

The Indian River Journal



The Journal of The Brevard County Historical Commission

Volume IX, Number 1

Spring / Summer 2010



Circa 1930s

The First Congregational Church of Melbourne, Organized in 1889
Story on page 2

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

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Ann Downing
Mary Anne Correll
Roz Foster
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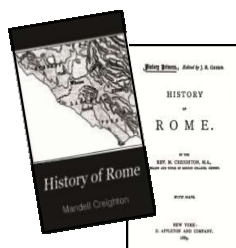
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The First Congregational Church of Melbourne

(and the Men and Women who established it)
by Ann B. Downing

December 6, 1889.—That was the date of a meeting at the home of a prominent businessman, Mr. Edward P. Branch and his wife Abbie. Prior to that date, beginning in 1887, there had been bible study and worship meetings. These sessions led to the decision to invite a representative from the American Home Missionary Society to assist the group. Rev. Alexander B. Dilley came and prepared a *covenant* to serve as the first step in creating the church. That December, 5 men and 7 women became the charter members by signing the covenant.

Mr. Edward P. Branch	Mrs. John H. Phillips
Mrs. Abbie S. Branch	Mrs. A.O. Phillips
Mr. John R. Lyman	Mr. Grant Sherbon
Mrs. Harriet M. Lyman	Mrs. Amanda Thomas
Miss Cordelia March	Mrs. Mable Nash Stewart
Dr. A. E. Lyman	Mr. Louis Lyman

Perhaps the list indicates a precedent of so many women being active in all phases of the progress of the church. The preceding information came from an original ledger book which provided information from 1889 to 1918.

Following the signing of the covenant, one gentleman and two ladies wrote the Articles of Faith and Statement of Principles. With these important documents in hand, the group was ready to proceed. Obviously the next step was to plan for the construction of a building. While considering this next step, the Methodist-Episcopal Church offered space in their building until the newly organized group would have a church building of their own. This arrangement lasted well over two years.

The Reverend Pell of Iowa served as pastor in 1891. In that year, a vote was recorded that the members should raise \$200 for expenses and then should ask the American Home Missionary Society for \$400 for pastoral services. The envelope system of offering was adopted at that early date.

Finally in 1892, it was decided to apply for a grant of \$500 from the Congregational Church Building Society. The corner lot of Washington Street (Hwy 1) and Second Street (Strawbridge) was donated by Mr. W. H. Powell. The members signed a contract with Mr. R. J. Anderson for the construction of the church at a cost of \$2,065. And on October 12, 1892, the Clerk of Court of Brevard County received a notice of filing of the Articles of Incorporation for

the First Congregational Church of Melbourne. These very important steps were taken when the church membership showed only eleven members.

In the present day mentality of *construction on credit* with loans and mortgages, it is remarkable to note that the “Building Committee” resolved to proceed with construction and then to pay all bills pertaining to the new building **before** the Dedication Ceremony. Those bills amounted to the sum of \$2,442.12. Also remarkable is that precise records were kept showing the monies collected in order to actually pay all bills.

\$974.53	members
207.00	Melbourne residents
247.00	winter residents
364.50	friends in the north
79.50	entertainments
500.00	Congregational Church Building Society
<u>139.59</u>	Mr. Branch Special Appeal
\$2,512.12	

There was \$70 leftover for an Organ Fund.

Worship Service in the sanctuary began on Sunday, July 2, 1893 and that ushered in a momentous week for the small town of Melbourne. The first “work train” of the Jacksonville, St. Augustine, and Indian River Railway (now the Florida East Coast Railway) reached the community. Also the Melbourne State Bank opened its doors for the first time. All this in one week.

The important Dedication Ceremony was held at 7:00 P.M. on March 18, 1894 when the church was debt free. The audience was so large that additional chairs had to be brought in from nearby homes. The choir furnished music and a duet was sung by Mrs. Abbie Branch and Mrs. R. J. Anderson with accompaniment by organist Miss Snedeker. The Sunday edition of the Melbourne Times stated that “There is not a more attractive church building on the coast south of St. Augustine.” Mr. E.P. Branch wrote in his notebook, *“Altogether the occasion was a most interesting and profitable one.”*

All these happenings signaled good progress, but now the problem was that it became difficult to keep a resident minister. The Rev. John C. Williams stayed for only one year. Within a span of ten years, there were about five more ministers and most of those came only to spend the winter months.

An important exception to the short-stay pastors was The Reverend Elmer W. Butler who came from Alabama for six months but stayed for six years. His ministry began on December 9, 1894 and ended on December 6, 1900. At that time, he moved to the Congregational Church in Ormond Beach taking his papers and notes with him. It was a loss for the Melbourne Church in that their

pastor not only left but also took his papers with him. This included an Anniversary Sermon.

However, fate or circumstance or good luck or something intervened in that those papers were discovered in Ormond Beach and returned to Melbourne.

One of the documents was a manuscript of a complete sermon with margin notes which was written for the 10th Anniversary of the Church. The value of the actual sermon was recognized and later repeated by the Reverend Steven Hudder on December 3, 1989 during the 100th Anniversary of the First Congregational Church of Melbourne.

Now getting back to the beginning of the new century, there was another accomplishment which was in the fundraising and construction of the parsonage. The small congregation continued to accept money from the Home Missionary Society for pastoral services but managed to contribute to the Congregational Church Building Society, and two missionary groups. Additionally, the Ladies Circle kept busy with ice cream socials, made clothing for children, cleaned and repaired the parsonage and sent a donation to the California earthquake victims.

By 1911, funds were raised for the addition of pews. By 1915, wiring was installed for electricity. Because of the location of the church on the corner of two main streets, it was sometimes referred to as the "Tourist Church." There were many tourist homes and hotels near Front street and the railroad station was very close.

In 1913, a Mrs. Strange inaugurated an annual reception for winter visitors. These were happy and successful affairs which made northerners feel welcome and influenced many to become residents and church members. These special members were referred to as the "Wayside Associate Members" and the church started being known as "The Wayside Church."

Progress continued for the organized church right on through the "twenties." There was an explosion of people arriving by car and train such as tourists, investors looking for land and persons looking for jobs. The Ladies Circle brought in missionary speakers, held musicals and plays, and the fundraising dinners were moved from Front Street up to the church property. Membership was as high as 181 persons. The building underwent major changes with additions on all four sides. These changes were being completed as the economy crashed in 1929 but at this time gave the building the configuration as seen today. The "Crash of the Thirties" reduced membership to about 100, and the town of Melbourne lost half its population.

Then came the war years when the Navy Station and the contributing businesses caused a fluctuating member base. Things improved in the fifties so

much so that the Ladies Circle reorganized as the Women's Fellowship and was divided into five circles of worship, all of which contributed to many worthy causes. The circles provided programming for the Fellowship and also participated in the denomination's state women's organization. New additions in the fifties included an Education Annex of 3900 square feet, stained glass windows and the wonderful installation of air conditioning.

Circa 1900s. Hendrikson collection—History of Brevard County, Vol. 3, p. 184



In 1959, as the church celebrated a 70th Birthday, the Congregational Christian Church denomination merged with the Evangelical and Reform Church and that proved to be a difficult transition for some members. However the congregation recognized that it had to move ahead with the times. A preliminary step was the formation of an Interdenominational-Interracial School of Prayer. This move and other similar innovations, took the church membership out of just a local institution and into a state and national level such as the World Day of Prayer. Perhaps it is important to mention here the presence of a fellowship called "The Men's Club." On January 1, 1957, the Men's Club observed Ladies Night with a supper served in the Melody Room.

The coming of the Space Age had a definite impact on membership which soared briefly to 273, although there was some loss when portions of the Space Program were transferred to Houston. Continuing with the years from 1960 to 1990, there were plans to relocate further west and a house there was used as the parsonage. There was a consideration of merging with the Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church and the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). All of these plans did not succeed. But there were some significant events that did

succeed. The church underwent a merger and became the United Church of Christ – Congregational. A second worship service was introduced, the building began to house a “cold night shelter” and the 100th Anniversary was celebrated.

But more progress and modernization was to come in the 90’s. First, a financial adviser was consulted. Second, a new computer system was installed. Then a new organ and the gift of a modern keyboard instrument enhanced the music department and a second service was added introducing contemporary music. All of the musical progress was due to a new Music Director, Chris Rakauskas and the contemporary service became known as the “Flock That Rocks.”

Also during this period, there was a major renovation of the interior which took place in 1992. Altogether the 1980’s and 1990’s were years of regeneration, renewal and renovation of the facilities. Governance and programming were addressed. And the most modern and remarkable step was that a woman pastor, The Reverend Alicia Rapp, was called to lead the Church.

The subject of moving to a larger piece of land had been discussed over the years and finally an affirmative vote was taken. The congregation then took steps to purchase 20 acres on Riviera Drive in Palm Bay. On January 3, 2000, the original building was sold to a new and promising congregation called His Place Ministries thereby solidifying the continuance of a useful and spiritual presence in the grand old building.

The dream and proposal of The First Congregational Church in Melbourne began 121 years ago, and the church building is now 117 years old. It is interesting that the church once was known as a Tourist Church, and also was called The Wayside Church. The congregation of members eventually changed the church name and location but the building is still standing and serving a vital mission on one of the busiest corners in Melbourne.

In the final analysis, the bricks and mortar of this building – so remarkable and historical – really must give testimony to the extraordinary efforts of the men and women throughout the years who labored and contributed to the creation and continuance of The First Congregational Church of Melbourne.

Acknowledgement and appreciation to the following:

Carol Robinson
 Malcolm E. Robinson
 Weona Cleveland
 Betty Bedini

“THE PARSONAGE”

1300 North U.S. 1, Titusville, Florida
by Mary Anne Correll

This familiar house that graciously sits on the west side of U.S. Hwy 1 in Titusville, just south of Temple Baptist Church, is scheduled to be demolished to make way for development of an assisted living facility and a memory loss care center. The North Brevard Heritage Foundation, Inc., a 501c3 historic preservation organization, has been working with the State and private individuals to save the structure. The Foundation has requested that the Winter Haven developer consider the idea of donating this historic structure to an interested party and selling them the small piece of land that the house sits on. The party has agreed to restore the house for historic preservation. The 1923 Whitaker House is listed on the State Master Site File as a historic structure of Brevard County.

What follows is an interesting history and description of the house, and stories about the people and keepsakes that make a house a “home.” It was lovingly written by Mary Anne Correll, wife of Pastor Wendell Correll of Temple Baptist Church. Both are now deceased, but their legacy lives on. Houses aren’t built like this anymore, and with purpose and love as true as this.—Roz Foster

(The following is reprinted from a pamphlet that Mary Anne Correll dedicated to her son, Greg, and last updated on 5/11/92. In order to preserve the original character of the pamphlet, it is reprinted with minimal editing and grammatical corrections. —Ed.)

Welcome to the "Old Whitaker House"!

This house and the coquina wall which used to stretch in front of it, have been a landmark in Titusville and the east coast area since 1923. The location of this house was meticulously chosen. Mr. Calvin H. Whitaker had worked many years on the railroad and loved his work, so it became his greatest desire to build his house right where the train blew its whistle each day. And he did—and son Edgar.

There is probably not another house anywhere built as this one. For footers, we are told he used steel railroad rails, driven down to the bedrock—some 47 feet. We certainly believe it because each time a train goes by, the house gently responds with vibrations. We can always tell when a train on the faraway track near the water's edge is running because some little something will almost silently start vibrating and with keen ears we can detect the far distant whistle.

This is not the only place of sturdiness in this old house. The walls are block but poured solid with concrete! This was alright before the electronic age bal-

looned, but it would be unprintable the thoughts of the first electricians who attempted to put (and did) electrical outlets in those walls!

Mrs. Edgar Whitaker, whom we lovingly call "Aunt" Ruby, lives just down the road, and some day she and I will sit down and write more of the history of this house and area. For instance, some of us "new-comers" didn't know that Brevard Lumber used to be right next door!



From the first time we discovered U.S. 1 in July of 1967, we saw this house, loved it—longed for it but never dreamed we would ever live in it. It's amazing how many people felt just the same as we did about the place. How many times down through the years do we meet someone who says, "I tried to buy that house." God had a plan for this house for His glory and we are so glad!

While looking for church property on which to build a bigger church building, the Lord had led Wendell to the Kingman property adjoining this land and Mr. & Mrs. C. B. Kingman had sold it to the church at a wonderful price of \$2,000 per acre for 14 acres. While repairing a billboard that was on the newly acquired acreage, in the Spring of 1971, Wendell was approached by Calvin Whitaker, the son who owned this house and said, "Preacher, the church needs to buy my house." We came that [night], and although neither of us had ever seen inside, I knew we wanted this house, but Wendell had given me strict instructions to say nothing. The house was unfinished inside—rafters showing, bare electricity—only a finished kitchen and a bathroom upstairs, yet we saw the possibilities, and I immediately nudged my husband and nodded "yes"—but I didn't say anything. As we were leaving we stood at the front door and an

agreement was made for the church to buy it and 5 acres for \$17,500. Two very excited people went home that [night].

On Sunday, Wendell had the men of the church come and look, then unanimously voted that the house should be bought. After the vote, bless her heart, our beloved friend of nearly 30 years, Mrs. Charles "Ma" Baugher stood and said, "I don't want my pastor to live in a barn!"—and she meant it with all the emphasis she could give—she was "agin" it! Wendell assured her that he knew it was love prompting her, but that the motion was passed and she would see that God was in it. Down through the years, nobody in the church wanted more to bring their friends and loved ones on a tour of our home than did "Ma." She was so proud of it.

And so the house was bought and the renovation started in the spring of 1971. Since Christmas of 1968 we had been living in the parsonage on Hillcrest. When we first knew the Lord was leading us to Titusville in July of 1967, there was no salary, but beside the 30x60 church building there was a small parsonage, 5 rooms and a bath, in which the 6 of us lived for 1½ years, then with \$600 of our money we made a down payment on 615 Hillcrest and felt like we had died and gone to heaven with 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, heat and air!

We immediately fixed up the house and lived happily there until the day Mr. Whitaker suggested the church needed his house. The renovation proceeded all summer, then upon returning from a trip to the Holy Land, Wendell informed me that he would advertise the house for sale the next week. I was in a state of shock, but not for long because I had much to do. He did advertise it and the first day it was on the market, the first and only people to look at it, bought it, so with the \$4,000 down payment the Whitaker house was renovated.

Hectic days of hard work were done here with the help of so many wonderful volunteers, then [nights] we could retire to the peace of our home in Forest Hills.

During all the years since the house was bought in 1971 and hurriedly renovated, we had plans to fix it up, and so whenever maintenance was needed it was always put off "until we fix the house." So with the exception of painting it 2 or 3 times in those 16 years, very little was spent on it.

Down through the years we were hampered by the lack of space to entertain a group of over a dozen or so, so it was our desire to have a "great" room, that we could comfortably have groups from our church family over. Having been put on the back burner for so many years, the church was within 2 months of being paid for when arsonists burned our sanctuary, so of course farther back on the back burner it was moved, until finally the go-ahead to put down my ideas was given. This was gladly done and once again the Lord had the man

standing in the wings who could take those ideas, see them even better and put them down on paper. That was Mr. John Fanton. His brilliance has made this expanded "Country Spanish" style house into a Spanish Hacienda!

While plans were being drawn, I was packing china. My hobby had crept everywhere—from my china painting room to closets, under beds, utility room—only another china painter would understand. Boxes and boxes were packed and lugged to a place of safety, I thought—Jill's old bedroom which had originally been the bathroom of the house when we acquired it.

How wrong could I have been! The folding stairwell to the attic was in this room! Needless to say, every workman had, at one time or another, to go through [this room].

RENOVATION STARTED

Finally the action started under the capable leadership of William ("Turp") Wallace and his crew on Monday morning, May 12th. They started by tearing off the old front porch. By Friday, the old house seemed to stand straight and bare and my job for that day was to move all the contents of the utility room. With a heavy heart I was working, because our older son, Kim lay in Mexico City, very ill. Nevertheless, the job was accomplished, and on Saturday we went to Mexico City where our beloved son at 37 years of age, "finished his race early" and went home to be with the Lord.

From that time on, the days were full and confused with the house being torn down around us, but as Wendell said: "the only thing worse than living here, would be NOT living here!" "Turp" and crew were as thoughtful as could be, but the mess of reconstructing is unbelievable. Some of the tasks that seemed so impossible to do were all done, and once again better than even we had planned. More than once his genius in the job was so apparent, and not only that but he just happened to love his pastor and family and he wanted what was best for us and the church. After his crew was finished, then came the roofers, the stucco crew and the alarm crew, windows and carpet installers, none of which were as thoughtful as the Wallace bunch or the Salmon plumbers. So many others helped—Tom, Bill, Dennis, Granville, John, Terry—long, hard hours, Mike—on and on and I'm sure I could never recall all!

So after 14 long months of dust, grime, pounding, sawing, and living in an absolute mess with privacy at a premium, we could now see the fruits of the many, many hours of labor. On Friday [night], July 17th at 10:30 p.m. Greg finished the last job to be done before Open House on Sunday afternoon! Somehow all the grime that comes with repairing of old objects was clean and ready for the 20th Anniversary of Temple Baptist and open house for all to come and see. It was a great day, and a day when all seemed to rejoice in the

parsonage of Temple Baptist Church. It is a wonderful, comfortable home in which to live and a true joy to keep clean. It is our prayer and heart's desire that the verse of scripture on the tile in the foyer, that has been one of the guidelines of our lives, will be until the Lord calls us home:

Joshua 24:15b

"But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

This tile is just about the first thing you see as you enter the foyer. Norm Dodson did the lettering on the tile on short notice only hours before the tile layers were to lay it. The fountain you see was a gift of our children for Christmas, 1986. They had hooked it up in the court yard area, and made us trudge out in our robes to see it at 8:30 Christmas morning! We love it.

While in the foyer you will see the old oak hall tree which was my mother's and daddy's, and that too, we refinished years ago.



Not only is the house historical but one thing we would never change about the house is the fireplace. It was made out of coquina and in 1971, the coquina stone was an aged, unattractive color, as well as the black strips of material which held it together. We immediately painted it white and I was happier, though some were not—thinking I had desecrated the natural Florida stone. They didn't have to live with it—we did!

The mantle over the fireplace was hand poured by the Whitakers, and in it the elder Mr. Whitaker put his family history. When we moved here we were told that the stars on the front ledge (which were painted gold—and which I had over-painted) denoted the family members. The center star, with a new moon on either side, was the head of the family, Mr. Calvin H. Whitaker. To the right of center was another star, denoting his first wife, then following were 3 stars, denoting the children he had by that union. This Mrs. Whitaker died and he married again, so the star on the left was Mrs. Whitaker #2, and the 3 stars following were the children born to them. Just lately someone said they had always heard that those stars were pure gold. In checking with Aunt Ruby, she laughed and said, "No way!"

In the living room area we have some special pieces of furniture; an old spool cabinet, which was used in the general store that belonged to Wendell's Mother and dad, which we refinished and Greg put it on legs. On it sits an early model of an electric, portable Singer Sewing Machine, found at a sale next door to Mrs. Wilkes' Boarding House on Jones street in Savannah, Georgia. And it sews really good!

In that part of the living room sits a round coffee table, one that Kim and Brenda had used in Mexico, so is cherished as is the large credenza and 2 matching lamp tables which they had refinished together while in Mexico.

In the same area, on an east wall, is an original quilted hanging, by our sister-in-law, Kathy Brandon, incorporating the colors we have used throughout the house.

The antique tapestry French Provincial couch also was willed to me by Aunt George, and without the encouragement of my dear cousin Susan Price of Paducah, I might never have followed through the difficult task of getting it here. This was accomplished in June, 1990, by Greg and Sheri, who sacrificed and came in a truck to the family reunion in Brownsville, Tennessee, and loaded it up at my sister Evelyn's home and brought it back. I could never tell you the warmth and blessing it has added to have it in our home. My aunt was such a Godly woman that even her former possessions seem to exude special memories of her and the Lord she loved.

Many of the pictures on the walls are original artist paintings, some from aunts on both sides of my family and others of local artists, June DeMoss with the covered bridge, and several originals given to us by Helen Williams that have come from all over the world. We treasure each piece of art that has been given to us.

One last item in this part of the living room area is a chair that we don't even know how to describe, but have had to watch closely or it would have

"mysteriously disappeared" on numerous occasions. Wendell was out calling in Detroit one day with Wayne Sweezie, and while driving down Grand River Avenue, saw this chair sitting out on the sidewalk: in front of a used furniture store. Wendell asked [Wayne Sweezie to go see how much the chair was and Wayne came] back and said, "\$8.00." Wendell said, "Go tell him I'll give him \$5.00 and put it in my car. The man took him up on it and they left with the chair. It has been a constant joy all these years—has served as more thrones, etc. than could be counted!

In the outer part of the living room sits the small secretary desk which was bought at an estate sale in Detroit (for \$5) when Jill was a baby, and I had antiqued it, so I stripped all of that off, and brought it back to the beautiful cherry wood.

The old upright piano is one I had inherited from my Aunt Georgia Brandon, who went home to be with the Lord in September, 1990 in Benton, Kentucky. Because of the hard work and determination of a loving cousin, Judge Brandon Price, in Paducah it is now sitting in our living room. On top of the piano are some pictures of special sentimental value. The one of Wendell & I cutting our wedding cake and the picture of Kim and Wendy at ages 1 & 2 were framed and presented to us by our sister-in-law, June Correll. She and Richard had bought the family home in Somerset and in October, 1986 it burned to the ground but those two pictures survived! Then, what a joy recently, to get a special present from my cousin Sterling Lock in Paducah—my baby picture! I could hardly believe it—never knew there was one! She also sent one of me as a girl with my special cousin, Billy Lottinville, who lived in Oklahoma and died as a teenager. That isn't on the piano but in a special family grouping over the loveseat in the living room.

All of my life I had dreamed of having an old pump organ, and my dreams were fulfilled when Anne Ensley decided she had to sell her organ that was a family heirloom. We all felt it was made to sit in that corner and adds much nostalgic joy to the music end of the living room. The claw foot stool was worth the price of the organ, and Greg made a new leg and refinished it for me as a most treasured gift.

The baby grand piano, we bought back in 1960 for \$350, and it was valued at the time at \$1500. We had seen the ad in the paper and went out to a beautiful home and bought it. The man who owned it also owned a bar, so we were thankful to be able to get a good deal and give it a Christian home!

The Hammond organ we bought in 1963 and had given it to Kim as part of his inheritance when they were called to Mexico City. It never got there, but sat in storage for 5 years. When it came home with Brenda's things she insisted we have it back. That is a wonderful addition to our room, loaded with memories.

The antique Parlor Set we feel was a gift from heaven. Being so busy with the house and so much to do left no time to shop, but one day Greg, Sheri and I hurried across town at the lunch hour to see wallpaper on sale. The store (new) had a delay and wasn't open so coming back across town I mentioned that I must get out and shop for an antique couch for the living room. We were at the Dusty Rose as I said that and Greg swung in and said, "let's look here." Thirty minutes later we were leaving with the 5 piece Parlor Set! Not only was it a marvelous buy, but the original upholstery made it look like it had burgundy in it (it doesn't). It is perfect for our setting and we just thank the Lord for hand picking it for us. Solved my problems in 30 short minutes.

One other time, the 3 of us had to go to Cocoa to the Village Sawmill to look at a "kidney-shaped" dressing table. It wasn't just what we wanted but we did find another piece of unfinished furniture that we liked and bought, and that's the bench, which will also make a table to seat 4-6 people. On the back of the bench, Greg and I wood-burned a design and then painted it and finished it to a beautiful, smooth finish.

In the new guest room, the wash stand was also given to me by my mother. It had 4-coats of white paint on it, plus the two coats of antiquing I had put on; so to refinish it I literally had to take it inch by inch and laboriously work on it. It was worth it all, because with Greg's final touches we are thrilled with the outcome.

All of the kitchen is a joy—the ideas are Wendell's and is the favorite room in the house. I added my handpainted tiles and had them randomly placed by the expert tile layers—Roger Parker and crew. Roger, at 52 years of age went home to be with the Lord in 1990.

The built-in China Cabinet in the dining room was an idea of Dennis' and I found the base of it at the Salvation Anny for \$35. It fit as though it was made for the spot. Mr. Bill Fuller built the top with shelves and glass doors.

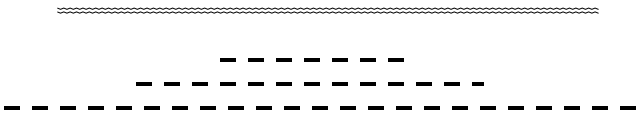
Upstairs, there is really nothing historic, just lots of our old furniture, with very little new being added. The "kidney-shaped" dressing table that I had wanted, Greg made for me out of solid oak and it is beautiful. Along with the two unfinished cabinets which we refinished for that bathroom, it has become a thing of joy.

And so I have tried to put down the high lights of this old house—nothing fancy, just plain, old pieces we've acquired in these years together since July 7, 1946. It's a comfortable, wonderful place to live, we love it and thank the Lord for our home.

DEDICATION

This little booklet is lovingly dedicated to our son, Greg, who for the nearly 15 months of renovation, stood by to encourage or to help in any way he could. The last 6 months he unselfishly gave up free time to finish the job, and through it all, became quite an expert on just about anything—carpentry, electricity, plumbing dry wall, papering, painting, landscaping and encouraging!

Thanks, Greg, for a job well done!



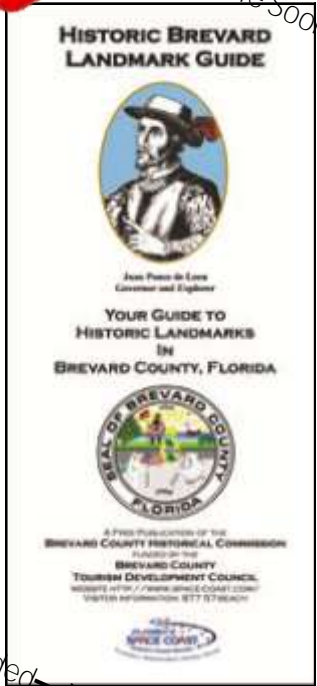
Landmark Guide
To
Historic Brevard County

The Landmark Guide Provides the location and a brief description of some of the historical landmarks in Brevard County. We haven't gotten them all in there yet but we're working towards that end. In the meantime enjoy the 80 that we have documented. Get your copy free of charge through the Brevard County Historical Commission by writing , calling or emailing us.

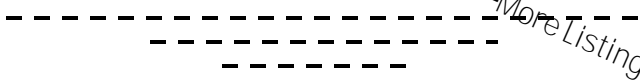
Brevard County Historical Commission
801 Dixon Blvd., Suite 1110
Cocoa, FL 32922
Telephone: 321-433-4415
Email: ashley.miller@brevardcounty.us



Available Soon



Expanded - More Listings



THE FLORIDA PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY NETWORK'S East Central Region: A Look Back at our First Three Years

Dr. Rachel K. Wentz
Director, East Central Region

Almost three years ago, I wrote an article for the Indian River Journal introducing its readers to the Florida Public Archaeology Network's East Central Region, located on the Titusville campus of Brevard Community College. Since then, our office has provided archaeological education for our eight-county region; we have traveled throughout the state and beyond to conduct field surveys and site documentation; and we've participated in professional conferences in order to continue research in Florida archaeology. It's been a busy three years!



To give you an idea of what we've been up to, I've put together a few bullets to provide the reader with the type of activities we conduct and the number of people we've had the pleasure of serving over the past few years.

Public Outreach

- We have provided over **20** public lectures, with over **8,000** total attendees
- We have provided over **60** school presentations, with over **2,000** total participants
- We have participated in over **65** public events, drawing over **13,000** attendees
- Our "In the Dirt" lecture series have included over **20** lectures, bringing over **200** attendees to the Melbourne campus and over **900** attendees to the Titusville campus
- We have conducted over **20** field days with over **600** participants
- We have provided numerous types of specialized training, included Certified Interpretive Guide training, Historical and Archaeological Resource training and Teacher Training providing CEUs for public school teachers
- We have held three archaeology summer camps for children

Liaison to the Bureau of Archaeological Research

- We provide archaeological site monitoring within our region
- We field questions from the public concerning archaeological laws and procedures
- We report and record undocumented archaeological sites
- We provide artifact identification to the public

- I provide human skeletal identification and analysis for remains recovered from archaeological sites

Professional Conference Presentations

- Southeastern Archaeological Conference, 2007, 2008, 2009
- Paleopathology Association Meetings, 2007, 2008, 2009
- Florida Anthropological Society Meetings, 2008, 2009, 2010
- American Association of Geographers, 2008, 2009
- Society for Historical Archaeologists, 2010
- British Association of Bioarchaeologists and Osteoarchaeologists, 2008, 2009
- Florida Historical Society, 2010
- Society for American Archaeology, 2010

We begin 2010 at our new host location – the Library of Florida History, located at the headquarters of the Florida Historical Society in Downtown Cocoa Village. We could not be happier. Having left BCC in December 2009 following record enrollment at the college and serious issues of space, FHS came forward offering to host our region, providing us with the perfect setting for bringing Florida’s ancient history to the public. Now we have a partner to help us get the word out about the importance of preserving Florida’s vast archaeological resources.

Our “In the Dirt” lecture series will now be held at the Library and we will continue to provide free lectures on Florida’s past. We are currently revamping our existing website but hope to have our new website up and running soon. We will be holding public lectures, public archaeology events, teacher training seminars, and summer camps for children. Our travel schedule for the next few months will be filled with conference presentations and training seminars. We will keep you posted on our events and if you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me or my Outreach Coordinator, Gregg Harding. Our information is provided below.

Dr. Rachel K. Wentz, RPA
Regional Director

Gregg Harding
Outreach Coordinator

Florida Public Archaeology Network
East Central Region
435 Brevard Ave.
Cocoa, FL 32922
321-690-1971, ext. 222
fax: 321-690-4388
www.flpublicarchaeology.org

1928 Aerial Photographs of Brevard County

~ A 7 Year Quest to Find Them ~

by Stephen R. Benn

In 2002, Historical Commission Chairman Bob Gross advised that the U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey took aerial photographs of the shoreline of the State of Florida in 1928. The next aerial photographs were taken in 1943 during WWII. Ed Vosatka, local historian and former Historical Commissioner had ordered one of the 1928 Aerial Photographs of Melbourne in 1978. The 24" x 28" negative was developed and is in the Historical Commission Archives. Also we have a news article from the January 27, 1927 "Melbourne Times" reporting that the "U.S. Army Air Corps in Langley Field, VA will be making a photographic map of the Florida coastline in 1928 from a Loening M-8 Amphibian aircraft," forerunner of the Grumman Duck.

I attempted to order the full set of the Brevard County 1928 Aerial Photographs from NOAA, but was advised by a person who had actually handled the 1928 Aerial photographs, that NOAA had transferred them to the National Archives in 1993. Many requests to the National Archives met with negative results prompting my requesting Congressional Inquiries from U.S. Representative



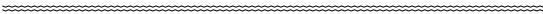
Dave Weldon and Senator Bill Nelson to the National Archives. Again, these attempts were fruitless and I amusingly considered hiring Sandy Berger to retrieve them. I continued investigating and found that the 1928 Aerials Index had been destroyed and the photographs lost. A very concerned government individual had unofficially located them in a mountain at the Federal Records Center (FRC) in Boulder, Colorado (see photo).

A "Freedom of Information Act Request" to the Department of Commerce confirmed that the 1928 Aerials were indeed in an 800 cubic foot storage facility at the Boulder FRC. A request for the Brevard County Aerials was made. I was advised that a contractor has been hired to scan and index all of the aerial photos from around the country, to be completed in the next 5 years; however,

they placed a #1 Priority on finding our Aerials. The majority of the 1928 Aerials were found in August 2009, sent to the contractor and scanned onto a CD consisting of 78 .jpg and 78 .pdf high resolution scans. The CD was received on September 14, 2009 and copied by the Graphics Section of Brevard County Planning & Zoning. A copy of the CD was also provided to Brevard County Map Reproduction, Parks & Recreation EELs Program, Natural Resources Office, Property Appraiser and NASA Archives. The 78 1928 Aerial Photographs were presented to the County Commission’s Sept. 15th meeting where I received a “Resolution” for my Retirement completing 25 years of service to Brevard County plus 10 years with the Sheriff’s Dept. I have included one of the 1928 Aerial Photographs (see photo) as a sample of the 78 photographs available.



There are more to come. Photos from Cocoa Beach northward including eastern Merritt Island, Banana River and Mosquito Lagoon are still being searched for and will be sent to us. Contact the Historical Commission Office to purchase copies and for updates on these forthcoming Aerial Photographs.



Would you like to know more about
Brevard County History?
Purchase a set of
The History of Brevard County

Long Overdue Book Returned to Monroe County Library with Amazement—Fine Forgiven

By Roz Foster

A long overdue library book from Key West ended up in Brevard County and was recently returned to the amazement of the Monroe County Library. This “make you feel good deed” generated an interesting story accompanied by some Key West history.

Dr. D. Scott Taylor, Central Region Land Manager for the Environmentally Endangered Lands Program manages the John H. Sams Homestead located on North Merritt Island. Two houses are located on the property, one dating back to the late 1870s and is the oldest house in Brevard County. Both have been restored and one will become a small “museum” featuring the Sams family history and local history. Descendents of the family who were still living on the property when Brevard County purchased it in 1996 have recently donated a number of items for the museum. Included were several old books dating from the late 1800s to early 1900s. One of the books entitled, “History of Rome” by the late Bishop of London and author, Mandell Creighton, had no copyright date to age the book. Found in the book was a Key West Library stamp and card, raising curiosity about who was the last person to check it out and how it found its way to Brevard County. Having no interest in keeping the book, Scott returned the book with a letter of explanation to the Key West Public Library. In less than a week Scott received a response letter from Monroe County May Hill Russell Library in Key West.

Dear Mr. Taylor,

“We have received the copy of the overdue book (History of Rome by Mandell Creighton, Late Bishop of London) which you located in Brevard County and graciously returned to us. We too are amazed!”

Explanation of who last checked out the book and approximate time frame is as follows:

“The library card inside the book indicates it was borrowed from the ‘Key West Public Library’ by J.R. Mustard living at the ‘Seaman Barracks.’ Though there has been a library in Key West since 9-15-1892 (we are the oldest library in South Florida), we became the Monroe County Public Library in November 1959. So this book predates November 1959 since it was borrowed from the Key West Public Library. The ‘Seaman Barracks’ were located on Navy grounds in an area referred to these days as the Truman Annex in Old Town Key West.”

The letter goes on to explain that a local historian believes the barracks were in use during WWI and WWII, and during the time he was in the Navy in 1960 the barracks were still there but unused. The fact that the ‘Seaman Barracks’ were operational during WWI and WWII and closed in 1960, and the Library changed its name in 1959, indicates that “Seaman Mustard may have borrowed the book sometime between 1914-1945.”

The assessment of the book’s age was discussed next. “However, since this is a history primer based upon the works of the late Bishop of London, Mandell Creighton who died in 1901, we agree with your assessment that this “History of Rome” is more likely from the early 1900s.” (*The net revealed that this book was originally published in 1889, Google Books has an electronic copy, and Amazon has reprints for \$24.*)

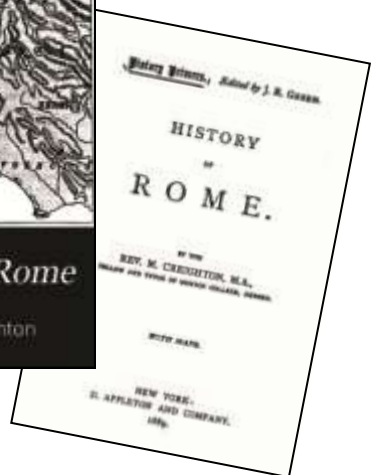
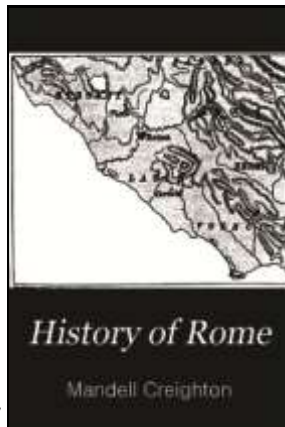
The letter further states that “during National Library Week the return of this book will be featured in the display for ‘Food for Fines’ program. During this period, we encourage patrons to return overdue materials (with canned goods we donate to local food banks and soup kitchens) and we will waive all late fines – even if the book is a century overdue!”

A good deed deserves recognition, and in appreciation of his generosity for returning the book Scott received a 2010 Calendar featuring images from the Library archives.

***It’s never too late to return your overdue Library book!
Support your local Library.***



**Mandell Creighton
by Sir Hubert von Herkomer**



MUSEUMS

Air Force Space & Missile Museum

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

801 Dixon Blvd., Suite 1110, Cocoa, FL 32922 <http://www.brevardcounty.us/history/>

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/>

East Coast Surfing Hall of Fame

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

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.libertybellmuseum.com/>

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

North Brevard Historical Society 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

801 Dixon Blvd., Suite 1110, 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

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

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/>

North Brevard Historical Society

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

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/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

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://dlist.dos.state.fl.us/index_RecordsManagers.cfm

Services to Genealogists

Researching your family history at the State Archives of Florida
<http://dlist.dos.state.fl.us/barm/fsa.html>

The State Library of Florida

Collecting, preserving and making available the published history of Florida
<http://dlist.dos.state.fl.us/stlib/>

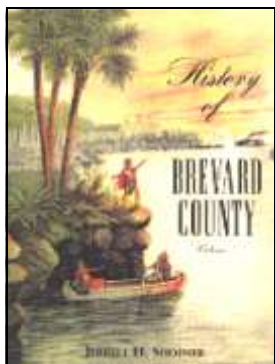
The State Archives of Florida

Preserving the past and present for future generations
<http://dlist.dos.state.fl.us/barm/fsa.html>

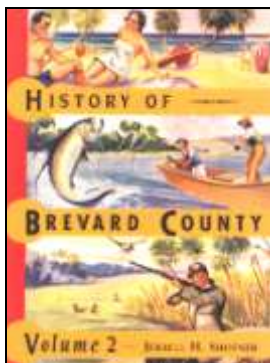
Try as we might to keep the previous lists accurate with up-to-date information, it seems that changes occur that we don't know about until after publication. If you know of a needed change, see an error or have an addition to what we've presented, please let us know.

The History of Brevard County

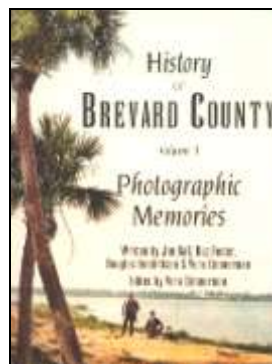
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