

July 2023

This issue sponsored by - **Ruth Dunn in loving memory of her late husband, Rudolph Dunn.**



Independence Day Parade

Thank you to our members who walked in the Independence Day parade—we won the award for Best Adult Unit! Jahna Leonard and Carol Mahler carried the banner. René Collins, Nancy Erickson, and Valerie Sciarretta presented the sign explaining the historic flag and the 38-star flag that was in use when Arcadia was incorporated in 1886 and DeSoto County was established in 1887. Jackie Hampton and Zane Dyal performed as our whip crackers—the crowd loved their expertise! We are grateful to Cindy for donating small patriotic pinwheels and flags that she distributed to crowd along with candy donated by Carol.

U.S. FLAG TRIVIA



By law, a star is added to the U.S. flag on the 4th of July following the admission of a state to the union. This U.S. 38-Star Flag

represents the addition of the state of Colorado and was used from 1877-1890.

We all know AK was added to make the 49 star flag in 1959, and HI to make the 50 star flag in 1960. What are the other 10 states not represented on the 38 star flag and when were new flags adopted representing their admission?

Answer on last page.

Member Meeting:

NOW ON THIRD MONDAY

Monday, July 17

DeSoto Memorial Hospital -

McSwain Room

Room open at 11:30 a.m.

Meeting 12 noon

Karen Smoke will present a slide show on **Dudley Farm Historic State Park**. Dudley Farm was a three generation family farm for over 100 years beginning just after the Civil War. Today the farm just outside Gainesville is operated as a living history farm for future generations to learn how past generations built this great country. She will point out many parallels how agriculture developed and changed in DeSoto County as well.

- Please arrive early so you can go through the line ahead of the hospital employees.

Terrific Tuesdays at The Turner Center

Please join the Society from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, July 11 and 25, for an evening of old-fashioned games and history trivia at the Turner Agri-Civic Center, 2250 NE Roan St., Arcadia. Sponsored by DeSoto County, "Terrific Tuesdays" are fun for the whole family with the Freedom Fest followed by fireworks on July 4; Crafts, Games, and More on July 11 and 25, and "DeSoto's Got Talent" on July 18 (sign up to perform by July 11—863-993-4807 or e.hamilton@desotobocc.com).



We need help with our old-fashioned games, such as checkers, pick-up sticks, jacks, and more. If you would like to assist, please call Carol Mahler at 863-445-0789.

Save the Date: September 30 Third Annual Florida Cracker Meal

The Society has at least one evening meeting a year to give everyone a chance to attend, and this year's event will be the Third Annual Florida Cracker Meal on September 30 at Pine Level United Methodist Church.

The Society thanks the Church for their graciousness in allowing us to use their wonderful fellowship hall for our event. We are grateful for those who volunteered to serve on the organizing committee: Stella Parker, chairperson, with committee members Linda Keen, Vernon Keen, and Trudi Super.

We thank Cindy McLeod Ely for agreeing to decorate the tables and demonstrate butter churning; Ellen Hutson for baking guava cobbler and donating pickled okra; Linda Keen for preparing tomato gravy; Carol Mahler for baking cornmeal muffins; Norma Banas for corn on the cob; and Stella Parker for sweet potatoes. If you would like to contribute something for the meal, please contact Stella at 863-990-0277 or stella52parker@gmail.com.

Arcadia Albritton Coker Cake

Contest: Our City was named for a woman because she baked a cake, so in her honor, we're having a cake contest at the Florida Cracker Meal. Please join in the fun and bake your best traditional cake or invent a new tasty treat. Thanks to Jessi Cline of Batter Up Bakery and the Rosé Cafe, 12 N. DeSoto Ave., for agreeing to judge the contest and help plate the cakes for dessert.

College Scholarship Fundraiser: In addition, we're requesting donations for our college scholarship awarded annually to a DeSoto County resident graduating from high school. For your cash donation, you may choose a "thank you" gift from select new or antique items or a gift card from a local merchant. A Florida Highwaymen Calendar for 2006, signed by Artist Robert L. Lewis, is one of the "thank you" gifts for the scholarship fundraiser.



Thanks to Jeff Griffis, Mark Davis, and Leon Arthur for moving the display case.

—Photos by Carol Mahler



A Message From The President

Volunteering isn't only for Historical Society activities, but can be as a representative of the Historical Society, and also a learning experience. Last week, I volunteered at the Freedom Festival at the Turner Center. In my bright red Society shirt I helped, enjoyed and learned with improving Pioneer Day in mind.

The event was free. Families with multiple children flowed into the place all day. Obviously, children's activities were key to attendance. There was something to do for toddlers to teens. Wrist bands of different colors directed youngsters to suitable activities. Riding the mechanical bull was a favorite and I wonder if we can rent a mechanical horse? A toddler corral was set up for play but I wonder if we could have a corral for a petting area (maybe in the cow camp area). A tram was filled all day making me think of a hay ride?

Children's activities dominated the day. Parents were asked to check in and sign a liability waiver then received the wrist band that let the children participate in activities. Music was too loud for my ears and there were minimal food vendors. The Festival was well organized and very well attended.

Norma

Display Case Relocation

Thanks to Kathy Bryce, Elizabeth Kenney, and Carol Mahler for preparing the display case to be moved and a new location for it in the Museum. We are grateful to Jeff Griffis, Mark Davis, and Leon Arthur for moving the display case--and to Cindy McLeod Ely for loaning her "dolly" that made the job much easier. We also appreciate all the guys who Jeff invited to help and who arrived on time; however, the "early birds" already had the work done: from left Luke Wilson, Michael McCague, Leon Arthur, Jeff Griffis, Mark Davis, and George Cavas. Let's hope they will volunteer again the next time we need help!

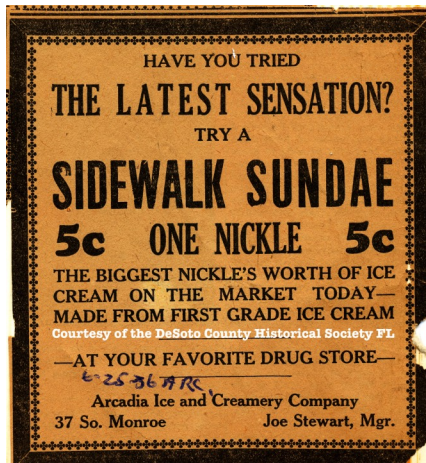


Celebrate July As National Ice Cream Month!

According to the International Dairy Foods Association, "The average American eats roughly 20 pounds of ice cream each year, or about 4 gallons. . . and, most ice cream companies are family owned and have been in operation for more than 50 years!" <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/stories/ice-cream-day-month.html>

On July 9, 1984, President Ronald Reagan issued Proclamation 5219 designating July as National Ice Cream Month and the third Sunday of the month as National Ice Cream Day! (<https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/proclamation-5219-national-ice-cream-month-and-national-ice-cream-day-1984>).

Arcadia had a few ice cream companies, most notably Joe Stewart's Arcadia Ice and Creamery Company, at 37 S. Monroe Ave. (now the location of Arcadia Printing). Built between 1923 and 1926, the structure began as the Arcadia Ice Cream Company, owned and managed from 1925 to 1936 by Joseph Hart Stewart.



The 1926 City Directory described the company as "Manufacturers and Dealers of Ice Cream and Sherberts, Jobbers of Ice Cream Cones." In 1933, he also advertised refrigerators and ice, doing business as the Arcadia Ice and Creamery Co. from 1931 to 1939.

Museum Maintenance

We are grateful to Jeff Griffis for mowing the Society's lawn at the Museum and Research Library about once a week. We also appreciate him and Carol Mahler for talking with Josh Rupert of Home and Ranch Services about some repairs to the Museum.

Cleaning and Organizing

We appreciate Kathy Bryce, Elizabeth Kenney, and Carol Mahler for working on cleaning and organizing the Howard and Velma Melton Historical Research Library.

Work Day: August 26



In preparation for the Museum and Research Library reopening in September, the Society will have a work day from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Sat., Aug 26, and some JROTC cadets will be on hand to help. We'll have an "inside" crew working on cleaning the Museum and an "outside" crew that will pressure-clean the Museum and Research Library, trim the trees and weed, and more. Please plan to supervise students or help do some work.

MUSEUM AND RESEARCH LIBRARY CLOSED FOR THE SUMMER

The Museum and Research Library will be closed for the months of June, July, and August, so that our volunteers may clean and update the exhibits and research space. Research assistance and tours will be available by appointment only: please call Carol Mahler at 863-445-0789.

John Morgan Ingraham House Museum
300 N. Monroe Avenue
The Howard and Velma Melton Historical
Research Library in the Ingraham Seed House
120 W. Whidden Street

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News from our Sister Societies —

The Blanchard House Museum

After suffering roof damage during Hurricane Ian, the Blanchard House Museum of African American History and Culture of Charlotte County, 406 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in Punta Gorda, is still closed. However, the Punta Gorda-Charlotte Library, 401 Shreve St., is hosting a Museum exhibit until the end of August, and the Museum will present a program—"The Little Town That Unity Built"—from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on July 22, at the library.

Punta Gorda Historical Society

Music in the Park Will be Hosted at the Woman's Club from July through September.

"Kickback"
Music at the Woman's Club
live music. Byob (Beverage)
Wednesday, July 12, 2023
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Doors Open at 4:30 p.m.
Chakulla
Folk, Jazz, Americana
Chakulla has shared his music at concert venues, in clubs, festivals and singing out in the street. You'll be inspired to participate and sing along!



In lieu of admission fees, the Punta Gorda Historical Society requests your donations for the ongoing maintenance of our buildings. Thank you

Located at:
Woman's Club
118 Sullivan Street, Punta Gorda FL 33950
www.puntagordahistory.com
Hosted by the Punta Gorda Historical Society

Wednesday, July 26 2023
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Doors Open at 4:30 p.m.
Adam Mac
Classic Rock & Blues with a little Country mixed in!



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Manatee Genealogical Society Meeting and Program

Your society members are invited to attend the Manatee Genealogical Society meeting and program on Tuesday, August 1, 2023, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. EST.

Our speaker, **Peggy Jude**, will speak on **"What to Do With Your Stuff – Planning for the Future of Your Genealogy and Artifacts"**. Every year genealogical research, records and heirlooms end up in the trash. Don't let this happen to you! Follow a plan to "Futurize" your genealogy. This lecture will provide Ideas and Strategies to ensure your research and treasures are preserved and passed on.

Peggy Jude has been conducting genealogical research for her family and clients for over 40 years and specializes and teaches in five areas of genealogical interest: DNA, Preserving Family History and Heirlooms, Genealogical Methods and Records, Genealogical Technology and Swedish Genealogy.

Guests attending via Zoom must register at least one day in advance by emailing: info@mgsfl.org. The Zoom meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. EST. For more information, please visit our website at: <https://mgsfl.org/>.

Historical Society Newsletter Sponsors

Jan. - **Alvie Davidson** in memory of his parents, **Ollie & Mary Lee Davidson**.

Feb. - **René Collins** in memory of **Terry and Evelyn Collins**.

March - **Dale, Patty & Sue** in loving memory of our parents, **Howard & Velma Melton**.

April - **Arlene Conley** in loving memory of my husband, **Warren Conley**, and my parents, **Leo and Hazel Williams**.

May - **Marshall and Hazel Whidden** in memory of our parents, **Marshall and Barbara Whidden**, and our beloved son, **Douglas Marshall Whidden**.

June - **Michelle, Dan, & Dow** in loving memory of our parents, **Eddie & Iris Garner**.

July - **Ruth Dunn** in loving memory of her late husband, **Rudolph Dunn**.

Aug. - **Charlotte Hill Carter** in loving memory of her husband, **Frederick Lawrence Carter**.

Sept. - **Marguerite & Tom Hankins** in memory of **Mr. & Mrs. T.J. Pipkin** (**Pip & Alison Pickard Pipkin**.)

Oct. - **People for Protecting Peace River**.

Nov. - **Betty Hall Wood** in memory of her late husband, **G. Pierce Wood, Jr.**

Dec. - **The McLeod children** in memory of their Dad, **Harold McLeod**.

Holiday Tour of Historic Homes & Buildings



Saturday, December 9, 2023



Save the Date — More info including ticket purchase locations to come!



FLAG TRIVIA ANSWER

1890 - 43 stars - ND, SD, MT, WA, IA. 1891 - 44 stars - WY. 1896 - 45 stars - UT. 1908 - 46 stars - OK. 1912 - 48 stars - NM, AZ. The 48 star flag was official for 47 years - longer than any other flag. 1959 - 49 - AK. Featured 7 rows of 7 stars each. Was only in use for one year. 1960 - 50 - HI. Features staggered rows of 6 and 5 stars. There were at least 3 versions of the 38 star flag, and there have been 19 other official US flags. For more information see: <https://www.chamberofcommerce.org/usflag/toc.flags.html>