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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
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Lifetime	250.00
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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
P. O. Box 1064
Melbourne, FL 32902-1064



South Brevard Historical Society, Inc.

Founded 1966

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

www.southbrevardhistory.org

May 2010

HISTORICAL CONVERSATIONS

Please join us

Saturday, May 8th, 2010

3:00 P M

Melbourne Public Library

540 E. Fee Avenue, Melbourne

Join the SBHS for a Saturday afternoon visit with a panel of folks who have known South Brevard for most of the 20th Century. Our conversation will be led by Diane Barile and will include Jackson Vaughn, a figure well known to our community.

Jackson Vaughn, an attorney in practice in Melbourne for over sixty years will tell of South Brevard in the Florida Boom years, the Great Depression, World War II and the Space years. His repertoire of stories of people, our towns and events are intriguing.

News from your board.....

The SBHS Board of Directors is proud to propose Weona Cleveland as an Honorary Member of the Society. Honorary Membership is conferred upon an individual whose activities have substantially contributed to the purpose of the Society. Her research and writing have enriched the Brevard community for decades, helping us understand our history and promoting an appreciation of our heritage. Please join us at our June meeting when we officially vote to recognize the outstanding work of this respected historian.

(Please read Ed Vosatka's article on page 3.)

Dear Members and Friends...

Last month I proposed that we think of the SBHS as in a state of reinvention rather than reorganization. I also wrote that you would be asked to help by sharing your ideas, views and most definitely your active participation.

To get the creative ball rolling, this month's question is: If we were a start up history group today, what would we look like?

For example: when would we meet, would we have regular programs, if so, on what topics? Would we collect things? Would we have a museum, history center or maintain an archive or historical material for research?

This is just a start. You can phone me with your ideas, mail me at the PO Box, or, email me at:

2candren@earthlink.net

Carol Andren
President, SBHS
(321) 725-4115

PS....Through this newsletter we hope to keep you informed about events and information from around Brevard especially from South Brevard. Thank you to those who contribute articles and updates and are making this newsletter job so much easier.

HELP WANTED!

Do you enjoy opening packages at birthdays and holidays? Enjoy puzzles? Like "old stuff" and appreciate the way things used to work? Fancied yourself a detective?

If so, you sound perfect to assist with the inventory of our "collection". We are "unwrapping" and evaluating items that remain from when the SBHS had a museum at the Henegar Center.

To volunteer, call Ed Vosatka, Collection Chairman. (321) 259-2133

SBHS CALENDAR

June 12th

In 1955 the little town of Melbourne and the nation were stunned by the brutal murder of Patricia Van Eeghen and her daughter Phylis. Philip Van Eeghen was soon charged and later he would be the suspect in the "accident" of his son, Rodger, one year earlier.

Learn the details of this sensational murder and all the twists and turns that followed.

July and August

We take a summer break but will resume our programs in September.

Around South Brevard

Melbourne Beach

Through May at the Old Town Hall History Center

"The Facets of Florida Art"

An exhibit of Florida themed art by 20 local artists.

The Center is open Saturdays from 11 - 3 and will be open Mothers Day, Sunday May 9th from 11 - 3.

Everyone is invited to attend and enjoy this fascinating, intimate look at our home state. The History Center is located at 2373 Oak St, Melbourne Beach across from Spessard Holland Golf Course. Admission is free.

For more information, call 676-0660

Historic Rossetter House Museum & Gardens

Mother and Daughter Victorian Tea

Sunday, May 9 2:00 PM

Come for tea on the patio and wear your finest hat. Includes a House Tour, Croquet on the lawn and old fashioned Bingo.

\$15 per person Call to RESERVE. 254-9855

Ghost Tours

Fridays, May 7, June 4, and July 2 at 7 PM

\$7.50 per person Call to reserve. 254-9855

For more information about tours and other activities go to: rossetterhousemuseum.org or phone: 321-254-9855

The ROSSETTER HOUSE is located at 1320 Highland Avenue in the Eau Gallie Arts District of Melbourne.

beginning in June

FPAN and the Florida Historical Society will present a SUMMER FILM SERIES at the Florida Historical Society headquarters, 435 Brevard Avenue in Cocoa Village.

For information on their programs and the dates of the Summer Florida History Film Festival go to: www.myfloridahistory.org or phone: 321-690-1971.

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.

Weona Cleveland

Contributed by Ed Vosatka

A genuine Georgia peach, born in the heart of Atlanta between Peachtree and East Peachtree, Weona Lamb Cleveland came to Melbourne in January of 1961 at the request of Radiation Inc., and worked in their travel department.

In 1971, Weona joined the *Melbourne Times*, and, later, *Florida Today*, as a journalist. Over the next 15 years she penned columns on native plants and local history, gaining a wide following and recognition for her up-close interviews and often humorous stories about the people, places and things that make up Florida's Space Coast. She continued free-lance writing after retirement. She wrote the historical markers found throughout Melbourne and Eau Gallie.

Weona is no stranger to history. Her 3rd cousin, Dean Ivan Lamb, was an American mercenary aviator who participated in what is believed to be the first airplane dogfight ever (with pistols) in November 1913 during the Mexican Civil War.

She has several books and booklets to her credit, including *Melbourne: A Century of Memories* (1980), *Crossroad Towns Remembered* (1994) and *A Historical Tour of Melbourne* (1999), and is currently working on another. Outside of Florida, her books can be found in the Library of Congress, the Allen County (Indiana) Public Library, the Tulsa (Oklahoma) City-County Library, and the Vaughan Evans Library at the Australian National Maritime Museum in Sydney.

Weona was appointed as Honorary County Historian by the Board of County Commissioners in 2006, and, in 2009, received the prestigious Julius Montgomery Pioneer Award from Florida Tech for her research and series of stories on local black history. She has also received many journalism awards. Her proudest personal accomplishment, though, lies in her historical walking tours of old Eau Gallie and Melbourne.

She lives in Melbourne with her feline family. Her daughter, 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grand children live near Arlington, Texas.

Thank you, Weona, for being my friend and fellow historian for over 30 years.

ABOUT BREVARD

We'll be presenting a series of articles about other history organizations and projects in Brevard County. SBHS member and newsletter contributor, Sandy Wilson, graciously agreed to start us off with this information about Melbourne Beach.

The Town of Melbourne Beach has two history boards with separate objectives. The first history board started as an ad hoc committee known as the "Williams Building Committee". During this phase the group raised funds and carried out extensive repairs and renovations to the Old Town Hall Building located on Oak Street across from the Spessard Holland golf course.

In 2006 the committee became a 7- member board and was renamed the 'History Center Board' with the responsibility of preservation work at Old Town Hall. The Old Town Hall is largely self supporting through the board members fundraising with a little help from the Town for utilities and minor maintenance. The Old Town Hall now sits on Brevard county property and is owned by the county but was originally located in Ryckman Park.

The second board is the "Melbourne Beach Historical Preservation and Awareness Board" also consisting of Town residents appointed by the Town Commission. This Board is funded by the Town Commission but holds fundraising events also. The main focus of this Board is the repair and maintenance of the Ryckman house located in Ryckman Park. The 'Old Post Office', the Community Center, and the Melbourne Beach pier are also historical sites under the supervision of this Board. All of these structures are located in and owned by the Town of Melbourne Beach.

LOOK FOR

Kellersberger Fund Publications including: *Rooted in Florida Soil*, by Julia Lake Kellersberger and *Pineapples are Never Black or White*, by Harry Goode, Sr. at our monthly meetings.