



## Just Steps (or a Ramp) Away from Museum Opening

Progress continues on the opening of the Clearwater Historical Society Museum and Cultural Center at South Ward on June 15, 2019. A mural of a colorized postcard of Clearwater's Public Boat Landing now graces the entryway to the future museum. More postcard murals brighten other buildings on the museum campus.



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**Annual Spring Fish Fry!**  
Saturday, May 4, 2019  
11:30 am until 1 pm  
**Open to Public!**



**Ross Norton Recreational Center**  
1426 S Martin Luther  
King, Jr. Ave.

**Tickets:** Adult \$12 Child \$6

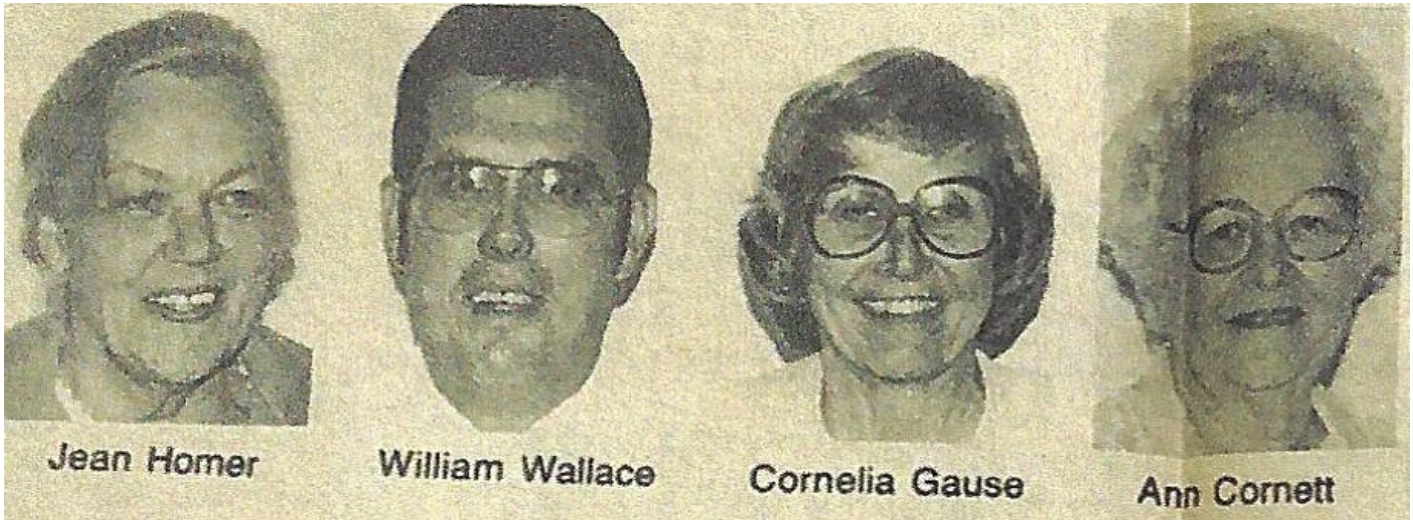
**Purchase** online at [clearwaterhistoricalsociety.org](http://clearwaterhistoricalsociety.org) or from a society board member

Meet new & old friends who **love Clearwater history** served with delicious fish, hushpuppies, cookies & sweet tea.

Unsweet tea also available

## Finding the Founding Members

**BY JEANNE HOLMQUIST** -As I started to write this story, call me naïve. When I thought of the Clearwater Historical Society Founding Members, I was expecting 10 or so like minded people that had a love for a place that they lived. The place that possessed a rich history from sailing schooners to farming citrus and featured old hotels and winter residents brought by train. But as I flipped through the minutes of the first Society meetings, I found a copy of a page from the Clearwater Sun Heritage Section dated May 29,1980. The page showed a list, in tiny newspaper print, of 600+ founding members. The list included 36 Life Members and 27 Board Members and Officers. It showed the 15 signing members of the original Charter and Subscribers to the Articles of Incorporation. This section of the newspaper also included stories written by founding members about their family's early experiences in Clearwater.



*Clearwater Historical Society Founding Board members (L to R) Jean Homer, President; Bill Wallace, Vice President; Cornelia Gause; Ann Cornett, Treasurer*

I wasn't surprised to see names like Booth, Coachman, McMullen, Rousseau and Wilcox. Nor was I surprised to see educators like Elsie Duncan, Owen North or William Wallace. But then as I looked down the list of over 600 names, it was a Who's Who list of Clearwater in 1980. Belcher, Burwell, Campbell and Chesnut, Dimmitt, Fulmer, Flammer, Garvey... If I keep going, I will have no more space left to write further. Those founding members collected stories and wrote about their own families coming to Florida and finding Clearwater to be literally beautiful and fruitful. Some came for the weather and others for business or a fresh start. Most that came found this area to be full of prospects. Maybe not gold in the bluff overlooking the bay, but a bay full of mullet and other fish to eat.



*First official seal of the Society, designed in 1979 by artist Florence Wroldsen*

The first acquisition of the Society was Donald Roebing's baby book. It was put on display at the first meeting. Nancy McMullen Meador was presented the first Honorary Life Membership for her work researching the early history of Clearwater. She had been the first chairman of the Clearwater Historical Commission appointed by Lewis Homer, former Mayor of Clearwater.

There were always gatherings. But from the beginning the members knew a Fish Fry was an appropriate meal to share. Socializing, music and singing arose. Some would even complain about the music getting too loud for them to visit. This group of people seemed to be very nostalgic for the city they lived in. Come to the May 4, 2019, Fish Fry to see what it's all about!

### Founding Member Stories Wanted

For our next newsletter we are looking for Founding Members or their family members that remember attending a Fish Fry or any gathering in the early days of the Clearwater Historical Society .



## Is This the Story Behind the Name of Sand Key's Dan's Island Condominiums?

**BY SUZ PRIEST-** It is interesting to note that the area known for years as Dan's Island, now Sand Key, appeared on old area maps as Sand Key. It became known as Dan's Island after Daniel Joe Anderson filed for homestead on property in 1900 on the north point of the island. The homestead was adjacent to the channel known then as Little Pass. Little Pass, now known as Clearwater Pass and home of the Sand Key Bridge, was so small in 1900, one could throw a stone across the waterway.

Dan learned of the homestead opportunity while working on a boat that ran from Key West to Southpoint on Florida's west coast. Dan built a shack to live in and then a fish barn with drying racks to store his fishing nets. He used his boat to catch mullet, which he would take to the Harbor Oaks Dock and sell to a truck from Tampa Fish Market.

He and his wife, Anna Belle Harris, had five children. While living on the island, his school-aged children rowed to the mainland to attend class at South Ward School. Dan also kept a herd of wild hogs which helped control the rattlesnake population on the Island.

After fulfilling the residency terms of his homestead application, the Andersons moved to the mainland to a house on Tuskawilla Street. Family members continued to live intermittently on the island. Boatloads of relatives regularly travelled to the island for picnics and treasure hunts orchestrated by Dan. Dan suffered a heart attack and died while deer hunting with friends in Dixie County on April 18, 1928.



*Daniel Joe Anderson (11/2/1875 - 4/18/1928)  
of Dan's Island*



*LEFT: An aerial photograph of Sand Key in 1960. It shows the bridge north from Sand Key to Clearwater Beach. Notice how small the north-eastern tip of Clearwater Beach looked back then. Our Florida Gulf Coast barrier islands have minds of their own regarding addition and erosion of sand.*

### Museum Opening Work Day April 20

Meet fellow history lovers & **get a sneak peek** at the Clearwater Historical Society Museum and Cultural Center grounds April 20. We will be painting, moving items and doing grounds work. You have a choice of what you want to do. Bring your own gloves & water.

### Donations Needed

#### Campus Upkeep

Outdoor tables and chairs, umbrellas, paint supplies, yard blower, patio bench, office supplies, yard tools

#### Historical Artifacts and Items

Photos of downtown Clearwater in the 1950s & 1960s.

Visit [clearwaterhistoricalsociety.org](http://clearwaterhistoricalsociety.org) & click on **Donate**

Call (727) 754-8019 and leave a message

Email [clearwaterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:clearwaterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

## Many, Many Thanks To:

**Generous donations** from Susan Whitehust Allen, Brent Armstrong, Jane Arnold, Bradley Berg, Alice Alexander Burkholder, City of Clearwater, Christine Clay, Allison Dolan, Tom Fox, Bob and Shirley Galatas, Suz Carter Priest, Terri and Tim Roberts, Les Smout Tom Walbolt, Charlotte Zubler and many more

**Dora Ward** for her collection of pictures and Clearwater history timeline

**The following fabulous local businesses provided great support for our museum.** A-Christian Glass & Mirror, Abbey Carpet & Floor of Largo, All-LED USA, Bestway Lawn Care, The Crafty Frammer, Dunlop Signs, Echo Blueprint, ETC Electric, Inc., Glasspro Services of Pinellas Park, Harrell Electric & Security, Inc., McMullen Roofing, Inc., Mr. Paint!, Philadelphia Phillies, Prime Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, White Glove Cleaning Service

## Stay in Touch and Be Informed

Like and follow CHS on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/ClearwaterHistoricalSociety/>

Visit the webpage at: <http://www.clearwaterhistoricalsociety.org/>

Email your Society at: [clearwaterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:clearwaterhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

## Check Out the New Look of the Web Page

clearwaterhistoricalsociety.org received a make-over thanks to **Jay Yarbrough of JSYMedia** and some hard-working Society members. The home page has a new look. There's a calendar, and links to donate, volunteer and SIGN UP for mailing list!

## Officers and Board Members for 2018-2019

### OFFICERS

President : Allison Dolan  
Vice President: Sam McClelland  
Secretary: Jeanne Holmquist  
Treasurer: Susan Raineri  
Past President: Bill Wallace

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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