

# Estero Historical Society

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Due January 1, 2012 to get the advantage of the full year.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

\* E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

\* Your acceptance of e-mails allows us to keep you up-to-date on events and saves the Society a great deal in mailing costs.

Individual \$20.00  Family \$35.00  Supporter \$50.00  Patron \$500.00

Lifetime \$1,000.00  Business \$50.00  Business Patron \$500.00

Donation to building fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please check your personal volunteer interests below. In order to function well, the Society NEEDS the help of its members.

Docent-Office: Hall/Collier Home \_\_\_\_\_

Care of Hall/Collier Home:

Inside \_\_\_\_\_  Yard \_\_\_\_\_

Activities at the Hall/Collier Home:  Exhibits

Tea/Lunches  Work Special Events  Picnic  Lectures (Getting speakers, set up, food etc.)

Fundraising Events (Special Tea, Tours, Dance, etc)  Children activities

Mailings  Take Pictures  Phone calling  Office  School Projects  Oral Histories

Product Sales  Publicity  Newsletter  Planning Committee

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:

**"ESTERO HISTORICAL SOCIETY", PO BOX 1314, Estero, FL 33929**

For more information please call Jean Pryal at 239-498-5296

Visit our web site at <http://www.esterohistoricalsociety.com>

**Estero Historical Society**

**P.O. Box 1314**

**Estero, FL 33929**

To:



## Estero Historical Society, Inc.

Nov. 11, 2011

Volume V, Issue 2

A 501 c3 Non-profit Corporation

Officers:

President: John Yarbrough

VP: Jean Pryal

Secretary: Betty Shandor

Treasurer: Bev MacNellis



### "Holiday Lunch at the Park"

Dec. 16, Friday

Enjoy the sounds of the *Brooks Brothers*, while having a great lunch at your leisure on the new deck! Door Prizes - Donation \$20

Between Noon and 2 PM - Tickets on site.

Tickets: Bev MacNellis 498-0678

Email: [beverlyann@comcast.net](mailto:beverlyann@comcast.net)



### Annual Tea-Lunch

Feb. 20th- 11:30

Pelican Sound

Speakers:

Go back in time as you

hear the stories of Lida

E. Burnham & Tommie

Camilla Barfield, as

portrayed by Eleanor

Burnham & Betsy

Perdichizzi



For tickets, reserve a table or for information

contact: Lourdes Price, 239-878-3111

email [LourdesPrice@PricelessRealty.com](mailto:LourdesPrice@PricelessRealty.com)



The goal is to have the buildings open sometime in the late fall, perhaps November or early December.

As visitors pull up to the two buildings and look at them from the parking lot, the one on the left is what the society calls the Old Schoolhouse. The building on the right is referred to on the society's website as the Collier House and is also known as the Hall-Collier House. The object of the work on each building is slightly different.

### Hall-Collier House to open soon

TERRY ALLEN WILLIAMS/Coastal Life  
reprinted in part.

The future of Estero's past is looking brighter with each passing day.

Two historic buildings, a 1904 schoolhouse and a 1906 home, should soon be open to the public at Estero Community Park, several years after work to save and move them about a mile and a half to the park from Highlands Avenue began.

"It's been a long time coming, but we see the light at the end of the tunnel," said Jean Pryal, vice president of the Estero Historical Society.



"The school is going to be a complete historical restoration," said John Yarbrough, president of the historical society. "The house is called an adaptive restoration, which means it's not exactly the way it was where at the school it will be exactly the way it was."

*continued inside*

### Mission Statement

To learn, teach AND PRESERVE  
the history of Estero.

*By our continuing efforts, we hope to secure a rich historical legacy for future generations and a strong sense of community identity.*



## Estero Historical Society's Annual Tea-Luncheon

**February 20<sup>th</sup>  
Monday - 11:30 AM  
at Pelican Sound  
Club House**

11:30 AM - Tickets, Raffles, Special Raffles, 50-50 Tickets.  
12:00 Noon - Tea-Lunch  
12:45 Speakers "Oh, Pioneer"

And go back in time as you hear the stories of Lida E. Burnham & Tommie Camilla Barfield, as portrayed by Eleanor Burnham & Betsy Perdichizzi

## Oh, Pioneer!

### The Early Clamming Industry in SW Florida

In the early history of Lee County practically all of the fifty-some families in Estero (not counting the Koreshan Community) made their living at fruit-growing, or commercial fishing. In nearby Marco Island, also part of Lee County at that time, people made their living farming, fishing and clam digging. Two friends, Tommie Barfield and Lida Burnham, discuss early history, and how clam digging turned into a unique industry that lasted almost half a century.

For more information call: Lourdes Price 239-878-3111



You will be able to buy our famous Mango Chutney at all our meetings and events. Contact Marlene Fernandez 239-992-3178

facebook

Find Us On  
FaceBook

www.facebook.com/esterohistoricalsociety  
or visit our Website at [www.EsteroHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.EsteroHistoricalSociety.com)

Dear Member,

We are happy to report we are close to completing the renovation of the 1906 Hall-Hanson House in the Estero Community Park. It should be finished in November. The House will serve as our headquarters. We have also begun constructing the handicap ramp and deck connecting our two historic buildings. The House will have maintenance and utility expenses that will be our responsibility. We will finish construction of the deck and ramp in November. While some grant funds were used to renovate the House, no grant funds were used for the deck or ramp. We will need members' support in maintaining the House.

The mission of the Society is to learn, teach, and preserve the history of Estero. We accomplish this in several ways. The first way we do this is to have meetings on the second Monday of the month. At these meetings we have speakers discussing Estero and Florida history. Speakers this year include Amy Williams and Glenn Miller of the News Press. We also encourage our members to speak about Estero history to other community groups. We have also had field trips to Mound Key, Mound House, Lovers Key, Randell Research Center, Everglades City and Ussepa. Currently our meetings are held at the recreation center at the Estero Community Park. Starting this December, we hope to have them at the Hall-Hanson-Collier House in the Park.

Our web site ([www.estrohistoricalsociety.com](http://www.estrohistoricalsociety.com)) is always being updated, so visit it often for more information about us and view pictures of our many past events (click on Current Events).

#### Annual Events Include:

February 20, 2012—Annual Spring Tea/Luncheon  
April—Pioneer Picnic  
July 4th—Reading of the Declaration of Independence  
Summer—Making of the "Famous Chutney and Jam"  
December 16, 2011—Holiday Lunch at the Park  
More activities and fund raising events are in the planning. Please watch for announcements in your e-mail, visit our web site, check the local newspapers and FaceBook. We are always looking for help in the Society and you will be most welcome, so let us know how you would like to help.

We hope you will renew your membership and we thank you for your past support. The Society could not have achieved as much as it has without your support at our events and your past memberships.

Beverly Mac Nellis  
Treasurer

For more information, call Jean Pryal at 239-498-5296. Visit our web site at <http://www.esterohistoricalsociety.com>  
P O Box 1314 Estero, Florida 33929

Continued

## Hall-Collier House to open soon

The one-room schoolhouse will be like it was a century ago. No air conditioning. No electricity. No plumbing. It might come as a shock for 21st century schoolchildren to see what a school was like long before the Internet. The building served as a schoolhouse from 1904 to 1927.

The Collier House, which was Estero's post office until 1908, already has air conditioning and electric lights. Yarbrough said plans call for a deck to be built connecting the two structures and to serve as a meeting space. Yarbrough, a former Lee County parks and recreation director and Estero resident, credits the rest of the society for what has been done at the park and elsewhere to preserve the community's history.

"We have such a passionate group of board members," Yarbrough said.

## Deck is well on it's way





# Annual Reading of the Declaration of Independence

ESTERO — In honor our nation's independence, the Estero Historical Society hosted the fifth annual reading of the Declaration of Independence at the Estero Community Park, located on 9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd. in Estero at 11 a.m.

With the Estero Fire Department's American flag waving high from their fire-truck ladder, fifty devoted Americans, from Cape Coral to Naples, attended and took turns reading out loud one to two lines of the Declaration of Independence until reaching the end of the document in about 25 minutes.

After 235 years, and over 1,100 miles away, the reading of Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence is still being honored and celebrated. A few of the attendees read with tears in their eyes as the impact of the significance of the Declaration set in.



Robert & Johanna McMichael

"People want to participate; many haven't seen or read the Declaration, let alone participated in reading it out loud," said the Estero Historical Society's Vice President Jean Pryal. "People are delighted to read it; it is very well-written and meant to be read out loud."



Jean Pryal our VP chairs this event.



Estero Fire Rescue has become a large part of the days events.



Some of your officers and members who give their time to the Historical Society: Dave and Jean Pryal, Betty & Steve Shandor, Marlene Fernandez & Bev MacNellis



Sarah Larsen & her two children, Julian and Fiona join Bev MacNellis



Catherine & Sean Janes



Pete & Shirley Thompson

## Annual Tea at Pelican Sound greatest success!



This year our chairwoman for the tea was Eileen Galvin who is well know here in Estero. No one else could have gotten so many people to do and donate so much for our major event fundraiser. Great Job Eileen! Laurie Nienhaus was our guest speaker who brought many of the fashions of the past to show us.



Ellen St. John, Barbara Morman, Stephanie Miller, Margaret Antonier, Eileen Galvin and Mimi Staub.



Jill Keen-Lucas, Mary Popovich, MaryAnn and George Weenen, Janet Waldo, Dee Binka, Jane Bender, Linda Gunke tea



Iris Hocker, Bev Banks, Karen Evenson, Ginny Cole, Mary Kort, Nancy Rollette, Barb Vitello



Diana Lybarger, Pam Sebby, Carol Markwood, Sis Newberry, Marlene Fernandez, Betty Shandor.



Betty Lou Gordon, Cathy Lytell Jensen, Lillian Sikora, Pauline Pence and Geri Jones



Bev MacNellis, Margo Marlow, Marty Hika, Lorrie Kopko, Katy Errington, Debbie Burnett, Jean Perkins, Phyllis Sanderson, Marilyn Edwards



# Pioneer Picnic

April 16, 2011

By Marlene Fernandez, Chair



Members of families that were present at the picnic were: Winnie Green (Shenefield), Shirley Hall (Shenefield), MaryAnn & George Weenen, Jean & Dave Pryal, Dorothy Enard C. Horne, Darlene & Herley Johnson, John Ban, Gayle & Curtis Horton, Bill & Dotty (Acuff) Brown, Jerry & Jamie Acuff, Geneva Walker, Allen Soto Acuff, Dwayne Acuff, Marge Hardly, Steve & Betty Shandor, Jimmy & Gery Hesler, Ramela & Joe Fernandez, John & Nancy Ewert, Wilma McKown Harvard, ohn, Jaden, Ember, & Trinity Fernandez, Bill & Mary Fernandez, Carolyn Embrey, M & M Fine, Tim Fernandez and Tom & Marle Fernandez.



## Lovers Key Trip

By Carolyn Fischer - Chair of Tours

Lovers Key on May 20, 2011 — The ranger, Scott Murray, who was a diver for Mel Fisher talked on the treasures they found and experiences with attempted looting on the “high seas. Ship “Atocha”



## Planning of Events and Activities

By Carolyn Fischer - Chair of Tours

We are planning a guided trip to MOUND KEY Island and The MOUND HOUSE on Ft Myers Beach - probably in January. (The Mound House is still not open but should have completed renovations and restoration by then.) We will drive to the Mound House, picnic and then boat to Mound Key. Cost to be announced.

To be determined: possible trip to An-Tah-Thi-Ki (Seminole museum in Clewiston). Over 20,000 artifacts spanning 300 years. This has to be one of our oldest recorded living histories in Florida. Trip will include lunch; travel by carpool.

Trips to our sister museums in Collier County (Everglades Museum and lunch at an authentic Cuban Cafe; Marco Island Museum and tour).

We are working on other fantastic plans for the season, but they are not ready for “prime time” viewing yet! Watch your emails for future details and tours. They may include an Appraisal Fair, Randall Research Center and many more

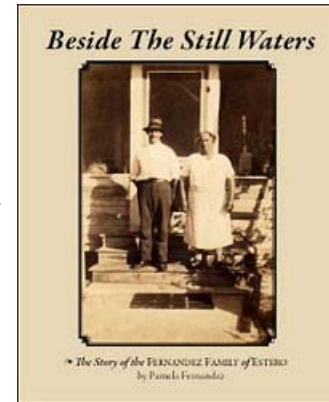
## Wells Fargo's Historical Mural

Visit the lobby of the Wells Fargo Bank at the corner of 41 and Corkscrew to see Estero's history come alive.



# Estero Family Pioneers - Fernandez Family

The story of Antonio and Mary Fernandez is fascinating, and it has been the longtime wish of their descendants to tell their story to future generations. It has been our great honor to help make that wish finally come true. Our family has compiled as much information about this pioneering family as we could, and we are proud to share it with you now. The Fernandez family has grown quite large in just a few generations in the new world, so the focus of this book is on the couple who brought our family to America across the great wide ocean from Portugal, and on the first generation of children they raised here. There are many family members responsible for this book - every person who took a photograph and passed it on, every person who ever told a story of the old days, every person who ever drew up a family tree - each of these people have helped create a rich family lore. Full credit



cannot be given to all of these people, but we believe we can honor them best by recording what we know from the stories and photographs collected be the various branches of the family. We invite you take a step back in time and learn what it was like to live on



Mound Key and in the little village of Estero, Florida in those pioneer days of so long ago.

## Estero Suffers Great Loss With the Passing of Bill Brown

William Robert Brown, 85, of Estero, FL, formerly of Harpers Ferry, WV, passed away on Sunday, October 9, 2011, under Hospice care, in Florida.

Born January 19, 1926 in Delaware, Ohio, he was the son of the late Omar Lloyd Brown and Olive Johnson Brown.

He was a retired President of the Council of State Chambers of Commerce in Washington, DC.

He was a member of Estero United Methodist Church and a former member of Camp Hill-Wesley United Methodist Church.

Bill was honored with the Village Visionary award in March 2011. He was an active member of the ECCL and also served as recording secretary for the Estero Community Planning Panel. He was a founding member of the Estero Historical Society and the first director of the Estero Chamber of Commerce.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Dorothy Judd Curtis Brown, at home; one daughter, Darmae Judd Brown of Fort Myers, FL and two grandsons, Jonathan and Steven Nutt.



The Estero Council of Community Leaders honored Bill last March with it's Estero Visionary Award.