

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 19 – Number 5

May 2017

The next Zephyrhills Historical Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 6th in the meeting room of the *Zephyrhills Public Library*, 5347 8th Street. The business meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. and the program is at 6 p.m. Refreshments include drinks, which are provided, and food brought in to share by members.

Speakers



Our program in May was a return performance by the Zephyrhills High School Chorus, under the direction of Luan Gore. This has become a tradition for us. I believe this was the fourth May appearance for the group. The members of the group, of course, have changed, but Luan remains, and we have never been disappointed by their presentation. We enjoy ourselves each year. This year was no exception. The students did a tremendous job, and those in attendance were thoroughly entertained. We treated the performers to pizza and drinks afterwards. Everyone left happy!

Nancy Massey Perkins will be our speaker at the June meeting. She will be repeating a presentation she gave in March for the Pioneer Museum. "The Life and Work of a Home Town Barber" is Nancy's tribute to her dad, Bud Massey. Nancy was a teacher and media specialist in Pasco County for 35 years. We worked together at Raymond B. Stewart Middle School. She has also been a member of our organization on-and-off over the past few years. One thing I can tell you about Nancy is she's passionate about things. I have every reason to believe she will give us an excellent presentation. We hope you'll join us.



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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.

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From the Desk of the Editor:

Please bear with me here as I share some Pasco County history that may not ring a bell in regard to Zephyrhills history. The O'Berry family is one of the founding families in this county, but they are far better known in Dade City than in Zephyrhills. I first became aware of the name when I first came back to town and an event was held for Ray Stewart. I don't recall whether it was a fundraiser or just a get-together, but it was during the time that he was serving in the Florida State Congress as our representative. It was held at O'Berry's barn out in Richland. I am pretty sure I attended a second event there, also. Anyway, the name stuck with me, so I was shocked to find out about three years ago that I was related to this family. I'm only related to one particular branch by marriage. Sarah Elizabeth Howell (1870-1942) is a distant cousin of mine on my mother's side, and she married Solomon Homan O'Berry (1869-1930). Both are buried in Mr. Zion Cemetery in Dade City. How distant? Well, this couple's grandchildren are my ninth cousins, which means we share eight great-grandparents. Our common ancestors are Colonel Francis Eppes II (1620-1678) and Elizabeth Jane Littleberry (1623-1678), both of whom lived and died in Henrico County, Virginia. That's pretty far back there, but cousins are cousins.

The O'Berry Family

from Jeff Miller's Pasco County History site at fivay.org

Joseph William O'Berry, A Very Fine Man

By JANICE STOKES THOMAS

This is a story about my great-grandfather, Joseph William O'Berry, a Pasco County pioneer. He was born in Blackshear, Georgia, April 18, 1848. Because he was only about 13 or 14 years old, too young to go to war with his older brothers, he stayed home with parents and other siblings.

Following the war, his older brothers, Henry Bassett, James Ransom and John Marion migrated to Florida settling in Blanton area, then Hernando County, now Pasco County.

Around 1870, following his brothers Joseph William arrived in Florida. He was about 22 years old at this time. There was another Pasco County pioneer living in the Trilby area, Capt. Francis Marion Durrance, my great-great grandfather. He had been a Captain in the Seminole Wars. Francis Marion and his wife Primmeon Robertson Durrance had one daughter, Amelia Frances (Artie). They lived on their ranch farming and raising cattle.

When Joe arrived to Hernando County, now Pasco County, he went to Francis Marion and asked for a job. He was hired and continued to assist Capt. Durrance on the ranch. In 1873 Joe and Artie married and lived on the ranch with Capt. Durrance and Primmie.

As Capt. Durrance's health declined Joe took over management of the ranch. After the death of Capt. Durrance, Primmie relied heavily on Joe and Artie to operate the ranch, leaving it to them at her death. Joe also had a meat market in Trilby in the early 1900's. Joe and Artie had ten children, nine survived to adulthood. Their first child, Lucy, died in infancy. Next was Lizzie who married Philip Mickler and they lived and raised their family in Lacochee. Third was Lulu who married William Mickler and they also raised their family in Lacochee. The fourth child was John Francis. He lived in Trilby and was shot and killed on November 6, 1915 by an unknown assailant.



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The fifth child, Bessie Melissa, was my grandmother. She married James Barney Stokes from Floral City. They lived in the area of Slaughter where they farmed and raised cattle. The other children were Joseph Lesley, Primea, Jessie, Pearl and Dallas. I believe they all lived in Trilby or Lacochee except Pearl. She moved with her husband to Frostproof, Florida.

Lizzie, Bessie and many others of the O'Berry family became teachers in the Pasco County schools in and around Trilby and Lacochee.

The story that I am about to share was told to me by a granddaughter of Lulu. We had always been told by our grandmothers that Joe O'Berry was a kind and wonderful man.

About a year ago I received a phone call from Roberta McCall. She said she was the granddaughter of William and Lulu O'Berry Mickler. On my next trip to Florida, I went to meet her. I am sure that we had played together as small children, but I did not grow up Pasco County so have no memory of ever meeting her. She shared this story with me. Roberta graduated from Pasco High School in 1942. Lulu O'Berry Mickler and my grandmother were sisters.

My Great-Grandfather, Joseph William O'Berry

By ROBERTA JOHNS MCCALL

My grandmother, Lulu O'Berry Mickler, use to tell me that her father, Joe O'Berry was a very fine man, but I always wanted to talk to someone who was not a family member who knew him.

One day she told me a story about a lady who was walking down the street of Trilby with her small daughter holding her hand and a baby in her arms. The daughter jerked free of her hand and ran across the railroad track right in front of a train. The train severed her leg. Joe O'Berry was standing in front of his meat market. He ran over to her, put a tourniquet on her leg, jumped on his horse with her in his arms and took off to find a doctor. The nearest doctor was out on a house call. My grandmother said he nearly killed his horse trying to find a doctor for this little girl.

In the 1950's my husband and I moved to St. Petersburg, Florida. There was an elderly lady who lived across the alley with her daughter. She would come out to talk to me while I was hanging my laundry. I had noticed that the daughter walked with a limp. One day I mentioned that I was going to the first O'Berry reunion at my grandmother's house in Lacochee. This lady said "I know the O'Berry's. Joe O'Berry was a very fine man". I told her that Joe O'Berry was my great-grandfather.

This lady's name was Mrs. Wilkinson. She proceeded to tell me about how her daughter had run in front of a train in Trilby and her leg was severed. She repeated the story as my grandmother had told me. I was so glad that someone had confirmed to me that my great-grandfather, Joe O'Berry was indeed, a very fine man.

Joe O'Berry was in his meat market late on the evening of January 9, 1910 and was shot through the window and killed. It remains unknown who the shooter was.

DANIEL M. O'BERRY (1860-1926) was an early resident of Pasco County. The following is excerpted from his obituary:

 <p>Garage Doors, Inc. Sales & Service</p> <p>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>ARMY STRONG <i>Airborne-Ranger, "All The Way"</i></p> <p>MICHAEL J. COCKILL Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired)</p> <p>8469 Maybelle Dr. (352) 596-9751 (h) Weeki Wachee, FL 34613 (352) 584-0758 (m) mcockill@tampabay.rr.com ZHS JROTC Bulldog Battalion, GO FOR IT!</p>
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Mr. O'Berry was born in Pierce county, Georgia, Feb. 11, 1860. When six years of age his parents moved to Florida and settled three miles west of Dade City, just east of what is known as O'Berry Lake. He was married to Miss Mary Nix in 1882. Eight children were born of this union, of whom seven are living. One son, Henry, was murdered early in January while performing his duty as a deputy sheriff. Besides his widow Mr. O'Berry is survived by five daughters, Mesdames Annie Fogg, T. C. Beagles, Roy Lee, and Misses Minnie and Celia O'Berry all of Dixie, two sons, D. B. O'Berry of Dixie and E. R. O'Berry of Sanford, three sisters, Mrs. J. B. Miller of Dixie, Mrs. J. S. Gray of Tampa, Mrs. J. L. McClellan of Miami, two brothers, R. W. O'Berry of Sebring and E. B. O'Berry of Trilby, besides several grandchildren.

Daniel married Mary Ann Nicks (1860-1934), daughter of William Richard Nicks and Sophronia Mitchell. Daniel died on Mar. 25, 1926, at his home in Twin Lakes, just north of the Hernando County line. He was buried in the Townsend House Cemetery. Their children were:

Annie B. (1881-1966), m. George Fogg Daniel B. (1885-1947)

Sophronia M. (1887-1971), m. Thomas C. Beagles

W. Henry (1889-1926), was a deputy sheriff killed in the line of duty. More information is here.
Janie (1891-1912), m. Roy L. Lee

Jaminia Frances "Minis" (1894-1970) Edmund R. (1897-1976), m. Ruth B. Clark Celia Molly (1900-1982)

JOHN MARION O'BERRY (1843-1927) was a Civil War veteran and pioneer resident of Pasco County. He was born in Pierce County, Ga., on Apr. 17, 1843. According to his obituary, after the war he moved to Florida, settling in Blanton, where he has resided ever since. On Jan. 9, 1868, or according to his obituary in 1867, he married Miss Mary F. Jones (1845-1927), the daughter of Rev. Matthew F. and Emily E. Jones. Mr. O'Berry died on Aug. 14, 1927, and is buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery in Dade City. Mrs. O'Berry died eight days before her husband. Her obituary said she was "reputed to be the oldest woman resident of Pasco county." It said she was born in the Fort Dade section in October 1845. A 1924 article said that she was born in what is now Pasco County on Oct. 21, 1849. They had nine children, of whom eight survived them. They were four daughters, Mrs. M. C. Gainey, Bradenton, Mrs. A. S. Thompson, Tampa, Mrs. Robert Ansley and Mrs. Fannie Haycock, Blanton, four sons, W. J. O'Berry, Jacksonville, F. B. O'Berry, Columbus, Georgia, J. L. O'Berry, Tampa and S. H. O'Berry, Dade City. Mr. O'Berry was survived by one brother, Tom O'Berry of Blackshear, Georgia.

More information is at http://marinell.server101.com/nelle/john_marion.htm.



*Sarah Elizabeth Howell
9 Aug 1870 – 28 Oct 1942*

*Was the daughter of John Jackson Howell (1848-1915)
and Sarah Elizabeth Smith (1850-1932)*

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SOLOMON H. O'BERRY (1869-1930) married Sarah Elizabeth Howell (1870-1942), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Jackson Howell, who were pioneer residents of Pasco County. Their children were: Muriel E., b. October 21, 1894, m. H. B. Hope; Winford Howell, b. Apr. 6, 1897; David Elmer, b. June 10, 1899; Mary Ellen, b. Nov. 21, 1901, m. Hugh L. Hargraves; Claude Jackson, b. Sept. 13, 1904; Sara Jane, b. Mar. 16, 1907, m. Mr. Gilbert; Nellie Fern, b. Aug. 7, 1910, m. Yulee Thompson; John Marvin, b. Apr. 7, 1913; and Lillian Ruth, b. May 10, 1916.

More information and pictures are at www.my-blanton.com/nelle/nelle.htm.

EDMUND BRITTON O'BERRY (1872-1943) was elected Superintendent of Schools of Pasco County three times. Before then, he had been a teacher in Pasco County for more than 30 years. He was born in Blanton, Dec. 18, 1872, and died at his home near Trilby. His parents were J. R. O'Berry and Susan Albritton O'Berry, both from Pierce County, Ga., who were pioneer settlers in Pasco County. E. B. O'Berry was married to Mrs. Maud Alma O'Berry. Their sons were Gregg O'Berry of Trilby, Marion O'Berry of Tallahassee, and Sgt. Wynn O'Berry, Army Air Force, and their daughters were Mrs. Ila Dowling of Blanton and Mrs. Lois Morgan of Trilby.

ZHS Seniors Earn Just Rewards

Scholarships Handed out to the Best and Brightest

Story and photos by Dave Walters for the Zephyrhills Free Press

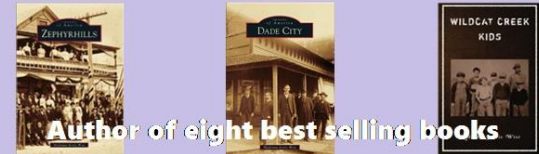
Salutatorian Sarah First, left, and valedictorian Julian Ortega del Toro enter the senior awards night with big smiles and bright futures.



Zephyrhills High School seniors walked away from their final year of high school with close to \$1 million in scholarships thanks to mainly local donations awarded Monday night. From full scholarships valued at \$250,000 to smaller gifts at just \$300, ZHS grads will open their next educational chapter of their lives with a leg up. "This will help me tremendously," said Keith Brockington, who will attend FAMU in the fall to study pre-law. "A lot of the assistance I received before tonight was loans that I have to pay back. Getting these scholarships will help reduce that amount."

It seemed like Brockington was called to the stage most of the night to receive scholarships from the dozens of local organizations who support the students at ZHS.

From the American Legion to the Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce, money has been raised throughout the year to present at the senior scholarship awards night.

 <p>Author of eight best selling books</p> <p>Madonna Wise Books Author, Research & Consulting Madonna Jervis Wise Zephyrhills, Florida Murphy, North Carolina</p> <p>813-469-8627 MadonnaJWise@gmail.com http://madonnawisebooks.wordpress.com</p>	<p>Joni Gauger owner</p> <p>Cutting Edge Beauty Salon</p> <p>813-782-4001 cell 813-469-3437</p> <p>6132 Ft. King Rd. Zephyrhills, FL.</p>
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For most, this was a way to give back to the school that gave them an education and a lifetime of Bulldog pride. “I walked across that stage when I graduated in 1986,” said Amy Chappell, who presented as a representative of the Rotary Interact Club and the Daybreak Rotary. “It’s fantastic getting back to your old stomping grounds. It all comes rushing back when you get on that stage. “I walked across that stage when I graduated and now I’m seeing my friends’ kids walking across the stage to receive scholarships.”

Long-time educator Jerald Pricher presented several scholarships from the Zephyrhills Historical Association, proving that the community continues to support the children of Zephyrhills. “It’s great to do this,” said Pricher, who taught many of the parents of the recipients. “It means a lot to the association. This touches all of us. It’s a lot of fun.”

The Chamber of Commerce, who used the Pigz ‘N Zhills BBQ and Blues Festival to raise funds for scholarships, awarded 10 scholarships this year. Chamber Executive Director Melonie Monson, along with officers Carolyn Hodges and Andrew Nagy stood proudly at the podium announcing their selections. “This is so exciting to see all the hard work that our members do to earn this money to give away to these kids,” said Monson, herself a 1979 graduate of ZHS. “This is just wonderful.”

Hodges, a former educator, said that out of all of the events she takes part in with the chamber, the scholarship awards presentation is by far her favorite. “This is the best,” said Hodges, who taught for 17 years. “Every little bit helps these children in the next phase of their lives.”



Brianna Edge was rewarded for her hard work with scholarships to assist her as she ventures on to the University of Miami to study psychology and social work. Edge is way ahead on the collegiate path by finishing an associate’s degree at Pasco-Hernando State College while attending high school.

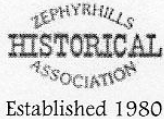
“It is huge to be going to Miami,” Edge said holding all of her awards. “It is one of the hardest schools to get into and it has one of the best psychology programs. It’s meant so much to go to Zephyrhills High School. My entire family went here and I just wanted to continue that legacy.”

ZHS Principal Angie Stone presented scholarship awards of her own along with special awards to the honor graduates. “It is awesome, because you see them reap the rewards for their hard work,” said Stone. “It’s the kids you have seen being involved in everything. It’s the kids who are working hard in the classrooms. It’s the kids who are here every day. They are the ones who are getting the rewards.”



*Jerry Pricher,
of the Zephyrhills Historical Association,
joins scholarship recipients
Jasmine Sanchez, left, and Sarah First*

 <p>Zephyrhills Museum of Military History <i>A City of Zephyrhills Facility</i> Open Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. 39444 South Ave. (813) 780-0078</p>	<p>ROSEMARY TROTTMAN SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED YEARLY TO A ZHS STUDENT CONTRIBUTE TODAY!</p> 
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ZEPHYRHILLS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

MAY 2ND, 2017

The Regular Monthly Business Meeting of the Zephyrhills Historical Association was called to order by President Rod Rehrig at 5:30 P.M. He gave the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes from the April meeting were read by Secretary Anna V. Boone with motion to approve made by Al Stone, seconded by Jerry Pricher and accepted by the group.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer Clereen Brunty. There was discussion about whether or not to add scholarship updates to the Treasurer's Report and it was noted that if there aren't adequate contributions from Scholarship Fundraisers, the needed amount is taken out of the general funds. This will be discussed further at a later date. A motion to approve the Report was made by Jerry, seconded by Bill Kustes and accepted by all. A question was posed by Ray Alvarez as to whether or not we need the dollar amount from the Treasurer's Report listed in the newsletter. There was some discussion but nothing decided.

Our new guests introduced themselves. Present was Vel Lovins, Karen Schmaltzlauer, Becky Love Bassham, Sandra Tappenden, Don Rooney, Marris Rooney and Connie Kirkland. Anne Mester stated that she originally came to Zephyrhills in 1955.

Old Business: Regarding fundraising, Patty reported that the next event will be at Sergio's Italian Restaurant on May 23, anytime from 11 AM-9 PM. for which she distributed flyers. We always get back 20% of what we have spent from Sergio's.

We haven't heard back from Fresh Country Café since our April fundraiser there. Our Scholarship Fundraiser will be skipped next month and resumed in July again at Sergio's.

Patty announced that at the end of the meeting, we will have an auction of the donated Village Inn pie certificate.

Regarding the scholarship recipients, Margie Partain reported that \$1000 was awarded to Jasmine Sanchez, \$1,000 to Sarah First and \$500 to Shelbie Pollock as was decided by the scholarship committee. Jerry will be presenting the scholarship certificates at the awards ceremony.

Rod reported on the golf tournament as well as the golf ball drop by the Fire Department with money prizes marked on the balls. Tickets are for sale to benefit the Fire Department youth activities. He also has Marine Corps League Scholarship Fund raffle tickets.

Other Old Business: Bill Kustes asked if Margaret Seppanen had been a charter member, but Clereen stated that Margaret's name did not appear in the original notes.

Regarding Steve Spina, whom we have made a lifetime member of the Zephyrhills Historical Association, we are delaying a discussion as to how we will honor him. Jerry made a motion to table it, seconded by Bill and agreed to.

New Business: None

Dinner out will be at the Village Inn, May 12 at 4 P.M. as chosen by Jerry and Ray, the only May birthday people present.

Bids were made for the pie certificate and Anne Mester got it. Rod Rehrig presented certificates of appreciation from the Marine Corps League to the Zephyrhills Historical Association and to Marine Aaron Boone and parents George and Anna Boone for sponsoring a hole at their 2017 golf tournament.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jerry, seconded by Al Stone and agreed to by everyone. The meeting ended at 5:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Anna V. Boone, Secretary, Zephyrhills Historical Association