

# LOS FLORIDANOS SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 4043, ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32085

FLORIDA'S FIRST SPANISH FAMILIES

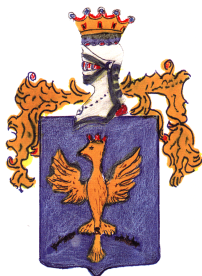
JANUARY 26, 2003

LOSFLORIDANOS.ORG



SOLANA / SOLANO

Florida's First Families  
1565-1763



SANCHEZ

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

**FEB 1** Monthly meeting. Eddy's Restaurant. 10:30AM

**FEB 21** Los Floridanos Luncheon honoring Spanish Guest . Menendez Festivities in PM on Waterfront.

**FEB 22** Menendez Celebration in the Plaza.

**MAR 8** Monthly Meeting. Location TBA.

# LOS FLORIDANOS NEWSLETTER

By *Linda Solana Barber*

## Brrrrr! It's been Cold, really Cold !!!

### February Meeting

**PLACE:** Eddy's Seafood Restaurant

**DATE:** February 1, 2003

**TIME:** 10:30 PM

Lunch will be served after the Meeting. Please stay and visit. Eddy's is being really great to allow us to meet there.

#### AGENDA:

We will be working on plans for the Menendez Festival. This is our premier event. We welcome your help.

We will also discuss the Elections to come and will need your input.

### Menendez Birthday Celebration

The annual Menendez Festivities will take place on Feb. 21 and Feb 22, this year.

Each celebration gets bigger and better. This year Spain is sending us the folklore group of dancers and musicians, PLEAMAR from the Asturias region. They will use musical instruments indigenous to their region; bagpipes, drums, tambourines, castanets and guitars. They will perform throughout the festivities Friday night and Saturday.

Friday night will include performances by flamenco dancers and guitarists. The Paso Fino Breeder's Club will sponsor performances of seven Paso Fino Horses and live reenactments will take place on the waterfront. Tapas served in the plaza by many area restaurants. There will be a Grand parade including the *Cabezudos*, these are large paper mache heads of Spanish characters.

### Los Floridanos Society Luncheon

We will host our second annual lunch for the visiting Spanish Dignitaries, dancers and musicians. This year we will hold our luncheon, Friday, Feb. 21 at Eddie's Restaurant at Oyster Creek, serving fried fish, hush puppies and all the trimmings. We want all our members to come mingle with our guests and get to know them. We want to show them what Southern Hospitality is all about.

#### Tickets for Luncheon

We will be selling tickets for the Luncheon at the February Meeting or contact us at 471-6233 to reserve your ticket. Tickets will be \$8.

### *Do you want to be in a Parade !*

We would love to have a group of members dress in period dress and participate in the parade. We have been promised a carriage to use and will need to decorate it? Would you like to help? Do you think your children or grandchildren would like to participate? Let Mario know, 797-2606. If we get a good group we can participate in the Easter Parade too.

### *You can help !*

Please volunteer to help with any of the following:

- Greeters for Guests
- Interpreters
- Decoration Committee
- Parade Organizers
- Ticket Manager
- Photographer

# ANCESTORS \* \* \* Mateo Simeon Solana \* \* \* \*

*Submitted by Linda Barber*

Mateo Simeon Solana was born, September 20, 1828, in Elkton to Bartolome Solana and Maria del Carmen Crespo. He was the youngest son of nine children. His grandfather was Manuel Lorenzo Solana, who built the Casa de Solana and is the descendant that all remaining Solanas' descend.

At the age of fourteen both his parents died. His older brother Demertro, was working with a group surveying the state of Florida. He sent for Mateo and obtained him a job carrying the surveying chain. He stayed with his brother and the crew for three years and at the end of the project he withdrew his three years of pay.

Mateo acquired property along what is now East End Road in San Mateo, around 1855. The town of San Mateo was named after him.

At the time of the Civil War, he was heavily involved in clearing land and building his farm and ranching operation. He was married to Mary Ketis Masters.

She was expecting their third child when she developed complications. It was necessary for Mateo to transport her to Union occupied St. Augustine where she could receive the care of a doctor and her family. San Mateo was considered, if not the wildness, at least very isolated.

Mateo seated his wife and two little girls, Mathilda and Louisa, in a wagon driven by an old black man who worked for him. Since he had not taken an oath to the Union, he didn't want to be discovered, so he followed the wagon from the woods by the old dirt road from East Palatka to St. Augustine. About 10 miles outside of St. Augustine, he had to turn back and never saw his wife again. We are not sure if she died from childbirth or Malaria but she left Mateo with two young daughters and baby boy, DeNecia. (His sisters feed him coffee and called him "Bubba".)

### **Sarah Bourne**

His second wife was Sarah Bourne Petty, the widow of George Petty. Her father was Major Richard Bourne, who served in one of the Seminole Wars and the Civil War. He was given the rank of Major because he could read and write and make out the payroll. He wasn't in favor of the succeeding from the Union but fought for the South because it was his Land.

The Union Commanding Officer in St. Augustine sent out a decree to the people in the country surrounding St. Augustine to come and take an "Oath of Allegiance". Sarah begged him not to go but he was afraid not to obey the order.

George Petty traveled from his property in the Northwest section of St. John's County to St. Augustine to take the "Oath of Allegiance".

On his way home he came across a group of Confederate Soldiers, hunting. He ran from them and they shot and killed him. ( I wonder if they were looking for him or if he was being paranoid after taking the "Oath".)

### **Back to Mateo Solana.**

As the Civil War wound on, General Loring allowed Mateo to go back to his farm to plant his crops. The Confederate Army needed food.

While there, a troop of Union soldiers rode in looking for deserters and cattle to feed the troops in Jacksonville. They forced him to help with the roundup. When he arrived at the pens, he found two of his own heifers. He requested they be returned to him and was refused. He became very angry and lagged behind. Words were exchanged by Mateo in his Spanish and broken English, with the commanding officer. Two of his neighbors had to intercede on his behalf after the Commanding Officer threatened to send him to Hilton Head ( Yankee war prison).

He finished his crops and returned to his unit to take part in the battle of Olustee.

Sarah and Mateo had eight children of their own added to the three from his first marriage.

These stories were relayed to me by my Aunt Fanny, who was the wife of DeNecia (the baby boy who lost his mother). She nursed Mateo Solana in his old age and recorded his stories.

What an amazing life our ancestors led and the decisions they had to make. I wish my great-grandfather had filled in a lot of the curious details we would like to know. I imagine he was a very matter of fact type of guy. Trust me, if he had elaborated any more on details, Aunt Fanny would have relayed them.

## **Order Los Floridanos Shirts for the Menendez Festival ! See and Be Seen**

We have the Los Floridanos logo on the following:

- Golf Shirts .....\$21.00
- Caps .....\$10.00
- Totes .....\$8.50 & \$11.00
- Solana or Sanchez Banners .....\$18.00
- Los Floridanos Flags .....\$30.00

### **Our Annual Membership Fees are Due!**

Please send your dues for this year to PO Box 4043, St. Augustine, Fl 32085. Please call 904-471-6233 if you have any questions

**Please keep us posted on any changes to your Email address.**