



The Archive



Mount Dora Historical Society

Autumn 2015

Coming Up: **TEA & HISTORY**

October 16th, 2 pm to 4 pm at the Museum

A reservation is required because seating is limited

The museum will be closed for the tea

(We will place tables and chairs throughout the museum.)

Please call Carolyn at 407-925-6782 to reserve your space.

We will serve tea and fresh made scrumptious desserts while we talk about Mount Dora History. The cost is \$10 each and of course the proceeds benefit the museum.



Next BOARD MEETING-December 3rd, 5:30 pm at the Museum

Thank you to those who have brought us pictures to increase our collection!

Mrs. Frances Sellers has donated a photo portrait of Mrs. Mary Simpson. We're excited to have this portrait to add to our wall in the parlor area. David and Mary Simpson were the first homesteaders in 'Mount Dora' (as it would become). Their son James was one of the first children born in the area.

Tom Roberts (of DeLand) has donated pictures of the Sadler Homestead circa 1930's-50's and of a reunion picture of the Sadlers dating back to the 1890's. The era of the Sadler dresses we have on display.

We have a developing display on hand stitched linens that includes a 125 year old quilt, a 60 year old red work crib coverlet and an 80 year old cut-work lace table cloth and napkins. The handwork is exceptional and we're very proud to have these items on loan for people to see.

Rick Smith (son of Patrick, A Land Remembered), will be speaking at the Community Building on Sunday, November 15th at 2 pm for a W.T. Bland Library program. The program is named "The Way We Worked in A Land Remembered". The Historical Society is hosting a meet and greet with Mr. Smith following his program. All Historical Society members and guests are welcome to attend and then stay for the meet and greet. Come get acquainted with your fellow Society members! There will be light refreshments.

2nd Friday in December, the museum will be open for the Art Stroll from 6 pm to 8 pm

Antique cast-iron fire engines in honor of Fire Prevention Week

In honor of Fire Prevention Week, the Mount Dora History Museum has a new display of cast-iron fire apparatus on loan from Gene Packwood. The collection dates from 1910 to the 1940s. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 1:00-4:00 pm at 450 Royellou Lane in Mount Dora. Museum entry is \$2 for adults, \$1 for students, and free to Historical Society members. For more information, call 352-383-0006 or visit www.mountdorahistorymuseum.org.

Toy fire engines first appeared around 1880, made of cast iron and tinplate. Known as fire wagons, these toys included pumper wagons, horse-drawn chief's wagons, ladder wagons, and other accessories. Interestingly, the toy fire trucks of the 1920s predicted the engines of today.

Toy makers combined the traditional horse-drawn wagons with a truck body to create something similar to today's fire engine. The three most famous makers of these early fire-fighting toys are Dent, Kenton, and Hubley, though other companies like Tonka and Marx would later make smaller scale tin and steel engines. (<http://www.collectorsweekly.com/firefighting/model-trucks>)

Fire Prevention Week history provided by www.nfpa.org

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on October 8, but continued into and did most of its damage on October 9, 1871.

While the Great Chicago Fire was the best-known blaze to start during this fiery two-day stretch, it wasn't the biggest. That distinction goes to the Peshtigo Fire, the most devastating forest fire in American history. The fire, which also occurred on October 8th, 1871, and roared through Northeast Wisconsin, burning down 16 towns, killing 1,152 people, and scorching 1.2 million acres before it ended.

Those who survived the Chicago and Peshtigo fires never forgot what they'd been through; both blazes produced countless tales of bravery and heroism. But the fires also changed the way that firefighters and public officials thought about fire safety. On the 40th anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire, the Fire Marshals Association of North America (today known as the International Fire Marshals Association), decided that the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire should henceforth be observed not with festivities, but in a way that would keep the public informed about the importance of fire prevention. The commemoration grew incrementally official over the years.

In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9 falls. According to the National Archives and Records Administration's Library Information Center, Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation proclaiming a national observance during that week every year since 1925.



Article by Janet Westlake,
President of Mount Dora
Historical Society

Our life member list:

Mick & Connie Aldridge
Marilyn & Dan Bafunno-New
Dolores Bersell
Rodney & Elizabeth Brewer
Ed Brooks-Mount Dora Community Trust
Michael & Georgann Bukata
Glenna Burch/Marsha Blum
Betty Cook
Joe & Janice DiFiore
Dave & Lynn Felts
John & Cathy Hoechst-New
James L. Homich
James Laux
Al & Marlette Liveright
Gary McKechnie & Nancy Howell
Ann Neely
Gene Packwood
Mary Pezzo
Brandon Wald
Cooper & Vye Wise



*MUSEUM ADMISSION is \$2.00 for adults, \$1.00 for students, kindergarten and under are free. Tour groups pay the same price.

**Admission is always free for Members of the Historical Society.

***Bring your group to visit the museum for a private one hour tour on Friday or Saturday morning. Arrangements must be made two weeks in advance. call: 352-383-0006 or e-mail: mountdorahistory@gmail.com

DOCENT STAFF: ☺Thank you☺

Tuesday-Rosemary Cliburn
Wednesday-Gail Morris
Thursday-Dottie Howell
Friday-Julia Goodwin
Saturday-Susan Bourrillion
Barnett Schwartzman, John DeGraw
Sunday-Martin Rosengarten & Julia Goodwin
Substitute-Janet Westlake, Pat Wilson

2015 New Members and Renewals

Individual: Raoul Barker, Carol Bruno, Sandy McCracken-New, Joanne Steele, Geri Wolter
Family: Bill & Liz Lowery, Renee & Dick Milota, Janet & Les Westlake

Application for Membership in the Mount Dora Historical Society

Annual dues cover the period of April 1st to March 31st of the next year.

(If you join within 6 months of our new year, your membership is good until the year after.)

Personal checks or money orders will be accepted. (You can drop by the museum and pay by credit card.)

Please check a box to indicate: New Member Renewing Member Referred by:

Please check one type of membership below: _____

Individual \$15 Family \$25 Business \$50

Life Member \$100 Life Member Family \$150 Life Member Business \$250

Date: _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ (circle one) cell phone home phone work phone

E-mail: _____

Names of family for family membership: _____

**Mail your application and payment to
Mount Dora Historical Society, Inc.; P.O. Box 1166; Mt Dora, FL 32756**