

# THE JAILHOUSE TIMEPIECE

A NEWSLETTER FOR MUSEUM OF HISTORY VOLUNTEERS

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY SUMMER 2022



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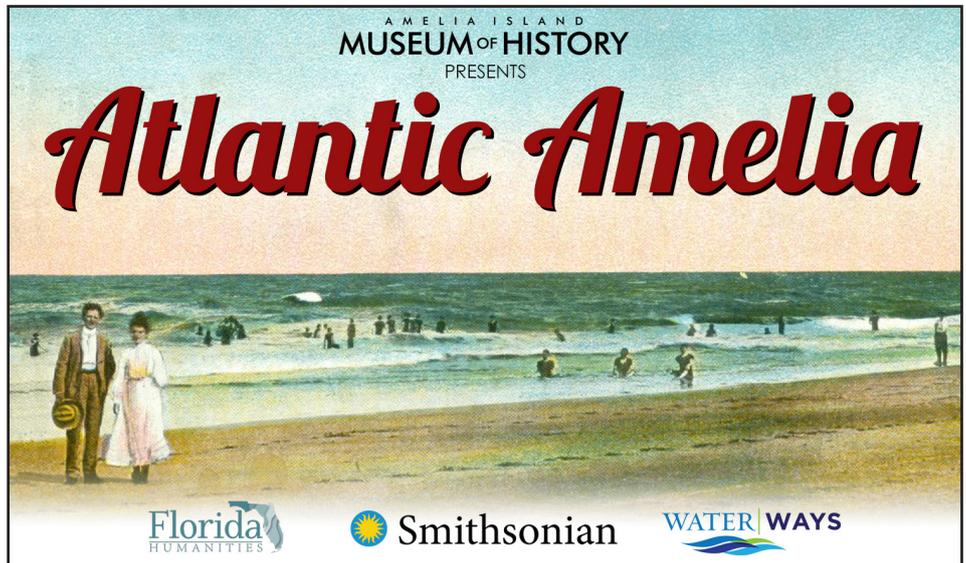
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## ATLANTIC AMELIA

**On view until early September, 2022**  
**Amelia Island Museum of History**  
**Temporary Gallery**  
**Curated by Summer Bias**

**A**s our volunteer docents know well, many of the Museum's permanent exhibits are devoted to the long history of the various people who have occupied the Amelia Island riverside: the Timucua, the French, Spanish, and English settlers, and the industrious men and women who inaugurated the modern shrimping industry. Indeed, the riverside has played an integral part in defining of our island's identity.

**But what about the Atlantic side of the island?**

*(Cont'd Page 2)*

# Atlantic Amelia

AIMH Temporary Gallery, closes early September 2022

*“One of the principal attractions of Fernandina is its magnificent sea-beach, which is reached from the city by a pleasant drive of two miles along a smooth shell road...” – Wanton Webb, 1885*

For decades now, people have been visiting and relocating to Atlantic Amelia in droves. In 1951, due to the changing culture of seashore tourism, the city of Fernandina added “Beach” to its official name. Our current temporary exhibit, Atlantic Amelia, explores the island’s oceanside history, including the shift in society’s view from terror of the beach to pleasure, the evolution of beach culture, and current issues affecting our beaches. Visitors can try their hand at writing Victorian-style postcards, see how beach attire changed through time, and check out historical photographs and documents of popular beach attractions. ❏

Note: This exhibit is a local complement to the Smithsonian Museum Main Street exhibit Water/Ways, which the Museum will display in Baker Hall from May 7 to July 2, in cooperation with the Florida Humanities.



Top: Exhibit mannequins dressed in Victorian beachcomber attire.

Middle: Beauty pageant at Main Beach, circa 1950.

Left: Nature’s seaside momentos: shells and feathers.

# AIMH VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



**K**athy Grusing was born in Plainfield, NJ; however her father was in the military so she has lived in multiple locations, including Georgia, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Washington DC and Germany. In January 2019, she and her husband moved from Cocoa Beach to Fernandina Beach to be closer to their grandchildren. She retired from Federal Government after spending 33 years working in the Department of Defense as a Financial and Intelligence Manager.

Says Kathy, "I enjoy meeting people and telling them about what a wonderful and historical place Fernandina Beach is. I have been a greeter, Ghost Tour host and volunteered for teas and other special events like Dickens on Centre and the Shrimp Fest." Asked about her life philosophy, Kathy replied, "Appreciate and be grateful for every day. Decide to have a good attitude every morning, as it is the only thing you can control. And do at least one good deed a day. If you do these three things, you will have a wonderful day." ❖

**C**hip Kirkpatrick (shown with Roscoe, the cardinal) was born on the Westside of Jacksonville, Florida. In 2001, his wife of 45 years, Grace, and he relocated to Lofton Creek in Yulee. For a combined 43 years, Chip worked with Southern Bell, Bell South and AT&T as an advertising and marketing manager of Yellow Pages and internet advertising.

Says Chip, a volunteer Docent, "As an author and speaker, I try to share Fernandina's history with visitors in an interesting, lively and sometimes amusing way. Once, during one of my docent sessions, a woman in a rather large group really slowed things down by asking a string of questions that were basically an attempt to show her "knowledge" and opinions. The group was obviously annoyed by her showboating. So I said, 'Oops, I forgot to mention that you may ask as many questions as you want, but please write each one on a \$20 bill and hand them to me. And if you want them answered, please use \$50 bills!' The group laughed and the woman did not ask another question." ❖

**M**ichael Woodside was born in Waycross, Georgia. His family moved around the country frequently; however he spent much of his early life in the Delaware Valley of Pennsylvania's Bucks County. He devoted the better part of his career in the automobile industry, where he learned many things working as an engineer in middle management.

Says Michael, "The Amelia Island Museum of History offers programs and events that encourage the community to better understand the roots of Fernandina's development. I enjoy being part of that effort. I believe that life is too short to spend it doing things you do not enjoy. I get a great deal of satisfaction by performing various tasks (whatever is needed) during the Shrimp Festival. I have also been a substitute greeter at the Shrimp Museum, standing in whenever the "regular" greeter is unavailable." ❖

# VOLUNTEER PHOTO GALLERY



▲ On Thursday, April 28, 2022, in preparation for the April 29 to May 1, 2022 Shrimp Festival, a host of AIMH Volunteers gathered at the Museum to peel shrimp. These Museum volunteers happily peeled 240 pounds of shrimp in 43 minutes flat!!! The Museum is grateful for every one of these generous helping hands!!!



◀ AIMH Volunteers Sheila Bradley (Shrimp Greeter) and Kathy Adams (Docent) prepare to peel shrimp.

AIMH Volunteers ▶  
Bill Birdsong (Veteran Docent)  
and Joe Anderson (Board Treasurer)  
have a laugh as they peel shrimp.

Photos: Christopher Collins



# VOLUNTEER PHOTO GALLERY



▲ At the April 28, 2022 shrimp peeler meeting are L. to R.: Laura Bloemer (black and white blouse), Board Member Millie Colucci, Bob Colucci, Board Member Sylvia Chandler, and AIMH Volunteers Michael Woodside and Glo Gaines.



▲ At the AIMH Shrimp Festival booth, Docent and Greeter Glo Gaines (hot pink blouse), Greeter Carol Condit (maroon blouse) and AIMH Volunteer Jim Ramsey (wearing white apron in background).



▲ All smiles and ready to peel shrimp are L. to R. volunteers Polly McClure, Peggy Mendelsohn, Tina Huet, Barbara Smith and Lynn Arenas.

Photos: Christopher Collins

# **THE FIRST PEOPLE**

**BY SUSAN MARTIN**



**▲ Model of a Timucua man.**

**T**oday, people from all over fall in love with Amelia Island. But consider the visitors who came over 4,000 years ago and stayed. The Timucua, the Island's first people, were descendants of the original St. John's River tribes. Estimated to be about 200,000 strong at the time Ponce de Leon arrived, they inhabited a large part of Florida's northern coast.

The healthy, fit Timucua people were very tall, with men averaging 5'10" or more and women averaging 5'8". They ate a multitude of fish, shellfish, and game, as well as corn, beans, squash, and peas. The Island also provided a wealth of berries, nuts, and seeds. Compared to the 45-year life span of the average European, the 60 year or more life span of the robust Timucua may have been the genesis of the Fountain of Youth legend!

Florida had no metals, so the Timucua were extremely skilled at making household items and weapons from bone, shell, or wood. Men dressed mostly in loincloths and women wore skirts made of Spanish moss. These smart, stylish women smoked the moss over a fire to kill irritating chiggers and red bugs; then added flowers and herbs to remove the smoky smell before weaving it!

Tattoos, signifying rank or achievements, were an important adornment for both men and women. The Timucua would sharpen a shark's tooth, shell, or bear claw and use berry juice for color. Bear grease was used as a salve to prevent infection. Of note, all tattoos required approval. If the tattoo was not approved, the tattoo would be removed.

Timucua villages were comprised of 10-15 families, who lived in round huts with thatched roofs. The Timucua society was matriarchal, which meant women had significant power. When a woman married, her betrothed would move to HER village, not the reverse. Also, lineage was passed down using the women's family tree. For example, if a chief died without heirs, the next chief would be his sister-in-law's oldest child, male or female. Yes, women could be and were chiefs!

During the late 1600 and early 1700 Spanish Mission period, the Timucua were all but wiped out by such European diseases as measles, smallpox, and typhus. The few who were left either relocated to Cuba with the missionaries or merged with other tribes in the interior of Florida. Customarily, Timucuas buried their dead in ponds and peat bogs. The tannin in both preserved the remains. So, it is only by happenstance that we've been given a glimpse into their lives and culture. ❖

## MEET THE NEW MEDIA & OPERATIONS MANAGER



*Timepiece* is pleased to announce that **Helen Meyers**, who used to be an AIMH intern, is the Museum's newly-appointed Media & Operations Manager. Her duties will include keeping things running smoothly by ensuring that reports are filed, adequate supplies are ordered, the Museum's Social Media stays up-to-date and the Museum's website pages are user-friendly. She will also create ads, invitations and newsletters. 🌿

Says Helen, "My Bachelor's of Arts in History is from Georgia College and State University, with a minor in Museum Studies. Previously, I worked at the Nassau Humane Society as an Adoptions Counselor and Cat Technician—a fancy way of saying I was the "Feline Matron". Before that, I worked at a small pet store, once again taking care of animals, but also as Shift Manager, I did lots of ordering and bookkeeping. I'm glad to be back at the Museum and am optimistic about my new position."

## PHENOMENAL!

**DID YOU KNOW:** from January 1 to May 31, 2022, our 293 active volunteers clocked a total of 5,359.25 hours in 24 different volunteer areas?

These newsworthy statistics were contributed by Shelia Davidson, a 10-year AIMH volunteer who aids the membership team, trains Museum Greeters, keeps track of volunteer hours and helps Volunteer Coordinator Thea Seagraves arrange the volunteer calendar.

Classes to train main Museum Volunteer Greeters will begin in August and September. To join a Greeter class or to change your volunteer status, please contact Shelia at [Shelia@ameliamuseum.org](mailto:Shelia@ameliamuseum.org) or 904-261-7378 x 106 or Thea Seagraves at [Thea@ameliamuseum.org](mailto:Thea@ameliamuseum.org) or 904-261-7378 x 105. 🌿

### 2022 AIMH Volunteer Summary

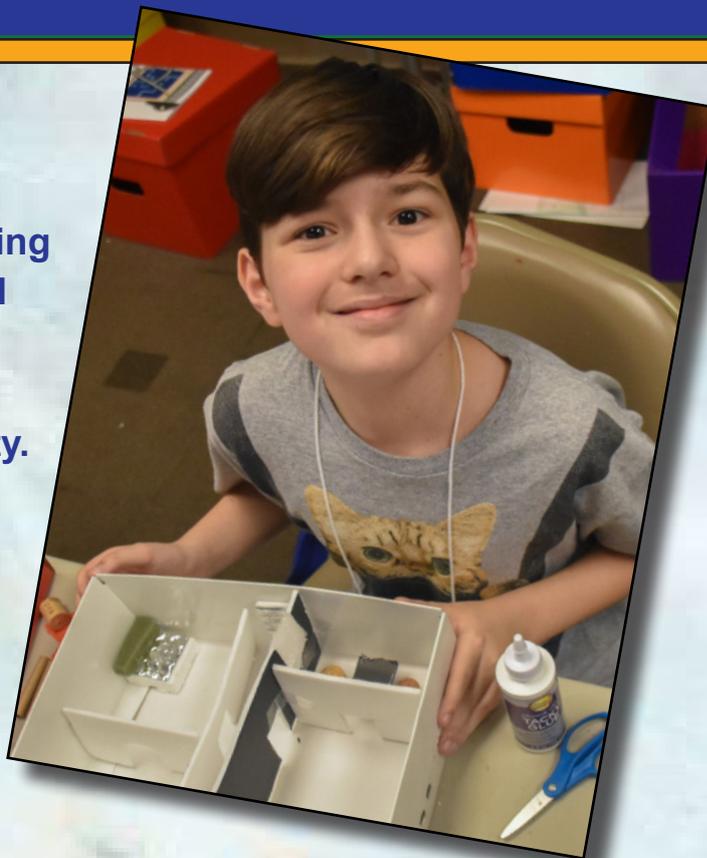
Total Volunteers as of May 31 = 325  
Active Volunteer as of May 31 = 293

### Hours worked in the top 5 areas from Jan 1 – May 31, 2022:

- Greeters at Main & Shrimp Museum = 1,747.25 hours by 64 volunteers
- Shrimp Fest Event = 798.5 hours by 77 volunteers
- Docents = 477.75 hours by 19 volunteers
- Archives = 426.75 hours by 7 volunteers
- Golf Tournament Event = 362.75 hours by 9 volunteers

## TWO WAYS TO SUPPORT THE MUSEUM THIS SEASON: BE A SUMMER CAMP VOLUNTEER AND ORDER A CUSTOM-MADE SHIRT.

There is nothing so fulfilling  
as witnessing first hand  
the wondrous smiles  
of children  
expressing their creativity.



**The Museum's Reuse & Redo Summer Camp** will be held from Monday to Friday, July 11-15, 2022, from 9 am to noon. The Museum needs to assign volunteers to help lead and instruct school-age children from 6-11 as they explore, discover and construct projects related to their history and the past. Two-hour training sessions will be begin shortly after the July 4th holiday.

There's also another fun way to show your support. The Museum will soon be ordering polo shirts for \$22 and button-up shirts from \$24-\$26, short or long-sleeved, in burgundy, white, black, tan or regatta blue. If you wish to order either shirt, please send an e-mail specifying size, color and style and if you'd like to enroll to be a Summer Camp Volunteer please contact:

**Shelia at [Shelia@ameliamuseum.org](mailto:Shelia@ameliamuseum.org) or 904-261-7378 x 106**

**or Thea Seagraves at [Thea@ameliamuseum.org](mailto:Thea@ameliamuseum.org) or 904-261-7378 x 105. ☒**

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This is Timepiece Editor, Hugh Michael Brown, signing off after what I hope you have found to be another informative issue. The autumn editorial deadline is August 1, 2022. Please send your comments and captioned photos about your volunteer experiences to [volnews@ameliamuseum.org](mailto:volnews@ameliamuseum.org). I look forward to receiving your submissions.