

# Upstairs at the Museum...



...is a special exhibit of early St. John's pottery, projectile points, and other artifacts collected by the late Zelia Wilson Sweett, a noted local historian.

The Sheldon Research Library contains documents, books, periodicals, maps, and photographs relating to the history of New Smyrna Beach. The Library is open by appointment.

Also, there is a community meeting room, available to non-profit groups for meetings. Scheduling for the use of this room must be arranged through the Museum.

There is elevator access to the second floor.

The New Smyrna Museum of History  
P. O. Box 968  
New Smyrna Beach, Florida 32170

This brochure is funded by a grant from  
The Cultural Council of Volusia County

Photography: Pat Eichstaedt



## Welcome to The New Smyrna Museum of History



Hours:  
Tues.- Sat.  
10:00- 4:00  
& by appointment

120 Sams Ave.  
New Smyrna Beach, FL  
32168

386-478-0052

[www.nsbhistory.org](http://www.nsbhistory.org)  
[sevhs@bellsouth.net](mailto:sevhs@bellsouth.net)

## About the Museum

The New Smyrna Museum of History, part of the Southeast Volusia Historical Society, is located in the historic Old Post Office Building at 120 Sams Avenue in the historic district of New Smyrna Beach.

The focal point of the museum is an exhibit devoted to the founders of New Smyrna, an intrepid group of indentured Mediterranean colonists, under the leadership of Scottish physician and diplomat, Andrew Turnbull.

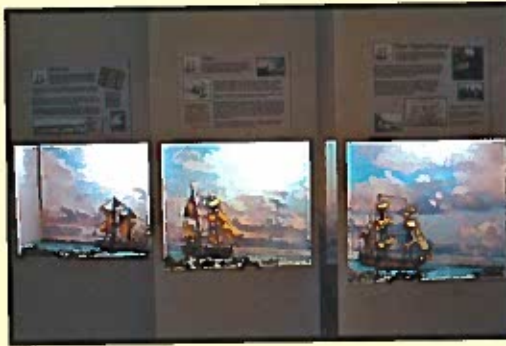
The New Smyrna settlement was the largest attempt at English colonization in the New World. Surviving many hardships imposed upon them by man and nature, they created a viable agricultural community supplying indigo and other products for export to England.

In addition to the New Smyrna Settlement Exhibit, there is a perimeter gallery which gives a chronological overview of area history, starting with pre-historic Florida and continuing through eleven distinct periods of local history.



## The

New Smyrna Settlement Exhibit tells the story of the first settlers of the area, a group of Minorcans, Greeks, and Italians who were recruited by Dr. Andrew Turnbull to start an agricultural enterprise that would produce indigo, corn, rice, and other products for the British mercantile economy. It was Dr. Turnbull's plan to offer these colonists land for their labors; the settlers were contracted to work for a certain number of years, and at the conclusion of the contract period, they would be given land. The prospect of a better life and ownership of land was very attractive and resulted in twice the planned number of settlers making the dangerous voyage to Florida. The increased numbers resulted in shortages of supplies that were never successfully eliminated. The settlers suffered shocking deprivation and other hardships caused by weather, insects, illness, and overwork. Dr. Turnbull was



forced to seek financial help from his partners, as well as the English government. Each was increasingly reluctant to commit more resources to the project. This is the story of the men, women, and children who risked everything to begin a new life in this untamed tropical paradise.

## The

Perimeter Gallery contains a chronological overview of New Smyrna history. Starting with Pre-History, with excellent examples of St. John's Period pottery, the gallery continues with tapestries created by local seamstresses of the Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.) and signage that delineate the various periods of our history. Notable objects in this gallery include a dugout canoe, a turn of the century printing press, Civil War artifacts, and an exceptional collection of maps and photographs covering the years from the late 1800s to the present. The gallery concludes with an interactive kiosk where visitors can listen to narratives about earlier days in New Smyrna told by several local people. Before going upstairs to the Zelia Wilson Sweett Room and the Sheldon Research Library, visitors will go through the North Room which



contains rotating exhibits, usually changed every three months. No trip is complete without visiting the Museum Store, where you'll find DVD's and books by local authors on local history. The Museum is an all volunteer operation and the Museum Store is one of its main sources of income.