

TRACKS OF TIME

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

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August 2011

The next Zephyrhills Historical Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 6 at the Zephyrhills Depot Museum at 39110 South Avenue. Business meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. and program at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served.



Speakers

The presentation at August's meeting was given by Angela Bosler, of The American Red Cross. She gave us a brief history of the Red Cross, from it's beginnings, through it's becoming the International Red Cross, and then the development of The American Red Cross. Ms. Bosler explained many of the services provided by her organization and particularly talked about their responsibility in running the emergency shelters during hurricanes. She answered questions from those in attendance. She was very informed and informative.

Irene Dobson has announced that our speaker for the September meeting will be Ron Cherry, who is quite familiar to most of us. He graduated from ZHS, playing on a state championship basketball team during his time there, and later was a teacher and administrator at his Alma Mater for a long and meaningful career. He is now retired, and he is bound to have much to tell us. Come and join us.

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ZHA Mission Statement

The mission of the Zephyrhills Historical Association is to research, gather, and share local historical information with all generations, through our literature, programs, and scholarships, and to volunteer assistance to the Zephyrhills Depot Museum and WWII Barracks Museum.

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History of Nathan Geiger & Gail Smith Geiger Pioneering Families
As printed in the Zephyrhills News for their 50th Wedding Anniversary – July 28, 2011

On Friday, July 28, 1961, the announcement read...
"Pioneer Families United When Nathan Geiger Weds Gail Smith"
and this year on July 28, 2011 they are celebrating their...
50th Wedding Anniversary

Nathan and Gail were wed at the First Baptist Church with the Rev. Bill Oswald officiating. Gail's sister Mildred, served as Maid of Honor and Ernest Peebles served his friend as Best Man. Ushers were Casey Kears and H.C. Nesbit and music was by Nell Nesbit and Jean Murphy. A reception was held in the church social hall where Phyllis, Nathan's sister, kept the Brides Book.



Photo courtesy of Sharon Geiger Reeves

(Story continues on Page 5)

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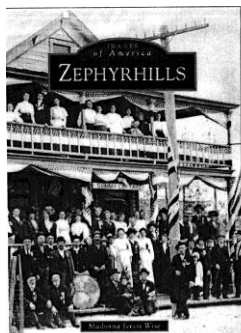
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Madonna Jervis Wise, the author of *Wildcat Creek Kids* and several other books, gives a glimpse of Zephyrhills' culture, cultivated over 100 years, from the inception of Zephyrhills Colony Company in 1919, to "tin can tourists", to the current home of a world-class parachute center.

Follow her on her blog at
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Nathan & Gail Geiger 50th Wedding Anniversary (continued from Page 3)

The Geiger's were blessed with two children, Sharon Louise in 1962 who presently lives here in Zephyrhills, and Alan Wayne in 1966 who presently lives in Auburndale, FL.

Both children married and Sharon, who is now married to Keith Reeves, has two boys, Matthew and Brent Akins. Matthew is now married to Amanda Kay (Williams) and they have two children, Sydney and Grayson and reside in Webster, FL. Alan married Debra Jean (Brock) and they have five children, Stephen, Justin, Alyssa, Ethan and Anna.

Nathan and Gail owned and operated Geiger's Feed and Garden Supply in Zephyrhills from 1964 until they closed out the business in last 2003. They have enjoyed several trips around the country since retiring including Alaska, Hawaii, Canadian Rockies and many of the Mid and Wester states.

They have both been active in their church where Gail played piano and organ through the years and Nathan has served as Deacon. Both have been workers with children in Sunday School, Training Union, Youth Choirs and other activities. They currently attend Cornerstone Baptist Church on SR 54 West in Zephyrhills.

Being labeled "Pioneer Families", we would like to share some history of the families. When Florida became a state in 1845 and the Government opened the state up to settlers, Nathan's Great-Great-Grandfather, John Geiger, Sr. and his wife moved to what is now the Zephyrhills area. One of the seven children born to this union was Abraham Elias Geiger, Nathan's Great-Grandfather. Abraham and his wife, Sarah Elizabeth Smith, had 13 children one of whom was Curtis James Geiger, Nathan's father. Curtis married Sylvia Laura Hawes and their two children are Phyllis (Geiger) Debien and Nathan.

In the 1820's Willis Frank Smith, Gail's Great-Great-Grandfather was in Duval County, FL, was in the U.S. Army during the Indian Wars and settled in this area in 1838 between Sunshine Road and Fairview Heights Road. One of he and his wife's 13 children was Allen Henry Smith, Gail's Great-Grandfather. In 1863, at age 19, Allen enlisted in the Confederate State Army in Hernando County, married and one of his children was Charlie Henry Smith, Gail's Grandfather, who married Kate Maxwell Knapp and from this union were three children, one being Austin Smith, Gail's father.

Austin married Eileen Reichart and they had three daughters, Peggy Lou, Gail Marie and Mildred Karen.

Thus the History of the "Pioneer Families Being United When Nathan Geiger Weds Gail Smith".

The Geiger's lived on Geiger Road for a short period before moving to their present location on the corner of Sunshine Road and Ash Street, where Nathan always has a beautiful garden growing, has several cattle to care for and they have been blessed with a very good life, family and an abundance of friends.



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