



The Volunteer Dispatch

A monthly volunteer newsletter from Manatee Village Historical Park

Issue Thirty-Two, May 2023

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A Note from Manatee Village Historical Park:



Manatee Village Historical Park Collection

Please see inside for the latest news and updates from Manatee Village Historical Park.

Best wishes,

Allyson O'Leary

Education & Volunteer Coordinator

Important Updates

Upcoming Closures

Memorial Day

Manatee Village Historical Park will be closed on May 27th through May 29th in observance of Memorial Day.



Courtesy of Clipart Library

Check out our updated website!

Chris has been hard at work updating the Manatee Village Historical Park website. If you have not had a chance yet, be sure to check out.

<https://www.manateevillage.org/>



History Find

Everyone who works at Manatee Village Historical Park has a bit of history they love to study, either from our founding period or outside of it.

Chris loves maps and wanted to share one of his favorites with all of you this month.

From Chris:

It's a 1760 English map "drawn from the best authorities," showing Florida as an archipelago. This was probably a British copy of a Spanish map, but if you compare it to other Spanish maps of the same era, the Spaniards had already dropped the idea of Florida being an archipelago by then. A couple other funny notes: Bahia del Espiritu Santo (translates to Bay of the Holy Spirit) is what the Spanish called Tampa Bay, and it is on there, along with Tampa Bahia (which would be incorrect, in Spanish it would be said as Bahia del Tampa – IF the Spanish had called it that). The name Tampa Bay didn't appear on maps until the English began to add it in the 1760s. It is thought the name is a mispronounced version of the native word "Tanpa," which roughly translates to "sticks of fire," i.e., lighting. I've not found proof of that, but it's a cool story. Also, the bottom left labels "Longitude West from London," showing a great example of why the Prime Meridian goes through London (technically Greenwich) today. They are a couple of degrees off, though. The manatee county coast sits a bit over 82 degrees 42 minutes W, not just under 84 degrees. Despite these inaccuracies, the British labeled this as "A new and Accurate Map of East and West Florida." Clearly it is not very accurate.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR IMAGE

History Find Continued...



Courtesy of Florida Memory, State Library and Archives of Florida

Events

Lecture: Cemeteries as History

Saturday, May 13th at 2pm

What is the second year of sadness? Just who was Rosa Jones? What else can a stroll through a cemetery tell us? Come learn what the Manatee Burying Ground teaches us about the people and events that helped shape Manatee County in the 19th century.

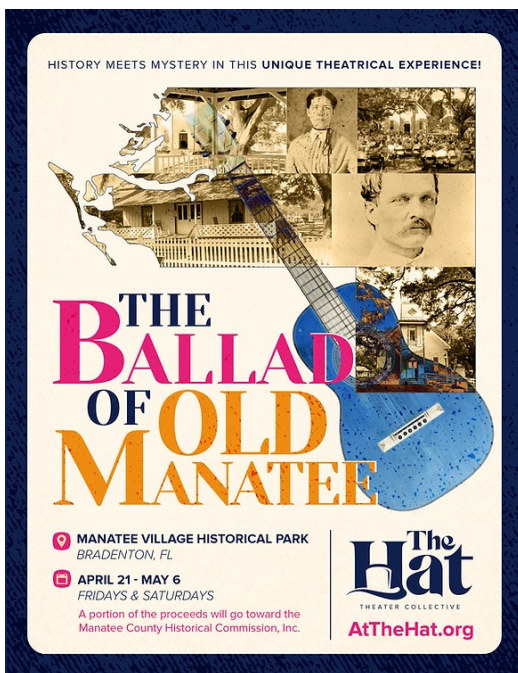
Limited seating. First come first serve. Free to the public.

Guided Cemetery Tour

Saturday, May 13th at 10am

Join us for a tour of the 1850 Manatee Burying Ground led by a member of Manatee Village's staff. Tours cover different facets of life during Manatee's founding period (1840-1918) as well as stories of those buried in the burying ground. Topics vary depending on the staff member leading the tour.

Limited capacity. First come first serve. Free to the public.



The Ballad of Old Manatee

The Manatee County Historical Commission, Inc. and The Hat Theater Collective are proud to announce The Ballad of Old Manatee, a new immersive historical drama with original folk music inspired by true events from the Village of Manatee's origins.

To learn more about this production click [HERE](#).

Courtesy of The Hat Theater and Manatee County Historical Commission, Inc.

Greeters Needed

The General Store at Manatee Village Historical Park was built in 1903 by King Wiggins. It was once at the heart of the Village of Manatee. Settlers traveled for miles to buy their staples here. Wiggins also designed the store to include overnight rooms for customers who traveled from the far reaches of the county.

Now, the General Store is a place where visitors can step back in time to learn about Manatee County's past. Our Greeters help introduce visitors to the museum, provide them with free self-guided tour brochures, and tell them about upcoming events.

If you love history and talking to people, the Wiggins Store Greeter may be the volunteer role for you!

Available volunteer shifts for this position:

- Monday, 10am to 1pm
- Monday, 1pm to 4pm
- Friday, 10am to 1pm
- Friday, 1pm to 4pm



Manatee Village Historical Park Collection

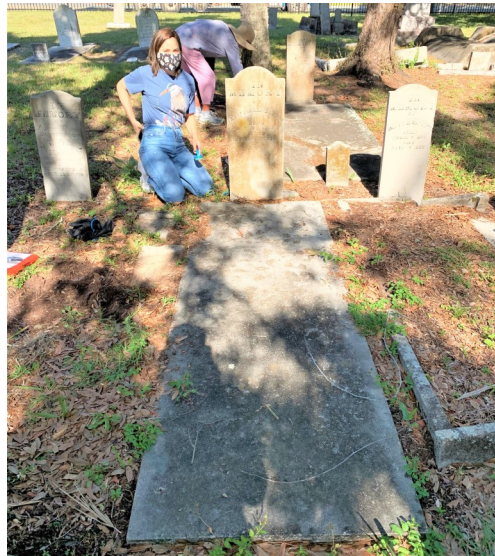
Cemetery Cleanup Help Needed

Join us for the last cemetery cleanup of the season on **Thursday, May 25th and Friday, May 26th.**

Volunteers will learn how staff maintains the 1850 Manatee Burying Ground, and will have the opportunity to assist us with the cleaning of graves. Hands-on training is provided by staff.

If you are interested in helping staff save history, following the link below to learn more details about the cleanups and sign up to help.

[CLICK HERE FOR SIGN UP](#)



Manatee Village Historical Park Collection

Volunteer Spotlight



Manatee Village Historical Park Collection

A special thank you to our volunteer Ken! Ken was able to help cover the Wiggins Storefront as a greeter in April. He is always helpful and knowledgeable when speaking with the museum's visitors.

Thank you for helping us preserve and share Manatee's history with visitors!

Thank
you!

Call For Volunteer News

Have you recently learned a fun history fact? Have you started a new hobby? Got a recipe you'd like to share? A new addition to your family? Have you celebrated a milestone?

We'd love to feature your news in the newsletter!

Send in any fun facts, hobbies, recipes, pictures, and any other information you'd like to share with your fellow volunteers and staff.

You can email your news to allyson.oleary@manateeclerk.com or call 941-749-7165.

