



The Historical Society of Orange Park

February 2024 Newsletter

Welcome February! We hope everyone is enjoying our beautiful, cool weather.

February brings our first quarterly member meeting of the year. The meeting will be held at 5:30 PM, Monday, February 5 at the Orange Park Library. We will also be hosting an open house at the Clarke House on Sunday, February 10.

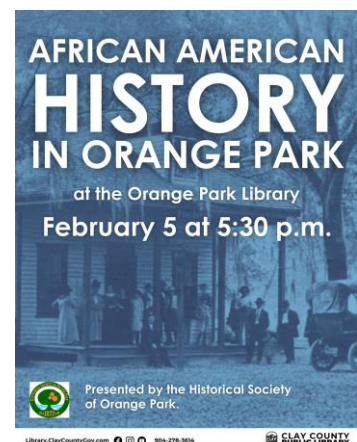
As we mentioned last month, it is time for us to renew our annual memberships in the Society. We depend on you, our members, to help preserve and share the history of Orange Park as well as your contributions of time and service for our various events and activities. Your memberships go a long way toward supporting this organization. We appreciate every new and renewing member. You can renew by mail, using the membership form attached to the end of this newsletter, or you can renew online via our website. Either way, we look forward to hearing from you and sharing our love of history this coming year.

Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event	Location
February 5, 2024	5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	Quarterly Member Meeting	Orange Park Library
February 11, 2024	2:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Open House	Clarke House
March 9, 2024	11:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Carrie Clarke Day	Clarke House Park
March 10, 2024	2:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Open House	Clarke House

February Quarterly Meeting

Since the time the Town of Orange Park was incorporated in 1877, there has been a vital African American presence in the town. From the notable housing projects of Joseph Green in the 1880s to the Normal and Industrial School in the 1910s to the railroad and turpentine industries, a consistent Black population has contributed to the economy, vitality and culture of the community. On Monday, February 5th, join us at the Orange Park Library as we pay tribute to Black History in Orange Park. We invite local voices to bring stories of earlier days along with our visual exploration of the topic through the decades.



Orange Park Memories

The Historical Society of Orange Park is celebrating the warm, rich, charming and sometimes quirky history of our town. Each month of 2024 we will post a vintage newspaper clip from *The Breeze* newspaper, which ran from 1959 to 1971. Check this newsletter each month for a flashback to earlier days. This month we are sharing this article from Feb. 18, 1960. The Civitan Club was dedicated to serving the local community by addressing local needs with local solutions.

New Civitan Club Names Frank Scruby President

A NEW CIVITAN CLUB WAS RECENTLY ORGANIZED IN ORANGE PARK AND AT A RECENT CHARTER NIGHT OBSERVANCE, NEW OFFICERS WERE INSTALLED. FRANK SCRUBY IS FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE NEW CLUB AND OTHER OFFICERS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: DR. FRANCIS M. MCGAHEE, 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT; ALLEN FRYE, 2ND VICE-PRESIDENT; C. EDMOND WHITE, SECRETARY AND TREASURER; THE REV. JOHN MCTAMMANY, CHAPLAIN AND EARLE C. MOSS JR., SERGEANT-AT-ARMS. DIRECTORS INCLUDE MARCUS COVINGTON, ROBERT J. MORRIS AND JAMES E. YONGE.

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OTHER CHARTER MEMBERS INCLUDE EDWARD H. VAN NESS JR., HENRY L. ROBSON, GORDON SANDRIDGE, DR. WILLIAM F. PARRAMORE JR., J. HAMILTON BOULWARE, DR. ZACHARY B. MARTIN, E. B. MCDANIEL JR., MARVIN E. WILHITE, JOSEPH I. TRIPPLETT, DON R. SHELTON, FRANK W. BROWN JR, ADM. H. C. ALLAN JR., PAUL C. ARMSTRONG, JOHN H. PACE, MATTHEW S. QUAY, W. G. WILLS, W. M. HALL, LEO P. CROUCH AND FRED C. DAVIS.

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THE BREEZE IS HAPPY TO WELCOME OUR NEWEST ORGANIZATION. THIS IS JUST ADDITIONAL PROOF NOT ONLY OF OUR TOWN'S PROGRESS IN THE PAST, BUT OF PROGRESS YET TO COME!

Theological Education Day Is This Sunday

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION DAY WILL BE OBSERVED ON SUNDAY AT GRACE CHURCH. THE CONGREGATION WILL HEAR ABOUT THE WORK OF THE EPISCOPAL SEMINARIES AND THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH.

MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO MAKE A DONATION TO THE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH.

WHEN YOU SHOP, TELL ADVERTISERS
The B
SUBSCRIPT

The Breeze, February 18, 1960

Clay County Historical Roundtable

Representatives of Clay County's historical societies, museums and agencies met on Friday, January 5, for a county-wide roundtable discussion. The meeting was held at the Middleburg Civic Association and graciously hosted by the Middleburg Museum. Representatives from the Clay County Historical Society, Clay County Archives, Historical Society of Penny Farms, Middleburg Museum, Keystone Heights Heritage Commission, Clay County Tourism and Historical Society of Orange Park joined together to discuss their goals and objectives. The group developed four common goals for the coming year:

1. Proper preservation of archival materials.
2. Improved maintenance of historical properties.
3. Better communication between the various historical groups and with Clay County government.
4. Improved collaboration and participation between schools and local history venues.

The group also began work to develop a common calendar to reduce the occurrences of multiple events on the same day so that we can work cooperatively and offer mutual support.

The group was treated to a tour of the Middleburg Museum and was most appreciative of the artifacts on display and the ongoing work accomplished by their dedicated group of volunteers.



Roundtable attendees visit the Middleburg Museum

Veterans Memorial

Veterans Memorial Service Medallions

In an effort to keep all members up to date on the status of the Medallion project at the Veterans Memorial we wanted to share our current progress.

The HSOP Board met and agreed that we should explore the addition of 2 new service emblems. The US Space Force medallion and the POW/MIA medallion would be added to the wall at the

Veterans Memorial. We are in contact with Jax Memory Gardens to develop a quote to source the marble and create the medallions. They will be identical in appearance to the six existing service medallions. We are also in contact with Scott's Custom Renovation Services who built the wall and installed the existing 6 medallions and expect to get a quote. We anticipate that we should have both quotes and be prepared to discuss and vote at our March Board meeting. At that time, we would issue purchase orders to begin the project. It could take several months from execution of purchase order to completion of the project. We welcome all comments from the membership to let us know your input. Send your input to info@ophistory.org.



Orange Park Woman's Club

The Orange Park Woman's Club has a long history of generosity and giving - going all the way back to their origins in 1910. Ask any member about their mission and you will definitely hear the phrase, "give to the community". They also keep their fellow organizations in mind with their giving spirit. Having a number of interesting, historical items on hand, the Woman's Club recently reached out to the Historical Society and inquired if we would like to become the custodians of these items. Twenty-eight bins and 15 hat boxes were passed on to the Historical Society. Late 1800's and early 20th Century hats, clothes, and handbags filled these containers. Historical Society members will examine these items, and those that align with the time period of the Clarke House will be put on display or archived for future use. Other items not of use will be offered to the Clay County Historical Society.



The Historical Society of Orange Park extends its heart-felt appreciation and thanks to the Orange Park Woman's Club. We are proud to take possession of these historical items and move them from storage to display so that others can view and appreciate the historical stories they have to tell.

A Message to Orange Park from the Mandarin Museum & Historical Society

The Mandarin Museum & Historical Society is excited about our latest project - "Harriet Beecher Stowe in Mandarin". This wonderful sculpture project is being created right here in Mandarin at the historic 1911 Mandarin Store and Post Office, 12471 Mandarin Rd.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2oYInhh4erU>

Open Studio hours are every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10-2 through the second weekend in February. This means you can actually watch it being sculpted and talk to the artist, Brenda Council.

We hope to see some of our Orange Park friends! This is an amazing and important project. It is definitely something worth seeing "in the making!"

And - even though she wintered in Mandarin for so long, we do not forget that Mrs. Stowe FIRST put her feet into Florida sand at the old Laurel Grove Plantation. So, her history relates to Orange Park's history as well. To learn more about the project:

<https://www.mandarinmuseum.org/mandarin-history/mandarin-artists/brenda-council/#Harriet-Beecher-Stowe-in-Mandarin>



Clarke House Tours



The monthly open house at the historic Clarke House will be held on Sunday, February 11 from 2 PM to 4 PM. The Clarke House, built in 1912, served as the family home for William and Carrie Clarke for many years. It features hardwood floors, plastered walls and ceilings and large, spacious rooms with many windows for good ventilation. It was a comfortable home and the Clarke family shared many happy memories there. Stop for a visit on February 10 and make memories of your own and feel free to share recollections that the house inspires.

Look For Us on Online

Look for the Historical Society of Orange Park online via our website, www.ophistory.org, or our [Facebook](#) page. Both sources provide updates on society news and activities.

Links to Local History

For more events and activities related to local history, please visit the following:

- [Clay County Historical Society](#)
- [Middleburg Museum](#)
- [Historical Society of Penny Farms](#)
- [Mandarin Museum and Historical Society](#)
- [Keystone Heights Heritage Commission](#)
- [Clay County Archives](#)





Historical Society of Orange Park, Inc.

P.O. Box 08
Orange Park, FL 32067

2024 Membership Enrollment Form

Member Renewal

New Member

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

<u>Category</u>	<u>Number</u>		<u>Dues</u>	<u>Total</u>
Individual	_____	X	\$20	_____
Family	_____	X	\$35	_____
Senior (65 and over)	_____	X	\$10	_____
Student	_____	X	\$10	_____
Corporate	_____	X	\$50	_____
Additional Donation				_____
Total				_____

Dues can be paid either in person at the monthly meetings, online via our website, <https://ophistory.org/store>, or by mail. Please make checks payable to the **Historical Society of Orange Park** and send to:

Historical Society of Orange Park
P.O. Box 08
Orange Park, FL 32067

We appreciate your support!