

The DeSoto County Historical Society's  
**Fifth Annual Pioneer Day**

**9 to 2, Saturday, March 21, 2009**

at McSwain Park, downtown Arcadia, the corner of Highway 17 south and Oak Street

**Enjoy** cowboys on horses working cattle, “whip crackers,” a shoot out, a visit from Acrefoot Johnson, vintage cars, antique engines, a classic fire truck--plus animals from Lions, Tigers, and Bears, musical entertainment, square dancers, and Florida authors--plus Pioneer Day T-shirts featuring Acrefoot Johnson (as drawn by Luke Wilson) for \$10 each!



**Acrefoot Johnson**  
(1850-1922)

At nearly seven feet tall and weighing 250 lbs., James Mitchell Johnson was nicknamed Acrefoot either because he wore size 14 shoes or because of the 130-mile round trip that he walked to deliver the mail from Fort Ogden to Fort Meade.

*Great family fun!*  
*Free and open*  
*to the public!*



**Arcadia Albritton**  
(1860-1932)

On his way to establishing a sawmill on Peace River, Baptist preacher James “Boss” Hendry stayed overnight with the Thomas Albritton family at Lily. When his daughter Arcadia learned that Hendry’s birthday was the next day, she baked him a cake. In thanks for her kindness, Hendry promised to make the new town her namesake.

**Appreciate** demonstrations of the old-time skills of wood carving, pine needle basket-making, quilting, tatting, soap making, candle dipping, blacksmithing, and butter churning--with biscuits to butter! The DeSoto County Library Association will give out free copies of the revised edition of the *Walking Tour of Historic Arcadia*, and will offer free “mini” walking tours throughout the day.

**Savor** tasty treats such as homemade jams and jellies, cane syrup, kettle corn, pulled pork sandwiches, barbecued shredded chicken sandwiches, hot dogs, chili dogs, lima beans and rice, swamp cabbage, and strawberry shortcake!

**Participate** in a cake walk and drawings every half hour for gifts, with special ones just for children, and a 50/50 drawing, too! All funds raised will preserve and promote the history of DeSoto County for future generations.

**For children**, pony rides will be available, plus a coloring contest judged by Superintendent of DeSoto County Schools Adrian Cline at the “Discover History” area, featuring, cane pole fishin’, a fossil dig, a hands-on “Pioneer Kitchen,” old-fashioned games, traditional toys, and more.

**For information, contact**  
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