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# News from the Port

Volume 3, Issue 2

Summer Quarterly 2020

## Letter from the Editor

By HRR

Summer has arrived way to early. I am afraid we are in for a long, long summer.

Hope everyone is well and that you have discovered some new and old pastimes. It has been exciting to see some of the things people have been doing to pass the hours of isolation and staying home.

Some have started writing, others painting, some playing board games and (new to some of us) outdoor games of the past.

Quite by accident while researching My grandparents history in my "Stay at Home" time I have discovered we had relatives who came to Central Florida and settled at North Horse Creek. My maternal great, great uncle arrived north of Davenport in 1885. His sister who is my maternal great, great grandmother fol-

lowed in 1897. My great, great paternal grandfather was born in Osceola County at Shingle Creek 1839. That was before Florida was a state. So no wonder I like Central Florida history.

I wonder what type of games they played? So it appears they did more work than play. It's a great adventure to travel back in time and discover why and how you got here. While you have more time at home please contact DHS by email and we will send you a form to fill out and email back to us so we can share your story and that of Davenport.

**"You can't know where You are going if You don't know where You have been".**

**"History Repeated 1919"** (Continued on Pg. 3)



## President's Message By: Kathy B. Linder

**Greetings members:**

**We have made it half-way through this year of 2020. Please be safe and enjoy your summer.**

**Kathy B. Linder,**

**President & Treasure**

## Vice President's Notes By: Deborah Burress

**Hope everyone is having a quiet and safe summer.**

**There are lots of web-sites available for updating your family history.**

**Take a driving tour, that's a safe project. Look for places to visit in Florida on a Tank Full. Email us some photos.**

**Email address: jthompson.dhs@gmail.com**

If you missed Judith Thompson's first book you have another opportunity to read her second edition. For Sale at Linda's Hair Salon

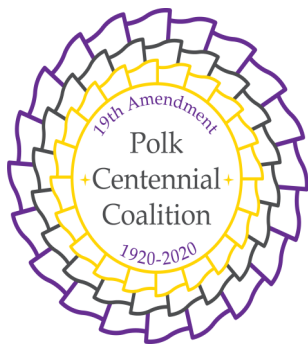


*J. Lenora Bresler (Ruth Bryan Owen, Florida's 1st female representative to Congress,) at Exhibit Opening, Polk County History Center. The 19th Amendment at 100 years:*

*J. Lenora will present her awesome portrayal of Ruth at the DHS tea. "Every Woman Should Have a Purse of Her Own."*

***J. Lenora is still on for our tea.***

***Call Linda Tyler  
863-514-0886 or  
Judy Thompson  
863-207-2521  
For updates on  
November.***



## Following the Heritage Trail

By Judith Torgersen Thompson

### Summer Trail in Davenport.

It was a beautiful June morning in Davenport, Florida some year in the mid-1960's. My sister Gloria and I dressed, did our chores, ate breakfast and headed out for a fun day. As we walked to the school for Summer Recreation, we sang the Seven Dwarf's song about going to work but with our own twist, "Hi-ho, hi-ho, it's off to school we go."

Along the way, we passed Alma Linder's store. Alma carried just about everything any person needed in the 1960's. We waited in line as some other kids bought their bags of candy. Once we arrived at the school, Gloria usually chose to make lanyards (you know, those braided necklaces with clips at the bottom to attach things). I always pulled my

nickel or dime out of my pocket to buy a plaster-of-Paris wall plaque to paint. I loved to paint. We saw our schoolmates and enjoyed some casual time with them.

At 12:00 we heard the fire siren at the City Hall. Don't worry, that sound has been going off since the dinosaurs roamed the earth or since the town decided to notify workers when it was noon. Marguerite Williams, our City Clerk since 1934, always checked the National Weather Service for the correct time before she blew the siren.

Noontime meant lunch. We stopped by dad's Watch Shop (Torgersen's Watch Repair Shop) to

be nice and see if he wanted us to go get him some lunch. He saw right through our scheme. We all enjoyed the hamburgers and cherry cokes.

Two o'clock rolled around and that meant the pool was open. Yahoo! Let's go swimming! Everyone was at the pool! It was first filled with water in 1953, by the Davenport Chamber of Commerce, compliments of the President, Mr. Oswald Wiley. I remember Mrs. Lillian Judy, wife of Bethel Judy (Police Chief), always being there to keep the concession stand open. I heard that H.L.H. was a respected swim coach. If you have never heard of him, he was also known as Hairy Legs Hazlett or Harry Lynn Hazlett. Continued page 3.

## The 19th Amendment at 100 Years

The Celebration of the milestone of Democracy for Women's Suffrage is being celebrated across the Country and Polk County and it's municipalities are on board with the Polk Centennial Coalition Committee to host events all year long.

The Centennial kick off was held at the Polk County History Center Jan. 9-11 and was a sell out.

### Additional Events:

Due to Corvid 19 many of the celebrations have been postponed or canceled. Davenport's own has been postponed until Nov. 7th. DHS "A Purse of Her Own" Tea.

Imperial Symphony Orchestra, Lakeland, a Program featuring Women

### Composers.

The Women's Suffrage Movement in Polk County, Kathleen Area Historical Society are among those. More events and programs to be announced.

### Visit:

Polkhistorycenter.org for additional information and events.



## Summer Trail in Davenport

Continued from Page 2

Later, I remember Harriet Rewis Rust and Jackie Conroy Summerlin were swimming instructors

It had been a fun summer day so far; there was still more to come. We took a break at home to watch "The Mickey Mouse Club" then supper. "Dad." I would ask, "can we go to Skip's for ice cream?"



Pictures: L to R Torgersen's Watch Repair (the Mart), Skip's Milk Bar, Vida & Skip Mc Grady

### History Repeats Itself 1869 & 1919

History repeats itself. Came across this poem written in 1869, reprinted during 1919 Pandemic

#### This is Timeless....

And people stayed at home  
And read books  
And listened  
And they rested  
And did exercises  
And made art and played  
And learned new ways of being  
And stopped and listened  
More deeply  
Someone meditated, someone prayed  
Someone met their shadow  
And people began to think differently  
And people healed.  
And in the absence of people who  
Lived in ignorant ways  
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless,  
The earth also began to heal  
And when the danger ended and  
People found themselves  
They grieved for the dead  
And made new choices  
And dreamed of new visions  
And created new ways of living  
And completely healed the earth  
Just as they were healed.



### FSS- Cross Roads Stitchers

Florida Sewing-ciety has been doing remarkable things since moving from the Davenport Community Building to Heartfelt shop in Winter Haven.

We have lost count of the number of masks they have sewn and their Project Tote is underway for children in foster care.

While social distancing is in effect please contact Margret for zoom meetings and other projects.

They have grown to more than 25 members and meet monthly in Winter Haven as they have outgrown our city building.

Everyone is welcome to join them no matter your level of sewing. Contact Margaret

[eazypeazyquilts@gmail.com](mailto:eazypeazyquilts@gmail.com)

**We should be proud of all the partners we have and that we have been a part of their beginnings.**





Meetings:  
Second Monday  
Each month at  
6:30pm  
Davenport  
Commission  
Chamber

Quarterly Meetings with  
Special Programs.

No Meetings:  
June, July, August

#### Websites:

Quiltsandtea.com  
Mydavenport.org  
Polkhistorycenter.org

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P.O. BOX 774  
DAVENPORT, FL 33836

TO:

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Davenport Historic District.....National Registry.....

**ALL DHS MEETINGS AND EVENTS CANCELED  
OR POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**



**WELCOME DAVENPORT  
ELEMENTARY  
OPENING AUGUST 2020**  
For more information visit:  
**des.polkschoolsfl.com**

**National Registry Historic Map**

