A Monthly Member Publication of the

Eustis Historical Museum

A 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization

JANUARY 2018

MUSEUM HOURS

Our museum is open every Friday & Saturday Of the month, 1:00pm – 5:00pm

You are invited to visit our website
http://www.eustishistoricalmuseum.org

Jan. 25.....7:30p.m. Board Business Meeting
Feb. 22.....7:30p.m. Meeting – Speaker
Feb 23.....George Fest – Fireworks
Feb 24.....GeorgeFest – Parade
(the museum is planning to have 1, maybe 2 entries in the parade!)
Feb 25.....GeorgeFest – Celebration
(we are hoping to hold a special event on the grounds of the museum)
March 22.....7:30p.m. Social Meeting
April 22.....Eustis Roadshow Appraisal Clinic (Eustis Community Center)
April 26.....7:30p.m. Meeting – Nomination of Officers for 2018-2019 (Contact the museum if you would like your name on the ballot)
May 6.....2:00 – 4:00p.m. Ladies Tea (Celebration of Mothers' Day)
May 24.....7:30p.m. Meeting – Election of Officers
June 28.....7:30p.m. Social Meeting – Installation of Officers

TRUSTEES
Bob Carter
Louise Carter
Gloria Corbet
Sue Hopper
Dr. Jim Rotella
Ethel Ryan

OFFICERS

Chuck Munson
President

Karen Marshall
First Vice President

Melanie Blankenship
Second Vice President

Linda Becker
Recording Secretary

John Blankenship
Treasurer

Chuck Munson
Assistant Treasurer

CURATOR
Gary Marshall

APPOINTED

Louise Carter
Historian

Bill Stewart
Newsletter

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Our President, Chuck Munson, has been tied up assisting with power restoration to those affected and storm debris clean up after Hurricane Irma swept through our area last fall, among other obligations. He wishes to thank the entire Board, curator and volunteers for all their hard work making this an excellent year for the museum as we look forward to a great 2018.

From the desk of Karen Marshall, First Vice President

As we usher in the New Year, it has been an exciting year at the Museum. We have had many wonderful speakers, programs, fund raisers, and other events.

Our speakers included Glenn Tyre, who spoke about the History of the Citrus Industry in Lake County;
Mike Miller, who did a presentation on the "backroads of Florida"; and Gloria Corbet.

We had a successful and beautiful Mother's Day Tea in which we raised over $350.00 for the museum.
The ladies were decked out in their finest, and everyone had a wonderful time.

On July 1st, we participated in the Hometown Eustis Independence Day celebration in Ferran Park, and brought more visibility of the museum to the community.

In October; Gary, Louise Carter, Linda Becker & I greeted the Special Ed Class from Eustis High School. They had been here in February & came back for a return visit and special tour, and we were honored to share the home & history with them.

October 26th was a Halloween Party, and we all had a great time socializing with the board and other members of the museum.

We closed the year out with wonderful events:
First – Cookies with Santa on December 9th, which was a rousing success. We added photographs this year with Byron Faudie taking pictures of the children & their families with Santa. Thank you to Dr. Wade G. Winker, DDS for his generous donation to make the photographs possible.

Second – "The Great Songs of Christmas" – We had another sold out house, and everyone had a wonderful time. Ed Bryant and I sang some of our favorite Christmas songs and led the group in a sing-a-long of traditional Christmas music, accompanied by Ture Larson. Special thanks to the musicians for donating their services to the museum as well as those who donated the refreshments. This allowed the museum to receive 100% of the proceeds of the ticket donations for a total of $310.

We are looking forward to a great year in 2018.

2017 ha bee a g ea ea f e . Tha e e e eff
e ha e added 10 e e be , c d g e e L fe e e be , M e
fa . P ea e e c e I e e Cha d e a d B S e a a he e e add . B he a ,

Special thanks to our LIFE MEMBERS

Ve a A b	Ch B e e	B b & L e Ca e
F a D gge	Ja e (J) G	B e J e G ee
S b G ee	Ge a d Jac b	Ea E. (Ge e) & C de a LaR e
Me Je e e	E he R a	J h Re e

From Melanie:

As you can see, Gary and our volunteer docents have been kept quite busy. In addition to the tours, in September we participated in "Museum Day Live" sponsored by the Smithsonian Museum. Quite a few visitors stopped by that had not visited before. October 16th we hosted the Eustis Chamber Business After Hours. A surprising number of people came to see and hear about the house, munch on goodies and visit with fellow business owners. October 22 was our annual Eustis Road Show appraisal clinic. There was an excellent turn-out of people bringing in just about everything you can imagine, from paintings to coins, jewelry, pottery, glassware and collectables. Even though two of our appraisers came down ill and were not able to attend, everyone seemed to leave with a BIG smile on their faces and are looking forward to our next one. On October 26th we held a Halloween Social. Although not very many were brave enough to show up in costume, it went very well. November 16th found members of the board riding the inaugural run of the Polar Express Train from Tavares to Eustis. The excursion was amazing and it was a real treat to see our City of Eustis, the Clifford House and Unity Bell Pavilion decked out in all their holiday glory. If you missed this family friendly event this year, please put it on your holiday agenda for next year. I highly recommend it.

December was especially busy. Besides giving weekend tours, Gary found time to do a wonderful job of decorating the interior and exterior of the museum just in time for "Cookies With Santa" on the 9th. Approximately 70 or so children came though, all anxious to provide Santa with their wish lists for Christmas. Each child took home a special photo of themselves with Santa. The Eustis American Legion Auxiliary Unit 41 provided holiday cookies for each child (and their parents) to enjoy. You may have noticed, The Orlando Sentinel even had a picture of the event.

Then on December 16th, our 1st Vice President, Karen Marshall (soprano), accompanied by Edward Bryant (tenor) and Ture Larson (accompanist) treated us to a spectacular evening of "The Great Songs of Christmas". Then, on December 28th, we were invited by new owners, Alan Johnson and Wayne Gattillia, to an open house and tour of "The Palms" formerly known as the Pendleton House. Since purchasing the home in 2015, they have put a tremendous amount of restoration work into it and have every reason to proud of their accomplishment.

2018 is shaping up to be another busy year here at the museum. Following is the Calendar of Events for the next few months:

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Feb. 22	7:30p.m. Meeting – Speaker
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We encourage you to stop by, and if you can spare an hour or two of your time, we are always looking for volunteers to help with our projects and events. Just give us a call!

Historical Point of Interest

THE PALMS
AKA The Pendleton House

The Palms, at 1208 Chesterfield Court, Eustis, is an impressive home as you approach it, with three stories topped by a Widows Walk. The oldest part of the house was built in 1876 and is the oldest recorded house in Lake County. In fact, it was built before Eustis became a city or Lake County was a county. In 1880 Mr. Pendleton purchased the property and began a six year addition of 4500 square feet in Victorian Style to part of the old farmhouse. The original part of the house is now the kitchen, pantry, stairwell to the second floor's maid's quarters and a bathroom. Mr. Pendleton's addition included eight bedrooms, nine fireplaces, a formal staircase, a covered front porch, upstairs balcony at the front of the house and two story back porch overlooking the property down to West Crooked Lake and several other rooms. The house was built before either running water or electricity was available in Eustis. The current owners have a copy of a letter written by one of the prior owners stating that she had paid $50.00 to have the house wired for electricity and, after two years, was still waiting for the City to bring electricity to the house. The property originally extended from Lakeview down to West Crooked Lake. The house actually faces Lakeview Avenue, which was the original street address. During the 1970's a developer bought the property and subdivided the land around the house adding several streets. The house now sits on just over an acre with Chesterfield Court on the side of the house.

Over the years the house has had several owners. Alan Johnson and Wayne Gattillia purchased the home in 2015 from a foreclosure auction. Both the grounds and house were in a serious state of disrepair and neglect. Since then they have worked to restore the home to its' former glory. They own an antique shop in Tavares, and over the years have amassed an impressive collection of antique furniture and collections.

When we visited, the home was decked out for the holidays, complete with at least one beautifully decorated Christmas tree in just about every room and Santa Clauses, elves, carolers and antique ornaments everywhere you looked.

"The Palms" written by Melanie Blankenship