



DeSoto County Historical Society News

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

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

December 2009

Sponsors Needed for 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.

XXXX

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**

September - **Donn and Bebe Jackson**

October - **Dale and Diane Melton**

in memory of Dale's mother, Velma
November - **Ronnie and Charlotte Allen, in memory of Winnie Duncan**

December - **In Honor of the Birth of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, this Joyous Christmas Season!**

from Forest and John Reynolds

Our Fifth Annual Yard Sale

on Saturday, November 7

at the **Historic Parker House Bed and Breakfast, 427 W. Hickory Street**
was a big success!

Thanks to everyone to who donated their clutter, sorted and priced the donations, moved the junk to Brownville School and back to the Parker House, who made signs and fliers, cooked food, played music, baked the most delectable homemade treats, bought stuff, counted the money, and cleaned up!

We netted more than \$2,000 to continue our work of preserving and promoting our history for future generations!

We Need You!

Walk in Your Historic Costume in the Christmas Parade

at 6 p.m. on Saturday, December 5, West Oak Street, Arcadia

Please dress in your historic costume to accompany the Society's beautifully decorated float in the annual Christmas parade. Meet at 5:30 p.m. in the parking lots at the corner of West Oak Street and Orange Avenue.

Thanks to all those who worked to deck the hall--I mean, the ox cart with traditional red and green and white lights to fit this year's "magical" theme.

Ingraham House

Thanks to everyone who wrote a letter of support for a fifth grant to complete the restoration of the J. Morgan Ingraham House. Thanks to Kathleen Kuhns for writing the application for a Small Matching Grant-in-Aid from Florida's Bureau of Historic Preservation.

Our Sixth Annual Pioneer Day and Barbecued Rib Cook-off is March 20, 2010, at DeSoto Park!

To celebrate the history and heritage of Arcadia and DeSoto County, we need good food, live entertainment, informational booths, and demonstrators of traditional crafts. If you know of someone or something that should be part of this event, please contact Bebe Jackson at 494-6607 or online at bebebradbury@aol.com.

The Barbecue Rib Cook-off rules and applications have been completed. Several vendors have already reserved their places.

Please send all news, corrections, and suggestions to Carol Mahler at 491-0286 or online at carolmahler3@gmail.com.

**Mark Your Calendar:
Annual Tribute Dinner
is Thursday, May 27, 2010.**

Thanks to Jane Fricke Martin for volunteering to be chairperson of this committee! Kay and Leonard Higley will prepare the food. Karen Chancey and Dorothy Westberry will create the table decorations. Harold McLeod will make the program and fliers. Clel Shore will do radio announcements, and Carol Mahler will write press releases. If you want to help, contact Jane at 993-1119

Happy Birthday, Arcadia!

In 1883, a settlement on Peace River decided to request a post office. The residents gathered in R. E. Whidden's store to choose a name. The area had been called Waldron's Landing, after James Waldron. He and Thomas Williams had pioneered this land. Later, it was called Raulerson's landing because Harris Raulerson used to haul potatoes grown here in his side-wheeler steamboat. This also gave rise to the name Tater Hill Bluff, but the people wanted a more dignified name.

The legend is that James Madison Hendry (known as "Boss") suggested the name of Arcadia to commemorate a kindness. On his way to Peace River to set up his sawmill, Hendry stayed overnight with the Albritton family. When he mentioned that the next day was his birthday, Arcadia and her mother baked a cake for him. He promised that the new settlement would be called Arcadia.

Then for three months in 1886, it was the southernmost terminus of the Florida Southern Railway. Many of those eager to settle in Florida rode to the end of the line to do so. Thus, on December 6, 1886, with sufficient population, the Town of Arcadia was incorporated. It was later incorporated as a city--but that's another story.

Welcome New Member!

The Society welcomes Cynthia Upton who joined our Society in November.

**December 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,
December 10, 2009.

Beginning at 11:30 a.m., lunch will be a **Potluck Supper**-- please bring a covered dish! (Beverages and paper products will be provided.)

Please also bring an unwrapped toy for a child for the DeSoto County Sheriff's "Toys for Children" program.

The meeting starts at noon.

Come early with a friend--or two!

**Do some Christmas shopping
at this meeting:
new gifts will be auctioned**

to raise funds for a scholarship to be given to a senior graduating from DeSoto County High School in 2010 who wants to study history.

**Congratulations to Officers
elected for 2010!**

President: Mitzie McGavic
Vice-President: Bebe Jackson
Secretary: Forest Reynolds
Treasurer: Arlene Conley

Board of Directors:

Harold McLeod and Kay Higley will join continuing members: Vernon Keen, Leonard Higley, Carol Mahler, Clel Shore, James Westberry,

Programs in 2010

Martha Craven and Charlotte Carter of the newly formed Mural Society will speak at our January meeting about their mission and upcoming projects.

Dr. Barbara Carlton will speak at our February meeting. She'll have copies of her new book, written with Barbara Oehlbeck, to sell and sign.