

19TH CENTURY HOMESTEAD AND GROVE ON THE INDIAN RIVER

Field Manor E-Newsletter

December 2020

STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY!

Homestead News

by Korinn Braden

Hello from the Homestead!

For the year that never seemed to end, we're fast approaching 2021. Apologies for the time in between the newsletters, as time got away from me. The ever-popular Zoom meetings are more frequent than in-person meetings and has proven to be a great way to keep up with other museums in Brevard, as well as board members, and volunteers. I think the word of 2020 should be 'pivot.' We've all been required to change the status quo and pivot to adapt. Hopefully with success!

We've had much success with our wonderful volunteers during the year. In September, we began to recruit volunteers to scan and transcribe the WW II letters of Ed Field from 1942-1945. We were able to assign letters for transcription via Google Drive, truly making it a virtual volunteer project.

This time of year is wedding season at Field Manor. Our commitment to Covid-19 requirements is still in place, ensuring our guests safety and enjoyment. We are truly lucky to have a 40'x60' pavilion on the lovely Indian River, with its breezes and beautiful sunlight on the water.

Field Manor is pleased to announce our participation in Museum of Brevard's Inaugural Christmas Tour of Historic Homes. Along with five other Brevard historic homes, a \$35 package tour will gain you entry into each of the participating homes, with a Christmas ornament given upon completion of the tour. We hope to have this become a tradition with your support.

Speaking of support, the generosity of you, *Friends of Field Manor*, means the world to us, both as a source of pride as well as a source of financial support. Please consider renewing your membership to Field Manor. You can send in a check, do it over the phone, or for convenience, click this link: https://www.paypal.com/donate?token=s6xd4bTdDeHbFJYKIOvp1ktG7oloMgkwjDGQWg_uIGDTeFng1bjfmBbRbje6a05iEQMvBo_img28_28mF

From myself, Darren, Alexis, and Nemon, as well as our terrific board members, we wish you and your family and friends a safe, healthy and Happy Christmas and New Year! Bye, 2020!



Museum of Brevard's Christmas Tour of Historic Homes

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WW II Letters

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Museums of Brevard Christmas Tour of Historic Homes

The Museums of Brevard (MOB) is an informal confederation of interested museums and historic sites in Brevard County, Florida. Together we: promote each other's facilities both individually and jointly; share activity information and coordinate upcoming events; and share best practices and lessons learned in running museums.

And this year we've banded together to bring Brevard County residents and visitors to opportunity to check out six historic homes over a period of time. The tours are \$35 and when your PastPort is filled out, you will receive a special Christmas ornament from the Museums of Brevard!

For more information and tickets, please visit:

<https://www.brownpaperickets.com/event/4774103>



The Rossetter home began as an 1859 Houston slave cabin, the three 1880's Roesch additions and finally the Rossetter 1908 Aspinwall addition. It showcases the lovely Rossetter antiques and memorabilia. Located at 1320 Highland Avenue, Melbourne, FL 32935, tours are Wednesday - Saturday and are by appointment only: 10 am, 12 noon and 2pm. Please call 321-254-9855.

In 1896 **Green Gables** was built on a bluff on the Indian River by Wm and Nora Wells, who built the first auditorium, first high school and first library in Melbourne. Christmas Tour offered: December 18-20th from 9 am-2pm. For info: 321-794-8901. Located at 1501 S Harbor City Blvd, Melbourne FL 32901.

Field Manor Historic Homestead and Grove was built in 1880, Field Manor Historic Homestead and Grove is the oldest home built on Merritt Island. This pioneer family created the town of Indianola. Located at 750 Field Manor Drive, Merritt Island. Christmas tour will take place Thursday December 10th - Saturday December 12th and Thursday December 17th - Saturday Dec. 19th, from 10am - 2 pm. Please call ahead: 321.848.0365.

Sams House at Pine Island was built in 1875 and considered to be the oldest standing home in Brevard County. Tour the 1888 parlor and check out our hiking trails as we celebrate this holiday season. Christmas Tour dates are Saturdays

December 5th and 12th 10 am - 2 pm. Located on the Pine Island Conservation Area at 6195 N Tropical Trail, Merritt Island, FL 32953. Phone: 321-449-4720.

Historic Pritchard House is a fine example of "Queen Anne" style architecture built in 1891. The house is decorated throughout and includes a tree adorned with vintage ornaments, antique toys under it and stockings hung by the fireplace. 424 S. Washington Ave. (US1), Titusville, FL 32796 P.O. Box 653, Titusville, FL 32781 Christmas Tours available daily 10am - 4pm by appointment (321) 607-0203

Lawndale, built in 1895, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Rockledge Drive National Register District, one of three National Register Districts in the neighborhood. Christmas tour hours: Dec 11 & 12 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Dec 13 from noon to 3 p.m. 1219 Rockledge Drive, Rockledge. For information call 321-632-5650.

All of the Historic Homes are CDC Compliant and practice COVID-19 precautions.

Searching for Brevard's Locals Through Archaeology and Field Trips



Original artwork by AVT president, Rick Piper

In February we partnered with Ais Village Trail, Inc., a local not for profit archaeological group, dedicated to revealing the past of Brevard natives, the Ais.

We are happy to again welcome them back on Friday, December 11th, between 10 a.m. -1p.m.

Please wear comfortable clothes that you don't mind getting dirty, a hat, and closed-toed shoes. As well as water, bring a bag lunch to enjoy on the riverfront when you're done. Call us at 321.848.0365 for more information and check out:

<https://www.facebook.com/Ais-Village-Trail-903924306333918>

Although most field trips are cancelled in Brevard County throughout this school year, we are still available for smaller groups and home school groups. Our education program covers such diverse topics:

SS.K.A.1.2 - Primary sources, Historical inquiry and analysis, Historical knowledge

SS.1.A.2.2 - Compare life now with life in the past

SS.2.A.2.1 - Recognize that Native Americans were the first inhabitants in North America

SS.3.A.1.1 - Analyze primary and secondary sources

SS.4.A.7.3 - Describe Florida's role in WW II secondary sources

SS.5.A.1.1 - Use primary and secondary resources to understand history

Field Manor has a Story-Telling suitcase with accompanying literature available for 'check out' for home school classes as well as those parents teaching from home this school year. Please contact Korinn at education@fieldmanor.org for more information.



From an Island in the Indian River to a Continent in Crisis: Sgt. Ed Field and the 93rd Armored Field Artillery

In September 2020 Field Manor called for volunteers to scan and transcribe the letters J. Edward Field, Jr. sent home to Indianola between 1942-1946. And we were thankful to have five stalwarts embark on this journey. The letters were scanned, named, and are in the process of being transcribed.

1942, the boot camp year, is completed, and we're almost finished with 1943. Although we have read through them for content, we're consciously trying not to read them, if that makes much sense. Most of us are excited to read them in their entirety and in chronological order.

Okay, maybe we haven't read read them, but we were curious about a re-occurring name, Gladys. Upon investigation, her identity has been revealed. We hope to tell more of this story in up-coming months.

Ed's parents, Uncle John Miot, and his sister Betty were diligent writers and it meant a lot to Ed to keep up with his Indianola community. He received the Cocoa paper and Life magazine to supplement the news. Neighbors and relatives sent candy and potted stew, as well as clothing and watches.

Although Ed doesn't dwell on battles, skirmishes, and being on the move, he is honest about what he sees and experiences.



Ed Field somewhere in Europe 1944

Through the Cocoa paper and correspondences he was able to meet up with fellow Brevard locals and chew the fat. He missed hunting duck, went deep sea fishing off Italy, ate a lot of Red Cross doughnuts, bought all the women in his life perfume from France, and never could find a good wrist-watch.

We look forward to learning more about his time serving the U.S.A. during WW II.

Our group of volunteers meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, between 1:30-4:00 PM. If you're interested being a virtual detective, we would be happy to send you a month to transcribe from home. Contact: events@fieldmanor.org

A special thanks to Kate P., Mark B., Carol G., Andy H., Dorothy C., and Amy C. for their honest work, consistency, and friendship.



Thanks to Dean Schaaf and the Veteran's Memorial Center for the donation of shirt, tie, and shoes.

Field Manor Wish List:

- **A working golf cart**
- Electrical wiring for the packing house to bring it to code
- Railings for the packing house
- New stringers and planks for the dock
- A sign by the road with letters we can change
- Installation of the hand water pump
- **Rip-Rap for shoreline**
- **A chainsaw**
- An electric pole saw
- **New stringers and planks for the dock**

A tractor with a PTO

A bush hog —

A truck or other pulling device

A road-certified trailer

A box blade for the tractor

Field Manor would like to thank Annie Worley and three other Brevard pioneer families for the Kubota tractor, a trailer, and box blade. And a huge thanks to Mrs. Marla Glover for the bush hog! With *Friends* like you, anything is possible.

Education:

- Group leaders
- Group helpers
- Curriculum development
- Curriculum guidelines
- Curriculum resources
- Research

Archives:

- Written material
- Collections
- Research

Grove:

- Cultivation
- Historic Gardens
- Plant propagation
- Research
- Weather issues
- Water issues
- Ground testing

River:

- Oyster bag and mat clean-up
- Trash pick-up

Grant Writer/ Writing

Arborist

Stained-glass Artist

Volunteers for:

- Christmas Tours
- Founder's Day 2021



What a wonderful feeling to cross off items on our wish list and this could not happen without *YOU!*