



DeSoto County Historical Society News

P.O. Box 1824, Arcadia, FL 34265, www.historicdesoto.org

863-494-5917 or mitzie.mcgavic@desotoclerk.com

March 2009

Sponsors Needed for This Newsletter!

The Board of Directors voted to revise sponsorships for this newsletter: any sponsor who donates \$100 will have his or her name included in the newsletter for twelve months!

XXXX

January - **Jack Shore**

February - **Joshua Creek Realty Group**

March - **Arlene and Warren Conley**

In Memory of Arlene's Parents

Leo & Hazel Williams,

Lifetime Residents of this area.

Historical Publications Committee

Thanks to Fred and Charlotte Carter, Ruth Dunn, Verlene Hickson, John Reynolds, and Margaret Way for writing excellent articles for "The DeSoto County Historical Society Recollections." Subjects include "The Smith-Brown/Dunbar High School Football Game of October 1955," "The Smith-Brown School blocks," "Hickson Funeral Home," "The Woman's Club Library," "Disappearing Wildlife," and "The Founding of Arcadia." We hope to have copies ready to sell at Pioneer Day.

WELCOME to New Members

who joined our Society in February :
Carl Bradshaw, Charlotte and Fred Carter, and Frances Pooser.

Membership Dues

To remain a member in good standing, please pay your dues!

TAKE THE CAKE WALK!

We need your most delicious cakes, pies, brownies, muffins, cookies, and other baked goods for the Pioneer Day Cake Walk. Please bring them to Pioneer Day!

March 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, March 19, 2009.**

Lunch will be available for \$5 at 11:30, and the meeting starts at 12 noon.

Come early and bring a friend--or two!

Retired Educators Charlotte and Fred Carter will be our speakers.



The Board voted to present all speakers with certificates of appreciation.

Thanks to Jane Martin for volunteering to chair the Annual Tribute Dinner for Margaret Way at 6 p.m. on April 2

at the Family Service Center!

Meal choices are roast beef or turkey.

Tickets are \$20 and are on sale at the meeting, the county clerk's office and the Historic Parker House.

The J. Morgan Ingraham House

The termites have taken a bite out of this project, so the house needs to be tented. In addition, it needs painted and landscaped. If you can help, or you know of someone who can, please contact President Mitzie McGavic. A delegation from the Society will travel to Tallahassee on March 22-23 to present the fourth grant application to the panel of judges. We wish them safe travels and a warm welcome in our state's capital.

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

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.

*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.



**Acrefoot Johnson
(1852-1922)**

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.

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
Bebe Jackson
at 863-494-6607
or Kay and Leonard
Higley at 863-494-1060
or online at
historicparkerhouse
@yahoo.com.**