



# LLHS MUSEUM NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2016

LADY LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 2 , NUMBER 1

P.O. Box 1486

Lady Lake, Florida 32158

## \*\*\*\* CALENDAR OF EVENTS \*\*\*\*

**MARCH - JUNE: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM – Regular Museum Schedule of Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays**

**MARCH - JUNE: Continuation of Yearlong WWII Commemorative Display**

**APRIL 19: 2:00 PM – Lady Lake Library - “Silent Movies” – Richard St.Amant**

**APRIL 30: 10:00 AM – Log Cabin Park – Dedication of DAR Historic Marker**

**MAY 26: 2:00 PM – Community Building (next to Lady Lake Library) - General Membership Meeting**

**JULY – AUGUST: Constructing Display on “Crackers and Cow Hunters”**

**SEPTEMBER: Opening of New Display**

**SEPTEMBER 22: Annual Membership Meeting, Election of Officers for FY2016-17**

### *Curator’s Message*

The Lady Lake Historical Museum’s Commemoration Exhibit of the end of World War II is on a yearlong stay that started with our official opening in September of 2015 and is continuing through July of 2016. We were very pleased with a multitude of items loaned or donated by local residents and the high-quality presentations presented by guest speakers on the World War II topic. In October, Donald Goldstein, a former soldier and distinguished author, gave us an overall view of the battles fought, including the real story of Pearl Harbor. In January, Irving Locker presented a first-hand description of the everyday life of a World War II soldier that could only be told by one who was there and was willing to talk about it. Frequent display changes are being made by our WWII Exhibit Coordinator, Tom O’Brien, to rotate the many items that are on loan from the community. A recent addition depicts the end of the Holocaust.

In November, Tom O’Brien became a lecturer and presented a very detailed description of “The Women and Children of the Civil War.”

Meanwhile, planning for our next major exhibit, “Crackers and Cow Hunters” is underway. Our Chief Researcher for this project, Randa Anderson, has started research on the topic and is recommending references, artifacts and displays for this collection. The questions we are hearing most often are: “What is a Cracker?” “What is a Cow Hunter?; “Are they the same?” Randa’s library and internet research on the background of Crackers and Cow Hunters shows that the terms are not necessarily mutually inclusive: Crackers may or may not be cow hunters, and vice-versa. Are you curious about why this topic is so important to Florida that we have chosen it for our next exhibit? For starters on what this topic is about, see the “Ranching in Florida” article and “Request for Items Needed” in this newsletter.

Our LLHS President, Richard St. Amant, is researching the topic of silent movies for a presentation on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Look for the flyer and plan to attend.

The local Puc Puggy Chapter of the Daughter’s of the American Revolution (DAR) and the National Chapter of the DAR will have a Grand Celebration in honor of the Historic Marker that will be installed in Log Cabin Park in front of the museum in honor of the train depot constructed in 1884. This will be held on Saturday, April 30. Please respond to the enclosed invitation if you want to attend the dedication here. There is no charge for this part of the celebration, but we need to know how many will be attending. The museum will be open for viewing afterwards. Limited seats will be available for those of you who want to attend the luncheon. Complete a separate form to send with your check.

Join the LLHS volunteers in helping to make this a great year for the museum!

*Norma J. Delaney, EdD, Curator, Lady Lake Historical Society Museum*

## **RANCHING IN FLORIDA**

By Norma J. Delaney, Curator

Florida's cattle industry is one of the oldest and largest of any state in the nation. With a history of unique traditions, cattle and ranching continue to be important to Florida's economy and future.

Ranching in Florida started when Ponce de Leone brought seven "Andalusian" cattle and several horses, to Florida in 1521. Florida vegetation has provided an excellent habitat for the cattle to prosper in; therefore, the descendants of Spanish cattle and horses are still here.

In the late 1800s, the hearty men that took on the task of herding cattle were not fond of the term "boy." They often called themselves cowmen or cow hunters, a reference to hunting for cattle scattered over the huge unfenced wooded range during roundups. The Florida cow hunters did not use lassos or rope lariats to herd or capture cattle. Their primary tools were cow whips and dogs. By snapping the whip near the ear of a steer, without touching the animal, a good cow hunter could turn the cow in any direction and the dogs would round them up. The crack of the whip could be heard for a long distance. When the ranchers and their cattle were near a settlement, a local resident was likely to yell "the crackers are coming."

Our future exhibit will showcase the history of ranching and what it represents in Florida.

## **GROUP TOURS**

Upon request, special times will be scheduled for group tours. We are pleased to do guided tours for Boy Scouts, Service Clubs, Red Hats, Civil War Groups, DARs, History Buffs, Neighborhoods, and other groups. Call the museum at 259-4359 or Norma Delaney at 307-7227 to schedule a special tour.

## **REQUEST FOR ITEMS NEEDED FOR NEW EXHIBIT**

This press release was sent to local papers. If you have any of these items that you could place in our exhibit, please call us. If you know anyone who has such items, please notify them of our request.

### **Historical Society Seeks Cracker and Cow Hunter Artifacts for Lady Lake Historical Museum**

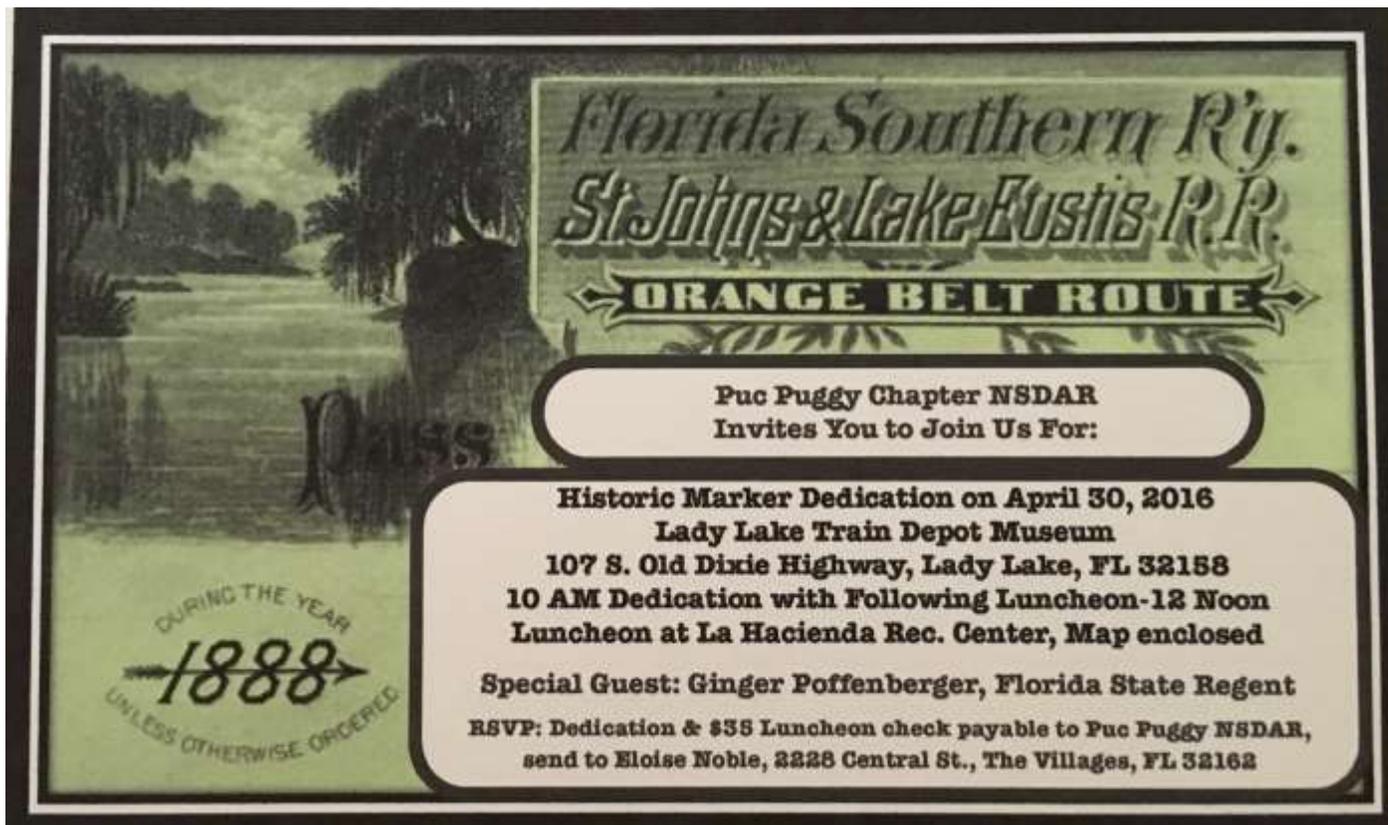
Area residents are invited to display their Cracker Culture and Cow Hunter artifacts in an upcoming yearlong exhibit, opening in September 2016 at the Lady Lake Historical Society Museum. The exhibit will depict the many aspects, of this important part of Florida's historic culture, which date back more than 300 years and are still evident today. All items will be properly identified, protected under alarm and video surveillance systems and will be returned to their owners at the end of the exhibit. Items sought include artifacts from the 1800s and early 1900s: people, horse, cattle and dog photos; letters and documents; farm implements; Cow hunter items (hornless McClellan saddles, chaps, vest hats, boots, whips, etc.); household pots and utensils; items for making sugar and turpentine and distilling drinking spirits; and more. Anyone willing to lend artifacts to the museum may call the museum at 352-259-4359 or Tom O'Brien at 201-406-9752.

## **LADY LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2015-2016**

President: Richard St. Amant  
Vice President: Ray Russomano  
Secretary: Patrick Campbell-Gordon  
Treasurer: Wray Hall  
Directors: Shirley Kimmons  
Jayne Sligar  
Mike Obermyer  
Tom O'Brien

Curator: Norma Delaney, EdD

**SICK AND INJURED LIST:** Bill Delaney (Shingles) Elaine Leis (Broken arm and knee cap)



**RESERVATIONS for DEDICATION IN LOG CABIN PARK ONLY**

**10 AM Dedication -- YARD IN FRONT OF MUSEUM – APRIL 30**

Number Attending (no charge) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**RSVP - Reservation Deadline April 8, 2016. Chairs to be set up based on reservations.**

Mail to LLHS, PO Box 1486, Lady Lake, FL 32158 or leave at museum on a Tue., Thu., or Sat. from 10 AM – 1 PM or email to [llmuseum@embarqmail.com](mailto:llmuseum@embarqmail.com)

Contact for information: Vice Regent, Brenda Weaver, Chair, 352-391-9706; [bmweaver@comcast.net](mailto:bmweaver@comcast.net)

**Use the form on the next page to mail reservation and money if you want to attend both the Dedication in front of the museum and the Luncheon Program at the LaHacienda Recreational Center that follows the Dedication.** Reservations for the Luncheon are limited. We expect to have only a representative group from the Lady Lake Historical Society to attend. The program will be a formal DAR presentation of about 2 hours.

**RESERVATION FOR DEDICATION AT LOG CABIN PARK AND AT LUNCHEON- APRIL 30**

Dedication & Luncheon (\$35 per person) Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

DAR Chapter or Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Check Payable to: **Puc Puggy Chapter NSDAR**; Send RSVP & Check to: Eloise Noble,  
Treasurer, 2228 Central Street, The Villages, FL 32162

Contact: Vice Regent, Brenda Weaver, Chair, 352-391-9706; [bmweaver@comcast.net](mailto:bmweaver@comcast.net)

**RSVP - Reservation Deadline April 8, 2016**

Puc Puggy Chapter NSDAR,  
LL Train Depot Historic Marker



Directions from Dedication at Museum to Luncheon at  
La Hacienda Recreation Center, Off Avenida Central, The Villages

From Parking Lot turn left on Old Dixie Highway, Go to stop sign at Rt. 466, Turn Right

At light, make a left onto US 27/441; Keep going for a couple of miles

After Rolling Acres Road stoplight, continue on 27/441 to the 3rd light (go past The Villages bridge)

At light turn left onto Avenida Central to next light; At Paige Place light, turn left and then right into La Hacienda  
Recreation Center parking lot



# Help Us Keep History Alive!

- Do you love history?
- Do you like meeting new people?
- Do you like being involved in your community?
- Are you looking for an interesting and fun way to get involved with local history?
- If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, you may want to consider becoming a volunteer docent at the Lady Lake Historical Society Museum!

Docents are volunteers who see to it that our patrons have a safe and pleasant experience when they visit the museum. Docents open the museum, make our visitors comfortable, answer questions, and close the museum at the end of the day. Docents are needed from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from September to June when the museum is open. Docents let us know their availability, and are scheduled according to their requests. Docents can work as often as they like, and new docents are teamed with experienced docents. Docents trade places with each other if emergencies arise so that the museum always has a docent when visitors arrive.

If you choose to volunteer, you will be trained in all the things you need to know about being a docent and you will be scheduled in advance so you can know when you are to help. Join our group of volunteers. We will work with your schedule. Call 352-259-4359 or email [llmuseum@embarqmail.com](mailto:llmuseum@embarqmail.com) and make an appointment with our Coordinator of Volunteers, Jayne Sligar.