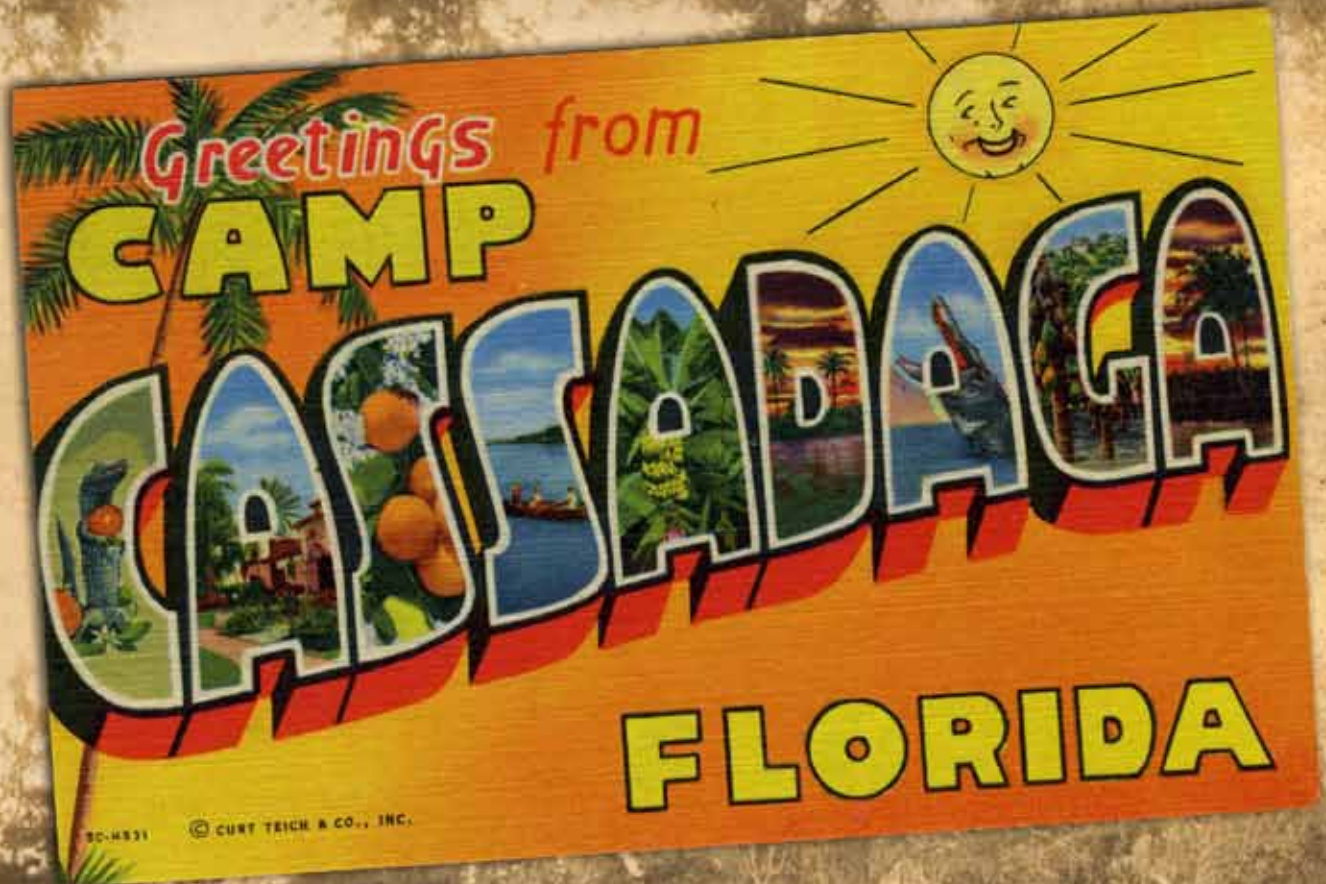


REFLECTIONS

FROM CENTRAL FLORIDA

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF THE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA



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The Historical Society's mission is to preserve the heritage of Orange County and Central Florida by providing resources to help maintain the Orange County Regional History Center, where history is learned through exhibits and educational programs relating our past to our daily lives.

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Unless otherwise noted, all archival images in this issue are from the Historical Society's collection at the History Center.

Toward a great future, one step at a time

We've all heard the expression, "The longest journey begins with but a single step." This fall, the History Center is embarking on a long, sometimes arduous journey – one that will take a few years, cost a significant amount of money, and require hard work by a dedicated staff. It will also pave a path to an exciting future.

We're redesigning and refurbishing our permanent exhibit galleries, a journey we've already begun. The result should be a History Center with new, compelling exhibits that will engage and reflect the community. We won't just tell Central Florida's history. We plan to paint a picture of the past as it relates to the present, and involve our community in preparing for the future.

To help us in this work, we have engaged Gerard Hilferty and Associates, an exhibit-design firm based in Athens, Ohio – the same company with whom we worked to create the History Center's original exhibits 15 years ago. Hilferty won a national award for their work here, and our first-time visitors are still impressed with our exhibits. This company understands our community and is well placed to take us to the next level. In the next several months, we'll work closely with its experts on a master plan and exhibit redesign for the History Center.

The master plan will outline how we deliver our message, and to whom. It will identify opportunities for outreach in the community (here's a hint – we have many), and will look at how we deliver our guest experience and what we need to do to make it the best possible.

The exhibit-design process will follow the master plan. We don't plan to remove and replace all of the exhibits in the History Center – some are still very good. But that doesn't mean we can't add more interactive and audio-visual elements to make them better. Of course, this work for the future will not impede our commitment to providing a top experience for our members and guests today. We're planning a great selection of public programming, for example. Highlighting our fall programming is our free Trick or Treat Safe Zone event on Saturday, October 31. We will decorate the History Center to offer a safe and scary venue for trick-or-treaters of all ages. It's always a fun event.

To better align ourselves with other area museums, we've lowered our admission fees (see page 21). We've also reduced membership fees. This is an important step in continuing our commitment to serve the community and make ourselves accessible to as many people as we can.

These are exciting times for the Historical Society and the History Center. Stay involved and connected with us. Watch us on our journey to create a more dynamic and involved museum that will better serve the entire community.



Michael Perkins

*Executive Director
Historical Society of Central Florida, Inc.*

Cover: A group of women at the Cassadaga Spiritualist Camp pose in Native American garb, circa 1900, and an undated vintage postcard for Camp Cassadaga. Right: A plaque honoring Cassadaga founder George Colby.



JOY WALLACE DICKINSON

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Top left: The mausoleum of Fred S. Weeks at Orlando's Greenwood Cemetery. Top right: Downtown Orlando's Angebilt Hotel circa 1920s. Center: Pleasure craft on Lake Ivanhoe in College Park circa 1920s. Bottom: A group in front of the Cassadaga Post Office, circa 1930, courtesy of the Stetson University Library Archives.



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DROP AND SHOP



HOLIDAY AT HERITAGE SQUARE



ADVENTURES IN TIME AND PLACE

PAINTING WITH A TWIST THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2015 6 - 9 P.M.

Painting with a Twist combines art with friends, wine, and a lively instructor to produce individual works of art. Participants will have an opportunity to enjoy select wines straight from the Florida Orange Groves Winery before and during their painting session.

Space is limited so register now and get a free glass of wine!

Snacks and Florida wine will be available for purchase during the program. Call (407) 836-8594 for more information.



DROP AND SHOP SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2015 2 - 6 P.M.

\$5 per child

Enroll your children in a fun-filled day of holiday-themed activities while you take care of the shopping. From games to fun holiday facts around the world, kids are sure to have a blast at this year's Drop and Shop! Grades K-5.



HOLIDAY AT HERITAGE SQUARE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2015 6 P.M.

Free Event

Get into the holiday spirit at the History Center! Join us as we celebrate the holidays with crafts, games, and entertainment. Light up Heritage Square with Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs. It's sure to be a jolly time for your family.



HOLIDAY CAMP MONDAY, DECEMBER 28 - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2015

Members \$35 per day per child

**Non-members \$40 per day per child
(includes extended day)**

'Tis the season for holidays at the History Center! Children will learn about how Christmas is celebrated throughout the world, along with other holidays such as Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. Discover holidays throughout history and the origins of Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, and Thanksgiving.

(All events are subject to change.)

VISUAL MEMORY

A PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION FROM THE CREALDÉ SCHOOL OF ART, 100 YEARS OF HANNIBAL SQUARE, VISITS THE HISTORY CENTER FROM OCTOBER 16 TO FEBRUARY 21

You know the adage: A picture's worth a thousand words. While it's true that a number of things can be said about a photograph, historical context is crucial to understanding any image, especially in a museum. Where was this photograph taken? When? Why was this building important? Who were these people, and how did they live? On October 16, the History Center's doors open to *100 Years of Hannibal Square: Historic and Contemporary Photographs of West Winter Park*, an important visiting exhibition that marries images and meaning through the personal histories of the people and families they depict.

The exhibition features both historic and documentary images of Hannibal Square, Winter Park's traditionally African American neighborhood, paired with recollections by past and current residents. Images and memories alike were gathered through a dialogue with the community by a team from the Crealdé School of Art, which continues to document Hannibal Square more than a decade after its work there began.

The featured images on display come from two major projects at the core of the Hannibal Square Heritage Center's permanent collection. The first – the gathering of historic images from members of Hannibal Square's community – is an ongoing process that began in 2001. Crealdé's executive director, Peter Schreyer, based this effort on a similar community project at the Los Angeles County Library. The second, the Sage Project, features portraits of community elders.

SAVING VANISHING HISTORY

As Winter Park development encroached on the city's historically black, west-side neighborhood in the 1990s, Schreyer sought to document Hannibal Square. In the course of photographing the area, he realized that the Winter Park Historical Society lacked historic images of the neighborhood. He responded by seeking grant support to record its vanishing history. In 2001, the Winter Park Community Foundation provided a starting grant of \$10,000, and Schreyer gathered a team of project historians, an anthropologist, photographers, and volunteers to collect family photographs and oral histories from people with deep roots in Hannibal

Square. Their initial effort resulted in more than 100 photographs collected and researched – images that included family and school portraits and pictures of social clubs, houses of worship, other buildings, and vehicles. As of this writing, Crealdé has organized eight separate heritage collections in west Winter Park during the past fourteen years.

In this ongoing project, the Crealdé team approached each historic image

in a similar way. During meetings with members of Hannibal Square families at the Winter Park Community Center, they created an archival copy of each photo brought to the meeting. (All original images were returned to the contributors.) They then asked each contributor about the contents of the photographs and recorded the names of the people, locations, and events depicted. Finally, members of the Crealdé photography faculty took portraits of the contributors. All of this information, as well as a short biography about the contributor and his or her connection to the image, was displayed in a single frame. Together, the words and images became documented vignettes of Hannibal Square's vibrant history.

Crealdé first exhibited this collection of images at the Winter Park Community Center, but the project was so well received that it became the impetus behind the formation of the Hannibal Square Heritage Center to house it permanently. Established in 2007 and staffed by the Crealdé School of Art, the Heritage Center serves as a community and exhibition space, providing free art classes and genealogical research assistance.



Upper left: Herbert and Alma Roberts in Ruby Ball's front yard at 773 New England Ave., Winter Park, circa 1950. Photograph contributed by Linda Walker. Above: Otto Cobb, W.D. Davis, Chester (surname unknown), the Rev. Alphonzo Cobb, Rufus Key, Reverend Williams and James Robinson, circa 1950, with their gospel band at an Orlando radio studio. Photograph contributed by Juanita Rountree; oral history by the Rev. Alphonzo Cobb.

Several images in the History Center's visiting exhibit also come from Crealdé's Sage Project. This series of photographs documents Hannibal Square residents who were between the ages of 85 and 106 at the time of their portraits. Peter Schreyer photographed them and recorded their recollections in their homes, churches, or other places in Winter Park that held special meaning for them. The Hannibal Square Heritage Center first showcased these images in 2012.

The historic and documentary images in *100 Years of Hannibal Square* and the written memories that accompany them paint human and multi-dimensional portraits of members of one of the nation's oldest African American communities. Together, they bring the story – past and present – of Hannibal Square to light. All of that meaning is worth far more than a thousand words. It's priceless. ■

If you would like to know more exhibits at the History Center, please contact our Assistant Curator of Exhibits, Emilie Arnold, at emilie.arnold@ocfl.net or (407) 836-8519.



COURTESY OF CREALDÉ SCHOOL OF ART.



PETER SCHREYER ©2015

Top left: The exhibit at Crealdé. Top right: Hannibal Square Heritage Center. Above: "I was born in 1916, in Greenwood, South Carolina, and married James Talbert in 1933. In 1938, we moved the family to Winter Park, Florida. I worked in the home of former Winter Park Mayor Raymond Greene for 54 years, and my husband was one of the early workers at Mead Botanical Garden. As parents, we valued education, a legacy that continues today, as evidenced by our college-educated children and grandchildren. A member of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Winter Park, I also sang in the choir and served the community as a member of the Ideal Woman's Club and West Side Civic Club." Mrs. Talbert is shown in the sitting room of her daughter Mattie B. Talbert's bungalow in west Winter Park.

A HISTORY OF HANNIBAL SQUARE

Wealthy Northerners platted Winter Park and Hannibal Square together, setting aside the western neighborhood as, in the words of a development pamphlet from 1888, a "detached settlement" for the "negroes of Winter Park" who worked for the town's white winter residents. The pamphlet went on to tout the residents of Hannibal Square as "of the better class ... [with] a church, schoolhouse, Masonic hall, and band of their own."

In 1887, Hannibal Square was also known for its political consciousness. Residents of Winter Park wanted to incorporate as a city, but they feared that a Winter Park including Hannibal Square would leave them politically outnumbered; after all, 203 white families lived in Winter Park and 297 black families lived in Hannibal Square in December 1886, and African Americans were known to vote Republican. In spite of the efforts of some in Winter Park to leave Hannibal Square out, black leaders including G.C. Henderson, Henry Chubb, and F.R. Israel campaigned in their community to turn out the vote in an election about the incorporation. In the end, 73 of 102 registered black voters crossed the tracks to vote and ensure that Hannibal Square became an incorporated part of Winter Park.

Compared with other African American communities in Florida, Hannibal Square's proximity to wealthy Winter Park translated into educational and business opportunities that others lacked, and the community flourished. Nevertheless, its residents suffered under segregation, and Winter Park laws before the Civil Rights era forbade residents to cross the railroad tracks after sunset.

By the 1990s, as land prices and rents soared in Winter Park, developers and business owners turned their attentions to Hannibal Square. As they bought and redeveloped Hannibal Square properties, the character of the neighborhood began to change. Today, the Hannibal Square Heritage Center, supported by the Crealdé School of Art, stands as a community repository of the lost images and memories of a proud and politically invested neighborhood.

YESTERDAY *by the* MOONLIGHT

A NOCTURNAL STROLL THROUGH
GREENWOOD CEMETERY
WITH DON PRICE
KEEPS ORLANDO'S HISTORY

Alive...

INTERVIEW BY MARTA MADIGAN

GREENWOOD

Jernigan

“A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among thieves,” reads a biblical inscription engraved on the marble door of a mausoleum in Orlando’s Greenwood Cemetery. That certain man, who chose such an unusual epitaph, was Fred S. Weeks. He came from England to Florida and was swindled into buying swampland in 1910. Unable to recover his money, Weeks decided to set the names of his “thieves” in stone and display them near the entrance to Greenwood Cemetery, which a century ago doubled as a park. After Weeks died in 1918, the names of the swindlers were removed, but the Bible verse remained.

The story still lives in legend, as told by Don Price – the sexton of the cemetery. Once a month, he leads a nighttime, moonlit tour of Greenwood that highlights some of its most interesting residents. During a recent chat, I asked Price about a few of the people who made Orlando “The City Beautiful” it is today.

Q. *At the Amway Arena, one of the best spots to watch Orlando Magic games is from the balcony of Jernigan’s Restaurant, named after Aaron Jernigan. Although he is not buried at Greenwood Cemetery, you tell a story about him during your tour. Who was he?*

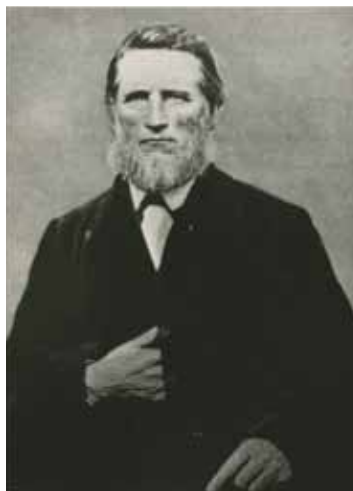
A. Jernigan came to Florida in the 1840s. He started as a pioneer, of course. Up the road, there was Fort Mellon, which is now Sanford, and locally there was Fort Gatlin. These forts were a day apart. If you were traveling on foot or on horseback, you could make it to the next fort. All the forts were set up to protect

the settlers from the Indians at night.

Jernigan was the kind of fellow who would branch out a little and settle off the trail. The settlement’s post office was named Jernigan after him. Orlando was once known as Jernigan, but it was renamed after Aaron Jernigan was arrested and charged with killing a man in a brawl. He was taken to the jail in Ocala, where he escaped to Texas. Eventually he came back to Orlando and died here in 1891. He’s buried in Orlo Vista. When you go to Jernigan’s Restaurant, you can read about his history.



Left, above: Weeks’ infamous mausoleum.



Above left: Aaron Jernigan's grave in Orlo Vista. Above right: Judge James Gamble Speer orchestrated the selection of Orlando as the seat of Orange County.

Q. *How did Orlando get its name?*

A. In 1857 the settlement at Jernigan changed its name to Orlando when it became the county seat. There are probably five different stories about how it became Orlando. I like to romanticize that it was named after Shakespeare's character. Judge James Gamble Speer, who is buried in Greenwood, came up with the idea. He was well schooled not only in law but also in theater. I've seen quoted a letter he wrote in which he referred to Orlando as his "Arden." The Forest of Arden is where the male lead named Orlando lives in Shakespeare's play "As You Like It."

Q. *William B. Hull witnessed the birth of Orlando. What was his story?*

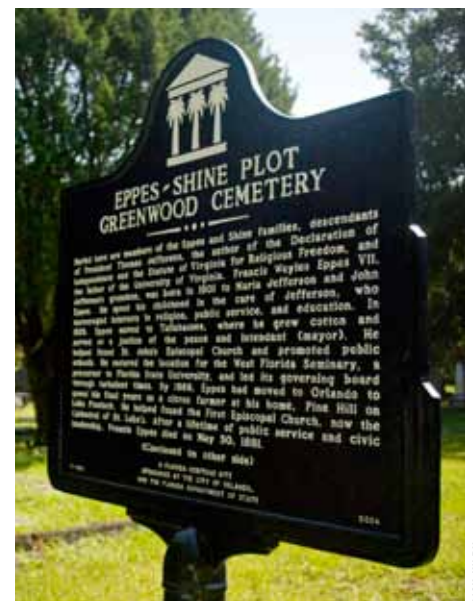
A. Hull moved to Orlando before the Civil War. He joined the Confederate Army and was wounded twice at Gettysburg. Then he spent two years as a prisoner of war. The whole time he was gone, his wife ran a boarding house in downtown Orlando. When he returned, he planted the first orange grove in this area. He is our first orangeman, our connection to the Battle of Gettysburg, and a "resident" here at the cemetery.

Left: Mr. and Mrs. William B. Hull moved to Central Florida in 1855 from Georgia. Below: Hull's grave once supported a cannonball.



Q. *A new Florida Historical Marker was unveiled at Greenwood in May 2015. What does the marker commemorate?*

A. Orlando's Historic Preservation Board sponsored the plaque to honor the Eppes and Shine families. Francis Eppes, a grandson of President Thomas Jefferson, was one of the founders of what's now known as Florida State University in Tallahassee. After he moved to the Orlando area in the late 1860s, he also helped found the community's first Episcopal church – the precursor of the Cathedral Church of St. Luke downtown.



Above: On May 19, 2015, the City of Orlando dedicated a Florida State Historical Marker in Greenwood Cemetery. Located at the Eppes-Shine family plot, the two-sided marker features a description of the contributions of Francis Wayles Eppes VII and his descendants to the early development of Orlando. Eppes's home, constructed near what is now Pine Castle, still stands today. The marker notes that the Eppes-Shine family is remembered today as one of Orlando's "most influential families."

He settled on Lake Pineloch and named his house "Pine Hill," after his family's former home near Tallahassee. His three daughters married three Shine brothers, and two of those families moved with Eppes to Orlando. One son-in-law, Thomas Shine, commanded the Orlando Guards (renamed after his death to the Shine Guards). The state Historical Marker is located at the plot for both the Eppes and Shine families.



Q. *At the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, there was a movement in urban planning toward beautification of American cities. Who named Orlando “The City Beautiful”?*

A. The city was going through changes at that time and needed a different identity. Orlando was previously called “The Phenomenal City.” In 1908, Jessie Branch (Mrs. W.S. Branch) came up with “The City Beautiful,” winning a contest for Orlando’s new nickname. Other submissions included “The City of Lakes” (2nd place) and “The Magic City” (3rd place).

Above: The Orlando Guards were renamed the Shine Guards after their leader, T.J. Shine, died in 1889. Below: A hand-tinted photo of brilliantly colored Lake Eola flowers.

By the way, Al Coith, the head of Orlando’s Parks Department during the 1930s and early 1940s, was very instrumental in making Lake Eola a beautiful place. Together with his crews, he planted a wall of sweet peas on the northwest side of the park, the scent of which once perfumed Rosalind Avenue. Coith is buried right near department-store founder Col. Henry Dickson, a great booster of beautification. Dickson’s epitaph reads: “Brought the first azaleas to Orlando.”



Q. *Every time I go to the Tasty Tuesday food-truck event in the Milk District near Bumby and Robinson, I drive by the dairy you mention during your tour. Is T.G. Lee buried at Greenwood?*

A. Yes, Thomas Gilbert Lee died in 1986. In 1925, he began what would become one of Florida’s largest dairies. He started with one cow and her calf. Before long, he had more than a hundred cows, and he named all of them. In 1934, Lee added the dairy’s first high-tech milking parlor. Today, even though the dairy still sits in the same location on Bumby Avenue, there are no cows at the plant.



Above: T. G. Lee shakes hands with the company’s last milkman. Today the Orlando plant processes 230,000 gallons of milk, juice, and drinks every day according to the company website.

Q. *On the Greenwood tour, you mention several Orlando mayors. Which of them made the most important decision for Orlando?*

A. All but five of Orlando’s mayors are buried here. One moved to Georgia and died there, and the other four were early mayors who died before Greenwood was established in 1880.

Braxton Beacham, mayor in 1907, helped establish what we know now as OUC, and he brought art to Orlando. The movie theater he opened in December 1921 on Orange Avenue still functions today as a nightclub. Mayor James L. Giles supported the women’s suffrage movement in Orlando. Under the Bob Carr administration (1956-1967), Interstate 4 came through. Mayor Carl Langford brought us the airport and was there for the major negotiations with Disney. All of them played an important role.

Q. *Why does Samuel Robinson's terrazzo headstone sit on the highest point of the cemetery?*

A. Sam Robinson was our first official surveyor. When Orlando became a city in 1875, he was the one who laid out the city's streets. He also designed this cemetery, which has a European feel to it. If you look at most cemeteries in the South, everything is on a rectangular grid. Greenwood is circular. Robinson designed it around the trees and hills and gave himself the highest point of the cemetery (and one of the highest in Orlando). During his time, he should have been buried in the "who's who" section, right in the middle, but he preferred to be in the back at the top.



Above: Sam Robinson's terrazzo tombstone.

Q. *Apart from its circular design, what is so special about Greenwood Cemetery?*

A. When the city bought the cemetery in 1891, Orlando officials passed an ordinance that said Greenwood was the only suitable burial place in Orlando. That is still on the books today. All the other cemeteries were on the outskirts of the city. Greenwood holds all of Orlando's history. We have here the



ONE OF ORLANDO'S HOTTEST TICKETS

Join Don Price (above) on his two-hour historic power tour of Greenwood Cemetery by moonlight. The monthly tours are popular and often sell out. The walk starts at 8 p.m. on a Friday nearest the full moon and covers about a mile and a half, 100 graves, and many more interesting stories from Orlando's colorful past. Although it is free of charge, each month Price partners with a different local charity that will accept donations on the spot.

To reserve your place on the next moonlight cemetery tour, go to: www.greenwood-cemetery.net/moonlight-walking-tours.

mayors, the senators, the business owners, and we can still keep that history going on today.

What also distinguishes us from most Southern cemeteries is that, from the beginning, all people, no matter their color, were buried within the same fence line. You go to Winter Garden, Ocoee, and Winter Park, for example, and you will find the historical white and black cemeteries separate. Not here.

Plus, we have a mating set of bald eagles and three geocaches, which are fun for families. Geocaching is an

outdoor scavenger hunt using GPS-enabled devices. One of the geocaches is at a grave. When you open the cache, you are supposed to tell a joke.

And last but not least, we offer free tours.

Q. *Other than being dead, how may I qualify to be buried in one of the rolling hills of Greenwood Cemetery?*

A. The newer sections of the cemetery are restricted to Orlando residents. All you need to do is pay \$1,500 per space. ■

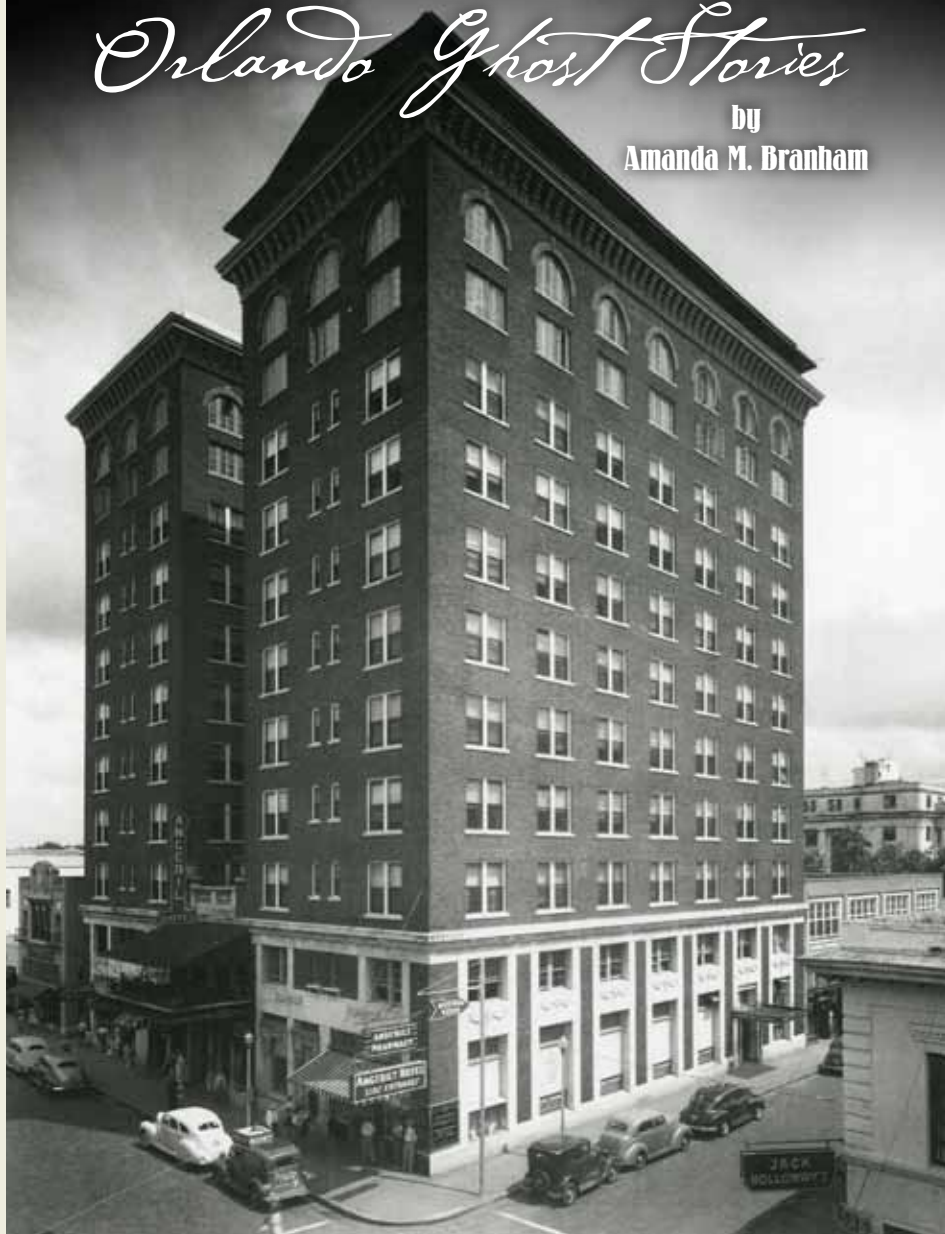


Left: Braxton Beacham (right) and Duncan Bell in an office located in the San Juan Hotel in 1908. Center, originator of Orlando's City Beautiful nickname, Jessie Branch. Right; the grave of beloved Orlando mayor Carl Langford at Greenwood Cemetery.

Homegrown Haunts

Orlando Ghost Stories

by
Amanda M. Branham



Above: Designed by Orlando architect Murry S. King, the 11-story, 240-room Angebilt Hotel was built in 1923 by J.F. Ange, who sold his share of the building soon after it opened.

Even now, the theme song from the TV show *Unsolved Mysteries* provokes an unequivocal nostalgia for elementary school and my grandmother. She liked the show because it wasn't cartoons; I liked it because it was adult and creepy enough to keep my attention. And while the missing person cases, UFO stories, and fuzzy photos of the Loch Ness Monster were mildly interesting, the segments I loved were about ghosts. Haunted cabins, derelict houses, and shadowy lanes with hitchhikers traipsing up and down before disappear-

ing – I loved all of it, and even as it terrified me, I wanted more, especially the ghost stories that took place in my own home state of Florida. It made the stories seem more real and inspired the delicious fear that I might one day see a ghost, too.

Every state, every city, has ghost stories; Orlando is no exception. Along with its tourist attractions, both modern and from yesteryear, the city boasts a reputation for excellent spooky entertainment that has nothing to do with admission prices or ten-dollar hamburgers. Orlando has its fair share

of ghost tours, for example. American Ghost Adventures, a local business, takes groups on walking tours that feature tales about Church Street Station and other locales.

I found the tour interesting and entertaining, and the stories I heard there are similar to ones I've heard from friends and acquaintances. I'm going to tell you a few now.

Historic hauntings

Some ghostly tales involve historic buildings, such as the 1886 Bumby Building on West Church Street. A family-run hardware store until the 1960s, it's now home to several businesses, including Hamburger Mary's Restaurant – and a variety of haunts.

Most Bumby sightings report benign spirits, such as a small girl dressed in period clothing from the late 1800s who plays a skipping game over the brick road. Some accounts say the same girl can be seen in windows, waving and smiling to people as they pass before she disappears from view. There's no known origin story for her – who she might have been or how she died so early in life. Some stories speculate that she might not realize she's dead and simply continues acting like a normal child of her age, night after night.

Other rumors tell of spectral bartenders, wiping down counters. Those who claim to have caught the bartender's eye say they mistook him for an enthusiastic worker in a costume. He smiles tightly before disappearing.



Above: The Bumby Block on Church Street was anchored by Joseph Bumby's 1886 Bumby Hardware building, one of the first masonry structures in town. Originally from England, Bumby also worked for the South Florida Railroad and delivered mail.



Top: A photo taken for an ad in the Sept. 26, 1957, edition of the *Corner Cupboard* depicted employees posed as the “Joseph Bumby Hardware Co. Class of 1886.” Left: The Bumby Hardware business was operated by the Bumby family until the 1960s. Above: After a brief period of use by Goodwill, the Bumby building was sold to Bob Snow and incorporated into his Church Street Station complex.

Less than a half mile from the Bumby Block, the Angebilt Hotel at 37 N. Orange Ave. stands as an architectural legacy to the lavish life-style often associated with the Roaring Twenties. Its name comes from Joseph Ange, who built it in 1923. The former hotel now contains modern offices and restaurants, but that hasn’t stopped ghostly urban tales from circulating about it. I have both heard by word of mouth as well as read online (at the suitably named website Hauntedplaces.org) stories involving the Angebilt

Hotel. Employees of businesses in the building have described being alone in bathroom stalls, only to have the doors refuse to unlock and then wildly start to shake. In one story, a woman has to crawl under the stall in order to escape; as she runs away, she hears loud banging noises behind her.

One of the more notable Angebilt stories concerns a weekend work emergency at an office suite in the building that was locked by a keypad – only employees knew the code to get into the office. On an otherwise bright

Saturday, a manager had to go in to the office for a few hours to take care of some last-minute crises. She found the upper floors of the building deserted, but she couldn’t quite shake the feeling that she was being watched. Through the muted sounds of her keyboard typing, the manager started to hear what sounded like a party. The sounds of clinking glasses and of people walking just outside her office continued, but she tried hard to dismiss them as just outside din from the streets below (this was, of course, downtown Orlando).

Soon, though, the weekend worker was interrupted by whispered shushing sounds, followed by the sharp rapping of knuckles on her door. With her heart in her throat, the manager crossed the few steps to the office door and wrenched it open to see – nothing. Further examinations of the winding hallway confirmed no one was there. There was nowhere to hide, no niche for pranksters to fold themselves up out of sight – yet the sound of giggling followed by high-pitched peals of laughter pierced the void. Then, sudden silence again.

It was the last time that manager went in to work alone.





RICK KILBY



RICK KILBY

Today Orange County's Orange Hill Cemetery is an uneven, grassy field, whose only noticeable occupants appear to be mature water oak and cedar trees. Aside from the granite marker facing Michigan Street, the land would otherwise be unidentifiable as a cemetery.

In the potter's field

It's not just old buildings that have ghost stories attached to them; bricks and mortar aren't the precursor for hauntings. Orange Hill Cemetery, long the inspiration for ghostly stories, today resembles a vacant field more than a final resting place. Trees and shrubbery are scattered in clusters around the grassy burial plot, that from 1907 to 1961, was used as a potter's

field – a pauper's cemetery – for about 500 families who could not afford burial for their relatives. Of those 500 graves, only five plots had markers; those have been dated to the early 1940s.

Without much to signify its use as a burial ground for decades, the cemetery was forgotten, and some people used the patch of grassy land at Michigan Street and Fern Creek Avenue as a park. Then, more than 30 years after the last burial at Orange Hill, county officials discovered its original use during a survey of county property. In 1996, the county put up a sign at the property that identified it as Orange Hill Cemetery.

But even before the grassy land was identified as a former cemetery, stories circulated about the place being haunted. One tale involves a shadowy figure who's been spotted at Orange Hill from time to time. Watching. Waiting. Seething. More than one person said they never felt quite right walking through Orange Hill; it felt as though someone was glaring at them from just out of sight. Perhaps, some stories speculated, even though the county eventually put up a stone marker and planted greenery to pay respect to the dead, for some spirits, that was not enough. Tales of whispers filtering through the air, or the sounds of something scabbling in the grass, could be chalked up to overactive imaginations – or had it really happened? Had some-

thing actually reached up and grabbed someone's calf hard enough to cause a bruise – or was it all just scary fiction?

Almost everyone likes a good story, and ghost stories, in their own way, can not only entertain us but also offer some assurance that there's life after death. Folk stories featuring the dearly departed have been around for millennia, since people began trading stories around fires; in a way, they can be a segue into explaining the unknown. Today, some Internet forums exist purely for the purpose of creating scary stories. Across the limits of time zones and cultures, people connect through cyberspace and try their hardest to scare one another. This genre of Internet-circulated paranormal tale has come to be called "creepypasta" (derived from "copypasta," for copy-and-pasted tales circulated online instead of by word or mouth). Just like ghost stories told around a campfire, whether or not the tales are true isn't the point. It's all about the jittery feeling of being scared. It's about suspending disbelief and thinking, "What if, what if?"

And it's amazing. ■



Above: In August 1953, Angebilt Manager Jim Conley presented watches to Charles Williams and Charles Barksdale for long-time service to the hotel. Left: The hotel's banquet room and a hallway. Below: An Angebilt guest room. Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone, and Thomas Edison were all said to have been guests at what was for many years one of Orlando's finest hotels.



RICK KILBY

The Water-Themed Attractions of College Park **Russell's Pavilion, the Mystery Sink, and the Fairview Geyser**

Tracy Hadsett



Above: According to author Tana M. Porter in her recent book about College Park, George Russell grew pineapples around Lake Ivanhoe before opening the park known as Russell's Point, Russell's Pavilion, or Joyland. The early 20th-century attraction featured a dance hall and swimming docks.

College Park's history of water-themed attractions include Orlando's very first water park, a mysterious sinkhole, and a spouting well. The Orlando neighborhood today known as College Park was originally home to citrus and pineapple growers. The Great Freeze of 1894 and 1895 stalled development there and all over Central Florida, but by the early 20th century, settlement in the area bounced back.

Keeping cool at Joyland

In 1910, George Russell built an entertainment destination for Orlando on Lake Ivanhoe and called it Russell's Point – the first water park in Orlando. It was later renamed Joyland, thanks to a contest to find a more fitting name for the park, which featured swimming, waterslides, a pavilion, a dance hall, dressing rooms, a concession stand, and a picnic area.

There was also a dock with 50 boats for gliding and fishing on the lake. People flocked to Lake Ivanhoe to cool off and have fun. After nine years in business, Joyland was sold to the Cooper-Atha-Barr Company, which developed nearby land into the College Park subdivision.

A deep mystery

The Mystery Sink, also known as Emerald Sink, is a water-filled sinkhole located on the northern edge of Orlando's College Park neighborhood. A 1939 newspaper ad suggests that the sinkhole might once have been promoted as a roadside attraction called "Nature's Mystery." Today, the sinkhole is on private property, surrounded by a tall fence, and is inaccessible to the public. The surface is roughly 150 feet in diameter, and the profile has an hourglass shape. The appropriately named Mystery Sink has been estimated to be as much as 500 feet deep, but no one really knows for sure.

Sinkholes are a naturally occurring feature of the Florida landscape, according to the state's Department of Environmental Protection. They may be caused by low levels of groundwater or by surface water eroding the limestone bedrock. Mystery Sink formed through erosion and collapsed deeply enough to connect it to the underground aquifer.



Above: Modestly clad swimmers in Lake Ivanhoe, circa 1910.



TRACY HADLETT

Above: A contemporary image of the Mystery Sink, located on private property. Below: A black and white photograph of the artesian well on Lake Fairview in Fairvilla, circa 1912. On the reverse is written: “‘Spouting well’ at Fairvilla, Orange County, near Orlando. This well shoots water 300 feet into the air. A sight of interest and beauty.”



In August 1970, two scuba divers, Hal Watts, 31, and Fred Schmidt, 16, dove the Mystery Sink in search of a lost safety vest. Everything was going as planned until Watts realized that his diving companion was no longer near him. Watts spotted Schmidt's light below him, but it disappeared before he could reach it. Watts blacked out during his search. He regained consciousness, but was unable to locate the teen. Two separate attempts were made to find Fred Schmidt's body, both unsuccessful. The first attempt failed due to the excessive depth, and a second attempt resulted in the death of diver Bud Sims. The sinkhole has been closed to the public ever since.

Lake Fairview's spouting well

Not far from the Mystery Sink, Lake Fairview once had its own mystery that brought visitors to gawk at what they thought was a natural wonder. The Lake Fairview “spouting well” first appeared in the early years of the 20th century at the Davis-McNeill farm on the lake's south side, where a geyser began to erupt about every six minutes and reached heights of 75 to 100 feet.

According to a short article in *Scientific American* magazine in 1911, Orlando officials had faced problems because the city's lakes often overflowed – an especially irksome problem for truck farmers near Lake Fairview, who found their fields flooded.

The remedy was to drive pipes hundreds of feet into the ground in search of underground passageways into which to drain the excess water. At Lake Fairview, the top of one such pipe near the lake's edge sat only 5 inches below the water's surface. The so-called geyser resulted when air pressure built up in a natural underground chamber, reached a critical point, and rushed up out of the pipe, the article suggested. Soon farm manager R.D. Eunice asked spectators for a small admission fee; those who didn't want to pay just stationed themselves across the lake to watch from a distance, waiting through the interval between spouts. The pipe was capped in the 1930s, and Orlando's spouting well was no more. ■



A THIN VEIL AMONG THE SCRUB

SPIRITUALISM AND CASSADAGA

ADAM M. WARE, PH.D.

There is no cemetery in Cassadaga, Florida.

Perhaps this is not strange. Begun in the late 19th century, Cassadaga is a small, unincorporated community in Volusia County. Perhaps those who died within its confines are buried in the Northern communities from which they emigrated long ago. Perhaps they are buried in cemeteries nearby – in DeLand, Orange City, or neighboring Lake Helen, home to the cemetery sometimes mistakenly identified as Cassadaga's.

It would be fair to say, though, that while the burial plots of the deceased are not here in Cassadaga, the dead are indeed around. This is not merely a natural observation: It distills a central tenet of the religious tradition known as spiritualism, a tradition that defines Cassadaga's unique place as "the Psychic Capital of the World."

How did the community get that way? How did an otherwise undeveloped wilderness become home to the oldest congregation of spiritualists in the South?

THE VEIL BETWEEN WORLDS

By the time Cassadaga's founder, George P. Colby, arrived in Florida in 1875, his commitment to spiritualist thinking was well known among seekers up and down the East Coast and especially in New York state, where Colby was born in 1848. He claimed to have had spiritualist inclinations instilled in him at a formative age. A baptism in freezing lake water, he said, had thinned the veil between our world and the world into which spirits ascend, allowing him direct contact with those on the other side.

Strange or unconventional though it may sound, Colby's belief in contact

with the dead was not an uncommon sentiment in his time. The 19th century was a time of rapid expansion, experimentation, and innovation in the practice of American religious life. Many new religious movements emerged, especially at points of contact between religious thinking and the new natural philosophies inspired by the "scientific revolution" as blends of natural science and supernatural theology. Spiritualism was one such movement. Mormonism and Seventh-day Adventist Christianity are two other American traditions that emerged from the same intellectual climate.

In the minds of Colby and other 19th-century spiritualists, their perception of reality was regular, rational, and scientific, classifying and organizing observations about the natural world. It is in this term, "the natural world," that spiritualist thinking differs both from most of Christianity and from the natural sciences. Whereas many Christians maintain a belief in a physical resurrection of the body, spiritualists maintain a belief that personalities, not bodies, survive death. Though the varieties of spiritualism are many, these traditions often suggest that the realm inhabited by spirits is an epistemically advantageous space.



Above left: Cassadaga spiritualists gather for a group portrait around 1905. Above: Portrait of George P. Colby, the founder of Southern Cassadaga Spiritualist Camp Meeting Association, circa 1900.

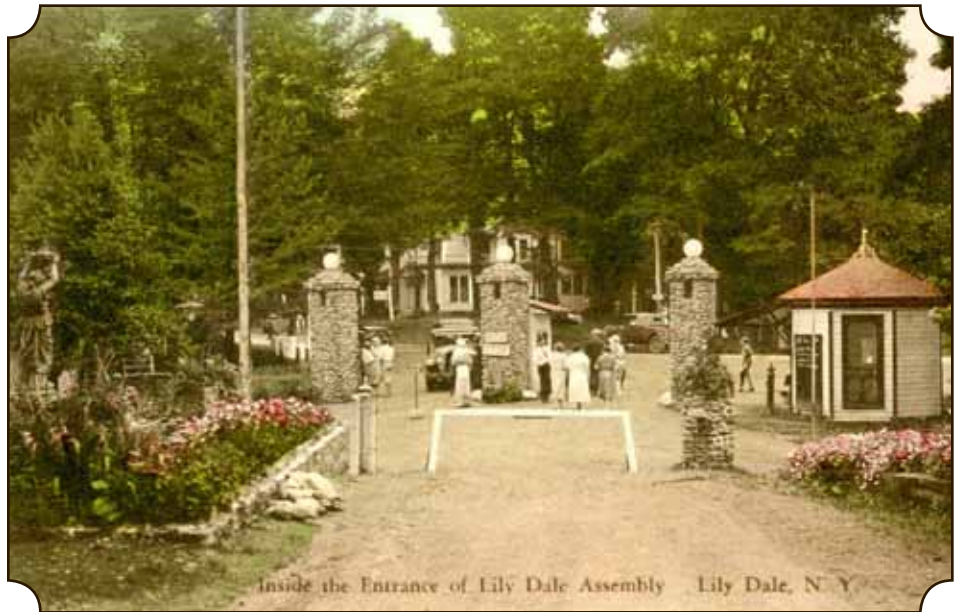
Put more simply, spiritualists believe that human personalities survive death intact, and that they are capable of revealing to humanity things we do not yet understand about our own condition and the nature of the universe.

This understanding of the universe reveals the significance of the central practice of spiritualism: the use of mediumship to interpret and communicate, for the living, information provided through contact with the spirit world. George Colby claimed this quality of mediumship had been visited upon him through his frigid baptism, and he spent the better part of his young manhood lecturing on the new realities available to those who might subscribe to spiritualist thinking. Colby acted both as an intellectual apologist, lecturing on behalf of the benefits of séances, and as a medium himself, demonstrating the gifts of séances by performing them.



It was during one such séance, Colby said, that one of his spirit guides, an indigenous American he called Seneca, described to him a parcel of land on which Colby should build a spiritualist retreat. Evidence about the context of this revelation is scarce. Some accounts suggest that the critical communication occurred at the home of T.D. Giddings in Eau Claire, Wis., while others suggest it happened when Colby was touring Iowa. Wherever the genesis of Seneca's message, Colby and his family heeded the suggestion and headed south later that year.

In October 1875, the Colbys arrived in Jacksonville by train and took a boat south, up the St. Johns River to Blue Springs Landing. The family then traveled by



Left: The auditorium in Lily Dale, N.Y. Below: The main street inside the gates of the Cassadaga Spiritualist Association Camp in Florida, circa 1930s.

foot through the dense scrub until they arrived at the location Seneca had described, on the shores of what is now Lake Colby. There the Colby family established a homestead of nearly a hundred acres. Before long, the unnamed settlement began accepting visitors from climes more typically associated with spiritualism, including the Cassadaga Free Lakes Association of Cassadaga, N.Y., near Lily Dale.

ROOTS IN NEW YORK

Like many of the new movements in 19th-century American religious life, spiritualism emerged from the state of New York, and to many practicing spiritualists, the prospect of spending winters in the relatively tropical climes of Florida proved immediately attractive. Nineteen years after Colby

discovered the land promised him by Seneca and “a congress of spirits,” the Southern Cassadaga Spiritualist Camp Meeting Association was formed in December 1894. Not a camp in the conventional, outdoorsy sense, Cassadaga is a camp meeting in the historic religious sense. The term “camp meeting” refers to religious events, typically hosted by Holiness ministers, that became common in the early decades of American life.

From the Colbys' initial homestead and the formation of the Cassadaga Spiritualist Camp 19 years later, Cassadaga grew into an international destination for devotees of spiritualist thought and practice. In 1922, camp leaders built the Cassadaga Hotel to accommodate the tiny community's growing list of visitors. Indeed, the decade of the 1920s was perhaps the most bustling time in Cassadaga's history.

It was also the period when Cassadaga began attracting the confusion, suspicion, and interest of locals in nearby communities, many of whom practiced forms of Christianity descended from revival and Holiness traditions. Ministers sometimes warned parishioners of the strange power of Cassadaga and



the ritual specialists working there as mediums, insinuating that the mediums' power derived from darkness and not from "infinite intelligence," a term spiritualists sometimes use to refer to God.

In the years since Cassadaga's 1920s boom, the Cassadaga Spiritualist Camp persisted as a mainstay of spiritualist life and practice, though the community has aged significantly. In the year of Colby's death, 1933, the camp association sold the Cassadaga Hotel, which still operates today, advertising a kind of general supernatural appeal to its visitors. Other forms of supernaturalism have sprung up in the vicinity, promising all manner of divination (i.e., fortune-telling) services such as palmistry.

While compelling for some, it should be noted that these sorts of practices do not necessarily reflect the outlook of spiritualists. Far from being a vague catch-all for the endless variety of "new age" ideas, the belief system of spiritualism—with the medium and the séance at its center—maintains an outlook on the world distinguished chiefly by the possibility, and the moral-intellectual benefit, of regularly communicating with spirits.



Rumors still circulate about the whereabouts of George Colby, who died in June 1933. After his death, his body was interred in nearby Lake Helen, but since then, stories have abounded that his grave there might be empty or that perhaps he is interred in New Smyrna.

After all, although there is no cemetery in Cassadaga, the spirits of the departed are never far away. ■



Top: A group of Cassadaga spiritualists gather on the steps of one of the cottages in the spiritualist camp. Left: Two spiritualists stand by a Cassadaga fountain. Above: An elderly spiritualist couple at Cassadaga, Fla. All circa 1910. All images courtesy Stetson University Archives, duPont-Ball Library, DeLand, Fla.

EXPLORING CASSADAGA

Beyond its reputation as a town full of spiritual mediums, this charming village near DeLand offers a refuge from the hustle and bustle of modern Central Florida. Recognizing the historical and environmental significance of the town, Volusia County has preserved 110 acres adjoining the town, and it is apparent that most of the strip malls and convenience stores present throughout the rest of Florida are not welcome here.

The entire camp is on the National Register of Historic Places, and the architecture of the town shows traces of its Northern roots but is also pure old Florida.



PHOTOS AND SIDEBAR BY RICK KILBY

The largest buildings are the Cassadaga Hotel, the Information Center, and the Colby Memorial Temple, which is designed in the Mediterranean Revival style.

Of course, most of the 15,000 people who visit the spiritualist camp every year come for a psychic reading, and the town offers plenty of opportunities for those seeking supernatural answers.



THROUGH THE CAMERA LENS

From the photo archives of the Orange County Regional History Center

COSTUMED KIDS STUDIO TOUR

This festive Halloween photo comes from a 1951-1954 scrapbook compiled by WORZ President Naomi Murrell to showcase the radio station's public-outreach services. The station began its long history in Orlando as WORZ-AM 740. Its offices and studios were at 790 N. Orange Ave. No caption accompanied the photo in the scrapbook, but it's likely that an elementary-school class was taking a field trip or possibly participating in a trick-or-treat event hosted by the station. In any event, the students, and presumably their teacher, all came together for a photo op behind the WORZ

microphone, and Orlando professional photographer William Henningsen snapped the picture. Costumes range from a pirate to a cardboard robot, the child inside of which has undoubtedly joined the timeless ranks of those who know the miserable discomfort of spending Halloween in an immovable costume. ■

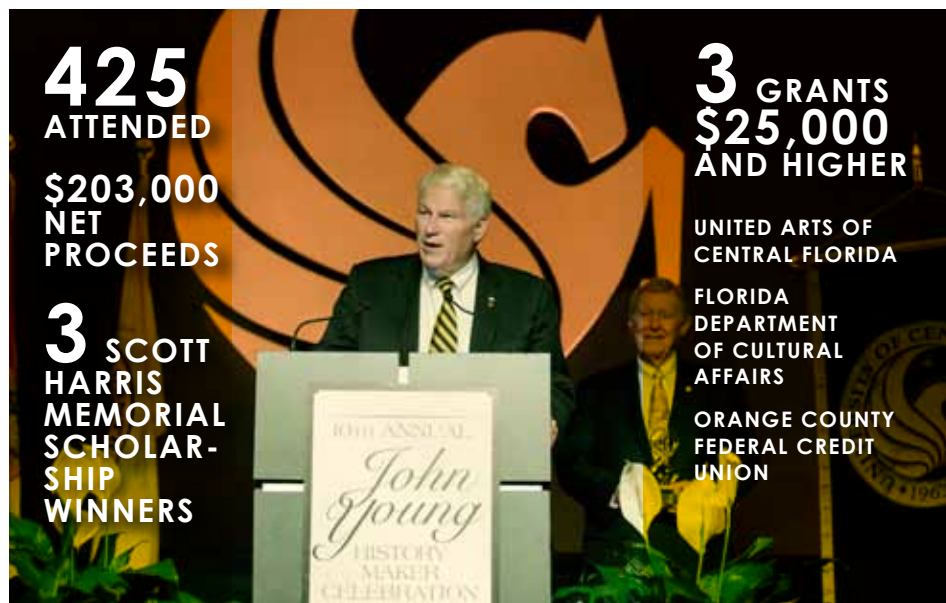
If you would like to see more photos from the archives, or if you have photos you would like to donate to the collection, contact the Collections Manager and Photo Archivist, Whitney Broadaway, at whitney.broadaway@ocfl.net or (407) 836-8587.



THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF OUR COMMUNITY

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous support during the past year in time, talent, and treasure. The Historical Society of Central Florida has experienced an unprecedented number of positive changes in 2015, many of them thanks to your input. To quote from our recently completed strategic plan, we are (rapidly) going from “good to great.”

Our public-private partnership with Orange County is about to usher in its 16th year of jointly operating the History Center. We thought it might be nice to show you some of the accomplishments you have helped us achieve with your financial donations, memberships, admissions, volunteer efforts, and ideas.



The History Maker Celebration is the Historical Society’s signature annual fundraiser, with proceeds supporting the Orange County Regional History Center.

ANNUAL PASS MEMBERSHIP REMAINS STEADY

Our membership has remained steady at 550. This is actually good news in a time when, all across the county, museums have been experiencing a decline in membership. We have some special membership offers and opportunities coming in 2016 that you won’t want to miss, so be sure to check back.



CHANGES IN GOVERNANCE BRING MORE TRANSPARENCY

Earlier in the year, the Historical Society of Central Florida launched an initiative to revise its bylaws to clarify governance by its Board of Directors. This initiative will also redefine membership in the Historical Society and better align it with the organization’s best practices. The Board of Directors

also amended its articles of incorporation to reflect that change at its August 12, 2015, meeting.

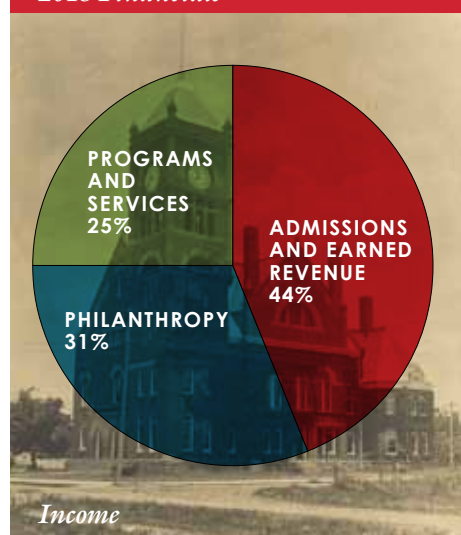
In another improvement, the Historical Society aims to present itself in a more transparent fashion in its communications. We felt there was confusion among our donors as to which entity was receiving financial gifts – the Historical Society or the Orange County Regional History Center. Simply put: Your gifts and memberships go to the Historical Society, the nonprofit organization that supports the History Center in its vital educational mission.

The Historical Society has recently launched a new website. Please visit us at cfhistory.org to learn more about the vital role the nonprofit group plays in supporting the History Center, in partnership with Orange County. ■



HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

2015 Financials



JOHN YOUNG HISTORY MAKER CELEBRATION 2015

On April 23, the Historical Society of Central Florida hosted the 10th annual John Young History Maker Celebration, honoring University of Central Florida President John C. Hitt. More than 400 people attended the event at the Pegasus Ballroom in the UCF Student Union. The Historical Society’s highest honor is named for its first recipient, Capt. John Young, NASA’s longest-serving astronaut. The award is presented each year to a Central Floridian whose lifetime of achievement has made a historic impact on the community.

MEMBERSHIPS: NOW AN EVEN GREATER VALUE

Have you heard the news? Our Annual Pass Membership program is now in full motion! As of September 1, we've lowered the costs of our annual pass memberships and have added two more membership and pricing levels – but those aren't the only changes! Dual, Family, and all Upper-Level members will be able to bring one adult to the History Center at no extra cost in the event that their spouse or second card holder is unable to join them on a visit to the History Center. As always, annual pass members will receive invitations and updates to all events and exhibits at the Orange County Regional History Center, along with two hours of free parking in the Library Parking Garage at the time of each visit. Just bring your parking ticket to the front desk for validation!

OUR NEW ANNUAL PASS MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

CLASSIC MEMBERSHIPS

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Individual | \$35 |
| Dual | \$50 |
| Family | \$65 |
| Senior, Teacher, Student Family | subtract \$10 |

UPPER-LEVEL MEMBERSHIPS

| | |
|------------------|---------|
| Supporter | \$150 |
| Sponsor | \$250 |
| Patron | \$500 |
| Benefactor | \$1,000 |

For questions about the Annual Pass Membership program, please contact Annelizabeth Atie, Museum Services Manager, at annelizabeth.atie@ocfl.net or (407) 836-8515.

**GIVE THE
GIFT OF
MEMBERSHIP**



Collaboration enriches programs for kids

In the corporate world, companies of similar product and experience compete for sales and brand loyalty. In the non-profit world, it's crucial to work alongside other organizations as allies rather than competitors. Collaboration and outreach are powerful tools. Through institutional support, nonprofits are able to leverage their resources and strengths to reach new audiences and offer diverse, distinctive programming.

This summer, the History Center worked with other nonprofits to enhance our summer camp program. Our partnership with the Central Florida Zoo and Botanical Gardens is a great example of this kind of win-win relationship. Staff members from the zoo visited our campers and introduced them to live animals as well as skulls, furs, and other hands-on items. In exchange, we went to the zoo with historical artifacts, replicas, and a costumed character performed by a professional actress.

We also invited individuals from the community to share their expertise and skill with the campers. The campers had the opportunity to experience a court-

room setting and ask in-depth questions with Belvin Perry, former chief judge of Florida's Ninth Judicial Circuit Court. They learned about keeping the environment clean from a caped grease-fighting superhero from the City of Orlando's wastewater division. The campers also examined bugs under a microscope and discovered what invertebrates are from Orange County Mosquito Control. In addition, Damon Smith from the Morris Architect firm shared various aspects of his profession, including his work with developing theme park rides.

For next summer, the Education Department is looking forward to developing new partnerships with community leaders and to expanding our collaboration and outreach with other local nonprofits, including the Orlando Science Center and the Orange County Library System.

To learn more about the History Center's educational programs, contact our School Services Coordinator, Amanda Parish Walters, at (407) 836-8376 or Amanda.ParishWalters@ocfl.net.

REFLECTIONS FROM CENTRAL FLORIDA

FALL 2015
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*Winner of the 2014 Golden Quill Award
from the Florida Historical Society*

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To receive the latest *Reflections* by mail, email annelizabeth.atic@ocfl.net to become an annual pass member. To contribute an article, email rkilby@cfl.rr.com.

Reflections from Central Florida

The quarterly magazine of the Historical Society of Central Florida, Inc. The magazine focuses on the Florida counties included within the History Center's reach: Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Volusia, Lake, Brevard, and Polk. The History Center is located at 65 East Central Blvd., Orlando, FL 32801. Visit our website at thehistorycenter.org

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October is American Archives Month

In 2006, the Society of American Archivists named October American Archives Month. Every year since, archives professionals have used the month to spread the word about their collections and archives. This year, the History Center is celebrating with two brown-bag lunch presentations on preservation. Both talks conclude with a tour of the archives. These talks will discuss strategies for preserving personal documents and photos for years to come, as well as professional methods and standards.

On October 1, the Collections department will celebrate #AskAnArchivist Day by taking over the History Center's Twitter account and answering all your questions in less than 140 characters.

Celebrate American Archives Month by joining us at one of our events, or make an appointment to visit the archives and learn about this invaluable resource at the History Center.

Preservation: Focus on Paper

Garret Kremer-Wright, Archivist

October 6, 2015, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Preservation: Focus on Photos

Whitney Broadway, Photo Archivist

October 20, 2015, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

#AskAnArchivist Day

@HistoryCtr_CFL

October 1, 2015, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Help Build Our Collection

Please consider donating your important items to the Historical Society Collection. Your documents, photographs, and artifacts can help us tell the history of our community.

Many people store historical treasures in attics, closets, and storage bins, which are not conducive to the preservation of these items. Our collections area is maintained at the proper temperature and humidity level, and we provide storage containers of the proper materials to ensure that your archival items will be preserved for the future.

If you are donating documents or photographs, we can provide copies for your personal needs. Additionally, you and your family members are always able to access your donated materials by scheduling an appointment with our collections staff.

Please contact Whitney Broadway, the History Center's Collections Manager, at (407) 836-8587 to inquire about making a donation to our collections.

IN THIS ISSUE



AMANDA M. BRANHAM

Amanda “Myna” Branham is a Florida native and avid folklore enthusiast. She graduated from UCF with a degree in creative writing and wrote the book *Orlando Ghosts*, released in 2009. She works at the UCF History Department and lives with her fiancé, Scott, and their demanding pets in Sanford.



TRACY ANN HADLETT

Tracy has been a volunteer at the History Center since January 2015. She has a master's degree in Anthropology with a concentration in Archaeology. She enjoyed researching College Park's water-themed attractions so much that she is ready to dive into more of Orange County's history while at the History Center.



MARTA MADIGAN

Marta Madigan's blog, *The Ethnik Plate*, makes readers hunger for international culinary traditions and local restaurants. She is a bilingual journalist covering a variety of topics – from food and travel to science and history – in both English and Polish. New to Florida, she enjoys the City Beautiful's fauna, flora, food, and story tellers.



ADAM WARE

Adam Ware is the History Center's Research Librarian, managing the use of all published materials and overseeing the oral history collection. Adam holds a Ph.D. in Religion from Florida State University with emphases in twentieth-century American religion, media history, and museum studies.

HISTORIC HAPPENINGS

• AT THE HISTORY CENTER •

2015 HISTORY CENTER SUMMER CAMP



Every summer hundreds of Orange County youths attend Summer Camp at the History Center. Thanks to our generous sponsors, we offer scholarships to families with financial needs so their kids can attend.

LUNCH & LEARN WITH TANA MOSIER PORTER



On August 8, 2015, local historian Tana Porter shared stories about writing her recently released Arcadia Press "Images of America" book about the fascinating Orlando neighborhood of College Park.

• AROUND ORANGE COUNTY •

PINE CASTLE'S CRAWFORD HOUSE ON THE MOVE



COURTESY DAVID WOODS

The Crawford House, a 106-year-old home in the south Orange County community of Pine Castle, was moved on June 28, 2015, to become part of a new Pine Castle History Center complex.



COURTESY SHIRLEY CANNON

The home was originally built by Paul Macy around 1909, and it was said to have the first electric lights in Pine Castle. The Crawford family purchased the home in the 1920s and owned it until the 1960s.

ORLANDO TRAIN STATION DEDICATION



RICK KILBY

The completion of the downtown Orlando Amtrak Historic Train Station Rehabilitation project was celebrated on June 29.



RICK KILBY

Before the renovation, the 1926 Mission Revival style building had fallen into disrepair, with cracked paint and a leaky roof and windows.



ORANGE COUNTY REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER

Don't miss the History Center's four floors of dynamic permanent exhibits showcasing 12,000 years of Central Florida history!

The History Center is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

New admission prices are \$8 for adults; \$7 for seniors (60+), students, and military with I.D.; and \$6 for children ages 5-12. Historical Society annual pass members and children ages 4 and under are free. For group pricing, please call (407) 836-8585.



Bizarre Books

Attention all members! It's getting spooky at the History Center! Stop by on October 30 and receive an extra 5 percent savings on some spooky titles at the Emporium Museum Store. It's the perfect way to prepare for Trick or Treat Safe Zone on October 31!

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

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**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 31,
2015 • FREE!**

FEATURED FALL EVENT

TRICK OR TREAT SAFE ZONE

It's Halloween at the History Center! Bring the whole family to our annual Trick or Treat Safe Zone. Explore four floors of crafts, games, spooky stories, and candy! Watch out for the statues – they've been known to spring to life! Halloween costumes are welcomed and encouraged for children and parents alike!

For event time and additional information, please visit thehistorycenter.org