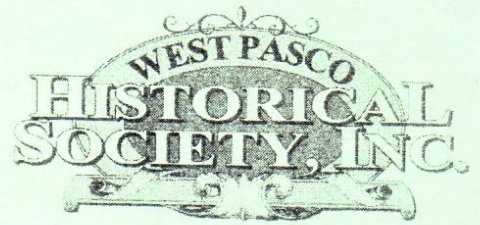


# NEWSLETTER

Museum and Library

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2005



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been my pleasure this year to work with the incredible people who comprise our board and volunteers. Through the hard work of everyone involved we have made great achievements and difficult decisions. At the time I write this, we have renovated the air and heating systems in our museum to provide greater comfort

for our volunteers and offer better protection for our collections. Our fashion show appears to be headed for record attendance-and with luck, record donations. Other fund-raising ideas are offered up on a monthly basis at our meetings, and some will be implemented over the next few months and seasons. I am also extremely grateful for your offers of support, ideas, and especially constructive criticisms. My telephone number has been ablaze with all of the above, and any input you have as members of our society is completely welcome. The hard work of our various committees has paid off with record membership, increased recognition in our community and a strong sense of activism in maintaining the history that is around us in western Pasco County. So much of what we do as a society does not depend on the board meetings I preside over monthly, but on the spirit of the membership. And that spirit appears to be as strong as ever-and growing stronger with each passing month. It is with humbleness and gratitude I sign,

*Leon Flood, President*



## ANTIQUUE TIDBITS

by Eleanor Schoepflin

What a Crock! - Stoneware is essentially a vitreous pottery impervious to water even in its unglazed state that has been produced by potteries all over the world for centuries. Utilitarian wares such as crocks, jugs, urns and the like were the most common productions that sprang into existence in the United States in the 19th century. Made from dense kaolin clay and commonly salt-glazed, stonewares were hand thrown and high fired to produce a simple bold pottery. There are three broad periods of time that collectors can look to in evaluating and dating the earthenware and stoneware in their collections. Among the first permanent settlers in America were English and German potters who found a great demand for their individually turned wares. The early pottery was made from red and yellow clays scraped from the surface of the ground at surface levels. There was little stoneware available for sale before 1800 because the clays used in its production were not found in many areas. However, the opening of the Erie Canal and improved roads brought about a dramatic increase in the accessibility of stoneware clay and many new potteries began to open in New York and New Jersey. Many crocks were decorated (mainly in cobalt blue) with a number indicating the size in gallons; others with standard designs such as animals, flowers and dates. Manufacturers are too numerous to mention but J&E Norton and E&LP Norton of Bennington as well as C.W. Braun, Buffalo, N.Y. pieces brought unbelievably high prices at auction in the \$11,000 to \$15,000 range. Buy only from a reputable dealer who guarantees his merchandise. Many crocks have been skillfully repaired and require a black light to detect the restoration.





## FASHION SHOW BREAKS ALL RECORDS

Sparton Manor was rockin' on February 11 when the WPHS held its annual Fashion Show Fundraiser MC'd by David Prace. Nearly 245 attended this gala luncheon. The theme this year was "Styles Through the Ages" and an exhibit of vintage gowns and hats were displayed prominently. A special program was given by Kay Holley who came dressed in antebellum attire. She modeled her gown and explained various articles of clothing women of the 1860s wore.

Bealls of Route 54 furnished the clothing and Antonia Miernik did a great job as presenter. The models were:

Georgia Robinson	Anne Hildebrand
John Miernik	Mary R. Jones
Joy Lane	George Robinson
Jean Tipton	Shirley Hudson
Leon Flood	Rosalie Hollingsworth

A big thanks to Midge London-Prace whose seating chart turned chaos into order. Also thanks to the rest of the committee who made this event a financial success, Antonia Miernik and Jeanne Kisby. Our 50/50 and Chinese Auction events would not be successful if it were not for the great ticket selling job done by our super salesmen Terry Kline, Mary R. Jones and her daughter Jody, and Leon Flood. The beautiful table centerpieces were again furnished by Flowers by GRU. And we can't thank enough the many contributors for our Chinese Auction. Our thanks to all who attended and supported the Society, including the Red Hat Ladies who attended, some as far away as Lakeland and Zephyrhills.



## MEMBERSHIP

by David Prace

Membership renewals were sent out in January as you all know and responses have been coming in at a fast pace. If you haven't already paid your dues this is a reminder. Your support means a lot to us and we wouldn't like to lose you.

A new membership roster is being published at this time and will be available for distribution shortly.

## WPHS GARAGE SALE AT CHASCO

by Terry Kline

It's that time again for the annual Gift Shop Garage Sale. This year your Society will have a table at the West Pasco Kiwanis Flea Market during the Chasco Fiesta on Monday March 8 and Tuesday March 9. We need your donated items by March 2 at the museum. If you are willing to volunteer or need a pickup for items you wish to donate call Terry at 846-0177. No clothing please. All proceeds from this sale will go towards the newspaper laminating project.



## FLORIDA HISTORY

by Adam Carozza

March 1, 1861. Construction of the first cross-peninsula railroad from Fernandina to Cedar Key was completed on this date. David Levy Yulee, United States Senator from Florida, was the driving force behind this railroad. Although used very little because of the outbreak of the War between the States in April, the railroad made Cedar Key a major urban site in the immediate postwar years.



## BUILDING AND GROUNDS

by Terry Kline

At last our entire building has heating and air-conditioning. Thanks to the Gulfstream Community Bank who graciously allowed us to remove this unit from an old building that they acquired. This unit is a 5-ton system that will serve us for years.



## GIFT SHOP NEWS

by Audrey O'Neil

The Gift Shop did very well in May. Our artist Mary Jane Prichard donated the sale of her Memorial plaques. Also, the Gift Shop in the Community Hospital donated leftover stuffed toys and jewelry to us to sell. We will be closed for the summer but their items will give us a fresh start for our September opening.



## LIBRARY NEWS by Head Librarian Bea Baum

Many changes are taking place in our library. Containing many resources on local history it is used by students and others who have an interest in our past.

Like the rest of our historical museum we have a need for more library workers. So a workshop will be held at 1:30 pm Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. Those interested can come and see what we do to preserve history.

In addition to antique pictures and local history we also have the new book by local author Adam Carozza, "Images of America - New Port Richey."

If you would like to call I can be reached at 727-841-6933 or the museum library at 727-847-0680.



## OBIT COMMITTEE UPDATE

by Midge London-Prace

The Tuesday morning obit committee is happy to have recently added Deborah Gammon to their ranks. She researched the wonderful Tarpon Springs "Blue and Gray" annual event held at their Cycadia and Rose Cemeteries last Fall. We're happy to have her as a new member. Our groups main purpose is to glean the obituaries from our collection of local newspapers. The obits are recorded and entered on our website which is available to people all over the country. We have received requests, from people who are interested in their families gynecology, asking for copies of the obituary. One family resolved the way a great-grandfather had died after years of speculation. *We meet every Tuesday morning from 10am to 1pm. Please join us.*



The funds have run out for the laminating of our local paper collection. They're laminated from 1916 through the 1950's. To preserve our heritage, the 60's, 70's, and 80's need laminating. PLEASE consider a donation towards this very important preservation program



## CURATOR REPORT by Midge London-Prace

There have been some new additions to our museum. First are the lace curtains that are now on the windows of the front hall, Museum room and Indian - Meeting room. They bring defused light to brighten the appearance of our displays. In the Indian- Meeting room a bottle display now resides. It has many early American types of bottle containers. Please check it out. The donation of two "Flat File" cabinets that will hold our laminated newspapers was a great addition in the storing and making these papers available for the members and public to read. In the Museum room is an "early American wood tool exhibit." Many of our tools were recently identified by Bob Fritzsche, who spoke to us on the subject in January. We learned much about the types and value of American wood tools from him. With the ribbon cutting of the Queen of Peace Hall came a new exhibit in the Meeting room featuring a crucifix, picture of Father Felix and a scrapbook. It chronicles the events in the saving of this historic building.



## YOU SHOULD KNOW!

*We all owe Linda Kann a big "thank you" for getting out our publicity over the past five years. She has DONE A GREAT JOB. Because of family concerns she has resigned, and we wish her the best!*

*The monies that have been so generously given by members, for the laminating of our newspaper has, run out. We appeal to our members for donations to finish this important project before we lose some of our more fragile 40's and 50's editions.*



## WEST PASCO HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2004-2005 OFFICERS

Please note the changes made in the officers of the Society.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President ..... Adam Carrozza  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President ..... Antonia Miernik  
Treasurer (Acting) ..... Wendy Brenner  
Recording Secretary (Acting) ..... Michelle Flood





6431 Circle Boulevard  
New Port Richey, FL 34652

## ADDENDUM TO DIRECTORY 2005 #1

### NEW MEMBERS

Laurie Baker  
8225 S. 128th Street  
Seattle, WA 98178  
206-772-6284 (I)

Maranell Baker Fleming  
2215 NE 7th Street  
Ocala, FL 34470  
352-732-5180 (I)

Linda F. Russell  
11122 Brooklawn Drive  
Hudson, FL 34667  
863-7544 (I)

Visit our new website location at:  
[www.rootsweb.com/~flwphs](http://www.rootsweb.com/~flwphs)  
and  
[www.fivay.org](http://www.fivay.org)



**FLOWERS BY GRU**  
Full Service Florist Since 1972  
*FLORIDA ACADEMY OF FLORAL DESIGN*  
Classes in Fresh and Silk Floral Arranging  
727-848-2809 • Fax: 1-727-849-2048  
1-800-669-0229  
DAVID C. SPRIGGS - Proprietor  
6124 Grand Boulevard

When you need to order flowers tell us that  
you are a member of WPHS  
and you will get a 10% discount!

## Please pay your dues!!!

A special thanks to Terry Kline for all of his efforts and diligent work to make our Museum a success. His latest is all of the remodeling that he has done in the Gift Shop. Terry is always there when you need something done.

This article taken from the New Port Richey Press,  
March 6, 1925, pg.#1.

### "Cotee River Trout Smoke Hav-A-Tampa Cigars"

"Hava-A-Tampa Cigar," said a three pound trout to B.W. Davis one day this week, as he rolled over in the boat. After having the hook removed and spat a full sized Hav-A-Tampa cigar from his mouth, red band and all. "Thanks, but I'll smoke my Briar and Kentucky burley," replied Mr. Davis, as he baited his hook for another of the speckled beauties.

Mr. Davis, who knows how to catch 'em, was fishing in Brown's Bayou Tuesday morning, with live bait. He had caught two nice trout. When he took the hook out of the mouth of the third one, it spit out a Hav-A-Tampa cigar in the boat, evidently having been attracted by the pretty red band of the cigar and struck at it, mistaking it for easy prey. At any rate, our fish are no pikers. They know a good cigar when they see it.

—Thanks to Adam Carozza