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# Tarpon Springs Area Historical Society

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160 E. Tarpon Avenue – Tarpon Springs, FL 34689 – 727-943-4624

Visit our website at: [tarponspringsareahistoricalsociety.org](http://tarponspringsareahistoricalsociety.org)

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Newsletter

August 2012

Join us on Thursday September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM

At the Historic Train Depot

160 E. Tarpon Avenue

For a presentation by **Harry Cunningham**

**“The History of Marine Lights”**

For many years, marine lights gave sailors a beacon of safe passage in open water. Join us for an interesting presentation and exhibit by Harry Cunningham. His collection of restored marine lights is extraordinary.



*The Drexels on Hog Island circa late 1800's*

## Celebration of 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of City

*We continue during 2012 celebrating the Centennial of Pinellas County and the 125<sup>th</sup> birthday of Tarpon Springs. The City of Tarpon Springs and the Tarpon Springs Area Historical Society will present a lecture by Dr. Brent Weisman from the University of South Florida on "Pre-history, Archaeology and the Early years on October 20 at the Heritage Museum on Beekman Lane at 4 P.M. . We will also be hosting an exhibit of archaeology artifacts from Tarpon Springs during October. Look for more details next month. There are many events planned for the celebration throughout 2012 and the society will keep you informed of dates and times.*



Charles and Nellie Drexel and Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Beekman and daughter at the Drexel home circa late 1890's (photos courtesy of Drexel Family)

### Collection Corner

**Who were the Drexels? In 1896 Charles F. Drexel moved, for health reasons, from Omaha, Nebraska to Tarpon Springs. At the time of his death in 1900, he was the Tarpon Springs postmaster. One hundred twelve years later, his great – granddaughter, Kathleen Dickerson and his granddaughter, Kathryn Drexel Dickerson sent us over 20 photographs taken in and around Tarpon Springs area from Hog Island to the “Cootie” (Pitlachascotee) River along with copies of three watercolors Mr. Drexel had painted of the Tarpon Springs area. Charles was a friend of J.C. Beekman so there are photos of both the Beekmans and the Drexels in the collection. Interestingly, there were several photographs taken inside the Beekman home, the Marvin home and the Drexel home, along with an interior of a small parlor in the Gulf View Hotel. Mr. Drexel is buried in Cycadia Cemetery. The photographs and the history of this family are a valuable addition to the TSAHS archives. (The Archives are a secure private depository)**

**Tarpon Springs Area Historical  
Society  
Board for 2012**

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The Tarpon Springs Area Historical Society is now listed as a Blue Star Museum. “Blue Star Museums” will be celebrated in more than 1500 museums across America. The

program runs from Memorial Day, May 28, 2012 through Labor Day, September 3, 2012. Although our museum is already free, we hope to welcome all active military personnel and their families during these summer months.

**The Tarpon Springs Area Historical Society invites you to visit or re-visit the Historic Train Depot located at 160 E. Tarpon Avenue, Tarpon Springs this summer!**

**For more information call  
727-943-4624**