

“Sharing the Rich History of Ormond Beach through Education and Preservation”



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We welcome the new and returning OBHS directors, and the officers for 2016, below.

President: Pat Sample

First Vice President: John Anglea

Treasurer: Mary-Lu Leveroni

Past President: Diana Simmons

2nd Vice President: Shannon Julian

Recording Secretary: Abbe Letendre



Our **Annual Meeting and Dinner**, held January 29, was a great success! Rather than a sit-down dinner with assigned seats, we had lots of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, allowing folks to mingle and communicate more.

Picture to the left shows incoming 2016 President Pat Sample at the podium, with past president Diana Simmons looking on.

With such a talented group of volunteers, it's always tough to pick winners of our annual awards, but this year's honorees were as follows:

Diana Simmons, who has worked tirelessly for OBHS since joining six years ago, received the **Anderson-Price Memorial Award** for 2016. Congratulations!

Community Partnership Award was presented to **Carol Bigelow** and her company **1st Florida Realty**, which is a **Life member** of OBHS.

The Volunteer of the Year award was presented to **Carole Valcik**. Carole worked tirelessly preparing our successful “A Taste of Ormond” cookbook.



Our Board of Directors for 2016 was sworn in by past state congressman Evelyn Lynn – How many do you recognize?

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 2016**PRESIDENT**
Patricia Sample**PAST PRESIDENT**
Diana Simmons**1st VICE-PRESIDENT**
John Anglea**2nd VICE-PRESIDENT**
Shannon Julien**TREASURER**
Mary-Lu Leveroni**RECORDING SECRETARY**
Abbe Letendre**HISTORIANS EMERITI**
Donald Bostrom*
Gordon Kipp*
*Deceased**DIRECTORS**Joyce Benedict
Carol Bigelow
Jeff Blass
Bobbi Coleman
Jay Cortright
Robert Doyer
Ann Eifert
Bonda Garrison
Ron Howell
Cathy Hubka
Mary Jackelen
Thomas MacDonald
Thomas Massfeller
Flo Minardi
Candice Mount
Greig Rabitaille
Dr. Philip J. Shapiro
Joan Skirde
Dan Smith
Shirley Stover
Elaine Tindell
George Ward**NEWSLETTER EDITORS**

Tom Massfeller & Candy Mount

LIFE MEMBERS1st Florida Realty
Ceylon & Irina Barclay,
Leneen Bean, Joyce Benedict,
Bob & Mary Boggs,
James & Bonnie Bostrom,
J. Hyatt & Cici Brown,
Eleanor B. Callon, Cyndee Christian,
Bob & Bobbi L. Coleman,
Fred & Linda Costello, Sisco Deen,
Gloria Deen, Dr. Frank Diefenderfer,
Ann M. Eifert,
Capt. H.P. & Joan Freburger Jr.,
Donald C. Gaby,
Ted & Bonda Garrison,
Bernard & Thelma Irvin,
Jeanne Leigh Jeffs
Dr. Sue Kim, Patricia Lang,
Lowell & Nancy Lohman,
Margaret Lyon, Richard M. Lyon, Jr.
James & Judith Massfeller
Tom Massfeller, Julie Mather Miller
Marvin & Phyllis Miller,
Ormond Beach Woman's Club,
Drucilla Raymond, Juan L. Riera,
Carolyn & Mauro Rigante,
Root Family Foundation,
Patricia Sample, Eleanor Schermer,
Dr. & Mrs. Philip J. Shapiro,
Diana Simmons, Julie Ruth Stearns
Jerry & Jo TraywickThis newsletter is published quarterly by:
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Ormond Beach, Florida 32176
(386) 677-7005
www.OrmondHistory.org

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President's Letter

We have many challenges in the coming year, the major one being the preservation of the MacDonald House, 38 East Granada Blvd., owned by Ormond Beach. It presently serves as a Welcome Center for the city and offices for OBHS and the tennis center. OBHS has gained the services of an architect and developed a plan for the MacDonald house to become a museum. We plan to work with our city government, our members, and our citizens to identify sources of funding, both public and private to restore this historic building. We will need the support of all our members and area residents. When we put out a call to attend city meetings to show our mayor and our commissioners that this building that serves 1,700-plus visitors a year is worth saving, I hope you and your friends will heed the call!

The city is requesting quotations for a feasibility study for the restoration and stabilization of three sites: the Ames House, 173 S. Beach, presently used for the city attorney's offices; the old Coquina building that served as a fire house and jail, 160 E. Granada; and the MacDonald House.

The MacDonald house, built in 1900, is named for the family that founded Billy's Tap Room over 75 years ago. Billy MacDonald first worked at a tearoom in the winter season behind the Ormond Hotel. In 1922, the tearoom was closed and Billy worked at the present location of Billy's Tap Room and Grill, at the time a drugstore with a gas pump out front. In 1926, Billy purchased the building, naming it Billy's Tap Room. In 1941, he purchased the home that would become the MacDonald House. Generations of MacDonalds still live in this town. As the years have gone by, the house has been neglected but is not in nearly as poor

condition as the Casements was when this organization was formed to save it! We must now save another piece of our history.

My other goal this year will be to engage corporate sponsors for our organization so that we may continue on with our preservation efforts. These sponsors in turn can benefit by showing their commitment to helping an important cultural dimension to our community, further enhancing the quality of life that we enjoy in Ormond Beach.

As this year's President, I look forward to working with all of you.

Pat Sample

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The Anderson-Price Memorial Building is 100 years old this year!



Construction began in 1915 and was completed in 1916 by the Village Improvement Association (VIA). This women's organization's goals were to "promote neatness and order in the village, and do what may improve and beautify the town and keep it in a healthful condition." The building replaced a smaller building on the site as Ormond's library, and as a meeting place for the VIA and other area groups.

In 1958 the VIA changed its name to the Ormond Beach Woman's Club, and in 1963 added the kitchen and serving room on the west side. The city's library remained here until Ormond Beach moved it to its present location next to city hall. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. In 2002, the Woman's Club deeded the building to the Ormond Beach Historical Society with the right of use for the club.

Today, the Historical Society maintains the Anderson-Price Memorial Building and provides many historical programs for the community. Pictures and displays pertaining to Ormond Beach history are located throughout the building. The building may be rented for business or social affairs.

Of course, with any building almost 100 years old, upkeep is required. If any area resident or visitor is interested in making a tax-deductible contribution, please contact the Historical Society office at 386-677-7005.

Save Part of Ormond's History – The MacDonald House!



The Historic MacDonald House is one of the oldest buildings in Ormond Beach. Built in 1900, it received its name from Billy MacDonald, founder of Billy's Tap Room, who purchased the building in 1941.

The City of Ormond Beach purchased the building in 1979, and it was listed on the Local Landmarks List in 1998.

The building was restored in 1998 with funds from the state of Florida, the city of Ormond Beach and private donations. Later improvements included the replacement of all the wooden window frames with hurricane resistant windows. A recent inspection by the city's pest control service found there are no termites in the building.

The MacDonald House is the centerpiece of the Beachside Cultural District bordered by The Casements, the Ormond Memorial Art Museum and St. James Church. The Historical Society maintains the Ormond Beach Welcome Center and a small museum on the first floor. The Society plans an expanded Museum of Ormond Beach History that would tell the stories of the people who made Ormond Beach the community of choice it is today. The MacDonald House is the perfect central location for such a center. Once this unique building is gone, it's gone forever. Can you imagine what a thrill it would be if we could walk into just a portion of the original Hotel Ormond today?

Continued page 4

The MacDonald House continued...

A museum located in a downtown area has a proven record of attracting foot traffic that benefits area businesses. We only have to look to New Smyrna Beach or DeLand to prove this point. Historical preservation has worked for economic development in those cities when other attempts failed. A mixed use for the MacDonald House would generate revenue for the city.

This decision affects not only the current population, but also generations to come. The Ormond Beach Historical Society is asking the City Commission to support the preservation of the MacDonald House, and we have pledged to work with the city to identify grants and other sources of funding that could accomplish this goal. The taxpayers do not have to bear the full burden of this project. If you think that the MacDonald House is worth saving, contact your elected officials and let them know you care about preserving the integrity of Ormond Beach through its natural beauty and historical treasures.

Editor's Note: The above MacDonald House story is an edited version of Suzanne Heddy's Letter to the Editor in the January 20, 2016 News-Journal.

ANNA DUMMETT – Great Floridian



By Christine Dann

March is Women's History Month, and we honor Anna Dummett, the daughter of Col. Thomas Dummett (1775-1839). His sugar mill ruins can be seen two miles north of Tomoka State Park. Col. Dummett was a British marine officer and a wealthy sugar planter on the island of Barbados. During an 1816 slave uprising, he and his family fled to Connecticut, later settling in Florida. In 1825, Col. Dummett purchased the approximately 2,000-acre Bunch plantation on the Tomoka River for a sugar plantation (Originally the 1767 Rosetta Plantation of the lieutenant governor of East Florida, John Moultrie). He built a sugar works, rum distillery and the first steam-powered sugar cane mill in Florida.

Anna Dummett (1817-1899) wrote of her family's plantation life in a memoir called "Cicely on the Old Plantation," published as "Remembrances on the Plantation – The Old Dummett Grove." She writes of the family's experiences at home and in life, documenting that "the plantation produced 50 hogsheads of sugar a year" along with rum and other crops. Anna also wrote of her close relationship with her servant friends and the Seminole Indians who worked and traded with them on the plantation, and she taught some of the younger ones to read.

The federal government wanted to relocate the Seminoles. Anna wrote that Seminole Chief Billy Bowlegs spoke with Col. Dummett, saying that the Seminoles would not be able to make a successful move west. Happy days on the Dummett Plantation ended when the Second Seminole War broke out in 1835.

Michelle Cecchini, Licensed Real Estate Broker
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Anna Dummett continued...

Col. Dummett and his family fled to the safety of St. Augustine during the start of the war, and their plantation was burned down. In 1838, he bought a home on the corner of St. Francis and St. George streets. After her father's death in 1839, Anna converted the home to a boarding house that is now called the St. Francis Inn. Anna never married, yet she raised 10 children, the orphans of her three sisters who had married military officers. During the Civil War, she volunteered as a nurse to the Confederate troops, and according to oral tradition, she worked as a Confederate spy. She was also very active in St. Augustine civic affairs and was the first president and president for life of the Ladies Memorial Association. She was instrumental in organizing the land donation and funding to establish the Confederate War Memorial obelisk on St. Augustine's central plaza – an extremely difficult post-Civil War task. It was erected in 1872 and is considered the oldest Confederate War Memorial in Florida.



The United Daughters of the Confederacy chapter in St. Augustine was named after Anna Dummett. The St. Augustine Historical Society placed a tablet in her memory. Anna Dummett died in St. Augustine in 1899. She is one of the few women buried among the Seminole and Civil War graves in the National Cemetery in St. Augustine. She was chosen a Great Floridian 2000, and her plaque may be viewed at the St. Francis Inn, 279 St. George St. in St. Augustine.

Sources: "Valiant Pioneers" by Alice Strickland, "Cicely on the Old Plantation" memoirs By Anna Dummett, "Sweet Cane" by Lucy Wayne, "History of the Confederate Monument" by Herbert Greenleaf, The Great Floridians 2000 website and St. Francis Inn website.

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New OBHS Members for 2015

Thank you to all the wonderful new members of the Ormond Beach Historical Society. And thank you to our not-so-new members who have brought friends, neighbors, and family members to the OBHS. The more the merrier as so many of you have discovered at our lectures and parties, work days and other volunteer opportunities. And keep spreading the word to all those “not-yet-members”.

Below is a list of members who joined in 2015. Welcome, each and every one of you. I hope you find a niche in the OBHS to further the mission of learning more about and preserving the Ormond Beach history and sharing it with others. If you'd like to volunteer, please let the office know and we'll get back to you. It helps us if you let us know what you'd like – or not like – to do.

The OBHS has changed its membership renewal process from one based on the calendar year – January 1 to December 31 – to one based on the anniversary date of the member. For example, if you joined in July, your renewal date will be July, and your membership year will be July 2016 to July 2017. We are doing this to smooth out the flow of work in the office. As our membership has grown, it got to be quite a bit of work in the last quarter of one year and early in the first quarter of the next. And, that's a busy time of year with other events like the Tour of Homes and the Annual Meeting, among other activities. So, that's why many of you did not get a renewal notice late in 2015, but you have recently or will later in the year.

Individual

Virginia Bass
Barbara Brown
Wendy Brunson
Carol Burchard
Michael Carmody
Julie Carson
Marjorie Coltelli
Brian Coupe
Susan Crocker
Robert Daniels
Randy Dayger
Amelia Evans
Miles Gardner
Kevin Gelnow
Dorothy Gleason
Jackie Hanes
Harriette Henderson
Rita Highley
Miriam J. Hinkle
Dorothy Holbrook
Tamara Hover
Laurence Hull
Kelly Pirkle
Kevin Johnson
Elise Kears
Carolyn Knapp
Kay Kummerow
Ann Lambert
Jerry Lampe

Carl Leo
Phyllis Lowry
Yvonne Mayberry
Kathleen McKay
Carole Messina
Cecilia Reddy
Becke Stravinsky
Allison Taylor
William V. Taylor
Joan Tepper
Charlotte Tsoucalas

Family

Dr. Dennis & Kay Acquaro
Jeff & Cam Blass
Ed & Carolyn Bova
Ann & Locke Burt
Tom & Linda Caridad
Richard & Patricia Conlow
Lance & Ruth Dodson
David & Colleen Donahue
Rovert & Deborah Dover
John & Connie Emery
J. Patrick & Andrea Finn
Dinorah Gabella & Elisa Poisson
John & Dr. Dixie Garner
Greg & Janet Gillespie
Rick & Pam Gualtieri
Leon & Laura Joyce
Dan & Noralee Lipscomb
Tom & Elaine McCulley
Ruth & David J Mielke

Brad & Paula Miller
Carol & Gus Nelson
Tony & Bonnie Powell
James & Dianne Ramsey
William & Joan Rowe
Bill & Lois Sands
Paula & Julie Strong
Bill & Michele Sweeters
Brad & Paula Miller
Barry & Alex Newman

Heritage

Kelly Rouse-Willis

Business

Ormond Beach Olive Oil Company
-Paul F. Holub

Life

Gloria Deen
Dr. Frank Diefendorfer

Open the Doors to Ormond Beach's Historic Treasures!

The Ormond Beach Historical Society invites you to take a tour, hear a lecture, see the sights of the "Birthplace of Speed," where early 20th century race cars competed on the beach, 18th and 19th century sugar mills turned sugar cane into molasses and rum, and 17th century Native Americans lived amid the natural splendor of east central Florida.

Visit Us!

At the MacDonald House, Ormond Beach's Welcome Center and Museum

Gateway to the Ormond Scenic Loop

38 East Granada Boulevard

Ormond Beach, FL 32176

386-677-7005

www.OrmondHistory.org • email: office@ormondhistory.org

Open 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday

See historical photographs and literature, visit our Merchandise Shoppe offering a selection of DVDs and books on local and Florida history, postcards, Birthplace of Speed T-shirts, caps, and more for purchase.

Don't miss our 20-minute local history video, Ormond Discovery

Scenic Bus Tours

Ride in an air-conditioned bus to discover the hidden historical gems of Ormond Beach. Our tour includes 30 sites on the route – the Ormond Scenic Loop, Fairchild Oak, Three Chimneys Sugar Mill Ruins, Ormond Indian Burial Mound and historic homes along the way, and lasts about two hours, guided by a friendly, knowledgeable Historical Society volunteer tour guide.

Tours are offered 2-3 times per month.

Adults \$20; OBHS members \$18; Children (5-12) \$7

Reservations required, space is limited;

Call the MacDonald House, 386-677-7005, for dates and times.

Hotel Ormond Cupola

Visit the remaining portion of the Hotel Ormond in Fortunato Park (northeast corner of the Granada Bridge) to see pictures and memorabilia about the hotel. No charge. Open Saturdays and Sundays, 2-4 pm, September through May.

Anderson-Price Memorial Building

This historic building at 42 N. Beach Street is owned by OBHS and can be rented for weddings, receptions, luncheons, business meetings, etc.

Call the MacDonald House, 386-677-7005, for reservations or questions.



The MacDonald House
38 East Granada Blvd.
Ormond Beach, FL 32176



500 Years of Florida History!



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Mark Your Calendars – EVENTS TO ATTEND

Discover Our History and Back in the Day presentations are at the Anderson-Price Memorial Building, 42 North Beach Street, Ormond Beach. Call the MacDonald House, 386-677-7005, with questions, or check our website, www.OrmondHistory.org.

Thursday, February 26; Saturday, March 19; Thursday, March 31; Saturday, May 7; and Thursday, May 19 – 9:45 a.m. – Scenic Historical Bus Tours – Leaves from The Casements. Reservations required, OBHS members \$18, non-members \$20.

Saturday, February 27 – 10 a.m. – Discover Our History Lecture Series – Patrick Smith's "Florida is a Land Remembered," by Rick Smith

Saturday, February 27 – 1:45-3 p.m. – Echo Rangers Children's Program, for ages 5 – 12, APMB

Saturday, March 26 – 10 a.m. – Discover Our History Lecture Series – Hope of Freedom: Southern Blacks and the American Revolution, by Dr. Roger Smith

Saturday, April 23 – 6-10 p.m. – Speakeasy Party, APMB –
We'll be partying like back in the roaring 20s!

Saturday, April 30 – 10 a.m. – Discover Our History Lecture Series – The Florida East Coast Railway: For 120 Years America's Speedway to Sunshine, by Professor Seth Bramson

Saturday, May 14 – 9:30 a.m. – Back in the Day Lecture Series – A Winter in Ormond – 1905, by local historians Ron and Alice Howell

Sunday, May 15 – 2-4 p.m. – Anderson-Price Memorial Building Open House – Come help us celebrate the building's 100th birthday!