

# Estero Historical Society

February 2017

Editor: Pamela Fernandez

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# Happy Valentines Day

## Marlene's Corner...

The street's of Estero have had many name changes over the years. Here are just a few...

You may know it today as "The Lord's Way" but it used to be known as Altivo Street. East Broadway was once Flowerree Road who was a big time citrus grower here. And interestingly enough, Highland's Avenue had two previous street names, "Tin Can Alley" and "Franz Avenue."

Now, when you hear the Pioneers talking and refer to a street by its original name, you will know the area they are referring to.

*Did you know...* Highland Avenue continued south past County Road to the east and along the river, under the Railroad Tressel to Sandy Lane? In 1960, Hurricane Donna washed out the culverts along the river and Charlie Swanburg closed off the road at Sandy Lane. That closed off access to the loop we used to use to get to Sandy Lane. `

## What's Beverly Doing?

Getting ready for the EHS Annual Tea of course!!  
So many things to do, places to go, people to see... It's a Mad Hatter Tea!!!

Tea Theme: Mad Hatter ~ Alice in Wonderland.

Save the Date: April 3, 2017

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$45.00 pp

You may also be a table host or hostess!  
If you are interested in a table or need to purchase tickets, contact the Mad Hatter...

Bev MacNellis  
239-498-0678  
bevmacnellis@gmail.com





# Upcoming Events

February 4 – Open House for Schoolhouse  
February 8 – Preserving Our Past – Part Three  
February 13 – Valentine's Day Membership Meeting  
February 15 – WWI Art Exhibit at Fine Mark National Bank and Trust  
February 22 – Preserving Our Past – Part Four



Read more about this unique WWI Poster Exhibit in the Estero Spotlight on Feb 1<sup>st</sup>



## Preserving Our Past

Lecture Series 2017

**Guest Speaker:**

**Ellen Biella-Saggau, Naturalist**

7:00 P.m. at our Cottage

February 8, 2017

Calusa, Florida's Lost Tribe

February 22, 2017

Florida's First Engineers and Canal Builders

Advanced Registration is Required  
239-272-1911

*A nominal donation is suggested  
for nonmembers*

It's a Valentine's Day  
Celebration at the Estero  
Historical Society...

**February 13, 2017 at  
2:00 PM at our Cottage**

In honor of all the women who  
contributed to the establishment  
of greater Estero in S.W. Florida.

Come and have tea with  
Deaconess HARRIET BEDELL\*,  
1<sup>st</sup> Missionary to the Miccosukee  
& Seminole Tribes AND  
TOMMIE BARFIELD\*\*, 1<sup>st</sup>  
Superintendent of Collier County  
Schools, originally Lee County.

\*Harriet Bedell portrayed by Marion  
Nicolay and \*\*Tommie Barfield  
portrayed by Betsy Perdichizzi

Visit us on the web: [www.EsteroHistoricalSociety.com](http://www.EsteroHistoricalSociety.com)  
for a complete calendar of events

## A Letter From Your EHS President

Dear Friends,

As we start off 2017 at the Estero Historical Society, we first had to reflect on our accomplishments for 2016. Having a new Board of Directors for 2016, we decided to meet not just once, but twice a month or more. We began having monthly workshops where we can talk about our goals for EHS and how we can best get them implemented.

In 2016, we had our Grand Opening of the 1904 Schoolhouse in March and the return of our Annual EHS Tea ~ Birds of a Feather, Flock Together at Shadowwood in April. We had wonderful membership meetings throughout the year which were highly attended.

Our main area we are focusing on this year is Preservation, Archiving and Digitizing. Some of our Board Members attended an all day workshop for a software program called Past perfect which we are considering using in the archival process. In order to bring us into the "digital age" we need an "organizational software" for our artifacts, photos and newspaper articles. We may even get WIFI at the Cottage.

We continue to work on offering you the most interesting programs for our monthly membership meetings. In addition, we are also offering functions in the evening for those of you who are unable to attend our membership meetings in the daytime. On March 13, we are having a "Kaffee Klutch" membership meeting which would be an excellent time for you to come and let us know what interests you.

Another area we will be focusing on is our Volunteers. YOU are critical to our success. We would be especially successful if we could utilize each of our members talents. Since there is so much to accomplish and as we grow, we need more help. Any amount of time you are able to give would be a tremendous help. We have implemented a "Volunteer Program" at EHS as a way to recognize our Volunteers. We began this program in July of 2016 and we had a total of 1096 hours in just six months time. Imagine what we will do this year! If you are interested in volunteering, email us at [EsteroHistoricalSociety@gmail.com](mailto:EsteroHistoricalSociety@gmail.com).

Thank you for continued support of the Estero Historical Society. We couldn't do it without you!

Charles Dauray  
EHS President



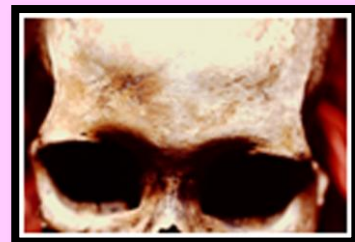
**A great time at our January Membership Meeting...Guest Speaker Charles Dauray, EHS President, spoke on the amazing discovery of a 4500 year old skull by Bay West Nursery.**



Speaker: Charles Dauray



Guests Listening to Speaker



Topic of Discussion – 4500 YO Skull



## Genealogy and Valentine's Day

### Bryan Mulcahy MLS

Our ancestors had many unique ways to celebrate Valentine's Day, many of which centered on Saint Valentine or Valentinius of Italy. Historical accounts date the original early celebrations back to the early third century. Valentine's Day has always had a special meaning. For many of our ancestors, the messages delivered to the special people in their lives were often far more personal and intimate than in modern times. The cards were more intricate and the artwork far superior than is the case today. Love letters, notes, and even fancy gifts have passed between suitors and parents as early as the 1600s. In the United States, the practice became more popular after the Civil War, when thousands of soldiers-turned-beaus were looking for belles.



The custom of sending Valentine's Day cards in the form of love poems have been written since the Middle Ages. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century printed valentine cards, with poetry and sometimes decorations, were produced. Valentine cards became hugely popular in the 19<sup>th</sup> century when lower postage rates made it affordable to send cards in the mail. Instead of the contemporary language found in many cards and letters today, romantic poetry was the rule in the cards usually supplemented by a message along the same lines.

Our ancestors had many unique traditions. One example involves how young females celebrated Valentine's Day by pinning bay leaves to their pillows. The ritual included dreaming of one's sweetheart in hopes of being married within the year. Another Valentine's Day tradition entailed writing lovers' names on bits of paper, rolling them in clay and then placing them under water. Whichever name rose to the surface first would be the Valentine. Love knots are another historical tradition. They were particularly popular in Victorian times. Love knots take many forms, but were often valentines written on paper or ribbon and tied in elaborate knots.



Many genealogists celebrate Valentine's Day by researching the family's valentine traditions. How our ancestors celebrated the day of romance has changed many times over the centuries, and the ways it was celebrated were often regional. Old diaries and love letters can provide many hours of interesting reading and wonderful insights into the personalities of parents, grandparents, and relatives when they were young. Some genealogists use the opportunity to create a Valentine mosaic of the family. While working with old family photos on the genealogy Valentine's Day cards, make additional copies of them to create a nice mosaic of your ancestors. You can even include photos of ancient ancestors who no one in your family today actually knew in person. Include fun borders around each photo with a little bit of information about the ancestors on them, and arrange them on a cardstock backing, attaching them with archival safe glue. Many people create this mosaic in a heart-shaped form and frame it. In the best case scenario, locating a heart-shaped picture frame adds an even more spectacular dimension to the finished piece. You can put it on the wall of your home or give it as a gift to a special relative who will love it.

# What are Sailor's Valentine?

Bill Jordan

A romantic way to say "I Love You."

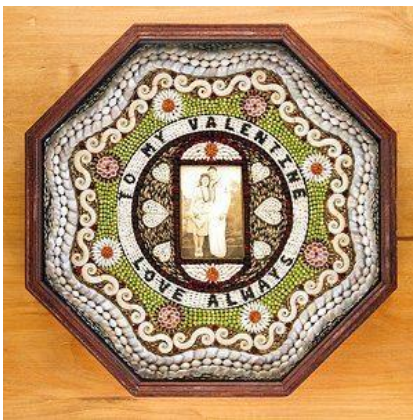
When I first became involved in shell art I was told a romantic story of how Sailor's Valentines came into vogue. I was told how a sailor aboard a ship in the 1800's had a collection of sea shells and decided to create a shell mosaic. As the story goes, he found an eight sided compass case and started gluing the sea shells in place using dark shells and wrote "To My Valentine."

When he returned home from his long voyage at sea he presented his gift to the love of his life. And that is where the romantic history that has come to be known as "Sailors Valentine" became a tale that encompasses the spirit of love and devotion to those you hold close in your life. While working on my own shell art creations, I started to think how difficult it must been to create such a masterpiece on a rolling ship. Later on, I was told no one had ever seen an eight sided compass case.



In 2002, I came across a book by John Fonds called "Sailors Valentines" which told the history of Sailors Valentines from the 1800's along with pictures of Valentines from that era. Then in 2006, a new book came out called "Sailors' Valentines – Their Journey Through Time" with the history of the art with pictures as well as contemporary artists of today.

Well, I deeply regretted having to put the romantic story aside because it did not hold true. I still, however, am inspired to create my own story of love and passion that I put into every detail of my own recreations of a Sailors' Valentine. It was at least true that Sailors' Valentine from the 1800's are eight sided cases enclosed in glass containing a mosaic of shells of different colors, shapes and sizes. Many were double cases hinged with a locking device to keep them closed for safe travel.



Some of the shell designs from that era incorporated a family picture in the center, or a compass rose and others with phrases in shells such as "FORGET ME NOT", "THINK OF ME WHEN FAR AWAY" and "HOME AGAIN." Evidence inside some restored Valentines, as well as outer markings date them back to the 1830's. Many Valentines were purchased in Barbados, a central port to resupply and make necessary repairs to their vessels for the final leg of their journey home. No matter how romantic the folklore "tale" is, bringing home such a handmade gift after being separated for long periods of time and miles of ocean was a loving gift. Not only from the giver but as to the one receiving it. Simply put, just a heartfelt feeling of being "HOME AGAIN" safe and sound.

For more information about Bill Jordan, visit his website by clicking on "[Sailors Valentine](#)"



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

If you would like to become a member or renew your current membership, please return this application along with your check by stopping by our Cottage or you may mail it to us at EHS, P.O.B., Estero, FL 33929

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Types of Membership Available:

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$35.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Family \$50.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Business \$100.00

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

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

Our Volunteer Opportunities - If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, mark "Yes" and someone from our membership committee will be in touch with you to let you know how you can help. \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

## Estero Historical Society 2017 Board of Directors

### Officers:

Charles Dauray ~ President  
Beverly MacNellis ~ Vice President  
Bob Boudreau ~ Treasurer  
Pamela Fernandez ~ Secretary

### Directors at Large

Marlene Fernandez  
Eileen Galvin  
Sis Newberry  
Maryann Weenen  
Ken Wisen

*We wish you and your family a  
Happy Valentine's Day!*



Estero Historical Society  
Post Office Box 1314  
Estero, FL 33929

