

TRACKS OF TIME

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 20 – Number 11

November 2018

There will be **no scheduled meeting in December**. Our Christmas get-together is set for Monday, December 3rd, 5 p.m., at the Wedgewood Manor Community Clubhouse, 37420 Wedgewood Drive (off Geiger Road). Also remember that Members will be decorating the Pennsylvania Christmas tree at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills on Sunday, December 2nd at 12:00 pm.

Speakers

Our speaker for the November meeting was Clereen Morrill Brunty, who displayed her pictures taken at Mount Airy, North Carolina, home of Andy Griffith. It was a walk down memory lane for most of us who fondly remember the show which brought us the characters of Andy, Opie, Aunt Bee, Barney, Thelma Lou, Floyd, Gomer, Goober, Clara, Otis, and all the other folks in Mayberry, North Carolina. We enjoyed the presentation immensely.

There will be no regular meeting in December. Instead, we will get together for our annual Christmas Dinner. **There will be a business meeting only on January 8, 2019.** We are meeting on the second Tuesday of the month because the first Tuesday is New Years Day. Since we are following an event already scheduled in the meeting room, and the room will not be set up in our customary manner, we are limiting our meeting that night to just a business meeting. I do have speakers lined up for February and March. Duke Chadwell will be coming in February to talk about his father and his memories of growing up here. Lance Smith will be our speaker in March to talk about the history of the Smith Family in Zephyrhills.

*From the Desk of the Editor
Membership and Advertising*

It's time again to ask for your monetary support in regard to our organization and this newsletter. Dues are \$15 per year, advertising for members is \$15 (non-members is \$25), Boardwalk Booster is \$5, and contributions to the scholarship fund are welcome in any amount. Please mail your checks to **Andrew Nagy, 5548 23rd Street, Zephyrhills, FL 33542**, or bring them to a meeting or get-together. Thanks in advance.

Tuesday, December 18th, 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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	<p>Clereen Morrill Brunty ZHS Alumni Contact</p>		<p>chalet flowers Kim Tim Maryann Sanders owners</p>
<p>clereen@tampabay.rr.com</p>		<p>Ph: 813-788-2874 5002 7th Street chaletflowersfl.com Zephyrhills, FL 33542</p>	
<p>813-782-8763</p>			

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HISTORY OF PASCO COUNTY

*Jeff Miller's site at
fivay.org*

Clay Sink (Slaughter)

(Continued from last month)



Slaughter was a settlement in the extreme northeast corner of Pasco County; it no longer appears on most maps. It is sometimes called Clay Sink. Riverland is now located on the other side of the Hernando county line.

Among the Farmers of Slaughter (1923)

By C. B. TAYLOR

This article appeared in the Dade City Banner on April 20, 1923.

Situated in the northeast corner of Pasco County is the farming neighborhood of Slaughter, as it is officially known. The people living there call it "Clay Sink," from a sink hole in the neighborhood. It is a flatwoods country, with cypress ponds interspersed here and there, and, at the present time is almost inaccessible in wet weather. While it is only fifteen miles from Dade City the best route to take is around by the new hard road past Lacoochee, across a corner of Hernando County and back into Pasco. A road is now being built from the bridge over the Withlacoochee on the river road that will afford direct communication between the two places. This road, which is a part of the Highlands District sand clay system will be graded high enough to permit travel in all kinds of weather and will do much to bring the people of the two sections together.

Truck and general farming form the main occupations of the settlers in this neighborhood. At one time it was one of the greatest strawberry growing sections of the state. This crop was dropped when the Plant City neighborhood was developed, on account of the inadequacy of shipping facilities.



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The branch of the Atlantic Coast Line running from Trilby to Sanford is the nearest railroad, and only furnishes one train each way, a day. This same lack of good service handicaps the growers now, but they ship out a good many crates of beans and cucumbers during the season. During the winter just passed hundreds of hampers of English peas were also shipped from here.

The soil of this section seems to be especially adapted for the growing of cucumbers. Unlike the Sumter county fields nearby, they seem to do as well in the fall as in the spring. Oddly enough, however, beans only do well here in the spring, while in the other neighborhoods mentioned they grow at both seasons of the year. The growers of Slaughter have never introduced the trough protection for their cukes used in other parts of the state. They are thinking seriously of doing so now, as the cold last February has caused their crops to be very late this year. In fact, they are just starting to ship beans and will not have any cukes on the market for another week, or more. They have no need of irrigation, as the soil seems to be drought proof. In fact, the heavy rains last fall drowned out a good many of their crops.

An effort has been made this year to revive the strawberry industry, once the leading one of this section. It has been only partially a success, owing to poor shipping facilities and the inability to reach the best markets. The yield was large and quality fine. With the completion of the good road, making it possible to quickly reach other shipping points, there is no doubt but what this will become one of the most profitable crops. This is recognized by the growers, many of whom are planning to increase their acreage.

At J. L. Wilson's farm the writer saw some very good young corn growing. It was well advanced for its age and had a healthy color. His beans were full of young fruit and this week should see him make his first shipment. A good sized patch of strawberries were loaded with as fine flavored fruit as the writer ever tasted. They were simply going to waste, except as Mrs. Wilson was able to can, or otherwise preserve them. These strawberries were grown without fertilizer and have excellent testimony as to the fertility of the soil.

G. W. Fender is credited by his neighbors with being the "best farmer in the neighborhood." This year, however, he says that he has lost his grip. His cukes and beans are looking fine, but are late and he has not yet made any shipments. He has a small patch of Irish, potatoes that are doing well. Corn, pindars, and other general farm crops are grown as well as truck. One odd thing impressed the writer when he visited this place. Some of his beans were growing in four foot rows and others in five. Both were planted at the same time. The ones in the five foot rows were twice as far advanced as those grown closer together.

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In Memory of

Ryals Furniture Exchange
And Great Parents
Powell & Maude Ryals

From son James

God Bless America

J. D. Mobley is advancing in years and does not till a very large acreage. He has some of the best corn seen so far this season. It averages over five feet in height and was planted after the heavy frost last February. His cukes and other vegetables are coming on nicely and the same can be said for a good sized watermelon patch. A small seedling grove bore a heavy crop of fruit last winter and has set a good one this season.

W. H. Boyett has a fine crop of beans and cukes coming on. He also grows corn, velvet beans, peanuts and a full line of general farm stuff.

T. J. Morris is well ahead of the bean game and is shipping a good many hampers. His cukes are coming on and he has some fine looking corn.

T. O. Slaughter is in my opinion one of the best farmers in this vicinity. He has a habit of never planting one crop in a field. A row of corn or cane and one of beans, cukes or tomatoes is what the visitor finds in looking over his farm. In this way he says he is pretty sure to win out on one crop, if not on both. Last year on a tract of land 80 yards square he made 750 gallons of syrup and shipped 551 crates of cucumbers. This same rule is followed with all of his crops. It may cut down the cash returns to some extent, but as he says, "What's the use of making so much money and having to spend it all at the store."

Mr. Slaughter's cukes seem to be somewhat ahead of his neighbors, and this week will probably see him making one or two small shipments. On the other hand, his beans are not as well advanced as some others. He has a fine field of tomatoes that are setting fruit and some well advanced watermelons.

P. O. Wiggins did well this past winter with English peas. He is following them with beans and cukes, like everyone else, and they will be quite profitable, provided the market holds up. Other places which were visited were the farms of Seby Boyd, J. A. Mobley, Willis Brown and F. J. Johnson. All had crops of corn, beans and cukes that were quite promising. At Mr. Johnson's a good seedling grove was observed.

Former Bulldog Earns PA Degree

Zephyrhills Free Press, November 22, 2018



Sydney K. Ables, daughter of Laura Chauncey and Aaron Ables, graduated as a Physician Assistant (PA) from Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale on Aug. 17.

Ables is a 2013 graduate of Zephyrhills High School and received her AA degree from Pasco Hernando State College. She then graduated in 2016 from University of South Florida with a degree in Health Sciences. She is currently employed as a PA in Psychiatry in Ft. Myers.

Sydney comes from a family of ZHS students. Her mother, Laura, is from class of 1987; her father, Aaron, class of 1990; and her grandmother, Thea (Dunnigan) Johnson, class of 1967. Also her great-grandfather, William "Bill" Kustes, taught Latin at ZHS from 1961-1968.

Congratulations and best of luck, Sydney!

Obituary for Brantley Smith

BRANTLEY E. SMITH, 77, ZHS Class of 1958 of Zephyrhills, passed away September 29, 2018. He was born December 15, 1940 in Zephyrhills to Cullen and Matilda "Tillie" (Reutimann) Smith Sr. He enjoyed farming, golfing, and was a member of the First United Methodist Church. Owner of Silverado Golf & Country Club in Zephyrhills along with many other housing subdivisions.

Mr. Smith is survived by his wife, Susan (Nichols) Smith, ZHS Class of 1963 of Zephyrhills; five children, Mindy Smith, ZHS Class of 1978 of Dunedin, Carey Smith, ZHS Class of 1981 of Temple Terrace, Julie Smith, ZHS Class of 1989 of Brooksville, Jeff Reutimann, ZHS Class of 1984 and wife, Marci (Monbarren) Reutimann, ZHS Class of 1985 of Zephyrhills, and Greg Reutimann, ZHS Class of 1986 of Zephyrhills; six grandchildren, Kyle Smith, ZHS Class of 2009, Bryna Smith, ZHS Class of 2010 and husband, Mark, Chance Reutimann, ZHS Class of 2014, Reece Reutimann, ZHS Class of 2016, Garrett Reutimann, ZHS Class of 2011, and Connor Reutimann, ZHS Class of 2014; one great-grandchild, Matthew.

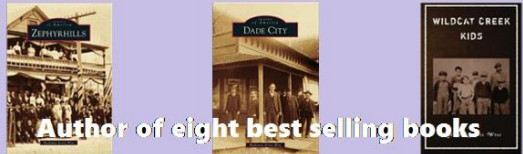




He is also survived by three sisters, Patty (Smith) Bazzell, ZHS Class of 1953 and husband, Larry Bazzell, ZHS Class of 1958 of Zephyrhills, Judy (Smith) Hilton, ZHS Class



of 1964 and husband, Bobby Hilton, ZHS Class of 1962 of Zephyrhills, and Susan A. Smith, ZHS Class of 1967 of Columbia, SC; a brother, Cullen "Buddy" Smith, Jr., ZHS Class of 1955 of Zephyrhills; and his former wife, Carole (Edwards) Smith, ZHS Class of 1959 of Zephyrhills. He was preceded in death by his parents, Cullen and Tillie (Reutimann) Smith, ZHS Class of 1928; a brother, Stephen "Stevie" Smith, ZHS Class of 1962; and son, Brantley E. Smith.

A funeral service will be held 1 pm, Saturday, October 6, 2018 at the First United Methodist Church. Interment at Smith Cemetery will be private. Whitfield Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

 <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>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> 
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