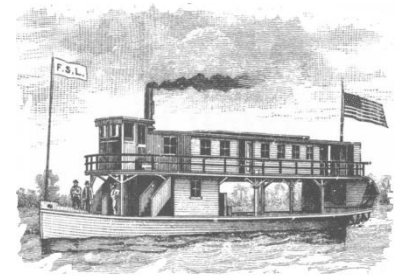


Historic Melrose, Inc.
Box 704
Melrose FL 32666



16 January 2019

Dear residents and friends of Melrose,

1. **Annual meeting, Saturday, February 2, 2019, 3:00 – 5:30 pm, Homemakers' Club.** Corner of Centre and Park streets. General membership meeting with speaker program, bonfire, and live music. **Speaker is Rob Blount on the history of the naval stores industry in Florida.** Rob is the former Executive Director of Mission San Luis in Tallahassee. His talk is about turpentine and our early 20th century economy in Florida. Enjoy some light fare around the bonfire and music by Dim Lights (Ned Stewart - guitar and vocals, Chuck Spitzner - upright bass, Karan Newman - mandolin). Read about the related field trip below. Copies of *Melrose, Florida: An Illustrated History* by Rosemary Daurer and Kevin McCarthy are still available for \$10 each.

2. **Field trip to Austin Cary State Forest turpentine still, February 5, 2019 from 2-4 p.m.** Come tour the historic/restored turpentine still that is located between Gainesville and Waldo off SR 24. Sign up for the trip at the annual meeting or call Jean Giesel at 352-475-2762. This is a rare opportunity, since tours are only available to scheduled groups such as ours. Free.

Click on the site:

<http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/news/2017/03/23/antique-turpentine-still-to-be-unveiled-at-uf-austin-cary->

The undated photo from the Florida State Archives shows a Melrose turpentine worker tending the 'catfaces' cut in the pine trees to catch the sap, raw material in the production of rosin, turpentine and hundreds of other products. There is a catface on a tree near the HMI McRae grist mill site.



3. **Volunteers needed and 2019 membership dues!** This is HMI's 30th anniversary year and we need new volunteers, please. With the retirement of many in our founding HMI generation, we find ourselves in search of new talent willing to accept the challenges of helping preserve the story of our past for the benefit of those in the future. The time and effort needed to be a member of the HMI board of directors are so much less than the great pleasure of serving our community with dedicated neighbors. Contact Keith or any board member for more information. Meanwhile, take the time to renew your membership on the enclosed form. Thank you for your generous support in preserving our fascinating heritage!

4. Rosemary Daurer was a founding member of Historic Melrose, Inc. and died August 10, 2018 at age 90. Rosemary was an officer and board member since 1988! What a remarkable jewel of Melrose. She is dearly missed.



Rosemary Daurer is pictured doing things she loved the most: working in her yard and historical research. On the right, she is at the Waters Cemetery near Campville. She was a great friend and neighbor.

Rosemary and her husband Joe were recipients of the Matheson Award in 1995, which honors those who have contributed significantly to the preservation of the history and heritage of Alachua County.

5. **Election records project.** HMI is leading a historical study of Putnam County voter rolls dating back many decades. Stored in Palatka, these documents show: voter name, age, race, occupation, party affiliation, poll taxes paid, precinct, address, and other information. Our quick examination shows records from the 1900's through 1950's. There may well be poll lists from Putnam County's beginnings in 1850. Volunteers are needed to inventory, catalog, and digitally scan these historic records which will prove invaluable to local historians and genealogists. The photo at right shows hundreds of voter registration books at Putnam County Supervisor of Elections' office in Palatka. HMI is looking for other partners, in addition to Supervisor Charles Overturf and the Putnam County Historical Society, to assist in this project.



6. New Historic Melrose Inc. website. A volunteer is needed to maintain our website. Please check periodically for progress or contact us at: www.historicmelroseflorida.org.

7. **Working party for historic Banana Mill site.** We are asking for volunteers to pick up limbs and small debris at the Banana Grist Mill site at 10 am, January 26. Contact John McRae 904-891-2671 for more information. He has done some considerable work on the old Orange Springs-to-Starke road and the old bridge abutments Mill Creek. The huge iron grist mill is hanging in there, come visit this remarkable artifact!

8. Do you need the Homemaker's Club for a special occasion or meeting? Contact Keith at 352-283-9700.

9. **Cemetery workshop hosted by HMI and Florida Public Archaeology Network.** Eleven participants representing cemeteries from Melrose (Eliam), Ochwilla, Johnson, Keystone Heights, and St. Augustine attended this meeting. Archaeologists provided legal, historical, and practical advice to cemetery managers in the region. After the morning session at the Homemakers' Club, hands-on maintenance and preservation tips were performed at Eliam Cemetery. Our 'outdoor museums' are so important to the small communities across Melrose's four counties. To learn more, click on: <http://www.flpublicarchaeology.org/>

10. We offer a sincere message of gratitude to everyone who has contributed to our recent historic preservation projects and especially the ongoing volunteer work at Heritage Park, St. John's Cemetery in Earleton, McRae Mill at Banana, and the Homemaker's Club. George Mundell recently painted the south side of the Homemaker's and it looks terrific. We are also grateful for our 17-year partnership with Putnam County for Heritage Park. Please contact us to arrange a tour of Banana, Earleton Cemetery, Homemaker's Club, and the Daurer Center.

James Peffley, Treasurer, Historic Melrose, Inc.

HMI is a nonprofit organization, 501(c)(3), EIN 59-2743455

[Our president, Keith Bollum, has been under the weather and we are praying for a speedy recovery.]

2019 Membership Renewal.

Please detach this form and mail your donation to: HMI, PO Box 704, Melrose, FL 32666

Make checks payable to: HMI.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Email: _____

My check includes the following:

- Individual membership \$15
- Family membership \$25

\$ _____ *additional support for the* HMI General Fund Homemaker's Club
 Heritage Park St. John's Cemetery (Earleton) McRae Grist Mill site

\$ _____ **total amount** (all contributions are tax deductible) Thank you!

**MELROSE,
FLORIDA**



AN ILLUSTRATED
HISTORY

ROSEMARY DAURER
KEVIN MCCARTHY

Buy a book at the annual meeting! What a great gift for only \$10.