



**Here's What's Been
Happening At
YOUR Museum!**

- **UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS:** September 13, October 11, November 8, and December 13
- **UPGRADING TECHNOLOGY !** We have moved to Cox internet & phones and are upgrading our computers. Our email addresses have changed: Jean is "destinhistory@gmail.com" and Kathy is "kathydestinhistory@gmail.com".
- We are now a part of the **FPAN/DARC Geo-Trail !** This is a high-tech scavenger hunt. Information can be found on www.geocaching.com. **Mike Thomin, the Manager of Destination Archaeology Resource Center** has added us to the "trail".
- Seine Boat "Primrose" stylized framed photographs for sale. Black or brown frames available, each with 3 beautiful views of this historic vessel. \$10 & \$15 .

Museum Visitors

2006: 2,095
2007: 3,527
2008: 4,561
2009: 5,804
2010: 6,368
2011: January to August
5,174 visitors

WOW!!!!!! July 2011 we had a record breaking 1,254 visitors to the museum. This was one fifth of our 2010 total attendance.

Destin History & Fishing Museum

Volume 6 Issue 1

Summer 2011 Newsletter

Director's Corner

Each year, in the fall, when school starts, I think of new beginnings. It is an exciting time in Destin as new events are being planned and old ones are celebrated.

With the release of the Destin Seafood Festival by the Chamber of Commerce, the Festival is once again in the hands of the Destin Charter Boat Association.. It has been moved back to the first weekend in October and is being held on the Destin Harbor. The location will be from HaborWalk Village east to the Boathouse. No admission will be charged, therefore no need for fences.. This once again makes our festival unique and showcases our beautiful, historic harbor.

The Festival celebrates the opening of the October Rodeo, an event in its 63rd year. The fish are weighed in daily from 10 AM to 7 PM on the docks at AJ's Seafood & Oyster House. Visit any day and become part of this wonderful tradition.

Dec. 4 signals the beginning of Destin's celebration of Christmas with the 25th Annual "Holiday on the Harbor" lighted boat parade. The DHFM began holding the parade in 1986 as a way to give back to the community for all the support shown to the Museum. This 25th anniversary event will be amazing with a great fireworks display over the harbor at the end of the parade. Just decorate your boat and register at the Museum to be part of the fun. From Jean



**UWF
Intern
At
Museum**

**Rebecca
Russell**

University of West Florida student, Rebecca Russell, has completed an internship at the Destin History and Fishing Museum as part of her required study for a Bachelor's Degree in maritime Studies with a minor in Marine Archaeology and History. While at the Museum, Rebecca worked on the Captain's Wall additions and cataloging early periodicals. After graduating in December 2011, Rebecca plans to continue to help out at the Museum as a weekly volunteer. Her love of fishing and the water makes the Museum a perfect fit.

Calendar of Events

June 16 to 18

Destin Swordfish Shootout Tournament benefited the Museum

July 13

Ben Marler, Jr. book signing for new book, "Old Destin Through the Eyes of a Child"

July 28

Westwood Retirement Center Museum Tour

August 13

Kathy Blue spoke at the Okaloosa County Genealogical Society on the history of Destin

September 1

Kathy Blue spoke at Niceville Kiwanis meeting at Northwest Florida College on the history of Destin

September 11

AJ's Tin Cup Classic Golf Tournament at Emerald Bay to benefit the Museum

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FESTIVAL !

September 30, October 1 & 2

Destin Seafood Festival Museum has booth and parking concession. WE NEED 60 VOLUNTEERS TO COVER THE 3 DAY FESTIVAL!

First Week of October

Heritage Week--Come Visit Your Museum ! Visit during the 63rd Annual Destin Fishing Rodeo to learn about this unique history of Destin.

October 12

Chamber of Commerce "Destin Forward" Tour

December 4

25th Annual Destin Holiday on the Harbor lighted boat parade.



“Footprints in the Sand”

Celebration of life in Destin
Past, Present, and Future

Our first order of 33 pavers has been placed and should be shipped September 21! There will be fifteen 12X12 pavers commemorating the first families from 1835 to 1935. Each of these pavers will feature the family name and the footprints symbol. These early family names are: Destin, Marler, Melvin, Jones, Woodward, Shirah, Maltezo, Brunson, Taylor, Calhoun, Kelly, Walter, O’Neal, Chambless, and Wells. Additional 4X8 or 8X8 pavers may be purchased to honor a family member, special event, business, charter boat, or organization. You can pick up a paver order form at the Museum, download one from our website, or order online at www.bricksrus.com/order/destinhistoryandfishing. 4X8 pavers are \$75 and 8X8 pavers are \$150. Color choices are red, red/tan, or sandstone.

WATCH FOR NEWS
ON THE DATE
FOR OUR PAVER PROJECT
“FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND”
DEDICATION



Museum’s Newest Addition

Captain John A. Destin

Painting

Our newest addition to the museum is a beautiful painting done by Captain John A. Destin. The painting is on loan from Elizabeth “Betty” Cooper from the estate of her late husband Rick Cooper. The painting had originally been painted for Rick’s father Jack many years ago. Uncle John’s works have become true “folk” art and highly prized by the many family and friends that own them. So long as his work survives, Uncle John will be remembered!



25th Annual Holiday on the Harbor Lighted Boat Parade



You are invited to help us light up the harbor with the true Destin spirit. Mark your calendars for this great holiday tradition which will be Sunday, December 4. Festivities will be held that afternoon at HarborWalk Village. Parade will begin at 6 PM with judging upstairs at Harry T’s Restaurant. Fireworks will help celebrate this special year after the boat parade. If you have a boat, join the parade. Judging entry fee is \$25. Awards will be given out after the parade at Harry T’s Restaurant. Call the museum for more information.



Pioneers of Paradise

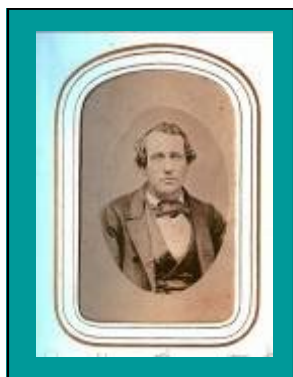
The Destin Family

Written by: Jean Melvin



In the spring of 1835, Leonard Destin, Sr., his father George, youngest brother William and their crew left their home port of New London, Connecticut to explore the new frontier along the Florida coast. They were ever looking to expand their fishing grounds. In September, as they sailed off the coast of Cape Canaveral, a severe storm came up. George and William were lost during the storm. After a time, Leonard continued to sail around the coast of Florida and into the Gulf of Mexico. He arrived at an area marked on their charts as East Pass, which was in fact a small pass into a sheltered lagoon. Leonard's experience and knowledge of the sea, along with the beauty of this place encouraged him to drop anchor. This was, without a doubt, the most beautiful area he had seen in his 22 years on earth. With sand so white it was blinding, water clear enough to see the bottom at 40 ft. and teeming with every imagined species of marine life, he realized the potential here for abundant fishing. Leonard and his crew soon established their fish camp near a large magnolia tree on the lagoon, which provided some shelter from the elements. Leonard's schooner, the "Hempstead", was too large to be used for fishing close to the beach in the shallow water, so they made use of their dingy, rowing out the East Pass and into the Gulf. These small wooden boats were known as "yawls", easily powered with long oars called "sweeps". The seine nets used were hand made from cotton yarn. The fish that were caught were held in pens in the water to keep them fresh until they had enough to sail them to market in Pensacola. The "Hempstead" served very well in this effort.

Leonard had soon established a fishing business that provided a living generous enough that he felt ready to take a wife. In 1845, with the help of his crew, when they were not fishing, Leonard built a fine home on the shore of Choctawhatchee Bay just north of his fish camp. In 1852, he married Martha McCollum from South Carolina. Their first son, George, who was named after Leonard's father, was born January 7, 1853. The couple were blessed with six children. The four boys were George, Leonard Jr., Andrew and Alfred. The two girls were Jane and Hattie. By the late 1800s. Martha's parents had also come to live with them. Approximately 20 other settlers lived in this small area now known as Moreno Point Military Reservation.



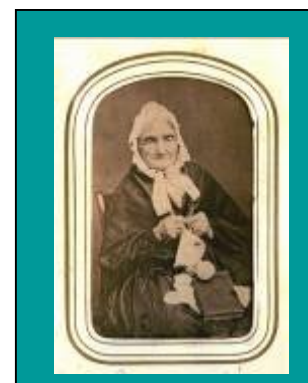
Andrew Destin
Leonard Destin's brother

Ellen Destin Hempstead
Leonard Destin's sister



Emma Marler Destin, wife of Leonard's son George, with their first four children, circa 1895: Gaines, Ada, Ida (lap), and George Jr. Later would come John, Dewey and Leonard.

Fanny Rogers Destin
Leonard Destin, Sr.'s mother



**Legendary Marine Held Their
3rd Annual Destin Swordfish Shootout
June 16 to 18**

The Museum benefitted from the raffle held the night of the Captain’s Meeting at the Emerald Grande and received \$770.



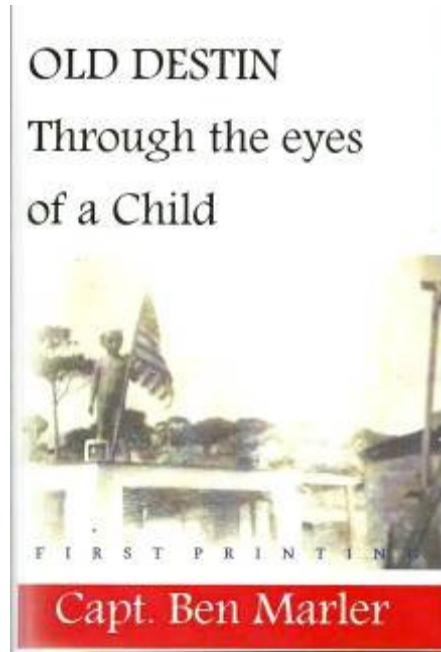
John Lefler, Kathy Blue, Mike Long, Jean Melvin & Dave Steele at the Captain’s Meeting.

Picturesque view from the Captain’s Meeting at the Emerald Grande.



Bob Evans on the “Only Way” brought in the winning 224.1 pound swordfish for the tournament.

Erik Anderson presenting check to Jean Melvin at the Museum.



**July 13
Booksigning at the Museum**

Books Available at the Museum \$16

A percent of books sold at the museum benefit the museum. Profits from book sales fund Ben’s charities.



“STEP ABOARD with Capt. Ben Marler for a fun and memorable “deep sea fishing voyage” to Destin’s past, and find out what it was really like to grow up in a remote paradise when things were nothing quite as easy as today. Pick up some uncommon fishing methods that still work. And what made daily faith so important? Come along as his “kids and grandkids” for an awesome experience that will enhance your life, no matter your age. Fascinating historical stories, from local Indians’ evidence to capturing WWII German submarine spies right offshore, and sharing a meal with the Doolittle Raiders. Never before seen photographs and favorite family recipes from the cupboards of Capt. Ben’s mom and dad. A treasure for Destin.”

Blast From the Past Story



Goldbrickers Unmasked As Refurbishers of Destin Community Center

The slang term “goldbricker” referred to a person who would avoid assigned duties or work, a shirker and a goldbrick referred to a brick shaped block that looked like gold, but wasn’t. Well, the Destin version of a goldbricker was much different. In April of 1974, the Community Center was in need of renovation to meet the needs of the community...which meant the need for about \$10,000...a tremendous amount of money. A committee lead by Bill Burleson, a member of the Destin Family, came up with a campaign to sell 400 “gold-plated” bricks for \$25 each and raise the needed money for the project. Local volunteers were assigned portions of Destin, both business and residential, and planned to complete their drive in 10 days. Cost of this project totaled less than \$25 as materials and services were donated. Bumper stickers and decals saying, “I am a GOLDBRICKER” were donated by Martin Townsley, bricks donated by Brant Kelly and Wee Wood Lumber, the gold-spraying was done by Page & Sons Sandblasting & Welding which had lettering that read: “GOLDBRICKER, Destin Community Center Renovation, 1974”. Architectural work for the renovation was donated by Ida Scott. Those that made goldbrick donations received an actual goldbrick, a decal to place on their car, names published in the newspaper, posted at the Community Center and recognized at the fish fry held to celebrate the completion of the building renovation that 4th of July.

When the first public meeting opened, the stage was set with piles of “gold” bricks guarded by a uniformed Marine. Before the first meeting closed \$1,200 was raised. In the ten days to come goldbricks would be purchased by those wanting to make a memorial to those that had brought Destin to what it was in those days.

Today this “Goldbricker’s” exhibit is included in the Old Post Office located across the street from the Museum. Many other great stories of Destin’s early struggle to govern itself are located in the Old Post Office.



Tom Kane
holding a
load of bricks
in the
“Old” Destin
Community
Center
in 1974.

destinhistoryandfishingmuseum.org

Destin History & Fishing Museum

Museum Board of Directors

Executive Board President: Mike Long Vice President: Dave Steele

Secretary: Monica Autrey Treasurer: John Lefler

General Board: Richard Derek, Dan Empson, David Gates, Norm Hall, Dan Martin,
Lloyd Taylor, Russell Wamble

Executive Director Jean Melvin Associate Director Kathy Marler Blue

Weekly Volunteers: Dave Fraser, Rebecca Russell

Newsletter Writer and Editor Kathy Marler Blue



**PLEASE MAIL YOUR
DONATION TO:
DESTIN HISTORY &
FISHING MUSEUM
108 STAHLMAN AVE.
DESTIN, FL 32541**

Phone: 850-837-6611

Fax: 850-837-6609

E-mail: destinhistory@gmail.com
kathydestinhistory@gmail.com

Website:
destinhistoryandfishingmuseum.org



Recycle Ink
cartridges
and cell
phones at the
Museum

Your recycled cell
phones earn \$5-10 each
for the museum. Keep
them coming!!!

Tuesday - Saturday
10am to 4pm

Admission: Adults: \$5

Seniors & Military: \$4

Students: \$3

Kids 6 & Under

and Members : Free

Newsletter printed
courtesy of
Xerox



DHFM
P.O. Box 548
Destin, FL 32540-

Join or Renew Your Membership Today

Destin History and Fishing Museum is a non profit organization whose members are dedicated to preserving, documenting, and sharing the complete history of Destin. There are limitless ways you, your friends, and associates can be part of realizing these efforts. Now more than ever we can use your support. Your donation or membership is tax deductible.

Please fill out the form below and mail it to the museum.

Yes, I Give My Support!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Membership/Amount \$20 _____ \$ 50 _____ \$ 100 _____ \$250 _____ \$ Other _____

Check # _____ If you would like to pay by credit card please call the Museum and have your credit card ready.

Mail to: Destin History and Fishing Museum P.O. Box 548 Destin, Florida 32540-0548

Thank you. Without your faithful and generous donations and efforts, the museum would not exist today.