



THE NORTH BREVARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

(Located at 301 South Washington Avenue)

PO Box 5265

Titusville, FL 32783

(321) 269-3658

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MAY 2017 NEWSLETTER

President’s Message

by Bill Baldwin

The Museum would like to extend a big *WELCOME* to several new members. These include: Scott and Sharlene Gaenicke; Mark and Donna Jonas, Thomas and Kathleen Royal and Rob Smith Jr. It’s great to have all of you aboard.



“Volunteer of the Year”

by Bill Baldwin



At the April Member dinner meeting held at Dixie Crossroads, I was proud to announce Cash Register as the recipient of the Volunteer of the Year award. Cash is a long time member and is an extremely dependable docent. He was a key member of the Museum’s Car Parking team (for Shuttle launches) which put a lot of money in the Museum coffers. Cash is a yearly fixture at the *Afternoon In The Park* events. He made the mobile “Open” sign that the Museum rolls out in the mornings and also built the beautiful bench used for viewing the *Panel-rama*. He is always there when called upon especially when a quick sub is needed to man the Museum. Thank you, Cash!

Pictures from the Past

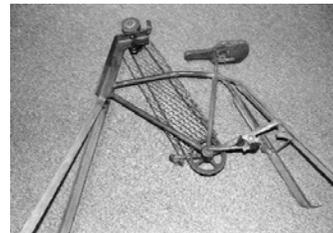
by Paul Marion

Does anyone recognize this nice looking young man whose picture was taken in 1965 in the THS Yearbook? Answer on page 4.



?Mystery Alert?

by Paul Marion



This is a home-made grinding wheel made from a bicycle ~ used for sharpening knives, farm tools or anything with a blade. It is not known who donated it to the Museum; or who was the owner. If anyone knows where it came from, please contact Paul Marion at (321) 269-0140 or pmarion@cfl.rr.com.



Afternoon in the Park

by Betty Nething

Thanks to all who made it possible! This means the chefs and servers responsible for the best bar-be-que meal yet, the beverage pourers as well as the dessert servers and those who donated all the goodies. The displays all had something to do with Titusville's history, especially during its 150th anniversary celebration. Some of the women connected with the displays were in hoop skirts and bonnets of the Civil War era. (Thanks for the hand crocheted water-bottle holder!) The familiar old car display outside of the pavillion is always enjoyed, and the line dancers performed graceful routines during their generous presentation. The disc jockey kept things moving. Although a few familiar faces are missing with the passing of the years, it is most encouraging to have new members arriving who are continuing the purpose of the North Brevard Historical Museum. We welcome you! The writer enjoyed just being there for the annual event and especially loved seeing former neighbors, parents of my children's friends from fifty years ago. A kind man who had to leave early gave her his raffle tickets (but they weren't winners ~ thanks anyhow!). It was a special day. See you next year, God Willing!



Displays

by Amy Spillers

In case you missed the last one, this June we will feature a collection of old bridal dresses. And let me just say it's not because we've all just had our annual bath! Yes, annual bath. According to history, annual baths were taken in May and brides would have smelled more pleasant then, than before their bath. But just to be safe, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide their body odor. Hence the custom of carrying a bouquet when walking down the aisle! *Oh my, I am so glad annual baths don't apply to this day and age because I was married in December!*

*Married when the year is new, he'll be loving, kind and true.
When February birds do mate, you wed not dread your fate.
If you wed when March winds blow, joy and sorrow both you'll know.
Marry in April when you can, joy for Maiden and for Man.
Marry in the month of May, and you'll surely rue the day.
Marry when June roses grow, over land and sea you'll go.
Those who in July do wed, must labor for their daily bread.
Whoever wed in August be, many a change is sure to see.
Marry in September's shrine, your living will be rich and fine.
If in October you do marry, love will come but riches tarry.
If you wed in bleak November, only joys will come, remember.
When December snows fall fast, marry and true love will last.*

—Anonymous



A Well Earned Thank You

by Mike Knight

The Museum recently received a pine needle object that appeared to be a makeup kit with ornate medallions around the top. It had a small amount of damage and needed repairing. Since new museum member **Tara Griffith** has the knowledge of working with pine needle objects, she was asked to look at the damage. First of all, she said that the pine needle medallions around the top had been repurposed from a strap for a purse and there were some small places over the object that needed some repair. She was asked to make any necessary corrections and to connect the medallions together to serve as a strap once again. She made the medallion corrections, cleaned up all the little places that needed work and spruced up the object into the purse that it started out as. Tara did a wonderful job, and created a showplace item for the museum. I really appreciate all she did, and thank her very much for her effort. I hope everyone who has an opportunity to see the finished product will also express their thanks to her for a job well done.



The William Elliot Plantation Merritt Island National Wildlife Preserve/Shiloh Circa 1760

Compiled by Margaret Vessels

In December of 2013, the residents of North Brevard County heard that a company called Spaceport Florida was to develop a commercial launch complex in the Shiloh area. We were outraged. Thank goodness that the Canaveral National Seashore along with local historians, archaeologists and Environmentalists were able to dissuade developing this tract. SpaceX ended up selecting [Brownsville, Texas](#) to build [its private spaceport](#).



The William Elliot Plantation is located on a 2,585 acre site within Canaveral National Seashore and

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge in East Central Florida (two miles North of Haulover Canal). It is the southernmost 18th Century sugar plantation in the United States and dates to 1763 when Florida was acquired by Britain from Spain. The Plantation ruins contain a sugar works factory, rum distillery, slave village, overseer's house, canals, and other agricultural remnants. The sugar mill itself is significant because it is the only 18th Century sugar mill in Florida made of native stone. Also within the area of the sugar mill is a Pre-Columbian shell mound. The plantation's owner, William Elliott, lived in England and depended on his Scottish overseer, John Ross, to run the place and send him reports, said National Park Service archaeologist Margo Schwadron. The letters they exchanged, including diagrams of the plantation, have all been the subject of research in London, she said. Ross acquired more than 80 slaves from Georgia to dig canals draining wetlands on the property so they could grow sugar, rice and indigo. The slaves also ran the sugar factory and distillery.

The plantation operated until 1779, when Spanish privateers raided it and carted off all the plunder they could carry, as well as burning a 60-acre sugar cane field that had been ready for harvest.

The site has been reviewed by the Southeast Archaeological Center for the National Park Service, which considers it to be among the most significant and well preserved African-American landscapes because it was totally built with slave labor and the remains of their residences are evident. Because of its age and context they state: "It is our opinion that this property represents one of the most significant properties in North America."

In December 2013, the FAA issued a notice that SpacePort Florida had filed a permit application to operate a commercial launch facility called Shiloh Launch Complex in the general area of Elliott Plantation. At scoping hearings held by the FAA in February 2014, Space Florida released maps showing its proposed location, which includes a portion of Elliott Plantation.



Archaeologist Dot Moore, right, and historian Roz Foster, in hat, help excavate the Elliott Plantation Site.

Artifacts at risk:

Joining the environmentalists in opposition to the plan: local historians. They point to the 2,585-acre Elliott Plantation as among the most archaeologically significant sites in Shiloh. The plantation, built in the 1760s, is thought to be the southernmost and first British Colonial period sugar plantation. The mossy rock walls of the sugar mill still stand. William Elliott never went there. John Ross, a Scotsman, ran the plantation for him, using slave labor to distill rum, grow sugarcane and make dye for British military red coats. "Two years of archeological survey and evaluation argue this site is one of the most significant historical properties in North America and is likely National Historic Landmark eligible," according to a recent report prepared by the National Parks Service. The site includes miles of canals, roads and living areas built by slaves. "This is one of the most significant and well-preserved African-American landscapes known, and is unique in its quality of preservation," the report states. "There's probably 2,000 years of human occupation in that area," said Refuge Manager Layne Hamilton. Ketcham said the launch complex would stay off the plantation and would be careful to avoid impacting other cultural resources. "We have been aware of that from the very get-go," he said of Elliott Plantation. "We're not putting it on top of it. We moved farther south to get away from it."

Roz Foster, president of the North Brevard Heritage Foundation, still fears what could be disturbed by roads, pipes and electrical lines leading to the launch complex. "The impact to this would be catastrophic, not to mention all the other archeological sites," she said. "It's much more than Elliott Plantation. There are Indian mounds and middens scattered all over the place."

***Note: The information on William Elliott and his plantation was provided for this study by Dr. Daniel Schafer, Professor Emeritus and former Chair of the History Department, University of North Florida. And also to the CANAVERAL NATIONAL SEASHORE Historic Research Study, written by Susan Parker.*



Social Media

by Judy Davis

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



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Dates to Remember

- *May 15th* Board meeting at 10 am at the Museum.
- *June 19th* Board meeting at 10 am at the Museum.
- *July 17th* Board meeting at 10 am at the Museum.
- *August 21st* Board meeting at 10 am at the Museum.
- *September 18th* Board meeting at 10 am at the Museum.
- *September 25th Membership meeting at 12:00 noon* at Dixie Crossroads for lunch and membership meeting.
- *October 16th* Board meeting at 10 am at the Museum.
- *November 20th* Board meeting at 10 am at the Museum.
- *November 27th Membership meeting at 5:30 pm* at Dixie Crossroads for dinner and membership meeting.
- *December 18th* Board meeting at 10 am at the Museum.

Pictures from the Past answer:

His friends said "Just look at that smile: That is Michael alright. Michael Duane Knight