

# JAILHOUSE MUSE

## YOU'RE INVITED!

We are proud to announce the Grand Opening of the Museum with our all new exhibits on May 1, 2021. Thank you for bearing with us as we have gone through this process. We are excited and eager for everyone to see the work that has been done.

As part of the festivities, we will be offering Free Admission all day Saturday, May 1, 2021, from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Hupp & Ray will be there to provide live music. Various activities for kids will be offered from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Come and have a ball playing bean bag toss, fish for prizes, as well as other activities. You might even see some pirates roaming around!

Special thanks go out to our donors and volunteers who have helped make all of this possible. See you soon!



GRAND OPENING

**May 1, 2021**

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

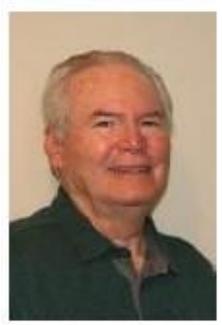
Free Admission

Live Music

Activities from  
10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Spring 2021

# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD



CHAIR  
Rob Hull

What a difference a year makes! Last year at this time Susan Martin was making preparation to hand over the gavel to me at our upcoming 2020 Annual Meeting only to find everything come to a screeching halt in March. Our meeting was cancelled, the Museum closed, and everyone was stuck in a time warp, wondering what would happen next. Amazingly, after allowing things to settle down, the Museum began to move forward, slowly at first, but more quickly as we learned to cope. While turning the gavel to me in May, Susan (with much support from Phyllis and her outstanding staff) continued her efforts to obtain donations for our Capital Campaign, culminating with a \$100,000 donation from Nassau County. Also, in June the Museum reopened for three days a week which expanded to five days by October. Our Brown Bag Lunch and 3<sup>rd</sup> on 3<sup>rd</sup> programs were broadcasted through Twitch, making the lectures and presentations available to our members and

the rest of the community to watch from home even once they began in-person again. In November, thanks to Phyllis's diligence and the support of the Board of Trustees, the County Commissioners agreed to our request to transfer title of the property on which the Museum is located to the Museum. (Prior to that time the Museum rented the property for \$1.00/year.) With title transfer complete, major repair work was undertaken to the building to ensure its integrity and the safety of the new exhibits which are currently being installed. So, as you can see, while we still have not fully recovered, we have taken a number of actions over the past year to put the Museum on a firmer foundation for fulfilling its goal of bringing alive the history of Amelia Island.

Our current situation could not have been achieved without the commitment of Phyllis and her dedicated staff. They are the backbone of the Museum, ensuring that the Museum continues to perform its mission of preserving, protecting, and promoting the history of Amelia Island. And, I would like to extend a special "thank you" to those volunteers who came forward over the past year to help the Museum keep its doors open and prepare us for the future. These individuals, whether a greeter, a docent, a tour guide, or a volunteer who helped paint, clean, or move exhibits and artifacts, increased their exposure to Covid-19 while at the Museum, and warrant our appreciation and respect. Finally, I want to thank both the old and new members of the Museum. Thanks to all of you who renewed your membership even though you knew access to the Museum would be limited during the past year. And a warm welcome and special thanks to the new members who were willing to join during these troubling times.

The Amelia Island Museum of History is a special organization filled with a deeply committed staff, a dedicated team of volunteers, and an army of supporters who believe in the value of preserving the fascinating history of this tiny island we call Amelia. Thank you all for allowing me to play a role during this exciting transition from our historic past into the unknown future.

Rob Hull  
Board Chair



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Phyllis Davis

Thank you to our members, donors, volunteers,  
board, and staff for your support.



"Renovating not only restores the house, but restores the story  
of the home and the neighborhood."

- Unknown

## 2020 Report from the Archivist



2020 was a challenging year for the library. January and February boasted 73 hours and 58.5 hours respectively for our fully engaged volunteers. March brought closure of the Museum, eliminating all activities for the archives. June ushered in opportunities to return things to normal as guidelines were established for operation of the facility. A new Archivist was added to the staff in July and volunteers expressed a renewed interest in getting back to work.

The Museum received a grant to document the impact of the pandemic on the community. This was implemented through extensive interviews, capturing daily statistics of the virus' impact from the Nassau County webpage, gathering essays and questionnaires from school age children

and Council on Aging Program participants, and reviewing/documenting discussions on social media. Two interns were responsible for collection of these items and 57 separate record collections were added to the archives through their efforts.

Online resources became critical during this year. Efforts began to scan/digitize the Vertical Files System which is used frequently by library visitors. Volunteers began scanning biography folders and items of interest. This is a long term project which will make more of our resources available to the public from the comfort of their home.

Projects like Heritage Keepers and Veteran's History Project were also impacted as many interviewees did not feel comfortable leaving their homes during the pandemic. Interviewers worked with participants to find a comfort level and often performed interviews in homes and some over the internet. 13 interviews were conducted and archived throughout the year. Plans are underway to ramp up this effort in 2021.

Towards the end of the year, volunteers felt more comfortable visiting the library. In December, 45 volunteer hours were documented. Though this does not compare to previous numbers, the interest is still there and as vaccines are fully distributed, more of our regulars will return.

The total number of items/collections added to the catalog for 2020 was 303, and 230 items were accessioned. This brings us to 11,218 items/collections housed by the museum to ensure our rich local history is maintained.

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

### Find us on the Web

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

FACEBOOK: Amelia Island Museum of History

TWITTER: AmeliaMuseum

INSTAGRAM: ameliamuseum

TWITCH: AmeliIslandMuseumHistory

YOUTUBE: Amelia Island Museum of History

# Summer Camp 2021

---

In 2020 we opted to offer a Boxed Camp - or camp-to-go - option instead of our traditional in-person Summer Camp. This year, we will be offering **both** with an in-person and a camp-to-go option for Summer Campers.



Contact Jennifer England at [jennifer@ameliamuseum.org](mailto:jennifer@ameliamuseum.org) for more information.

## In-Person Camp

---

The theme is **MASH!**, which stands for Math, Art, Science, and History.

▶ **Enrollment starts May 17, 2021.**

Date: Monday, June 14 - Friday, June 18, 2021

Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.

Ages: Children 7-14,

\$60 per child. Purchase a Family Membership (\$80) to receive free enrollment for up to 2 children in your household.

Limit 20 children.

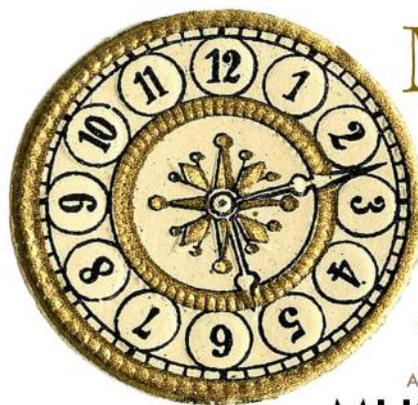
## Camp To Go

---

**Momentous Moments** will take you on a tour around Amelia Island to see momentous events throughout time. Walk in the steps of history as you follow clues to complete the game.

\$15 per copy

**On sale June 1, 2021.**



## Momentous Moments

→ *Camp To Go!*

AMELIA ISLAND  
**MUSEUM OF HISTORY**

Contact Thea Seagraves at [thea@ameliamuseum.org](mailto:thea@ameliamuseum.org) for more information.

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

May • June • July

### SATURDAY May 1st

10 am - 4 pm  
**GRAND OPENING**  
 Free Admission  
 Live Music and Activities  
 from 10 am - 2 pm

### WEDNESDAY May 5th

Brown Bag Lunch at Noon  
**Historic Preservation**  
 with Salvatore Cumella  
 Learn about the ways the streets of Fernandina speak to their history through artifacts.

### MONDAY May 17th

**MASH!**  
 In-Person Summer Camp  
 Enrollment Opens

### FRIDAY May 21st

3rd on 3rd at 6 pm  
**Fernandina and the Civil War**  
 with Frank Ofeldt  
 Hear about the island, the town, the fort, and their role in the Civil War.

### TUESDAY June 1st

*Momentous Moments*  
*Camp To Go!*  
 Available for Purchase

### WEDNESDAY June 2nd

Brown Bag Lunch at Noon  
**Historic Home Renovation**  
 with Tammi Kosack

### MONDAY June 14th -

**FRIDAY June 18th**  
 9 am - 12 pm  
**MASH!**  
 In-Person Summer Camp

### FRIDAY June 18th

3rd on 3rd at 6 pm  
**Exhibit Opening**  
 The Adams-Onís Treaty and Florida in the 1820s

### WEDNESDAY July 7th

Brown Bag Lunch at Noon  
**TBD**

### FRIDAY July 16th

3rd on 3rd at 6 pm  
**McCarthy Moment:**  
**The Johns Committee in Florida**  
 with Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney  
 Focus on legislative and LGBTQ history in 1950s Florida.

**Welcome back!**



### LUIS SAYS:

"I don't know about you, but I'm still excited to see all the new exhibits! The ruff wait is almost over!"

### 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



## View from the Garden

While we have been closed, the Garden has remained open. Located on the south side of the museum, spring is the perfect time to see the Garden in bloom. There is a new interpretive panel that highlights the plants native to the region as well as those that are tied to local history. There are also a few quiet spots to sit and reflect as you view the blooms and splendor. If you miss the chance for the spring show, we will get another round of color by midsummer.

Special thanks go out to our Garden Angels - the volunteers who look after our Garden. If you've got a green thumb and are looking to volunteer here at the Museum, contact Thea Seagraves via email at [thea@ameliamuseum.org](mailto:thea@ameliamuseum.org) or call 904-261-7378 x 105.

**Left:** Close up photo of the blue-eyed grass in bloom. *Image courtesy of Jennifer England.*

## DEVELOPMENT CORNER

Spring has sprung and it is time for our Annual Fund Drive. In the next few weeks you will be receiving a letter from the Museum asking you to support our programs such as 3rd on 3rd, Brown Bag Lunch, and Veteran's History Project. You can do this by check or credit card or, there is a third option. You can join the growing ranks of our sustaining donors and we will make a monthly deduction from your designated account.

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: AmeliaslandMuseumHistory

## Hours

As of May 1, 2021:

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)