



THE JOURNAL OF
THE BREVARD COUNTY
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Volume XVI, Number 1

Spring / Summer 2017

This issue features articles on:

- Meadowlane Elementary
- Veteran's Memorial Fishing Pier Re-Dedication
- Weona Cleveland Photo Collection



Indianola Baptist Church 1905

- Plus*
- The last in the series on Lost Communities and
 - Part 2 in the series on when the War for Independence came to Cape Canaveral

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THE INDIAN RIVER JOURNAL
THE JOURNAL OF THE BREVARD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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THE INDIAN RIVER JOURNAL

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WHO, WHY & HOW THE WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE CAME TO CAPE CANAVERAL

Part 2

BY MOLLY THOMAS
EDITED BY CASIE STILWELL

Despite the best efforts of many local historians, Florida's 'after-the-fact' cameo in America's War for Independence remains unknown to all but the most discerning military history buffs. Competing with such adventurous tales of tea parties, rum punch and midnight pub crawls, it is not surprising that a brief skirmish off the coast of Florida has all but vanished from the mainstream memories of the War. Albeit, far from the extraordinary moments in Boston or Philadelphia, this lesser known episode deserves a closer look — not necessarily for its importance as an isolated incident, but to see it in the larger context of the rebellion, and America's struggle for its independence.

History can be read like literature —as a story —with characters, a setting, a climax, and a conclusion. To truly grasp the meaning of the narrative, you must read into these different elements as they present themselves, to divulge the bigger picture. This article is the second in a four part series that intends to do just that. Its purpose is to surpass the standard regurgitations of “what, when and where?” and assemble the disarticulated histories that reveal the “who, why and how?” of what really happened off the coast of Cape Canaveral in 1783. The first article addressed the “Who?” This installment explores the “Why?”

American Colonies Rebel!

1764-1767: British Parliament exacts numerous unfavorable laws upon its American Colonies.
1770: An encounter between British troops and protesters results in the *Boston Massacre*.
1774: (Spring) Parliament passes more unpopular laws quickly dubbed the *Intolerable Acts*.
1774: (Winter) Colonists respond by vandalizing a shipment of tea in the *Boston Tea Party*.
1775: Lexington, Concord and the *Shot Heard Round the World*.

By now, I'm sure you know how the story goes—New England colonists, feeling abused by their monarchical masters, roused a rag-tag militia to take on the largest imperial fighting force in the world in defense of their God given rights, for the glory of American Independence... but why did the encounter off the coast of Cape Canaveral even arise? It's because history does not exist as a sequence of isolated events. Every occurrence, large or small, has an influence on all the things that follow. If one were so inclined, this story could begin in 1756 with the colonies' participation in the Seven Years' War. Or for that matter, long before that. Thankfully, a full timeline of Anglo-Franco relations is not necessary in the scope of this article. So we'll fast forward to the autumn of 1777 and Washington's war-altering victory at Saratoga.

The Beginning of the End

Prior to General John Burgoyne's surrender at Saratoga, American forces were not seen as equal players in the gentlemen's world of European warfare. Going all the way back to the frontier battles of the Seven Years' War, Americans had earned a reputation for militia grade discipline, paramilitary tactics, and overall "bad form." Their actions during the early years of the War for Independence only reinforced these opinions, but Saratoga changed all this.



**Figure 1: Surrender of General Burgoyne
(Trumbull, Surrender of General Burgoyne 1821)**

The stamina and tact exhibited by the American forces during the siege at Saratoga was a revelation for the European contenders. Nineteenth century historian, Edward J. Creasy, went so far as to declare Saratoga one of the 15 most decisive battles in world history (Creasy 1863). This was due in part because it was as much a strategic victory, as it was a symbolic one. Under the old adage "The Enemy of my Enemy is my Friend," France signed the Treaty of Alliance less than six months later. Given their history with England, it should come as no surprise that France had been lurking in the shadows since the beginning of the War. The victory at Saratoga gave them the confidence they needed to go public with their support of the American cause, and signing the Treaty of Alliance in February of 1778 made it official.

As part of this agreement, each party was forbidden to enter into a separate peace with the British, and any future accord was contingent on the American colonies securing their Independence from the Crown (Treaty of Alliance with France 1778). This alliance opened the door for support from other British adversaries, though most were not as openly supportive as the French. It is now understood that both Spain and the Netherlands were funneling some level of aid towards the American cause, despite their insistence of neutrality.

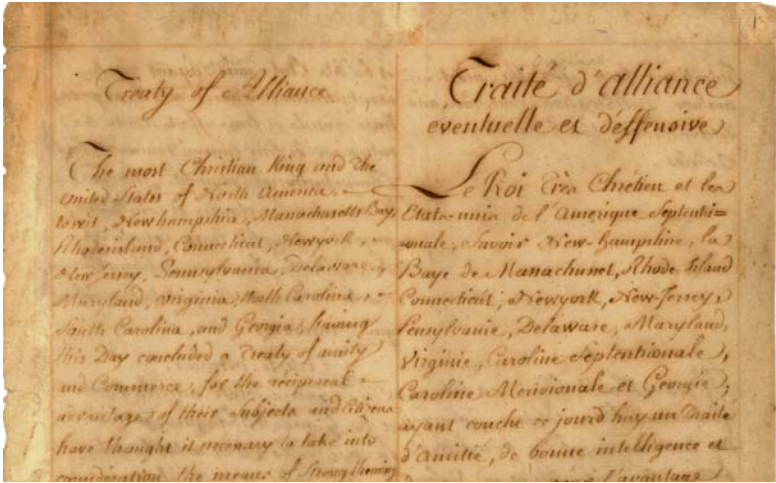


Figure 2: Treaty of Alliance with France (1778)

The colonists may not have known it in 1778, but they would need all the help they could get, for as long as they could get it. The War for Independence had so taxed the colonies emotionally and financially, that by the summer of 1781, the people had had enough. Despite the victory at Cowpens and the requisite defeat of British arch-nemesis Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton, public morale had hit a low point and that of the troops was not far behind. Congress found itself in a complicated spot that summer—its incentives to end the war loomed large, and France's role in the negotiations became insignificant to the bigger picture. In June, it was evident that it would take more than one man to forge the accord, and John Adams' appointment as the lone negotiator was retracted in favor of a five-man peace commission. Adams was then charged with leading the newly assembled dream team: John Jay, of *Jay Treaty* fame, congressional delegate and subsequent British political prisoner, Henry Laurens, and noted American wordsmiths, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin (Ryerson 2016). The Continental Congress gave them clear instructions. First and foremost, Britain had to recognize the United States' sovereignty. Second, Congress wanted assurance of allied support in the event that Britain resumed hostilities. The third condition put forth the formal boundaries of the United States, and required Britain to respect them. The final stipulation required the end of all hostilities, and the immediate withdrawal of troops from United States soil. Congress went on to propose the secession of Canada, Nova Scotia, and their fisheries. There was no harm in asking, but thankfully, the agreement was not contingent to this request (Taylor 2016). Due to the distance and complexity of the situation, Congress afforded their commissioners the flexibility of sensible discretion, urging that they employ the advice of their European allies whenever prudent.

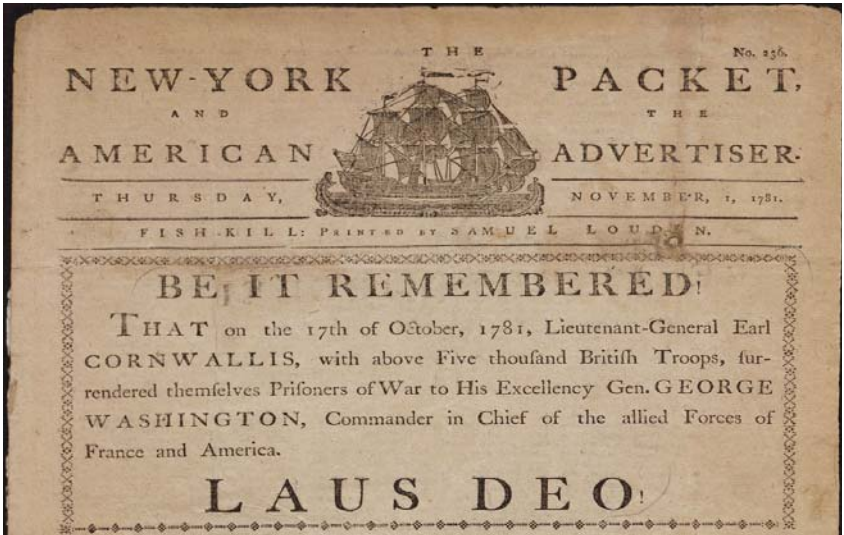
Victory at Yorktown

Meanwhile... back in the trenches, Washington knew the situation was dire. As the armies stirred from their winter encampments, he wrote to Col. John Laurens on April 9, 1781, “We are at the end of our tether, and now or never, our deliverance must come” (Selig 2007). Desperate and determined, Washington and his French counterpart, General Jean Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau (Rochambeau for short), reconvened the following month with a plan to launch an allied assault on the British forces occupying New York. Given the gravity of the situation, whatever action taken needed to be swift, strong and, above all else, successful—failure was not an option. The die was cast.

As fluid in its motion as a game of chess, the French, the British, and the Americans trekked about the eastern seaboard: Connecticut, to New York, to Maryland, and then to Virginia. By September, the pieces had fallen into place. Washington and Rochambeau had collectively assembled upwards of 17,000 troops in Williamsburg, Virginia and the French Navy, under the command of Admiral Joseph Paul de Grasse, had formed a protective blockade in the lower Chesapeake with 28 ships of the line (Greene 2005). After dispatching a request for support from his contemporary in New York, General Charles Cornwallis, the British commander at Yorktown could do little but watch as enemy forces encircled his post. While he awaited reinforcements, his troops dug in. They erected as many defenses as they could in the short time they had and on September 28, 1781, time was up. The Allies departed Williamsburg for Yorktown. The British were outnumbered two to one (Greene 2005).

In the weeks that followed, Franco-American forces steadily tightened their grip on Yorktown with an unrelenting barrage of artillery, fired from an ever-encroaching series of trenches. After an unsuccessful counterattack and a failed attempt to retreat, Cornwallis had no choice but to yield. Unbeknownst to the defeated commander, the backup he requested from New York was preparing to make way, just as the drummer boy marched out with his flag of surrender (Martin 2009).

*To receive your copy of the Indian River
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be added to our mailing list.*



**Figure 3: News of Surrender
(The New York Packet and the American Advertiser 1781)**



Figure 4: Surrender of Lord Cornwallis (Trumbull 1820)

The Yorktown surrender has become something of a legend. On October 19, 1781, the defeated army vacated the city between opposing French and American lines that some claim, stretched for nearly a mile (Martin 2009). The mortified Cornwallis was conveniently absent from the formal surrender ceremony, sending his second-in-command, Brigadier General Charles O'Hara, to relinquish his sword to Rochambeau. Noting this impropriety, the French commander immediately sent the humbled O'Hara in the direction of General Washington, who in retort, had his second-in-command accept it (Martin 2009). Following this ghastly defeat, and the public controversy that ensued back in London, Parliament declined to pursue further resistance against this rebellion. The following year, Britain and its former colonies drafted an accord, and by the autumn of 1783 the Treaty of Paris brought the War to a formal conclusion... but wait. What does any of this have to do with the incident off Cape Canaveral? Well, by now, we know that picture perfect storybook endings are reserved for elementary history essays. If we, as a unified race of beings, have learned anything over the last two and a half centuries, it is this—nothing is ever picture perfect when money is involved.

The Brass Tacks

While the troops were winning the War and the ambassadors were negotiating the Peace, Congress and the state legislatures were staring down the barrel of their mounting fiscal responsibilities. By the surrender of Yorktown, Congress was scraping the bottom of the barrel and unfortunately, the meter was still running. While most of the direct hostilities had stopped, the formal peace agreement was still being discussed. This left the enlisted troops in an uncomfortable, unpaid limbo for more than two years. Many of which were still camped outside of Yorktown! General Washington sent several letters to Congress and the Secretary of War on behalf of his soldiers, pleading for relief. He explained that even if Congress was to disband the army and send the troops home, most of them could not afford to get there. Notwithstanding, as one source so fairly stated, "It shows the deep underlying sentiment of obedience to law and the integrity of the people, that a crisis so threatening was safely passed through by these half-clad, half-fed and less than half-paid soldiers." (Patton 1882).

Enter Robert Morris, Jr., a familiar name for those who read the first installment in this series. While there is no need to revisit all the details from the previous article, it is worthy to mention his connection as he had a sizeable role in the War for American Independence and why it came to Cape Canaveral.

Robert Morris was a savvy, self-made entrepreneur and prominent Philadelphia shipping mogul. Despite his noted lack of confidence in the effort, he had a vested interest in the success of the American rebellion, and his company was contracted to purchase munitions for the cause in 1775 (Nuxoll 1998). As with



Figure 5: Robert Morris (Pine 1785)

other founding fathers, he held multiple titles during the course of the War, and at times, simultaneously. Two of his most affluent titles were Superintendent of Finance and Agent of Marine. As the Superintendent of Finance, he is credited with laying the groundwork for the capitalist system that has come to characterize the American fiscal persona. As the Agent of Marine, he assisted with outfitting the Army, took charge of the Continental Navy, and helped coordinate movements of the French naval forces. The latter having a substantial impact on the outcome at Yorktown (Nuxoll 1998). Remarkably so, outside of the most astute financial historians, few Americans have ever heard his name.

In the spring of 1781, as the Superintendent of Finance, Morris asked Congress to establish the Bank of North America, the nation's first federal lending institution, to help finance the War (NPR 2010). His biggest challenge in this endeavor was building confidence in the institution. Confidence, in a banking context, means cash, which was a rare commodity after the onset of the War. To maintain the bank's coffers, Morris sent out "...agents, discreet men to secure in the way of business, all the coin they could obtain" (Patton 1882). As a long time merchant, co-owner of the Willing, Morris & Co. shipping company, and Agent of Marine, Morris had a substantial network of 'agents' at his disposal.

On a Mission for Money

Between October and November of 1782, Robert Morris sent out a series of letters that set in motion a top-secret plan that would help secure funds to alleviate the languishing army. The key players in this mission, were long-time personal employees of the Willing, Morris & Co – Captain John Green, his ship the *Duc de Lauzun*, and the up-and-coming naval luminary – Captain John Barry aboard the frigate *Alliance*. This is the plan that would bring the War for American Independence off the shore of Cape Canaveral.

After dispatching sailing orders to Captain Barry, who was then in port at Martinique, Morris addressed a second letter to Captain Green. This message was hand delivered by one of Morris' aforementioned 'agents', a Mr. John Brown (Morris 1988). The mission was critical and the instructions were clear – Captain Green was to deliver Mr. Brown to Havana, where he would conduct a business transaction that would secure a substantial sum of money for the American government. Captain Green would then transport said monies back to the United States under the well-armed escort of Capt. Barry and the *Alliance*. Along the way, the *Duc de Lauzun* was not to pursue or otherwise engage with any vessel, as to jeopardize the safety of its cargo. A third letter was then addressed to the governor of Cuba. It introduced Mr. John Brown, and indicated that he would be arriving in Havana to conduct business with the French banking firm Le Couteux & Co. While the letter was likely vague by intent, it lauded the “intimate connection of Interests” between Spain and the United States against “the common Enemy”, and thanked him for his continued support of the American cause (Morris 1988).

Barry arrived in Havana on January 31, 1783, to greet the awaiting *Duc de Lauzun*. Over the next two weeks, Mr. Brown wrapped up business with his French connection and loaded the *Lauzun* and *Alliance* with \$72,447 in coinage –approximately \$1.5 million by today's standards (Morris 1988, Selig 2007). Anxious to get moving, Barry and Green prepared for their departure, unaware of the happenings in the harbor around them. Unbeknownst to them, Spain was about to launch an attack on the British settlements in the Bahamas and in an effort to suppress this intelligence, the Governor prohibited all ships from leaving Havana until the flotilla was underway. After three weeks and two implicitly denied requests, Barry and Green received their clearance for departure from Governor Luis de Unzaga on March 6, 1783 (Morris 1988). With it, they sailed north and into the Florida Straits.

Now, most historians discuss the event that happened off the coast of Cape Canaveral as the “Last Naval Battle of the American Revolution”. That would almost make it seem like the war was still raging and that the “good guys” and the “bad guys” went out looking to pick a fight. As this series hopes to convey—particularly in looking at the ‘Why’ presented here—that is not at all what happened in the encounter off Cape Canaveral. From a more accurate, yet admittedly romanticized perspective, this was a two-ship American treasure fleet, sent on a top-secret mission, with orders to secure funds that the government so desperately needed. Funds designated to compensate thousands of exhausted American soldiers who had not been paid for a long fought War, which they had technically already won! And it almost ended in disaster, but that's a story for another day...



Figure 6: Map of Havana Harbor (Boston Public Library 1740)

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Trumbull, John. 1820. "Surrender of Lord Cornwallis." Capitol Rotunda. *Architect of the Capitol*. Washington D.C. *IRJ*

MEADOWLANE ELEMENTARY: FROM NAVAL HOSPITAL TO EAGLE HABITAT

BY ROSEMARY DEFRANCISCI

When the bell rang for the first time at Meadowlane Elementary School, the inaugural class of students graced the halls of an old Naval hospital at the Melbourne Municipal Airport.¹ During World War II, the Navy established the Melbourne Naval Air Station at the Melbourne-Eau Gallie Airport.² After the war, the Naval Air Station was turned over to the city, and several of the old Navy buildings were still in use in the 1960s, including one that housed the Brevard Engineering College.^{3,4} In fall of 1960, fourteen teachers, several part time staff members, and about 390 students began classes at the new school on the premises of the airport.⁵ In January 1961, the school opened at its new location on Minton road, ready for the students as they returned from the holiday break.⁶

In 1993, the Brevard County School Board decided to relocate Meadowlane Elementary School due to constant flooding (West Melbourne Elementary School for Science is currently located at the old Meadowlane Elementary School on Minton Road).⁷ Over a period of three years, the Morton Land Company, a local land developer working on behalf of the school board, searched for a suitable location for the new school.⁸ Finally, the Morton Land Company found the ideal location on a parcel owned by the Platt family.⁹

Upon investigation, it turns out that an American Bald Eagle lived in the area selected for the new school.¹⁰ This meant the developers had to take measures not to disturb the eagle's habitat when laying out the buildings. To get it right, a Federal Wildlife Biologist was flown in from North Carolina, an expert in studying the patterns of fishbones around eagle's nesting site.¹¹ The biologist evaluated the main hunting ground, either East in the Indian River Lagoon, or West in the St. Johns River.¹² Based on this information about the eagle, the School Board designed the school complex, to include the layout of the buildings, the athletic fields, and the entrance at Wingate Boulevard. Once approved by the city, the school was built at the eagle's habitat in a way that children and nature could coexist.

Around 1997, the expansion and realignment of Minton Road near Route 192 solved the flooding problem after developing a large water retention pond just



South of the 7-Eleven store on the East side of Minton Road.¹³ This facilitated better drainage in the area and allowed the School Board to reuse the old Meadowlane Elementary School, which became the West Melbourne Elementary School for Science.

1. Brevard Public Schools website, "Meadowlane's History", retrieved on November 04, 2016 <http://www.edline.net/pages/Meadowlane_Elementary_School/About_Us/SCHOOL_INFO>. The Melbourne Municipal Airport is now the Orlando Melbourne International Airport.
2. Eriksen, John M. Brevard County Florida: A Short History to 1955 (Suntree, Florida, 2008), p. 140.
3. Stone, Elaine Murray. Brevard County: From Cape of the Canes to Space Coast, 1st ed. (United States: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1988), p. 51. The Brevard Engineering College became the Florida Institute of Technology.
4. Brevard County Historical Commission. Historic Brevard: Your Guide to Historic Landmarks in Brevard County, section on "Trailer Haven Community Center, Melbourne Naval Air Station Recreation Hall," p. 20.
5. Brevard Public Schools website, "Meadowlane's History".
6. Ibid.
7. Interview of Peter Morton of the Morton Land Company by Rosemary DeFrancisci on August 17, 2016. Note: some of the material for this article was previously published in the article, "All Because of an Eagle..." in the November/December 2016 issue of The Sun Newsletter (City of West Melbourne).
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Ibid.
11. Ibid.
12. Ibid.
13. Ibid. *IRJ*

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*See inside back cover for Brevard history books.*

## WEONA CLEVELAND PHOTO COLLECTION DONATED TO THE COMMISSION

BY MICHAEL BOONSTRA

The Brevard County Historical Commission was the recent recipient of an important collection of historic photographs donated by Honorary Brevard County Historian Weona Cleveland. As most of you know, Weona Cleveland was a journalist for more than 30 years at The Melbourne Times and later with the Florida Today newspaper. Weona has a passion for local history and during her lengthy career she wrote numerous articles about local history and culture, which were among the most popular stories for readers. Many of her most interesting stories were compiled into an engaging book called *Mosquito Soup* which was published by the Florida Historical Society Press in 2013. In her research for these stories she collected a wide range of historic photographs, most focusing on South Brevard, that she identified and stored in albums. In her continuing efforts to support the mission of the Brevard County Historical Commission Weona asked former Historical Commissioner Ed Vosatka to take her collection to the Commission Archives at the Central Brevard Library, now renamed the Catherine Schweinsberg Rood Central Library, where they will be available to the public in perpetuity.



### Mid-Way Tourist Camp Pool, Melbourne FL Christmas Day (1925?)

Since the receipt of this collection librarian Martha Loss has been busy transferring the photos into archival sleeves and placing them in binders to help



preserve them for the future. Further plans include indexing and scanning them as well. Almost immediately upon receiving the collection we had two different researchers asking for photos of places that were covered by this collection that we did not have previous to Weona's donation.

A big thank you to Weona!! . *IRJ*

## RE-DEDICATION OF TITUSVILLE'S VETERANS MEMORIAL FISHING PIER

BY MOLLY THOMAS

To celebrate the installation of a State issued historical marker at Titusville's Veterans Memorial Pier, the Brevard County Historical Commission and the North Brevard Heritage Foundation hosted a small ceremony recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Gold Star Mother's dedication of the Pier. This service coincided with the date and time of the original dedication ceremony held on February 27, 1977. Pastor Tom Porter of Temple Baptist Church initiated the event with an invocation which was followed by the Presentation of the Colors



by the Brevard County Color Guard and Ladies Color Guard Auxiliary. Attendees to this event included the Honorable Mayor Walt Johnson, District #1 County Commissioner Rita Pritchett, City Council Member Jo Lynn Nelson, City Manager Scott Larese, several local residents, City employees, members of the Brevard County Historical Commission and others. Following the ceremony local Gold Star Father, Donn

Weaver publicly thanked the Brevard County Historical Commission and the City of Titusville for taking the time to recognize the service members who lost their lives on Walker Bridge, citing how such a simple gesture of remembrance means so much to the families that have made the ultimate sacrifice.

*IRJ*

# NOW AVAILABLE!

An updated and expanded Landmark Guide for 2016.


It includes 92 sites, with 11 new ones added to this edition.

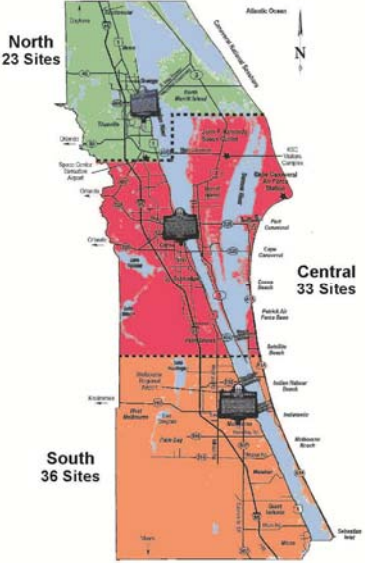


## HISTORIC BREVARD LANDMARK GUIDE

The Landmark Guide provides the location and a brief description of some of the historical landmarks in Brevard County. We don't have all of the historic locations in there yet, but we're working towards that end. In the meantime enjoy the 92 that we have documented, including 50 that have state historical markers. Get your copy free of charge through the Brevard County Historical Commission by writing or calling us.

**HISTORIC BREVARD**

  
Updated in 2016



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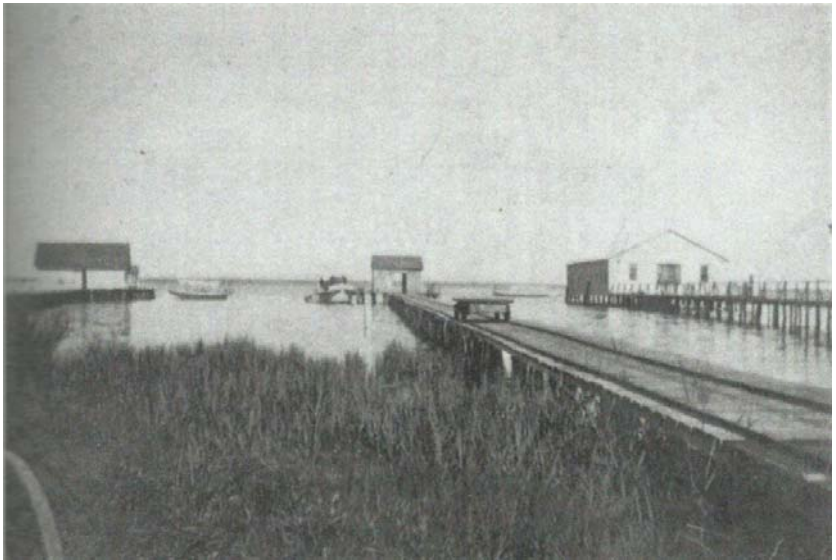
*Ninth in a Series*

## EXPLORE YOUR HISTORY: LOST COMMUNITIES OF NORTH MERRITT ISLAND

BY ROZ FOSTER

### Courtenay

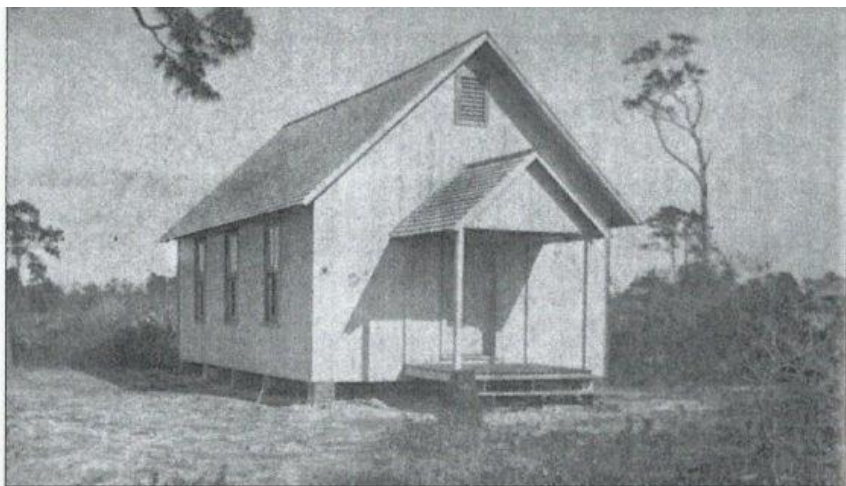
The community of Courtenay had an abundance of beautiful citrus groves and vegetable gardens. Courtenay docks along the Indian River Lagoon were built long enough to reach deep water - at least 3 ft. where large paddlewheel and trade boats could tie up. Early settlers on Merritt Island depended on steamboats to ferry cargo to and from the island. Rails on the docks were used to shuttle cargo from the boats to land carried atop tramcars.



### Docks & Cargo Railway at Courtenay

Trade boats brought staples to the island, but meals with fresh vegetables and meat depended on the gardening and hunting skills of the islanders. Almost every household had chickens to provide eggs and fresh meat, and were fed late every afternoon before they went to roost.

Miss Margaret McElroy was the teacher at the one-room schoolhouse in Courtenay around 1895. Pupils had to walk as much as 5 miles each way to attend school. Pupils who attended were from the LaRoche, Jenkins, Sams, and Harper families.



This early one-room schoolhouse was located at Courtenay in 1895. Pupils walked as much as 5 miles one way to attend school.



Miss Margaret McElroy presided at this one-room schoolhouse in Courtenay around 1895. The eager pupils pictured here are, from left to right, Madge Whitlock, W. LaRoche, Amarintha

Mr. Richard J. LaRoche was Courtenay postmaster in 1903, preceded by Mr. M.M. Allen when the cost of a postage stamp was two cents.

According to the Polk County Directory 1926-27 Courtenay was largely populated by families of early settlers including LaRoche, Sams, Wheeler, Williams, Jenkins, Phillips, Godbey and Crisafulli. Most were fruit growers and farmers.

Rev. C.D. Bascom was pastor of St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Edna Daniel was teacher at Courtenay School and lived at the residence of H.H. Sams, and Ara B. Williams was a nurse. Mrs. Alice Godbey was Courtenay Postmaster and Devoe Sams was mail carrier. Dallas and Evie operated the Courtenay Store and filling station. Bonham LaRoche was the local blacksmith and William S. Sams was a carpenter. William M. Melton was listed as manager for E.P. Porcher; A. Melton was a tractor driver, and Hugh Melton a truck driver.

Blacks were noted by an asterisk in front of their names and most were laborers except for Mr. Samuel Turnbull, fruit grower. Eleven blacks were listed: William Burt, lived at the residence of Sylvester & Mary Edwards; Agnes Fuller; Arthur Mathis, lived at the residence of Richard Wright (who is not listed as living at Courtenay); James, Mattie, John, and Rose Phillips were a family; and Cleveland & Charlotte White.

#### IN THE BEGINNING THE LaROCHE & SAMS FAMILIES

Just south of Orsino on SR3 was located the community of Courtenay, named for a former Governor of South Carolina. The six LaRoche brothers came from South Carolina after losing their homes and plantations during the Civil War, and were the first to receive homesteads at Courtenay. According to Mrs. Marion LaRoche Grant, most of her LaRoche ancestors travelled together with the Sams families from South Carolina to Courtenay by wagon, steamer and on horseback. John LaRoche and his oldest brother Dick accompanied by their cousin Seabrook Sams, left South Carolina for Florida December 23, 1873 by wagon. In February of 1874, everyone else boarded the same steamer in Charleston, South Carolina to come to Florida. The travelers included: three LaRoche brothers - Dan, Frank and Bob; along with their elder sister Julie; their father, James LaRoche with his second wife, Henrietta Sams and their three children, Katie, twins Ned and Sadie. They were accompanied by Uncle John Hanahan Sams and his wife Sarah Stanyarne Sams and their children, Mattie, DeVeaux, Sadie and Cellie. Another LaRoche brother, Ben left at the same time on horseback.

Together they had extensive land holdings along the Indian River and in the interior of Merritt Island. Although they all had small orange groves, their main industry was vegetable production that was sent to northern markets. Early settlers on Merritt Island depended on steamboats to ferry cargo to and from the island. Rails on the docks were used to shuttle cargo from the boats to land.

They also owned and operated the island's first saw mill which produced much of the lumber for the early homes in the area. J.H. Sams served as superinten-

dent of Brevard County schools from 1882 - 1901. Other early settlers in Courtenay were Whaley, Peck and Porcher families.

A Florida State Historic Marker was placed at the Sams House home site in 2010 and reads as follows:

#### JOHN H. SAMS HOMESTEAD

*The Sams family came to Brevard County from South Carolina in 1875 to take advantage of the 1860 Homestead Act. The family consisted of John Hanahan Sams, his wife Sarah, their five children, John's brother William Sams, and his sister, Catherine DeVeaux Sams. The Sams Homestead consists of two buildings, the First, a single story home, was originally constructed in Eau Gallie on property homesteaded by John H. Sams in 1875. The family decided to move nearer to other relatives on North Merritt Island and the house was rafted up the Indian River in 1878 to the present site. It is the oldest dated structure on Merritt Island and a prime example of Florida vernacular construction. In 1884, Sams was granted a homestead deed for 156 acres and by 1888 built the second two-story home adjoining the older house on the property. Sams served as Superintendent of Schools for the county from 1880-1920 while growing citrus and pineapples. John H. Sams died in 1923 and the homes were occupied by his descendants until 1995. Archaeological excavations at the site discovered a prehistoric Native American occupation site that dates from approximately 5,000 BC to 1250 AD, and also a late Pleistocene fossil site. (See Your Guide to Historic Landmarks in Brevard County, updated in 2016, page 21.)*

#### THE PORCHER FAMILY

Edward P. Porcher came to Courtenay in 1884 from South Carolina. He was, born in Greenville, South Carolina in 1861, a descendent of a Huguenot family. He attended military school and later studied insurance law, and before coming to Florida he was in the insurance business in Atlanta and Chicago. In 1885 Porcher married Byrnina Mona Peck, daughter of William Henry Peck, a prolific writer of 74 historic novels. Peck owned a large tract of land adjoining Porcher's property on Merritt Island. During the 1880s and early 1890s Porcher established Deerfield Groves near Courtenay and constructed a packinghouse in Cocoa. Porcher used mules and horses to work the citrus groves and constructed stables to keep them in. Fruit from his groves at Courtenay was transported by barges on the Indian River to the mainland, where it was off-loaded at a wharf and warehouse located at the site of his Cocoa home. When the wooden bridge to the island was complete, the fruit was trucked to the Cocoa packinghouse on vehicles with large solid rubber tires.

He saw a need to create some uniformity in the shipping, packing, and marketing practices of local area growers and founded two important organizations - The Indian River Orange Growers Association in 1891 and the Indian River

and Lake Worth Pineapple Growers Association in 1895. Goals of these organizations were to control shipments of citrus products to avoid glutting the market, promote uniform pricing, establish standards for fruit selection and packing, and ensure standardization of fruit quality. Porcher was also an innovator in citrus processing and has been credited with being the first to wash, inspect, and grade fruit. He also invented a citrus washing machine and a dolly for lifting packed boxes for warehouse storage and a stamping machine. He was a co-founder of the Florida Citrus Commission, the principal regulatory body of the industry.



### **E.P. Porcher & LaRoche families at Courtenay 1899**

Sarah Julia Porcher was Edward's independent sister who lived in a modest house located near Courtenay. "Aunt Julia" never married, but raised her sister Laura's son, Lawrence Porcher Allen. Sarah was a music teacher at a women's college in Roanoke, Virginia before coming to Merritt Island, but her first love was photography and she developed her own film.

In 1895 the Porchers moved into a three-bedroom frame house built by Byrnina's father, William Peck. As the family prospered, the couple aspired to grander surroundings. Byrnina designed and supervised the construction of a two-story, 10-bedroom Colonial style mansion to be built of native coquina rock. On Halloween 1916, the Porchers moved from Merritt Island to Cocoa where the large home was built on Delannoy Ave. The residence had a wall

surrounding it, an artesian swimming pool, and a tennis court. The wharf and packinghouse were built just north of the house. (See *Your Guide to Historic Landmarks in Brevard County*, updated in 2016, page 33.)

Edward was a member of the “Thousand Island Hunting Club,” along with S.F. Travis, T.G. Ronalds, Arthur Porcher and C. Sweet Smith. Built around 1900 and located on south Merritt Island at Horti Point, the lodge had 18-rooms, 2 large living rooms, lockers, guest facilities, gun racks and a secret staircase. Michael Heim of Kansas City and Andrew Mellon of Pittsburgh were part owners. It was sold to Mrs. C.H. Holderman, publisher of the *Cocoa Tribune* in the late 1920s.

Porcher helped establish Cocoa as a city and founded its Red Cross Chapter. He continued to work in the groves and backyard packinghouse with his employees and occasionally turned his diesel- powered river “Falcon” into a pleasure craft.

During the 1920s and 1930s, the Porcher House was a gathering place for society. Byrmina pursued her hobby of bridge – symbols of the cards can still be seen in details of the home – and hosted many tournaments for her society friends. She was the first postmaster of Merritt Island. She died in 1937 followed in death by Edward in 1939.

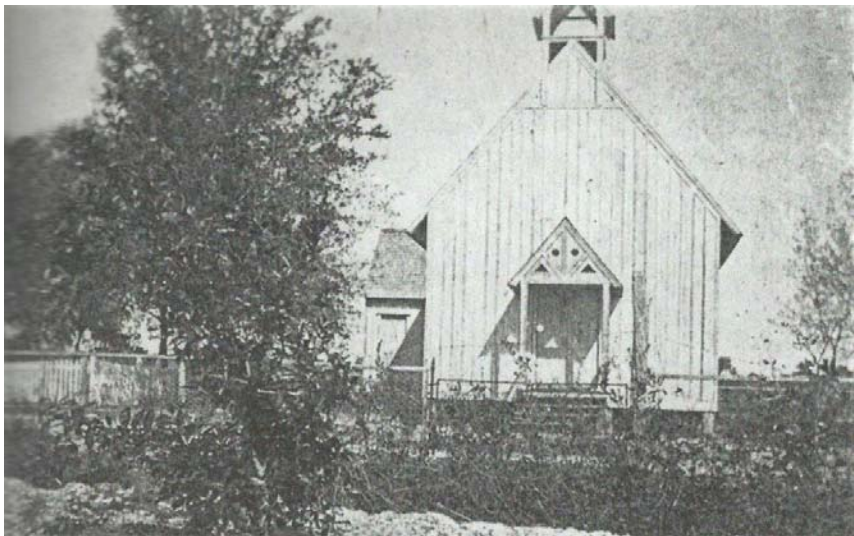
Beginning in 1947, the house was successively used as a hotel, restaurant, city hall, and boys' home. Eventually, the City of Cocoa received a grant from the State of Florida to restore the house, and it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

### ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Luke's Episcopal Church of Courtenay was formed by the Porcher, LaRoche, Sams and other pioneer families that settled on north Merritt Island after leaving the Charleston, South Carolina area in 1875 due to the loss of their homes and plantations during the Civil War. The first services were held in 1879 in a store building on the banks of the Indian River. Property for the current site was donated in 1888, and the church was built with a \$600 donation from Lucy Boardman of New Haven, Connecticut and the labor of parishioners. The Florida Gothic style, common architecture for Episcopal churches in Florida at the time, was a board-and-batten 600-square foot structure built of locally milled hand-planed island pine and cypress with a steep gabled roof and square bell tower. The church was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990 and a Florida State Historic Marker in 2006. (See *Your Guide to Historic Landmarks in Brevard County*, updated in 2016, page 22.)

The Church is surrounded on three sides by an historic cemetery, and the chapel is still used for mid-week and special services. Many members of the LaRoche and Sams families as well as other pioneer families are buried in this cemetery.





### St. Lukes Episcopal Church at Courtenay 1898

The following article was published in the *Mosquito Beaters Memory Book* 1990 and compiled by Jaye Write and published in the *Today* newspaper.

*The church was formed as a congregation by Porcher, LaRoche and Sams families who had settled in the area after moving from South Carolina in 1875 when their homes and plantations were destroyed during the Civil War. The congregation held its first services in 1879 in the home of John Sams. As church membership grew, services were held in a store building on the riverfront while the congregation worked toward building its own church. In 1888, H.J. Tiffin deeded property to the congregation for the site of St. Luke's Church. That same year, they employed a carpenter named Mr. Higgins, to build the church beginning with \$600 in donations from church members. During the early years of the church, there was no vicar, but ministers from Cocoa and Titusville would travel by boat once a month to hold services. Lay members conducted prayer services the rest of the time. Unfortunately many of the church records prior to 1961 have been lost.*

*The church is a wood-frame structure built in the Gothic Revival architectural style and is constructed of hand-planed island pine and cypress. It has a steep, gabled roof with a square bell tower and exterior is board and batten siding.*



### THE SHIELD OF ST. LUKE'S CHURCH

THE UPPER LEFT of the shield features crossed swords that appear in the same location of the shield of the Diocese of Central Florida and was also on the shield of the Diocese of South Florida, the mother diocese. They were placed there because the crossed swords formed the shield of the Diocese of London, which sent the first missionary clergy to the Florida Territory in 1821. This portion of the shield designates St. Luke's as part of the Diocese of Central Florida with ties to the Mother Church of England. THE UPPER RIGHT of the shield features blue waves on a field of white. This indicates the location of St. Luke's Church as a sea island on the Atlantic Coast. THE LOWER THIRD of the shield is the winged ox, the classical symbol of St. Luke the Evangelist. This ancient symbol traces its origins to the Book of Revelation and St. Augustine. Luke is symbolized by the ox, the animal of sacrifice, since he stresses the atoning sacrifice of Jesus. His forelegs rest on a book representing the Gospel Luke penned.

### MR. F.J. TIFFIN & THE ROSELAWN OSTRICH FARM

The following was published in the *Florida Today* newspaper and written by historian Weona Cleveland.

*One of the more interesting pioneer residents of the community of Courtenay was a "snowbird" from Montreal, Canada, named F.J. Tiffin. He was very wealthy, owning a considerable amount of land in the Courtenay area, part of which was dedicated to lemon and orange groves.*

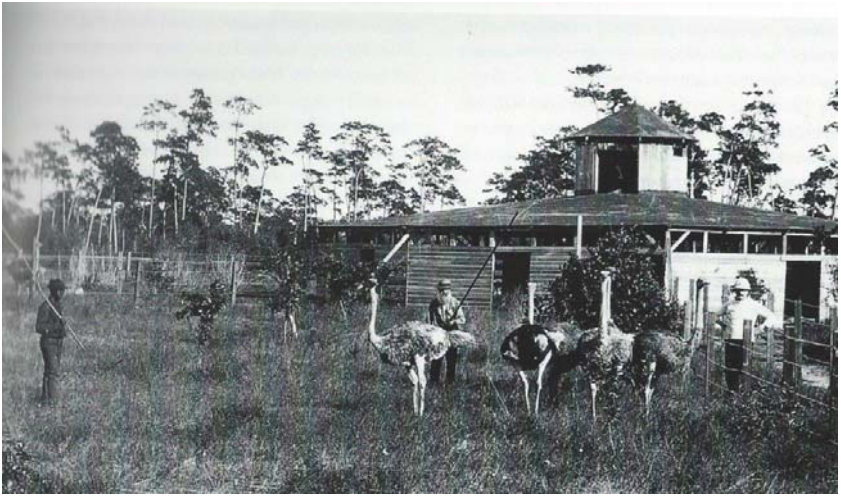
*The first mention of Tiffin in the East Coast Advocate newspaper was in 1891.*

*In February 1892, he threw a lavish party for George Washington's birthday, inviting everyone from Merritt Island, Cocoa and Rockledge. That same year, he built a 1300-foot long dock, making it available to the public.*

*It was in early 1896 that Tiffin began ostrich farming. Tiffin had two ostriches shipped from Atlanta to Courtenay, followed almost immediately by 13 more birds, shipped from California. He set up tours for local citizens to view his ostriches, even offering free transportation via his own launch, which left Rockledge every day at 9 am.*

*In June 1896, the East Coast Advocate newspaper sent one of its reporters to the Tiffin property to see what was going on. The reporter wrote that Tiffin had built an ostrich house with 16 stalls in the midst of a 10-acre plot of ground that served as the ostriches' domain. Eighty eggs had been laid by this time, with both male and female ostriches*

taking turns sitting on the eggs. The reporter noted that ostrich eggs take 42 days to hatch and that each egg weighed 34 ounces. Each egg was valued at from \$5 to \$10.



### Roselawn Ostrich Farm Courtenay 1896

At this period of time, ostrich feathers were highly regarded as adornments for women's hats. The reporter noted that Tiffin already had harvested several pounds of feathers by means of tying a bird, then putting a blindfold over the bird's face while the feathers were cut. Aside from trying to hatch the ostrich eggs, it was said that the creamy-white eggs were useful as ornaments, which artists sometimes painted in Oriental style.

By July 1896, three ostrich eggs were hatched, but the adult birds tried to eat their young, so they were separated to prevent cannibalism. Nevertheless, all three young chicks had died by mid-September. Determined to make ostrich farming a profitable business, Tiffin began charging 5 cents per person to view the birds.

Tiffin's next project was to build a hotel on his property at Courtenay, along with a dock in front of the hotel. He inserted an ad in the newspaper (which by this time had been renamed the *Indian River Advocate*) stating that he would pay \$5 for each young deer (doe) delivered to him. He also purchased a yacht.

Just before Tiffin left Courtenay to return to Canada for the summer of 1897, an *Indian River Advocate* newspaper reporter again visited the ostrich farm, reporting that the incubator used previously had been abandoned, letting the birds hatch their young "naturally."

*The "hotel" that Tiffin built eventually became the "Royal Buckhounds Hunt Club." Tiffin returned from Canada, bringing a pack of foxes with him for the members of the club to hunt.*

*It was noted in the Advocate newspaper in March 1898 that Tiffin had some "financial complications," but still the "Roselawn Ostrich Farm" continued to attract visitors. But somewhere along the way, Tiffin's admiration for ostrich farming took a downward turn. In July 1898, an auction was held at Courtenay, selling ostriches for \$50 a pair, and young chicks for \$16 to \$20 each. Some of the ostriches went to Miami, others to Fort Pierce and the rest to Jacksonville, where another ostrich farm was established.*

Another resident of Courtenay by the name of W.J. Griffin operated an ostrich farm around the turn of the century.

## INDIANOLA

According to the *Florida Place Names: Alachua to Zolfo Springs*, by Allen Morris, the town was named for the nearby Indian mounds.

This small rural community on central Merritt Island was founded by the Field brothers who came from Macon, Georgia after the Civil War and arrived in Merritt Island in 1867-68. They found no white settlers in the area, only American Indians and mosquitoes. Following is a transcription of Samuel Joseph Field's handwritten journal dated September 1, 1895 telling of their journey to Merritt Island. It was transcribed as written and blank areas were unreadable.

Journal Written by Samuel Joseph Field, September 1, 1895

**NOTE: Transcribed by Roz Foster. Spelling and sentence structure as written April 2006**

Page 1

*My father John M. Fields was born in Barron Co. Kentucky near Glasgow September 1st 1809. When a young man he left home and settled in Bibb County- in Macon, in 1835 he left with the Macon Volunteers for the Indian War in Florida. After returning he meet my mother. Her maiden name was Martha Ann Justice. They were married in 1837 she was born in Meriwether Co. Ga. My father was possessed with \_\_\_\_\_ and everyday M\_ nd accumulated some property. He became a minister of the Gospel in early life and was faithful to discharge his dutys. He was of the old order of Baptist known as Primitive Baptist after the close of the Strif between the .....*

Page 2

*.....North and the South. All of his hard earned savings was cash as it was proncifoaly in \_daras he concluded it would not pay him to work*

*freed labor upon the farm and in the winter of 1867 he started for Indian River with my bro Charles, by private conveyance. After reaching Florida he had two of his best horses stolen at night from him which he did not recover. Having no horses left he wended his way across rivers and swamps to reach the Indian River. Having meandered through by ways palmetto scrub & c. he landed at Mr. J.W. Joiners, who lived where Mrs. Jane Dixon now lives. There he procured a flat boat and I crossed over to Merritts Island.*

Page 3

*Unfortionally while crossing his horses one of the them fell and within a short time it died leaving him only one having that one on the Pararic party of five hunters killed that one. Leaving us in rather critical condition. In a new unsettled country pulling hard against father my mother and brother John R. Field and wife Eliza. And our bros George and Edward with myself left Ga. about the 1st of March 1868 landing at Enterprise. There we went into Camp while I walked over from Enterprise to Sand Point after my father. I was told to enquire for Capt. Kruger who had a sail boat as sail boats were very scarce. I paid him four dollars to launch me at my fathers Camp.*

Page 4

*I found him in a small boat poleing near shore. I was transferred to their boat. Stopping only a short time we set sail for Sand Point. There was(were) seven parties just came down with a team which my father hired to bring my mother and family over from Enterprise. Mother and family walked the greater part of the way the price paid was exorbitant (We hardly had money enough to pay the hauling) We had provided ourselves with some possession. Landing at Sand Point we took a small sail boat which we had and landed on Merritts Island on the 21st day of March. It was not very inviting not a house to shelter us from the weather except a small tent which my father and mother and younger brother occupied while my bro & wife slept in.....*

Page 5

*The covered wagon which my father and bro had traveled in myself with bro George & Charles. We had the heavens for a covering and it was exceedingly wet at times. It rained near thirty days and nights at intervals. It was not encouraging. We toiled hard and build us a house. We cut pine trees and put them down endways making a stockade house. We were sole possessors of the whole Island as their was not a living family upon it out side of our place. Enterprise was our Post Office. Our voting precinct was Fort Pierce - as our Post office was at such a great distance our correspondence was \_\_\_\_\_ted people going over to Enterprise from Sand Point knew every one on the river and*

*they would carry the mail over and leave it at the house of Mr Carlisle ..... ..*

Page 6

*Shortly after our arrival Col. H.T. Titus started a little store at Sand Point, (now called Titusville) only a short time (and) a post office called Titusville was established. Mail carried by horseback from Enterprise to Sand Point afterward changed to Titusville. The next office established was at the house of Mrs. Jane Dixon with John M. Dixon as Post Master. Name of office was City Point. On days we could call over and ask if there was any mail opposite where we now live. After being here for a few months the angel of death came into our family and carried away our bro Charles, he was about 15 years. It was a sad blow to us to lose him. We had no doctors as there was not one upon the river. We cared for him as best we could.*

Page 7

*I pleased the Lord to take him I could only say with Job - The Lord giveth and the Lord Father, may blessed be the name of the Lord. Soon after the death of my brother my father and mother and bro George and Edward returned to Ga. Leaving bro John and wife and myself to battle it alone with mosquittows and other annoyances. Our provisions whiche we had brought with us had diminished. We never destined to have a hard time. We had to boil the river water to make salt to salt our food. We often wondered where we would get our next meal sometimes. We would have hominy and that we would ground on a \_tue mill. When we did not have hominy we had potatos and pumpkins. We could not catch fish every day heavy winds*

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*.... and cold northers would drive them in deep water. ((We could not buy meat as we had no money. Bacon was worth 25 to 30 cent pr pound. Flour 25.00 dollars pr Bl. Homey 10 to 15 dollar pr Barrel). We could not get rid of our produce after raising it. We did not see as much as five dollars in twelve months. I married Julia Ann Feaster of Sand Point Sep 24-1872. Major Magonda and Mr. Culpeper came to our camp and dined with us. We set before them the best we had and that was salt and potatoes. My father remained in Ga. until the angel of death came and wasted from us our beloved mother which was on the \_ day of April 08, 1874. Shortly after her death my father came back to Fla to make his home with me for the remander of life, - he died on the 1st day of December 1891 at the advanced age of eight two years and three.....*

Page 9

*Since our first settlement we have watched the growth of the river year by year with the greatest of pleasure, having divided up my land. I have been the means of having a thriving little village on the bank of the Indian River known as Indianola. Having our church and school and one club house with public roads and public docks. (We have a custom of celebrating the 21st of March in honor of landing on Merritts Island).*

*(Signed) Samuel Joseph Field Sep. 1, 1895*

At the end of the first year, after clearing the land, they returned to their home in Macon, Georgia to tell their family of their discovery and to bring John's new bride back with them. They returned to Indianola in March of 1868, and Eliza Annie Field was the first white woman to live on Merritt's Island. Later the brothers were joined by their mother, father and young brother Charles. Charles was 15 years old when he died only a few months after arriving here. John and Eliza homesteaded the property that they named "Pinelands" which was on a high bluff and had mass stands of pine and cypress trees. Samuel homesteaded what was known as "The Hammock." Early in the 1870s they switched properties. Each one of the brothers homesteaded 160 acres through the Homestead Act, and their homestead certificates were signed by President Chester A. Arthur in 1882.



**The Field's Store and Indianola Post Office**

In the early days of homesteading, the Fields lived in tents and a covered wagon. They planted vegetable gardens, and as soon as the produce was ready to pick the Indians came by for their share. The Fields had horses, cattle, and the chickens provided them with fresh eggs and meat. Fish, clams, oysters and shrimp were plentiful as well as wild game. While they were waiting for their orange groves to produce they cultivated pineapples, sugarcane, tobacco, paw-paws, mangoes, peaches and tangerines.

Eventually tents were replaced when log cabins were built, which were small shelters with thatched roofs. Proper houses came later. Friendly Indians often visited the Field homesteads, and many a fresh baked pie disappeared from a window where it was cooling. Life was harsh and lonely. All supplies had to be brought in by boat and the insects - especially the unbearable amount of mosquitoes - were more than one could bear.

Samuel Field was interested in developing a community and sold some of his land to bring in more people. By 1880 he had established the Indianola Post Office, and established a general store in the same building, which was the first post office and general store on Merritt Island. He became the first postmaster and served in that position for many years, since the post office was located in his store. The store was situated on the banks of the Indian River. Nearby was the Indianola Public Dock, which extended far out into the river to reach deep enough water for the boats to come in. A narrow gauge railway ran down the center of the dock which was used to transport heavy boxes of oranges from the packing houses to waiting boats. The railway ran from the dock into the groves.

In 1891 Sam Field gave land for a public hall in Indianola. The town became a favorite community for Northerners to come and build homes for winter residences. Among the "snowbirds" were George Hill and his wife who came as early as 1887. Their son Charles and his wife came a little later. The Hills were dentists from Scranton, Pa. Other early settlers of Indianola were Sam Grant, John Mac Donald and J.R. and Emma Irene Miot.

Dr. George Hill had what might be called a "zoo" which consisted of 50 alligators at his homestead. When he returned to Pennsylvania each spring he left his property and "zoo" in the care of MacDonald.

There was a hotel in Indianola named the "Pierce House."

According to an article published in the "Mosquito Beater's Memory Book of 2001."

*.... there was at one time in the 20<sup>th</sup> century a character named Gotchall who lived in Indianola. Gotchall happened to be a closet drinker. His secret supply of liquor was in a jug he kept in the Indian River. In late afternoon he would untie his boat from the Indianola dock, row out into the Indian River, pull up his jug and take a few swigs, and then row back to the dock. Some of the local boys discovered his secret and they*



*watched from the dock one afternoon. They rowed out to the location of the jug, pulled it up, poured the liquor out and replaced it with river water, and laughingly returned it to the hiding place in the river. The next day Gotchall rowed out to his hiding place, pulled up the jug and took a big swig - and when he tasted river water instead of liquor he became furious. He knew that the boys who had played the trick on him, but he couldn't accuse them without revealing that he was drinking.*

July 4th was a reason to celebrate as reported in the *Indian River Advocate* July 7, 1893:

*The Fourth was celebrated at Indianola by a basket picnic and barbecue, and ended with a grand ball in the evening at the residence of Mr. John Field. The day was fine and pleasure seekers began to arrive early, Cocoa, Titusville, City Point and other places along the river being well represented.*

Some of the events that day included lawn tennis, croquet, football, sack and hurdle races, tub races and swimming matches.

The Indianola Social Club sponsored a picnic each March in the Community of Indianola, to which all Merritt Island residents were invited. This was probably in celebration of the Field's arrival in March of 1868. A newspaper article gave the following account of the festival in March 1901:

*Many of our citizens attended the annual March picnic at Indianola and enjoyed themselves immensely, participating in the usual festivities, which always attract large cosmopolitan audiences who seem interested and delighted in the many sports, while some of us half-starved bachelor crackers are more interested in the big dinner.*

In 1924 the Indianola post office and grocery store burned and were never rebuilt. Where there once was a quiet little community on the banks of the Indian River with its school, church, general store and post office, there is now only a street name and the old Field homestead. Built in 1880, Field Manor was the house where many of these celebrations took place so many years ago. [R]

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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

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## ABOUT THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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

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

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

We have undertaken a number of projects, including:

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

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

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**LIST OF HISTORICAL COMMISSIONERS**


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The list includes all of the Commissioners who have served through the years.

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| Hubert Griggs     | Lynn Pickett          |                     |
| Bob Gross**       | Carole Pope**         |                     |
| Joan Haas         | Charlie Powell        |                     |
| George Harrell    | Karen Raley           |                     |
| Doug Hendriksen** | Orlando Ramirez       |                     |
| Lynn Hollenbeck   | John Rawls**          |                     |

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*“Unless Brevard County history lives in our present,  
it has no future.”*

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**MUSEUMS**


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**Air Force Space & Missile Museum**

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

**American Police Hall of Fame & Museum**

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

**Brevard County Historical Records Archive**

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

**Brevard Museum**

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

**Eastern Florida State College Planetarium & Observatory**

Eastern Florida State College, 1519 Clearlake Rd., Cocoa, FL  
<http://www.easternflorida.edu/community-resources/planetarium/>

**Florida Surf Museum, Cocoa Beach**

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

**Foosaner Art Museum**

1463 Highland Ave., Melbourne, FL 32935  
<http://www.foosanerartmuseum.org/>

**The Grant Historical House**

5795 Highway 1, Grant, FL 32950

**The Harry T. & Harriette V. Moore Cultural Center**

2180 Freedom Ave., Mims, FL 32754  
<http://www.brevardcounty.us/ParksRecreation/North/MooreMemorial/CulturalCenter>

**Historic Rossetter House Museum & Gardens**

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

**Liberty Bell Memorial Museum**

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

**Library of Florida History**

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

**The North Brevard Historical Museum**

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

**Old Town Hall History Center**

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

**Ruth Funk Center for Textile Arts**

150 W. University Blvd., Melbourne, FL 32901  
<http://textiles.fit.edu/>

**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 Foundation & Museum**

308 Pine St., Titusville, FL 32796—<http://www.spacewalkoffame.com/>

**Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum**

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

**Veterans Memorial Center & Council**

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

**HISTORICAL ORGANIZATIONS****Brevard County Historical Commission**

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

**Brevard Cultural Alliance**

2725 Fran Jamieson Way, C-307, Viera, FL 32940  
<http://www.artsbrevard.org/>

**Brevard Genealogical Society**

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

**Cocoa Beach Resident Historians**

c/o City Clerk's Office, City of Cocoa Beach, P.O.Box 322430, Cocoa Beach, FL 32932-2430  
 (321.868.3286)

**Daughters of the American Revolution Chapters**

Abigail Wright Chamberlin – Melbourne, Cape Canaveral – Cocoa Beach  
 Commodore John Barry – Melbourne Beach, Indian River – Titusville Philip Perry – Cocoa  
 Rufus Fairbanks – Satellite Beach  
 For specific contact information for these chapters and the Florida State Society, Historic  
 Preservation Committee see <http://fssdar.com>

**Florida Historical Society**

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

**Florida Historical Society Archaeological Institute (FHSAI)**

2201 Michigan Ave., Cocoa, FL 32926 (321.632.1830 )  
<http://www.myfloridahistory.org/fhsai>

**Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN)**

74 King St, St. Augustine, FL 32085 (904.392.8065)  
<http://www.flpublicarchaeology.org/ecrc/>

**Genealogical Society of North Brevard**

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

**Grant Historical Society**

P.O. Box 44, Grant, FL 32949

**The Historical Society of North Brevard**

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

**Indian River Anthropological Society**

Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society  
 P. O. Box 73, Cocoa, FL 32923-0073—[irasarchaeology@yahoo.com](mailto:irasarchaeology@yahoo.com)  
<http://www.nbbd.com/npr/archaeology-iras/>

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**HISTORICAL ORGANIZATIONS (CONTINUED)**


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**The Mosquito Beaters**

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

**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/>

**Preservation & Education Trust, Inc.**

1219 Rockledge Drive, Rockledge, FL 32955

**Rockledge Heritage Foundation**

11 Orange Avenue, Rockledge, FL 32955 (321.632.2712)

**Sons of the American Revolution**

Ben DuBose, 950 Falls Trail, Malabar, FL 32950 (321.952.2928)

**South Brevard Historical Society**

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)

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**ONLINE SERVICES**


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**Brevard County Historical Commission**

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

**Brevard County Historical Maps**

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

**Florida Historical Museums**

[http://www.floridasmart.com/attractions/museums\\_hist.htm](http://www.floridasmart.com/attractions/museums_hist.htm)

**The Florida Historical Society**

<http://myfloridahistory.org/default>

**The Florida Memory Project**

An interactive Web site of Florida history, photos and letters  
<http://floridamemory.com/>

**The State Library of Florida**

Collecting, preserving and making available the published history of Florida including: Public Records Management, Service to Genealogists, and the state archives.  
<http://dos.myflorida.com/library-archives/>

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

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

# THE HISTORY OF BREVARD COUNTY

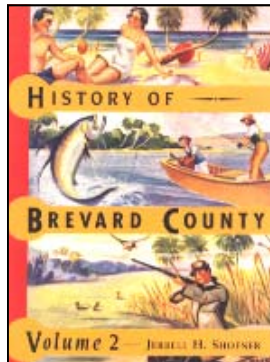
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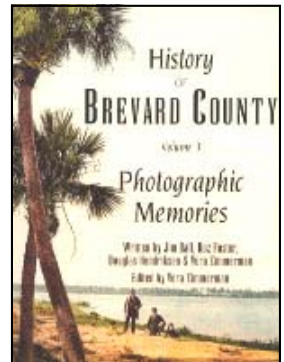


## Volume 1

(Revised 2006)



## Volume 2



## Volume 3

For pricing and shipping details  
check the web site or contact the:

### Brevard County Historical Commission

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& Reference Center  
308 Forrest Ave.  
Cocoa, FL 32922

Telephone 321.633.1794

e-mail [mboonstra@brev.org](mailto:mboonstra@brev.org)

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

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