
Tarpon Springs Area Historical Society

160 E. Tarpon Avenue – Tarpon Springs, FL 34689 – 727-943-4624

Visit our website at: tarponspringsareahistoricalsociety.org

Newsletter

May/June 2012



The Meyer family and friends c. 1910 on Anclote Island

We continue during 2012 celebrating the Centennial of Pinellas County and the 125th birthday of Tarpon Springs. In 1887, a lighthouse was built on Anclote Island, now known as Anclote Key State Preserve. These barrier islands off the West Coast of Florida, including Caladesi to the South, are protected by the Florida State Park system..

Join us on Wednesday June 20 at 7:00 PM

At the Historic Train Depot

160 E. Tarpon Ave.

For a presentation and book signing by Terry Fortner
Caladesi Cookbook: Recipes from a Florida
Lifetime 1895 ~ 1992

Author Myrtle Scharrer Betz composed by Terry Fortner and
Suzanne Thorpe

**Myrtle Scharrer Betz
and Caladesi Island**

Henry Scharrer first set foot on what became Caladesi Island State Park in 1888. His 30 foot sloop, Anna, was steered into a shallow bay during a sudden storm. When he left the refuge of the boat cabin the next morning, he explored the 650 acre island which was known as Hog Island at that time. He was so enchanted with the island paradise, he decided to make his home there. Henry married Catherine McNally who was living in Dunedin at the time and in 1894 they received a homestead certificate for 160 acres of land on the island. When Catherine died in 1902 at the age of 38, their daughter Myrtle, then seven, continued to live on the island with her father, rowing to school in Dunedin. At the age of 87, Myrtle Scharrer Betz, wrote a memoir titled "Yesteryear I Lived in Paradise" telling of her unconventional life growing up on Caladesi Island at the turn of the century.

Myrtle's granddaughters, Terry Fortner and Suzanne Thorp, have compiled the best of her recipes, and added generous helpings of vintage photos and excerpts from Myrtle's letters and writings, along with a dash of their own special memories. The cookbook is called Caladesi Cookbook ~ Recipes from a Florida Lifetime 1895 ~ 1992.



The Tarpon Springs Area Historical Society is now listed as a Blue Star Museum. "Blue Star Museums" honoring our military will be celebrated in more than 1500 museums across America. The program runs from Memorial Day, May 28, 2012 through Labor Day, September 3, 2012. Although our museum is already free, we hope to welcome all active military personnel and their families during these summer months.

Collection Corner

As we enter into these summer months we will be expanding our military exhibit and featuring several local men and women and their stories. One such story has been the material of many books. The sinking of the USS Indianapolis was the worst sea disaster in US Naval history. Of the 1,196 men who started the day on July 30, 1945, only 316 remained when rescuers finally reached them almost five days later. While sailing from Guam to Lyte, the Indianapolis was torpedoed by the Japanese submarine I-58. The ship capsized and sank in 12 minutes. Frenzied sharks dragged men under the water of the Philippine Sea. Quartermaster 1st class Robert Gause of Tarpon Springs was in the water for 109 hours, but was one of the 316 survivors. Gause, a native son of Tarpon Springs, passed away in 2008.

**The Tarpon Springs Area
Historical Society invites you
to visit or re-visit the
Historic Train Depot located at
160 E. Tarpon Avenue, Tarpon
Springs
this summer!**
Depot Hours
Wed - Sat 11 am to 4 pm

**For information on any events,
call 727- 943- 4624**

Openings on Executive Board

The Tarpon Springs Area Historical Society is seeking volunteers who want to participate as a member of the Board of Directors in directing the policies and programs of the Society. There are vacancies on the Board of Directors as well as for the office of Secretary. If you are interested, please call the society office and an information sheet and application will be sent to you. All Directors must be a member of the Society, available for Board meetings on the first Thursday evening of each month and be an active participant in Society functions.

For all those interested in preserving Tarpon's unique heritage, this is the volunteer opportunity for you!

**For more information, please call
President Cyndi Tarapani at 642-
2030 or the Society office at 943-
4624.**

Join us for our Brown Bag
Lunch & Learn Series
"Historic Boats of the Florida
Gulf Coast"
Historic Train Depot
160 E. Tarpon Ave.
Wednesday June 13, 2012
12 pm to 1 pm
Drinks and Desserts provided

This month's presentation is by Jeff Moates, Director of the West Central Regional Center, Florida Public Archaeology Network. Moates, an underwater archaeologist, was the past Director of the Florida Maritime Museum at Cortez.