

THE JOURNAL OF THE  
BREVARD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

# THE INDIAN RIVER JOURNAL

*Volume IV, Number 1*

*Fall 2005*

**Brevard County Historical  
Articles & Features  
Organizations & Activities  
Announcements & Reviews**



**Early Brevard County Post Card**

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**THE INDIAN RIVER JOURNAL**

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# THE INDIAN RIVER JOURNAL

Volume IV, Number 1

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**A Post Card of the Titusville Station, Titusville, Florida**

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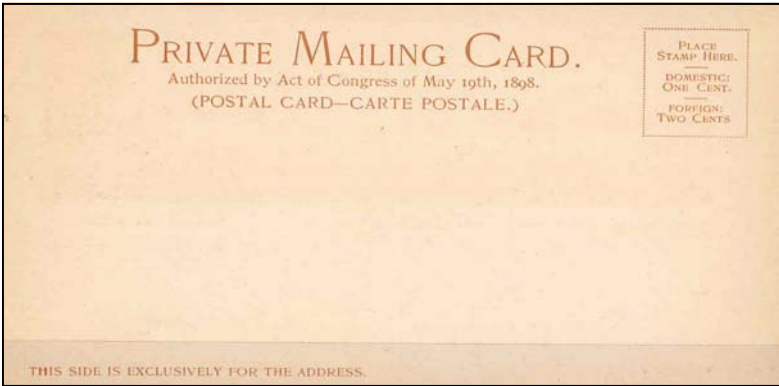
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## COLLECTING EARLY BREVARD COUNTY POST CARDS

By  
**Douglas G. Hendriksen**

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Brevard County was one of the earliest places in Florida to have post cards published showing local scenes. Rockledge was a tourist destination as far back as the 1880's. The earliest privately published post cards were known as Souvenir Cards and Private Mailing Cards (PMCs) both of which came into existence when an Act of Congress, passed on May 19, 1898, permitted their use.



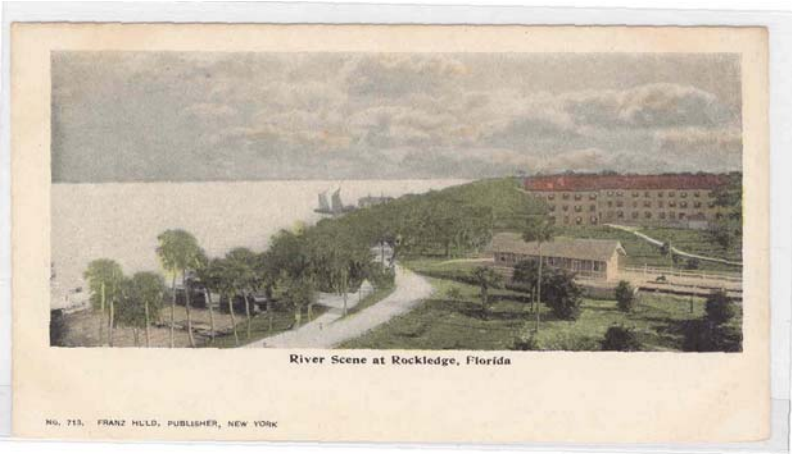
**Private Mailing Card**



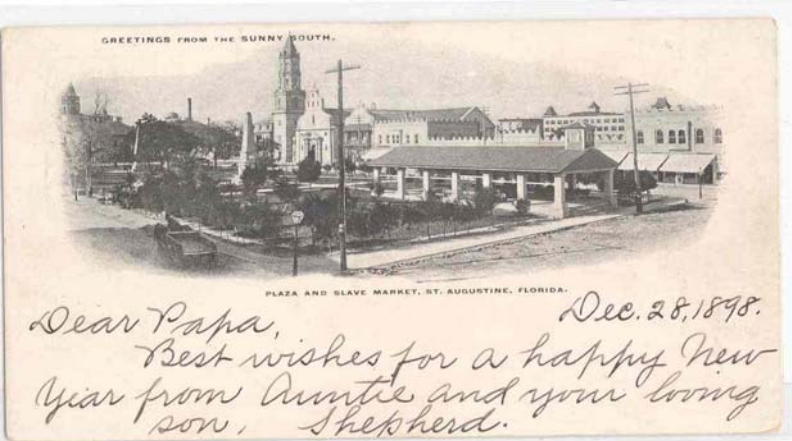
**Plaza Hotel**

The earliest known Florida post cards are dated from 1898. In 1902 the Detroit Publishing Company published at least three PMCs of Rockledge. There were a scenic multi-view, a view of the Hotel Indian River, and a view of the Plaza Hotel.

However, the Franz Huld Company of New York was not far behind when it began publishing post cards of Rockledge, six of which are known with such views as Singleton’s Cottage, the “New Rockledge” Hotel and the Plaza Hotel.



**Franz Huld Company’s River Scene at Rockledge, Florida**



**USPO Rule Left Little Room for Writing**

Franz Huld did publish Florida PMCs but none are known of Brevard County.

One feature of early post cards was the USPO rule that the back of the card could only be used for the address. Senders were forced to write messages on the front of the card or not send a message. As messages destroyed the ambience of the card and were particularly disliked by senders and collectors, the USPO soon changed its regulations to permit messages to be written on the back of the post card. Thus came into being what is known in the post card collecting world as the divided-back post card, which are still in use today.

Another feature of early post cards is what is known as the double-wide or panoramic post card. In some cases these cards were in actuality up to five post cards wide or were in rolls that could be three to four feet long. Known panoramic post cards in Brevard County are of the Hotel Indian River which also shows the riverfront and road in front of the hotel. These were published by Earle E. Ranck, Rockledge, Fla. and the Chilton Company of Philadelphia, PA.



**Double-Wide Post Card**

As these early post cards proved to be very popular, it did not take long for other companies to start publishing colored post cards. Starting around 1905 post card collecting became a craze in the United States, which followed behind Europe where private post cards had been permitted years earlier than in the United States. Brevard County did not miss out on this craze as many publishers in the US sent salesmen to Brevard County. Notable among these companies were Rotograph, Valentine and Sons, Hugh Leighton (Valentine & Leighton later merged into the Leighton & Valentine Company), Detroit, Franz Huld, PSC Company, American News, E .C. Kropp, G.W. Morris, Asheville Post Card Company: Tanner Souvenir Company, Raphael Tuck and Sons, Albertype, Bosselman and ARTVUE. This is not to say that black and white post cards of Brevard County did not exist. These were published by such well-

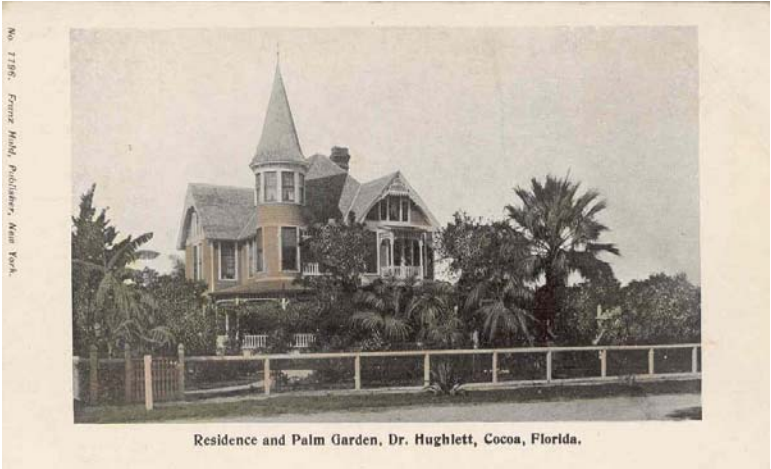




**Example of an Early Color Post Card  
(Shown here in gray scale)**

known companies as Underwood and Underwood, Dexter Press, Wm. Kasbohm of St. Cloud, Fla., White Studio of Titusville, Fla., Rotograph and ART-VUE.

Brevard County collectors are given “some” help in collecting early Brevard County post cards as many companies serially numbered their cards. The emphasis here is on “some” as the numbers of some publishers may include cards



**Example of a Franz Huld Company Numbered Post Card**

from outside Brevard County or be of a different numbering series due to different years of publication.

Some of the rarest and most sought after Brevard County post cards are what collectors call Real Photo Post Cards (RPPC). These were photographs taken and published by early Brevard County and itinerant photographers. In some cases the photographic concern is known, such as Blair in Cocoa; Eastern Illustrating Company, Belfast, Me; The Photo Shop, Whitehall, MI; and the Florida Photographic Concern, Ft. Pierce, Fla., but in many cases the photographer



### Example of a Real Photo Post Card (RPPC)

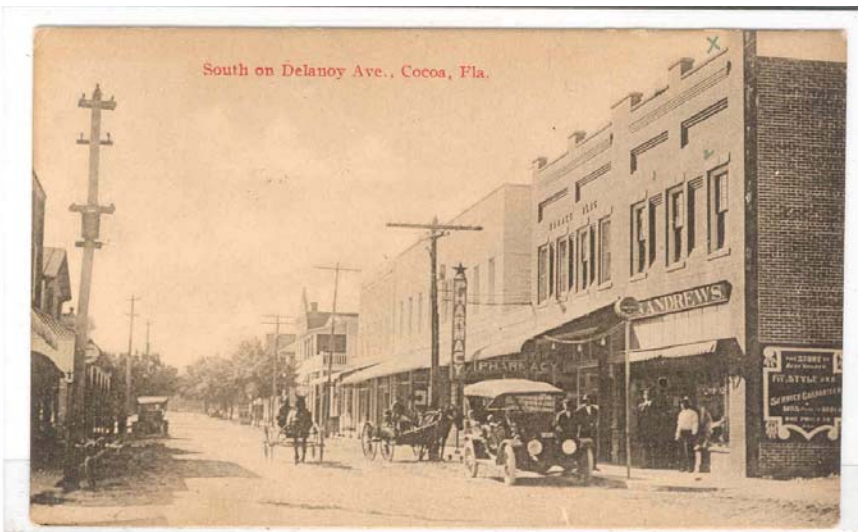
was not identified. The reason for the rarity of these post cards is because these photographs were printed on photographic stock by photographers, who made a limited number of copies. These post cards were not as attractive to early collectors as the colored post cards. Many of them were not included in post card collections unless they had a special meaning to the collector. As the number and sophistication of Brevard collectors has increased, the price of Brevard County RPPC's, in some instances, has gone into the hundreds of dollars. These tend to be very early RPPC's depicting scenes such as main streets, railroad depots and store fronts. The stamp box marking on the back of the post card identifies the date of the post card to a sophisticated collector.

As post cards became more and more popular Florida and Brevard County entrepreneurs began publishing post cards. Early post cards were for the most part printed in Germany and England. Brevard County post cards were published by Blair's Art and Gift Shop, Cocoa, Fla., Earle E. Ranck, Rockledge,



Fla.; Banner Drug Store, Titusville, Fla.; F. Bergmann; R.F. Allen, Cocoa, Fla.; The H & B Drew Company, Jacksonville, Fla.; The Cochrane Company, Palatka, Fla.; The Valencia, R.L. Davidson, Proprietor; W. L. DeGraff, Melbourne, Fla.; J.F. Campbell and Company. The Bazaar, Melbourne, Fla.; J.P Cooper; and Chas. D. Provost and son, Georgiana, Fla.

Brown tone post cards were also published just prior to, during and after WWI by an unknown publishing company. These post cards are considered important to the history of Brevard County as they depict such scenes as the City Dock in Cocoa, Bank of Cocoa, south on Delaney & north on Delaney in Cocoa, Florida.

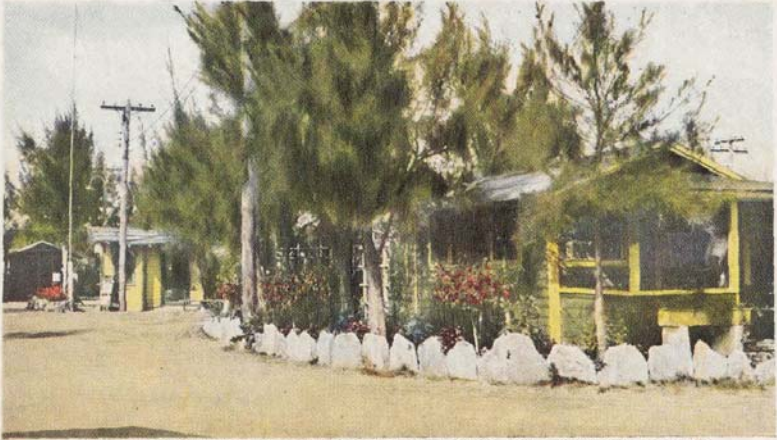


**Brown Tone Real Photo Post Card of Delaney Avenue in Cocoa, Florida**

An unknown publisher also published at least 3 known over-sized post cards of the Midway Tourist Colony, Melbourne, Fla. (3&7/8" X 5 &7/8"). These post cards are very difficult to find in very good to fine condition as they are constantly exposed to undue wear in post card dealers' stock.

Even more rare than early RPPC's are early Brevard County trade post cards. Although not highly sought after by advanced Brevard County post card collectors, due to the general lack of knowledge of their existence, these post cards are an important addition to the history of Brevard County. The follow-

MIDWAY TOURIST COLONY, MELBOURNE, FLA.



ONE OF THE ATTRACTIVE COTTAGES IN THE SECTION RESERVED FOR MONTHLY AND SEASON GUESTS.

**Midway Tourist Colony, Melbourne, Florida**

ing post cards of “Melbourne’s Sulphur Bath Pools” from 1914 and the Rockledge Presbyterian Church are prime examples.



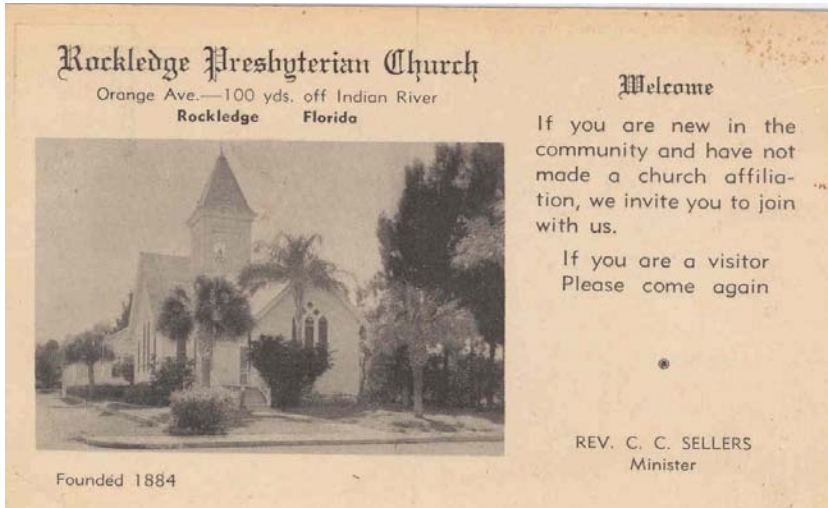
**MELBOURNE'S SULPHUR  
BATH POOLS**

Located at the west end of Melbourne avenue  
only a short walk from the railroad station  
**MELBOURNE, FLORIDA.**

**T**HESE sulphur pools, three in number, consists of one small pool for little children and two large pools for adults, one with water four feet deep and the other from four to seven feet deep. The water comes from an artesian well on the grounds and is strongly impregnated with sulphur. The pools are constructed of cement and convenient dressing rooms are at hand.

A small fee is charged for the use of the pools and a bathing suit.

**Post Card of Melbourne’s Sulphur Bath Pools**



### Rockledge Presbyterian Church Post Card

Other types of early Florida post cards are those known as “event” postcards. These were usually published one time for a special event. Few are known from Brevard County. Events such as the burning of the waterfront warehouses in Eau Gallie during 1917; the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade in 1914 from Rockledge; the May 4, 1922 May Day parade in Cocoa; and, the 1940 All States Tourist Club Fish Fry at Cocoa Beach are known examples.



**Burning of the Waterfront Warehouses in Eau Gallie during 1917**



**All States Tourist Club Fish Fry in Cocoa Beach**

The L.L. Cook Company of Milwaukee, Wisconsin published numerous real photo post cards of Brevard County and other places in Florida during the 1940s and 50s. These post cards cannot be considered rare but are much sought after by collectors due to their quality and the scenes they depict from many collectors' youth.



**High Quality Scene of Barbour's Yacht Basin, Eau Gallie, Florida**



In looking at “series” post cards from different Brevard towns, we see that in Titusville, the then County Seat of Brevard County, a series of post cards published ca. 1916 by the Gilbert Post Card Company, Chicago. The series numbers as follows:

#3091 - Main Canal Entering Rock Cut, Depth 33 Feet. Titusville Fruit and Farm Lands Co., Indian River City, Fla.

#3092 - Main Canal of the Titusville Fruit and Farm Lands Co., Indian River City, Fla.

#3093 - Unknown

#3094 - Opening Dam in the Canal of the Titusville Fruit and Farm Lands Co., Indian River City, Fla.



**Gilbert Post Card Company's Post Card #3094—Opening Dam in Canal**

#3095 - Unknown

#3096 - C.C. Hansen and one of his 8 Month old Grapefruit trees on the Prairie of the Titusville Fruit and Farm Lands Co., Indian River City, Fla.

The Cochrane Company of Palatka, Fla. produced the following post cards of Titusville:

M--12913 - Orange Grove in Titusville, Fla.

M--12914 - Unknown

M--12915 - Unknown

M--12916 - Residence of T.B. Knight, Titusville, Fla.



**The Cochrane Company's Post Card M--12918 - A Good Days Hunt**

M--12917 - Residence of C.H. Walton, Titusville, Fla.

M--12918 - A Good Days Hunt, Titusville, Fla. (L.A. Brady, P.J. Hall, Frank Hall, Loyd Peacock)



**Post Card of the Residence of A.B. Tull, Titusville, Florida**



M--12919 - unknown

M--12920 - Residence of E.B. Wager, on waterfront, Titusville, Fla.

M--12921 - Residence of A.B. Tull, Titusville, Fla.

The Rotograph Company of N.Y. City distributed a series of Titusville, Fla. Post cards published in Germany, some of which were:

54218—Canaveral Light House, Titusville, Fla.

54219—Captain C. F. Fisher's Residence, Titusville, Fla.

54220—The McCoy Home, Titusville, Fla.

54221—A Business Corner, Titusville, Fla.

54222—A River Home on River Front, Titusville, Fla.

54536—Courthouse and County Jail, Titusville, Fla.

54784—The Starling, Titusville, Fla.

54926—View Taken From City Dock, Titusville, Fla.



**The Rotograph Company's  
Canaveral Light House**



**The Rotograph Company's View Taken from City Dock**

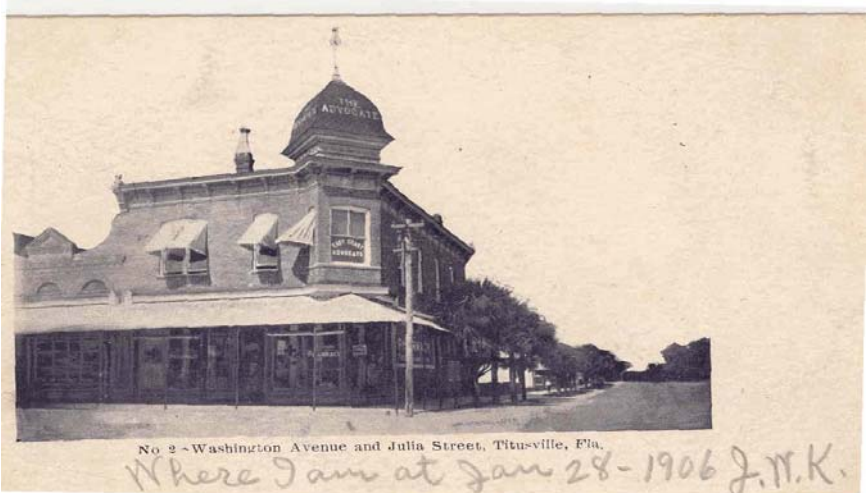
The American News Company of New York published the following Titusville, Fla. post cards:

6851 – Julia Street, Titusville, Fla.

6852 – Titusville Station, Titusville, Fla.



**The American News Company's Post Card of Titusville Station**



**The American News Company's Post Card of  
Washington Avenue and Julia Street**

- 6853 – Indian River Hotel, Titusville, Fla.
- 6854 – Mending Fishing Nets, Titusville, Fla.
- 6855 -- The Shore by Captain Nelson's Residence, Titusville, Fla.
- 6856 – Titusville From the River Front, Titusville, Fla.
- 6857 – Along the Shore of the Indian River, Titusville, Fla.
- 6858 – Scene in the Park, Titusville, Fla.
- 6859 – Washington Avenue, Titusville, Fla.

There are many other early Titusville, Florida series for the collector to discover and track. The same is true of other early Brevard County communities. Of special note is an extremely rare unnumbered post card series taken by Blair around 1908 which were published by F. Bergmann, the known ones are:

- Shore at Merritt, Fla.
- Store and Post Office, Merritt, Fla.



Store and Post Office, Merritt, Fla.

Pub. by F. Bergmann

### **F. Bergmann's Post Card of a Store and Post Office, Merritt, Fla.**

- Cottage on Indian River, Merritt, Fla. (This was the home of Otto & Elizabeth Grosse where Col. Louis Thursby died just prior to WWI)
- Col. L. Thursby's Residence, Merritt, Fla. M. Thompson's Residence, Merritt, Fla.
- Landing Riverview Hotel and Electric Plant, Merritt, Fla.
- Cottage at Merritt, Fla.
- J. Dardonville Residence, Merritt, Fla.



**F. Bergmann's Post Card of Col. L. Thursby's Residence, Merritt, Fla.**



**F. Bergmann's Post Card of Landing Riverview Hotel and Electric Plant**

- Banana Patch at Riverview Hotel, Merritt, Fla.
- Carter's Alligator Farm, Merritt, Fla.
- Dingle Dell on County Road, Merritt, Fla.

In conclusion, if it were not for the numerous pictures that were taken by astute early photographers for post card publication, which were cherished by so many collectors, a lot less would be known about the communities we live in and how America developed from a rural agrarian society to the world power it is today.



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## HISTORY OF BREVARD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE Part II: 1900 TO 1960

A compilation by Joan Heller of stories from Jerrell H. Shofner's  
*History of Brevard County and Cocoa: A Living History*  
By James A. Drake and Joseph R. Moss

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In 1905, another major boundary change occurred. The portion of Brevard County east of the St. John's River and south of Sebastian Inlet was broken away to create a new county. Like many other Brevard County residents, Sheriff Brown strongly opposed the re-alignment and was reported to have ridden throughout the county collecting petition signatures in opposition. Nevertheless, the realignment legislation passed easily. Adopting the name once used by Brevard County, the new county was named St. Lucie. On the western side of the St. John's River, Brevard continued to stretch southward to Lake Okeechobee.

In 1908, the Brevard County Jail was destroyed by fire and was quickly replaced by a new facility. Speaking of the "modern" brick facility in its columns seven years later, the Titusville East Coast Advocate reported that the jail rarely housed more than two or three inmates.

It was not, however, a lack of crime that kept the jail population to a minimum. Brevard County, like the state and many other counties, had enacted an inmate leasing system in which inmates were leased as labor to the highest bidder. Successful bidders paid the county for the inmates' work and provided them food and secure housing. The inmate was to remain in the custody of the bidder until the end of his sentence.

In one such lease, negotiated in 1905, a private company with a large turpentine operation obtained the services of "every able bodied man convicted in the courts of the county" at a cost of \$15 per inmate, per month.

Records of the day indicate that a number of inmates were shot to death while trying to escape and the inmate leasing system drew increasingly stronger public protests over the abuse of basic civil rights. The practice was outlawed at the state level in 1919, but continued at the county level for another four years. As the practice of inmate leasing was coming to an end, Brevard County officials were trying to answer the public's demand for more and better maintained roads. Attempting to solve the road problem and find a cost-effective way of handling the inmate population, they put the convicts under the supervision of county road and bridge crews.

By 1913, Brevard County's sheriff had his hands full impounding hogs. After years of debate and court challenges by the cattlemen, Titusville town officials enacted an ordinance that put the burden of fencing on the cattlemen. The new ordinance required them to fence their ranges to keep their animals on their land. Until then, the burden fell to other property owners who had to build fences to keep animals off their property. Although the cattlemen did succeed in defeating an unlimited "no fence law," the 1913 Legislature made it a crime to allow hogs to run loose and empowered the sheriff to impound those found roaming.

The sheriff had a good deal more than stray hogs to occupy his time over the next several years. Among the incidents reported in local newspapers: two men apprehended for stealing one of Brevard County's few cars in 1916, the inmate population of the "county bastille" reaching 28 (mostly for illegal liquor sales), a man caught with burglary tools and two bottles of nitroglycerin, a former Brevard resident shot to death as he walked out of a Ft. Pierce barber shop, a leading citizen of Grant shot to death on the road to Valkaria and another prominent citizen found guilty of mishandling funds from an estate.

In 1917, fisherman and businessman L. W. Dolittle succeeded Sheriff Brown in office. He didn't remain there for long. Florida was, at the time, led by Gov. Sidney Catts who was fast earning a reputation for his impulsiveness, his willingness to interfere in local government and his predilection for removing local officials from office – with or without cause. Catts apparently became angry at Brevard's new sheriff and promptly replaced him with Minor S. Jones, the son of a powerful and respected local judge. Dolittle would later regain his lost office, running again in 1920 and winning the election.

Toward the end of Sheriff Jones' term, passage of the Volstead Act ushered in Prohibition. In July 1920, Sheriff Jones and one of his deputies seized a touring car at the Turkey Creek Bridge. Inside the car: 200 quarts of bootleg liquor. Federal officers soon arrived in the area and, after apprehending two men on Washington Avenue in Titusville, raided a Titusville home from which liquor was reportedly being sold. During the raid, the suspect's wife seized a weapon from one of the agents and held them all at gunpoint as her husband tried to destroy the evidence. Both were ultimately arrested, along with four other men found at the home.

Historian Jerrell Shofner indicated that incidents involving illegal liquor sales grew more frequent, and more bizarre, later in the 1920s.

In one incident, a sheriff's deputy found a boat, loaded with rum, tied up on a



river bank in North Brevard. After a gunfight, the deputy captured several men and took them and their boat to Titusville. The following morning, Sheriff Dolittle announced that someone had stolen the boat and the rum during the night.

One of the decade's most sensational local events also was tied to bootlegging. The infamous Ashley gang, which had gotten its start in bootlegging operations south of Brevard County, had by 1924, graduated to bank robbery. Tipped off by south Florida authorities, St. Lucie County Bank officials learned that their business was being targeted by the Ashley gang. When the gang members arrived, they found the bank closed. Continuing northward into Brevard County, the gang members found local authorities waiting for them. Their car stopped by a chain stretched across the Sebastian River bridge, the gangsters got out and attempted to shoot it out with Brevard lawmen. Four were shot to death where they stood.

Several years later, in 1926, a boat washed up on Melbourne Beach with 130 cases of liquor and two dead men aboard.

Enforcement of the Volstead Act was a campaign issue in 1928. Supporters of Sheriff Dolittle claimed that the challenger, Roy F. Roberts, would likely be lenient in enforcing anti-liquor laws. Nonetheless, Roberts defeated the two-term incumbent and continued to strictly enforce the law with the help of his two deputies, M. B. Rodes of Melbourne and H.T. Williams of Cocoa. During his first 30 days in office, Sheriff Roberts and his deputies were reported to have destroyed 20 stills. Also during this period, eight men were caught with 500 cases of whiskey aboard a boat. All were tried and convicted.

Illegal liquor sales continued to be a problem for Brevard County's sheriffs even after repeal of the Volstead Act in 1933. After Prohibition ended, Sheriff Roberts and his deputies continued to break up illegal stills. The sheriff was quoted at the time as saying, "There is no excuse for them since beer is legal."

Another major problem for Brevard's sheriffs of the 1920s was the emergence of the automobile.

With a population of 8,500 in 1920, there were 749 cars registered in Brevard County. By 1927, the number of registered vehicles had soared to 6,000. Greatly inflating this 700 percent increase in vehicle registrations was Brevard County's explosive new tourist industry. To accommodate the demands of residents and visitors, roads were built at a frantic pace throughout the 1920s.

The county's only north-south artery, Dixie Highway, was widened, straightened and surfaced with asphalt in early 1920s.

In 1921, the first bridge from Titusville to Merritt Island opened. Three years later, Cheney Highway opened to "year-round" traffic and created the first reliable link between Central Florida and the Titusville-area beaches. The same year, a newly-opened bridge linked Melbourne and Indialantic. That bridge project brought tourists flocking to the fashionable beachfront "Indialantic Casino."

All of the new vehicles, tourists, roads and bridges created headaches for Brevard's sheriffs. By 1925, speeding was becoming a major concern to local residents. To address it, Sheriff Dolittle assigned five deputies to a new motorcycle squad to patrol Dixie Highway.

At about the same time, Brevard's "warden of county convicts" was overseeing construction of a work-farm for county inmates. Those not engaged in road building projects cultivated groves and crops on a 60-acre site that included secure housing for the prisoners.

There is little doubt that members of the Brevard County Sheriff's Office were on hand to provide security and crowd control in 1936 when President Franklin Roosevelt was driven by car from Winter Park to Titusville where he boarded a Florida East Coast Railway train.

The following year, Sheriff Roberts was succeeded by one of his deputies, H.T. Williams. Serving from 1937 to 1957, Sheriff Williams held the record for the longest tenure, a record that endures today. He was Brevard County's first, and to date, only 20-year sheriff.

Brevard County's tourism boom continued until the 1940s when wartime gas rationing made long-distance car travel all but impossible. What it lacked in terms of tourists, Brevard made up for in an increased military presence. By 1940, the population of Brevard County had grown to more than 16,000 and an estimated 4,000 cars a day were using Dixie Highway. With construction completed in the fall of that year, the Banana River Naval Air Station opened south of Cocoa Beach. Deactivated in 1947, the Navy base would be transferred to the Air Force and renamed Patrick Air Force Base two years later.

Further increasing Brevard's military presence, Melbourne was among four Florida cities to acquire a naval flight training facility in April 1942. Pilots who trained there practiced dive bombing and carrier landings at a primary

field in Valkaria and a secondary field in Malabar. The base was closed in 1947. A third base, leased to the Civil Aeronautics Administration, was built on the present site of the Space Center Executive Airport south of Titusville.

By the end of the war, Brevard's population had grown to 19,000. But even as the county took on a more cosmopolitan character, Brevard's sheriffs were still struggling with some old-fashioned problems, not the least of which was the issue of roaming livestock. Despite a strong lobbying effort by Brevard's ranchers, voters dedicated in 1948 to prohibit "horses, cows, sheep, hogs, goats or other domestic animals from running at large in Brevard County."

In 1950, as workers were preparing to launch America's first primitive rocket from Cape Canaveral, Brevard County became a national focal point in the struggle for Civil Rights.

Mims school teacher Harry T. Moore emerged as a leader in the Progressive Voters League's efforts to encourage voter registration among black residents. Both Moore and his wife Harriette had been dismissed from their teaching jobs and were working in Vero Beach by 1950. As Moore was serving as state secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People the following year, periodic cross burnings, arson and racial violence were occurring throughout Florida. As part of his work with the NAACP, Moore openly criticized Lake County Sheriff Willis McCall's handling of four black suspects who had been accused of sexually assaulting a white woman. As the controversy continued to swirl around Sheriff McCall, the Moores returned to their home in Mims to spend Christmas with their family. On Christmas night 1951, a bomb exploded under the Moores' home. The bomb, planted under the couple's bedroom floor, killed Moore as he slept. Mrs. Moore was taken to a Sanford hospital where she soon died.

Sheriff Williams and Deputy Clyde Bates, launched an investigation and called for outside help. They were soon joined by FBI agents dispatched from Daytona Beach.

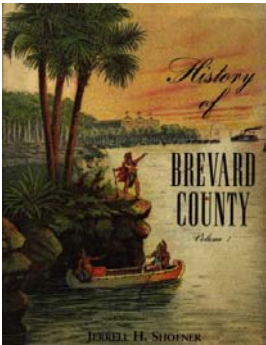
Despite leads that pointed to the Ku Klux Klan and the offer of rewards of \$2,000 from Gov. Fuller Warren, \$5,000 from the NAACP and an additional, unspecified amount from Brevard County officials – the case went unsolved and remains so today.

As the infant space program continued to develop, Brevard County suffered growing pains. In the late 1950s, most residents apparently saw no reason to lock their doors. Until the space boom – and the flood of strangers it brought –

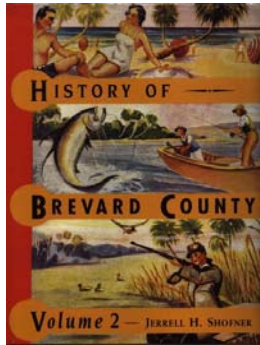
local residents were more concerned about snakes and mosquitoes than about criminals. By the early 1960s, however, the burgeoning space program was bringing about change considered exciting by some, troubling by others. New residents migrated to the area in record numbers and, for the first time, residents were complaining not just about speeding, but about traffic congestion.

## The History of Brevard County

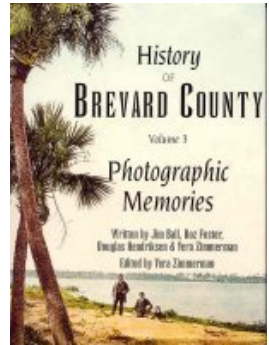
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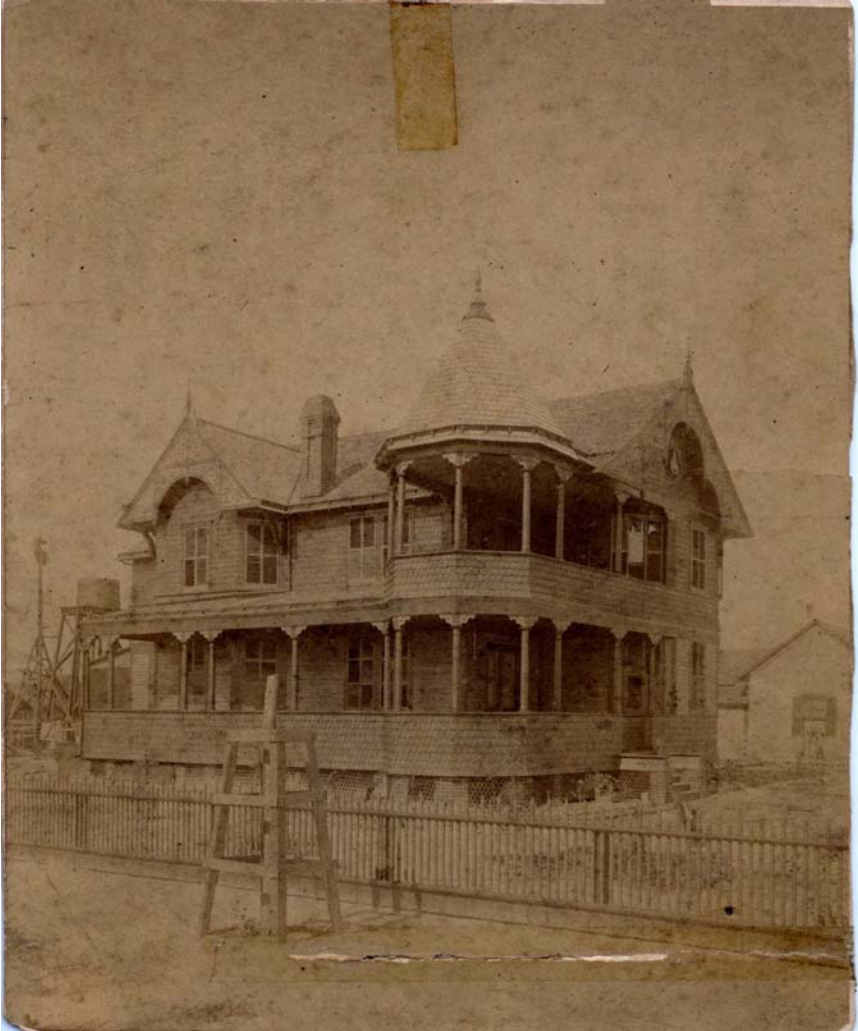
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**COUNTY PURCHASES 1891 PRITCHARD HOUSE,  
NEW FOUNDATION SUPPORTS RESTORATION EFFORT**

By  
**Jim Ball**

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This two-story Queen Anne-styled home was erected in 1891 at Wash-



**Early Photograph of the Pritchard House**

ington Avenue and Pine Street in Titusville by Capt. James Pritchard, who had served as a Missouri infantry commander during some of the hardest fought campaigns of the Civil War.

Brevard County acquired the historic Titusville landmark from the Pritchard family in April 2005 and has applied to the Florida Division of Historical Resources for a grant to aid in the home's restoration. To assist the county in both the restoration of the home, and its future operation as a house museum, a new charitable foundation has been established, the North Brevard Heritage Foundation, Inc.

The Foundation will also pursue other historic preservation projects and activities, but is focusing its initial energies on the "Pritchard House Restoration Fund" to provide support beyond the limited amount of grant funding available. The group is asking Brevard residents who value historic preservation to join in the effort to restore and operate the house.

Donors can make checks payable to the North Brevard Heritage Foundation Inc. and note "Pritchard House Restoration Fund" at the bottom. The Foundation also welcomes individuals and organizations with special skills to contribute to the project. If you wish to volunteer, enclose a short note with your contact information and describe how you want to help. Mail your contribution to:

*Pritchard House Restoration Project*  
*Mariel Sisson, Secretary*  
*525 Indian River Avenue*  
*Titusville, FL 32796*

The Pritchard family came to the Indian River frontier in 1876 to settle on land that was a part of the original Spanish grant to Joseph Delespine. Mary Boye Pritchard, who married Capt. Pritchard in 1867, was heir to a portion of the Delespine Grant. The family established their first home at Pritchard's Landing, located where U.S. 1 meets



State Road 50.

A devastating freeze in 1886 prompted Capt. Pritchard to abandon citrus agriculture and turn to real estate and banking. For a time, he traveled by canoe or by horse and buggy to Titusville to conduct business. Capt. Pritchard moved his family to the growing community a few years later. He organized the Indian River State Bank in 1888, building a brick structure on the corner of Washington and Julia Street. He also built the town's first electric generating plant.

Capt. Pritchard bought the lot on Washington Avenue and Pine Street from the widow of Henry Titus, and began clearing it for his new home in June 1891. The Pritchard family continuously occupied the structure until April 2005, when they agreed to sell the historic home to Brevard County for preservation as a house museum.



**Recent Photograph of the Pritchard House**

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**55 YEARS AGO**

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**Bumper 8 Launch**

On July 24, 1950, Bumper 8 became the first missile launched at Cape Canaveral. Bumper was a multi-stage rocket that included a V-2 rocket and Wac-corporal upper stage. Liftoff occurred about a mile from the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse at Complex 5.

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## ONLINE SERVICES

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**Brevard County Historical Commission**

<http://www.brevardcounty.us/history/>

**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](http://www.floridasmart.com/attractions/museums_hist.htm)

**The Florida Historical Society**

<http://www.florida-historical-soc.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](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

<http://dlis.dos.state.fl.us/stlib/>

**The State Archives of Florida**

Preserving the past and present for future generations

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

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**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON  
THE PUBLICATION OF  
THE INDIAN RIVER JOURNAL**

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The Indian River Journal has been published inconsistently since the first issue in the fall of 2002. Our original intent was to publish it quarterly. A lofty goal for a group of volunteers with jobs, families, other historical interests and other historical projects to manage. A more realistic schedule is a semi-annual publication. In the future, we will strive to meet that goal.

In the past, we have published a total of four volumes of The Indian River Journal. The previous volumes are as follows:

Volume I, Number 1                      Fall 2002  
    Cover Story - The Town of Indialantic Turns 50

Volume II, Number 1                     Summer 2003  
    Cover Story - Fort Ann and the Second Seminole War

Volume II, Number 2                     Fall 2003  
    Cover Story - Hurricanes

Volume III, Number 1                    Spring 2004  
    Cover Story - The Indian River Mosquito Wars

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Ed Bradford  
Chairman, Brevard County Historical Commission

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## **HISTORICAL ORGANIZATIONS:**

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**African American Preservation League**, Helen Williams, President, 321-638-3805, Meets at Field Library 7pm, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays

**American Police Hall of Fame & Museum**, 6350 Horizon Dr., Titusville, FL 32780

**Alma Clyde Field Library** (Florida Historical Society), 435 Brevard Ave., Cocoa, FL 32922

**Brevard Cultural Alliance**, Kay Burk, President, 2725 Fran Jamieson Way, Building B, Room 104 Viera, FL 32940

**Brevard Genealogical Society**, Jacque Rubins, President, P.O. Box 1123, Cocoa, FL 32922-1123

**Brevard Heritage Council**, c/o Alma Clyde Field Historical Library, 435 Brevard Ave., Cocoa, FL 32922

**Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science**, 2201 Michigan Ave., Cocoa, FL 32922

**Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation**, Dr. David Paterno, President,

**Florida Historical Society**, Nick Wynne, Executive Director, 1320 Highland Ave., Melbourne, FL 32935

**Genealogical Society of North Brevard**, Randy Hill, President, P.O. Box 897, Titusville, FL 32781-0879

**Grant Historical Society**, Ruby Lord, President, P.O. Box 44, Grant, FL 32949

**Indian River Anthropological Society**, Tom Pender, President, 3365 Heather Dr., Titusville, FL 32796

**Liberty Bell Memorial Museum**, Rachel Felton, Curator, 1601 Oak Street, Melbourne, FL 32901

**The Mosquito Beaters**, George "Speedy" Harrell, President, 435 Brevard Ave., Cocoa, FL 32922

**National Railway Historical Society**, Florida East Coast Chapter, Chuck Billings, President, P.O. Box 2034, Cocoa, FL 32923-2034

**North Brevard Historical Society**, 301 S. Washington Ave., Titusville, FL 32789

**Preservation & Education Trust, Inc.**, Carol Pope, P.O. Box 560823, Rockledge, FL 32956-0823

**Rockledge Heritage Foundation**, Amanda Mitskevich, 27 Barton Ave., Rockledge, FL 32955

**South Brevard Historical Society**, Betty Preece, President, P.O. Box 1064, Melbourne, FL 32902-1064

**Town of Melbourne Village Historical Preservation Commission**, Jean Henderson, Secretary, 724-0070

**Williams Building Committee**, Ann Downing, Secretary, Old Town Hall Historic Center, 2373 Oak St., Melbourne Beach, FL 32951

# THE INDIAN RIVER JOURNAL

The Brevard County Historical  
Commission  
801 Dixon Blvd., Suite 1110  
Cocoa, Florida 32922