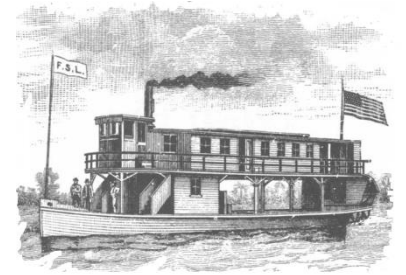


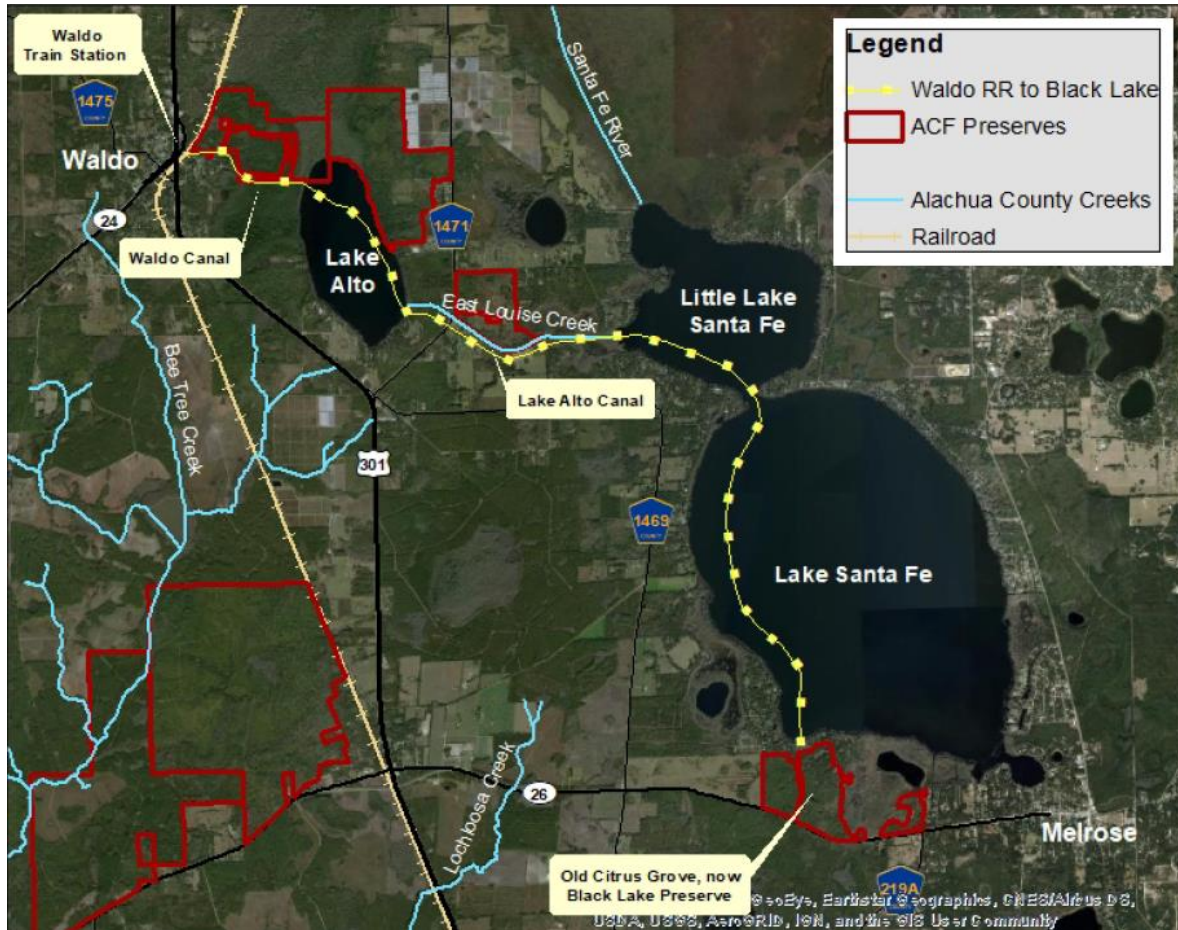
**Historic Melrose, Inc.**  
**Box 704**  
**Melrose FL 32666**  
Historicmelroseflorida.org



26 December 2021

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from mossy old Melrose.

1. Please join us on Sunday, 30 January 2022 at 2pm for our annual meeting. Our speaker is Ryan Kennelly from Alachua County Land Conservation and Management. The topic is the 280-acre Black Lake Preserve. Historic Melrose, Inc is one of several organizations assisting with the development and historical preservation of Black Lake. Free admission. Light refreshments served. Homemaker's Club.



*Historic Citrus Transportation Map. (Black Lake Preserve is outlined on the lower right)*

HMI board member Kathi Warren and Harry Jackson toured the Black Lake site in September before Harry passed away on Nov 18, 2021 at the age of 90. Be sure to read Harry's lovely obituary at <https://www.phillipwiley.com/obituary/Harry-JacksonSr>



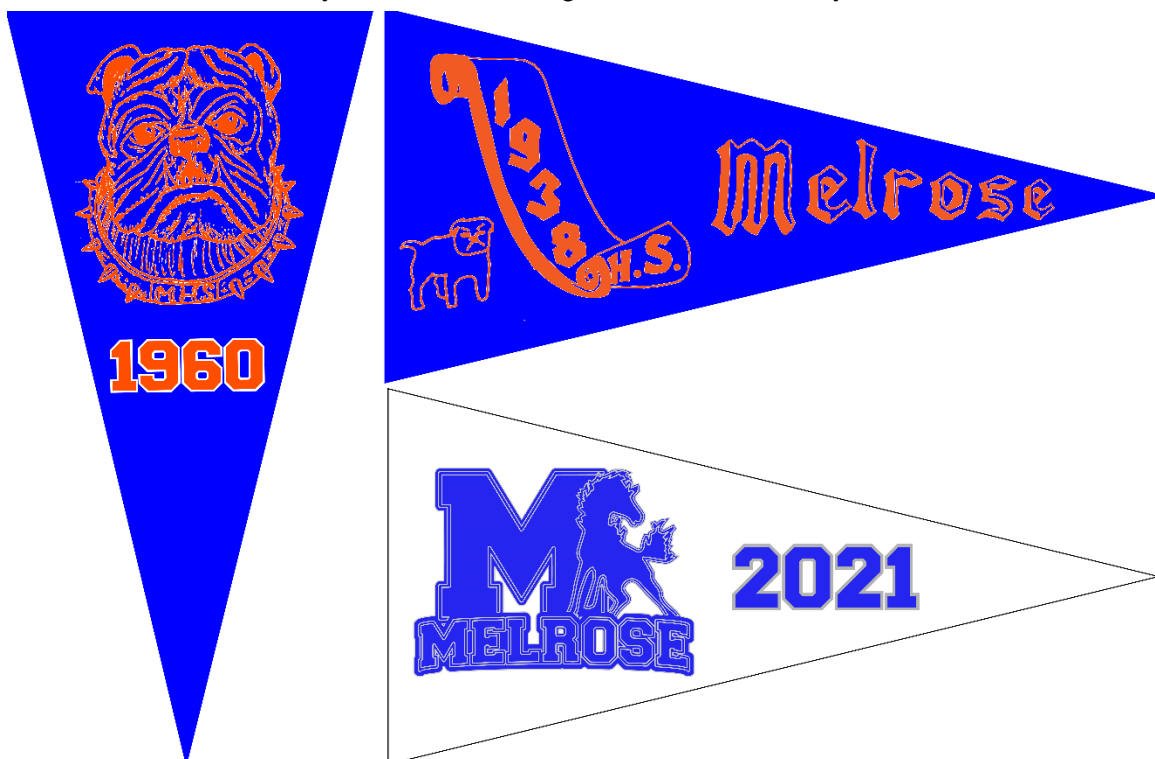
Part of the Black Lake Preserve was originally Maxwell's Grove before the Wallace family later purchased the property. Access is now on Sylvan Shores Road and Totem Pole Road but Harry pointed out the original gate location. A sawmill canal was dug to the south, accessing Lake Elizabeth (originally named Boulware Pond). A canal still exists for accessing Santa Fe Lake. Maxwell's Grove was a productive orange grove and Harry described how the fruit was packed and taken to market. Harry was friends with Austin Wallace and joyfully recalled spending time at the Wallace house and the beautiful orange grove.

2. Historic Melrose, Inc is hosting a special March 2022 speaker program at the Homemaker’s Club (date-time are TBD). Mr. Leroy Collins III is speaking on *Governor Leroy Collins – memories of my grandfather, Florida Governor 1955-61*. Roy is visiting us from Tampa and he will share some great stories. Below, Governor Collins is standing at the 1960 Democratic National Convention next to John F. Kennedy, United States Senator from Massachusetts. Collins introduced Senator Lyndon Johnson as nominee for Vice President, who in turn introduced Kennedy as nominee for President. Kennedy then gave his "New Frontiers" speech.



3. We anticipate two special historic trips. Please join us for a tour of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park and the Micanopy History Museum. We apologize for rescheduling them from earlier in the year and are arranging special access. When a date is determined, we will update you via our website, <https://www.historicmelroseflorida.org>, Facebook, and email.

4. We thank Doris Whitener for collecting, safeguarding, and sharing Melrose High School memorabilia. She and Sara Hebert went through some of the orange and blue artifacts recently. That’s right, the Melrose Bulldogs’ colors were once the same as the UF Gators. Below is Sara’s terrific graphic design combining 1938 and 1960 drawings (1960 version by Danny Ford) and the current Mustang silver and blue mascot. We are grateful to all who helped save our precious Melrose Elementary school from closing due to Putnam County consolidation. Whew!





5. In November, the QI Roberts archaeology and history club held a fundraiser to buy a historical marker at Banana, Florida. QIR high school students are researching existing literature about the former settlement south of Melrose and will soon begin the marker application process with the Florida Department of State. They hosted a speaker in December from the Florida Public Archaeology Network on early Native American weapons and tools. A sincere thanks to board member Michael Weeks for leading this important program for our area youth.

6. On Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 we are celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of HMI purchasing the three parcels that we now enjoy as Melrose Heritage Park. Come join us for a picnic (bring your own picnic, BYOP), tree planting, and burying of a time capsule. Below is the original deed where the late Don McBride sold HMI the land that was destined to be a strip mall. Heritage Park is one of 32 terrific Putnam County parks but clearly, it is the loveliest park in America. For more history of the park, please check out <https://historicmelroseflorida.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Historic-Melrose-Inc-presentation-to-Putnam-Historical-Society.pdf>

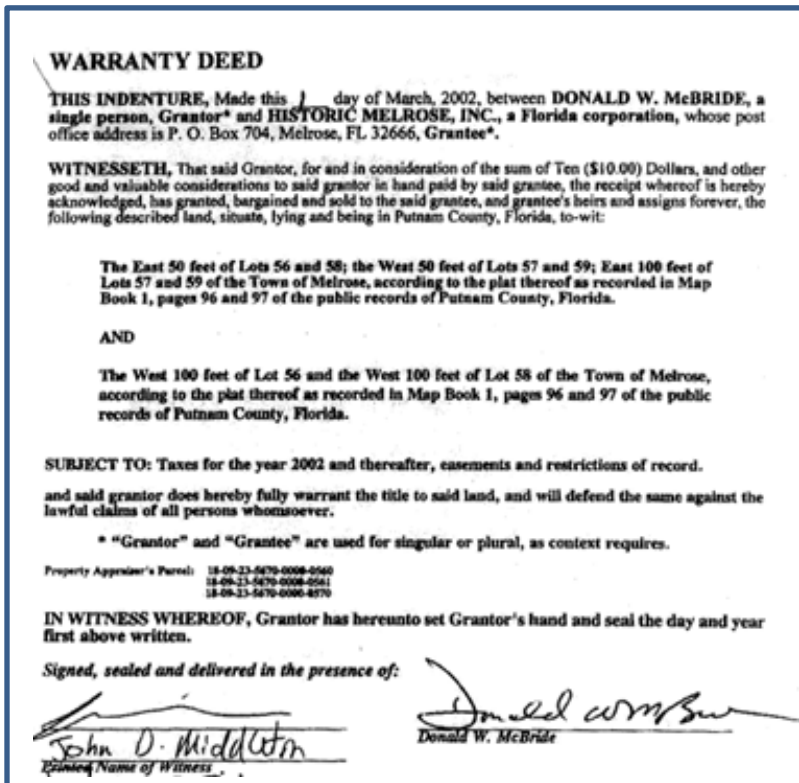
7. Please join us for the annual Banana mill site cleanup on 15 January 2022 at 9 am. We have a list of chores we are eager to address. Be sure to wear work boots and bring drinking water.

Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2022. Sincerely,

*Lynn*  
Lynn Hughes, Vice President

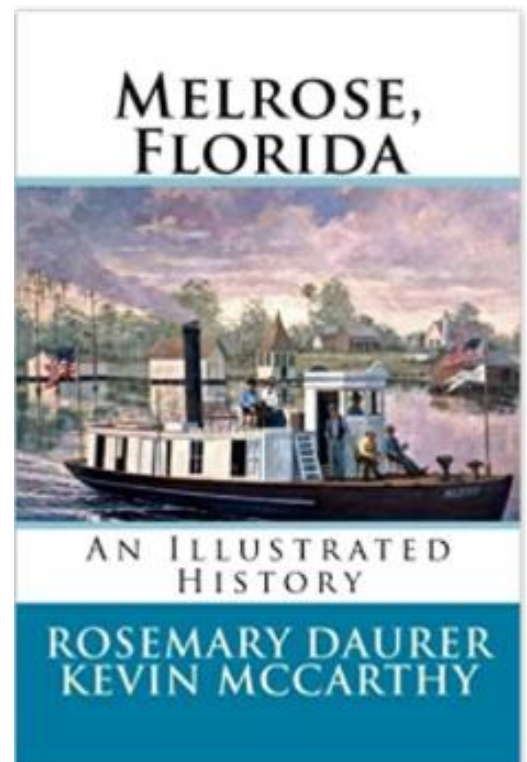
*Sara*  
Sara Hebert, Secretary

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



*HMI Deed to Heritage Park, 2002*

*HMI later donated the park to Putnam County and it has been a wonderful 20-year partnership. Thank you, Melrose!*



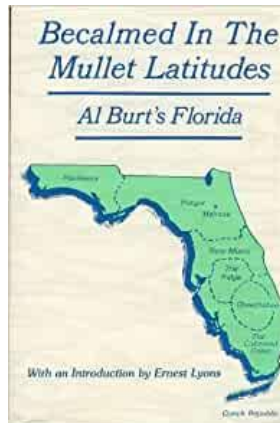
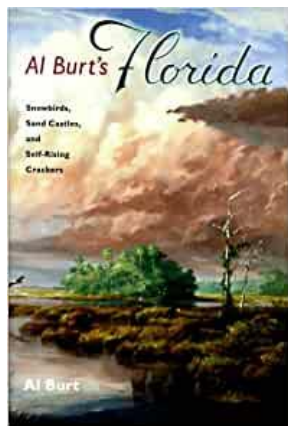
*Please support HMI by purchasing Rosemary and Kevin's book at Ace Hardware in Melrose. Thanks!*



*Historic Melrose Christmas Float, 2021*



*Congratulations to Damien Walter, Eagle Scout from Keystone United Methodist Troop 146. Damien completed the picket fence around the historic Homemaker's Club. A sincere thanks to all Troop 146 Scouts.*



*We see Florida as a place struggling to stay true to itself — struggling to maintain an honest identity. We, like everybody else, want luxuries and conveniences too, but we think it is possible to pay too much for them. Sometimes, we think that what we are getting is not as good as what we are losing.*

*—Al Burt (1927-2008), beloved author and past president of HMI*