HISTORY
In Your Own Backyard

Learn About:
A Second Seminole War Camp Site and Battlefield
Preserving an 1886 Cottage
Unwrapping a 1916 Courthouse
Keeping the Past Alive with Living History Programs
Credits

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Cardona Photography
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Spady House Museum
Michael Bornstein
George Greenberg
Richard Procyk
Edwin Rodgers
David Thompson

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An artist shows children how to make brooms the old-fashioned way. Courtesy Cardona Photography and Spady House Museum.

**Vocabulary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abundant</td>
<td>A large number of something</td>
<td>Horticultural</td>
<td>The art or practice of gardening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annex</td>
<td>A building joined to or associated with a main building</td>
<td>Itinerant</td>
<td>Traveling from place to place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archaeologist</td>
<td>A person who studies the remains of buildings, tools, pottery, and artwork of past human cultures</td>
<td>Landmark</td>
<td>A building or site that is associated with a historical event or place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architecture</td>
<td>The style of buildings; the profession of designing buildings and open areas</td>
<td>McGuffey’s</td>
<td>Name of reading books used in the 1800s-early 1900s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avocational</td>
<td>A hobby or minor occupation</td>
<td>Moral</td>
<td>A practical lesson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bias</td>
<td>Prejudice for or against one thing or person</td>
<td>Mortality</td>
<td>A number of deaths in an area or period or from a common cause</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census</td>
<td>An official register of citizens and their property for purposes of taxation and population</td>
<td>Nostalgic</td>
<td>Sentimental longing for things of the past</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demolition</td>
<td>To tear down, destroy, destruction</td>
<td>Oral history</td>
<td>The collection and study of taped recorded information from the speaker’s personal knowledge about the past</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epidemic</td>
<td>A widespread disease or illness in a community that happens at the same time</td>
<td>Ordinance</td>
<td>This is a type of a law that local governments use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fad</td>
<td>A widespread but short lived enthusiasm for something</td>
<td>Preservation</td>
<td>To preserve, to keep as is; to maintain a structure in its original or existing condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Cracker cowboy</td>
<td>Cow herders that gathered the free roaming cattle in Florida. They received their nickname “Cracker Cowboys” from the ten to twelve foot long braided leather whips they used to herd cattle. The whips made a loud “crack” when used.</td>
<td>Rallied</td>
<td>To come together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Cracker horse</td>
<td>These horses are descendants of the first horses brought to Florida by the Spanish explorers. The Cracker horse is a small and sturdy animal well suited for herding cattle on the Florida cattle ranges. They are a rare breed with about 2,000 Cracker horses in the world. They are also called Seminole pony, prairie pony, marsh tacky, and Florida cow pony.</td>
<td>Restoration</td>
<td>To restore a structure to the way it originally was built</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida Cur dog</td>
<td>A breed of dog used by Florida cowboys to herd cattle</td>
<td>'rithmetic</td>
<td>Arithmetic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage</td>
<td>Something, artifacts or traditions, that is passed down from generation to generation and maintained in the present for the benefit of the future</td>
<td>'riting</td>
<td>Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homestead</td>
<td>A dwelling or place to live in including the property or land</td>
<td>Rockledge</td>
<td>A town in Florida founded on the banks of the Indian River in 1887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Scholar</td>
<td>A student; pupil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Spencerian script</td>
<td>A system of penmanship characterized by clear, rounded letters, slanting right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Victorian style</td>
<td>A style of architecture, furniture, and decorations between ca. 1849-1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wilderness</td>
<td>Wild, wooded area</td>
</tr>
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Some people think that history is just for historians. But that is not true. It has everything to do with you and where you live. History is everywhere. Here is a true story to prove it:

Retired Miami Beach Police detective Richard Procyk moved to Jupiter in the 1980s. He is an avocational archaeologist who became interested in the Second Seminole War (1835-1842). Before Procyk moved to Palm Beach County, he was studying the ancient people of south Florida. Over the years, he has taken part in archaeological digs in Broward and Miami-Dade counties, the Florida Keys, and in Central and South America. When Procyk moved he began researching the history of the Jupiter area. He became involved with finding two very important historical sites in Jupiter.

The location of Fort Jupiter was already known. It was on a point of land in the Loxahatchee River known today as Pennock Point. It was built by U.S. troops after a large battle with Seminoles in January 1838. Part of the force was made up of volunteers who did not get along with regular army soldiers. When Fort Jupiter was built, the Tennessee Volunteers made their camp about a mile west from the fort.

In 1986 Procyk and a few friends began searching for and found the lost camp of the Tennessee Volunteers. The site of the camp was in an area that was being developed for housing. Procyk and his friends were able to get permission to excavate some of the camp. They also talked with the developer about saving the site. But the developer let the bulldozers destroy the campsite. This important historical site was lost because Palm Beach County did not have any laws protecting its historical heritage.

After the loss of the Tennessee Volunteer camp, the Palm Beach County Commissioners approved a preservation ordinance to protect the county’s heritage. All that marks the campsite today is a small granite stone memorial. This was just one case of the tragic loss of a historical site. But people like Procyk were able to get county government involved so in the future historically important sites would not be destroyed.

After finding the volunteer camp, Procyk and his friends began searching for the battlefield where two battles between the Seminole and U.S. troops on the Loxahatchee River took place. The first battle was fought on January 15, 1838, and the second on January 24. After months of searching in hot weather through thick brush, they found the long-lost battlefield. Because there were new laws protecting historical locations, the battlefield was saved by county government. Today the battlefield is called Riverbend Park. The park is currently closed to the public, except for weekend programs. In the near future, the county Parks Department is planning to build a museum on the site which will be open to the public.

The search for the Tennessee Volunteer camp and the Battles of Loxahatchee battlefield are good examples of what can be achieved when people like Richard Procyk, avocational archaeologists, historians, and other concerned citizens and professionals get involved to save our past.

“Our history is who we are. We don’t leave the past behind – it comes with us into the future until those experiences are understood.”

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How will you become involved in finding and preserving our heritage?

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How will you become involved in finding and preserving our heritage?
Sea Gull Cottage: The Oldest Existing House in Palm Beach

Sea Gull Cottage was built in 1886 by Robert R. McCormick, a Denver railroad and land developer. McCormick visited the area on a fishing trip and found a paradise with wild game, abundant fish, and tropical plants. He said to the local settlers, “Truly you have made the wilderness to bloom.” McCormick paid $10,000 for a lake to ocean property. He then spent $30,000 to have the cottage built. Most of the building materials were shipped by water from the north. During the late 1800s, the shingle cottage was known as “the showplace” along the shores of Lake Worth. The Shingle Style is typical of Palm Beach’s earliest architecture.

Once known as “Croton Cottage,” the landscape and plantings on the property were truly magnificent. It was like an experimental horticultural station. There were countless varieties of tropical plants and over two hundred rose bushes. In addition to all of the plants McCormick had two hundred fancy-breed chickens.

When Henry Flagler saw pictures of McCormick’s house he remarked, “Why I didn’t know there was anything that beautiful south of Rockledge.” After visiting southeast Florida, Flagler decided to extend his railroad line. In 1894 he brought the Florida East Coast Railroad to West Palm Beach.

McCormick sold the cottage and lake to ocean property to Henry Flagler for $75,000. Sea Gull Cottage was Flagler’s winter residence until the completion of his new home, Whitehall, in 1902. Executives of the railroad system lived in the cottage until 1913 when it was moved north of the Breakers Hotel on the beach. Here it became a rental cottage and acquired the name “Sea Gull Cottage.”

When the Breakers Hotel decided to expand in 1984 Sea Gull Cottage was threatened with demolition. The Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach stepped in to save it. The old, worn-out building was moved across the island to a site near its original lakefront location. Using original photos as guides, the cottage was restored in the Queen Anne Shingle Style, a type of Victorian style of the late 1800s. On land provided by the Royal Poinciana Chapel the cottage continues to have a useful life. Sea Gull Cottage, the oldest existing structure in Palm Beach, serves as a nostalgic reminder of Palm Beach’s past.

Saving our history continues today. Sea Gull Cottage is in need of repair once again, inside and out. The Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach has plans to raise funds for the restoration which may include replacing the third-story tower.

Florida State Historical Marker in front of Sea Gull Cottage. Courtesy Historical Society of Palm Beach County.
Restoring the 1916 Palm Beach County Courthouse

The neo-classical style 1916 Palm Beach County Courthouse is located at the southeast corner of 3rd Street and Dixie Highway in West Palm Beach. It was home to county government for over seventy years. After the construction of the new courthouse in the 1990s, the old courthouse was closed.

About ten years after the 1916 courthouse was built, the county had grown so much that the government needed more space. A second courthouse, or annex, was built that was a copy of the 1916 building. Despite further additions, by the 1960s the courthouse building was too small for the expanding government. In 1972 a brick wrap-around was built enclosing the old buildings.

Since Palm Beach County has expanded in recent years, a new, modern courthouse was needed. In the 1990s the new courthouse was opened and the old courthouse closed. The wrap-around building sat for almost a decade before the county commissioners decided to take action and save and restore the 1916 building. The old courthouse is an important symbol of county government which once held all government. When the restoration project is completed in 2008, it will house some county offices and a new Palm Beach County history museum. The old courthouse will once again be a landmark for Palm Beach County. Without the help of the Palm Beach County Commissioners, the old building would have eventually been demolished. Now it will be preserved for generations to come.

Anybody, including you, can help save our history. What would you like your children or grandchildren to see? Different people have different answers. Some fought to save the Schools on the Hill, which are now Alexander Dreyfoos Jr. School of the Arts. Others rallied to restore the Seaboard Railway Station where you can still take the train and now the Tri-Rail. Many fought to bring back downtown West Palm Beach – Clematis Street and the surrounding area. Now there are many new shops, restaurants, and of course, the fountains.

Other buildings in Palm Beach County have been saved from destruction. In Jupiter, the Loxahatchee River Historical Society has preserved the 1898 DuBois House. It is now a museum. The Spady House Museum in Delray Beach is located in the house that once belonged to S.D. Spady, an important early African American educator. The Delray Beach Historical Society has restored several old cottages and a railway station that are open to the public. The Boca Raton Historical Society saved an early Florida East Coast Railway Station. They now operate a museum and education program in it. There are many others, including government and private organizations, and individuals, who work hard to preserve the architectural heritage of Palm Beach County.

Reading Check:
How many years old is the Sea Gull Cottage?

Activity:
Create a timeline of the oldest existing house in Palm Beach, from when it was built to present day.

Vocabulary Check:
Illustrate the boldfaced words to identify the unknown words.

Reading Check:
What information is significant and important about the Palm Beach County Courthouse?

Write about it:
Research the buildings that have been saved from destruction by using the Internet and reference books.
History of the Future

Take a look through your newspaper. Can you find signs of an earlier era in today’s paper?

1. Read the local obituaries for several days. Pick out one of the oldest people.

When was he or she born? ______________________
Where? ______________________________________

2. Write down three interesting facts about this person’s life:
   a. __________________________________________
   b. __________________________________________
   c. __________________________________________

3. Name at least three important historical events that he or she must have lived through:
   a. __________________________________________
   b. __________________________________________
   c. __________________________________________

4. If you could have asked this person three questions, what would they have been?
   a. __________________________________________
   b. __________________________________________
   c. __________________________________________

5. What places, if any, are associated with this person?
   a. __________________________________________
   b. __________________________________________
   c. __________________________________________

6. Can you find any other references to history in the paper? For example, is an old firehouse being refurbished or torn down? Is there a controversy about building a shopping center on the site of a graveyard? Something else? Keep a log for several days. Then write down at least three subjects with historic references:
   a. __________________________________________
   b. __________________________________________
   c. __________________________________________
Get on the Case:
Eight Ways To Be a Backyard Detective

Saving our heritage is a very good thing. But before you can save it, you first have to know that it is there! One thing for sure: History is all around you. You just have to find it.

The good news is that discovering history is fun. And once you’ve uncovered it, you can help make sure that it is not lost forever. You just need to know where to start.

Open Your Eyes
1. Just looking at a building tells you a lot.
First, try to find a cornerstone. Often years ago, when an important new building was built, the builder included a cornerstone. You can usually find the cornerstone at the base of (you guessed it!) one of the corners. It may include important information, such as the year the building was finished, the first owner’s name, and its use.

2. Next, check the building’s style.
Like other fads, building styles come and go. Sometimes you can almost tell whether the rumors about a place are true by knowing a little bit about architecture. Most buildings reflect the era in which they were built. For example, during the 1920s the Mediterranean Revival style in Palm Beach County was very popular. Buildings with red clay barrel tile roofs, stucco walls, arched windows and doors, colorful tiles, wrought iron, and cast stone decorations reflected the well-off economy of the era.

3. Make it an inside job.
See if you can get permission to look inside an old building. Many craftsmen and builders signed and dated corners or eaves. Sometimes you can even get information by looking at the light fixtures and wallpaper!

Get on Your Feet
4. Taking a walk can teach you about your neighborhood.
First, be sure to read the signs. You might find a street or a building named after a famous resident, maybe a Native American, an early pioneer, an athlete, an activist, or a war hero. Take a notebook and write down the names you notice.

5. Check out the library.
You can find lists of early residents and their jobs in old city directories. Use them to look up the names you noticed earlier. Old newspapers provide reports on important events – wars, disasters, crimes – from the early days. Or you could find references to the people whose names you wrote down. (And don’t forget to read the ads for ideas about what daily life was like.)

Visit the courthouse to find records of land transfers, estates, births, deaths, marriages, and more.

7. Go to a graveyard.
Tombstones tell a lot. For example, you’ll soon know if lots of people died during a certain year. That might mean a natural disaster occurred. If there are many children’s graves, it may reveal an epidemic or information about mortality rates. If it’s OK with the cemetery, make rubbings of some of the gravestones you like most.

Perk Up Your Ears
8. Talk to an older person.
One of the best ways to learn about history is to talk to people who lived through it. They are often great sources of information. You’ll learn more about how to conduct oral interviews in the following pages. (Adapted from the National Trust for Historic Preservation)
History of the Future

You can look through newspaper archives to learn about events that took place many years ago. You also can look at today’s newspaper to identify what future historians may consider important.

1. What stories in today’s newspaper seems most important to you? Pick at least one national story and one local story. Describe them briefly here:
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

2. Where exactly did the national story take place?
__________________________________________________________________

a. If you were going to preserve a site related to that story, what would it be? Why?
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

b. Which important people were involved in the story?
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

3. If you created a time capsule about the world today, what five things would you put in it?
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

4. Where exactly did the local story take place?
__________________________________________________________________

a. If you were going to preserve a site related to that story, what would it be? Why?
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

b. Which important people were involved in the story?
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________

5. If you created a time capsule about your town or school, what five things would you put in it?
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________
More Spade Work:
Get Out Your Notebook and Dig!

Want to learn more about the history of your town? One great way is to interview people who lived through some of the town’s interesting times. You may wonder, “What was it like to be a woman working for the Red Cross Motor Corps during World War II?” or “How did people survive the 1928 Hurricane? And what buildings were destroyed?” You might even want to know what a famous movie star was like in high school and exactly where he or she lived. If people can tell you, they probably will!

In 2004 the Historical Society of Palm Beach County interviewed four people about their World War II service with the Civil Air Patrol. The former members were part of Coastal Patrol 3 and they flew anti-submarine patrols from Lantana to Cape Canaveral, Florida and back. They told of how they flew small civilian airplanes up to sixty miles over the ocean searching for German U-boats. The oral histories were video taped and then transcribed. This way their stories will be preserved for future generations in more than one form. The interviews were conducted as part of the project collecting the history of the local Civil Air Patrol unit.

Another set of oral histories was recorded in 2006. The Historical Society partnered with local television station WPEC-TV Channel 12. The interviews were conducted and video taped at the television station. The interviews were with people who were involved in business, education, medicine, and politics in Palm Beach County over the past sixty years. Their stories are important to preserve because they give us a look into what life was like then.

Getting It Down

Before you can take an oral history, you will need to do a little research. First, figure out whom you can interview. If you are interested in the 1947 hurricane, for example, who do you know who lived through it? Did your neighbor live here then? Did your great-grandmother? If you do not know anyone, people at senior centers or retirement homes may be able to help you.

Before writing your questions, you will need some background about the event. For example, if your library has newspaper archives from 1947, go in and read some first-hand accounts about the hurricane. Having a little knowledge about the event will help you think of good questions.

To get ready for an interview, write down at least ten questions that you want to ask. Try to think of questions that will encourage someone to talk, questions that do not have really short answers. For example, do not ask, “Where were you when the hurricane hit?” Instead, say, “Tell me about what you were doing right before the hurricane hit.”

Be sure to take a notebook and a tape recorder when you go. If you work with another student, one of you can take notes while the other runs the recorder. Check first to make sure that your pen has ink and the recorder is working properly.

Start by telling the person your name, your school, and why you are interviewing him or her. If you are recording, you will need to ask permission and ask the person to sign a release form for the oral history. Allow time for your subject to answer your questions. Do not rush or argue, even if you suspect your subject has his or her facts wrong.

Always be polite and patient. If the person starts to wander, bring him or her back to the subject by asking one of the questions you have ready. Listen carefully to what is said, because sometimes that will spark more questions. For example, if the person says, “I got over the bridge right before it broke in two,” that is definitely something you will want to know more about! Try to get lots of descriptive details. At the end of the interview, be sure to say “thank you.”

After the interview, type your notes. Read them over carefully. If anything seems questionable, or the result of a particular bias, flag it and double-check with other sources.

Repair work on the engine of a Stinson Voyager at Coastal Patrol 3, Lantana Airport, September 1942. Courtesy David Thompson.

Judge Edward Rodgers in his robes. Courtesy Judge Edward Rodgers.


Judge Edward Rodgers in his robes. Courtesy Judge Edward Rodgers.

More Spade Work: Get Out Your Notebook and Dig!
Newspaper interviews are a lot like oral histories. They both involve talking to people about their interests and experiences. To get an idea of what it’s like to be a reporter (or an oral historian), try this: Search the newspaper for a story about someone you find interesting. Make sure it contains plenty of quotes. Then write down five questions that the reporter must have asked in order to get this information.

1. ____________________________________________
   ______________________________________________

2. ____________________________________________
   ______________________________________________

3. ____________________________________________
   ______________________________________________

4. ____________________________________________
   ______________________________________________

5. ____________________________________________
   ______________________________________________

How do you think the person would answer your questions? Would he or she feel comfortable with what you’re asking – or avoid answering? Write down the responses you imagine and underline any parts of the newspaper interview that support them.

1. ____________________________________________
   ______________________________________________

2. ____________________________________________
   ______________________________________________

3. ____________________________________________
   ______________________________________________

4. ____________________________________________
   ______________________________________________

5. ____________________________________________
   ______________________________________________

Next, think of five questions that you’d like to ask that might not have been addressed directly in the interview. What are they?

1. ____________________________________________
   ______________________________________________

2. ____________________________________________
   ______________________________________________

3. ____________________________________________
   ______________________________________________

4. ____________________________________________
   ______________________________________________

5. ____________________________________________
   ______________________________________________

Oral History Bonus Points:
On a separate piece of paper, write down at least ten questions that you will ask in your oral history project.
You can preserve America's heritage in lots of ways. The good news is that preservation can be really interesting. For example, Palm Beach County Judge Nelson Bailey keeps Florida history alive as a story-telling Florida Cracker cowboy. Bailey tells stories about Florida's Native Americans, Spanish explorers, pioneers, Seminoles, and black Seminoles. He talks about cattle drives and the kind of horses cracker cowboys used. The horse, a Florida Cracker horse, is a rare breed that dates to the arrival of the Spanish five hundred years ago. Wherever Bailey goes to tell Florida stories he brings with him his Florida Cracker horse, Domino Negro. His Florida Cur, Cooter, a breed of dog used to herd cattle special to Florida, also comes along.

Judge Bailey is the only person listed in the Directory of American Storytellers as a teller of Florida tales. Another person keeping the past alive is local resident Michael Bornstein. He has researched and portrays southeast Florida's nineteenth-century mail carriers, the Barefoot Mailmen. These brave mailmen walked the beach delivering the mail between Lake Worth and Miami. The carriers got their name from walking barefoot on the beach.

The mailmen traveled a route that was 136 miles round trip. It was fifty-six miles by boat and eighty miles on foot. That is an average of 7,000 miles a year. The trip took three days each way. Every Monday a mailman left the Lake Worth area and arrived in Miami on Wednesday. The following day, he began his return trip back and got home on Saturday.

Bornstein dresses like the mailmen and tells stories of how they lived and worked. Once a year he walks the beach retracing the steps of the mail carriers. As he walks along the beach, Bornstein talks to the people about the Barefoot Mailmen. By doing this, Bornstein is keeping their memory, and a part of the pioneering history of southeast Florida, alive.

Talk about it: Why do you think it’s important for Floridians to keep Florida history alive?

Reading Check: Why did the cracker cowboys use the Florida Cracker horse breed?

Short Answer: Explain how you would feel if you were one of the Barefoot Mailmen that walked from Lake Worth to Miami.

Reading Check: What is “crackling”?

Talk about it: What is something your family does to keep your heritage alive?

Math Check: About how many miles a day did The Barefoot Mailmen travel?
Spady Heritage Days

In Delray Beach, the Spady House Museum is keeping African American history alive. Every year the museum presents "Living Heritage Day," a festival featuring demonstrations of country living. African American artists have exhibitions to show how lye soap was made over an open fire. They also cook collard greens and "crackling," which is fried pork skin. There are demonstrations of making dolls from corn wrappings and how to make grass brooms. Some of the artists talk about farm life after the end of slavery. Through heritage programs such as this one, African American history can be brought to life and passed on to the next generation.

Little Red Schoolhouse

The past is kept alive in the Little Red Schoolhouse, southeast Florida’s first school. The Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach’s “living history” program takes students back in time to experience a mini-day in the one-room school of the 1890s. Students who attend the Little Red Schoolhouse come prepared. They dress for the time period and assume a person’s name and age from the 1890 census. They also bring a hand-made copybook and bring a home-made snack like long ago.

Education in America’s one-room schoolhouses stressed discipline and moral values. They studied the three Rs, readin’, writin’, and arithmetick. Modern Little Red Schoolhouse “scholars” recite from McGuffey’s...
For each of them, think of three things you could do individually – and three things you could do as part of a class or group – to help.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individually</th>
<th>As Part of a Group</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a.</td>
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1. a._____________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________
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2. a._____________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________
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   ___________________________________________________

3. a._____________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________

Talk about it:
Compare the differences between school in 1890 versus today!

What game do we play at recess today that is similar to “Steal the Bacon”?

Take a minute to think about your own town. What three places or memories would you like to see preserved?

1. _______________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________

2. _______________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________

3. _______________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________
   ___________________________________________________

Hattie Gale, who was sixteen years old, was the area’s first school teacher. Courtesy Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach.

An alternative way to preserve county history is to research an event or someone from the past. Then develop a story about that person or event. You can then dress up like people did during that time period and then tell the story you created. This can help keep the past alive for you and everyone who hears you.

Another good project is to set up a heritage walking tour in a particular neighborhood. First, the class could research the history of the area. Then, students could pick out a few interesting historic sites. One might even be your own school. Next, the class could divide into teams. Each team would research its own particular site in detail. Then team members could develop talks about the site. Others might make maps and brochures. Finally, the class could invite friends and family members to go on tour.
What the News Can Do

1. Newspaper archives can help you uncover the past, and today’s newspapers can help you preserve it. Think of at least three ways you can use the newspaper to help save your town’s heritage:
   a. ___________________________________________________________
   b. ___________________________________________________________
   c. ___________________________________________________________

d. What do you think will happen if the site is destroyed? Why would that be bad?

2. Sometimes, an important historic site is in immediate danger, just like the Tennessee Volunteer Camp and the Battles of Loxahatchee Battlefield. Perhaps your site is going to be torn down to make space for a parking lot or a new hotel, for example. One way you can gain support for preserving it is by writing a letter to the editor. Read a few letters to the editor in today’s paper to get an idea of what they are like. Then answer the questions below to get started on writing a letter about a site that is important to you.
   a. What is the site? Where is it?
      ___________________________________________________________
      ___________________________________________________________

   b. What is its history?
      ___________________________________________________________
      ___________________________________________________________
      ___________________________________________________________
      ___________________________________________________________
      ___________________________________________________________

   c. Give at least two reasons why you think the site should be preserved.
      ___________________________________________________________
      ___________________________________________________________
      ___________________________________________________________
      ___________________________________________________________
      ___________________________________________________________

   d. What do you think will happen if the site is destroyed? Why would that be bad?

   e. Are there reasons that some people might disagree with your opinion? Write down those reasons here.
      ___________________________________________________________
      ___________________________________________________________
      ___________________________________________________________
      ___________________________________________________________
      ___________________________________________________________

   f. Think of ways to counter those arguments. Write them down here.
      ___________________________________________________________
      ___________________________________________________________
      ___________________________________________________________
      ___________________________________________________________
      ___________________________________________________________

   g. What can people do to help save the site?
      ___________________________________________________________
      ___________________________________________________________
      ___________________________________________________________
      ___________________________________________________________
      ___________________________________________________________
Resources

Books

Web Sites
Architecture in Education: http://www.aiaphila.org; http://www.architecture.org
Florida Trust for Historic Preservation: http://www.floridatrust.org
Historical Society of Palm Beach County: http://www.historicalsocietypbc.org
Indiana University: Center for the Study of History and Memory: http://www.indiana.edu/~cshm/techniques.html
National Register of Historic Places: http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com
Office of Cultural and Historical Programs, Florida Department of State: http://www.flheritage.com
Palm Beach County Historic Preservation: http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/pubsafety/EOC/Historical
Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach: http://www.palmbeachpreservation.org
Save Our History: http://www.saveourhistory.com
Understanding the Built Environment: http://www.cubekc.org

Sponsor’s Letter

U.S. TRUST

Throughout its 153-year history, U.S. Trust has been committed to giving back to the communities where we do business. Our first office established outside of New York was in Palm Beach in 1982. Today, we have 32 offices across the U.S. including six in Florida.

We are delighted to support the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach and the Historical Society of Palm Beach County, two organizations that share this same commitment to society and to future generations. We hope that you and your family will enjoy the unique interactive learning tool they have created.

Sincerely,

Mark Stevens
Southeast Regional CEO

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