November 2016 Newsletter

**Monthly Meeting**
Monday, November 14th, 6:30 PM
Clarke House

As most of you know, due to damage caused by Hurricane Matthew, Clarke Park was closed and we were not able to conduct our October meeting. Although not yet open to the public, we hope the Clarke House will be available for our next scheduled meeting on November 14. We are happy to welcome our own Randy Harris, who will talk about metal detectors and their use in the search for artifacts and relics. Additionally, Randy will be discussing the metal detectorist’s code of ethics as they apply to the search for “history in the ground.” Randy has a good deal of experience searching for artifacts and is happy to share his experiences with us. Please join us Monday, November 14 for friendly discussion and the sharing of historical interests.

In conjunction with our monthly meeting, we will conduct our Annual Meeting to elect officers for 2017. Please plan to attend.

**Clay County Florida Facebook Page**
For those who enjoy talking about our heritage and the history of Clay County, you can visit Face Book Group, "Clay County Florida ~ History." Here you'll find almost 2,000 members as they share pictures, discuss our past and local structures, many of which are disappearing from our communities. Join us in reliving an era and share some memories.
Quilt Raffle

Our sincere thanks to Mrs. Pat Meeks for her kind donation of a handmade quilt. The quilt will be raffled off and all donations will support the many community programs of the Society. Tickets are $1 each or 6 for $5. Tickets will be available at our general meetings.

Clarke House Website

Do you know the Clarke House has its own website? Thanks to Randy for putting this site together! Check out the website for news, events and pictures of the Clarke House!

http://www.historicclarkehouse.com/

Corporate Membership

The HSOP has created a new level of membership. In an effort to increase our presence in the community we will now offer a corporate membership. Local businesses are invited to join our society. The corporate level membership is $50/year. Corporate members will receive a display for their window to show their support of the society. Please pass on this information to local businesses. A sample of the display is shown below.

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The “Green House” Project – We Need You!

Cindy Cheatwood is looking for people to join her in establishing a long-term plan for the small, green house behind the Clarke House. Built in 1925, it is structurally salvageable and there is a potential grant from the state to make this happen. We need to examine our mission, determine a course of action and prepare a plan to present to the town. The concept of a Town Welcome Center/Historical Museum is being proposed. If you are willing to help with the research and vision of this option, please contact C. Cheatwood (ckcheatwood@hotmail.com). This is a chance to leave something of value to the town that will serve the community for many years.

Gift Basket Raffle

Thank you to Pat Sessions of Basketique for generously providing a gift basket to be sold by raffle drawing. The basket is full of unique items that anyone would enjoy. Tickets are still available and all proceeds will go toward the support of our Society. The drawing for the basket will be held this month at our November meeting.

Recent Events

Veterans Day Essay Contest
Thank You, Essay Judges

The annual essay contest for the Veteran's Day ceremony has concluded. We want to thank our judges for their diligence in selecting the winning essays. There were a total of 21 elementary and 22 junior high level essays. Thank you Carolyn Day, Barney Clark, Peggy Temple and Randy Harris. And, a special thank you to Dick Cheatwood for serving on both sets of judging teams, evaluating all 43 essays! Your work will be rewarded at the ceremony when the winning students read their essays at the memorial.
In Memory of Virginia Hash
It is with sadness that we note the passing of our dear friend and long-time Society member, Virginia Hash. Virginia was the epitome of service to her community. Professionally, Virginia was known as Virginia Hash, PhD, Professor of Educational Psychology and Associate Dean of Continuing Education at the University of Northern Iowa where she enriched the lives of many students. After retirement to Clay County she was known simply as Virginia. Virginia dedicated her retirement years to community service and we were all the better for it. Virginia served as President of the Clay County Literacy Coalition teaching adults to read and developing citizenship classes. She volunteered to work with students at Doctors Inlet Elementary School where she was known as the “Science Lady”. She volunteered in the Children’s Section of the Fleming Island Library, managed and served as hostess of the One-Room Schoolhouse at the Clay County Fair and organized a Blanket Ministry at Crossroads Lutheran Church to benefit congregation members in need of assistance. Near to our hearts was her work with the Historical Society where she served as Chair of our Social Committee. We were fortunate to have the honor to name her this year’s winner of the Earl Harrington Award for Community Service. Virginia was always encouraging, unfailingly kind and had a wonderful sense of humor. She found joy in serving others. We will miss her.

Virginia Hash receiving the 2016 Earl Harrington Award for Community Service
Upcoming Events

Outing to Fernandina Beach
The Historical Society of Orange Park will host an outing to Fernandina Beach on Saturday, November 5. Our first stop will be the Amelia Island Museum of History. We will enjoy a visit at the museum then travel to Centre Street for a one hour, guided tour of historical sites in the center of town. While in town we will enjoy lunch before making a trip to the Old Town area for a short visit. Time permitting, we will visit Fort Clinch where historical re-enactors will be on-hand to portray the fort as it was in 1864. Those interested in attending should plan to meet at the Town Hall parking lot before 9 AM the morning of November 5. We will leave Town Hall for Fernandina Beach at 9 AM and return to Orange Park late that afternoon.

Admission to the museum is $8.00 per person. The guided tour along Center Street is $10 per person and admission to Fort Clinch is $2.00 per person. Lunch will be on your own. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, November 5.

Veterans Day Ceremony
It hardly seems possible that Veterans Day is just next month. We are planning our traditional ceremony on Friday, November 11th at 11am to honor our soldiers and their families in partnership with the Town of Orange Park.

We once again have many local groups who have volunteered their time to make this all possible. They include the American Legion Post #250 Riders, the Patriot Guard, the Viet Nam Veterans of America Chapter 1059, the NJROTC Color Guard from Ridgeview High School, the First Coast Highlanders, the Arrangers Guild, the Garden Club of Orange Park, Park Avenue Florist, the Sophia Fleming Chapter of the DAR, the Woman’s Club of Orange Park, Soloist Ms. Wanda Dillaberry, the Middleburg United Methodist Church Bell Ringers, the Ding-A-Lings and the Town of Orange Park.

Our guest speaker will be Captain Richard A. Eason US Navy (retired). We will also be joined by our Veterans Day Essay contest winners, who will read their winning entries and receive their awards.

Also featured will be the winning essays from our annual contest. This year’s winner in the Elementary School Division is Kelli Dixon from Coppergate Elementary. Those deserving Honorable Mention were James Goslee, S. Bryan Jennings; Peyton Hudson, S. Bryan Jennings; Alana Mendez, S. Bryan Jennings and Meghan Young, Coppergate.

This year’s winner in the Junior High School Division is Keren Metelus. Those deserving Honorable Mention were Nathan Bourgon, Jenna McHardy and Ashley Owen, all of Orange Park Junior High.
Once again we will be hosting a reception in Clarke House immediately following the ceremony. If you would like to help provide refreshments we would be most grateful. Call Carolyn Day 215-9177.

We are expecting a large crowd so please follow police direction and park at the First Baptist Church and bring a chair if possible.

The Veterans Memorial Committee continues to receive orders for inscribed brick pavers that are installed at the site. Order forms are available at the memorial site, in the Orange Park Library or may be downloaded from the HSOP website www.ophistory.org.

If you are interested in purchasing an inscribed paver to honor a veteran you may download a form from our website www.ophistory.org or pick up a form in the box at the memorial site. We will be installing pavers in time for Veterans Day. For more information call Carolyn Day 215-9177. Pavers are $50 each.

Veteran’s Memorial Ornament

An ornament has been made commemorating our Orange Park Veteran’s Memorial. Cost of these ornaments is $10 each.

www.ophistory.org
**Mandarin Museum and Historical Society**

**Upcoming Events**

November 6 – “Under the Oaks”
Music Jam at Walter Jones Park
from 2-4

November 17 – Third Thursday
Lecture

December 3 – Winter Celebration
plus “Under the Oaks” Music jam
and “Meet the Maple Leaf Divers”

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**Archaeological Research Results in Production of a Dramatic Opera**

The Archaeological Institute of America--Jacksonville Society will meet at noon on Nov. 19, 2016 in Building 51 at the University of North Florida to hear a lecture by John Ehrenhard, former director of the National Park Service Southeast Archaeological Center in Tallahassee. His lecture is titled "Archaeology Goes to the Opera." Improbable as it sounds, a full-length dramatic opera "Zabette" resulted from archaeological and historical research conducted by the Southeast Archaeological Center related to stabilization evaluations of a slave quarters complex at the 19th century Stafford Plantation on Cumberland Island. Human occupation of this site was filled with adventure, misfortune, and sorrow; and the opera is related to historic events in the life and times of Elizabeth Bernardey, a young woman of mixed ancestry. Now retired, John Ehrenhard will give an anecdotal account of archaeological events which led to the production of the opera. The lecture is free and open to the public and will be followed by complimentary refreshments in the Archaeology Lab. On Saturday parking is free and faculty/staff/vendor spaces are available to everyone. For more information contact Melva Price at (904)241-9411 or aiajaxsoc@gmail.com.

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**Hometown Holiday in the Park**

It’s almost time for Hometown Holiday in the Park at Clarke Park. This year’s event will be on Friday, December 9th and Saturday, December 10th from 6pm-9pm. This is a free event and a lot of fun for families. Activities at the event will include a shopping village, rides through the decorated magical trail in the woods, tours of the Clarke House, live entertainment and outdoor holiday films. Parking will be available at First Baptist Church of Orange Park. No parking will be available inside the park.

Volunteers are needed to help guide visitors through the Clarke House and those interested in story-telling a characters from Orange Park's past will do so on Sat. from 5-7 PM. Please let Van or Cindy (904-707-0822) know if you can participate. Come help us celebrate the holidays at Clarke Park.

[www.ophistory.org](http://www.ophistory.org)
**Wanted**

The Historical Society of Orange Park is seeking the donation of an old wagon or carriage for display in the newly renovated Carriage House at Clarke Park. If you know of one that might be available please contact us at info@ophistory.org.

**Sunshine**

Please keep these members in your thoughts and prayers:

Dot Patterson

**Look For Us on Facebook**

Look for the Historical Society of Orange Park the next time you visit Facebook. Check our page for updates on society activities and updates on the Veterans Memorial. Don’t forget to click “Like” on our page.

**Membership in the Historical Society of Orange Park**

We encourage you to support our mission to preserve the history of Orange Park and share that history with the community by becoming a member of the Historical Society of Orange Park. We also ask your support and participation for the many community activities we undertake during the course of the year. You can visit our website, www.ophistory.org, to download a membership form.