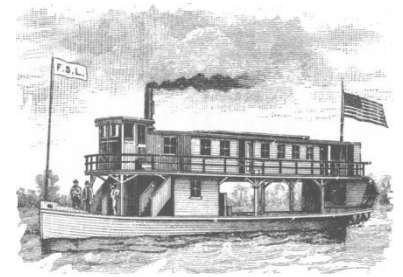


**Historic Melrose, Inc.
Box 704
Melrose FL 32666**



16 January 2020

Dear residents and friends of Melrose,

1. **Annual meeting, Sunday, February 16, 2020, 2:00 – 3:30 pm, Homemakers' Club.** Corner of Centre and Park streets. The UF Sam Proctor Oral History program is leading a workshop on **How to Perform Oral History Interviews.**

After a brief explanation on the oral history process by UF experts, Mr. Jimmy Price will participate in a brief interview and ideally, spark interest among HMI members in collecting more oral histories from our community. **Jimmy has lived in Banana and Melrose since 1927 and will have some great memories to share.** Copies of *Melrose, Florida: An Illustrated History* by Rosemary Daurer and Kevin McCarthy are still available for \$10 each.



2. **Field trip to UF Ordway-Swisher biological station, Saturday, Feb 29, 9 to 11 am, rain or shine.** Sign up at the annual meeting for more details and for UF liability forms. Space is limited to 24 adults. Free of charge. We are not accepting children under 18 on this adventure. Did you know that cigar manufacturer Carl Swisher owned over 25,000 acres just south of Melrose? Part of this land will be toured by HMI on the field trip.

3. **2020 membership dues.** Thank you for your generous support in preserving our fascinating heritage. A volunteer is needed to manage our website. Please check periodically at: historicmelroseflorida.org. A volunteer is needed to manage the lawn service that we hire for historic St. John's cemetery in Earleton. Thank you!

4. **Working party for historic Banana site.** We had a successful cleanup of limbs and small debris at the remains of Banana, Florida south of Melrose. Girl Scout Troop 32474 helped with the annual cleanup. The old Orange Springs-to-Starke road, Banana Post Office markings, and the bridge abutments along Mill Creek are historical gems. The huge, iron grist mill ("McRae's Mill") is hanging in there. Come visit this remarkable artifact!

5. Florahome Parks & Rec Association announced the restoration of their historic club house. They are asking for donations for the project and their address is Box 114, Florahome, FL, 32140. Please help them if you are able.

6. We offer a sincere message of gratitude to everyone who put their home on tour and volunteered for the **2019 HMI Christmas Tour.** We look forward to the next one in 2022. (That's right, 2019 wore us out but we promise to have another in three years!) Thanks to all who decorated the HMI float during the Christmas parade.

We depend on volunteers at Heritage Park, St. John's Cemetery in Earleton, Grist Mill at Banana, and the Homemaker's Club. Thanks to all who keep this great organization going. Bill Hammond repaired the Homemaker's ramp and added a beautiful balustrade. We also painted the Daurer Center fence and repaired the shutters. We are very grateful for our 18-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

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

2020 Membership Renewal.

We would be truly grateful if you could renew your membership to HMI. Please detach this form and mail your donation to: HMI, PO Box 704, Melrose, FL 32666

Make checks payable to: HMI.

Name: _____ Address: _____

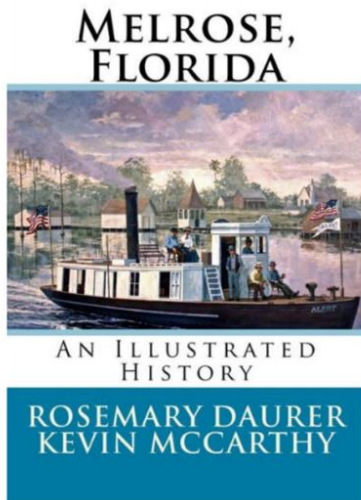
Email: _____

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) Banana Grist Mill site

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



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

Congratulations to the new officers of the QI Roberts High School History and Archaeology Club, sponsored by Historic Melrose Inc.

President: Gavin Gottschalk
Vice President: Grace Bunch
Treasurer: Addison Kirby
Secretary: Isaac Harper

Thank you Mr. Michael Weeks for sponsoring this great club at QIR.



Pictured from the Banana mill clean-up in January are Sara Hebert and Kathi Warren. It was a lovely day to beautify the historic settlement. The mill was purchased in 1855 by Dr. G.W.A. McRae.

Of course, we made a list of things we'd like to make better at the site!