

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

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

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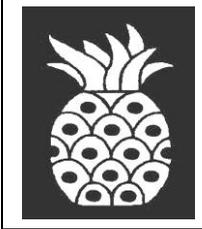
This is a gift membership from :

Membership Levels:

Individual	\$20.00
Family/Library	25.00
Senior (age 65)	10.00
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South Brevard Historical Society, Inc.

Founded 1966

P.O. Box 1064, Melbourne, Florida, 32902-1064

www.southbrevardhistory.org

Newsletter Editor, Patty Fabian

September 2013

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2013 – 3:00 PM

Melbourne Public Library
540 E. Fee Avenue, Melbourne

Naval Air Station Melbourne

The World War II Years

Presented by Bill Barnett



Naval Air Station Melbourne Pilots

Naval Air Station (NAS) Melbourne was a United States Naval Base constructed at the Melbourne Municipal Airport at the beginning of World War II. It was commissioned in October, 1942 and remained in use until The Navy closed the site on February 12, 1946.

Mr. Barnett will begin his presentation by narrating a 20-minute video discussing the history of the Naval Air Station Melbourne. He will continue by talking about a group to which he belonged called the *Night Fighters*. These men were trained to land at night onto the deck of air craft carriers. He will also cover the fighter pilot build-up in Hawaii. A plan whose purpose was to invade Japan, but was scuttled after the dropping of the atomic bombs led to Japan's surrender.

Mr. Barnett's impressive career includes 21 years in the Navy Air Corps as a pilot. He went on to spend 17 years as a test pilot flight simulator instructor for North American Aviation. In addition, Mr. Barnett trained the original six Apollo astronauts, including Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on the flying technique for the lunar landing module.

DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS....

It went quickly! Again! I'm referring, of course, to Summer. Last September's column was my account of a family oriented summer featuring husband Carl and my visit to Iowa for the first grandchild wedding. This summer was spent focusing on an extended visit by our daughter and son-in-law who now reside in Istanbul, Turkey and the birth of our first great-grandchild. We never left Florida.

It went quickly! I now refer to the Gordon Van Tyne kit home identified by researchers in May and brought to public attention on August 12th in an editorial by Bob Stover of *Florida Today*. The editorial was followed by a letter to the editor by Weona Cleveland in the August 20th edition of *Florida Today*. Ms Cleveland suggested that this home would be appropriate as a history center for the "historic downtown Melbourne" district. Unfortunately, by August 23rd, *Florida Today's* section A front page headline and half-page photo revealed the demolition of this rare, especially in the state of Florida, kit home.

My thoughts are many on this important topic, and are continued in an article on the following page.

Carol Andren, President, SBHS
321 725.4115

UPCOMING SBHS PROGRAMS

October 12, 2013 **3:00 PM**
Brevard Cemeteries – Who's Who in Brevard Graveyards
Presented by Molly Thomas

November 9, 2013 **3:00 PM**
To Be Determined

All programs at the Fee Avenue Melbourne Public Library
540 E. Fee Avenue, Melbourne, Florida

AROUND BREVARD

Sept. 12, 2013 **10:30 AM**
What You Need to Know to Preserve Your Vintage Photographs

A visual lecture by Walter A. Johnson, Professor Emeritus of Photography, Ohio State University
Harris Community Auditorium, Foosaner Art Museum
1463 Highland Ave., Melbourne
321.674.8916

Sept. 13, 2013 **7:00 PM**
The Search for the Pirate Ship Guerron
Presented by Erik Denson
Florida Historical Society, 435 Brevard Ave., Cocoa
321.690.1976
Hosted by Florida Public Archaeology Network

Sept. 25, 2013 **6:30 PM**
Florida on Fire Lecture
Presented by Dr. Rachel Wentz
Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, Titusville
321.690.1976
Hosted by Florida Public Archaeology Network

October 2, 2013 **6:30 PM**
The Voyage of the Niña
Presented by Robert Marx, Underwater archaeologist and deep sea explorer.
Gleason Performing Arts Center on the campus of FIT
150 W. University Blvd., Melbourne
For information call Ann Marie Kousari, 321.674.6152.

THOUGHTS ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Carol Andren, SBHS President

As I mentioned in Dear Members and Friends, one of Melbourne's last "kit homes" was laid waste by an excavator several weeks ago. Do we care? If so, what can we do? At this time, the SBHS doesn't have the funds to rush in and purchase any real estate....but we can keep that idea on a burner and let it simmer. And...we must keep in mind that restoration and maintenance are part of the financial picture. Perhaps the equation is: Interest + Opportunity + Finance + Determination + Commitment = Historic Preservation.

Are we doing anything? The Home Tours we've initiated highlight local history, historic homes and historic neighborhoods. We have scheduled the next Home Tour for February 15, 2014 in the now officially designated Historic District of Eau Gallie. Several of our monthly programs have been dedicated to historic preservation efforts in South Brevard and our Board passed a resolution of support for the Green Gables project led by John Daly.

Over the summer I sent a letter to the State in support of the City of Melbourne's grant application to the Florida Division of Historical Resources. If approved, the grant would fund an inventory "to identify significant structures and neighborhoods that need the extra level of protection so that future infill and redevelopment will be sensitive to the historic fabric of the community". The areas of the study are the old Melbourne downtown and surrounding residential neighborhoods (including Downtown, La Bertha Lawn, Green Gables, and Riverview Drive), especially those areas where kit homes are found.

A previous inventory funded partially by the Florida Department of State resulted in the City of Melbourne's 1991 publication, *The Historic Buildings of Melbourne* authored by Stephen Olausen. It is unfortunately out of print but according to Olausen a Florida Master Site File form was completed for each site and filed with the City and the Florida Department of State. The scope of this new application includes an update of that survey and should prove to be of great interest to those concerned with historic preservation.

Using today's technology, the City proposes to make the inventory available to the public. The following is the application description of this component: "The City plans to build a graphic-based inventory of the surveys to make the information available to the general public. It is the City's goal to host a map on its website for people to locate historic structures, review the characteristics of each structure (e.g. date of construction, architectural, style, historical facts, etc.), and view old photographs of the structure, if available, original plat maps, and any other information that can be gathered during the survey process. The map will include the new and updated surveys to be conducted as part of this project in addition to the hundreds of sites surveyed in the past". We don't even have to buy the book!

We'll stay tuned in to the grant application progress and hopefully be able to report to you as work begins on an inventory. Who knows what treasures lurk in "old Melbourne".

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.