



## *Library Association of Brevard*

April 26, 2019

The LAB spring meeting was held within the April meeting of the South Brevard Historical Society on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

They met at the Melbourne Public library at 3 p.m. to hear speaker Michael Boonstra, Librarian and Archivist for the Brevard historical Commission. He spoke on Architectural history of so. Brevard County.

Three LAB members attended. Prior to the talk, speaker Michael joined LAB members for refreshments.

Then at 3 p.m. SBHS President Dale Whittaker introduced speaker Michael to the crowd of about 50 people. He showed photographs and talked about architectural styles from 1869 to 1940 used in Brevard County.

The styles included vernacular styles with either wood frame or masonry, using lay builders with comfort and functional style in mind. In the beginning, local material such as pine or cypress wood were used, with palm fronds for the attached roofs. Later as the sawmills developed around the interior and other parts of the state, lumber was shipped down the Indian river or St. Johns River to be used for homebuilding. The first school in Melbourne was in 1898, the little red schoolhouse, built in a pioneer style. Later two-story homes were built in the clapboard style, like the Carleton hotel in Eau Gallie, done with a wraparound porch. Concrete blocks were first used in the early 1910's. The land boom in the 1920's showed more brick and masonry structures, and the influence of the Mediterranean style in home building. In 1926 Melbourne High school was built (now demolished) in the revival classical style with Grecian columns and classical front styling. Kits houses were introduced in 1930's, with Gordon Van Tyne and Sears competing with customers. The Melb. Ice Plant on US1 was built in 1926 with a steel frame at the cost of \$100,000. The depression years and War years following slowed down the building of private residences. Public buildings such as the Eau Gallie state bank were constructed of solid classical styles, often with brick fronts and stone columns as a show of strength.

The meeting was dismissed around 4:30 p.m. Members were encouraged to ask Michael informally of any questions they may have. Their next meeting will cover Florida Forts.

Any LAB future meeting information will be sent out via email from the President, Maddie RileyBellaire.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Lynn Bennett

See flyer below



## IT'S ABOUT TIME!

The South Brevard Historical Society  
invites you to join us in a free Presentation  
and Discussion of Local History



This month's program is titled:

### **Architectural Heritage of South Brevard**

**Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup> 2019 from 3:00pm – 4:00pm**

To be held at the Melbourne Public Library

540 Fee Avenue, Melbourne FL 32901

### **Presented by**

**Michael J. Boonstra**

*Librarian II & Director/Archivist  
Brevard Historical Commission*

"My talk will present an overview of historic architecture in South Brevard from the earliest pioneer days through the 1940s. I will speak about the development of private housing and public buildings through the years while discussing the various uses and styles and showing examples from the area's past with historic photos.



**South Brevard Historical Society**

**Founded 1966**

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