

Gulfport Historical Society Newsletter August 2012

BACK TO SCHOOL: GULFPORT ELEMENTARY OVER THE YEARS

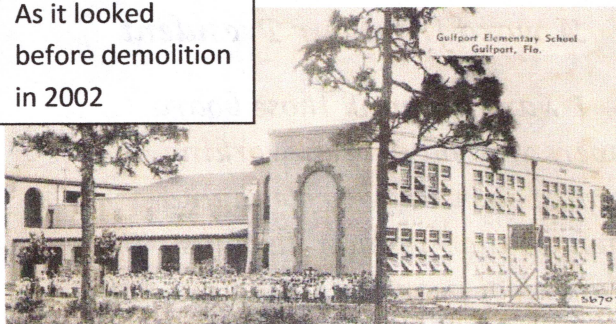
The original 1913 building



With the 1926 addition



As it looked
before demolition
in 2002



Mayor Mike dedicating the preserved
arch, and in the insert, as a third grader
at the school

“HENRY’S CEMETERY”



Mark your calendars for the September 21 premier of a new short play by Deborah Frethem. The museum will open its fall season with a general meeting at Scout Hall that evening.

Deborah, the author of “Ghost Stories of St. Petersburg, Clearwater and Pinellas County: Tales from a Haunted Peninsula,” is known as “The Queen of Haunts.”

Henry Slaughter was the oldest son of Gulfport’s founding family. At the age of just 15, he moved eastward to homestead a land grant along what is today 22nd Avenue South. In a particularly peaceful corner of this property was one of the great old shell mounds, naturally protected by oaks and magnolias and well elevated above the often-flooded lowlands. It became the perfect site for the community’s first graveyard, and one by one the pioneers would come to rest there.

Please join us for this lovely opportunity to get to know your community – both past and present – a little bit better. **7 p.m. Scout Hall, Friday evening, September 21. Free.** And we promise to make cookies!)



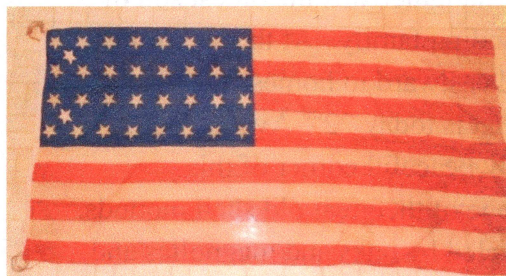
This month’s header is from a
Gulfport promotional
brochure of about 1950



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FINDING TREASURES

Over the years, many people have donated American flags to our collection. During our summer cleaning, we looked carefully at each one in storage and discovered this charming 34-star flag; that is, a 32-star flag to which two stars were added commemorating the addition of Oregon (1859) and Kansas (1861) to the Union.



States were joining frequently in those days, so a new flag with 35 stars became official in 1863 with the admission of West Virginia. Another very fragile silk flag from that era has stars that seem to have been painted on.



Photos by Don Vaughan

Meet the Museum's New Curator DIANN FRANKS

Taking over curatorial duties at the Museum is Diann Franks. Born in Ohio, she's been a local resident since the age of three and attended Gulfport Elementary among other schools. She's also a musician and artist, active with the Pinellas Park Art Society and the Al Downing Jazz Association. Diann grew up with stories that her grandmother told her and has traced her family roots back through several generations.



A word from our President

I want to thank those board members who have been working so diligently each week to clean and freshen up the Museum displays. This core group of people is special, and the reason we can keep our doors open. Cathy, Lynne, Christine, Marie, Carol, Priscilla, and Diann - thank you so much.

Miki

P.S. A couple of husbands, Don and Gene, are always there when needed and so much appreciated!