

# JAILHOUSE MUSE

## Treasure of the Quarter



Today, people can visit a store and purchase embroidery or sewing patterns. In the Victorian era, the same could be said for hair art patterns! Hair art was a common craft for women. Sentimentality was important in this era, and one of its manifestations was using a loved one's hair to create art or jewelry. While mourning hair art was common to remember those who passed, women also created hair art as sentimental tributes to the living.

This particular piece of hair art (pictured on the top left - close-up on bottom left) is from an unknown source. It was created using a technique called gimp work, in which individual pieces of hair are looped around wire and eventually shaped into designs.

It is unclear whether or not this piece was for mourning. As you can see from the different hair colors, it was likely created from multiple people's hair. This gives a clue that it was not for mourning, but rather as a sentimental family tree. However, a fragment of a handwritten letter accompanies the hair art. A section of it reads,

"But, poor soul! He will never ate or drink anymore, and we haven't a [?] relation in the world except myself and yer two cousins who were kilt in the last war. I cannot dwell on the mournful subject any longer, and shall..." [end of letter fragment]

Perhaps the hair art is mourning multiple family members who passed.

To view this item and details about it, visit our online archives at [ameliamuseum.org](http://ameliamuseum.org). You may also visit the archives Tuesday - Thursday from 10am - 4pm. Contact Ronda Outler at [ronda@ameliamuseum.org](mailto:ronda@ameliamuseum.org) or phone (904) 261-7378 extension 104.

Visit our online Resource Library and Archives at <https://ameliaisland.pastperfectonline.com/>

# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

---



CHAIR  
Rob Hull

As I sit here at the greeter's desk of the Shrimping Museum overlooking the Amelia River I see ominous clouds peeking above the far horizon. And I smile because not only are these clouds the early warning sign of an afternoon rainstorm, they are also harbingers of an influx of visitors to the Museum. It has rained almost daily for the past five weeks and, as a result, Museum attendance has far exceeded expectation, resulting in our financial bottom line beginning to look better. After 18 months of limited access due to Covid, we are now operating at about 90 percent. The last two boxes remaining to be checked off are opening on Sunday afternoons and reinstating the Pub Crawl. Given the recent increase in Covid cases, the Pub Crawl will remain in hiatus for awhile. However, we are hoping to open on Sundays in the next few weeks. Our biggest hurdle at this time is finding volunteers to staff the greeter desk and provide Docent tours. Many of our volunteers decided not

to return when we reopened in April and we have been playing catch-up ever since. Those volunteers who remain are constantly being asked to work additional shifts, sometimes three or four times a week. So if you (or a friend) are interested in helping out, even if you can only afford one morning or afternoon a week, please contact our Education Director Thea Seagraves at 904-261-7378 x 105.

While our number of volunteers is limited, it has not stopped Phyllis and her staff, as well as the Board of Trustees, from moving forward. Three exciting events will be taking place this fall. Coming in September will be our third Fiesta de Santa Maria in which we celebrate Spanish arrival in the New World. In coordination with the Farmers' Market, a fiesta will take place on Saturday morning, September 18 behind Pineland Bank. A Spanish guitarist, flamenco dancers and interpretive historical volunteers in costume will ensure a morning of fun for the whole family.

Continuing on with the theme of Latino Heritage will be our Cuban Art Exhibit. Using her contacts in Cuba, Board Member Berta Arias is coordinating an exhibition of original works by artists from the city of Baracoa, Cuba. We are not able to display the original artworks. However, with help from the Cuban coordinators, we have high quality photos of each piece, and those images will be printed as posters. These posters will be on display in the Museum's temporary gallery from September 17<sup>th</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup>. Berta has arranged for four local artists to judge the submissions and make monetary awards for first, second, and third place. In addition, with the artists' agreement, we plan to auction off the posters with proceeds being shared between the artists and the Museum. Finally, we are trying to arrange for one of our 3<sup>rd</sup> on 3<sup>rd</sup> presentations to be a video-conference with the Cuban artists and the local judges. Stay tuned for future developments.

The third event we are planning for is the City's fall shrimp festival. Taking place October 1-3, the scaled-down festival "Falling for Shrimp" will only occupy blocks from Third Street to the riverfront and is expected to draw about half the visitors. As in the past, we will be hosting a booth and serving our fabulous shrimp gumbo. We are currently recruiting cooks to prepare the gumbo. Over the next two month we will be looking for volunteers to peel shrimp (free wine served while peeling), set up the tent, and work in the booth as cook, server or money taker. If you are interested in participating in any of these activities, please contact Thea at your earliest convenience.

Stay safe and healthy,

Rob Hull  
Board Chair

# Volunteer Spotlight

---



## Lynn Cromer and Penny Reid

**Lynn Cromer** joined the museum in 2014. As a young girl, Lynn vacationed with her family here on Amelia Island and later, as an adult, spent her summers camping at Fort Clinch. Upon retiring from teaching in Georgia, she and her husband bought a house in the historic district of downtown Fernandina. Interested in the history of Nassau County and Amelia Island, Lynn decided the Amelia Island Museum of History would be a great place to devote her free time while learning about our island's fascinating history. "Living downtown is like living in history," says Lynn, who became one of the museum's morning greeters. After serving as a morning greeter for several years, Lynn was asked to become a chairperson for the museum's Holiday Home Tour (HHT), an annual fundraiser that highlights homes here on Amelia Island. Lynn served as co-chair for the HHT for the past two years and has done an amazing job. She now spends her extra time as a "garden angel" nurturing the history garden located directly behind the museum.

Thank you, Lynn, the museum is better and stronger for your continued support.

**Penny Reid** moved to the island in 2013 and quickly became involved with the museum at the urging of her brother, Harry Green, who was one of the museum's docents sharing with visitors the Eight Flags Story. After hearing the story of the island, Penny stated "the history of this island is a microcosm of everything that has happened in the U.S. You can learn things about the native people, British, Spanish, Mexican, and French – things my teachers never taught me about our history." Penny believed the museum would be a good way to meet people and enjoy her retirement. She signed up to become a greeter and later a walking tour guide. Because of her success in accomplishing these tasks, she was asked to become a chairperson for the Holiday Home Tour. She joined Lynn as a co-chair, planning and managing the event for two years. Penny has discovered volunteerism is just the ticket for her. Not only does she volunteer at the museum, she also donates her time at other nonprofits such as Amelia Lifelong Learning and the Democratic Party.

Thanks, Penny, for everything you do to help the museum shine in spreading the history of our fair city to all our island visitors.



# Holiday Home Tour 2021



15TH ANNUAL AMELIA ISLAND MUSEUM OF HISTORY

*Holiday*  
**HOME TOUR**

◆ DECEMBER 3 & 4, 2021 | 10 AM - 4 PM ◆

ONLINE TICKET SALES  
[www.ameliamuseum.org](http://www.ameliamuseum.org)

We are proud to announce that we are hosting the 15th Annual Holiday Home Tour this year in December. This year will feature five homes in or near historic downtown Fernandina Beach.

We chose to continue our tradition and hold the Holiday Home Tour in 2020. As part of our safety measures, we instituted timed ticketing. That model worked well, so we will be using it again in 2021. With that in mind, it will be possible to see all five homes - like the traditional ticket - or to choose to see as many as you like. Also, you can choose to see all the homes on one day or spread them out over both days.

In addition to the Holiday Home Tour, there will be a special event offered. Stay tuned for more information on this opportunity!

If you would like to help out as a volunteer, please contact us at [info@ameliamuseum.org](mailto:info@ameliamuseum.org).

- Tickets go on sale October 1, 2021.
- Friday, December 3 & Saturday, December 4, 2021 from 10:00am - 4:00pm.
- \$7 per home, pay \$35 to see all five homes on the Holiday Home Tour.

## Find us on the Web

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

FACEBOOK: Amelia Island Museum of History

TWITTER: AmeliaMuseum

INSTAGRAM: ameliamuseum

TWITCH: AmeliainslandMuseumHistory

YOUTUBE: Amelia Island Museum of History

Special events and programs are subject to scheduling and cost changes, for the most up-to-date information please visit our website [www.ameliamuseum.org](http://www.ameliamuseum.org) or contact our Curator, Summer Bias, at [summer@ameliamuseum.org](mailto:summer@ameliamuseum.org) or call 904-261-7378 x 102. Seating at all programs is on a first come, first served basis.

## CALENDAR

August • September • October

### WEDNESDAY August 4th

Brown Bag Lunch at Noon  
**Breaking Rock**  
 with Dr. Marc Thompson  
 Come see a demonstration of the ancient art of producing stone tools.

### FRIDAY August 20th

3rd on 3rd at 6 pm  
**Changing Sands**  
 with Carol J. Alexander  
 Hear about the island, African American history and American Beach.

### WEDNESDAY September 1st

Brown Bag Lunch at Noon  
**A Fabricated New World:  
 Theodore de Bry's Florida Engravings**  
 with Summer Bias

### FRIDAY September 17th

3rd on 3rd at 6 pm  
**EXHIBIT OPENING**  
**The Cuba Connection**  
 with Berta Arias  
 Cuban Art Exhibit  
 Preview and reception

### SATURDAY September 18th

**Fiesta de Santa Maria**  
 9am -12pm  
 Celebrate Hispanic Heritage  
 Month with us!

### FRIDAY Oct 1st

**HOLIDAY HOME TOUR  
 TICKETS GO ON SALE**

### FRIDAY Oct 1st - SUNDAY Oct 3rd

**Falling for Shrimp**  
 Mini-Shrimp Fest

### WEDNESDAY Oct 6th

Brown Bag Lunch at Noon  
**TBD**

### FRIDAY Oct 15th

3rd on 3rd at 6 pm  
**Indigenous Northeast Florida**  
 with Dr. Denise Bossy  
 Explore the history of native peoples of the region

**SHRIMP FEST MUSEUM  
 GUMBO BOOTH  
 THE AMELIA ISLAND MUSEUM OF HISTORY WILL BE  
 CLOSED SATURDAY, Oct  
 2nd & SUNDAY, Oct 3rd  
 FOR SHRIMP FEST.**

**PLEASE VISIT OUR GUMBO  
 BOOTH IN FRONT OF THE  
 PALACE SALOON ON 2ND  
 STREET!**



**LUIS  
 SAYS:**  
 "The dog days of Summer  
 are here. Stay cool and  
 come enjoy the museum!"

### STAFF

Director - Phyllis Davis  
 Media & Operations Manager -  
 Jennifer England  
 Curator - Summer Bias  
 Education Director - Thea Seagraves  
 Archivist - Ronda Outler  
 Operations Asst. - Christopher Collins  
 Group Tours - Brenda Brubeck

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chairman - Rob Hull  
 Vice-Chair - Bill Tilson  
 Secretary - Susan Bonnett  
 Treasurer - Joe Anderson  
 Past Chair - Susan Martin

### BOARD MEMBERS

Paul Condit   Berta Arias   Rob Hicks  
 David Roeser   Peggy Bulger   Neil Frink  
 Jennifer Harrison   Wendall McGahee  
 Frank Ofeldt

# Voices of the Community



As part of our mission, the Museum seeks to preserve and record the history of the community here on Amelia Island and in Nassau County. Our Heritage Keepers oral history project is an important part of that mission. We are seeking interviewers and transcribers to help the project.

Contact Curator Summer Bias at [summer@ameliamuseum.org](mailto:summer@ameliamuseum.org) or call 904-261-7378 x 102 for more information about the project and about volunteering with the team.

## DEVELOPMENT CORNER

The Annual Fund Drive is underway. A big Thank You to those who have already sent in their donation, your financial investment is essential for our continued success. If you have not sent yours in yet please consider this a gentle reminder. It is only through generous donors like you that the Museum can continue to provide the community with the programs and services that bring history alive.

For more information contact Phyllis:  
[phyllis@ameliamuseum.org](mailto:phyllis@ameliamuseum.org)  
904-261-7378 ext. 101

A M E L I A I S L A N D  
**MUSEUM OF HISTORY**

Facebook and Instagram: @ameliamuseum  
Twitch: AmeliainlandMuseumHistory

## Hours

Mon - Sat: 10:00am - 4:00pm  
Sun : 1:00pm - 4:00pm  
Free Friday Hours: 4:00pm - 6:00pm

## Location

233 S. 3rd St.  
Fernandina Beach, Florida 32034

## Admission

Adults - \$10.00  
Children - \$5.00  
Seniors & Active Military - \$8.00  
5 and Under - Free  
Docent led tours at  
11 a.m. & 2 p.m.  
Included with Admission

## Contact

Phone - 904-261-7378  
Fax - 904-261-9701  
E-mail - [info@ameliamuseum.org](mailto:info@ameliamuseum.org)

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