



DeSoto County Historical Society News

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April 2009

Sponsors Needed for This Newsletter!

We're looking for individuals, organizations, and businesses to become sponsors of this newsletter. For a donation of \$100, you, your organization, or business will have a listing in this newsletter for 12 months!

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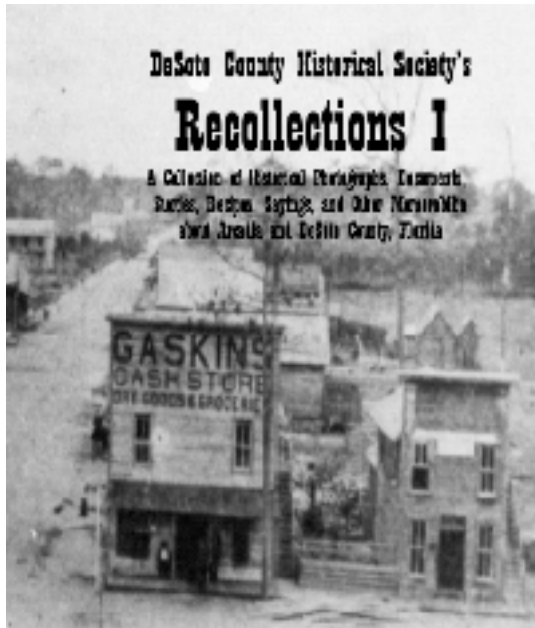
January - **Jack Shore**

February - **Joshua Creek Realty Group**

March - **Arlene and Warren Conley**
in memory of **Leo and Hazel Williams**

Historical Publications Committee

Thanks to Ruth Dunn, Carol Mahler, Forest and John Reynolds, for assembling the first few copies of this book which made its debut at Pioneer Day. Copies sell for \$7 each and will be available at the meeting or from Carol Mahler:



Membership Dues

are due on January 1. If you have not yet done so, please pay your dues!

Coloring Contest Winners

Congratulations to West Elementary student Emilie Wilson in fifth grade and Memorial Elementary students Laryn Skinner in fourth grade and Colby Carroll in first grade for winning the Fifth Annual Pioneer Day Coloring Contest, judged by Superintendent Adrian Cline!

The J. Morgan Ingraham House

Thanks to Karen and Jamie Chancey, Kathleen Kuhns, Mitzie and Bill McGavic, and James Westberry, who traveled to Tallahassee on March 22-25, to present our application to the judges for a Small Matching Historic Grant from the State of Florida Division of Historic Resources, Bureau of Historic Preservation.

On Monday, they met with each of our legislators. On Tuesday morning, they made their presentation before the judges along with Lynn Bannister, Director of Outreach for U.S. Senator Bill Nelson; Mary Grace Bell, a Legislative Aide for Senator J. D. Alexander; Zack Burch, Chief Legislative Assistant for Representative Paige Kreegel; and Jacqui Connell, Chief Legislative Assistant for Senator Mike Bennet.

Of the 51 applications submitted for Small Matching Historic Grants, ours tied for first place with one from Flagler College to complete the third-phase restoration of the solarium in the Hotel Ponce de Leon. In the tiebreaker, our application was ranked second, but we won't be notified until June of the amount of the grant award.

This "fourth and final" grant will complete our multiphase restoration project, and we look forward to opening the J. Morgan Ingraham House as a museum.

Please send all news, corrections, and suggestions to Carol Mahler online at carolm@strato.net or call 491-0286.

Pioneer Day Revisited

Thanks to everyone who helped make our festival such a success! And while your ideas of how to improve next year's festival linger in your thoughts, please plan to join our Pioneer Day Wrap-up meeting at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 13, at the Historic Parker House, 427 W. Hickory Street. If you can't make the meeting, please share your comments and suggestions by phone, by mail or by e-mail.

Acrefoot Johnson

(as drawn by Luke Wilson) on t-shirts selling for \$10 and on canvas bags selling for \$7 at the meeting.

Mark Your Calendars: August 20

Our regular monthly meeting for August will be the THIRD rather than the second Thursday--August 20.

Get Well Soon, Howard!

We wish a quick and easy recovery to Howard Melton who is in "rehab" at DeSoto Manor after a fall.

Walking Tour Booklets

Thanks to a grant from the Florida Humanities Council, with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the DeSoto County Library Association offered free *Walking Tour of Historic Arcadia, Florida* booklets and "mini" guided tours at Pioneer Day. The booklets are available now for \$5 at our meeting, with all proceeds to benefit the Society.

Thanks to Gladys Blocker

for her recent letter and donation. We appreciate that she helped to serve the food at so many meetings, and we sure miss her!

Annual Tribute Dinner to Honor Margaret Way at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 2, at the Family Service Center

Thanks to everyone who is working to make this event a success!

April Meeting Announcement

The DeSoto County Historical Society's regular monthly meeting will be at the

Family Service Center

at the corner of Orange Avenue and Effie Street in Arcadia

on **Thursday, April 9, 2009.**

Lunch will be available for \$5 at 11:30 a.m., and the meeting starts at noon.

Come early and bring a friend--or two!

Robert Goff

will be our speaker. He will talk about Placida (an area that was in "old" DeSoto County) and growing up in the "section house" built by the Charlotte Harbor and Northern Railroad.



Congratulations to the DeSoto County Historical Society!

Thanks to Harold McLeod and Cindy Ely for making the covered wagon "float" that won first prize in the Rodeo Parade!

Thanks to Harold for driving the truck that pulled the "float" and to all those who road on the float or walked beside it in their historic costumes: Cindy Ely, Bebe Jackson, Mitzie McGavic, Bruce Neveau, Forest and John Reynolds, and Dennis Tyson.

Thanks to James Chancey for portraying Acrefoot Johnson and to his daughter, Jamie Chancey, for portraying Arcadia Albritton.