

June 2020



Palm Harbor Museum

OPERATED BY THE PALM HARBOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2020 PROGRAMS AND PEOPLE

Museum re-opens June 19-20, 10am to 2pm for RSVP Tours.

Starting June 19-20, the Museum will be open on Fridays and Saturdays, 10 am to 2 pm. Visitors must make advance reservations online via Eventbrite, for guided tours at 10:15am, 11:15am, 12:15pm or 1:15pm. [Link here](#). Follow the Eventbrite link in the Museum Facebook page's event "PHM Guided Tours" or go to [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com). Sanitizing between groups. Groups will be limited to six people at a time. Visitors (and volunteers) will be required to wear masks inside the Museum and follow social distancing.

IT ALL STARTED WITH THE HARTLEYS!

(Excerpts From Sharon Lamm's Article From The Beacon)



A true Pinellas pioneer family, the Hartleys came here in the early 1880s from Danforth, Illinois, arriving in Tampa. Traveling to the Palm Harbor area in a two-horse wagon, James Hartley (1838 -1900) bought 160 acres of land from Walton Whitehurst and established a home for his wife, Frances, and his child. That child was Thomas William Hartley (1867-1955) who would live on this land for the rest of his life, building a house and a flourishing ladder factory. Thomas quickly established himself in the community. At 23, he was ordained and licensed as a lay minister of the Methodist Church. Not assigned to a specific church, he roved the area, ministering where needed. In 1893, he was sent to Montreal, Canada, to preach at the Young Peoples Christian Convention. He also was elected that year as Justice of the Peace for the Fourth District of Hillsborough County, a position he held for 11 years, resulting in his being known as "Judge." In 1899, Thomas married Ida Stanton (1870-1952) from Madison, Florida. They had four children – Lucy, Clarine, Leonard and Orion, and lived in a log cabin on the property until the house was built.

Construction of the Hartley House began in 1914 and took about 5 years to complete. Plans were bought via mail order from a Sears Roebuck & Co. catalog. No construction crew was hired to build the house. The homeowner, relatives, friends and neighbors did the work, casting each block from Curlew Creek water and sand in a mold.

The house was designed to accommodate the Hartley family of six. The original plans were for five bedrooms, a parlor, a large dining room, a kitchen and a cellar. The plans also included a large porch in the front and two porches in the rear. The house had no plumbing, but was wired for a Delco home generator for electric power. Kerosene lamps provided lighting. In the kitchen, food was kept cool in a root cellar and heat came from a fireplace which has since been removed. (continued on page 2)

SOMETHING BIG IS IN THE WORKS!

A generous grant from the Faith Mission Fund through the Pinellas Community Foundation allows PHM to embark on the initial phase of its first comprehensive permanent exhibit showcasing the history of the Palm Harbor region. The grant will fund exciting interactive displays throughout the redesigned museum galleries. Museum guests who visit over the summer will get an up-close view of the transformation. Watch for special events to launch the Museum's new look coming this Fall/ Winter. Working with the Museum as a contract consultant/designer is the talented David Knupp, Curator at Dunedin History Museum, and creator of several outstanding exhibits there, including last year's *Jagged Lines: America's Tattoo Tradition* and the current *Pirates: A Merry Life and a Short One*. If you've seen these two amazing exhibits, you know we're in for a real treat at PHM!



EVENTS AND PARTIES

ENGLISH TEA 2020



IN MEMORY—Doreen M Prucha, 95' passed May 17, 2020. PHHS President 2000-2002. Started the English Tea in 2001. Donated her English Tea Set to the Museum for use in the Tea.

(continued from page 1 article on the Hartleys)

The house was built on a reinforced concrete foundation with concrete block construction. The blocks were poured on-site, made with white sand from a nearby scrub area. The outside surfaces of the blocks were cast to simulate a stone finish. Each block weighed 84 pounds, and the blocks were joined with pink mortar. It is thought the distinctive pink mortar came from crushed berries added by the four Hartley children. A hall ran the length of the downstairs, and its walls were reinforced concrete to provide bearing support for the second floor. Downstairs rooms had 10 foot high ceilings, and upstairs were 8 feet high. The upstairs rooms and two of the porches were never completely finished due to shortage of funds. The Delco power system was never installed. However, the downstairs was completed in 1919 and the family moved in. The children's ages ranged from 9 to 18 at that time, so the older ones lived in the house only a few years before marrying and moving out.

The Ladder Factory

Thomas Hartley was a builder of ladders for the citrus industry. He established Thos. W. Hartley's Cypress Ladder Factory and ran it out of the house, usually employing one or two other workers. The factory was powered by a large one-cylinder Fairbanks-Morse engine which burned kerosene. An overhead belt system drove a rip saw, planer, table saw, drill press and lathe. Thomas ran the ladder factory until he was almost 78 years old.

While Thomas worked in the ladder factory, Ida kept the house and earned extra money by making guava jelly. Many types of guavas grew around the house and vicinity, fertilized by chickens who roamed the unfenced premises. Ida cooked jellies and marmalades on a large, wood-burning stove in her kitchen, and sold them to the Coachman fruit stand in Clearwater.

Successful and internationally known, the ladder factory was located near the Hartley home, housed in a simple open-sided wooden building. It stood from the early 1900s into the 1950s, manufacturing ladders used throughout Florida and the rest of the United States, Puerto Rico, Cuba and South America.

Hartley would search local swamps to locate small cypress trees that were the right length for his ladder sides. Rungs were made of heart of pine. Harvested trees were stacked in a cleared section of the property and moved into the factory to be skinned and prepared. Hartley children and grandchildren and young men from the area assisted in the procedure. Remnants were burned in the fireplaces and cook stoves. Hartley later installed a gasoline engine to run a circular saw,

lathe and boring machine. He and his workers produced between 400-1200 ladders per year.



Diane Polaski at the Ladder Factory

VOLUNTEERS

**VOLUNTEERS ARE THE BACKBONE OF A
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION**

We Want You!

Volunteer Opportunities



CURRENT VOLUNTEER NEEDS:

Tour Guide Docents: If working with the public is within your comfort zone at this time, we ask that you consider helping us by serving as a docent. Training will be provided. Docents greet visitors, provide brief tours sharing information about our historic buildings and the Palm Harbor region; and perform facility sanitizing procedures between visitor groups. Prefer those who can commit to a weekly 2-hour shift.

Costumed Reenactor: Love to dress up in period clothing and make a scene? We're looking for individuals who can portray historical Palm Harbor characters. The parts can be as simple or complex as you're comfortable with, from drifting through the house and grounds with a few lines and props, to interacting with guests at events.

Grant Writers: Finding new sources of funding is an ongoing challenge, especially for small museums like ours. Do you have grant writing knowledge and experience you could share with us?

More specific volunteer details will be emailed for your further consideration, if interested. Please contact the Museum at palmharbormuseum@outlook.com to request more information for the position of your choice.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

Our English Tea Organizers -

Joanne Coco
Barbara Battaglia
Molly McCormick



CAROL CORTRIGHT, Operations Manager



What a crazy year we've had so far! A roller coaster analogy is entirely appropriate right now. We were picking up such momentum during the first three months of the year with our expanded hours, well-attended Meet Me at the Museum lectures, successful English Tea and monthly Free Family Days, which were bringing in up to 100 visitors, many of them new to the Museum. Then...the loop-de-loops started! Which way is up? When can we reopen? Can we do it safely? Will visitors come back? What about all the fundraising events we were counting on to get the Museum through the rest of this year? The Palm Harbor Museum operates on a very narrow shoestring to present fun educational exhibits and programming. PHM needs help from its first line of support—our cherished members—more

than ever right now. Is your membership up to date? How about gifting a membership to someone to celebrate a special day or accomplishment? Our team of dedicated Board members and volunteers are working hard to get the museum back on track. Stay tuned for ways you can help!



ORAL HISTORIES

You can be in the movies!



Museum volunteers conduct a monthly oral history interview with targeted interviewees who tell stories relating to local history. Over time the Museum has developed a rich collection of interviews. Many of these are available via YouTube. Videos are maintained in the Museum collection for research purposes, as well as used in support of exhibit themes.

For example, as part of Faith Mission/PCF Grant 2020 project we will soon implement a listening station. Here visitors will click on an icon to listen to

[Sallie Parks and Anita Freudenthal](#) selected interviews. Recently the Museum board invested in additional microphones in order to allow the capability to film groups of 4-6 people to tell a family or groups story.

If you are interested in interviewing a family member for posterity you can schedule use of the Museum video equipment and you can ask the questions that bring out the experiences so unique to your family history.



The cost is \$50.00 to arrange for your interview to be filmed. You need only supply a thumb drive to receive your unedited video footage to take home the same day. The Museum team can support you with samples of relevant questions to guide your interview process. We aim to attract and broaden participation and to support involvements that foster intergenerational interactions.

[Sallie Parks interviews Ken Ford](#)

Call the Museum if you have questions (727-724-3054) or to set up an appointment for your Oral History.

YouTube Videos of Palm Harbor Interviewees—Who's on YouTube?



Sallie Parks, Leon and Nancy Hart talking about fishing industry in Ozona and Palm Harbor



Buz Olds with father, Tom Olds. Buz (Arthur) is author of ITS NO BULL about Al Boyd's "Boot Ranch"



Bill Polaski, Hartley's grandson



Donald & Betty Bredemeier Huffman visited to tell Faith Mission story



HAPPENINGS

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

June 19 Palm Harbor Museum Re-Opens

Dates & Details for the following TBD

**September: Exclusive PHM Members Preview
Tour of New Exhibits**

**Sept 8, 2020: Meet Me At
the Museum resumes with**

**Nancy McKibben, “Wall
Springs—Then and Now”**



**October: Haunted Hartley House Halloween
Tours**

**November 14, Second Annual Wine Around
Palm Harbor & New Exhibits Grand Opening**

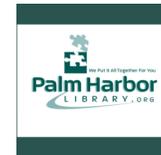
December: Holiday Hartley House Tours

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

East Lake Library



Palm Harbor Library



Palm Harbor Happenings



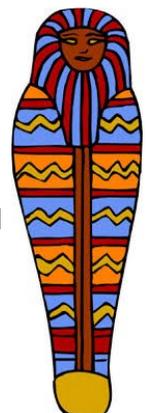
PRESIDENT'S COLUMN New and bigger challenges greet the Museum with the coronavirus stripping the Museum of several month's fundraising events. Like every non-profit in the country, we have been hard hit for funds to handle our overhead. We had a wonderful start to the year with plans for several fundraising events which is the way we are able to stay open. The 21st English Tea was a great success in every way and we are most grateful to all for making this a success! However, we are now in the same situation as many others in having to appeal to our members, friends, and community to help us through the upcoming months while we try to gain our momentum back, taking care to keep our volunteers and visitors healthy. We ask you to help us by renewing your membership with the Museum and donate where you can. We appreciate all you do for us to keep your local history museum alive!

You Belong in a Museum!

Let's face it: museums may be full of artifacts and dates and someone's antiques, but if it weren't for the stories about the PEOPLE who did stuff, museums would be pretty boring! Palm Harbor Museum unveils a new participatory exhibit space opening this fall celebrating YOU!

One wall in PHM's central hallway will feature contributions from people today, reminiscing and sharing experiences built around a central theme which will change periodically. We'll be collecting YOUR stories, photos, artwork and anything else you want to share with museum visitors from near and far.

Our first theme will be all about Florida—fun in the Sunshine State! We'll provide more details soon and will start collecting your contributions in June.





PALM HARBOR
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY, INC

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Palmharbormuseum



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<http://palmharbormuseum.com/>

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HOURS: The Museum will re-open on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm until we can resume normal hours.

SPONSORS



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*Proud recipient of the
Faith Mission Christian Fund
of the Pinellas Community Foundation*



MEMBERSHIP

Membership Application

Without our annual members, we would not be able to operate the museum. 100% of your annual membership is used by the Society to offer a free local museum to members. Membership has its perks! Enjoy free programs during the year and be the first to be invited to events! Individuals and business owners are encouraged to fill out a membership form and mail it in with your check. The Historical Society is a not for profit organization. **Annual Memberships start in January.**

Encourage your friends to join. New Members welcome!

Name _____ Organization (if applicable) _____

Address _____ City _____ St _____

Zip _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Annual Membership Dues Categories (check one)

\$30 Individual \$45 Family \$100 Sponsor \$250 Patron \$500 Benefactor \$1000 Excelsior \$2500 Platinum

Membership Dues \$ _____ Additional Contribution _____

Gift Membership \$ _____ Gift From _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Please make check payable to Palm Harbor Historical Society