



# THE JAILHOUSE TIMEPIECE

A NEWSLETTER FOR MUSEUM OF HISTORY VOLUNTEERS

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY/WINTER 2023



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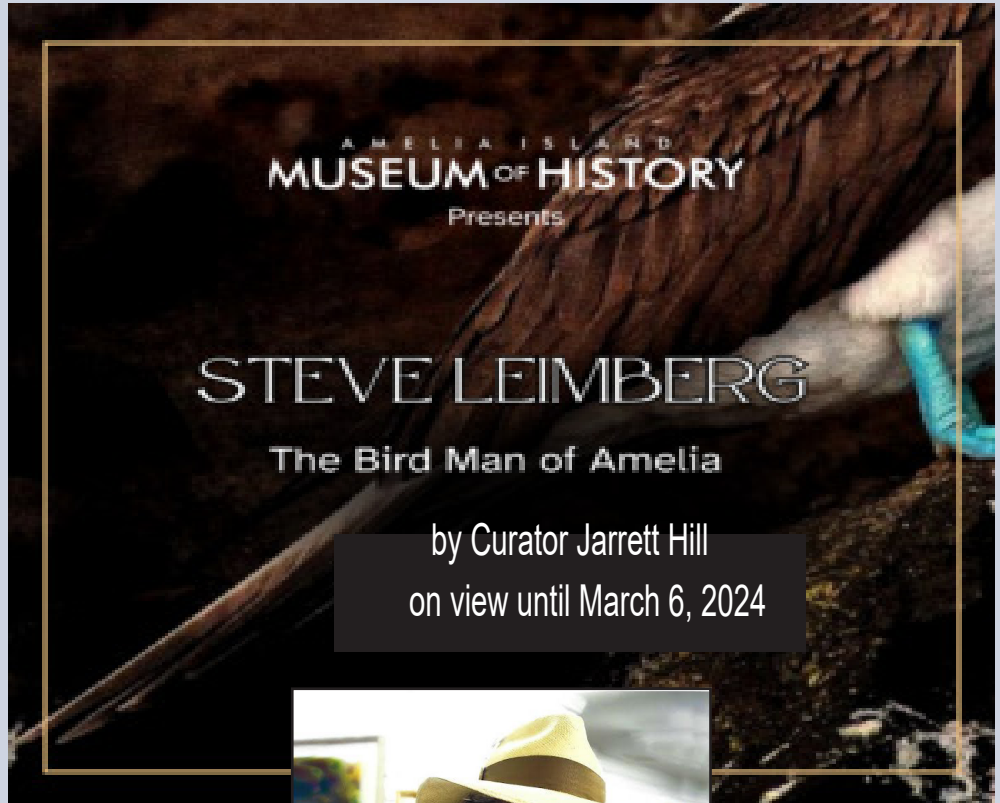
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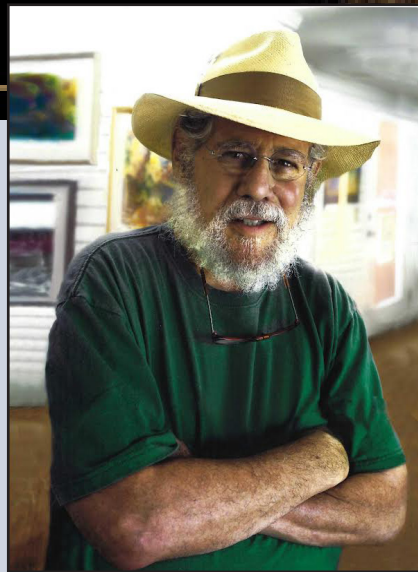
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## STEVE LEIMBERG

The Bird Man of Amelia

by Curator Jarrett Hill  
on view until March 6, 2024



**F**ocus your attention—or your camera lens—  
on the Museum's newest temporary exhibit!  
**Steve Leimberg: The Bird Man of Amelia**  
explores the artwork and community contributions  
of legendary local photographer Stephan Leimberg,  
whose photographs have become defining images  
of life on Amelia Island.

(Cont.'d on Page 2)

# THE AMELIA ISLAND MUSEUM OF HISTORY PRESENTS

## STEVE LEIMBERG

### The Bird Man of Amelia

**T**he images on view in *The Bird Man of Amelia* will mesmerize the eye and reveal a clarity of artistic vision. Steve Leimberg was known to wait hours on end to capture the perfect shot—a bird coming to roost, the sun reflecting off the ocean at North Beach, or other ephemeral moments that revealed themselves only to the patient artist. The exhibit celebrates those moments and explores the artistic techniques, equipment, and innovative embrace of digital photography that allowed Leimberg to capture the often unseen beauty all around us.



The exhibit also reflects on Leimberg's years of collaborations with other artists and community members. For Steve, connecting with the local community was crucial to his most celebrated collaborations. A case in point is the highlighted photographs from *A Moment in Time: American Beach Portraits*. This stunning portrait project was completed with the participation of community leaders from the traditionally-Black community of American Beach. Of note, it has been displayed publicly only twice since Steve began helping define Amelia Island by training an observant eye on our island's unique story through his iconography. Incredibly, his works meticulously enshrine all this for posterity simply because he looked through the end of his camera lens.

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To learn more, please explore **Steve Leimberg: The Bird Man of Amelia**, on display until March 6, 2024. 🌸

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**Cover:** Steve Leimberg (1943-2022).

**Inset:** *Blue-footed Booby Looking Up* by Steve Leimberg

**Top Right:** *Eve Jones*. From *A Moment in Time: American Beach Portraits* by Steve Leimberg

**Bottom Right:** Ready for his close up, Steve Leimberg with camera and long range lens. Some harsh places he photographed required him to wear protective gear.

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



**V**ictoria Collett was born and raised in California during the 1950s and 60s, a place and time she describes as “absolutely wonderful, when the beaches were crazy and the folks sane.” As well, Victoria lived in New York City for a time, where to her mind, its citizens were somewhat razor-sharp—and not in a good way. Ultimately, upon relocating to sunny Amelia Island, Fernandina’s friendly vibe reassured her that Southerners really ARE hospitable.

Says Victoria, “I have always loved the arts and design. Having created home décor retail stores and been the go-to stager for local realtors, I’m living the dream on Amelia Island. And, it’s been a blast sharing the holiday spirit during the *Dickens on Centre* festival dressed as my “Mary Poppins” version of a street walker! How thrilling to see the joy on people’s faces and have them pose with me for a great many photos. I am so looking forward to finding out how I can help with the upcoming *Cottages & Courtyards* event this spring.” ❀

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**A**lex Garrett was born in Dacula, Georgia. An anthropology major, she has had a variety of professions, including participating in numerous archeological digs, being a Volunteer Manager for Helena Area Habitat in Montana for two years, and as a seamstress and cook. In addition, she worked in Anastasia State Park all through college. Says Alex, “I moved to Fernandina Beach in 2013, but have known about, visited and adored magical Amelia Island since I was born. The small town, tight-knit aspect of our town is what appeals to me most.”

She continues, “As a relatively new volunteer at AIMH, I am most looking forward to helping archive artifacts and to giving walking tours of downtown. My life philosophy is to learn and experience everything I can. That means to never become complacent, to always continue to grow, grow, grow, to love hard and be a good friend.” True to her inquisitive nature, Alex enjoys seeking out impromptu adventures like scuba diving, traveling and hiking mountains. Her day-to-day pursuits include watching sunsets, drinking tea, music, drawing, writing poetry, cooking and yoga! ❀



# VOLUNTEER PHOTO GALLERY



TOP: At the November 2, 2023 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner volunteers were greeted by Asian-inspired decorations and Museum staff clad in colorful kimonos.

BOTTOM LEFT: At the November 2, 2023 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner are L. to R. Ronnie Kirkpatrick and Holly Lane; across the table from them are Rumsey Young and Bob Duffy.

BOTTOM RIGHT: At the November 2, 2023 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner are L. to R. Larry Bonnett, Susan Bonnett and Joe Anderson. Across the table from them are Susie Kawecky, Jerry Kawecky and Chip Kirkpatrick.

Photos: Christopher Collins



# VOLUNTEER PHOTO GALLERY



TOP LEFT: Isabelle Winesburg has a laugh at the 2023 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

BOTTOM LEFT: Greeter Eileen Murphy welcomes visitors to the Museum last December 2023.

TOP RIGHT: L. to R. Jana Smith, Mary DeFilippo and Charlie DeFilippo. Across from them are Bill Cromer, Lynn Cromer and Penny Reid.

MIDDLE RIGHT: At the 2023 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner are L. to R. Mary Louise Hester, and Laura Giordano. Across from them are Isabelle Winesburg, Barb Smith and Carol Newton.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Museum Director Phyllis Davis introduces Curator Jarrett Hill.

# MY METAL DETECTING FINDS:

PART ONE by Chip Kirkpatrick

**R**ecently, I took two of my more unusual metal detecting finds to a taping of the PBS program, *Antiques Roadshow* to learn more about them.

The first, is a bronze ring found in Jacksonville, Florida. It is quite heavy with a mounted coin showing a replica of the Aztec Sun Stone, which was used as an altar for human sacrifices. And, inside the ring on the opposite side of the coin, is a replica of the face of Father Miquel Hidalgo. In 1810, Hidalgo, known as the *Father of Mexico*, was the parish priest of the tiny town of Delores. Disgusted with how the Spanish and Mexican aristocracy treated the peasants, he joined a group who were planning to stage a revolt in October. However, in mid-September, their plot was discovered and all members fled, except for Hidalgo.

At 2:30 am, in the dead of night, Hidalgo rang the church bell to summon his parishioners. When they gathered, he delivered a fiery speech, now called *The Cry of Delores*, which encouraged the people to take their country back. Soon after, he headed a poorly trained, ill-equipped army of 90,000. They faced



Bronze ring with Aztec Sun Stone design, found in Jacksonville, Florida by Chip Kirkpatrick during a metal detecting trip .

a smaller, but more organized, better equipped Spanish army. And, despite a few minor victories, the rebel army was ultimately destroyed. Both the wounded and prisoners, including Hidalgo, were executed. It would take another 10 years, but Mexico would eventually get its independence.

Today, every September 16th, the President of Mexico recites *The Cry of Delores* speech. I have had the ring examined by two archeologists who specialize in Spanish relics. They have ascertained that it was made in Vera Cruz and was likely the property of a priest stationed in Florida before it was sold to the U.S. The face would have been hidden for political reasons. ❖

(Cont.'d on Pg. 7)



# MY METAL DETECTING FINDS: Part Two

by Chip Kirkpatrick

**I found a second item, an antique silver Scottish medallion, on the Florida/Georgia state line.**

It is heavily engraved with Scottish icons, phrases and mottos, including two mottos belonging to my family! The first, TOUCH AND I PEARCE (Pierce) was used by the Kirkpatricks during the William Wallace campaigns. The initials WW appear with the date Aug 23, 1299 [which is erroneous. The date of Wallace's execution was August 23, 1305].

The second motto is I MAKE SICKER (Siccar). In 1306, Robert the Bruce lured John Comyn to the Greyfriars Church in Dumfries to negotiate which one of them would be king. They were to enter the church alone and unarmed, meet at the altar and attempt to come to terms. The church was a place of safety and sanctuary, so believing he could not be harmed, Comyn agreed to meet. However, when the two men entered the church, Bruce pulled a dagger, stabbed Comyn and ran away, covered in his blood.

Both men arrived with trusted family and friends. Bruce came with Sir Roger Kirkpatrick, his cousin, friend (and my ancestor). Kirkpatrick learned whose blood it was and asked if Comyn was dead. Bruce expressed uncertainty to which Kirkpatrick replied, "I MAK SIC-CAR! (I make sure!) He entered the church and came out bearing a bloody dagger, (Note my family's crest features a hand holding a bloody dagger and that phrase).

Meanwhile, the Pope excommunicated Bruce for killing a man inside the church. However, the Archbishop of Glasgow thought it might be nice to have a king for a friend so he crowned Bruce, who then decreed that the phrase "I make sure!" will be the Kirkpatrick motto.



Top: The Kirkpatrick family coat of arms  
Bottom Left: Front of Scottish medallion  
Bottom Right: Back of Scottish medallion

Of course the question rises how did the medallion end up here? As we know, in 1733 James Oglethorpe recruited a bunch of Highlanders to protect Georgia from the Spanish, who would come to Amelia Island to avenge the murder of two Scots. That's when the island was named Amelia.

Here's an intriguing tidbit to consider about this find. An historian who specializes in Early American and Scottish engraving recently contacted me. He also claims to be the world's foremost authority on hidden messages and asserts that my medallion is covered with hidden messages that date back to the Free Masons in Scotland.

I cannot attest to the veracity of that statement, but if it's true, wouldn't that be something! ❖

# SO MANY FULFILLING WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

BEGINNING JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2024:  
DOCENT TRAINING  
WALKING TOUR TRAINING

DOCENT TRAINING will continue throughout January and February 2024. If you're currently training or need a brush up review, please contact Education Director Thea Seagraves at 904-261-7378 x 105. ✉

WALKING TOUR TRAINING begins in January 2024. Any volunteer interested in becoming a Walking Tour Guide or who just wants to expand their walking tour repertoire, please contact Education Director Thea Seagraves at 904-261-7378 x 105. ✉



LEND A HAND TO  
COTTAGES & COURTYARDS  
Sat., April 13, 2024

Here's your chance to help this popular one-day Museum fundraising event succeed. Anyone who is interested, please contact Janet Lynch at [montcomom@hotmail.com](mailto:montcomom@hotmail.com) and also copy Thea Seagraves at [thea@ameliamuseum.org](mailto:thea@ameliamuseum.org) ✉

## CITY & COUNTY CELEBRATE BI-CENTENNIALS IN 2024!

In 2024, the City of Fernandina Beach and Nassau County are working in partnership to celebrate their 200th year. For info about City events, log on to <https://fbfl.us/1075/Fernandina-200-Bicentennial>. For info about County events, log on to: <https://thecountyinsider.com> ✉

### MARK YOUR 2024 CALENDARS

GOLF TOURNAMENT—To Be Determined  
COTTAGES & COURTYARDS—APR 13, 2024  
SHRIMP FESTIVAL—MAY 2-5, 2024

### 2024 VICTORIAN TEA DATES

JAN. 14—Happy New Year of the Dragon  
FEB. 11—Valentine's Day (Hats of Hearts)  
MAR. 17—St. Patrick's Day (Hats of Green)  
APR. 7—Springtime Hats  
MAY 19—FASHION SHOW



### THE HOUR- GLASS REPORT



Hugh Michael Brown,  
Timepiece Editor

## ...Worth a Thousand Words!

**T**hese days, that old adage “a picture is worth a thousand words,” has never been truer. *Timepiece* is published each quarter of the year and placed under the Volunteer tab on the Museum’s website. It’s created to celebrate you and each and every one of your Museum of History accomplishments. Museum staff member Christopher Collins snaps pictures of volunteers doing their thing at many events. But Christopher cannot capture all that you do. So whenever you and fellow volunteers come together for a Museum project, whether big or small, please take a moment to snap some photos. Send them to me with names and what you’re doing. Also send your constructive feedback about articles that will make *Timepiece* better to [volnews@ameliamuseum.org](mailto:volnews@ameliamuseum.org) ✉