

# JAILHOUSE MUSE

Winter 2024

## Fernandina Bicentennial

Come celebrate Fernandina's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the Amelia Island Museum of History! We have events planned throughout the year to explore the people and history that defined the last 200 years.

Our monthly Brown Bag Lunch series will explore the island's eight flags and beyond, taking visitors on a chronological journey through the different groups who have called Amelia Island home. On the first Wednesday of every month at noon, visitors will receive the next chapter in the island's history, presented by our knowledgeable and entertaining docents!

Throughout the year, we will be celebrating unique aspects of Fernandina's history through our changing exhibits. Opening on March 15<sup>th</sup>, *"Make Your Voice Heard!"* will explore Fernandina's extraordinary role in the fight for Black and female voting rights. Opening on June 21<sup>st</sup>, *"Voices of Amelia Island"* will shine a spotlight on the musicians and songs that soundtrack our island's history. Opening September 20<sup>th</sup>, *"Voices from West Nassau"* will highlight Fernandina's connection to west Nassau County, following the construction and impact of the Florida Railroad. Opening December 20<sup>th</sup>, *"5 Voices, 5 Centuries"* will bring to life 5 historical figures from the past 500 years of life on Amelia Island.

We will also be holding numerous special events throughout the year, like *"Songs of the Sea"*, presented by the Amelia Island Opera on April 5th and 6th. Also returning is our popular *"Graveside Chronicles"*, in partnership with the Amelia Island Genealogical Society, on October 12th! Visit our website or stop by the museum for more information about our 2024 events!



## Steve Leimburg: The Birdman of Amelia

Our current Temporary Exhibit celebrates the life and work of one of Amelia Island's most beloved photographers. *Steve Leimberg: The Birdman of Amelia* explores his artwork as well as his community contributions to Amelia Island. If you missed the opening talk, you can still watch it on our Youtube channel [here](#). This exhibit will be on display until March 6th, 2024.



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS



**CO-CHAIR**

**Bill Tilson**

We concluded 2023 on a high note with our successful Home Holiday Tour (HHT). Despite the less-than-optimal weather the event was very well attended, with just over 1300 tickets sold. Once again, this year we offered a limited number of pre-view HHT tickets that sold out within weeks of going on sale. The Home Holiday Tour is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year and could not have been successful without the help of our volunteer community. Our heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who participated and contributed to the success of the Home Holiday Tour.

Our annual membership drive kicked off in October. We extend our gratitude to those who have already renewed their memberships. Your commitment is the backbone of our organization, and it allows us to continue our work in preserving and sharing the unique heritage of Fernandina. We've experienced a slight drop in our membership numbers over the last couple of years and we are eager to expand our community in 2024. We believe in the power of collective action and encourage both existing and new members to participate actively in our upcoming programs and events.



**CO-CHAIR**

**Susan Bonnett**

Exciting programs await as we partner with the city to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Fernandina throughout 2024. Keep an eye out for a series of engaging programs and events co-sponsored by the museum. Let's come together to commemorate this significant milestone in our community's history.

In support of our ongoing effort to maintain the museum in top shape the Building and Grounds Committee will be overseeing the replacement of the roof over Baker Hall in February. This project is the last of the big-ticket items identified on our building maintenance plan.

A special acknowledgment goes to our dedicated volunteers. With only 4 full-time staff members, the museum relies heavily on the time and effort generously contributed by our volunteers. In 2023 alone, we had 89 active volunteers although that number fluctuates during the year based on events. For example, 241 volunteers worked on the Holiday Home Tour! All total volunteer hours for 2023 was an astounding 10,073 hours.

As we embark on the journey that is 2024, we're filled with anticipation and excitement. Together, let's make this year one to remember, celebrating our history, fostering community spirit, and ensuring the continued success of our beloved museum.

Thank you for your unwavering support, and here's to a fantastic year ahead!

Your Co-Chairs,

Susan Bonnett and Bill Tilson

## Treasure of the Quarter

As we deal with the extremely cold weather of late (cold for Floridians) many of us are longing for warmer weather and Spring activities. For sports fans, nothing says Spring like the beginning of baseball season. This featured item from the archives celebrates that passion. In our collection we have a baseball bat used by the Champion Amateur Baseball Club of Florida. The inscription stated it is from Bennett & Mulroy. Our Fernandina Team held the title from 1884-1888. This bat was presented by Edwin R. Williams, Clerk of Circuit Court in Jacksonville and a former team member. Pictured below is the 1894 team of which Edwin Williams was a member.



The Baseball Bat (Above ) and the dedication plate, which reads "Champion Amateur B B Club of Florida from Bennett & Mulroy." (Below).



Fernandina Base Ball Club

Champions of Florida

Sept. 22, 1894

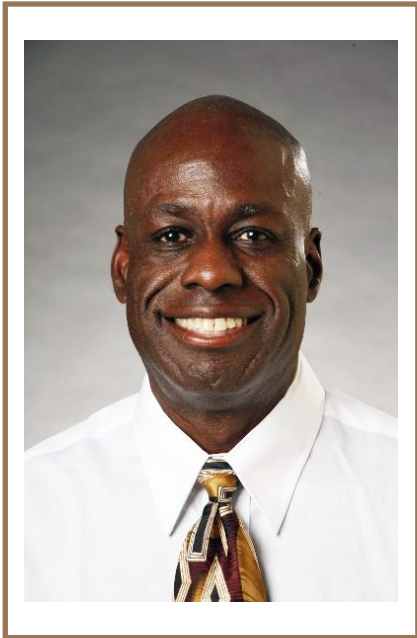
Standing back row (left to right): Frank Maxwell, Edwin R. Williams, Jimmie Nix (Pitcher), John McGiffin.

Sitting (center row): Henry Hobein, Frank Williams, Wallace Maxwell, Gus MacDonell, Johnnie Sauls.

Front: Fritz Hobein, Chas. Hernandez (catcher)

# Volunteer Spotlight

## Hugh Brown



Hugh Michael Brown was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. He graduated from the University of Maryland with a B.A. degree in English. His career entailed working as a copywriter, creating direct mail advertisements for such companies as Avon cosmetics and Ziff-Davis, Inc., publishers of numerous computer and technical magazines. Since relocating from Jersey City, NJ to Fernandina Beach in June 2019, Hugh has been an AIMH volunteer for a little over 4 years.

During a chat with Education Director Thea Seagraves, Hugh learned that the Museum had no current newsletter for volunteers, so on the spot they conceived *Timepiece*, which is “published” on the Museum’s website and e-mailed to volunteers each quarter of the year.

Says Hugh, “As *Timepiece* editor, I enjoy working closely with the Museum’s dedicated staff and have the chance to meet many of the Museum’s giving and knowledgeable volunteers, from whom I learn about multiple historical topics that the Museum presents to Fernandina residents. When asked about a philosophy he lives by, Hugh replied: “As I grew up, my mom often repeated this adage: ‘If a task is once begun. Never quit until it’s done. Be the labor big or small. Do it well or not at all.’ That little ditty has stuck with me.”

### STAFF

Executive Director - Phyllis Davis  
Media & Ops. Manager - Helen Meyers  
Curator - Jarrett Hill  
Education Director - Thea Seagraves  
Archivist - Ronda Outler  
Assistant Curator - Briana Gonzalez  
Operations Asst. - Christopher Collins

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Co-Chair - Bill Tilson  
Co - Chair - Susan Bonnett  
Vice Chair - Sylvia Chandler  
Secretary - David Roeser  
Treasurer - Joe Anderson  
Past Chair - Rob Hull

### BOARD MEMBERS

Berta Arias Peggy Bulger  
Paul Condit Neil Frink  
Jennifer Harrison Rob Hicks  
Susan Martin Frank Ofeldt



# Calendar

February • March • April

## Thursday, February 15th

Special Lecture: "Madjiguene, MaVynee, and Magic-a Descendant's Journey"  
with Peri Frances  
6PM in Baker Hall and streamed online

## Friday, February 16th

3rd on 3rd, "The Future of Evan's Rendezvous" with Adrienne Burke and Ennis Davis, discussing the new preservation plans for Evan's Rendezvous  
6PM in Baker Hall and streamed online

## Wednesday, March 6th

Brown Bag Lunch with Kathy Adams, "Amelia Island's Spanish Period"  
12PM in Baker Hall and streamed online

## Friday, March 15th

3rd on 3rd, Making Your Voice Heard!, Student-Led Exhibit Opening, Dr. Robert Castellano, 1866: Fernandina's Role in Florida and Black Voting,  
6PM in Baker Hall and Streamed Online

## Sunday, March 17th

Victorian Tea with Flossie Borden  
More details to follow

## Wednesday, April 3rd

Brown bag to be determined  
12 PM in Baker Hall and streamed online

## Friday & Saturday, April 5th & 6th

Amelia Island Opera presents: Songs of the Sea with

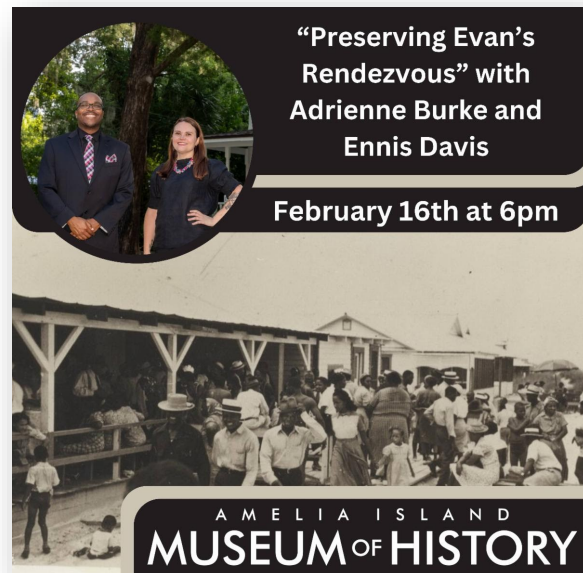
The Galway Girls  
6 PM at the Amelia Island Museum of History

## Saturday, April 13th

Cottage and Courtyards  
10 AM to 4 PM

## Friday, April 19th

3rd on 3rd, "Florida Con Sabor!", A Florida Talks Presentation with Carrie Sue Ayvar  
6 PM in Baker Hall and streamed online



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, Jarrett Hill, at [Jarrett@ameliamuseum.org](mailto:Jarrett@ameliamuseum.org) or call 904-261-7378 x 102. Seating at all programs is on a first come, first served basis. For online streaming services visit [www.twitch.tv/ameliaislandmuseumhistory](http://www.twitch.tv/ameliaislandmuseumhistory).



### LUIS SAYS:

Cottage and Courtyards is back this year!! Keep an eye out for more information!



Find us on the web!

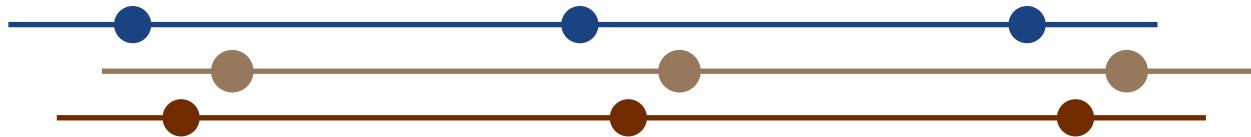
Website: [www.ameliamuseum.org](http://www.ameliamuseum.org)

Facebook: @ameliamuseum

Instagram: @ameliahistorymuseum

Twitter: @ameliamuseum

Twitch: AmeliainlandMuseumHistory



## DEVELOPMENT CORNER

Have you considered giving a gift to the Museum? Donors who have remembered the Museum in their wills have benefited the Amelia Island Museum of History in many ways, helping to build and maintain its collection and providing indispensable support for exhibitions, scholarly publications, conservation efforts, and a range of educational activities. A bequest is one of the simplest ways to provide for AIMH's future and can take many forms. For more information visit our website at [ameliamuseum.org/bequests/](http://ameliamuseum.org/bequests/).

Contact Phyllis:

[phyllis@ameliamuseum.org](mailto:phyllis@ameliamuseum.org)

## Hours

Mon - Sat: 10:00am - 4:00pm

Sun : 1:00pm - 4:00pm

## 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)