13, 2014 3:00 PM
Annual Historic Show and Tell Program
SBHS Members & Friends share historic artifacts and mementos.

*All Programs held at Fee Avenue Melbourne Public Library
540 E. Fee Avenue, Melbourne, Florida*



AROUND BREVARD

September 19, 2014 7:00 PM
Unusual Tales of the Everglades
Florida Historical Society

James Zacharias, Daytona Museum of Arts & Sciences presents a look at the last frontier of the United States.
435 Brevard Ave., Historic Cocoa Village
For further information call 321.690.1971

September 27, 2014
National Public Lands Day
Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge
Located on SR 402, 5 miles east of U.S. 1 in Titusville
For further information call 321.861.0668

October 3, 2014 7:00 PM
Forensics and Recent Fieldwork
Florida Historical Society Archaeological Institute
Patrishia Meyers, UCF Graduate Student, will present new and exciting field work in the area of bioarchaeology.
435 Brevard Ave., Historic Cocoa Village
For further information call 321.690.1971

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.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE ON LOCAL HISTORIC DESIGNATION

In May 2014, Kelly Delmonico, Planner for the City of Melbourne and liaison to the Historic Preservation Board, presented a program on Melbourne's Local Historic Designation Ordinance to the South Brevard Historical Society. She explained why local historic designation is beneficial, which local properties have already been chosen for this honor, the implications of designation and how the application process works.

The Historic Preservation Code allows for eligible properties to be locally denoted as historic by the City of Melbourne. Properties that are selected are placed on the Melbourne Register of Historic Places. In order to obtain a designation, all property owners must first give their consent.



Green Gables - 1901



View from the front porch - 1901

Photos courtesy of www.Greengables.org

In the case of Green Gables, the owners have not given their consent to be placed on the Melbourne Register. Therefore, a preliminary designation report was ordered by the Historic Preservation Board with the understanding that the designation could not move forward without the owner's consent.

Our September program presentation is the culmination of architect Eddie Browder's research and report to the Melbourne Historic Preservation Board.

Thank you to the Melbourne Planning Department for providing the background material for this article.

**The South Brevard Historical Society has donated a copy of Weona Cleveland's
"Mosquito Soup" to the Melbourne Library.**

Please consider donating a copy to your favorite Brevard Library.

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.