

# TRACKS OF TIME

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 23 – Number 21

February 2021

**There will be NO scheduled meeting in March.**

### Future Meetings

I'm not at all sure when we can anticipate meeting together. I know that we are planning to meet in person for our April Library Board meeting, but that is late in the month. I think it might be possible to meet in May, but that remains to be seen. I'm a bit late in getting this newsletter together. I am already past what would have been our meeting date in March. Forgive me please. I assume the scholarship committee is still on track. They do their work entirely online we should be able to continue that project uninterrupted. I think we are going to be okay in regards to funds, but Andy is both our treasurer and scholarship committee member, so they will know precisely how much they have to consider in scholarships.

If you have not already sent in your dues for the year, please do so. I'm going to leave Andy's address below just in case.

We are no longer having any fundraisers at Sergio's for now, but Patty had an idea for one with minimal risk. I am enclosing a flyer for her idea along with this newsletter. Some of you may have already received one from Clereen. Please consider it.

### Treasurer Address

Please mail your checks payable to ZHA to:  
**Andrew Nagy,**  
**5548 23<sup>rd</sup> Street,**  
**Zephyrhills, FL 33542**

**There will be NO fundraisers for the time being.**



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**Jeff Miller**

**Pasco County Historian**

For a walk down memory lane visit

[www.fivay.org](http://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><b>Clereen Morrill Brunty</b>                  ZHS Alumni Contact</p> <p>clereen@gmail.com</p> <p><b>813-782-8763</b></p>	 <p><b>chalet flowers</b></p> <p>Kim   Tim   Maryann Sanders                  owners</p> <p>Ph: 813-788-2874                  chaletflowersfl.com</p> <p>5002 7th Street                  Zephyrhills, FL 33542</p>
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**HISTORY OF PASCO COUNTY**  
*from Jeff Millers fivay.org website*

**Interesting Facts of Pioneer Days in Pasco (1928)**

*This article appeared in the Pasco County News on April 26, 1928.*

The following interesting facts about the pioneer days of Pasco county was given by J. C. Carter, at a benefit meeting for the equipment fund of the Woman’s Club, held at the club house, April 14, and was a feature of the program.



This locality in pioneer days, 1869 and forward from that date, until 1887, was all part of Hernando county, a vast stretch without roads and means of intercommunication, with perhaps about one-third as many residents as there are now in Pasco alone. Mr. Carter came here as a small lad 1869. Mr. Carter’s father was elected to the state legislature several times, and he had to canvass all of these great stretches of countryside without roads.

In 1887, in spite of opposition, Hernando was split into three counties, Hernando, Citrus and Pasco. The nearest Post Office in 1869 had been at Brooksville; the nearest railroad at Waldo, leaving too much territory without means of communication by mails and rail. Nearly all of the older settlers of this portion had come from Georgia, Alabama, and the Carolinas. After the county of Pasco was formed, and it was found desirable, a Post Office was established at Fort Dade, at that time a community covering a radius of some twenty miles.

Mr. Carter has in his possession the cabinet made for Mr. Ryals as his Post Office, and this is an interesting piece of furniture which was purchased by Mr. Carter’s father at the time he was appointed postmaster. Several Post Offices were located along a chain, but after the railroad came through Dade City section and this became a little town, the Post Office was located at Dade City and Fort Dade and other minor offices were discontinued.

In 1874, the first public school was opened about five miles beyond San Antonio, for this territory. Mr. Carter can remember attending that school, also that his father paid the then-huge-sum of \$4.00 monthly for his board so that he might be near this school. And, by the way, Mr. Carter says that he is the lad who would not out-spell the little lady in his class and take the head of the class from her. It actually happened that he missed the word intentionally to accede to her class leadership in spelling.

Trails were blazed through the woods, and because no one would cut a tree, the paths were exceedingly crooked. More interest was taken in education in Pasco after this section was organized as a separate county. With 33 schools in the county, the superintendent received \$450 yearly, visited every school at his own expense, and made two visits yearly.

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Tampa was Dade City's market. The speaker could remember when all the stores in Tampa had not as much as varied stock as our own Coleman & Ferguson Co. has today. Six stores made up the business center of Tampa at that time and it took Dade Cityans three days to go and come with a good mule team, five days for the trip with oxen. Some interesting data—sweet potatoes and syrup were the main products hauled from Dade City to Tampa; a bushel of potatoes, OR a gallon of syrup formed the equivalent of THREE boxes of matches. Chickens were cheap—25c for a hen, and for fryers or broilers, perhaps 15c or 20c, but eggs were as high as 25c a dozen even though the hen that laid them was worth but 25c; A negro woman would wash all day, and long hours, too, for "a hen" or a 25c wage. A hen today would be a real good day's wage, for the average heavy breed hen is worth, at 25c a pound, about \$2.00 and the average wage for a day's work for the negro woman is \$1.00 to \$1.50 daily.

The northern soldiers were sent to Tampa for training and their arrival was hailed with joy as it meant good markets for Dade City farmers.

Churches were few and far between, mostly log houses. Old Mt. Zion church was the first one built of lumber and was erected by two men by hand. It stood, before the underpinning gave way and the building fell, for 50 years and the roof was still in good protection in rainstorms.

Coffins were made of lumber by the residents of towns, and no charge was made for these coffins.

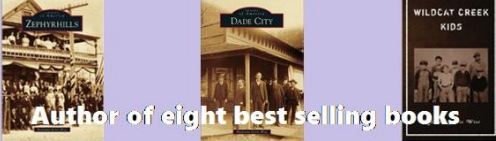

Cloth for men's clothing, all made at home; shoes, home-made, from hides tanned in home tan yards; home dyed suits woven at home; spinning of household linens and women's garments, formed part of the daily regime of the pioneer housewife. Mr. Carter showed a baby garment made by his mother for him, but this was a store-bought cloth and the thread was purchased. The little article was all hand made.

When kerosene lights were introduced the folks were timid about their use. Previously, women had sewed and spun by firelight as candles were too expensive for frequent use.

There were no banks at that time. When it is remembered that human nature is prone to complain about things, it should be recalled that the early settlers of a community got along without schools, churches, railroads, Post Offices, modern conveniences, lights, roads and then, it is realized how much the modern human has to be thankful for.

Telegraph lines came through Dade City first because the U. S. government wanted to establish communication with Cuba where the Spanish government was buying supplies from the United States. Thus was the Wire Road named as the first telegraph line into Dade City partly traversed its way. This was a part of the system of communication with Cuba.

There was no citrus industry here when Mr. Carter's parents brought their family to this locality, Later, oranges were taken to Tampa by wagon, with camping outfits and bedding piled on top of this delicate fruit without a thought of its harm. Oranges were shipped to foreign markets such as New York, in barrels, via sailing vessels. One supposes that some of the fruit reached its destination hale and hearty or Florida oranges would not have become so well known.

 <p><b>Author of eight best selling books</b></p> <p><b>Madonna Wise Books</b> Author, Research &amp; Consulting Madonna Jervis Wise Zephyrhills, Florida Murphy, North Carolina</p> <p><b>813-469-8627</b> MadonnaJWise@gmail.com <a href="http://madonnawisebooks.wordpress.com">http://madonnawisebooks.wordpress.com</a></p>	<p>License # GDI 09084</p>  <p><b>Garage Doors, Inc.</b> Kerry Ryman Owner</p> <p>Residential/Commercial &amp; Gate Openers</p> <p>4622 Gall Blvd. • Zephyrhills, Florida 33542 Telephone: 813-782-5926 • Fax: 813-322-8343 kerry@3garagedoors.com</p>
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