

August/Sept. 2009 Activities for Ocala DAR Chapter

First meeting of Fall Saturday, September 19th at 11:15 AM at the Ocala Elks club.

Month of September-Marion county Library/ Display cases with information on Ocala chapter, DAR membership, and other DAR related Activities.

Marion county Veterans Memorial Saturday, July 11, 2009

On Saturday, July 11, several members of the Ocala DAR Chapter attended a memorial for our fallen Veterans. Among those being remembered was Peter M. Fitzpatrick, US Navy Veteran, husband of member Tevis Fitzpatrick. (See below).



Afterwards, a young man thanked us for his scholarship that he received 12 years ago. His name is Michael Blumbach, and he is a Nurse Practitioner working with the Family Care Specialist Group, Ocala, Fl. Michael was there singing in the choir from the New Apostolic Church. It really made us all feel good when he approached us to thank us again and again for his scholarship. A wife of a Veteran spoke with Floy Leuenberger, our Regent and thanked her for all the things that the DAR does in the community. After the ceremony, we all walked over to the

site at this Veteran's park where there is a bench and bricks to commemorate our DAR ancestors (Bench Ocala DAR Members at DAR memorial bench.

Tevis Fitzpatrick is in center of Picture!

This is the updated information on Fort King National Historical Landmark in Ocala, Florida. I hope to have some new pictures soon to add to it. I have one pictures of our Group at the monument, but want to get some new pictures of the monument!



Ocala DAR at Fort King Monument Dedication May, 2008!

Fort King Now a National Historical Landmark

On February 4, 2004, the “Fort King” was designated a National Historic Landmark. This includes the acre owned by the Ocala Chapter DAR.

Fort King has had a long history with the Ocala DAR chapter dating back to Oct.24, 1927, when the chapter voted to purchase one acre of land which was the original site of the “Fort King Military Reservation Memorial Ground” from the C.L Young family. It was on this site that soldiers and settlers were buried during the Seminole wars. After the wars, these bodies were removed from the military reservation to the National Cemetery at St. Augustine. By purchasing this property, the Ocala Chapter DAR agreed to establish and maintain a fitting memorial in honor and remembrance of the soldiers who served their country during the

Indian Wars at Fort King, Ocala, Florida.

In 1932, after many fund raising events, the DAR members had the area cleared and cement posts placed to mark boundaries. In March 1932, a bronze marker was placed to commemorate the bicentennial of George Washington's birth, and this marker was recently removed to the Ocala/Marion county Veterans Park.

On May 14, 1932 after seven years work, a boulder of blue Georgia granite in the shape of a truncated pyramid, was place on the site with a brass tablet affixed to it. The tablet states Fort King was the birthplace of what is now know as the City of Ocala (named for the extinct Timucuan Indians who lived here at the time. They called their village Ocali, commonly thought to mean "Big Hammock").

On October, 1997, the Ocala Chapter DAR reaffirmed its pledge to forever hold and maintain Fort King as a Historic Memorial site by erecting a lighted flag Pole which flies the flag of the United States of American, day and night as a tribute to those who have fought and died for our country.

On May 8, 2008, the City of Ocala received for a grant for \$46,000 awarded by the Bureau of Historic Preservation . This grant is being used for archeological studies. These studies have already started at the Fort King site, and it will identify the original Fort King Road, blacksmith, stable, mercantile, battlefields and peace talks negotiation sites were located. This step is necessary with the **ultimate goal of having Fort King designated as a Nation Park.**