



## DeSoto County Historical Society News

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### 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!

We're looking for individuals, organizations and businesses to become sponsors. If you, your organization, or business wants to sponsor this newsletter, or if you know someone else who may want to, contact Carol Mahler.

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Thanks to **Jack Shore** for becoming the first sponsor of this newsletter!

### Historical Publications Committee

Thanks to Forest Reynolds, Carol Mahler, Harold McLeod, Luke Wilson and Elise Zarli for writing wonderful articles for "The DeSoto County Historical Society Recollections." Subjects of the articles include "Cracker Cures," local currency, fish-n-grits, frontier life, DeSoto County's first elected officials and the DeSoto Abstract Company. If you'd like to write an article or submit an historic photograph for the first issue which will be published in March, please contact Carol Mahler.

### Membership Dues

are due on the first day of January. To remain a member in good standing, please pay your dues.

- Individual \$12
- Family \$22
- Sponsor \$30
- Schools \$25
- Clubs \$25
- Businesses \$100
- Name tag \$10

### Annual Tribute Dinner Fundraiser to honor Margaret Way!

We're planning this event for April, so please volunteer your ideas and expertise by contacting Events Chairperson Rodney McCray at 494-5547.

### Our Fifth Annual Pioneer Day is 9 to 2 on Saturday, March 21, 2009!

Our annual Pioneer Day festival is an opportunity for DeSoto County to celebrate and present our history with pride, and we welcome participation from everyone in our community! We need the involvement of DeSoto County's businesses, churches, clubs, government, schools, and other organizations to fully present DeSoto County's heritage. We ask groups to focus on their local history: they can have a free booth to provide information, or they can pay for a booth to sell food or other items. If you are an employee, employer, or member of such a group--or know someone who is--please tell them about this promotional opportunity. Hundreds of people attended Pioneer Day last year, and this year we're planning for even more!

We're also looking for individuals who have an old-fashioned skill that they could demonstrate or who make traditional items they can sell. If you're someone who does this--or if you know someone who does--please contact Bebe Jackson at 494-6607.

The Society also needs volunteers to help plan and to work at the festival. No matter your age or ability--please volunteer! A planning meeting will be called later this month. If you have want to help or have ideas for this exciting event, please contact Bebe Jackson at 494-6607.

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

## **Mark Your Calendars: March 19**

Our regular monthly meeting for March will be the THIRD rather than the second Thursday--March 19!

## **The J. Morgan Ingraham House**

If you haven't driven by the Ingraham House recently, you haven't seen the beautiful chimney reconstructed by Image Construction Company. They are also working on Phase Three of the Restoration. Thanks to Harold McLeod and Kay Higley for photographing the restoration's progress, and thanks to Kay and Leonard Higley, Mitzie McGavic, Harold McLeod, and James Westberry for coordinating this project.

Thanks to Rusty Hipp of Homeowners Supply for procuring the "novelty siding" to complete the exterior. The Society purchased special saw blades to cut the siding that can be used for future restoration projects. As with our previous grants from the Division of Historical Resources, this project spends 100% of its funds in our county and surrounding communities.

We also appreciate Kathleen Kuhns who wrote and submitted our application for a "fourth and final" grant to complete the restoration. In late March of 2009, a team of Society members will travel to Tallahassee to meet the members of the panel which judges the applications and to speak on behalf of our project. Newly re-elected Representative Paige Kreegel joined the group last year and has promised to do so again this year. If you would like to join the Society's "delegation," please contact President Mitzie McGavic.

## **Thanks to the Arcadia City Council**

for their donation of \$2,000 to preserve and promote the history of DeSoto County for future generations!

## **Library Association To Revise Walking Tour of Historical Arcadia**

With a \$2000 grant from the Florida Humanities Council, DCLA will revise the booklet it published in 2001 to include more buildings and more local history. To help, contact Project Director Carol Mahler.

## **Board of Directors Meetings Rescheduled**

You may have noticed that this month you received a postcard announcing our January meeting before you received this newsletter. The reason is that the Board of Directors meeting was scheduled for the first Tuesday of the month, so we had only two days before the meeting to send out the newsletter! To keep this from happening again, the Board re-scheduled its regular monthly meetings to 5:30 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month at the Historic Parker House Bed and Breakfast, 427 W. Hickory St.

## **Society Officers for 2009**

Congratulations to the officers who were elected and installed at our annual membership meeting in December:

President: Mitzie McGavic  
Vice-president: Kay Higley  
Secretary: Forest Reynolds  
Treasurer: Arlene Conley  
Director: Vernon Keen  
Director: Clel Shore  
Director: Luke Wilson.

Other directors continuing terms are Leonard Higley, Carol Mahler, Harold McLeod, and James Westberry. Thanks to Harold McLeod for conducting the election and to Adrian Cline for installing the officers.

## **Photo Album Donation**

A photo album compiled by Judith Griffith has been donated to the Historical Society. For over 45 years, she updated the collection. She kept pictures of DeSoto County High School graduates, and beside them, photos of them in 1983, 1985, and 1989. The classes of 1937, '38, '39, and '40 are featured in 8x10 reunion photographs. Snapshots throughout the years, programs, and other information fill other pages.

Clel Shore has been asked to keep the book in her possession until the museum is ready at Brownville School. Anyone who would like to see the book is welcome at Clel's home in Arcadia Village (lot 658). Call her at 494-2701 or just stop by. Clel will also bring the book to an upcoming meeting.