



# DeSoto County Historical Society News

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July 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! Two, three, or four people can join together to make the donation.

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January - **Jack Shore**

February - **Joshua Creek Realty Group**

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

May - **Historic Parker House B & B Kay and Leonard Higley, Proprietors**

June - **Max and Lois Fitzpatrick**

July - **Mitzie McGavic**

## In Memory by Arlene Conley

Three of our members passed away in June, and we send our condolences to their families and friends.

**Lynnda Stettensch** was a very good worker with our annual yard sale and Pioneer Day. **Jack Shore** also helped with our annual yard sale, Pioneer Day, and took up money for lunches at each of our monthly meetings. **Velma Melton** was always the wonderful wife whose husband "stood out" for his outstanding contributions, but you know the old saying-- "behind every good man is a good woman"--and that she was in every sense of the word!

## Can You Sell Our History?!

Thanks to Leonard Higley for making some beautiful racks for stores to display copies of *Recollections I*. Now we need someone to coordinate the sales of our first historical publication. If you can help, please contact Mitzie McGavic.

## J. Morgan Ingraham House

A letter from Kurt Browning, Florida's Secretary State, officially notified the Society that \$50,000 in funds for a Small Matching Historic Grant from the State of Florida Division of Historic Resources, Bureau of Historic Preservation, were awarded for the final phase of restoration for the J. Morgan Ingraham House, and the check will be received by July 1!

The Board of Directors voted to hire Architect John Parks to complete this multi-phase restoration project.

Thanks to Kathleen Kuhns for writing the grant application, the delegation that presented the grant application in March in Tallahassee, and all those who wrote letters in support of the grant.

## Thanks to Fred and Charlotte Carter for joining the Scholarship Committee!

The Society is considering awarding one or more scholarships to seniors at DeSoto County High School.

Special fundraisers will pay for these scholarships. If you'd like to help figure out how to award these scholarships and how to raise the money to fund them, please contact Mitzie McGavic at 494-5917 or online at [mitzie.mcgavic@desotoclerk.com](mailto:mitzie.mcgavic@desotoclerk.com).

## Annual Tribute Dinner Committee

Some have noted that this year our Annual Tribute Dinner was scheduled too close to our Annual Pioneer Day. Therefore, we're planning our next dinner in January of 2010. To volunteer to serve on this committee, please contact Mitzie McGavic.

Please send all news, corrections, and suggestions to Carol Mahler online at [carolm@strato.net](mailto:carolm@strato.net) or call 491-0286.

## **Nocatee Old Timers Reunion**

Although the Nocatee Civic Center is in disrepair, the Nocatee Old Timers Reunion has decided to hold their annual picnic--a tradition of several decades--there. The Reunion Committee sent a letter asking for donations (for repairs and furniture) from those who usually attend, and more than \$1,000 was donated as well as three Samsonite picnic tables. The tables have attached benches, fold to a six-inch width, and were purchased for \$120 each at Sam's Club. If donors choose to be recognized, they will be acknowledged on a plaque displayed at the Civic Center. Donations can be named for the donor or in memory of a loved one.

Representing the Reunion Committee, Luke Wilson will collect funds at our July meeting for a donation in the name of our Society. Or, contact him at 494-1661 or online at [troubador55@embarqmail.com](mailto:troubador55@embarqmail.com).

### **Please volunteer**

#### **for the Welcome Committee!**

We want everyone who attends our meetings to feel welcome, so members of this committee will be at the door to greet those attending, and to welcome our guests and new members, making sure that they are introduced to and join a table of members. If you can help, please contact Mitzie McGavic.

### **Welcome New Members!**

The Society welcomes new members: Rose Goff, Sandy Pease, Marc Washicheck, Dodie Waters, and Margaret Way.

### **Fourth of July Parade**

Thanks to Harold McLeod for building our new "float" for parades and to all who dressed in their historic costumes to walk alongside our covered oxcart.

### **Historical Walking Tour Committee**

Thanks to Marc Washicheck for volunteering to serve on this committee to plan historic walking tours of downtown Arcadia as a fundraiser for the Society. If you can help, please contact Mitzie McGavic.

## **July Meeting Announcement**

The DeSoto County Historical Society's regular monthly meeting will be held at the **Family Service Center Annex** (old West Elementary School cafeteria) on N. Orange Avenue on the second Thursday of the month,

**July 9, 2009.**

Lunch is \$5, beginning at 11:30 a.m., and the meeting starts at noon.

**Come early and bring a friend--or two!**

**Jeff Moates,**

an archaeologist with the Florida Public Archaeological Network, will speak about **Pine Level**.

### **For Sale at our July Meeting**

T-shirts for \$10 and tote bags for \$7, both featuring Acrefoot Johnson, will be on sale plus copies of *Recollections I* for \$7.

### **The THIRD rather than the second Thursday, August 20,**

will be the regular monthly meeting at **the Family Service Center Annex**. Bruce Neveau and Dennis Tyson, who have beautifully restored the Ralls House at 640 W. Whidden Street, will speak about the Ralls family. After the meeting, the Ralls House will be open for tours.

### **September's Meeting**

is the second Thursday, September 10, at the Family Service Center Annex. Forest and Chester Johnson will share some reminiscences of their relatives, who are DeSoto County's own legendary characters: Acrefoot Johnson and his son Rattlesnake Johnson!

### **Thanks to Program Director John Reynolds**

for arranging such great programs for our meetings! If you want to share your knowledge or experience of local history, or if you know someone who may, please call John at 491-0415 or 244-9360.