

# West Pasco Historical Society - Museum And Library

6431 Circle Boulevard • New Port Richey • Florida 34652

*"The Old School House in Sims Park"*

(813)847-0680

Volume VIII No. 1

FEBRUARY 1993

## SOCIETY MOURNS LOSS

With the passing of Roy Peter Obenreder, a strong supporter of the Society, and along with his wife Julia, the one most responsible for our current Museum, Library and Store, a great void is felt. Mr. Obenreder arranged for the moving of the "Old School House" from CR 54 to its present location in Sims Park. He supervised its move and rebuilding the structure. He will be sorely missed at the dedication of the completed addition. The Society extends its heartfelt sympathy to Julia and their family.

## FLORIDA HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Report by Frances Mallett

The new Florida Room will try to tell the story of the settling of the West Pasco area from the first settlers getting their land grants up to and including modern day West Pasco. Old maps, photographs and other items will be used to tell the story.

Co-Chairman Sam Underhill is working on a project to trace the old Dixie Highway as it ran through Florida in the early 1900's.

## OUR REFERENCE LIBRARY

Report by Jessie Hyde

We are fortunate to have a picture collection good enough to be loaned to the State Archives Department in Tallahassee. They made copies and enlargements and gave use a print of each.

Our collection started with a donation from Julie Obenreder. Many of the pictures came from the Chamber of Commerce. The late James A. Grey gave us a large collection of early new Port Richey Pioneers Prints. Pauline Ash contributed many pictures of school classes. Many others have given us pictures for which we are very grateful.

We most sincerely thank Bill Hendrickson, Chairman of the New Indian Artifacts Room, for his great work in building new book shelves for the library.

We thank Walter Swartz for obtaining a rack on which we displayed our pictures. We thank Betty Jones and Mary Leitch who mounted all these pictures. It took many backbreaking hours. We are still trying to get pictures of early homes or any information about them.

When we get our library set up we hope to have room for display of some valuable maps and newspapers. We are pleased that so many viewers have enjoyed our pictures. We are pleased to offer assistance to those interested in local history.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Adele Gregos

### \* OPEN HOUSE - DEDICATION \*

The addition to our building is finished and it is everything which we had hoped for these past ten years. We look forward to seeing you at the Open House on Palm Sunday, April 4 between 2:00 and 4:00 in the afternoon. We thank the City of New Port Richey Council for their generosity in making the addition possible.

A special thanks to Schlotter Construction for a job well done.

## CURATOR'S REPORT

Among recent donations were:

- Cut glass celery dish circa 1900 from Winifred Harris and Howard Chenoweth
- Full length silhouette of Thomas Jefferson and 5 smaller examples; 2 hutch cabinets; 2 metal storage racks; miscellaneous items from the estate of Frances Howland.
- 1 snuff box from Ireland; 1 from Isle of Man from Sheila Parry.
- Indian painting by Bob Hill, also known as White Buffalo, donated by David Spriggs. Indian Hopi Hatches-A.F. Schandt, Indian Hopi Vessel -A.F. Schandt, Carved Ceremonial Bowls, Wally Cassano
- **February:** Showcasing - Antique Mustard Pots, collections belonging to Questers' group: Also, silhouettes and other sentimental things.
- **March:** The Book of Kells, reproductions of the famous and magnificent manuscripts created by the monks of Ireland.

## COUNTRY CORNER STORE

Audrey O'Neil

Things were at a standstill until we moved into the area where the library used to be. We are going to need help and suggestions on the arranging and display of the store items. We also need donations of quality merchandise. The bookcases have been painted and new curtains have been hung. Please call the Museum if you can spare a little time to help in the store or have donations.



## NOV. 22 - MEMORIAL SERVICE HELD

The West Pasco Society held a Memorial Service on Sunday, Nov. 22 for several members who passed away recently. They were Janet Lewis, Frances Howland, Alex Acey, E. Miller Smith and Kenneth Carter.

Janet Lewis, who was librarian at the Public Library, upon retiring, formed a library at the museum. Many people donated books and pictures and Janet spent many days organizing it. Later she helped at the Pasco - Hernando College Library.

Frances Howland was in charge of our Gift Shop for several years. She will be greatly missed.

Alex Acey, President for 5 terms, contributed much by obtaining materials and appliances for the museum.

E. Miller Smith was a big supporter of the museum.

Kenneth Carter, long a board Member, was always willing to help on a committee.

Norma Nelson planned and conducted the Memorial Meeting Service.

A large number of members attended and told of their experiences working with these people.

A beautiful floral piece graced the speaker's table, donated by David Spriggs, FLOWERS BY GRU.

Refreshments were served by Frances Dee, Ceil Zubrod and Dorothy Nelson.

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## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BY RALPH BALSAM

We are happy to report that our new addition is completed. The next task is to move in, making the best use of furniture and shelving on hand. We do hope all will cooperate with our President and Curator, Adele Gregos, in deciding what will go where. We must consider best usage along with needs and wants. Thanks to all the helping hands as we look forward to moving "onward" and "upward".

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## FASHION SHOW SUCCESS!

Thanks to the hand work of Dorothy Nelson, Leonard Carr, Howard Chenoweth, Norma Nelson, and the models, over 80 guests attended. A job well done!

## HAVE YOU PAID UP?

Dues are due and payable Jan. 1, 1993. Many have renewed but a great many are still not paid up for 1993. I'm sure this has been an oversight on your part.

Thanks to all of you who have paid up and all who plan to do so.

Kathi Balsam  
Membership Chairman

We are pleased to welcome the following new 1993 members into the West Pasco Historical Society and hope you will be enthusiastic workers.:

Ricardo Villalpando  
Mimi Campbell  
Claudine Chase  
Jean Darrin  
Drew Davis Agency, State Farm  
Maria Hamlander  
Mr. & Mrs. Stanford Hicks  
James Hayward  
Reed Nessler  
Fred Pietech  
Maryruth Shuflata  
Doris Szymanski  
Sandra & Gene Werner  
Louise Embree  
Dr & Mrs. Richard A. Miller D.O.

## PLEASE SEND YOUR DUES.

## ATTEND THE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Membership Chairmen:  
Kathi Balsam

### OFFICERS

Adele Gregos, Pres.  
Ralph Balsam, 1st Vice Pres.  
Sam Eaton, 2nd Vice Pres.  
Andrew Gregos, Rec. Sec.  
George Henry, Treas.  
Frances Dee, Corr. Sec.

### DIRECTORS:

Howard Chenoweth  
Frances Mallett  
Walter Swartz  
Julia Hall

EX. OFF. Harry Hall  
Edie Hempel



## DEFEAT ON THE FORT KING TRAIL

NORMA NELSON

A "cold war" existed for many decades between the whites and Seminoles. It manifested itself in minor clashes over cattle, slaves and land. By 1830 these problems strengthened the rigid government Indian Removal policy. The policy eventually required the total removal of Seminoles from Florida to Oklahoma reservations starting January 1, 1836.

But in 1835, the Seminole Indians, pushed beyond endurance, were preparing to take to the warpath. Spurred on by the fiery young warrior Osceola and the grim medicine man, Aripeka, they refused to be uprooted from their homes and the land they cherished. They were determined to fight and indeed to die to remain in Florida.

Aware of the unrest and anticipating possible resistance, the government decided to reinforce the small garrison at Fort King (located on the outskirts of present day Ocala). Both whites and Indians stood on the threshold of the second Seminole war.

General Duncan L. Clinch, commander of all U.S. forces in Florida ordered two companies from Fort Brooke, Tampa to take the 100 mile road north. Originally, Capt. George Washington Gardiner was to have conducted the march, but his wife was gravely ill. Major Francis L. Dade arrived at Fort Brooke on December 21 and offered to take over the assignment.

The detachment consisted of eight officers, including a surgeon and a hundred artillery soldiers, trained to fight as infantry. Almost half of the men were foreign born. Few of them were professional soldiers. There was a Negro guide, a slave named Louis Pacheco. They had one six-pounder with them dragged at first by four oxen then later by two teams of horses.

On December 23rd Major Dade began an overland march from Fort Brooke following a poorly defined road that led northward from Hillsborough through Pasco, Hernando, Sumter and Marion Counties. (U.S. 301 follows the old Fort King road rather closely).

Meanwhile, a chance arose for Gardiner to send his wife to Key West where she would receive better care. After seeing her safely off, he hastened to join the expedition. His only companion was his small dog. When he did catch up, as a military courtesy he insisted that Major Dade remain in charge.

By the 24th, Dade's men had reached the Hillsborough River only to find that the Seminole had burned the bridge. Most of Christmas day was spent in crossing the Hillsborough. That night camp was made in Pasco County south of the Withlacoochee River. The Withlacoochee was also hard to cross, and, on December 26 camp was made not far from that river. By the end of the 27th Dade's men had crossed the Little Withlacoochee.

The Indians had scouted every step of the detachment's march and might have struck Dade and his men while they labored crossing the rivers, but they were then waiting for Osceola to join them. On the morning of December 28, conditions were too favorable to wait any

*Continued Page 5*

## PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED

We wish to thank Carl Kramerl for his display and presentation on "antique tools" for our February meeting.

**Feb. 26, Fri. 9-4 p.m.**

**Feb. 27, Sat. 9-2 p.m.**

**Mar. 18, Thur. 7 p.m.**

**Mar. 27, Sat. 1-4 p.m.**

**Apr. 4, Sun. 2-4 p.m.**

**Apr. 15, Thur 7 p.m.**

**May 20. Thur. 7 p.m.**

### RUMMAGE SALE.

By Jean Sniffen, Chairman, at Museum, in coordination with Flo Reveillac. Members should contact Jean or Flo to donate to this annual fundraiser.

Mrs. Bailey will give a talk on

**BAILEY'S BLUFF** in N.P. R.

**ANNUAL DEMONSTRATION OF WELL KNOWN ARTISTS:** Showing their various techniques. Artists: Elaine Girouard, Adele Gregos, George Kamps, Ronnie Irland, Claire Lazio, Marion Ore, Lyndon Scheeren, Dorothy Palermo, Sheila Parry, and Leora Turney.

### THE TENTH YEAR CELEBRATION OF OUR MUSEUM.

Public invited to see new addition. City officials will be with us to help celebrate and there will be Indian festivities, dances, etc.

### CHINESE AUCTION.

Members are asked to bring an interesting item on which the public can bid. Be sure to bring a guest to this event

**DINNER AND INSTALLATION** of New Officers.

## GREETERS

We thank all the hosts and hostesses who have volunteered their time Fridays and Saturdays at the Museum.

Also signed up so far for coming months:

**Feb. 27**

Miriam Gross

Norma Nelson

**Mar. 5**

Open

Norma Nelson

**Mar. 6**

\_\_\_\_\_Par

Open

**Mar. 12**

Norma Nelson

Open

**Mar. 13**

Andy & Adele Gregos

**Mar. 14 Sun. 1-4 p.m.**

Dave Spriggs

Doris Szymanski

**Mar. 19**

Open

**Mar. 20**

Andy & Adele Gregos

**Mar. 21 Sun. 10-4 p.m.**

Dave Spriggs

Doris Szymanski

**Mar. 26**

Open

**Mar. 27**

Open

### The Museum will be open during Chasco Fiesta festivities as follows:

**1 p.m. Sat. Mar. 13**

Street Parade

**1 p.m. Sun. Mar. 14**

Antique Car Show

**2 p.m. Sat. Mar. 20**

Boat Parade

**10-6 p.m. Sat. Mar. 20 &**

Sims Park / Craft Show

**10-4 p.m. Sun. Mar. 21**





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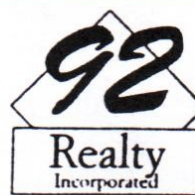
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### Continued...

longer. Silently concealed behind pine and palmetto trees, the warriors lined the west side of the road opposite a pond and waited. That same morning at 8 a.m. Dade's column, advancing with little preparation for an attack, inched into two files out into thin open pine woods. So little was hostility expected that the men, because the weather was sharp and a freezing rain fell, wore their greatcoats over their muskets and ammunition boxes. They were two-thirds of the way to their destination. The command had already safely passed the most dangerous ambush points along the road. They had reached open terrain. No flanking scouts were posted.

Their sense of security was false, for at the very moment as Major Dade promised the men a large celebration of Christmas at Fort King, a sheet of rifle fire beat them down. Major Dade, Captain Fraser and half the command dropped with the first volley. Three of the six surviving officers were wounded.

Captain Gardiner called the men and directed fire from the six-pound canon. The Indians then withdrew a short distance for about an hour. The Negro slave, Louis Pacheco, desiring freedom, is believed to have slipped over to the Indians at this time.

The soldiers took advantage of the lull and threw up a rude breastwork of logs to form a triangular frame, cared for the wounded and collected ammunition from the fallen.

On their second onslaught, the one hundred and eighty Indian warriors kept up so heavy a fire that the trunks of the trees were later found to be full of lead and the logs of the breastwork solid with rifle bullets. Under this feverish attack the valiant defenders dropped one by one until about two p.m. when all firing from the breastworks ceased. Three wounded men were still alive.

On December 31, 23 year old Private Ransom Clark, badly wounded, half staggered, half crawled into Fort Brooke. Shot in the thigh, arm, back and shoulder, and grazed in the temple, he made his way back to tell the full story of Dade's defeat. Of the other two men who escaped from the site, one was overcome by the Indians and killed. The other reached the Fort but died a few months later without leaving any account.

No other living thing ever returned from the detachment except Captain Gardiner's little dog.

*Continued Page 6*

*The businesses listed on this and other pages have made this expanded newsletter possible.*

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## GOODYEAR

### GOODYEAR TIRE CENTERS

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### Defeat Continued...

#### Sources of reference:

Second Seminole War ..... John K. Mahon  
 Red Patriots ..... Charles Coe  
 St. Petersburg Times ..... Wilfred T. Neill 1/15/78  
 Program Resume, Dade Battlefield State Historic Site,  
 Bushnell, FL 1993  
 Light A Distant Fire ..... Lucia St. Claire Robson, 1988

### Post Script

The battle is re-enacted annually at the Dade Battlefield State Historic Site in Bushnell, Florida. A viewing mound overlooks the natural terrain that serves as a stage. The narration is told through the

eyes of Ransom Clark, the lone survivor of the engagement.

Other features include authentic Seminole Indian and U.S. encampments and the Dade Battlefield Museum which is next to the original battlefield.

Seminole ceremonial dances, Artillery cannon techniques, infantry marching demonstrations and other activities of the time take place.

This is a "must" for anyone interested in the past history of Florida.

Endosed is my contribution for membership in the  
**West Pasco Historical Society, Inc.**

(Check one)

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