



THE NORTH BREVARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

(Located at 301 South Washington Avenue)

PO Box 5265

Titusville, FL 32783

(321) 269-3658

OFFICERS

President - Bill Baldwin

Vice President - Debbie Coughlin

Secretary - Judy Davis

Treasurer - Linda Siano

Past President- Betty Mattingly

DIRECTORS

Gini Campbell

Michael Knight

Katie McQuade

Ed Mezick

Susan Nelson

Esther Vulpius

Herman Wattwood, Jr

JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

(Newsletter Editor – Judy Davis)



President's Message

by Bill Baldwin

SO LONG 2019! WELCOME 2020! This year should produce a few changes. For instance, we want to welcome Ed Mezick as our newest Director. Ed has already undertaken the task of getting our “new BBQ grill” roadworthy, which was purchased from Mike Ramer. Debbie Coughlin has graciously assumed to role as Vice President due to the resignation of Amy Spillers. That reminds me, our annual *Afternoon in the Park* event at Fox Lake will be held in October instead of March, where we want to attract some of the Cracker Day group. Also, we plan to again enter a display at the Pioneer Day festival being held at Sams House on Pine Island (Merritt Island) on Saturday, February 8, 2020. This is an event you might want to attend.

Personally, I would like to thank all those members that have helped with any and all of the activities of the Museum this past year. And I welcome your support in the coming year so 2020 can also be a success.

Membership News

Four all-member meetings will be held at Dixie Crossroads during 2020. We want to encourage all members to attend if you can. Those dates are as follows (and we will see you there):

- January 27th (Monday) at 12 pm for lunch
- April 28th (Tuesday) at 5:30 pm for dinner
- September 28th (Monday) at 12 pm for lunch
- November 9th (Monday) at 12 pm for lunch



To all members of the Museum

by Betty Mattingly

After so many years of going to the Museum, I sure do miss being there. I miss seeing all of you. I have had some nice visits; don't be afraid to come. Call my daughter Lynda (321-720-4768) to see if it's an “OK day”. Thank you so much for all your concerns, calls, cards, emails, prayers, etc. I have been blessed with wonderful 24/7 caregivers, especially from my family. Hope you all had blessed holid- days.



We Are Saddened

We have lost a long time member of the Museum - **Betty Bennett**. Betty and husband, Harry, have not been as active this past year, and we miss their presence. Harry, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family



Welcome Mr. Ed

by Bill Baldwin

The Museum is proud to announce the appointment of our newest Director - **Ed Mezick**. Ed has been around awhile and has headed the kitchen activities at our *Afternoon In the Park* for the past several years. And since he is retired now, he has more time on his hands. THANKS Ed and Welcome!



Ed Mezick



Early Pioneers at Shiloh, Florida

Manning Griffis came with his wife and seven children from St. Johns County, FL to the Shiloh, FL area on 20 Sep 1876. He and his sons built a palmetto shanty for their first home and the large and growing family lived in it for four years. Jerry W. was the first child. In Sep 1880, during a storm on the Atlantic, a schooner was wrecked and its cargo of lumber scattered along the beach. This lumber was from Georgia, consigned to a firm in the Bahamas. The people living not far from the wreck made a track from the beach to the lagoon and then rafted the lumber as near as possible to the place where needed, and then carried it on their backs the rest of the way. Manning Griffis built a home of some of this lumber. Thus when the home was completed, the palmetto shanty was ended. Serena Futch, the mother of Mrs. Manning Griffis, was the first white woman to live in the palmetto

shanty between Oak Hill and Dummitt's grove. Mr. J. W. Griffis was the first person in this area to have a citrus nursery. There was not another budded grove in the area except for Dummitt's Grove. Prior to this time, the only way to get a grove was to set wild sour trees and bud them from bud wood secured from Dummitt's Grove. J. W. Griffis conceived his idea of a citrus nursery on his father's place when he was only twelve years old. A gale had blown many oranges from the trees in Dummitt's Grove and he gathered a quart of seeds from the fallen sweet oranges. He planted these seeds and when the seedlings were one and a half years old he budded them from the Dummitt Groves. Most of the groves around Shiloh were from this first nursery. In 1881, Manning Griffis sold his place, with its nursery, to J. A. Pattillo, the grandfather of Crawford Patillo. The next citrus nursery started by J. W. Griffis was located near to the old Shiloh packing house. This packing house was the first one in Shiloh that contained a grader and other machinery. Later, J. W. Griffis started the Rockdale Nursery that covered 34 acres.



Thank you!

Thanks go out to our President, Bill Baldwin, and his talented son, Brian Baldwin as they have been tirelessly renovating our Museum storage area. This frees up much needed space for display window items, folding tables, chairs and duplicate artifacts.

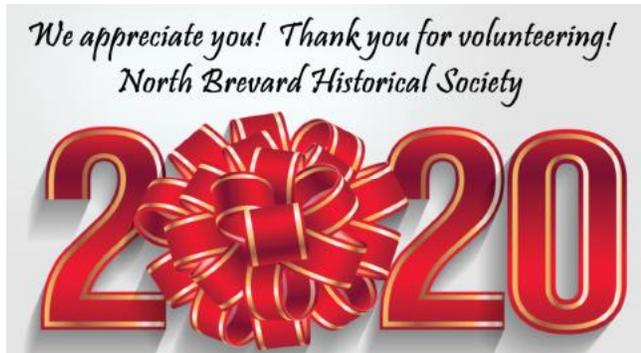




Another PLEA for Docent Support

by Bill Baldwin

I know that it seems that we harp on Docent support all the time, but this could escalate into a very serious issue quickly. We are striving to keep the Museum open four days a week with two 2½ hour shifts per day and two docents per shift. Members leaving the area, health'n age issues and vacations are taking its toll on maintaining status quo. So, if you feel you want to become a Docent or you can add another monthly shift, please call or e-mail Judy Davis. It would definitely make her scheduling much easier.



Early Banks

It is said that one seldom saw a bill under \$10, sometimes few fives, but that silver money was the chief medium of exchange. There were no banks nearer than Jacksonville. Often after a winter's stay, tourists would pay with a "good-sized" check. These checks would circulate up and down as currency for many months before they were finally received by the banks upon which they were drawn, and were so full of endorsements they couldn't hold any more.

- In 1888, Capt. James Pritchard founded and became the first president of the Indian River State Bank. It served Titusville for many years.
- The next bank was the Bank of Titusville in 1926 at the southwest corner of Washington Avenue and Main Street. The Bank of Titusville became the Citizens Bank in the 1940s at the same location – Washington Avenue and Main Street.
- Brevard State Bank came in the 1950s.

- First National Bank came in the early 1970s at the southwest corner of Washington Avenue and Pine Street.
- Brevard National Bank came in the early 1970s on the Indian River at the east end of Main Street.
- Citizens Bank moved from Washington Avenue and Main Street to replace the Brevard National Bank on the Indian River at the east end of Main Street.
- First Federal Savings and Loan occupied the old Citizens Bank location at the southwest corner of Washington Avenue and Main Street in the 1970s.



1907
Indian River State Bank



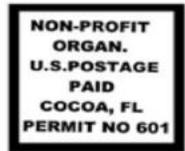
Just a note about renewals

Membership renewals are due January 1st. If you have renewed, we thank you. Those who have not renewed should do so as soon as possible, and are indicated by the ****asterisk**** next to your name. We will remove your name from our membership list in a few months, if you have not done so. This means you will no longer receive our newsletters after that time. If you have any questions regarding your status, please call the Museum.





North Brevard Historical Museum
301 South Washington Avenue
Titusville, FL 32796



OR PRESENT OCCUPANT

Dates to Remember

- January 20, 2020 (Monday) ~ Board meeting at 10 am (Museum).
- January 27, 2020 (Monday) ~ Membership meeting at 12 noon (Dixie Crossroads)
- February 17, 2020 (Monday) ~ Board meeting at 10 am (Museum).
- March 16, 2020 (Monday) ~ Board meeting at 10 am (Museum).
- April 28, 2020 (Tuesday) ~ Membership meeting at 5:30 pm for dinner
- September 28, 2020 (Monday) ~ Membership meeting at 12 pm for lunch
- November 9, 2020 (Monday) ~ Membership meeting at 12 pm for lunch

Board meetings are open to members who wish to attend.

Check us out on **Facebook** and on our **website** below. If you wish to be added to any of our occasional e-mails, please contact us. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or comments at all.

Email: titusvillemuseum@aol.com

Website: www.nbbd.com/godo/history/

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/NorthBrevardHistoricalMuseum