



# LLHS MUSEUM NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 2016

LADY LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 3 , ISSUE 1

P.O. Box 1486

Lady Lake, Florida 32158

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

OCTOBER - JUNE: Museum open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays  
 OCTOBER - JUNE: Special Exhibit on "Crackers and Cow Hunters"  
 OCTOBER 22: Town's "Not So Scary Halloween Party" - Ball Park  
 NOVEMBER 12: 8 AM - 1 PM - Community Yard Sale at Log Cabin Park.  
 NOVEMBER 19: 8 AM - 1 PM - Rain-date for Community Yard Sale  
 NOVEMBER 24: MUSEUM CLOSED  
 DECEMBER 3: 10 -11:55 AM - Christmas Parade

DECEMBER 9: 6-8 PM - Light Up Lady Lake  
 DECEMBER 15: 2:00 PM - LLHS Christmas Party - Lady Lake Community Center, Guava Street  
 DECEMBER 15: 6-8 PM - Luminary Lantern Night - Log Cabin Park  
 DECEMBER 24: MUSEUM CLOSED  
 JANUARY 8: 1:00-4:00 - Antique Appraisal Fair - Lady Lake Library  
 JANUARY 19: 2:00 - Betty Steinshouser - Speaker on "Florida History"- N. Lake Presbyterian Church  
 FEBRUARY 9: 2:00 - Legendary Locals - Interview with Gloria Austin - Town Hall Commission Chambers

### *President's Message*

Some of us have not met, but I am looking forward to meeting each of you and discussing your thoughts regarding the future direction of the Lady Lake Historical Society. I hope that I can live up to all the past successes of my predecessors who were presidents of this great organization. For a major part of the past year, I fulfilled the role of vice president and gained a valuable understanding of the organization. I also have experience from my past life in New Jersey where I was president of the Historical Society of Ocean Grove for 6 years.

There has been a lot going on in August and September. Our Curator, Dr. Norma Delaney, with the help of the Board of Directors, made a proposal that was chosen by the Florida Humanities Council and resulted in funding to help support four exceptional speaker programs. Randa Anderson planned and established a new exhibit titled "Crackers and Cow Hunters" to replace last year's special exhibit on the "70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of WWII", with the assistance of Tom O'Brien and other volunteers. You do not want to miss this super new exhibit that opened in September, so come to the museum and see it.

Our first speaker event was on held on September 15<sup>th</sup> and had the largest number of attendees of any of our past speaker events. Bob Stone gave an interesting and informative multi-media presentation on the history of Florida Cattle Ranching. This program provided a timely background history in conjunction with the opening of the new museum exhibit.

Bill Belleville was our 2<sup>nd</sup> speaker on October 6. Although Hurricane Matthew delayed the presence of our speaker and reduced the number of attendees, he gave a compelling presentation on identifying our water-driven natural landscapes in Florida.

One final reminder is that our annual renewal of membership started on October 1st. One of my goals is to increase membership revenue by revitalizing our individual membership program and expanding the business and corporate memberships. I am so appreciative of having Jayne Sligar as the Director of Membership and Volunteers. She has some great new ideas to implement this year to help this goal to become a reality. She is also actively involved in training a number of new museum volunteers that you may meet on your next visit or at one of our events this year.

Ray Russomano, President  
 Lady Lake Historical Society

## ***Past President's Message***

As my tenure, as LLHS President, comes to an end I would like to thank everyone for the privilege of being associated with such a dynamic organization. As we progress into being a more vibrant, and publicized society, we will be better equipped to serve the needs of our patrons. Your new officers are the ones best qualified to carry our goals forward. Our officers, directors, docents and volunteers are best we could hope for. LLHS will have a good future!

Richard St. Amant  
Past President  
Lady Lake Historical Society

## ***Lady Lake Historical Society Board of Directors 2016-2017***

President Ray Russomano  
Vice President Tom O'Brien  
Secretary Patrick Campbell-Gordon  
Treasurer Wray Hall  
Director Jayne Sligar  
Director Mike Obermeyer  
Director Richard St. Amant  
Director Pat Patten

## ***25 Years of Service***

Shirley Kimmons was honored by the Lady Lake Historical Society at a luncheon at Perkins' Restaurant on Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. Shirley was a founding member of the Society in 1991 and served as a volunteer from 1991 - 2016. She is retiring and moving away from Lady Lake. Richard St. Amant, President, presented Shirley with an engraved plaque in appreciation of her leadership. Randa Anderson and Norma Delaney spoke about her dedication and inspiration for many years. Ruth Kussard, Mayor of the Town of Lady Lake presented Shirley with a Mayoral Citation, one of very few presented by the Town.

## ***Curator's Message***

The Cambridge Dictionary Online defined museums as "buildings where objects of historical, scientific or artistic interest are kept, preserved and exhibited". The American Alliance of Museums reported that a museum is "an institution which collects documents, preserves artifacts and interprets information for the public's benefit". Since 1998, additions have been made to these definitions. Museums now enable the public to explore collections for inspiration, learning and enjoyment.

According to American Journalist Mike Wallace, the importance of museums lies in their role as a nation's memory bank. Museums are the only source of "living history."

Technology advancement has aided museums in catching up with the cyber-savvy world today. Museums, including the LLHS Museum, began to use the Internet as a medium in extending educational resources to the homes of the people. By employing technologies of the 21st century, museums are better able to fulfill their essential role as an educational resource.

There is no limit to the public service of museums, but we must do a better job of telling our story. We need to work together to underscore the important societal contributions that museums make. We need our board members, visitors, volunteers and elected officials to join together to make the case that museums are powerful community assets.

Norma J. Delaney, Ed.D, Curator  
Lady Lake Historical Society Museum

### ***New Members and Volunteers***

We are pleased to welcome all new members and volunteers. We have had a successful drive due to all the publicity we have had this fall with our new exhibit and speaker program. It's exciting to see all the interest in the history of Lady Lake. We appreciate all the volunteers that have gone through initial training. Thank you for helping us "Keep History Alive".

Jayne Sligar  
Director of Membership and Volunteers

### ***Welcome New LLHS Members!***

Howard and Ann Westin  
Olivia Gombar  
Kathleen LaMorte

### ***Puc Puggy Historic Marker***

The Historic Marker created for the Train Depot by the Puc Puggy Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is gracing the front of the Old Depot that houses the Lady Lake Historical Museum. This is a great honor to the LLHS, in recognition of the historic preservation that is being done at the museum.

### ***[ladylakemuseum.org](http://www.ladylakemuseum.org)***

Are you aware that the society has its own web site to promote the museum and society events? Since it went live, just 18 months ago, we have had approximately 2,500 visits. If you have not visited recently, do so and see some of the important changes. Go to <http://www.ladylakemuseum.org>. You may register for events at this site.

Also, visit us on Facebook:  
<http://www.facebook.com/Lady-Lake-Historical-Society-Museum>.

### ***Why Visit Museums?***

By visiting museums, you gain a unique interactive experience of getting up close to things usually only seen in books, newspapers or on television. You see something with your own eyes. Research shows that those who have had firsthand experience are more likely to retain this information in later life.

Museums are a mirror of yesterday. When all products and displays are kept in the best state of appearance and repair, it is possible for many generations to experience and be inspired by them.

The mission of the LLHS is to preserve the past for future generations!

### ***A Brief History of Lady Lake***

On Halloween night, if there are ghostly sightings of a woman driving a horse and buggy at Water Oak Country Club Estates, it is likely to be "Miss Estelle." This friendly ghost would be a former resident of the Water Oak area, then called Conant, now a ghost town. Dr. Olive Estelle Worchester Swan, the first licensed female doctor in Florida practiced medicine in the Lady Lake area and from the Ocklawaha River to Fruitland Park, for 40 years, driving a buggy pulled by a horse named Cadmus.

Norma J. Delaney, Curator

### ***Produced by the LLHS***

For Sale:  
*The Story of Lady Lake*, Book, 2013 - \$10  
*Lady Lake & Her History*, CD, 2007 - \$5  
*The History of Our Flag*, CD, 2014 - \$5

### ***Without Crackers and Cow Hunters, Lady Lake May Not Have Come Into Being!***

Jacob Walton and Sam and Jake Sligh were Crackers from South Carolina who first settled on the shores of Lake Griffin following the Third Seminole War (1858). Poorly dressed, uneducated and with unusual-sounding dialects, the Slighs and Waltons made up for their lack of refinement with their courage and hard work and carved a living for their families out of Florida's frontier. The Waltons and Slighs, like other people defined as Crackers, were of Scots-Irish or German descent and whose parents had arrived in America as indentured servants, day laborers or itinerant farmers or tradesmen. Lacking education, they were scorned and ridiculed by the higher-class, land-owning citizens who employed them. To escape this enforced poverty, many Crackers pushed southward into Florida once it became a U.S. territory. The Slighs established a settlement, store, boarding house and ferry landing on Lake Griffin and later moved their businesses three miles west to Lady Lake, after the railroad was built in 1883. Some Crackers, like Samuel Jefferson Sligh, son of Lady Lake's Sam Sligh, rose above their humble beginnings to become successful entrepreneurs and statesmen. Today, streets and subdivisions in Orlando, Tampa and Lakeland bear the name of Sligh.

In Lady Lake's early days, there were no fences. Cattle roamed freely. Some Crackers, including the Waltons, owned free-range cattle that grazed among the lakes of Central Florida. Other cattle owners were Lady Lake's early African-American settlers, including the Workmans and Goldens. These cattlemen were called cow hunters because it was necessary to locate and round up their cattle from the palmetto thickets and forests and drive them to market. Using "Cracker" horses and whips, and helped by "catch" dogs, cow hunters rounded up their cattle for branding twice each year and drove them to markets in Ocala, Tampa or other cities for shipment to slaughterhouses.

To learn more about how Crackers and Cow Hunters helped to build Lady Lake and Florida, please visit the Lady Lake Historical Society Museum.

Randa Robinson Anderson

#### ***The Florida Humanities Speakers***

The Florida Humanities Council is dedicated to building strong communities and informed citizens by providing Floridians with the opportunity to explore the heritage, traditions and stories of our state and its place in the world.

The Lady Lake Historical Society is partnering with the Council to present a historical program, "Florida History from the Palmetto Leaves to the Yearling to the River of Grass," through the writings of three authors by Betty Jean Steinshouer, in costume, on January 19<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m., at the North Lake Presbyterian Church. See details and register at the museum's website: [ladylakemuseum.org](http://ladylakemuseum.org) or phone the museum at 352-259-4359 or email [ladylakemuseum@gmail.com](mailto:ladylakemuseum@gmail.com).

#### ***Living Legends of Lake County***

Living Legends of Lake County is an interview series designed to capture the life stories of the people who have shaped Lake County Florida. The LLHS will host an interview of an important nearby Lake County resident, Gloria Austin, on February 9, 2017, at 2 p.m. at the Town Hall Commission Chambers. Open to the public, free of charge, but donations are requested to support the museum.

#### ***COMMUNITY YARD SALE***

November 12, from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Rent a 10 x 10 space for \$15. Add a table for \$5 or bring your own at no extra charge. Bring items you want to sell. Rain date is November 19. Register at the museum or on our website.