



July, 2017

# Eustis Historical Museum

A 501 (c)(3) Non-Profit Organization

536 North Bay Street, Eustis, Florida 32726

352-483-0046

[eustismuseum@gmail.com](mailto:eustismuseum@gmail.com)

[www.eustishistoricalmuseum.org](http://www.eustishistoricalmuseum.org)

Open 1-5 Fridays & Saturdays (except holidays)

Group Tours By Appointment

## Greetings From Your New President:

I would like to start off by saying “Thank You” to all of our outgoing officers from last year and a “Thank You” to all of our current officers. It was once said that if you do not study your history that you are bound to repeat it’s mistakes. That being quoted, I will ask for your help. I am new to this job, & to our group. I would like to hear from our members on their thoughts & experiences with the museum. No I am not looking to reinvent the wheel, but I am looking forward to this year in office. I do have a bit of history experience that I am pleased to bring to the table, as I consider myself a living historian for the last 22 odd years. Plus some leadership skills, in running a business, & being the elected leader of a large Civil War Reenacting Community.

So, with that being said please bring me ideas. No guarantee’s on anything, except this group is a living, breathing, body of people. Status quo is not a good thing for any organizations such as ours. Improvement is critical for us to continue on in the direction that was set forth when this group was started. It is my goal to help this organization grow, for a tree is made up of many branches, not just the trunk. I will be reaching out to the membership as a whole asking for, some of your time (say like give me 2 hours help once a year), help recruit new members, etc. So don’t be surprised when you hear from me, or see me at a gathering in our community.

I serve at the will of our members. You will see as time progresses that my idea is for us to function as a Republic/Democracy. I am not a dictator.

Yours in History,  
Chuck Munson

PS: Due to circumstances beyond my control, I am good with faces terrible with names, & once in a while I forget to do some of the things that I said I was going to do. So please be patient, & reminders do not bother me. I would rather you say something to me that it appear that I have slighted you somehow.



### **FROM THE MEMBERSHIP DESK:**

Please join me in welcoming our newest members, Tiffany McIntyre, Frank Driggers (Lifetime) and Keith & Pat Shamrock (Lifetime). We are very happy to have you join us and hope that you will become frequent visitors to our museum. I want to thank everyone that has renewed their annual membership for 2017-2018. For those of you that have not yet sent your renewal, I will be mailing final dues reminders out on or about June 30th. If there have been any changes or additions to your contact information, please let us know as soon as possible so that you don't miss any of our newsletters or special announcements. We have several exciting events being planned for the coming months, that I am sure you won't want to miss, along with the opening of our newest exhibit "The Laundry Room".



Thanks to the dramatic increase in visitors has not only resulted in increased donations, but made it impossible for just one, although very capable, curator to keep up. Watch your email and newsletters for information about docent classes that Gary will be conducting for additional "tour guides". If you are interested in joining one of his classes, please contact the museum. Wishing you a safe and enjoyable summer, whether it be traveling or taking a "staycation" in your own backyard.

Sincerely,  
Melanie Blankenship, 2nd Vice President, Membership Chairman

**Special Thanks To Our "Paid for Life Members":**

Vera Arborio	Christin Brewer	Bob & Louise Carter
Frank Driggers	James (Jim) Gillis	Billie Joe Green
Sybyl Green	Gerald Jacobs	Merry Jewelers
Ethel Ryan	John Retez	Anne Huffstetler Rou
	Keith & Pat Shamrock	

## **From Curator Gary Marshall's Desk**

### **Part six of our local area history series**

#### **First United Methodist Church – part 2**

In 1910 a new church site was purchased at Citrus and Hawley Streets. Two houses were located on the property, one a duplex. The decision was made to physically move the original church building to the new site and on October 10, 1910 the move was completed. During the transition, services were held in the Presbyterian Church. The cottage that stood on the site was moved to the rear of the church. Facing East on Hawley, it was remodeled and became the parsonage.

The original property at Citrus and Prescott was sold in March 1912 for \$2,600 and later became the location of the Eustis Elementary School. On May 21, 1927 the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Eustis was incorporated.

The year 1939 brought unification of Methodism as Methodist Episcopal Churches north and south joined the Protestant Methodist group to become the United Methodist Church.

In 1941 the Grand Island Methodist Church united with the church in Eustis. A new parsonage was built in 1947 at the corner of Center and Lemon Streets. In 1951 steps were taken to build a new church edifice. Property on South Grove Street, between Woodward and Badger Avenue, was purchased. It was the former location of the high school building, which had been condemned and razed. Ground-breaking for the new church was held on September 2, 1951. Following completion of the church and the first educational unit, the official consecration service was held on February 1, 1953.

Since that time, many things have changed with the United Methodist Church and their property. Such as: the original property lines were changed because of the “new four-lane highway”, which cut back on the Grove Street frontage; an additional plot of land was purchased south of Badger Avenue causing it to be closed to traffic; a new structure on the corner of Woodward and Eustis Streets, providing new classrooms, library, kitchen, etc. With growth comes change.

*NOTE: Look for the rest of the story in the following editions of our Newsletter.*

### ***SCENES FROM BYGONE EUSTIS.....***

***The Circus Comes to Downtown Eustis- Early 1900s***



## ***SCENES FROM BYGONE EUSTIS.....***



***Railroad Next to Lake Eustis, circa 1890***

### **From the Desk of Karen Marshall, First Vice President & Program Chairman**

The month of June brought us a new Board of Directors for the museum. On June 15, 2017, the members attending unanimously elected the new officers, trustees and board members. Immediately following the election, Eustis City Manager, Ron Neibert, conducted the installation. Then the business meeting was adjourned, and we all enjoyed the reception that followed with cookies, cake, and punch. It was a very festive evening.

On July 1st, the Museum took part in Hometown Eustis' Independence Day Celebration at Ferran Park. We set up a booth, which was manned by our curator, Gary Marshall, along with other museum members. We had pictures of the museum, T-shirts, books, and ornaments for sale & the proceeds benefited the museum. We also held a coloring contest, and numerous children participated and submitted their artwork. The winners in each category received a free T-shirt

from the museum. Thank you to all our volunteers that day: Chuck Munson, Karen Marshall, Bob & Louise Carter, Ethel Ryan, Sue Hooper, Gloria Corbet, Linda Becker, and Caryl Adams. Your efforts made the day a great success!

We have some great plans for later this year, including the Christmas Concert (back by popular demand), Which will be held on Saturday, December 16th @ 7:00pm. Another popular event, Cookies with Santa is scheduled for Saturday, December 9th at 10:00am. We have some great additions this year, which will make that event even more fun! Watch for more information on both of these events in a future newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Marshall, July 13, 2017

**EUSTIS HISTORICAL MUSEUM BOOTH AT FERRAN PARK JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>  
CELEBRATION, JULY 1, 2017**



**EUSTIS HISTORICAL MUSEUM BOOTH AT FERRAN PARK JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>  
CELEBRATION, JULY 1, 2017**

