

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 20 – Number 2

February 2018

The next Zephyrhills Historical Association meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 6th in the meeting room of the *Zephyrhills Public Library*, 5347 8th Street. The business meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. and the program is at 6 p.m. Refreshments include drinks, which are provided, and food brought in to share by members.

Speakers



Louie Holt, association archivist, was our presenter at the February meeting. He provided us with a fascinating journey through the history of maps, starting with the very broad and progressing toward historical maps of Florida. He provided us with sources to follow up on the topic and was obviously encouraged by the tremendous work being done to present these treasures online for all to encounter. It's an interesting way to trace history. I think Louie and I may devote a future newsletter to this topic. Stay tuned!

City Manager Steve Spina will be with us in March to continue the discussion on the future of the Depot Museum and Jeffries House. Our association is being given an opportunity here to help determine how we move forward with these wonderful historic locations. How they are used and how often they are open to the public may well depend on how willing we as an association are to step forward and help out. Steve is asking for our input and our cooperation. Here is your chance to help chart the future. The meeting is open to the public. Come join us!



Tuesday, March 27th, is our next Give-Back Scholarship Fundraiser

at **Sergio's Italian Restaurant** on Hwy. 54 West in **Zephyrhills**. We are meeting at 4 p.m.
Contact Patty Thompson (813-780-8559 – pattycakeclown1@aol.com) for information.



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Jeff Miller

Pasco County Historian

For a walk down memory lane visit

www.fivay.org

Please consider contributing old photos for the website.

My email address is on the opening page

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 PASCO COUNTY*at fivay.org***Samuel Pasco (1834-1917)**

This page presents some information about Samuel Pasco, for whom Pasco County is named. This page was revised on Feb. 22, 2015.



Samuel Pasco was born in London on June 28, 1834. [The Washington Post on May 20, 1887, reported that he was “of English descent and a West Indian by birth.” Presumably this is incorrect.] He immigrated to the United States with his family and settled in Charlestown, Mass., in 1846.

He graduated from Harvard College in 1858. He moved to Florida in 1859 and was principal of Waukeenah Academy, near Monticello from 1860-1861.

During the Civil War he entered the Confederate Army as a private in the Third Florida Volunteers. He spent a week in January 1863 in Brooksville in order to get some stragglers to return to their outfit, the Third Florida Infantry Regiment.

He was wounded and captured at Mississippi Ridge, and remained in prison until March 1865, when he was paroled with the rank of sergeant.

He returned to Florida in 1865 and was again principal of Waukeenah Academy from 1865 to 1866. He was clerk of the circuit court of Jefferson County 1866-1868. He was admitted to the bar in 1868 and began a practice in Monticello.

On October 28, 1869, Pasco married Jessie Denham (b. Jan. 16, 1847; d. Aug. 20, 1921).

He was a member of the Democratic national committee from 1880 to 1900. He was a presidential elector on the Democratic ticket in 1880.

In 1884 Pasco was a candidate for Governor but withdrew in favor of Edward Perry.

In the 1880s Pasco built a large frame house in Monticello. This home is now known as the Pasco-Anderson house and is located at 710 W. Washington Street.

He was president of the State constitutional convention in 1885, and a member of the state house of representatives in 1886-1887. He served as speaker in 1887.

On May 19, 1887, Pasco was elected as a U. S. Senator by the Florida legislature. He succeeded Charles W. Jones. Pasco defeated Goodrich (Republican) by a vote of 84-17. It took 25 ballots for Pasco to win. It had taken 89 ballots until the Democratic party chose Pasco as their compromise candidate; other major contenders were former Governor W. D. Bloxham and incumbent Governor E. A. Perry.



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In 1887, when two new counties were created from parts of Hernando County, the name “Pasco County” was suggested for the southern county by a member of the legislature, Dr. Richard C. Bankston. His suggestion was an alternative to “Banner County,” the earlier name under consideration, which proved unpopular. In a letter to Mrs. J. A. Hendley dated Nov. 25, 1927, Bankston recalled:

From 1881 to 1887, Hernando county, especially the southern end, rapidly filled with a high type of settlers, many of whom I knew and remember pleasantly. We all were weary of traveling the sand trails of Brooksville, the county seat, to attend court, or transact other business of varied nature, and when we would meet, as neighbors will, at our community post office and stores, comment was loud and complaint vigorous and prolonged against the hardships of the trip. Such conditions aroused sentiment in favor of county division as a means of relief.

Enthusiasm was spontaneous and hope ran high. The result was a mass meeting which was attended by nearly all our male citizens, and was very representative, there being present people from every precinct in the southern end of the county. Unanimous sentiment was for division—the proper steps to take to attain that result was the issue for discussion. After deliberation, it was resolved that a committee of two be named to go to Tallahassee in the interest of the desired end, the Hon. J. A. Hendley and myself being the committee selected. Mr. James Grady moved that we be instructed to call our county “Banner” county.

As the legislature was in session, we went on at once, being fearful for the success of our undertaking we concluded that as Mr. Hendley had an extensive acquaintance with the members of the legislature, that he should circulate among them and lobby for the bill, while I should get the measure in shape for presentation and passage. While working on it we interviewed right and left, trying to work up sentiment in our favor, but when we would tell them we wanted our county to be called “Banner County,” from the immediate change of countenance we could see that we had thrown a damper upon their favorable interest. As we learned that nearly every member thought he came from the Banner county, we began to seek for an unobjectionable name. At that time the body was in joint session, voting for United States Senator, and very enthusiastically elected Judge Samuel Pasco of Monticello to the position. It struck me as an inspiration to call our county “Pasco.” I immediately went to the committee room, where I had a desk and changed our bill making the name Pasco instead of Banner. We gave the finished bill to Senator A. S. Mann, who at once introduced it in the Senate, and it passed unanimously. It was expedited to the house and sponsored by F. Saxon, where it passed unanimously. The Governor was favorable and signed it. Having accomplished all we purposed, we returned home, able to report the complete success of our mission.

On June 2, 1887, Governor Perry signed into law “A Bill to Divide the County of Hernando and make therefrom the Counties of Citrus and Pasco.”

*On Oct. 24, 1891, the Bismarck Daily Tribune reported: **Florida Farmers' Alliance***

DADE CITY, Oct. 28.—The State Farmers' Alliance, after discussion lasting five hours, endorsed the platform adopted at Ocala last year. Senator Pasco, who was not barred from the meeting because of being a lawyer, went on record against the sub-treasury plan.

Presumably, the above represents an instance in which Pasco visited the county named for him. Another such visit has been found several years later.

In Feb. 1893, Governor Mitchell appointed Pasco to be the U. S. Senator ad interim beginning on March 4 and ending with the election of a senator by the legislature in April. Pasco was appointed by the Governor to serve beginning March 4, 1899, until the legislature could select a new senator. On May 19, 1899, Pasco was defeated for re-election.

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From son James

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On June 9, 1899, Pasco was appointed by the President as a member of the Isthmian Canal Commission. He served until 1905.

On Oct. 29, 1900, son Lt. William Denham Pasco was killed in the Spanish-American War.

On Jan. 17, 1904, the Atlanta Constitution reported, under news of Moultrie, "Hon. and Mrs. Samuel Pasco, of Monticello, Fla., are guests of their daughter, Mrs. J. C. Sims, at the manse."

Pasco died in Tampa at the home of his daughter, Mrs. J. C. Tims, on March 13, 1917. He was interred in Roseland Cemetery in Monticello.

In a eulogy delivered at the funeral of Samuel Pasco, Gen. B. W. Partridge said, "In the third year of his life in the South—the call to arms and war between the States startled this great land of ours. Samuel Pasco—without a drop of kindred blood south of Mason and Dixon's Line—without a penny of investment in the South—with loved ones and influence and wealth at home in Boston—with nothing to offer but a splendid manhood and spotless life—faced the problem of a choice. With that calm temperament that always characterized his conduct in life he left the quiet school house—not alone—carrying with him fifteen of the young men—whose fathers were satisfied to give them up to the care of their worthy preceptor."

In 2015 a controversy developed over whether Pasco and two other confederate soldiers should be inducted into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame.

Namesake Stranger to These Parts

The following article appeared in the Tampa Tribune on July 3, 2000.

By CAROL JEFFARES HEDMAN

Today we debut a column designed to help newcomers, old-timers and anyone in between learn more about Pasco County's colorful history. This first installment focuses on the man for whom the county is named. Do you know how Pasco County got its name?

Some residents may be aware their county was named for Samuel Pasco, a popular Florida politician in the 1880s.

But many folks know little else about the man who, it is said, never stepped foot in these parts. [Later research found this to be untrue --jm]

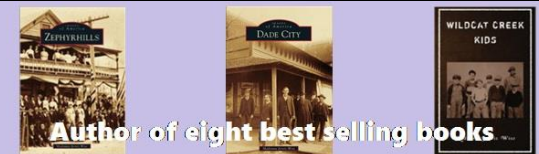

The tale of Samuel Pasco began to emerge when the county celebrated its centennial in 1987. That's when

historians Eddie and Patsy Herrmann of Dade City and James Horgan, a Saint Leo College professor, began their research. Carroll Jennings, of the Pasco Centennial Committee, also became obsessed after being cast as Samuel Pasco during the 100th anniversary celebrations.

The foursome found that Pasco was more than a popular politician. The English-born teacher was a Harvard graduate, a Civil War hero, a lawyer, a Baptist, and, above all else, a Democrat.

Samuel Pasco was born June 28, 1834 in a cluster home in London, some 200 feet from St. Paul's Cathedral. Most entries in England have his surname spelled "Pascoe," and it wouldn't have been uncommon for the family to have dropped the e.

John Pascoe or Pasco, a bookseller, and his wife, Amelia, moved with their infant son, Samuel, to Prince Edward Island, Canada. They settled in Charlestown, Mass., a Boston suburb, when Samuel was 7. Pasco graduated from Harvard College in 1858 with a bachelor of arts degree. He returned there in 1872 to complete his master's.

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|  <p>Author of eight best selling books</p> <p>Madonna Wise Books Author, Research & Consulting Madonna Jervis Wise Zephyrhills, Florida Murphy, North Carolina</p> <p>813-469-8627 MadonnaJWise@gmail.com http://madonnawisebooks.wordpress.com</p> |  <p>Zephyrhills Museum of Military History <i>A City of Zephyrhills Facility</i></p> <p>Open Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. 39444 South Ave. (813) 780-0078</p> |
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About the time Pasco earned his bachelor's degree, some Southern planters in Florida were organizing an academy to educate their children. They asked the president of Harvard to recommend a principal for the school, located at Waukeenah in the southern part of Jefferson County.

Pasco got the nod and accepted the post in the Panhandle.

He soon became sympathetic to the South's cause in the Civil War. He closed the academy and, with 15 of his older students, enlisted in the Confederate army, serving in the Third Florida Regiment.

Pasco's devotion to the South and his comrades was recorded in the wartime dairy "Camp Fires of the Confederacy" by Clarence Smith. In the chapter "Private Pasco," Smith tells how one of Pasco's former students, Pvt. Tom Pettus, was wounded during a heavy exchange of fire in July 1863 near Jackson, Miss.

Under covering fire, Pasco went out among the wounded to find Pettus and returned him to the Confederate lines. Pettus died the next day, but Pasco was commended for his efforts by Gen. John Cabell Breckinridge, vice president of the Confederacy.

Pasco himself was wounded in November 1863 at Missionary Ridge, near Chattanooga, Tenn., and taken prisoner. He remained at Camp Morton, Ind., for 14 months, ignoring efforts by Northern friends who pleaded with him to take an allegiance oath to the Union.

He was released with an exchange of prisoners shortly before the war ended.

Pasco returned home to Monticello, the county seat of Jefferson County, where he was elected clerk of the circuit court in the interim between the Confederacy's surrender and the Carpetbaggers' regime, when Northern politicians came to take charge.

Pasco was forced out as clerk with the coming of the first Republican governor during Reconstruction.

Admitted to the Florida Bar in 1868, Pasco joined the law office of Col. W. S. Dilworth, his old regimental commander.

In 1872, Pasco was elected to the state Democratic Executive Committee and became chairman in 1876, serving in that role for the next 10 years. During that time, he led the party to state victories in 1876 and 1880. One of his greatest accomplishments was leading the successful move to restore home rule in Florida, re-establishing county governments.




Pasco was elected president of the Constitutional Convention of 1885, which set up Florida's cabinet form of government and established the poll tax, a prerequisite for voting that limited the opportunity for blacks, particularly.

Pasco and Gen. Edward A. Perry were nominated for governor at the Democratic Convention of 1886. After the convention vote was deadlocked, Pasco withdrew his name in the interest of party harmony.

It was Perry who signed the bill on June 2, 1887 that established Pasco County.

Samuel Pasco was elected to the state House of Representatives in 1886 and was speaker of the House when elected to the U.S. Senate the next year. During that time, a delegation from a small town in southern Hernando County arrived in Tallahassee to lobby for a new county.



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|  <p>Garage Doors, Inc. Kerry Ryman President</p> <p>36413 SR 54 • Zephyrhills, Florida 33541 Telephone: 813-782-5926 • Fax: 813-788-6773 E-mail: kerry@rymanconstruction.com License # GDI 09084</p>  |  <p>ARMY STRONG <i>Airborne-Ranger, "All The Way"</i> MICHAEL J. COCKILL Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired)</p> <p>8469 Maybelle Dr. (352) 596-9751 (h) Weeki Wachee, FL 34613 (352) 584-0758 (m) mcockill@tampabay.rr.com ZHS JROTC Bulldog Battalion, GO FOR IT!</p> |
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It was late in the session, and it looked doubtful the delegation from Dade City would succeed in securing a new county with the proposed name of "Banner." Most of the legislators favored forming the new county, Richard Bankston, who drafted the bill, has written. But the name received opposition because nearly every member thought he came from the banner county.

Newly elected Sen. Pasco was popular in the South because of his allegiance to the Democratic Party, which battled to oust Republicans who were viewed as Northerners who came to take over Southerners' land during Reconstruction. So the Dade City delegation revised its bill, naming the proposed county "Pasco." Within four hours after it was introduced, the bill creating Pasco County was unanimously passed.

There's no evidence Samuel Pasco ever visited the county that took his name that day in 1887. He probably was too busy. In 1889, Pasco was appointed to the Isthmian Canal Commission, the presidential committee that laid the groundwork for construction of the Panama Canal. Pasco supported U.S. ownership of the canal, and his views were incorporated in the commission's recommendation. The Panama Canal was completed in his lifetime but didn't open until 1920, three years after his death.

Pasco was re-elected in 1893 by state legislators (the people didn't get to vote until 1913) for another term in the U.S. Senate. But the lawmakers voted him out in 1899, in retribution for his efforts two years earlier that led to the ouster of Florida's senior senator, Wilkinson Call.

Pasco married Jessie Denham of Monticello in 1869. They had two daughters and three sons. He died at the home of one of his daughters in Tampa on March 13, 1917, and is buried in the town cemetery at Monticello beside his wife and a son who was killed in the Philippines during the Spanish-American War.

Children of Samuel Pasco and Jessie Denham:

Elizabeth, b. Aug. 19, 1870; d. April 1958, Tampa. On Nov. 20, 1901, at Monticello she married John Chapel Tims (1870-1933), a Presbyterian minister. They lived in Tampa and had no children.

Emily, b. June 18, 1873, m. George Newton Conrad, who was active in securing the establishment of Madison College (now James Madison University) at Harrisonburg. He was an eloquent speaker, winner of a gold medal for oratory at the University of Virginia, and was a distinguished trial lawyer. He served as state senator for several terms until he broke with his party over its nominee for the presidency.

William Denham, b. Dec. 14, 1875; d. Oct. 29, 1900

Samuel Sr., b. Mar 21, 1878, in Monticello; d. Dec. 22, 1940, buried in St. John's, Pensacola; on Nov. 6, 1906, m. Susan Ellen "Nellie" Mallory (b. July 31, 1880; d. Dec. 9, 1968). Children:

Katherine Pasco, d. 1987

Samuel Pasco Jr., b. April 1909, Pensacola; d. Mar. 16, 1964, Tallahassee; m. Rosalind Kennedy (b. Apr. 30, 1909; d. Feb. 8, 1968, in Tallahassee) Children:

Samuel Pasco, b. September 7, 1941; d. Feb. 28, 1986 Peter Pasco

Mallory Pasco

Floyd Pasco, b. Apr. 11, 1951; d. Apr. 26, 1976 Rossalie "Rose" Pasco

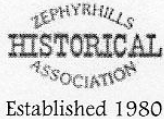
William Denham Pasco

John, b. Sept. 20, 1880, Monticello, Fla.; d. May 5, 1961, Richmond, Va. On Jan. 6, 1915, he married Katherine Merrill (b. October 12, 1892, Thomasville, Ga.; d. Jan. 6, 1983, Richmond, Va). John Pasco graduated from VMI in 1900 (General George Marshall's class) and worked as a farmer and railroad engineer until the Depression when he moved to Raleigh, N. C., where he was the North Carolina manager of Equitable Life Assurance Society. Both his sons graduated from VMI and settled in Richmond, Va. Children:

Col. Hansell Merrill Pasco, b. October 1915, Thomasville, Ga; d. November 2008, Richmond, Va). He was Secretary of the Army General Staff during World War II and practiced law in Richmond for over fifty years. He was managing partner of Hunton, Williams. Children: H. Merrill Jr., Dabney Lancaster, Robert Lancaster, Elizabeth Carrington.

John Pasco, Jr., b. 1918. He retired as Virginia manager of Equitable Life Assurance Co. Children: John III, James Gilbert, Barton T., and Katherine Merrill.

James Denham, b. Feb. 25, 1883, Monticello; d. Nov. 12, 1943, Jacksonville, Fla. He practiced medicine in Jacksonville, Fla., from 1910 until his death. He was Senior Warden of St. John's Episcopal Church. On July 14, 1917, he married Dorothy Burns. Children: Charles Myers Pasco and James Denham Pasco Jr.



ZEPHYRHILLS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 6TH, 2018

The Regular Business Meeting of the Zephyrhills Historical Association was called to order at 5:30 P.M., February 6, 2018 by President Jerry Pricher. He gave the Invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Minutes from January's meeting were read by the Secretary. A correction was made to the Minutes as read with a motion to approve made by Bill Kustes instead of by the Chair. There was then a motion made by Clereen Brunty to approve the Minutes, seconded by Bill Kustes and agreed to by all.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer Andy Nagy with Rod Rehrig making a motion to approve, seconded by Clereen and accepted by the group.

Guest, Dick Woodworth, introduced himself stating he was from Syracuse and had been a government history teacher, and that he is a "history nut." His hobby is collecting original presidential campaign items. Raymond Alvarez is back after being away for several months.

Old Business: Patty Thompson said our scholarship fundraiser will again be dinner at Sergio's Italian Restaurant on February 20th. She passed out flyers, which will be honored anytime from 11 AM to 9 PM on that date. We generally meet there at 4 to eat together and fellowship. Patty reported the last fundraiser yielded \$45.10 and that the owner said she has another \$10 and will add it to the next fundraiser amount.

Clereen reported about the audit committee, which met today and finished auditing most of the books and will meet again on Thursday to finish. Also, we will be going to the Sun Trust Bank afterward to change signers on the account.

Clereen gave an update on the Depot and Jeffries House. The train people have moved their trains and are completing their section. Clereen will get with Steve Spina. Large cabinets need to be removed to give us room to work. Steve, Lori or Victoria will let us know when historical members can go in and start going through things, deciding what to do with them and what to dispose of. As to the Jeffries House, we await completion of the City Hall before we go in. The school memorabilia will be going in there.

Regarding Founders' Day, Patty has given the parade participation application to the Treasurer. We won't be handing out beads this year as most will be riding in the antique cars. Patty brought in a sample of the signs we will be holding with this year's theme "Moonshine, Turpentine and Timber." We will have three spots for 10 antique cars. Bob Porter will be meeting with the antique car club people to finalize how many cars to expect. Patty made a motion that we participate in the Founders' Day Parade, giving the application with \$75 to Main Street Zephyrhills for three spaces. The motion was seconded by Terry Lindsey with all in agreement.

A new visitor introduced himself, Jeff Cook from Michigan.

New Business: This month is Penny Porter's birthday and she has chosen Mike's Smokehouse for our dinner out which will take place Friday, February 16 at 4 P.M.

Andy announced that on Memorial Day, which will be celebrated on May 28 this year; there will be a commemoration of the 100th anniversary of World War I to be held at Oakside Cemetery. It will include the reading off of Zephyrhills Veterans who were killed in the war and Zephyrhills Historical Association members are encouraged to attend.

Patty announced that the Lady Shriners will be having an Ides of March (March 15) music and food event and she asks that historical association people try to come. The tickets are \$15.

Clereen made a motion we adjourn with Rod seconding and the group agreeing. The meeting concluded at 5:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Anna V. Boone, Secretary, Zephyrhills Historical Association