

Gulf Breeze Area Historical Society



The Gulf Breeze Historical Society was formed in 1989 by the following Gulf Breeze women: Betty Ann Johnson, Ruth Van Wezel, Jo Ann Jaynes, Jeanne Hunsley and Betty Price Repko, Dorothy H. Jordan, and Patricia Briska.

The purpose of the Society is to collect, preserve, and display historical facts, papers, and artifacts pertaining to the greater Gulf Breeze Area. Additionally, the Society hopes to arouse interest of our historical heritage in our citizens and to pass the knowledge of past generations onto the next through research and special exhibitions.

General meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m., Gulf Breeze Recreation Center. Following a short business meeting, a speaker addresses the membership on historical topics.

Brief History of Gulf Breeze

5000 BC- The science of archaeology proves this land was inhabited at this time. The land was surrounded by water on three sides, and having fresh water lakes and springs made it an ideal place to live and gather food.

1513- The Spanish discovered Florida in 1513. Juan Ponce de Leon tried to land on the east coast of La Florida but was driven back by the natives.

1559 - Tristan de Luna y Arellano landed in Pensacola, FL in 1559. He established a colony, however, both the colony and his fleet were destroyed by a hurricane soon after his arrival. The exact location has never been found

1600- The Spanish, English, and French were here on the peninsula at different times in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries. A 1600 Spanish map shows Fair Point and Town Point in Navy Cove as the area used to careen wooden ships, remove barnacles, and make repairs.

1700-George Gauld was the first recorded land owner in Gulf Breeze. He was a surveyor commissioned by the British government to survey the Gulf Coast area.

1814 - A Spanish grant was issued to Pedro Alba for grazing rights of land from the peninsula to Navarre.

1820 - The first federal road in Florida was the Pensacola-St. Augustine Highway. The highway actually began at Deer Point in present day Gulf Breeze, and extended along the Santa Rosa Peninsula to St. Augustine on the Atlantic Coast.

1845 - Florida became a State.

1861 - Little was written about the peninsula again until the Civil War in 1861. The Confederates maintained a camp, lookout tower and hospital at Deer Point from 1861-1865. 1876 - Pensacola had become a great seaport and there was a need for a place to quarantine and fumigate vessels arriving from all around the world. The Peninsula was used as a quarantine station.

1920- The Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of America established camps in the Live Oak Reservation. Now the Gulf Islands National Sea Shore.

1928- The Pensacola Bay Bridge had its beginning when a deed was given to build, construct, operate, and maintain a highway bridge to extend from the Santa Rosa Peninsula across Pensacola Bay to mainland at some point east of Muscogee Wharf in Pensacola.

1931- The completion of the new bridges and the road to Pensacola Beach created much interest in this area. Pensacola residents began to buy land and build summer houses on the peninsula. It began to be a tourist attraction.

1949 - St Ann's Catholic Church was established in Gulf Breeze.

1961- The City of Gulf Breeze was incorporated.

1962- The new Pensacola Bay Bridge was completed in August.



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The Gulf Breeze Area Historical Society fiscal year is January 1 through December 31. Membership fee is \$15.00 annually for individuals and \$25.00 for family.

Complete the data below and forward with your check to:

The Gulf Breeze Area Historical Society
1333 College Pkwy
Gulf Breeze, FL. 32563

Name or Names if family membership:

Home and Email Addresses:

Home and Cell phones:

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Gulf Breeze, FL 32563**