



## Leesburg Heritage Society, Inc.

111 South 6<sup>th</sup> St., Leesburg, FL 34748

352-315-1800

Hi all,

We meet again next Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, at the Rogers Park Pavilion on 9<sup>th</sup> Street.

Beyers Funeral Homes will provide refreshments at 3:30, and the one-hour meeting will begin promptly at 4:00.

### The History of the McLin Burnsed Law Firm

Sanna has lined up another interesting program. Gwen McLin and Shannon McLin, her daughter, will tell the story of Leesburg's most prominent law firm, founded by Walt McLin and his partner Dewey Burnsed. Dewey served the City Commission of Leesburg and Walt served the Lake County School Board for many decades.

Be sure to read Sue's minutes for the last meeting. I was really sorry to miss this meeting, as I had spent time working with John O'Kelley and his group to prepare their presentation. I knew it would be great. I didn't hear anything about it until 7:56 that evening, when I received a text from Ken Bragg. "Sorry to hear you're sickly. Get well fast Good program About 100 in attendance. Two hours long You would have enjoyed." **100 people! 2 hours long! What Happened!!!??** Obviously, no one kept to my 5 min per doctor plan, and obviously no one seemed to mind. From all the reports that I have received, it was a wonderful program. I have asked John to have Dr. Meade's and Vi's videos combined into one 90 minute video, so I can see what I missed and we can post it on YouTube, linking it to our website for all to enjoy.

"Long live the Queen!"

Jim Miller, President

## Museum and Mote Morris House Director Frank Stivender's Report

by Jim Miller

### Museum:

February's attendance was 126. Our volunteer's hours were cut by the Feds from 5 days of 4 hours to 3 days of 5 hours. Richard left us at the end of December, when his two years were up and Michelle has now joined us. She gets trained on Wednesday by Joe, when they overlap. Nicole will be training Joe's replacement. Nicole is our super volunteer who works every Friday. For over a year under the guidance of Glorianne and Vi, she has been straightening out decades of filing errors and in doing so, learned a lot about Leesburg's past. At this point, she's the only one who works 'hands on' with the files. She also happens to be very interested in our artifacts, and will be working to organize them. She has been a godsend.

### Mote Morris House:

Frank must have a rabbit's foot and a four-leaf clover in his pocket. February 7th, in his first time at running our general membership meeting, we had a record shattering crowd of 82. In January, we had over 200 visitors at the museum, thanks to the 100<sup>th</sup> Celebration of its birth as the Women's Club. And this month, we had almost 200 visitors at the Mote Morris House.

What happened? Saturday, the 11<sup>th</sup>, I was late for the docent training, but there were six of Wildwood's Baker House volunteer docents there getting trained to be Mote Morris Docents. So, I decided to join Vi in the parlor, where visitors sign in to get a tour. She was there with two of the DAR docents. We had a good conversation, as people were streaming in for a tour. When the two docents each took a tour group and Frank took a tour group, I had to leave as Vi had to see that people signed in for a tour. 63 registered and took tours, but many didn't want to wait for the tour guides, and just walked through it on their own. Frank is sure we had over 100 that day. Saturday, the 25<sup>th</sup> we had 64 visitors (again mostly Villagers) sign in and take the tour.

Why the amazing spike in attendance? On Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup>, the Daily Sun ran an article featuring the Mote Morris House, and mentioned that it would be open for tours on those two dates, hence the onslaught. We're hoping to get more of that kind of exposure from the Daily Sun.

Things just seem to be happening.

## Leesburg Heritage Society

### Minutes – Regular Meeting – February 7, 2023

The Leesburg Heritage Society reached a new attendance record this month with 82 members and guests gathered at Rogers Park. Could it be because they heard that Vice President/Museum Manager Frank Stivender was going to conduct the meeting in President Jim Miller's absence?? Maybe it was due to the great refreshments that the Beyers group always provides. Or maybe it was because John O'Kelley's program about Leesburg's "Doctors to the Greatest Generation" was so compelling. Hmmm.....

Whatever the reason, it was so great to see the overflow crowd!

Frank called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. We recited the Pledge of Allegiance, and then Sanna Henderson gave the invocation. Vi Pfahler told a joke about miscommunication with a wrong email address, and then Frank passed the microphone so all the guests could introduce themselves.

John told a bit of history about the beginning days of doctors in town, Dr. Morrison and Dr. Holland, and the first offices and hospital. He then introduced his panel of participants and led off with Dr. Binneveld's two sons, Jeff and Bill, who told of his life and times. Dr. Buchanan's son Paul was the next speaker, followed by Dr. Engelhard's daughter Christie. John gave the history of Dr. Holland's life in the absence of family. Dr. Young was represented by sons Ronnie and Ferrell, and lastly John and brother Butch were on deck to talk about their father, Dr. O'Kelley.

It was very interesting to get a glimpse of the family histories in pictures and hear the personal tales of their lives, their educations, their interests, and home lives. Several of these doctors were in the service, and many of the techniques and practices were learned in MASH units during the war.

A lively discussion and remembrance session took place amongst the members, guests and speakers.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM.

We thank all the participants for their time of sharing.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Turner, Secretary