

## Report to Board of Directors

July 7, 2011

Elizabeth Gessner

**Event:** Most of our June activities involved preparation for the member event held on June 29. The rain kept attendance down, but we had had a very enthusiastic response to the invitations, which was encouraging. Nick McAuliffe presented a talk on *Tolomato Then and Now*, using historic photographs placed at the locations from which they were taken. Elizabeth Gessner gave a talk on the plan for Tolomato, created in 1811 but never carried out, using a large copy of the map from the East Florida Papers. Matt Armstrong talked about our preservation activities this year and also about plans for more preservation activities in the future, and we were able to get a list of people interested in volunteering. We had an 18<sup>th</sup> century Spanish soldier reenactor, John Cipriani, who added considerably to our torch-lit evening event.

Carol Lopez Bradshaw, Sue Howden, Louise Kennedy, Priscilla de la Cruz and Moises Stzylerman assisted in welcoming the visitors and giving mini-tours and explanations.

Expenditures consisted of the torches, bottled water, and the payment for the police officer who provided security (since we had thought it might be hard to control the entrance and keep the ghost tours out).

Because relatively few people braved the rain to attend, the presenters discussed offering the same or slightly expanded talks as a member event this fall. We could offer it at the end of October, possibly in conjunction with an annual meeting. But we can discuss this further at a board meeting in the next couple of months.

**DAR Plaque:** The DAR plaque for John McQueen is moving ahead, and we are now trying to coordinate the design and size of the stone, which will be a coquina "desk" type stone probably about the size of the 19<sup>th</sup> century concrete "desk" stone at the back of the cemetery. The text is as follows:

IN HONOR OF  
REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOT  
JOHN McQUEEN  
"DON JUAN McQUEEN"  
BORN 1751  
DIED 1807

MARKER PLACED BY MARIA JEFFERSON CHAPTER, NSDAR  
(date placed)

I think this indicates fairly well that he is not buried under that particular marker but that it is a commemoration. We will discuss the placement of the marker once we are certain what it will look like.

**Water:** We discussed getting water at the cemetery at our last board meeting. John provided the information on the lot number but as far as the city was able to determine, there has never been city water at the site. Getting city water is possible and would require an application. But it would probably be expensive and disruptive, probably even necessitating an archaeological review. So after some discussion with John, we decided to go back to the idea of attempting to find the well that is thought to be located on the property. It could probably be reopened at a much more modest cost and without all of the other difficulties entailed in running pipes in from the street. We will follow up on this at another board meeting, and in the meantime, we will continue to use water from the neighbors or will see if we can work out something with the café next door.

**Storage Shed:** This project is moving ahead slowly. When I went to order the shed (available in the size we want from Home Depot, but only for delivery and not in their stores) I discovered that the actual shipping costs brought the price up to almost \$600. I wasn't sure we want to spend that much, so I started looking for alternatives that would be available for pick-up. Unfortunately, there's not much available that is comparable. It still seems that the best shed is the Home Depot shed, which is a Rubbermaid product that gives us a large amount of storage (147 cu ft) but because of its design will fit into the rather narrow space behind the vault without being very noticeable from other places in the cemetery. The dimensions are 42 inches deep, 85 in. high and 84 in. wide (about 3 ½ ft deep, 7 ft high and 7 ft wide). Other similar sheds were about 50 cu ft smaller but only a few dollars cheaper, and the price dropped seriously only when we got to a much smaller shed, not much bigger than the current box behind the other vault.

Let me know if you have any suggestions or thoughts on this.

In any case, no matter what we put there, we need to level the site and put down some pavers, so we will pick a day sometime in the next couple of weeks to do this. I'll send out an e-mail. It won't involve a lot of work and will require only a few bags of sand, since I already have a number of large pavers I can contribute.

**501 C3:** Nothing has been done on this; if you know anybody who might like to help, please let me know.

**Reimbursement of John Beaty:** This hasn't been done yet because no one has been able to find a mailing address for him. We're still working on it!