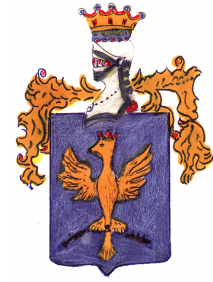


LOS FLORIDANOS SOCIETY



P.O. BOX 2136
St. Augustine, Florida
Losfloridanos.org



HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!!

January Breakfast Meeting

When: 9:30 am, January 08, 2005

Where: IHOP Restaurant
2600 Ponce de Leon Ave. (US 1, N)
St. Augustine, FL ph. 829-3919

Christmas Luncheon

We want to thank Kay and Dick Rousseau for a wonderful Christmas Celebration. We enjoyed a delicious lunch which was followed by a "White Elephant Auction" that got a little rowdy.

Family News

Ann and Jeremy Masters celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary. Congratulations to the *young couple!*

Dick and Kay Rousseau spent Christmas in Richmond with their son and his family. Kay has had the last four months or so off from work. It has given the two, time to travel between sons in Richmond and Baton Rouge. It's so sad that Kay will be returning to work this week. Her New Year's resolution is to only work 40 hours a week. *You go Girl!*

Elaine Manning has moved into a new home in Elkton on property that was at one time part of the old Solana land grant. She is very excited about the history of her property. I think it's wonderful that a small part of our ancestors' property has come back into the family.

Charles and Gaybe Usina have had an extended Christmas visit from their granddaughter and her children. I know Charles and Gaybe have enjoyed every minute spent with their great-grandchildren. Also, did you know that the land bought for the new Amphitheater at SR 16 and I-95 was Charles Usina's property? As always Charles proves what an astute businessman he is. I wonder if he gets that from his Solana or his Sanchez genes. What a combination!

Paul Colee was burned at work last month but is recovering nicely. We enjoyed seeing Barbara, Paul, and Iline at the Christmas Party.

Madelaine Hugas spent Christmas with Mario and Susan at The Villages. I know they had a wonderful holiday.

In Memoriam

This has been a very sad year for us. We have lost members, Frank Sanchez and Dot Scanlon.

Frank Sanchez spent innumerable hours researching his Sanchez ancestors and their stories. He was very generous in sharing his information with us and will be deeply missed.

Dot Scanlon was a charter member of Los Floridanos and was always ready to help. I know most of you will remember Dot for her ready smile and engaging personality.

We are planning on donating books to be presented to the Historical Society in both Dot and Frank's name. I will be able to supplement our donation as a group with private donations received, *In Memoriam* for them.

Menendez Birthday Celebration

Because of the Super Bowl, all activities surrounding the annual Menendez' Birthday Celebration will not be held this year, except for the Ball and Gala at the Lightner Museum.

What Do You Think of a Re-union?

Los Floridanos and the Solana Family are sponsoring a joint re-union April 2 at St. Ambrose Parish Church at Moccasin Branch.

The Solana family has, in the past, had an annual re-union though no reunion has been held the last 2 years. We decided it would be a good time to plan a joint re-union for the Solana and Sanchez families as Los Floridanos.

We will need everyone's participation to make this a wonderful celebration of our heritage. Planning will start at our meeting Saturday. I hope you will all try to attend so we can get your ideas. An important job for everyone, starting now would be to gather extended family addresses. You can email them to reunion@losfloridanos.org, mail to P.O. Box 4043, St. Augustine, 32085 or bring to one of our meetings.

This will give us the ability to attract more members and "that can only be a good thing". We will also be selling our shirts and flags.

Mark your calendar. What better place to be than under the oaks at St. Ambrose.

Solana/Sanchez Ancestors

The Spanish Government wasn't known for promoting free trade and had very restrictive trade policies in force in Florida and its other colonies.

In 1796, **Francisco Sanchez** secured the sole contract to supply beef to both the government and the public market from Governor Zepedes. In the past, the contracts were usually divided among various cattlemen based on bids. **Sanchez** had secured the combined contract because he promised preferential delivery to the government. This particular contract caused concern among the citizens of St. Augustine because **Manuel Solana's** bid had been lower. The residents felt victimized and requested that the public market contract be separated from the government contract. It seems that **Manuel** and **Francisco** were very competitive over the cattle business.

Manuel Solana owned a cattle ranch on the St. Mary's River and his son, **Philippe**, was in the process of building a house in Fernandina, when during "the Border Wars", Georgia raiders destroyed the house and stole the cattle.

Eventually Florida became a U.S. Territory and after many years of wrangling, **Manuel** was able to win some compensation from the U.S. government for the lost of his cattle and property near the St. Mary's River. He also sustained other losses from other raids on his other properties that extended from the Georgia border to below Bunnell in Volusia County.

Francisco Xavier Sanchez was one of Florida's most prosperous cattlemen, merchant and trader. He held huge tracts of land that reached almost to the St. Mary's River, west to the St. Johns, thru the Diego Plains and points south. Some of these properties are now known in Jacksonville as St. Nicholas, San Jose and Mandarin, not to mention Palm Valley and Quana in St. Johns County. (Sources: Jane Landon, Susan Parker, and James Cusick; Colonial Plantations and Economy in Florida)

Membership Dues

The annual dues for Los Floridanos are now due for the year **2005**. Dues are \$15.00. Please send to P.O. Box 4043, St. Augustine, Fl 32085 or bring to our next gathering.

The Los Floridanos Gear is Still Available!

Golf Shirts\$20.00
Solana or Sanchez Banners\$18.00

This project raises funds for our group and helps us keep our membership dues low.

Calendar of Events

January 08.....Breakfast Get-Together
February 05.....Breakfast Meeting
March 05.....Menorcan Festival
March 17.....St. Ambrose
March 27.....Easter Sunday
April 02.....Los Floridanos Re-Union