

**THE INDIAN RIVER
JOURNAL**



**THE JOURNAL OF
THE BREVARD COUNTY
HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Volume XIII, Number 2

Fall / Winter 2014



First United Methodist Church of Melbourne

Forth in the Series
**Lost Communities:
Dummitt's Castle**

*Eau Gallie Record
and Sabastian Star*

The Duke and Duchess of Castellucia

Green Gables

Pat O'Hare

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THE INDIAN RIVER JOURNAL

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TALKING STORY WITH PAT O'HARE

JAMES MACLAREN
SUBMITTED BY DAN REITER

Original article online: <http://www.cocoabeachsurfingmuseum.org/?p=692>

Pat O'Hare arrived in Cocoa Beach, right across from his beloved ocean in the southern residential part of town, many long years ago. Over the course of the following decades, he's not let the grass grow under his feet, none of that "manicured lawn" motif to be seen anywhere. It gets mowed, and it's not overgrown, but it's clear that the mantra is more of a live-and-let-live nature. Plants grow where they may, fallen oak leaves dapple the sandy ground and the grass grows in a way that encourages bare feet to walk upon it.

Just a small block home with a screened-in front porch shaded by native Florida oaks and palms, a weathered wooden fence brackets the back and side of things, and his son Sean lives in the house right next to it on A-1-A. Subdued pastel hues – Old Florida style, oceanic, weathered and faded to perfection by a loving sun – color the surfaces all around.



Pat's a pretty spiritual kind of guy, and the spirit infuses the whole area. The front yard abuts the back yard of Joel Silver, another spiritual kind of guy, but there's no demarcation line, no here versus there, and the whole place – Pat's, Sean's, Joel's and more – is wide open for little kids, neighbors, friends and family to amble or gambol as whim might dictate.

Pat lives a quiet life and appears completely comfortable with himself and his circumstances. He lives the sort of life that most people only read about, and few people can truly understand. He has come so far beyond the standard definitions of success that it's genuinely laughable to even speak of such things with him. Money and power mean nothing to him. He gets by, he lacks for nothing, he lives in paradise. He has dealt with the corrosive effects of power and he wants nothing to do with it.

Although he says little, deep understanding glows from within his eyes. Those thoughtful eyes twinkle often, and laugh lines crease his face around them.

I know this much about him before we start.

So, ok. Let's get this thing organized. Pad across the grass and knock on his door.

"Hey, you in there?"

"Come on in, Jimmy."

We sit down and I tell him that the Museum would like an oral history, what I'd like to do and how we might go about doing it. He is just as accommodating as anyone could possibly be, comfortable and easy.

And so things are arranged with Pat sitting at his small dining table, me across from him, and the video camera perched upon its tripod adjacent to me. The camera sits still, with no one else in the room to man it. It's just Pat and me, and we both like it that way. Behind him, framed by the camera, is his kitchen. Everything is in as-is condition, nothing is dressed up, primped, prepared, or made to look in any way it does not usually look. But Pat has the heart and soul of an artist, and everywhere you look things are harmonious, complementary, interesting, well thought out and pleasing to the eye.



We decide to do the interviews piecewise, giving it perhaps an hour or so for each session. In this way, Pat remains fresh and the stories bubble. We've been going at it now since January the first, and we're still going at it. To this point, eight separate days of video interview have been captured, and there's a few yet left to get.

Pat is in charge, and he tells me when to go get the equipment and come set it up once again, by the dining table. We start off at the beginning and then ramble down the redounding decades, digressing here and there along the way for

an especially good nugget, accumulating names, places, activities, good cheer and warm friends.

Pat is originally from St. Louis but moved to California at an early age. He lived near the ocean in Manhattan Beach and was immediately absorbed by the surfing life in his area, centered at the Manhattan Beach Pier.

He was born into the surfing universe in the 50s, started out riding inflatable rafts as many other kids did and then moved on to proper stand-up surfing just as balsa was being replaced by foam as the shapers' material of choice. His first surfboard was made out of balsa wood, not because it was chic or retro or cool, but because that's what they were making them out of at that time. That goes back a pretty good way, and Pat has been in the thick of it ever since.

Surfing was just entering its modern era of explosive growth, and Southern California, where Pat was surfing, hosted world-class talent too numerous to mention. Weber, Noll, Edwards, Stang, Hynson, Dora, Jacobs, the list goes on and on. These are the guys Pat was surrounded by. Some he only knew of. Some he knew. And some he became good friends with.

Pat was a natural athlete and soon became sufficiently skilled to hold his own in the lineup, and although Manhattan Beach Pier remained the center, he regularly took road trips up and down the coast. Malibu, Haggerty's, San O and on and on.

Imagine being a surfer in those days! It was all so free, all so open! Each new day beckoned, sparkling like a diamond. And each new jewel was taken wholeheartedly, joyously, unstintingly.

As surfing worked its way deeper and deeper into his life, Pat naturally wished to find some way to support himself with it. Hanging out as a gremmie at the shops, washing the windows, cleaning up the mess, Pat and his friend Ricky James gradually worked their way deeper inside, tools in hand, as have innumerable others before and since. Pat began glassing. Shaping came next, first in his back yard, later in Greg Noll's factory. After that, on his own, fully independent.

Surfers, or at least the ones who give themselves over to surfing completely, always seem to pack enough adventure, love, triumph and tragedy into their lives to eclipse the lives of ten ordinary people and Pat was no exception. I sat spellbound as he recounted each new adventure. Story upon story tumbled into the air, shimmered for a bit and was then replaced by another. Rick James's thumb. Dora driving off in Frenchy's Volkswagen. Hynson and Weber weaving crossovers down an endless wall at Malibu. Just enough money in their pockets for the bus ride back to Tijuana. Tales recounted by other warriors, freshly back from the North Shore. Fistfights and dented fenders. The life! Oh, dear God, the life! Barbados. California. Florida. Mexico. Making it up as they went along.

Life itself was a set of waves, and no one knew what was coming next, invisible, just over the horizon. But come it did, and he rode each new wave as best

it could be ridden, be it brutal thrashing or a screaming rifle-shot wall ridden to safety in the channel by a gnat's whisker. And whether each wave was made or not made did not matter. What mattered was that he paddled back out to meet the next one and give it his best.

Eventually, things wound up centering themselves right here in Cocoa Beach, shaping surfboards for a living, settling down, raising a family, learning to become the very best person he could become. He became very good indeed and he reaped the reward of a good life lived, in the form of a good life lived.

Another interview session concludes. The camera gear is broken down and placed once again inside of its bags. An airplane buzzes in the distance. A hopeful twitter sounds from an invisible bird somewhere in the greenery outside. Pat's eyes twinkle and laughter creases his face, yet again.

I wish I did not have to stop here, but at least I get to return and do it again, and really, is there anything more I can rightfully ask for?

I will be a little bit reduced once these interviews are over. I will no longer be able to look forward to setting up the gear, chitchatting as I do so, and then sitting down and talking story with Pat O'Hare. It is very good stuff. And I thank my lucky stars that my life can now be said to include this additional small glowing light. *///RJ*

The Cocoa Beach Surf Museum and the Historical Commission have oral histories available. The Historical Commission is in the process of posting our collection on YouTube and our website.—Ed.

Want to view Brevard County Oral Histories?



Visit our YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDicPL2kXvLAGEymNx1E6iw>



Read the transcripts on our website:
<http://www.brevardcounty.us/HistoricalCommission/OralHistoryProject>



THE *EAU GALLIE RECORD*, EAU GALLIE, FL *SEBASTIAN STAR*, SEBASTIAN, FL

JIM GARMON

The *Eau Gallie Record* newspaper was founded by William Russell Roesch in Eau Gallie, Florida in 1907. Wikipedia, the free internet encyclopedia says of William Roesch:

William Russell Roesch (born July 1865) was the first mayor of Eau Gallie, Florida. He served six-terms in 1896, 1901, 1905, 1908, 1924, and 1925. He was the founder and editor of the newspaper The *Eau Gallie Record*. He also served as postmaster.

Roesch was the first town treasurer of Eau Gallie in 1887.

In 1913, President Woodrow Wilson appointed Roesch postmaster of Eau Gallie, and reappointed him in 1918. In 1921, he was reappointed by President Warren Harding. Roesch was also member of the local volunteer fire department.

He founded the *Eau Gallie Record* in 1916. He turned over the day-to-day operations of the newspaper to his son, William Phillip Roesch, when he became Eau Gallie's mayor. The Roesch family sold the *Record* in 1925 when both William R. Roesch's wife and his son's wife died within weeks of each other that year.



Wikipedia
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Roesch

The arrival of the paper is announced by the *Florida Star*, a Cocoa, Florida newspaper:

From the *Florida Star*, June 21, 1907:

The *Eau Gallie Record* is the title of a new newspaper that will make its first appearance this week. We are informed that Judge W. R. Roesch will be the editor and publisher, and our Eau Gallie correspondent states that ample capitol is behind the enterprise to insure its success, which is well as it takes capitol and plenty of it to run a newspaper published in Brevard county, which county has only about 3600, or one newspaper for every 140 registered voters. There is no question but that Brevard is well supplied with newspapers.

Florida Star, June 28, 1907:

Eau Gallie is now issuing a newsy paper, the *Eau Gallie Record*. W. R. Roesch is editor and proprietor.

Two years later the *Record* closed:

Florida Star, April 23, 1909, Page 4:

We understand that the *Eau Gallie Record* ceased publication with last week's issue. Editor Roesch got out a good local paper and made a brave effort in the nearly two years' time that he managed the *Record* so well, and if Brevard county hadn't been so overworked in the newspaper business he probably would have met with the success that he well merited. Five weekly papers in a county with less than 4000 population is entirely too much. There isn't a county in the state that can put up such a showing.

According to the great-granddaughter of the publisher, Kathryn Smith Lockhard, publication of the paper began again in 1916. In her book *Forever Laced*, she says:

"However, once ink runs through the veins of an editor it never dies. The *Eau Gallie Record* was reborn about 1916."

Also, in her blog Lockhard states:

My 2nd great-grandfather, William R. Roesch established the Eau Gallie newspaper in 1916. He was its writer, publisher and editor. When this pioneer became the Mayor of this quaint town of Eau Gallie, Florida his son, my grandfather, William P. Roesch, assumed most of the responsibility for the production of the paper.

Nevertheless, it appears that the paper started and stopped publication several times between 1909 and the 1916 date reported by Lockhard.

New Smyrna Beach Daily News, September 26, 1913:

Commencing October 1 the *Eau Gallie Record* is to issue as a semi-weekly.

Apparently the paper did not publish for very long, for the *New Smyrna News*, on May 1, 1914, comments:

The *Melbourne Times* is carrying a *Eau Gallie* page since the suspension of the *Eau Gallie Record*, that contains more real news than the old paper did.

There are also several references to articles published in the *Record* appearing in other Florida newspapers—the *Tampa Tribune*, October 12, 1912 and *The Miami News*, September 12, 1913.

The actual dates of publication of the *Record* during this period between 1909 and 1916 are unknown.

Apparently William Roesch had firm feelings about the use of alcohol. In an article published by the *Miami Metropolis*, the editor reports:

In a contemptible little paragraph, a Florida newspaper recently criticized the *Eau Gallie Record* editor because he had asserted that he would never publish a liquor advertisement in his paper. The paragraph was to the effect that if the *Record* editor would accept “legitimate” advertising of that nature he could buy himself some new printing machinery and put out a cleaner looking paper—“cleaner” presumably in the sense of cleaner type and more of it.

The paragraph was unworthy of a Florida newspaper—and unworthy of notice by the *Metropolis* but we have come across an editorial from the *Memphis News-Scimitar* which we would like to pass on the *Eau Gallie Record* and its critics.

The *News-Scimitar* published following paragraph taken from a liquor advertisement:

The law of supply and demand—liquor would not be manufactured if there were not a demand for it. When the demand for liquor ceases there will be no supply. And not until then can there be prohibition.

Then discusses the publication of such advertisement as follows.

The *News-Scimitar* quotes from a quarter-page liquor advertisement which appeared in Sunday’s issue of the morning corporation organ. This statement of the liquor dealer’s is a truism that cannot be gainsaid. But could he not have, with equal truth, gone farther and added that the demand is stimulated by the flaring advertising that finds place in the column of mercenary newspapers, whose first thought is for dividends rather than public good?

Notwithstanding the *News-Scimitar* is not an advocate of Prohibition,” continued the *Memphis* paper, “it has consistently declined to

print liquor advertisements for years, at a great financial sacrifice, because it does not wish to encourage the consumption of liquor.

A liquor advertisement is an invitation to drink, an argument in favor of drinking, a recommendation of a particular brand. If a liquor advertisement did not make people drink more liquor and make more people drink liquor, no one would be foolish to spend money on it.

The *Eau Gallie Record* has a long road to travel before it will attain the dimension of a metropolitan daily, but it grows better all the time and with the help of those who admire its stand for clean things should attain success. But the *Eau Gallie Record* editor must have patience when he sees business men of his community insert their advertisement in booze loving newspapers alongside of a liquor plea, then listen to their “hot air” approval of his “manly stand for right,” it’s the approval of his own conscience that he must depend on for the “real things,” and stand by his guns.

On April 17 1924 in the *Eau Gallie Record*, William P. Roesch, Editor and Manager wrote:

Thanks Gentlemen,

Delray News: And now Roesch, of the *Eau Gallie Record*, has enlarged his paper to six-quatro. A good man running a good paper in a good town describes Roesch and Eau Gallie.

Florida Publisher: The *Eau Gallie Record* has enlarged to six columns quarto and with each issue seems to show signs of improvement.

Thanks for the *New Smyrna News* quote.

In 1924 while still publishing the *Record*, the pair of newspapermen expanded their coverage by starting a paper in Sebastian, Florida. The *Melbourne Times* issue of September 3rd that year publishes an announcement:

Want to know more about Brevard County History?

We have history books available.

Go to the inside back cover for details

W. P. Roesch, manager of the Record Printing Company and publisher of the *Eau Gallie Record*, announced today that his company had completed arrangements where by they would immediately undertake the publication of a weekly newspaper at Sebastian. The first issue of the newspaper is scheduled to make its appearance on September 12, and has the full support of Sebastian's recently organized Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Roesch will be in direct charge of the paper and will announce the name of the publication together with the name of the editor later in the week.

Introduction to More Tales of Sebastian, by Daniel Clark, c 1992, Sebastian River Historical Society, Inc.:

More dollars in town made it possible for the Bank of Sebastian to open its doors in August of 1924. It was quite a year. The first newspaper, a weekly called the *Sebastian Star*, hit the stands. It lasted for about a hundred editions.

Mary Beth Herzog, *Vero Beach Press Journal*, June 22, 1975:

At the height of the boom in 1924, a weekly newspaper, the *Sebastian Star*, was born. Mrs. [Meta] Chesser was the editor, and it was printed in Eau Gallie. The *Sebastian Star* was received with plenty of enthusiasm, but, after nearly two years, when the "bust" became evident, it was discontinued before creditors accumulated.

In 1925 Ada, the wife of the William Roesch died. A week later Nellie, the wife of his son died. This dual tragedy disheartened the pair so much they sold the newspaper. *Forever Laced*, a book by Kathryn Smith Lockhard reproduces a newspaper article announcing the sale of the *Record*:

December 17, 1925

The *Record* has Been Sold

The *Eau Gallie Record* has been sold. Edward Taylor, editor and publisher of the *Melbourne Times*, together with associates, are the new owners and under terms of sale will take charge of the *Record* tomorrow December 18th. We thank the people of Brevard County for the support and encouragement given us and bespeak of the new owners as a continuance of that famous Eau Gallie brand of cooperation, which has done so much to make the *Record* what it is today.

W. P. Roesch

An article in the *Melbourne Times* describes the new owner and editor Edward Taylor and his association with newspaper business. This article was published in 1924 as Taylor took charge of the *Times*. From the *Melbourne Times*, Volume 30, No. 22, July 16, 1924:

Mr. Taylor needs no introduction to the readers of the *Times* in this community. His success as active manager of the *Miami Herald* is well known to them. Before entering upon his successful career with the *Miami Herald* Mr. Taylor was engaged in the banking business, having been connected for many years with the Corn Exchange Bank of Chicago. Since coming to Florida he has taken an active part in the work of the Florida Press Association, and also of the Florida Dailies Association, having served as president of both. He has a large acquaintance throughout the state and knows its possibilities and needs. It will be his aim to use every endeavor to carry out the program of visioning and helpfulness for this community. He has purchased a home in Melbourne and will move his family here as soon as he has closed out his business interest in Miami.

The Melbourne Times, sometime in 1942:

Newspaper Press To Be Made Into War Ammunition
Press That Printed *Eau Gallie Record* Given By W. P. Roesch

The old newspaper press on which the *Eau Gallie Record* was started 35 years ago has been offered to the Salvage Committee to be used in helping to win the war.

W. Phil Roesch of Eau Gallie made the offer in a letter to *The Times*. He said:

"Notice in your issue of Aug 7 where Melbourne has started a Junk Drive to collect scrap metal for our war effort.

"I have on my Eau Gallie property, the frame of a Washington hand Press which, as you know, is of cast iron and weighs in the neighborhood of 500 pounds. This press is the one used by my father in starting the *Eau Gallie Record* in 1907 and to the best of our knowledge had over a hundred years of service behind it at that time.

"If the committee will accept this metal, I will be glad to donate it, but I am not in a position to deliver it to Melbourne. For directions in locating this metal, contact my son, Phil O. Roesch, Radio Department, Huggins Supply Co."

The letter has been turned over to J. O. Hampton, Assistant Postmaster here, who is the chairman of the Salvage Committee.

From Lockhard's blog:

Went to the Florida Historical Society and donated 14 newspapers of the *Eau Gallie Record* dating as far back as 1910 that my great grandfather William Russell Roesch founded. His son, William Phillip, my grandfather, and he were both writers and editors. When I approached my uncle Clyde, William Phillip's son who lives in Bunnell, Florida about donating the Eau Gallie newspapers, he gladly offered them to me to present to the Historical Society, which was most grateful. Once they are digitized, the society will give both of us copies on a disk.

No further information is available on the *Eau Gallie Record*. No microfilm of the newspaper is known to exist. The Florida Historical Society, 435 Brevard Ave., Cocoa, Florida 32922 holds original copies of all issues of the *Record* for 1925, along with some miscellaneous issues:

December 23, 1910
 March 6, 1914
 March 24, 1915
 January 17, 1924
 January 31, 1924
 February 28, 1924
 March 6, 1924
 March 27, 1924
 April 17, 1924
IRJ

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*An Index of Indian River Journal Articles is
 available on our website.*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF MELBOURNE: A CONGREGATION GROWS WITH MELBOURNE

JANE BEACH

The First United Methodist Church of Melbourne is 128 years old. The present building, located at 101 East New Haven Ave., is the third building to house the congregation since its establishment on May 23, 1886, just six years after the area known as Crane Creek settlement became the city of Melbourne. The pioneers of this settlement of 17 homes and a small business section earned their livelihoods from farming, cattle ranching, and fishing. The railroad would not arrive until 1894. Methodist circuit riders traveled by horseback or by water to preach and to perform weddings and funerals. However, once established, the congregation has grown with the community.

Augusta Jenkins Oslin, wife of the founder of *The Melbourne Times*, wrote that the Fee and Idner families were charter members of the "Methodist Episcopal Church, North" a Mission Church which was organized on May 23, 1886. Rev. Michael Black traveled by sailboat from Georgiana Methodist Church on Merritt Island to organize this mission church. Services were held on the first Sunday of the month in the Izant House Hotel. Rev. Black came when he could, depending on the prevailing winds.



Erected in 1889

Dr. William Fee, one of the charter members, had moved with his family from Ohio to Melbourne in 1883. He was a family physician. In Ohio, the Fee family had lived next to the McKinley family. Dr. Fee delivered all of the McKinley children including William, the future President of the United States.

Construction on the first home of the Methodist Church in Melbourne began in April 1887. James Hayes, a carpenter from Georgia who had built most of the stores on Front Street was in charge of the construction. The building was located on New Haven Ave. one block west of Washington Street (US #1). It cost \$979.29.

The first minister, Rev. Louis Hole, was appointed in 1893. He is remembered for a series of sketches of Melbourne at that time. Most of these buildings were made of wood. A fire would soon destroy many of them leaving his sketches to provide a record of Melbourne in 1894.



Our Spiritual Heritage: A Centennial History
1986 First United Methodist Church, Melbourne, FL

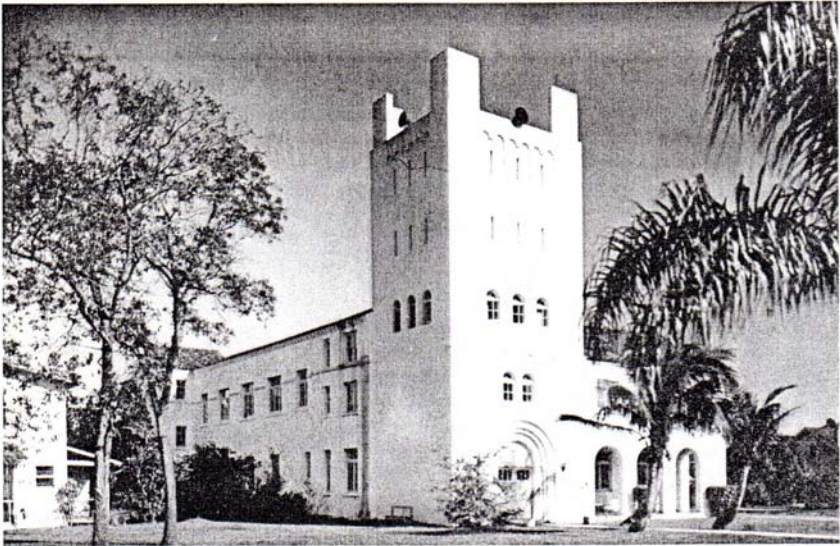
A view of Front Street as seen in "Melbourne Sketches."

The arrival of the railroad in 1894 brought new settlers and winter visitors. By 1903, there were 66 members in the Georgiana and Melbourne Methodist churches. In 1904, the original wooden church structure was moved one block west to the corner of New Haven Ave. and Orange Street near the current location of Meehan's on Municipal Lane. By 1912, the Georgiana and Melbourne Methodist churches had a combined membership of 121. Each congregation was self-supporting. The Melbourne church added a parsonage.

Mrs. Martin Callahan was one of the early members of the church. The Callahan family moved to the Melbourne area in 1912 and settled 4 miles out-of-

town on what would become the Kissimmee Highway/192. Mrs. Callahan and her family were remembered because they walked to church every Sunday for many years following a path through the woods. As sections of New Haven Avenue were paved to accommodate the westward growth of Melbourne, this path would become part of it.

According to the 1920 U.S. Census, Melbourne's population was 533. Like the rest of Florida, tourists and developers fueled growth in the twenties. The church added three Sunday school rooms. Melbourne was growing. The 1930 U.S. Census listed Melbourne's population as 2,674. The congregation decided to build a larger building and a Sunday school. Property for its second home was acquired at the corner of Strawbridge Ave. and Waverly Place where the offices of Morgan and Barbary are located today. The Jan. 13, 1926, edition of *The Melbourne Times* noted that "One of the most important ceremonies in the history of Melbourne will be the laying of the cornerstone of the Methodist Episcopal Church on January 15th."



Special Supplement: Melbourne and Eau Gallie
2002 Karen Raley and Ann Raley Flotte

April 13, 1932

However, the growth and prosperity of the community in the twenties gave way to the Stock Market Crash and the Depression of the thirties. Members were able to finish building the exterior of the building. Most of the interior would remain unfinished for many years to come. Longtime member, Gladys Rodes, said when the bottom fell out, the congregation was left with a partially

built shell and a huge mortgage. The treasurer's report for Nov. 10, 1930, reported a balance on hand of \$0.85.

The large area on the second floor that was supposed to be the social hall became the sanctuary. There would not be sufficient funds to install an "elevator" until 1939. Thus, from 1926 until 1939, the elevator was "powered" by men and boys from the congregation. According to local attorney Jackson Vaughn, they would tug on a large rope over a pulley. However, they had to pay special attention when the elevator was coming down to avoid overcrowding because the manual brake might not hold. Then the elevator would hit the ground with "somewhat of a jar! "

The church had also built a parsonage nearby where Trinity Towers is located today. Mrs. Dorothy Head, wife of Rev. Lewis Head, lived in the parsonage from 1934 – 1941. She described the one bedroom building as uncomfortably cold in the winter and miserably hot in the summer.

Out of necessity, the congregation became known for its fund raising projects. Swiss steak dinners and Mrs. F.C. Powell's chicken pies were popular with members, residents, and winter visitors. Prepared by the Ladies Aid Society, the women usually served between 100 and 150 diners and often received a round of applause for their efforts. Around Thanksgiving, orders were taken for fruitcakes that the women baked to raise money.

The local economy began to improve. In 1936, Mrs. W.C. Shepherd donated a two-manual Wurlitzer organ to the church. Purchased for \$1,000 from the Van Croix Theater, the organ had been used in the theater during the boom times. It was the only pipe organ in Melbourne. Mrs. Shepherd's father, Rev. W.S. Weeden, had written gospel hymns including *Somebody Did a Golden Deed* and *I Surrender All*. The subject of Rev. Head's sermon that Sunday in December 1936 was "God's Golden Deed." Longtime choir member, Marcia Turner, remembered that the organ brought many years of "heavenly sounds" to the music ministry of the church. Once when some notes didn't sound quite right, a search of the organ loft revealed that mice had chewed up the bellows. Additional improvements continued to be made to complete the interior of the building constructed in 1926. In 1939, the church installed a proper elevator.

On Sunday, December 12, 1937, the Methodist Church celebrated its Fiftieth Anniversary. The note written by Augusta Jenkins Oslin documenting the church's establishment on May 23, 1886, would not be discovered until the Centennial Committee was researching church history in 1986. In 1937, the original 2 families had grown to 200 members.

In 1939, the union of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church resulted in the Methodist Church.

By 1943, the church was able to pay off the remaining \$16,000 interest and principal of the mortgage on their building. It had taken them from 1926 to accomplish this. Bishop Arthur J. Moore came from Atlanta to attend a special mortgage-burning service in December. In 1944 when they purchased a new parsonage at 205 Oak Street, there was no indebtedness on the property.

World War II brought members of the military completing their training to the Melbourne Naval Air Station and the Banana River Naval Air Station. Area churches were kept busy performing wedding ceremonies and hosting wedding receptions. The end of the war brought another influx of workers to support Patrick AFB and the Cape Canaveral Launching Site. By 1954, church attendance approached 600. The sanctuary only seated 300 and there was not enough off-street parking.

Unable to expand on the existing property, members once again looked for property to build their third home. They located property farther west at 101 East New Haven Ave. An interesting fact is that the property that they found was once owned by Dr. William Fee, one of the original founders in 1886. On Easter Sunday, April 6, 1958, the first service was held in the new building. The interior was graced with 12 stained glass windows made by K.J. Mueller of Zephyrhills. The first associate pastor, Rev. Donald Brown, was also appointed.

Our Spiritual Heritage: A Centennial History
1966 First United Methodist Church, Melbourne, FL



April 6, 1958

In 1968, the union of the Methodist Church (USA) and the Evangelical United Brethren Church created the United Methodist Church.

When the city of Melbourne celebrated its Centennial in 1980, the First United Methodist Church was recognized as one of 50 historic sites in the city with placement of a historic marker. First United Methodist Church of Melbourne celebrated its own Centennial on May 18, 1986.

Since moving to its current location, the church has sponsored three mission churches in the Melbourne area. The facility has expanded to include Sunday school wings on either side of the sanctuary, a Life Enrichment Center, and a Memory Garden. After 128 years, it continues to play a vital role in the spiritual life of the community through programs like Habitat for Humanity, the Children's Hunger Project, and missions to Cuba and Haiti. It sponsors a Preschool; hosts "The Special Gathering" ministry with other area churches; and hosts a Filipino-American Ministry.

If Mrs. Martin Callahan and her family retraced the path that they followed to worship on Sundays in 1912, their path would lead them to 101 East New Haven Ave. They would worship with a congregation established 128 years ago in the 19th century. They would be seated in pews in a building constructed 56 years ago in the 20th century. They would "connect" with worshippers anywhere in the church campus or around the world via a recently installed Wi-Fi system in the 21st century.

During his sermon on Dec. 12, 1937, marking the Fiftieth Anniversary, Rev. Lewis Head said, "Today we enjoy the blessings that come to us through the toil and sacrifice of those who have gone before. Let us notice that we are not only the heirs of the past but likewise the trustees of the future." These words continue to apply to the congregation as it looks ahead to its 150th anniversary in 2036.

One final note, the original wooden church built in 1887 can still be found in downtown Melbourne. It has been moved three times and served as a sanctuary for the Methodists, the Presbyterians, and the Christian Church. It is currently part of the structure that houses the Grace Baptist Church at 620 Palmetto Avenue. *IRJ*

Source: *Our Spiritual Heritage: A Centennial Celebration* by Diana Sheffield

*Landmark Guides to Historic Brevard County
are available.*

Fort in a Series

EXPLORE YOUR HISTORY: LOST COMMUNITIES OF NORTH MERRITT ISLAND

ROZ FOSTER

THE DUKE & DUTCHESS OF CASTELLUCIA "DUMMITT'S CASTLE"

The seven cultivated acres were purchased in 1881 for \$30,000 by an Italian nobleman, Eicole Tamajo and his American bride, Jennie Anhauser, daughter of the St. Louis beer baron. They assumed the title of the "Duke and Duchess of Castellucia." They expanded the estate to 30 acres and built a home from heart pine and ships' timbers salvaged from a ship wreck that ran aground. The 2-story house, with an attic and seventy-foot front, and 20 mostly octagonal-shaped rooms with exception of a rectangular reception hall and a billiard room on the second floor, remained one of the area's more unique attractions for years. This odd form of architecture with narrowed gables was said to lessen exposure to gales and hurricanes. Ship beams served as corner up-rights and as sidings for two narrow spiral staircases, one on each end of the structure. Beneath one of these stairways in a small niche was the penciled signature of architect, J.J. Conwar of New York and the date of completion, December 15, 1881. It was known as the "Dukes Castle" and later as the "Dummitt Castle."



Several smaller eight-sided buildings were constructed on the property for his Italian orange growers, two boathouses, two packing houses and wharves for shipping. North of the villa was located a small octagonal shaped frame structure near the bank of the Indian River that was referred to as the "Coffee House" where coffee was served at 11am and afternoon tea at 4pm. The duke entertained foreign and American friends at elaborate hunting parties. The Duke insisted on spending his entire time hunting and fishing, while his American Duchess was concerned only with the entertainment of visiting potentates. Legend has it that when the Tamajos experienced marital problems, they had a wall built through the center of the house and the two lived separately.

Coffee House

Around 1886, the Duke's failing health led him to sell his property to Frank E. Heath of the Florida Fruit Co. and New York. The Duke then retired and returned to live in New York City. Eicole Tamajo- "The Duke"- died in April 1893 in New York City. The Duchess must have enjoyed the climate and scen-



ery along the Indian River because in January 1895 she was reported to be liv-

ing in Rockledge and getting married at the Hotel Indian River to her fourth husband, Mr. E. L. Dwyer of Oregon. Mr. Dwyer was a gentleman of large business interests, owning vast marble quarries and mining interests and had extensive railroad contracts.

In 1894, Heath sold the property for \$16,500 to Judge John Cochran of Ohio, who shared it with a group of men for use as hunting and fishing lodge.

By 1905 a member of the group, Mr. Eugene J.A. Drennen purchased the property from Mr. Cochran and became sole owner. Under Drennen's ownership, Dummett Grove supplied Florida East Coast Railway dining cars and the Flagler Hotel Chain with oranges, grapefruit, pineapples, and other fruits which he grew on the property until his death in 1916.

For many years that followed, squatters occupied the land and 4 fires destroyed many acres. The groves became neglected and eventually were non-productive. In 1937 Drennen's daughter Marguerite, a former playwright, moved to Florida and lived in the old house. She dug out all the tree roots by hand and filled in with new earth. The old trunks and limbs were cleaned up with whale oil soap, the dead growth and other trees including the pines and oaks were removed. The old trees were fed bluestone and fertilizer, and wonder beans were planted to absorb any surplus fertilizer. They knew they had good basic soil and a coquina foundation that always held sufficient moisture. The grove did just what they expected it to. After two years the big old trees were flourishing again, each yielding 30 boxes of fruit. During WWII Dummett Grove suffered another setback. With grove help no longer available, Miss Drennen planted Sea Island cotton to keep the revenue coming in and was obliged to let the grove care for itself. She also had 3 nurseries and large truck crop acreage at Dummett Grove, where she also grew mandarins, tangelos, limes, lemons, papayas, mangos, avocados, black Smyrna figs and pecans. Many developers and citrus growers tried to purchase the grove from her, but she wanted to make sure she sold it to the right people, fearing it would fall into the hands of developers and be destroyed. She had a desire and plan to beautify a portion of the old Dummett Grove as a "citrus shrine" open to the public. She sold it in 1955 to Mr. James Wallace from West Palm Beach, with hopes of developing it into an outstanding attraction for tourists. He agreed to develop and landscape 2 acres in the heart of the original Dummett Grove which was to be known as "the Citrus Shrine of America." Marguerite planned to continue living on the property to ensure the project would be completed.

By 1960, Marguerite, locally known as "Peggy," was living in Daytona Beach as mentioned in an article published in the *Star Advocate* newspaper June 3, 1960 entitled, "Plantation Has Intriguing History," written by Island Hattie. It provides us with a "SNAPSHOT" of the people, places and development of

Dummitt Plantation Estates and the surrounding area which covers approximately 300 acres:

DUMMITT PLANTATION ESTATES

Jim and Marjorie Wallace came to this area about the same time the Missile Test Center was being set up. Men coming to work here were sleeping in their cars or wherever they could find because there was not ample housing in the area. Some persuaded the Wallace's to sell them a lot to put their trailers on, and according to the article at the time this was published there were more trailers than houses. One thing was for certain, these people were determined to "put down roots" as evidenced by their wonderful gardens.

Living on Lagoon Drive, the Currys, Dondanvilles, Yorks, Smiths and Millers had their waterfront improved with a "Tahiti Beach" of their own, complete with sandy shore, shells and palm trees. Your thoughts would be of "Hiawatha" as you viewed Tom and Dora Curry taking off in their canoe to fish - he with paddle and she standing in the front. They also had a flower and vegetable garden next to their rambling home. The Dondanvilles were one of the first to purchase a lot when they moved to Dummitt Plantation Estates around 1958 when Mr. Dondanville semi-retired from the contracting business in Hialeah. Clark York fell in love with the spot and bought right next door and had his house almost complete. Ken Smith and wife spent a lot of time in this area and bought next to the Clarks and were preparing to build The R.R. Millers drove around and decided Lagoon Drive was what they'd been looking for and had started construction of their home. Homes in various stages of construction belonging to the Jones, the Bob Gays and the Scarbroughs were seen along the canal, with three more scheduled to be built this year, leaving only 7 lots available in the entire subdivision.

At one time three men of the cloth lived at Dummitt. Rev. Mullins moved elsewhere. Rev. Starling Davis moved to his parent's home which he bought to be near the new Wilson Baptist Church of which he is pastor, and is being erected on R. No 402 at the Wisconsin Village Road corner.

Most of the residents had some type of skill in the trades, and when someone started a project everyone was ready to lend a helping hand Carl Hendricks was a very civic minded person and willing and able to do anything. Several businesses were also opened Ivey Brittain migrated from the Carolinas and opened a store and service station and kept long hours to accommodate customer's needs. Johanna Fulton opened up a Drive In store and handled box lunches, etc. to go. Several residents were Legionnaires and they were planning on building a meeting hall on A1A on land donated by James and Marjorie Wallace.

It was reported at least 3 artists were residents, including Walter Newman, owner of the Newman Galleries in Philadelphia, Pa, whose paintings of birds in flight were made in his studio at Dummitt and sold around the world.

There were more than 40 families that were living at Dummitt Plantation Estates in June 1960, with approximately 40 children boarding the school bus daily.

Across from Dummitt Plantation Estates was the River Oaks Trailer Court owned by Bill and Helen and son Stanley Wiese. The mobile homes were spacious with their own boats at dock on Dummitt Bay. There was plenty of room to play and relax at no more cost per month than the fanciest place in the country.

Just to the south nestled in the trees was the home of the Ben Busbys who came to this area as an employee of the Martin Company. Ben had served as Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce and was a very active member.

In addition to the citrus grown in this area, truck gardens produced an endless variety of vegetables and fruit, with tomatoes growing to 1-1/2 lbs. and pumpkins to 50 lbs. were common.

Commercial fishing provided a livelihood for many in the area and one was Bob King who was raised in this area, and after moving to Indian River County, could not get the Island out of his system and returned to remain a Dummitt resident. Charlie Briggs was another long time fisherman. His wife visited the sick and shut-ins and gave a helping hand to anyone who needed it.

Blue Crabs provided a living for several in the area, and their crabs would go to the Orlando and Miami markets. Many employees who came from Maryland to the area with the Martin Company were crab eaters from way back, and would come to pick up live crabs to take to the beach or to their homes to steam.

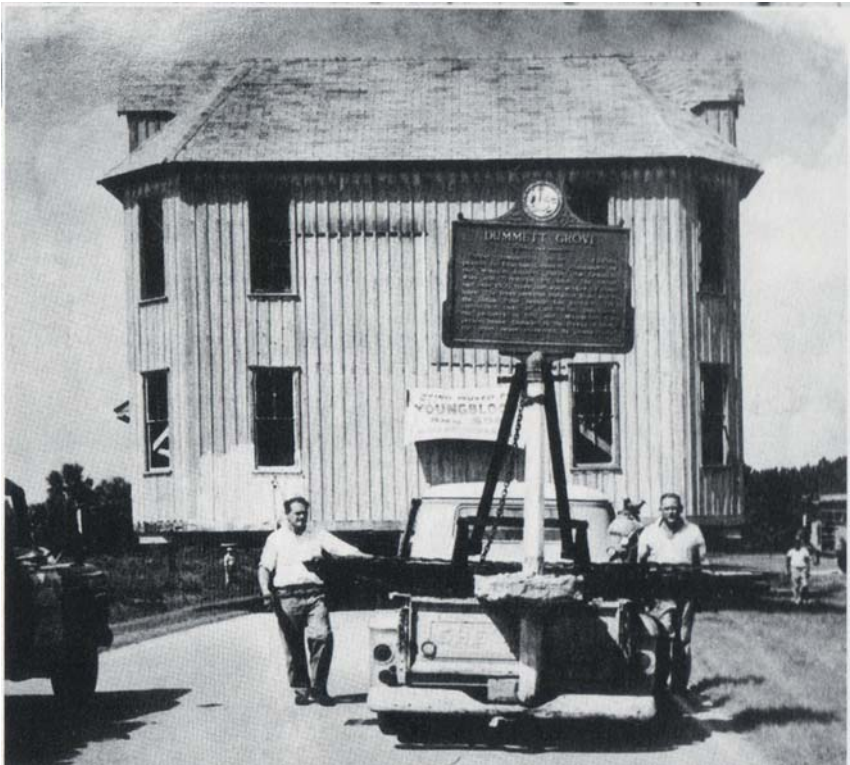
The influx of inland Floridians who came to sunbathe, swim and fish in the ocean on the week-ends increased the population tenfold, with many investing in land for future development.

The main tourist attraction was "Dummitt's Castle" and tourists would stop to take snapshots and inquire who built it and listen to stories told about the Duke and Duchess. Mr. Wallace had his famous gun collection together with many primitives suitable to that structure exhibited, and it would take all day to see everything. At the time of the article it was reported that the major moving picture studios from California with headquarters in Winter Park, were photographing it for an upcoming movie.

There is no mention of the proposed and promised "Citrus Shrine of America" ever being developed.

Dummitt's Castle remained unoccupied for several years and became badly deteriorated prior to the land purchase by NASA in 1962.

According to an article written in the Herald in 1964, a movement was started to relocate and save "Dummitt Castle" from being destroyed in the face of NASA's expansion of the Merritt Island moon launch program. Spearheaded by Brevard County Commission Assistant Richard Spangler, the Board of Brevard County Commissioners were convinced to appropriate \$3,700 to purchase and move the old house. The Brevard County Historical Commission voted to take responsibility for restoration and maintenance at its proposed new site adjacent to the Titusville Marina on the mainland, which was planned to resemble the old site on Merritt Island. Several local businesses promised to donate glass and building materials and the Titusville Women's Club was to help furnish the house with appropriate antiques to return it to its original decor.



In September 1964 it was jacked up and placed on a specially-built flatbed trailer and tractor to make the 15-mile journey from Merritt Island to a temporary site on the causeway east of the Titusville Bridge. Supervising the move was B.A. Youngblood, a professional house mover who had donated half of the cost of the \$3,000 project "in the interest of history." The House was scheduled to stay on the flatbed trailer near the eastern end of the causeway until all planned details to place it on a barge and float it across the Indian River to the mainland were completed. Spangler still had to convince the Internal Improvements Board that the site on filled land near the Titusville Marina, which was under control of the Titusville City Council, was the proper place for the old house. It remained at the causeway site until 1967 when it was set on fire by vandals, destroying one of the most historical structures in Brevard County. *IRJ*

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HISTORIC BREVARD LANDMARK GUIDE

The Landmark Guide provides the location and a brief description of some of the historical landmarks in Brevard County. We have included the GPS coordinates for those that have historical markers. We don't have all of the historic locations in there yet, but we're working towards that end. In the meantime enjoy the 80 plus that we have documented. Get your copy free of charge through the Brevard County Historical Commission by writing or calling us.


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 Central Brevard Library and
 Reference Center
 308 Forrest Ave.
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or


**E-mail us at
 Historical.Commission@BrevardCounty.us**

**HISTORIC BREVARD
 LANDMARK GUIDE**


YOUR GUIDE TO
 HISTORIC LANDMARKS
 IN
 BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA



Pritchard House
 Built 1891
 Page 18





Rockledge
 Municipal Building
 Built 1926
 Page 41



Community Chapel
 of Melbourne Beach
 Built 1892
 Page 63

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 ed to our mailing list*

GREEN GABLES / THE WELLS HOUSE

If you have driven by 1501 South Harbor City Boulevard in Melbourne recently, you may have noticed a lot of activity. Green Gables at Historic Riverview Village, Inc. is working very hard to save the Wells house from extinction.

Green Gables is still owned by members of the original family and was used until it was damaged in the 2004 hurricanes. Green Gables represents the transition of Melbourne from a pioneer settlement to a modern city. The house itself is an unusual example of what might be called vernacular Queen Anne. It was built by a local builder who presumably had only a rough idea that a Queen Anne house should have a tower and a complex roofline.

To find out how you can help, visit the Green Gables at Historic Riverview Village, Inc. website: <http://www.greengables.org/>. They also have a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SaveGreenGables>.



Then



Now

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Read the transcripts on our website:
<http://www.brevardcounty.us/HistoricalCommission/OralHistoryProject>



ABOUT THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Brevard County Historical Commission was established in 1963 by ordinance of Brevard County to "*collect, arrange, record, and preserve historical materials*" and to perform other functions such as obtaining narratives of the early pioneers, marking historical locations throughout the county, and recording historical information.

The Historical Commission is made up of fifteen members appointed by the County Commissioners. Each of the five County Commissioners appoints three members to sit on the Historical Commission.

We store our collections at our Historical Records Archive located at Central Brevard Library and Reference Center, 308 Forrest Ave., Cocoa, Florida 32922. The collections are normally available to the public during regular business hours. Please call in advance at 321-633-1794, to schedule an appointment to view our collections. We are attempting to put our collections online, however, to date we haven't reached that goal.

The Historical Commission holds regular monthly meetings at the Archive. The public is always encouraged to attend. Please call the Historical Commission's office at for a schedule of our meetings.

We have undertaken a number of projects, including:

- Publication of an official Brevard County History
- Designation of Historical and Archaeological Landmarks
- Publication of a booklet identifying the Landmarks
- Preservation of early newspapers, maps and records
- Collection of individual oral histories on video
- Publishing of a journal entitled The Indian River Journal

The Historical Commission works with many other groups and organizations in the community to preserve the County's history and archaeology. *IRJ*

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The Historical Records Archive of the Historical Commission has a lot of reference material in its collections and could prove to be a valuable research source. The Historical Records Archive is normally open for research during standard business hours. Please call first to ensure that someone will be there to assist you. The Archive can be reached by telephone at 321-633-1794.

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We have Landmark Guides to Historic Brevard County available

Contact the Commission office for your copy.

MUSEUMS

Air Force Space & Missile Museum

Space Launch Complex 5&6, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, FL
<http://www.afspacemuseum.org>

American Police Hall of Fame & Museum

6350 Horizon Dr., Titusville, FL 32780 <http://www.aphf.org/museum.html>

BCC Planetarium & Observatory

Brevard Community College, 1519 Clearlake Rd., Cocoa, FL
<http://www.brevard.cc.fl.us/planet/index.html>

Brevard County Historical Records Archive

Central Brevard Library & Reference Center, 308 Forrest Ave., Cocoa, FL 32922
<http://www.brevardcounty.us/HistoricalCommission/Home>

Brevard Museum of Art and Science

1463 Highland Ave., Melbourne, FL 32936 <http://www.brevardartmuseum.org/>

Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science

2201 Michigan Ave., Cocoa, FL 32926 <http://www.brevardmuseum.org/>

Cocoa Beach Surf Museum @ Ron Jon Surf Shop

4275 N. Atlantic Ave., Cocoa Beach, FL 32031
<http://www.cocoabeachsurfmuseum.org>

The Grant Historical House

5795 Highway 1, Grant, FL 32950

The Harry T. & Harriette V. Moore Cultural Center

2180 Freedom Ave., Mims, FL 32754 <http://www.brevardparks.com/hthvm/index.php>

Historic Rossetter House Museum & Gardens

1320 Highland Ave., Melbourne, FL 32935 <http://www.rossetterhousemuseum.org/>

Liberty Bell Memorial Museum

1601 Oak Street, Melbourne, FL 32901 <http://www.honoramerica.org/>

Library of Florida History

435 Brevard Ave., Cocoa, FL 32922 <http://www.myfloridahistory.org/>

Old Town Hall History Center

Ann Downing, Public Relations, 2373 Oak St., Melbourne Beach, FL 32951

The North Brevard Historical Museum

301 S. Washington Ave., Titusville, FL 32782 <http://www.nbbd.com/godo/history/>

U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame

6225 Vectorspace Blvd., Titusville, FL 32780
<http://www.kennedyspacecenter.com/astronaut-hall-of-fame.aspx>

U.S. Space Walk of Fame Museum

4 Main St., Titusville, FL 32796-3567 <http://www.spacewalkoffame.com/>

Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum

6600 Tico Road, Titusville, FL 32780 — <http://www.vacwarbirds.org/>

Veterans Memorial Museum

400 South Sykes Creek Parkway, Merritt Island, FL 32952
<http://www.veteransmemorialcenter.org/>

HISTORICAL ORGANIZATIONS

Brevard County Historical Commission

Central Brevard Library & Reference Center, 308 Forrest Ave., Cocoa, FL 32922

Brevard Cultural Alliance

2725 Fran Jamieson Way, Building B, Room 104, Viera, FL 32940

<http://www.artsbrevard.org/home.php>

Brevard Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 1123, Cocoa, FL 32923-1123 <http://www.flbgs.org/>

Brevard Heritage Council

P.O. Box 31, Cocoa, FL 32923 <http://brevardheritagecouncil.org/>

Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation

P.O. Box 1978, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920 <http://www.canaverallight.org/>

Civil War Round Table of Central Florida

P.O. Box 255, Sharpes, Florida 32959-0255

Cocoa Beach Pioneers

580 South Brevard Ave., Cocoa Beach, FL 32931-2529

321-783-8389, mmayorjoe@aol.com

Cocoa Beach Resident Historians

c/o City Clerk's Office, City of Cocoa Beach, P.O.Box 322430, Cocoa Beach, FL 32932-2430

321-868-3286

Daughters of the American Revolution

Mrs. Bill H. Keller, 336 Rio Villa Blvd., Indialantic, FL 32903 321-773-6271

Florida Historical Society

435 Brevard Ave., Cocoa, FL 32922 <http://www.myfloridahistory.org/>

Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN)

Florida Historical Society, 435 Brevard Ave, Cocoa, FL 32922

321-690-1971—<http://www.fpaneastcentral.org/>

Genealogical Society of North Brevard

P.O. Box 897, Titusville, FL 32781-0879 <http://www.nbbd.com/npr/gsnb/index.html>

Grant Historical Society

P.O. Box 44, Grant, FL 32949

The Historical Society of North Brevard

301 S. Washington Ave., Titusville, FL 32789 <http://www.nbbd.com/godo/history/>

Indian River Anthropological Society

Dave McDonald, President P. O. Box 542022, Merritt Island, FL 32954-2022

<http://www.nbbd.com/npr/archaeology-iras/>

The Mosquito Beaters

George "Speedy" Harrell, President 435 Brevard Ave., Cocoa, FL 32922

<http://www.mosquitobeaters.org/>

National Railway Historical Society

Florida East Coast Chapter, P.O. Box 2034, Cocoa, FL 32923-2034

<http://www.trainweb.org/fecnrhs/>

North Brevard Heritage Foundation, Inc.

Roz Foster, President, P.O. Box 653, Titusville, Fl. 32781

<http://www.nbbd.com/npr/preservation/>

HISTORICAL ORGANIZATIONS (CONTINUED)

Preservation & Education Trust, Inc.

1219 Rockledge Drive, Rockledge, FL 32955 <http://www.petrust.org>

Rockledge Heritage Foundation

11 Orange Avenue, Rockledge, FL 32955—321 632-2712

http://rockledgeheritage.org/_wsn/page4.html

Sons of the American Revolution

Ben DuBose, 950 Falls Trail, Malabar, FL 32950. 321-952-2928

South Brevard Historical Society

Carol Andren, Pres. P.O. Box 1064, Melbourne, FL 32902-1064

<http://www.southbrevardhistory.org/>

Town of Melbourne Village Historic Preservation Commission

Jean Henderson, Secretary, 321 724-0070

ONLINE SERVICES

Brevard County Historical Commission

<http://www.brevardcounty.us/HistoricalCommission/Home>

Brevard County Historical Maps

<http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/maps/county/brevard/brevard.htm>

Florida Historical Museums

http://www.floridasmart.com/attractions/museums_hist.htm

The Florida Historical Society

<http://www.myfloridahistory.org/>

The Florida Memory Project

An interactive Web site of Florida history, photos and letters

<http://floridamemory.com/>

Public Records Management

Services to state and local governments

http://dlis.dos.state.fl.us/index_RecordsManagers.cfm

Services to Genealogists

Researching your family history at the State Archives of Florida

<http://dlis.dos.state.fl.us/barm/fsa.html>

The State Library of Florida

Collecting, preserving and making available the published history of Florida

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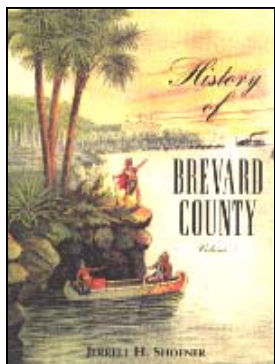
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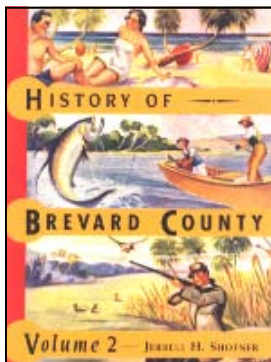
Try as we might to keep the previous lists accurate with up-to-date information, it seems that changes occur that we don't know about until after publication. If you know of a needed change, see an error or have an addition to what we've presented, please let us know. Call us at (321) 633-1794.

THE HISTORY OF BREVARD COUNTY

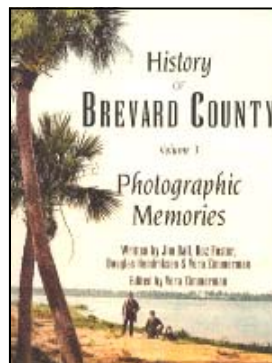
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