

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 15 – Number 3

March 2013

The next Zephyrhills Historical Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 2nd at the Zephyrhills Depot Museum, 39110 South Avenue. The business meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. and the program is at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Speakers

Our speakers for the March meeting were Carolyn and Billy Dean. They talked about life growing up on the family's dairy. It was a big operation in its day. They drove the whole milk to



St. Petersburg to be processed. Most of the discussion involved everyday life on a working dairy. The process of butchering a cow or beheading a chicken from the yard for dinner is quite familiar to many who attend our meetings, but it's completely foreign to many life-long city dwellers like myself. Anyway a great deal of information was presented, and there was plenty of laughter and fun. I'm sorry some of you missed it.

Our speaker for the April meeting will be Jean Murphy. Most folks in our community know Jean quite well. She and her husband, Pat, were quite active in the community for many years. Both their children, Alan and Lynn, graduated from Zephyrhills High School. Your editor could relate many stories of wonderful times our families spent together, particularly on some joint family vacations we spent on Lake Weir in my youth. She's a wonderful lady. I hope you will come join us for this promising evening!

Thursday, March 28th, is our Ruby Tuesday Scholarship Fundraiser

We are meeting up at 5 p.m. on that day, but you can come anytime.

Contact Clereen Brunty for flyer (20% of sales goes to scholarship fund)

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Please consider contributing old photos for the website.

My email address is on the opening page

ZHA Mission Statement

The mission of the Zephyrhills Historical Association is to research, gather, and share local historical information with all generations, through our literature, programs, and scholarships, and to volunteer assistance to the Zephyrhills Depot Museum and WWII Barracks Museum.

 <p>Garage Doors, Inc. Kerry Ryman President</p> <p>36413 SR 54 • Zephyrhills, Florida 33541 Telephone: 813-782-5926 • Fax: 813-788-6773 E-mail: kerry@rymanconstruction.com License # GDI 09084</p> 	 <p>Zephyrhills Museum of Military History A City of Zephyrhills Facility</p> <p>Open Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>39444 South Ave. (813) 780-0078</p>
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Member Spotlight
Maryhelen Ellis Clague

By Clereen Brunty




Our historical association member, Maryhelen Ellis Clague, was born on April 4, 1930 in Lakeland, Florida to Paul and Christie Ellis. She is the next to the youngest of four sisters; Frances, Erin and Pauline and 1 brother, Gilbert.

Her local family history started with her great-grandparents coming to Florida in 1876 from Georgia. Episcopal by faith, she joined the House of Prayer in Tampa at the age of 12 and never looked back. She was the church secretary for ten years at what is now known as St. James House of Prayer. The family lived in the same house on Paris Street in Tampa for almost sixty years. That house is still there today. Some of her ancestors came from England to Virginia as far back

as 1637. When she visits England, she tries to look up some of her family history and has found her great-grandfather, eleven times back, Edward Ellis. She would love to find more if she gets the chance to return to England.

Maryhelen’s father, who was born in Port Tampa, owned and operated the Ellis Construction Company in Tampa. Her brother, Gilbert, took over the business for many years and the company is still in operation today with her nephew, Keith Ellis, at the helm.



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A 1948 graduate of Hillsborough High School, Maryhelen liked being a member of the school newspaper staff and chorus where she enjoyed using her musical talents. After graduation she attended Florida State University’s School of Music and earned a degree as a Piano Major.



After two years as a music teacher in Ruskin, Florida, Maryhelen moved to New York to attend the Union Theological Seminary where she received her Masters of Religious Education (MRE) degree. She did a one year internship at St. Thomas Church on 5th Avenue and spent 7½ years in Larchmont, New York as Director of Religious Education (DRE).

At a Youth Conference, she met an Episcopal clergyman, the Rev. William J. Clague. They were married on February 22, 1965 and raised two children, William Ellis Clague and Sarah Pauline Clague. They lived five years in Staten Island, 11½

years in Scarborough and six years in Peekskill, New York.

They moved back to Florida in 1987 and to Zephyrhills in 2000 to be near their daughter. After 40+ years of wedded bliss, Rev. Clague passed away in 2006. Maryhelen was glad she’d moved to Zephyrhills and was now near her daughter.



Her son, Bill and his family live in Parrish, Florida and is an attorney with the Manatee County Justice System. They are raising twin sons, Avery and Alex who are now 14 years old. Daughter, Sarah, married a Zephyrhills native, Dan Hinsz, who is a Zephyrhills High School graduate from class of 1979 and they live on 17 acres of land on Fort King Road. Dan is the son of Elmer and Mary Ann Hinsz who are also ZHS graduates from class of 1958 and 1962. Sarah and Dan have a daughter, Samantha Mary, who is 10 years old. Sarah and Dan both have 20 years of service as detectives with the Tampa Police Department.

Loving music, Maryhelen plays the piano and organ as well as writing books of which she has published 18 so far!

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Her first book titled “So Wondrous Free” written in 1978 is about the history of the American Revolution in Westchester County. Some of her books are still available to purchase thru Amazon.com website. Eight of Maryhelen’s books are based on historical fiction and eight on historical romance. In 2005 she wrote a book called “This Land of Flowers” which is about Tampa and the 2nd Seminole War. When asked what her favorite type of writing would be, she would answer “anything about history”.

Maryhelen loves to travel and has been to England five times. Her family spent six weeks in 1976 at St. Stephens Church of England in Elm Park which is near London. It was a “pastor swapping” of sorts where the reverend of that church traveled to Scarborough, New York to minister St. Mary’s Church.





In 2012, she, her daughter and granddaughter (3 generations) went on a 12-day Mediterranean cruise visiting many places such as Monte Carlo, Rome, Pompeii, Athens, Istanbul and Venice. This was an experience of a lifetime and will always be treasured.

Maryhelen has a collection of framed portraits displayed in her home from places she has been. Each one is a piece of history and she loves to tell you all about it and when she visited each place. Her other interests besides music and history include eating out at Olive Garden, fruit cobblers and BILL KUSTES!!!



Her favorite color is blue but she loves them all – pastels and deep colors. She enjoys opera and symphonic music as well as popular music such as “Night and Day” by Cole Porter. Her favorite piano music is anything by Chopin which drew her to playing the piano in the first place. A favorite movie would be Gone With the Wind. Maryhelen says her favorite book (besides her own) is “Look Homeward, Angel”, a 1929 novel by Thomas Wolfe. It is Wolfe's first novel, and is considered highly autobiographical. The character of Eugene Gant is generally believed to be a depiction of Wolfe himself. The novel covers the span of time from Eugene's birth to the age of 19. The setting is the fictional town and state of Altamont, Catawba, a fictionalization of his home town, Asheville, North Carolina. Playwright Ketti Frings wrote a theatrical adaptation of Wolfe's work in a 1957 play of the same title which Maryhelen was thrilled to see when it opened on Broadway.

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Being a talented pianist and organist, Maryhelen plays the organ for the St. Elizabeth Episcopal Church on 16th Street. She has served on the Board for Wedgewood Manor Homeowners Association on Geiger Road and has been a member of the Zephyrhills Historical Association since around 2003 and became an active member in 2009. She is also a former member of the Hillsborough Historical Society, served on the Hillsborough County History Board, is a member of the Seminole War Foundation and a former book reviewer for The Tampa Tribune.

While on vacation visiting her daughter at her in-laws cabin in Robbinsville, North Carolina, Maryhelen went into a music shop in Bryson City, North Carolina and asked the owner if he had an Auto Harp. When he came out from the back room with an antique Appalachian Auto Harp by Oscar Schmidt including the original case, she had to try it and felt it was meant for her to have so she bought it on the spot. Every now and then she will pick it up and pluck a few strings to hear the lovely sound it makes. She had always wanted to own one.



And we can't leave out her other LOVE (besides Bill) her beautiful white West Highland Terrier, Hamish, who is seven years old and keeps her good company

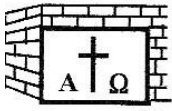
103rd Zephyrhills Founders Day Parade Celebration
Saturday, March 9, 2013
10:00 a.m.

Theme: I ♥ Zephyrhills

Zephyrhills Historical Association



Our association took home a first-place plaque for Clubs!

<p>CornerStone  Baptist Church 7th Street & 8th Avenue Come be our special guest Coffee & Donuts 10:30***** Worship 11:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. Dr. Neal Resue—Pastor * NealDoe1956@verizon.net</p>	<p align="center">In Memory of Ryals Furniture Exchange And Great Parents Powell & Maude Ryals From son James God Bless America</p>
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FOUNDERS DAY 2013



All lined up and ready to march in front of our vintage cars.

1910 Model T Ford,
driven by
John Gallerani



1911 Model T Ford,
Driven by
Richard Porter,
with passengers
Amber Henderson,
Liam Peckmore,
and Rachel Agolia



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1919 Model T Ford
Driven by
Bob Porter
with passengers
Penny Porter, Bill Kustes, &
Maryhelen Clague



Walkers and riders included Clereen Brunty, Maryhelen Clague, John Gallerani, Amber Henderson, Bill Kustes, Terry Lindsey, Margie Partain, Bob & Penny Porter, Richard Porter, Jerry Pricher, Cris & Jo White, and Jeff White



Manning the Gift Shop at the Woman’s Club were Margaret Seppanen, Ken Cummings, Betty O’Dell, Margie Partain, Clereen Brunty and Patty Thompson (pictured above)

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