

Heritage Village Educational Groups Guide

Planning your Tour Stops at Heritage Village



A Pinellas County Government Program

In Person Visit Overview

Get ready to explore Pinellas County history as you take a trip back in time with Heritage Village! This guide will help you plan your visit, know what to expect, and enhance your time here.

Planning Your Visit

Self-Guided

- All group visits are self-guided, allowing groups to set their own pace and explore the areas of greatest interest.
- Groups may start anywhere in the park, viewing areas in whatever order preferred.

Review Rules and Procedures

- When a reservation is made, a fact sheet is provided to share details to help navigate a visit. Please take time to review this ahead of time so you can park in the correct place and navigate our museum and park.
- Make sure to share rules with your participants to help them understand conduct expectations.

Organize Small Groups

- Before your visit, it's helpful to divide your large group into smaller groups of 8–10 participants. If your group's participants are children, each small group must be guided by at least one of your group's chaperones.
- Most buildings are small with narrow passageways, so seeing them as part of a small group will allow each participant the best possible viewing experience.

Determine Various Group Pathways

- Group leaders often find it helpful to pre-determine different pathways for each group to follow so only one group explores a building at a time.
- Please see the Featured Themes and Activities as well as the detailed Tour Stops to help you.

Resources

Tour Stops

- Include details about buildings, people and time periods
- Pose questions to help participants truly think about what it was like to live in the different time periods represented here
- Each stop has a stand-alone description so you can combine, mix, and match whichever ones you prefer to include to fit your visit time frame.

Activities

Activities to help you explore different themes in engaging, interactive ways are available in a related document: Heritage Village Educational Groups Guide: Activities.

Featured Themes

Each stop falls into an important category that was part of Pinellas County's history: Agriculture, Coastal Living, Home and Community Life, and Tourism. Photos are included. The fact sheet on pages 34-35 of this guide, Pinellas County & Heritage Village Background Information, provides details about their early beginnings.

Home and Community Life

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Lowe Barn

Built 1911 Moved from near Indian Rocks Road in Largo

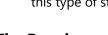
Building and Land Characteristics

Description

- This barn was constructed using cypress lumber—a rot-resistant wood-that served as the foundation of the structure.
- The western border of the Lowes' property was the Intracoastal Waterway in what was known as the Anona area (area around Indian Rocks Road north of Walsingham).

Details

- · This was the second barn built by the family when their needs outgrew the first smaller one.
- Barns like this were not a common sight on the Pinellas landscape because cattle were permitted to range freely in Florida until 1949. Other agriculture, like citrus, didn't require this type of storage.



The People

Who

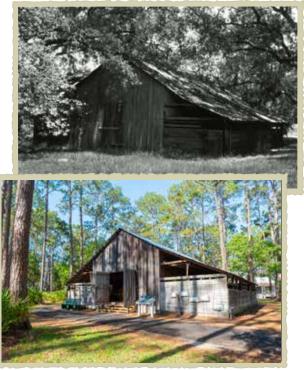
- · Captain John Thomas Lowe and his family had sailed to the area aboard his schooner, the "Sea Drift," in the 1850s.
- Captain Lowe bought eighty acres from the state at \$1.25 per acre, and the site soon became known as "Lowe's Landing."
- All the Lowe children, Jefferson, Wesley, Mary and Asa, didn't know it at the time, but the area was to become their home and their property would become a landmark for other settlers.
- Lowe and his children, especially Jefferson T. Lowe and Wesley Lowe, played an important role in the development of the Anona settlement.
- Wesley and Mary Lowe farmed a variety of crops.
- Their son, Sumner, recalled handing wood up from the little barn to his father as he was building the new one. The family salvaged the best lumber for the new barn-now that's using resources wisely!

What

- The Lowes stored hay in the barn and they kept horses and cows.
- A horse drawn buggy and wagon were kept in this barn before the Lowes purchased their first automobile.

A Day in the Life

· As farmers, the family worked very hard. The children had several daily chores to contribute to life on the farm.







- Girls would have worn sunbonnets and long-sleeved dresses, while boys wore overalls, long-sleeved shirts and straw hats. They never heard of wearing shorts and t-shirts!
- They worked together to clear the land, plant, take care of and harvest the garden.
- The mother would cook all the food, even making their own bread.
- Sometimes the children would have to stay home from school to help their parents do work on the farm.
- Just think of all the things we can buy in a store today that the settlers would have had to grow or make for themselves!

Specific facts—The People and/or The Era

The Lowes were Settlers:

- A long time ago, there weren't many people living in Florida, so the government offered people free land if they would come here to live.
- Called Settlers, people had to promise to build a house, live there and farm the land. Settlers were expected also to provide military service if needed.
- Settlers would put all their belongings in a wagon or boat and make their way to their new unsettled homes.





What do you think?

Let the group participants answer while reflecting on the discussion about how life was different.

How is it different from how we live today?

- Survival depended on people's ability to be self-sufficient and resourceful.
- Their income was determined by the crops they grew and sold (in the Lowe family, citrus) and the cattle they raised.
- Not only were their crops and animals affected by their daily care, their wellbeing was also affected by the weather – something they could not control.

Would you have liked to live, work, play here? Why or why not?

How would farmers get the vegetables, fruits, milk, eggs, and meat they needed?

- In addition to growing agricultural crops to make a living, farmers also had gardens to supply their families with food.
- They gathered eggs from their own chickens, had cows to milk, and raised animals that could become a source of meat.

What kinds of items were used to farm?

- Garden Planter or Hoe: a tool with a long handle and a thin flat blade used for weeding and cultivating.
- Scythe: used to cut the grass so it could be dried for hay that was used to feed animals.
- Plows: used to till the ground and make grooves to plant the seeds in.
- Oxen yoke: used to tie two oxen together who would pull the plow.
- Saddles: used on the horses for those riding them to sit on.



McMullen-Coachman Log Cabin

Built 1852 Moved from Alligator Creek (present day Clearwater)

Building and Land Characteristics

Description

- Georgia Style Log Cabin
- Made with local timber including pine and cypress trees
- Early pioneer Captain James McMullen built the house along with a work crew.

Details

- Two stories, with two rooms on the first story separated by a breezeway called a "dog trot."
- Built "so a cat could fit through the cracks between the logs" by Captain McMullen's preference.
- Captain McMullen owned 240 acres with a large citrus grove, sugar cane and cattle.
- In 1902 due to modernizing efforts by the Coachmans the "cat sized" cracks were filled.



The People

Who

- Captain James (Jim) McMullen with wife Elizabeth and family built the house and were the original occupants.
- Solomon Coachman and family bought and began living in the house in 1901.

What

- McMullen originally created the house to recover from a sickness called tuberculosis, known then as consumption, a disease caused by bacteria that usually attacks the lungs. At the turn of the 20th century, it was the leading cause of death in the United States.
- McMullen farmed citrus and raised cattle.
- The McMullen family was credited for building the first school and their home being the earliest "hospital."
- Solomon Coachman took on the agricultural lands but was also a prominent entrepreneur.





A Day in the Life

- You may have one or two siblings but families on the frontier were big with usually more than four siblings! More children equal more help on the farms.
- The McMullen cabin acted as the first hospital in the area, with Elizabeth McMullen serving as a midwife. Imagine what it was like for the children in the family to live in a house that also functioned as a hospital!
- A school and a church were founded here as well—imagine walking miles to school through thick brush!

Specific Facts – The People and/or The Era

- Three conflicts between the United States and the Seminole Indians of Florida existed in the period before the American Civil War in 1817–18, 1835–42 and 1855–58. They ultimately resulted in the opening of the Seminole's desirable land for white exploitation and settlement.
- Actions to displace Native people were taken, resulting in pioneers to the area claiming the land to build settlements and towns.



What do you think?

Let the group participants answer while reflecting on the discussion about how life was different.

How is it different from how we live today?

- People couldn't go to a store for furniture or food they had to create or grow their own.
- There were no roads or cars, so people had to walk, ride a horse, or sail a boat to travel.
- There was no air conditioning, so homes were often constructed like this one so the air could flow through them.

Would you have liked to live, work, play here? Why or why not?

Why did doctors tell McMullen to move to a warmer climate for his sickness?

- McMullen had a sickness that had to do with his lungs.
- Have you ever felt stuffed up and after a shower felt better? The warm humidity probably helped McMullen in the same way!

Why did the McMullen family do so many things such as farming, raising cattle, teaching at a school, and delivering babies?

- There were not a lot of people in the frontier, so usually a single person had to fill many different roles.
- Have you ever played house, and there weren't enough people, so you played multiple parts? This is the same idea!



Moore Grove House

Built 1879 Moved from Highland Avenue and Sunset Point Road, in Clearwater

Building and Land Characteristics

Description

- Built of pine from trees growing in the area.
- Typical of farmhouses in the late 19th century.

Details

- Florida Cracker style
- Originally had only two rooms with full porches on front and back
- Back porch was made into two rooms and another small room was added next to the front porch
- No inside bathrooms
- The house and farm were on 80 acres of land. More than 72 football fields would fit into 80 acres. That's a lot of land that had to be cleared of wilderness—thick growing palms, palmetto, oaks, pines and brush.

The People

Who

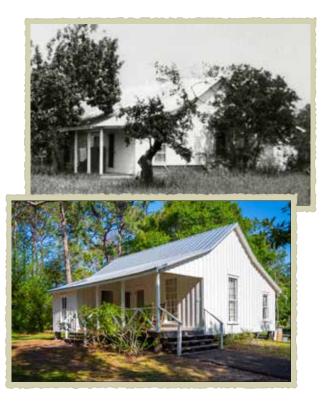
• The Moore Family: George and Frances Moore with their two sons and three daughters: Moffett, Nannie, Effie, James and Blanche.

What

- The family grew vegetables and raised cattle and hogs.
- They were among the first in the area to grow oranges and grapefruit.
- Mr. Moore also worked in a sawmill and operated a blacksmith shop.

A Day in the Life

- Life was a lot of work! The entire family, including the children, all worked together to get the many house and farm chores done every day.
- The children also attended school.
- One school included children of all ages together in one room.
- The school year was about 40 days long as it needed to fit around the agricultural needs of the family and community.







Specific facts—The People and/or The Era

Who were Florida Crackers?

- Cattlemen and cow hunters.
- The name comes from the cracking sound a whip made when snapped in the air. The sound encouraged cattle to move along. They were never hit with the whip!
- The people were called cow hunters because they allowed their cows to wander over the open range to find good, fresh grass to eat instead of fencing them into one area.
- When it was time for branding or driving the cattle to market, the cracker cowboys would search the woods and round up all the cows with the sound of whips and herding of cattle dogs.

What do you think?

Let the group participants answer while reflecting on the discussion about how life was different.

How is it different from how we live today?

- Life was not as comfortable (small house; outhouse; no air conditioning; insects).
- The environment was pure; air was not polluted.
- Children didn't have much free time as they contributed to the family's survival.
- Children played simple games for fun, like hoop rolling.
- People stayed in their immediate communities as there was not the opportunity to be mobile.
- Friends did not live nearby, so you usually played outside with your brothers and sisters when chores were done.

Would you have liked to live, work, play here? Why or why not?

Why were the porches so important?

• The porches were a great place to cool off during hot weather. Remember, there was no air conditioning!

Why is it called the Moore Grove House?

• Because of the citrus (orange and grapefruit) being grown by the family, the house was nestled between orange and grapefruit groves.









Theme: Coastal Living

Sponge Warehouse

Built 1930 Moved from Tarpon Springs

Building and Land Characteristics

Description

- Wood frame
- Never domestically used, this warehouse was used specifically for business.

Details

- This warehouse was founded in Tarpon Springs, known as the Sponge Capital of the World.
- The owner, Drosos Alahuzos, sold sponges here but most of his business was based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- In this warehouse they sorted, cleaned, and cut sponges down to manageable sizes.
- People started hooking or diving for sponges in Tarpon Springs after the Civil War.
- The Sponge industry in Tarpon Springs brought many sponge divers from Greece, creating a strong Greek population here in Pinellas County.

The People

Who

• Drosos Alahuzos and George Kousaleos

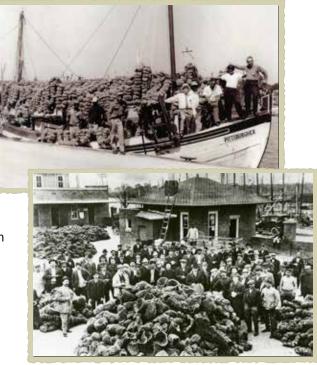
What

- Drosos Alahuzos built the Sponge Warehouse in 1930.
- Alahuzos had a Philadelphia based business.
- In 1955 George Kousaleos bought the Sponge Warehouse.
- Kousaleos was the dealer for the Gulf of Mexico Sponge Company which was also a Philadelphia based company.
- Both Drosos Alahuzos and George Kousaleos immigrated from Greece where people have been diving for sponges for three hundred years!

A Day in the Life

- Sponge divers work seasonally, usually only diving for sponge between the months of May to October.
- Sponge boats leave for weeks at a time, only returning after they have harvested many sponges to sell.
- Divers use air-fed helmets and can be underwater up to 60 feet deep for as long as ten hours a day!
- The sponge you probably use at home is an artificial sponge but for many years people used natural sponges. You can still find natural sponges in some specialty stores.





Specific facts – The People and/or The Era

Black Spongers

- After the Civil War when slavery was ended, there was a mass migration of African Americans across the country escaping the plantations they were tied to for so long.
- Many African American families moved to Tarpon Springs to work in citrus groves, lumber mills, and the sponge industry.
- During this time period the technique used for harvesting sponges was different. A glass bottom bucket was looked through to spot sponges and a long hook was used to bring the sponge onto the boat.
- In the early 20th century John Corcoris recruited 500 Greek citizens to move to Pinellas County to dive for sponges. This is when the harvesting of sponges changed from hooking to diving.

What do you think?

Let the group participants answer while reflecting on the discussion about how life was different.

How is it different from how we live today?

- We use an artificial sponge today, not one harvested from the sea. Did you know natural sponges are living animals that live in the water? They are stuck to the floors of oceans, sea, and rivers. Known as Poriferans, they are simple multi-cellular animals.
- Today, sponges come from factories and are produced in uniform sizes. This is unlike natural sponges, which had to be sorted, cleaned and cut.



Would you have liked to live, work, play here? Why or why not?

Do you think it would be tiring to work under water for 10 hours a day? Is this a safe practice?

- Though sponge diving could be very tiring, divers would pace themselves by taking breaks approximately every hour.
- There was only a certain amount of time divers could be underwater and remain safe, so the diving crew would take turns between diving and doing other jobs that were part of the harvesting process.

Why do you think that the Greeks knew so much about sponges?

- There is an island off the coast of Greece called Kalymnos where many sponges grow because of the nice weather.
- Greeks have been diving for sponges for hundreds of years. They would originally use a rock to bring themselves to the bottom of the ocean where they would cut the sponge and then swim back to the surface.
- Many generations of Greek people had a history of sponge knowledge, so it helped the Florida sponge industry progress when many of them started looking for sponges here.





Boyer Cottage

Built 1878 Moved from Tarpon Springs

Building and Land Characteristics

Description

- Wood frame with board and batten exterior siding and a shingled, high-peaked roof.
- This one-room cottage is representative of Gulf Coast vernacular architecture found in similar structures of the period along the coast from Florida to Texas.

Details

- Originally built near Spring Bayou in what is now known as Tarpon Springs.
- Measures only 14 x 14 feet (280 square feet).

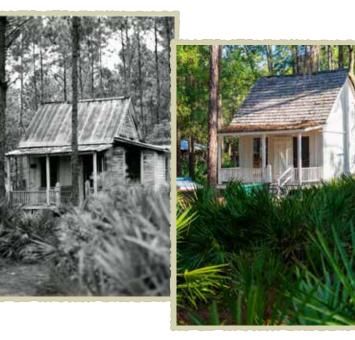
The People

Who

• Joshua and Mary Boyer

What

- Joshua Boyer, an experienced sailor, left the Bahamas for Key West before he was 20.
- He spent the 1870s earning a living from the sea along Florida's sparsely settled west coast.
- On a fishing trip in 1877 he stopped at a small sponging settlement named Anclote on the Anclote River.
- He anchored his sloop at nearby Spring Bayou where he met Alexander M. Ormond, an early homesteader.
- · Joshua married Ormond's daughter, Mary.
- They built this tiny cottage and a stable in 1878.
- Though built as a temporary structure until the Boyers could build a more permanent dwelling, they ended up living there for 20 years until they moved to Florida's east coast in 1898.
- In addition to sailing and fishing, Boyer operated a ferry to Cedar Key, a regular coach to Tampa (then a two-day trip), and a livery stable during the 1880s and 1890s. Interesting fact: a livery stable is a stable where horse owners pay a weekly or monthly fee to keep their horses.







A Day in the Life

- The cottage had no electricity, and it's a very small space to live in. Furnishings are very basic and functional as living was very simple.
- Mary once remarked to Joshua about the large tarpon fish springing from the waters of Spring Bayou. Mary Boyer has often been credited with "naming" the community Tarpon Springs!
- An incident Mary Ormond Boyer experienced with her horse and buggy transportation shows how this method of getting from one place to another could be dangerous! As she rode her buggy along Pinellas Avenue, her horse, Jim, became agitated and frightened, most likely by the

umbrella Mary was holding. Jim took off and Mary held on tightly as the buggy roared along the sandy and rutted roadway. The horse did not stop until Mary lost her umbrella.

Specific facts – The People and/or The Era

About the region:

- The Anclote River area was known as the best large-scale fishing area between the mouth of Tampa Bay and the Cedar Key area.
- The few families along the northern Pinellas region often engaged in farming and/or citrus cultivation.
- In January 1883, a Sunland Tribune reporter making the long trip from Tampa to Tarpon Springs met Boyer and had venison, "which is not an unusual dish with them" at the cottage before visiting the "proposed city."
- By that time, town entrepreneurs had approximately 20,000 feet of lumber on hand for construction projects, with more on the way.
- After clearing trees along the right-of-way, city leaders had started to construct thirty-foot wide avenues.

What do you think?

Let the group participants answer while reflecting on the discussion about how life was different.

How is it different from how we live today?

- When the Boyers first began living in the area, there were very few people and the town of Tarpon Springs didn't even exist yet!
- Through the years that the Boyers lived there, they saw the sparsely populated area expand and grow in population very quickly. Yet despite that early growth, it doesn't compare to how the area has grown since then.







Would you have liked to live, work, play here? Why or why not?

What do you think it was like to settle in such a quiet place with very few neighbors?

• During the early 1900s, Joshua Boyer fondly remembered those first few years living in relative isolation near Spring Bayou:

"Everything there was ours. The land and the game and fish were as free as the air. In the words of another, 'We were monarchs of all we surveyed.' Our nearest neighbor was Mr. Asa Clark who lived in the Whitcomb place a mile away. Our next nearest neighbor was W. B. Thompson, in the Curliru Settlement, four miles distant. There was also the Myers (sic) family, three miles down the Anclote River."

- Wild deer, turkey, squirrels, and other animals provided a steady diet of meat for their table.
- Joshua and Mary did much of their trading at the sawmill and mercantile located at the seaside settlement located west of their homestead.
- With the nearest frontier post office then located at Clear Water Harbor (now Clearwater), settlers retrieved mail for neighbors whenever they traveled south for supplies.

Do you think it was positive or negative for the area to be developed as a city?

Positive

• Because there were more people, additional services were added to the area allowing for resources to be available more easily.

Negative

• The development of the city misplaced and reduced the numbers of animals and plants.





HC Smith Store

Built 1915 Moved from 468–70 Sixth Avenue South, St. Petersburg

Building and Land Characteristics

Description

- Wood frame
- From 1915 to 1955 this building had different owners and names and for the most part was very successful. By the 1950s, small stores like this struggled to compete as shoppers flocked to downtown stores or air-conditioned shopping centers and later to large malls.

Details

- When this store opened in the Mound Park neighborhood, it served growing nearby neighborhoods like Roser Park.
- Shoppers came to this small store because it had everything groceries, clothing and other necessities.
- The small side section of the building was also a butcher shop, bakery and at one time living quarters for those who ran the grocery store.
- The back of the store has been turned into a mechanic's bay and contains a 1925 Ford Model T truck.
- The left of the store serves as a barbershop and post office.

The People

Who

- Henry C Smith established the grocery store in 1918.
- Edward Fisher operated a butcher shop and meat market out of the smaller store.

What

- The store continued to change owners and purposes through the years.
- A variety of artifacts that were found in similar stores during this time period are on display.

A Day in the Life

- Most early stores didn't do much advertising because there was not much competition for business.
- Sale items or items available and their prices were often written on store windows and doors.
- When color printing was developed, colorful cards, labels and posters featured scenes, flower designs, animals, cartoons and examples of how people lived. Look at the labels on items around the store to see some examples.
- People could pay for what they purchased, or have it put on their tab or account.





Theme: Home and Community Life

Specific facts – The People and/or The Era

- The store owner received most supplies in bulk (large amounts in containers), including flour, crackers, crates of fruit, bags of rice, dried beans and sugar.
- Vinegar, molasses, and kerosene for lamps were all pumped from barrels.
- Customers brought their own reusable containers from home to obtain, store and carry home purchases.
- Seeds, canned goods, candy, baked goods and medicine were also sold.

What do you think?

Let the group participants answer while reflecting on the discussion about how life was different.

How is it different from how we live today?

Talking points to get the conversation started:

- Fewer choices of items to buy.
- Smaller stores.
- Stores served as a gathering place for communities—they even sometimes had a place to sit and play checkers!
- There were fewer stores.
- · Lifestyles were simpler.
- If you didn't have the money to pay for your purchases the merchant could add what you owed to your tab or account.

Would you have liked to live, work, play here? Why or why not?

Do you think buying in bulk was better for the environment? Why?

Yes. Products were not packaged in materials that became litter, garbage, and landfill. Using reusable containers also conserved natural resources because there was less of a need for paper products with production that was dependent on harvesting trees.

Why do you think there were fewer stores for people to choose to shop at?

The population of residents, and therefore people to shop and buy items, was lower. People lived more simply, therefore needing to purchase fewer items.









Harris School

Original Built 1912 This is a reproduction built in 1987 of the original school located at 4600 Haines Road, St. Petersburg

Building and Land Characteristics

Description

- Both original and reproduction built of wood.
- Original Structure:
 - The first Harris School served the Lealman community from 1912 until 1923.
 - With volunteer labor and materials donated from the community, William D. Harris oversaw construction of this one-room boarded structure.
- Reproduction:
 - As part of Pinellas County's 75th birthday celebration, the Board of County Commissioners and the School Board decided to build a lasting tribute to the earlier history of the county by re-creating the Harris School.



- As one of its earliest official duties, the newly-formed Pinellas County Board of Public Instruction provided seats and desks for the structure.
- During its eleven years of service, school officials redesigned the structure with an addition near the front porch. The addition provided indoor water, flush toilets, a workroom, and more space for a larger blackboard.
- Despite these improvements, the school's physical plant could not accommodate the growing number of schoolage children who lived in the area as the land boom brought new settlers to Pinellas County.
- A nearby windmill sat to the rear of the school building, along the west side of Haines Road.

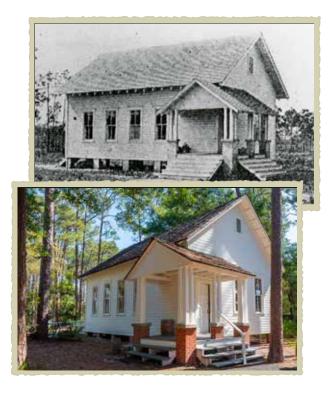
The People

Who

- Several members of the Harris family remembered their father taking them to Lealman Elementary School the year before this original school was built and complaining of the long time-consuming buggy ride.
- Mr. Harris donated land, time, and money to help build a one-room schoolhouse on the outskirts of St. Petersburg.
- It was much closer to his home and it "only took a few minutes to get there" according to his daughter, Myrtle Harris Lowe.
- Myrtle's brother shared memories of the small one-room schoolhouse in the woods and the children coming to school in buggies and on horseback.

What

- Harris School originally had one teacher who taught eight grades.
- By the early 1920s, enrollment rose from fifteen students to nearly forty.
- Classes came to an end at the original Harris School in 1923. The following year, a new Harris School—with space for six teachers—opened on the site.





A Day in the Life

- There were harsh punishments for misbehavior.
- The school bell was used to communicate some student procedures for entering and exiting the building: first bell ring = ready; second bell ring = form a line; third bell ring = march.
- Lessons were recited aloud. The main purpose of education was for moral, not intellectual, development with the belief that education should help society.
- Spelling bees became very popular! Champion spellers were recognized with a small prize, like a necklace, that was kept by the winner until there was a new champion.

Specific facts about teachers in the early 1900s

- Male teachers were more popular as they were thought to be stricter.
- Before teachers began being paid a small salary, the people who lived in the areas surrounding the school gave teachers food, clothing, wood and whatever else they could in exchange for the teacher's work.
- Average teacher salaries in 1912 were \$70 per month for men teachers; \$50 per month for female teachers.
- The closest neighbor to the school was often at least one to two miles away.
- The first teacher at Harris School was Rosa Kilgore.
- With so many differing ages of students, children were often expected to take care of one another. An older student would hear a younger child read or perhaps help them with the abacus.

What do you think?

Let the group participants answer while reflecting on the discussion about how life was different.

How is it different from how we live today?

- Students in several grades educated by one teacher.
- Stricter learning environment with harsh punishments for a long list of misbehaviors. Some actions that resulted in punishments included:
 - Fighting or arguing (physically and with words only)
 - Boys and girls playing together
 - Making swings or swinging on them
 - Having long fingernails
 - Not saying "no sir" or "yes sir" or "no ma'am" or "yes ma'am"
 - Calling each other nicknames

Would you have liked to live, work, play here? Why or why not?

Imagine one teacher working with children in grades 1–8! What do you think it would have been like to be a student in that time period?

- Students would have had to work well on their own.
- Students would have needed to behave well and not talk to one another.
- Lessons were only mostly focused on arithmetic, spelling and science.
- Today, there are so many tools for learning that can be fun. In the past lessons were very basic.
- Chalk boards were used. No smart boards or computers of any kind, of course!

What do you think it would have been like to be a teacher in that time period?

- Challenging for some same and different reasons that exist for today's teachers!
- It was and still is today a lot of hard work to prepare and present lessons.
- In the past, it must have been especially difficult to teach so many subjects to students in such a wide age range.

Union Academy

Built 1915 Moved from Pinellas Avenue, Tarpon Springs

Building and Land Characteristics

Description

- Wood
- Built possibly as a barracks or other government building.
- Served as a portable classroom at the all-white Tarpon Springs Elementary School for about 20 years.
- Similar structures were often considered "chicken coops" by students of the time.

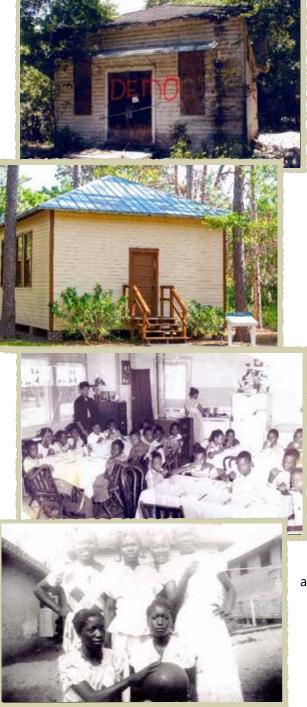
Details

- Used at Tarpon Springs Elementary through the 1941–1942 school year.
- In August 1942, the school officials moved the building to the Union Academy campus, the established school for Black students.
- While there the flexible building served as a classroom, cafeteria and home economics room for more than 20 years.
- By the mid-1960s, leaders in the Black community purchased the building from the Pinellas County school district and had it moved to the corner of Grosse Avenue and Morgan Street.
- From this location, the building provided social and recreational opportunities for Black children and teenagers.

The People

Background

- The 1885 constitution of Florida mandated segregated education. Segregation is the practice or policy of separating race, class, or group from the rest of society.
- A simple wooden structure for white schoolchildren began operating in Tarpon Springs by the 1880s.
- A small school for Black children began in Tarpon Springs before Union Academy opened in 1919.
- This building was not yet part of the Union Academy.
- There was a "separate but equal" law that was supposed to make sure that even though students were separated by their race for their education, they would receive the same opportunities at their schools.
- However, this was not the case. At schools serving Black students:
 - buildings were not as nice, and they were overcrowded
 - teacher salaries were lower
 - there were fewer and older books and supplies
 - length of school terms were shorter.



What

- There were some educators and public officials who falsely believed that education for Black children should only include training for farming and service roles.
- Other people in the community didn't agree so made sure to provide a well-rounded education for the students.
- Despite laws requiring segregation, principals at Union Academy regularly invited all people in the community to events held at the school, who attended plays and musical performances. White patrons often enjoyed reserved seating for events at Union Academy, a practice that was not followed by white schools for Black residents.

A Day in the Life

- School year terms for Black students were significantly shorter, revolving around the growing seasons.
- All children worked alongside adults in their families as workers to plant and harvest. During this time period, children didn't attend school.
- The school was a long distance from where the children lived, and they had to walk to get there.

Specific facts – The People and/or The Era

- People in the Tarpon Springs Black community worked together with teachers to make sure that a larger variety of opportunities were available for students.
- A "better health" series, achievement awards, sports competitions, visual arts, music and drama performances were all different things students enjoyed beyond their daily learning.
- During the spring of 1932, the school also offered special evening reading courses three nights a week for a sixweek term. In that spring Alma Myrick—head of the English department—launched a series of student programs open to the general public on Monday evenings.
- Ironically, in Pinellas' segregated school system, many programs at Union Academy involved integrated audiences.

What do you think?

Let the group participants answer while reflecting on the discussion about how life was different.

How is it different from how we live today?

- Today, most schools are integrated.
- Students benefit from resources that are the same quality for all students.
- However, some neighborhood schools located in areas that are mostly lived in by people of one race are still ending up with a student body composed of only that one race.

Would you have liked to live, work, play here? Why or why not?

What are other ways people were discriminated against due to their skin color?

- Less pay for equal work.
- Discouraged from living in certain areas.
- People weren't allowed to shop in certain stores.
- People were only allowed to sit at the backs of buses.

Why is it wrong to determine what opportunities do or do not exist based on a person's race or gender?

- Everyone deserves equal opportunities.
- No one is better than anyone else because of their race or gender.
- People's capabilities to learn concepts or fulfill different jobs are not determined by their race or gender.

Williams Park Bandstand

Original Built 1894

This is a reproduction built in 1981 of the original bandstand located in Williams Park, downtown St. Petersburg.

Building and Land Characteristics

Description

- Victorian style bandstand/pavilion
- · Woodwork with decorative details
- This bandstand is a replica of the original

Details

- Williams Park was covered in dense shrubs and foliage, filled with wild animals until improvements in 1890s–1910s.
- In 1920 the town moved the bandstand near Bayboro Harbor, and it was destroyed in a 1921 hurricane.

The People

Who

• Park Improvement Association (PIA), Woman's Town Improvement Association (WTIA)

What

- Organization of women who devoted their time for the improvement of their city.
- PIA was the first organization of women for the improvement of St. Petersburg. They raised money for the construction of the bandstand.
- WTIA was created in 1901 and was a women-run community service organization.

A Day in the Life

- If you went to visit Williams Park, you would often see cows and chickens since local farmers let their animals roam through the park.
- By 1894, the Park Improvement Association sponsored the construction of a fence to keep stray animals—especially hogs and cows—out of the park.
- The bandstand was used for ice cream socials in the 1910s. Ice cream has been popular for a long time!
- There were checkers, chess, dominoes, and croquet played around the bandstand. Have you played any of those games?









Specific facts – The People and/or The Era

- The Progressive Era from the 1890s to the 1920s found many organizations formed (many by women) for the improvement of cities. The PIA and the WTIA are examples of some of these organizations.
- Before the Progressive Era, cities were dirty and disease ridden.
- Thanks to organizations that took action during the Progressive Era, cities were cleaned up and many added parks or green space such as Williams Park.

What do you think?

Let the group participants answer while reflecting on the discussion about how life was different.

How is it different from how we live today?

- In a park today, we will see a squirrel or a duck but imagine seeing cows, chickens or deer!
- The park was the center of town life where many community events such as ice cream socials, games, and political campaigns were held.
- It was in this bandstand where town members rallied to separate from Hillsborough county to create Pinellas county.
- In the 1890s there were standards for dressing. Most people wore very thick, heavy outfits with multiple layers. That changed slightly in the 1900s when children started wearing slightly lighter fabrics. A boy wore a suit and a girl wore a long dress. How does that compare to what you are wearing now?

Would you have liked to live, work, play here? Why or why not?

What do you think they used the bandstand for?

They used the bandstand to gather the local community together. Imagine your whole town in one place playing games or eating ice cream! Is there any place you can think of where your local community gathers? A school or church possibly?

If you could improve something in your city what would it be? Would you want to improve your local park?

Many Progressive Era people saw the growing "concrete jungle" around them. They were inspired to create parks in search of a cleaner and more natural environment that everyone could enjoy.









Safety Harbor Church

Built 1905 Moved from 401 Second Street N, Safety Harbor

Building and Land Characteristics

Description

- The simple one-room, wood frame structure has windows on all four sides.
- It resembles many early churches built along the Pinellas Peninsula and in Florida during the late 1800s and early 1900s.
- Wood for the church came from E. H. Coachman's sawmill, once located on a site within present-day Philippe Park.

Details

- Originally this church building was in a central location in the growing community of Green Springs, renamed Safety Harbor in 1917.
- Strong winds during the October 1921 hurricane lifted the entire church from the ground and repositioned it elsewhere on the property, facing a new direction. It was left where it landed.
- Another hurricane in 1935 ripped off most of the roof. Amazingly the current structure contains its original pulpit and altar rail.

The People

Who

- Records kept by the church indicate that nine members of the former Sylvan Abbey Church which closed became charter members of this new church.
- Early church members included pioneer families of the upper Pinellas Peninsula, including the McMullens and Booths.

What

- Churches during this time period shared pastors who travelled between a few locations to serve their members.
- Poor roadways along the Pinellas Peninsula must have resulted in these short distances requiring lengthy and somewhat dangerous travels.
- The church had 41 pastors but only five organists during its 97 years.

A Day in the Life

- The congregation hosted many social events including a Methodist Coffee Hour and potluck dinners.
- The Coffee Hours included devotional readings, fellowship, refreshments and occasional entertainment.
- After outgrowing the space, the congregation opened a new sanctuary in 1960 and converted this structure into Sunday school classrooms and office space.







Specific facts – The People and/or The Era

- Unfortunately, church membership declined by the 1990s.
- The chicken-and-biscuit dinners ended, elderly members passed away, new churches opened, and urban sprawl blurred lines between Safety Harbor and other nearby areas that had once created a sense of community.
- By 2001, attendance had dwindled from fifty-two to under twenty patrons. In 2002 after much difficult discussion about their options, the congregation made a painful decision to close the church. After ninety-seven years, the church offered its final service on Mother's Day of 2002.
- Although the church closed its doors, members had the foresight and concern for preserving their sanctuary's history when they donated their institutional records to the Heritage Village Library and Archives.

What do you think?

Let the group participants answer while reflecting on the discussion about how life was different.

How is it different from how we live today?

- Churches during this time period were at the center of a community, serving people as a place to worship but to also socialize regularly.
- Many friendships were built and sustained through church involvement.

Would you have liked to live, work, play here? Why or why not?

Why do you think the church leaders decided to leave the church in its new position after the 1921 hurricane moved the structure?

- It was easier to leave it where it landed and just reinforce its foundation than to try and move and/or rebuild an entire building.
- Perhaps they liked the new positioning better than where the church had previously been.
- Could they have felt it was meant to be in its new location?

Do you think closing the church was the best decision to make given the situation?

- It seems like the people left in the congregation tried to do whatever they could to find ways to keep the church open.
- It probably came to the point where they couldn't financially support keeping the church open any longer and had no other choice.



Plant Sumner

Built 1896 Moved from 513 A Street, Clearwater

Building and Land Characteristics

Description

- Wood two-story house built at the height of the Victorian era.
- Located near Henry B. Plant's Hotel Belleview (which became the Belleview Biltmore)—see the photograph showing the hotel being built that's located in the entry hall.
- Built in 1896 with modern amenities unusual for its time (running water, indoor plumbing, electricity). The house had electricity

before the City of Clearwater did! The power connection came from the Belleview Biltmore which had its own power source.

• The first building to be moved to Heritage Village in 1976.

Details

- The house included other extras:
 - Seven spacious rooms for a growing family
 - Picture and plate rails
 - Built in china cabinet
 - Fireplaces
 - A wood cook stove
 - An icebox

The People

Who

- This and others built nearby provided homes for the Belleview Hotel construction project supervisors and railroad supervisors and their families.
- By as soon as the early twentieth century it was felt that this house and others like it were taking away from the beauty of the exclusive hotel.
- Belleview officials sold some of these houses at low prices and required they be moved from the property.
- Robert Sumner, a minister who came to the area from Maitland close to Orlando, moved into the home with his wife Julia and family in 1912. The family occupied the home for more than 40 years!
- The names of the children in the Sumner family were Ralph and Maurice.









Theme: Home and Community Life

What

- The Sumner family worked in quite a few ways to support themselves.
- They kept several cows on their property, which was quite large, and sold some of the milk to neighbors.
- As a minister, Robert delivered sermons at the Belmont Methodist Church at the intersection of Greenwood and Belleair streets.
- As an amateur veterinarian, Robert did some work for other cattle farmers like Dr. Garfield Evans and the Plumb Family.

A Day in the Life

- The family lived quite comfortably for this time period.
- Everyday life for children in the household included a list of chores they were expected to complete.

Specific facts – The People and/or The Era

- As was true with Robert Sumner, in this era many people held several types of jobs for a few different reasons:
- As additional ways to support themselves and their families.
- Because there were not as many people populating the area.
- Because those that did live in the area may not have had the knowledge to provide some of the needed services and/or may have lived too great of a distance away.

What do you think?

Let the group participants answer while reflecting on the discussion about how life was different.











How is it different from how we live today?

Walk through the house and note some things that are different than what we would find in rooms at home. Some things you might see are:

- Telephone on wall; telephone on stand—both in entry hall.
- Phonograph with Edison Gold Moulded record cylinders in living room.
- Formal china place settings in dining room where family ate all their meals (no table to sit at in the kitchen or television trays, as there was no television!).
- In the kitchen:
 - Simple one basin sink mounted to wall
 - Washboard and bucket for doing laundry
 - Ice cream maker (bucket with crank)
 - Metal cookie cutters
 - Ice sign noting 25, 50, 75 and 100.
 - Rug beater
 - Milk jugs
 - Pedal powered sewing machine
- In bedrooms, all upstairs:
 - Single light bulbs in all the rooms
 - Bed warmer
 - Kerosene lamp
 - Fancy dresses, shoes, dressing gowns, gloves
 - Wash basins
 - Toys—Dolls in wicker stroller; scooter; teddy bears; painted doll buggy; horse glider

Would you have liked to live, work, play here? Why or why not?











What did this family do with the ice sign and why did they need it?

The ice sign was used to show how many pounds of ice the family wanted to have delivered by the "ice man." The ice went in the ice box which was used to preserve food that needed to be kept cold, the closest thing they had to a refrigerator.

When viewing each house from the outside, compare this house to its next-door neighbor, The House of Seven Gables which was built in roughly the same time period (1907).

Which house is larger? Looks more decorative? Talk about how the House of Seven Gables was a second home for a wintering family; how it presents a contrast between the home of a working-class family (Plant Sumner) vs. the home of a family with great means (House of Seven Gables).



Sulphur Springs Train Depot

Built 1924 Moved from the area that is now Busch Boulevard, Tampa, Hillsborough County

Building and Land Characteristics

Description

- This wood structure was built with an emphasis on utilitarian purpose rather than aesthetic design.
- This 1,155 square foot station reflected the architecture found in many early Florida depots.
- The design is the same as the station created for the town of Yulee near Fernandina Beach.
- Only major structure at Heritage Village that originally was built outside the boundaries of present-day Pinellas County.
- Constructed at a time (early 1920s) when railroad transportation was an easy way for many visitors to come to the Florida peninsula.

Details

- Although built many years after the Orange Belt Railway arrived along the Pinellas peninsula in 1888, this station signifies the importance of the Orange Belt.
- In 1890 the first rumors of a railroad from Tampa to the "west coast" was printed in the Tarpon Springs Truth.
- In 1909 the construction of the railway between Tarpon Springs and Tampa with a junction at Sulphur Springs was started.
- Sulphur Springs was incorporated as a town in 1921 due to the importance of the railroad.
- Sulphur Springs operated as a junction station for half a century.

The People

Who

- Most notable were the contributions of Henry Flagler, Henry Plant, Hamilton Disston and Peter Demens.
- Before this stretch of railway was completed, people traveling from Tampa to St. Petersburg and Tarpon Springs took a roundabout way. They first crossed Tampa Bay on a ferry and then took a train from St. Petersburg to Tarpon Springs. Imagine how long that would have taken!







What

- In the early 1880s, Hamilton Disston, a Philadelphia entrepreneur, acquired four million acres of Florida lands for one million dollars.
- These isolated lands of the county required reliable transportation.
- Roadways were not reliable nor easy to navigate, especially during the rainy season.
- Henry Plant created a railroad line that transformed nearby Tampa.
- Between January 1887 and the early months of 1889, Peter Demens oversaw the construction of the Orange Belt extension that opened the Pinellas Peninsula to commercial rail travel.
- Demens, a Russian immigrant, helped bring the railroad to a small town at the bottom of the Pinellas peninsula. He named it St. Petersburg in honor of the waterfront city in his homeland.
- After twenty years of railroad tycoons fighting over power of the railroad, the Sulphur Springs junction played the role of connecting two separate lines of railroad.
- The building included dedicated telephone/telegraph relays to Pinellas cities and offered an important stopping point for trains from Tampa to Pinellas County at the Gulf Coast Junction that brought railroads to Clearwater and St. Petersburg.
- The station reinforced social customs and traditions of the period, as noted by separate waiting rooms and facilities for white and black patrons

A Day in the Life

- The railroad changed the landscape of Florida from rural pioneers to populated cityscapes.
- The Sulphur Springs Depot serves as a symbol of the impact of railroads to the West Coast of Florida and its people.
- Soon after the railroad system entered St. Petersburg, that community quickly surpassed Tarpon Springs in population and developed into a booming city.
- While St. Petersburg became the dominant city on the Pinellas Peninsula after the Orange Belt arrived, railroads truly transformed the entire region, not just one city.

Specific facts - The People and/or The Era

- Rail travel transformed the economic climate and accommodated a substantial influx of visitors, new residents, and commercial and industrial growth.
- It helped improve business opportunities by providing a much more efficient means of transportation to get sponges, citrus, various agricultural crops, and other commodities to distant markets.







What do you think?

Let the group participants answer while reflecting on the discussion about how life was different.

How is it different from how we live today?

As a group, consider the different types of transportation used throughout the settlement of Pinellas County.

- Foot travel
- Horseback
- · Horse and wagon
- Boats
- · Railroad
- Cars
- Buses

Think about the changes that each new form of transportation brought to the growth and transformation the county experienced.

Would you have liked to live, work, play here? Why or why not?

What are the pros and cons of each type of transportation used in the past?

What modes of transportation should be considered for the future?







Beach Cottage and Tourism

Cottage Built 1939 Moved from 15356 Gulf Blvd., Madeira Beach

Please note:

- The cottage can only be viewed from the outside.
- Additional examples of tourism can be found in the museum building found on the right side of the breezeway when entering from the main parking lot.

Materials

Simple construction made with local timber; log style with other wood accents.

Description

- Built near the Gulf of Mexico in the Lone Palm Beach subdivision as part of a settlement that became Madeira Beach.
- Typical of coastal cottages built during the 1930s.

Tourism Begins

- Pinellas County began catching on as the perfect getaway destination as early as 1885 when the lower portion became known as "Health City" for its ideal climate, temperature and beautiful waters.
- The state's tourist industry traces its real start to the 1890s and the arrival of Henry Flagler's railroad, which brought wealthy northerners to Florida's east coast—and to Flagler's hotels.
- Henry Plant supported the growth of tourism on the west coast of Florida by building his railroads, the Tampa Bay Hotel (was in Tampa) and the Belleview Hotel (was in what is now Belleair).
- By 1900, people who could financially afford to do so arrived by steamboat or rail car and wintered in luxury at places like the Belleview Hotel in Belleair where they could enjoy Florida's first hotel golf course.







- More inexpensive and less fancy places to stay awaited travelers in St. Petersburg, known as "the Ideal City by the Sea."
- As tourists and winter residents flocked to the Pinellas Peninsula, quirky roadside attractions, tropically themed restaurants, goofy golf courses and tiny mom and pop motels dotted the landscape.
- Modest cottages sprang up along the beaches from Indian Rocks Beach south to Pass-a-Grille.
- While St. Petersburg and Clearwater had a more modern flair with high-end hotels that attracted affluent vacationers from the north, these cottages near the beach appealed to those seeking more modest prices.
- In the late 1800s to early 1900s many fishing and shipping vessels worked along the Pinellas waterways.
- Bridge construction beginning in the early 1900s connected the mainland to the barrier islands so people could come and go.
- Many "city folk" from Pinellas and Hillsborough counties purchased land and built vacation cottages.
- Others invested in the beaches with an eye toward a growing tourism market by building cottages for seasonal residents.

Postcards and Souvenirs

View these tourism artifacts in the museum building across from the entrance to the Visitor Center. View some facts about each in the sections below to provide some historical background and prospective.

"Wish You Were Here" – Postcard History

- The post card reached its height of popularity in the 20th century.
- Begun in Europe in the 1870s, the post card was always aimed at a popular audience.
- At first, people worried that the open messages would be read by anyone who came across them.
- Businesses recognized the advertising potential of the post card, and sales in the first years exceeded everyone's expectations.
- German advances in lithography led to the "Golden Age" of post cards (circa 1905–1911), with a higher rate of production and sales across America and Europe.
- Post cards were the "craze," which coincided nicely with the rising tourism industry in Florida.
- Post card production shifted to the United States, with the rise of white border cards, and drawn and airbrushed images.
- With the extensive use of personal electronics and Instagram, Snapchat and Facebook, travelers have become less reliant on post card mementos, and the once familiar beach-side racks of sunny Florida images are disappearing.

Souvenir History and Collection

Souvenir: A thing that is kept as a reminder of a person, place, or event.

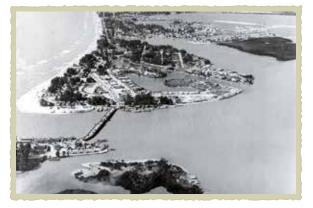
- Florida entrepreneurs were already at work in the early 1800s before tourism truly began. They sold keepsakes commonly called "bio-curios"—Spanish moss, bird eggs, feathers, shells and stuffed alligators—to the adventurous travelers visiting our then wilderness-like state.
- To serve the refined tastes of the early tourists, gift and curio shops sprang up in hotels, train stations and even small inland communities.
- They included scenic china from Germany and England, sterling-silver souvenir spoons, jewelry and handcarved ivory and wooden canes that usually featured an alligator motif.







- The scenes depicted on china plates and cups sometimes were the natural features of an area, such as a river or lake. But more often they pictured hotels, civic buildings and other man-made structures that identified an area.
- As the manufacturing of souvenirs grew, typical themes included birds, leaves, frogs and snakes, and especially alligators.
- Palm trees didn't become a common motif in Florida souvenirs until the post-World War II tourism boom.
- Most early tourists came from the North and that's where they would have taken the reminders of their Florida visit. Looking at souvenirs of their Florida trip was a type of "escape" from the winter.



What do you think?

Let the group participants answer while reflecting on the discussion about how life was different.

How is tourism different today from what it was in the past?

- Today tourism is at a much larger scale than it was in the past.
- Our state attracts visitors from around the world, year 'round.
- Tourism is a multi-million dollar industry in Florida, helping pay for numerous improvements and community needs.

What do you think you would have liked best about visiting Florida as a tourist in the past?

Have you ever bought a post card...

- To save as a memory of a place you visited?
- To send to someone while you were on vacation?

Have you ever bought a souvenir...

- To remind you of a place you visited?
- If yes, what was it and where was it from?





Pinellas County & Heritage Village Background Information

Pinellas County

- In the 1800s, Pinellas County did not exist.
- The area was part of Hillsborough County (where Tampa is located) and was sparsely populated.
- Residents voted on January 1, 1912 in favor of the area becoming its own separate county.
- The county was very different than what it is today:
 - Not many people lived here.
 - It was filled with many animals and overgrown plants.
 - There were lots of cattle grazing areas and numerous orange groves.
 - Communities within the county were much smaller than they are today and had vast stretches of uninhabited land between them.
 - Beach areas were not easy to get to with very few bridges in place.
- Around 1832, Odet Philippe established the first permanent white settlement on the Pinellas peninsula on the bluffs of what is now Safety Harbor.
- Philippe has been credited as the first local person to grow citrus, which later became the leading agricultural product of Pinellas.



- In 1842, the Armed Occupation Act gave Americans the first real incentive to settle here. The Act provided that 160 acres would be given to any "head of family or single man over eighteen" who would bear arms and live on and farm the land.
- Few pioneers came to Pinellas during the period from 1840 to 1880. Only 50 families lived in the area when the Civil War began in 1861, and even fewer after it ended in 1865.
- Clearwater was the first point to become a community with an established post office in 1859, followed by the establishment of Dunedin as a trading post. However, both communities were only frontier settlements, with Cedar Key, the only major town on the west coast of Florida, being 100 miles north by boat.
- The schooners, and later the steamers, that sailed from Cedar Key carried mail and supplies to Pinellas communities and transported their farm products mainly cotton, citrus and vegetables to market.
- The lower part of the peninsula was also settled by pioneer homesteaders who raised cattle, grew citrus, and were commercial fishers.
- By 1876, approximately 25 pioneers had settled in the area now known as St. Petersburg.
- Even though Pinellas was still very sparsely populated, early settlement was already causing environmental change. Pine, cypress and hardwood forest growth were harvested; citrus groves and farm fields replaced a lot of native vegetation; huge rookeries of wading birds, such as snowy egrets and roseate spoonbills, were diminished in numbers by plume hunters; organized hunts targeted bear, panther and other major predators, which were considered a threat to livestock.
- Few roads, and those that did exist being very rough, made development move slowly. The primitive state of transportation greatly limited farmers' ability to market their goods, including the citrus industry which relied on water transportation to market crops.
- A lot has changed since then, as the county transitioned from a collection of sleepy cities with miles of orange groves between them to the most densely populated county in Florida today.
- With this continued growth, it's more important than ever to preserve green space and Pinellas County's history.

Heritage Village

- Growth and development of the county resulted in many older buildings getting torn down.
- Though they couldn't save them all, the Junior League of Clearwater set out to preserve some buildings that were architecturally unique, represented the heritage of the county, and were important in telling the stories of Pinellas County history.
- When they acquired the first building, the Plant Sumner house, the biggest challenge became finding a location for it.
- After much discussion, the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners offered them the land that then became Heritage Village in 1976.
- Over time, 20 historic buildings plus about 10 other structures have been moved here or reconstructed, including the oldest existing structure in Pinellas County the McMullen Coachman Log Cabin built in approximately 1852.
- Though it's called a village, all the buildings originally stood in other parts of the county and were moved here to our 21-acre park. People lived with a lot of land between them and didn't have next door neighbors!
- Heritage Village is a Pinellas County park preserved and maintained through the Pinellas County Government, Pinellas County Historical Society and volunteers.

