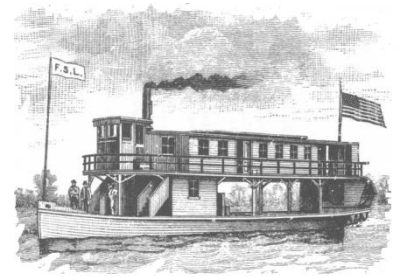


Historic Melrose, Inc.
Box 704
Melrose FL 32666
Historicmelroseflorida.org



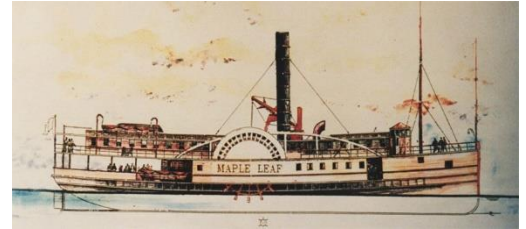
25 February 2024

Dear residents and friends of Melrose,

1. We enjoyed a terrific annual meeting, Sunday, January 28, 2024 at the historic Homemakers' Club. A sincere thanks to the authors of *Spires in the Sun, the Carpenter Gothic Episcopal Churches of Florida*, Jonathan Rich and Phil Eschbach. We are so fortunate to have our own architectural gem, Trinity Episcopal church in Melrose.

2. We would be truly grateful for your 2024 **membership renewal**. Please use the enclosed envelope. Thank you for your generosity.

3. Join us on an adventure to the Mandarin History Museum, March 2, 10 am show time. Meet at 11964 Mandarin Road Jacksonville, FL 32223. (904) 268-0784. Suggested donation \$7/person to the museum. We are excited to hear about the National Historic Landmark, *Maple Leaf*, and the divers who discovered Civil War artifacts deep in the St. John's River. Watch and learn more at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbQw6eJg59o>



4. Dudley Farm in Newberry hosts a **farm and cane festival** every year and HMI plans a fall visit, TBD. HMI maintains property that was once **Banana, Florida with a grist mill and a sugar cane boiling pot**. On our Dudley Farm adventure, we hope to learn about firing up our own cane pot like the pioneers of Melrose and Banana. Dudley Farm is located at 18730 W Newberry Rd, Newberry, FL 32669.

5. Bring your 'priceless items' to the **Melrose Antique Roadshow** with free, informal appraisals by Art Adkins of Micanopy. Appraisals are free of charge but donations are appreciated. Art has a great WCJB program called North Central Florida Treasures so check out: <https://www.wcjb.com/2021/10/26/north-central-florida-treasures-highwaymen/> Date is tentatively **Saturday, 9 Nov 2024, 10 am to 2 pm** at the Homemaker's Club.

6. Our neighbor **Mrs. Merle Cottle celebrated her 103rd birthday** in Melrose with a wonderful festivity at the Historic Homemaker's Club. She has a brilliant and delightful family!

7. Our amazing HMI volunteers are planning a **150th anniversary of Melrose in 2027**. We are excited about a spring parade, Orange Queen contest, beard-growing contest, Shake Rag inflatable-horse races, food tasting, kids activities, and perhaps a historic home tour.

8. Visit <https://historicmelroseflorida.org/> to see photos within the old calendars, newsletters, and articles.



9. A sincere thanks to all who serve Melrose and the many who help HMI. We are grateful to our outgoing president, **Lynn Hughes** for guiding our organization with unbridled love for Melrose. We welcome our new president, **Kasey Adkins**, pictured here with Laurie Alsobrook with a Melrose friendship quilt, hand-crafted in the 1920s. Larry and Laurie shared this historical treasure that has local Melrose family names sewn into the patterns. It was recently repaired and restored by Gees Bend, Alabama quilters.

10. We are featuring different Melrose landmarks, events, and people each month on our **Facebook page**. We would be delighted for you to send your photos and memories to memoriesofmelrose@gmail.com This month's feature is Chiappinis.



Annabelle and Joey Hess, Caiden and Charlotte Hebert



Reagan and Riley Blackmer, Michael Weeks, and Sophia Jolley

New **historic marker** in Melrose Heritage Park. **Did you know?** Historic Markers in the U.S. are likely related to the blue circular plaques in the U.K. that started in 1866. The first blue plaque commemorates the birthplace of poet Lord Byron. It is believed Virginia's historical marker program is the oldest marker program in the U.S., beginning in 1927. Today, there are close to 206,000 markers in the U.S. If you love Melrose and projects like these, please join Historic Melrose Inc.



Alert and FS Lewis



Melrose Bay circa 1890



The steamer *Alert*...somewhere on the voyage from Waldo, Lake Alto, Lake Santa Fe, and Melrose Bay. We have fascinating models of both the *FS Lewis* and the *Alert* in the Daurer History Center. Come check them out at the First Friday Art Walk.