



# THE NORTH BREVARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

(Located at 301 South Washington Avenue)

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Titusville, FL 32783

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## OFFICERS

President - Bill Baldwin  
Vice President - Debbie Coughlin  
Secretary - Judy Davis  
Treasurer - Linda Siano

## DIRECTORS

Gini Campbell  
Debbie Coughlin  
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Katie McQuade  
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Susan Nelson  
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## FEBRUARY-MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER

*(Newsletter Editor – Judy Davis)*

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### President's Message

*by Bill Baldwin*

Are you are wondering why your newsletter is late? The primary reason is lack of input. So Judy Davis and I decided to combine the two months (February and March) with a more complete newsletter. I Hope that works for all of you. Let me remind everyone that articles of interest can be submitted by any member and we encourage your input. And it helps us out immensely.



### A MEMORY TO CHERISH

In case you have not heard, we want to announce the passing of one of our own. On February 5<sup>th</sup>, Betty Mattingly went to be with the Lord. Betty is survived by her son James (Debra) and her daughter Lynda (Steve) Siems, all living in the Titusville area. Lynda and husband Steve are members and supporters of the North Brevard Historical Society and Museum. Betty is now resting at the Oak Lawn Memorial Gardens in Titusville.

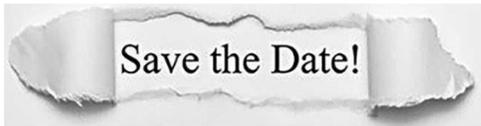


Betty and her late husband, Bill, were long time leaders at the Museum (there are even rumors that Betty was born there). She was president of the Historical Society for numerous years and a Director for a bunch more. Betty was at times larger than life and very easily could have been named “Mrs. Museum”. She will be truly missed.



## Docent Seminar & Luncheon

by Bill Baldwin



Betty Mattingly wanted to underwrite a special **Thank You** for all docents that support our Museum while spending their time each month serving in that capacity. That comes in the form of a docent appreciation lunch (FREE) which will be held at the **Museum on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11 am**. A luncheon also gave me the idea that we could use that time to disseminate some information that docents might need to perform their duties. We would like all docents to attend ~ but we would still like to know how much food to buy, so please call the Museum and add your name to the lunch signup list.



## Downtown Corner

by Katie McQuade

Most of you know by now that the Museum stays open until about 9 pm on the second Friday of each month to support the Downtown Titusville Merchants Association (DTMA) events. Each month the street party has a different theme: January was “Let it Snow” (although rain interfered with that), February was a Valentine’s “Wine and Roses” event, and March’s “Lucky Leprechaun” theme will have a St. Patrick’s day flair. As it isn’t proving cost effective to close the road for these monthly events, the first event of the year when the road will be closed will be in May for the wildly popular Sea Turtle Festival.

Thanks to the intrepid folks who keep the Museum open for those Friday Night events: Ginger Schindler and Victor Cary in the afternoon, and the night crew of Debbie Coughlin, Michael Knight and Paul Marion. (On January 24<sup>th</sup> when we opened to support the Downtown Gallery’s Art in Wildlife soiree, Susan Nelson and my own John Autry stepped in – thanks!)

News of note around town: You may have noticed that the River and Main barbershop has moved from Main Street to a spot South of Playalinda Brewery. If you stroll past you’ll see that the store looks terrific. Sadly, the Crescent Coffee Company closed after just a year in business, but Scott and Nancy Hoffman will be opening a new lunch and dinner restaurant in that location in a month or two. If you’re craving a coffee from beans roasted daily, head over Pier 13, in back of the Mad Utter Ice cream shop. They sell specialty coffees from around the world, and buy from Fair Trade Organic and 100% USDA Organic coffee farms. The Gaslight Mall has undergone some interior renovations, and will soon include a new store selling olive oil. Watch for that to open in the April time frame. An Italian Ice shop looks close to opening near C’s Waffles in the Baldwin Shopping Plaza. I’m craving lemon ice so I hope that’s on the menu! The downtown area now has 4 cameras installed to help monitor traffic in some problematic areas. They are located at: Hopkins and Julia (the Northeast corner), Washington and Julia (North and South bound) and the commons parking lot near Badcock Furniture (South facing). The cameras are operational but the images are not currently being stored to a server. That step should be completed soon. Last but not least, the Titusville Police Department reports a rise in burglaries and stolen vehicles. Bad folks don’t like to work hard, so please keep your garage doors closed and your cars locked. Apparently 85% of stolen vehicles have the keys in them!



## 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. This is a good way to disseminate Museum info that is not covered in the newsletter. Also, the fellowship isn’t bad either. The meeting dates can be seen in the upcoming events schedule “*Dates to Remember*” located on the last page of this newsletter. Hope we see you there.



## Facilities Update

by Bill Baldwin

Just in case you haven't noticed, the display case with the Museum Sales items has been moved to a location nearer the THS/AHS display cases. This was brought about because we felt that visitors did not have ready access to the sales items we showcase. This seems to be a good thing.



Judy Davis upgraded our computer capability with the purchase of a new laptop with dual monitors for the back room, including the latest software. The old computer was starting to give us trouble and the monitor was becoming intermittent.

Our support for the Titusville Birding and Wildlife Festival hit a new high when Erich Konjevich purchased several items from the Sales Display case to be auctioned for that event. Erich is a rare find if you know what I mean. Thanks Erich!



## Titusville in 1885

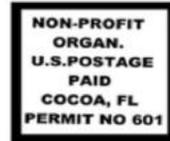
Compiled by Michael Knight

An October 28, 1885 article from the Florida Star provides us with a description of Titusville, its citizens and activities as they were back then. Titusville, on the Indian River, is about 26 miles from New Smyrna, 20 miles from Oak Hill and 10 miles from the Haulover Canal. Its location is on a high, dry bluff of the river, which at this point is said to be five miles across to the mouth of the Banana Creek. The town, which is not yet incorporated, is the seat of justice for Brevard County and consequently contains a courthouse and jail. The population is about 200. There are four general merchandise, one drug store, two large hotels, and a church open to the use of all denominations and one for colored children, and last, but not least, a good barbershop and restaurant combined, under the charge of Andrew Gibson, who makes himself an almost indispensable adjunct of the place. (Note: Gibson was a highly regarded black citizen of Titusville). Titusville was formerly called Sand Point and 10 years ago contained 10 houses. With the proposed incorporation of the place next winter, a change of

names has been suggested, but the present one is surely good enough. It was named for Henry T. Titus, now deceased, who was a man of enterprise and possessed many strong points of character. Titusville has a money order post office and two extensive wharves. The one known as Wagers Wharf, at the lower end of the place, is 1000 feet long and reaches out into six feet of water. The one more generally used is about one third as long. The new railroad wharf, which is to be located farther North, is to be 1500 feet long. It is in course of completion. The matter that is the biggest topic of conversation at the moment is the new railroad from Enterprise (on Lake Monroe) to Titusville. It is now nearing completion. When it reaches the river, the whole town will play circus and stand on its head. The officers of the company have guaranteed that the smoke of the locomotive shall float over the town on the first day of January 1886. It will be the first of three railroads now pushing their way from the St Johns River to the coast, while a fourth, the Jacksonville, St Augustine and Halifax Railroad, may suddenly extend its route from St Augustine to Daytona. The citizens of Titusville have done well in bringing the railroad to this community. They made up a donation of \$30,000 and gave the right of way. The money is to be paid in equal parts as the road is completed, section by section. The present means of communication between Enterprise and Titusville is by means of a small stage line, leaving each place for the other at 5 a.m. and making the distance in five or six hours. There is mail three times a week to Port Orange, one to Cape Canaveral, and the mail boat goes as far down the river as Eau Gallie. There is still another means of communication with the outside world. At Ashbee, on Salt Lake, six miles from Titusville, there is transportation by water through Puzzle and Mullet Lakes to the St Johns River. It is navigable at all seasons. Captain Lund and Smith run their boats to Salt Lake whenever needed. The soil immediately around Titusville is not of extra quality, still it is good in spots. It will grow productive orange groves, with the use of fertilizers. Within the next six to eight months there will be nearly 200 new farms started within a radius of six miles of town, there being within that distance an abundance of rich hammock land. The real estate agency of Titusville is the Indian River Real Estate Agency, operated by James Pritchard and Co.



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



## OR PRESENT OCCUPANT



- \* February 24, 2020 (Monday) ~ Board meeting at 10 am (Museum).
- \* March 16, 2020 (Monday) ~ Board meeting at 10 am (Museum).
- \* March 23, 2020 (Monday) ~ Docent luncheon at 11 am (Museum).
- \* April 28, 2020 (Tuesday) ~ Membership meeting at 5:30 pm for dinner (Dixie Crossroads).
- \* September 28, 2020 (Monday) ~ Membership meeting at 12 pm for lunch (Dixie Crossroads).
- \* November 9, 2020 (Monday) ~ Membership meeting at 12 pm for lunch (Dixie Crossroads).

***\*\*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 us if you have any questions or comments at all.

Email: [titusvillemuseum@aol.com](mailto:titusvillemuseum@aol.com)

Website: [www.nbbd.com/godo/history/](http://www.nbbd.com/godo/history/)

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