



**Fort King Heritage
Association, Inc.**

Established April 13, 2011

Board of Directors

David Laffey, President
Bill McCall, Vice President
Karl Goedert, Treasurer
Sandy Clardy, Secretary
Robin Corsiglia
Terry Crawford
Craig Curry
Ron Mosby
Gloria Seddon

Trustees

Morrey Deen
Tim Jones
Willie Johns
Brent Malever
David Moore
Pamela Stafford

Phone (352) 368-5535

Website www.fkha.org

Email FKHA.FortKing@gmail.com

Mail 3925 East Fort King Street
Ocala, Florida 34470

The Mission of the Fort King Heritage Association, Inc. (FKHA) is to Preserve, Protect, and Promote the Fort King Historical Site located in Ocala, Marion County, Florida while serving as a citizen support group to cultivate and sustain a public private partnership with private donors and our Local, State, and Federal Governments.

May 12, 2016

For Immediate Release

The Resurrection Of Fort King

The Fort King Heritage Association, Inc. (FKHA) has announced the launch of their **Buy A Log, Build A Fort** campaign to raise funds to rebuild Ocala's historic Fort King.

Once the southern command for the U.S. Army during the Second Seminole War (1835-1842) the fort was designated the county seat of Marion County in 1844 and served as the county's first court house.

Located just east of 36th Avenue on Fort King Street, the 42 acre site is jointly owned by the City of Ocala and Marion County and was purchased through a grant from the Florida Communities Trust.. It was designated a National Historical Landmark by the National Park Service in 2004.

Today the site operates daily as a city park, with amenities including picnic tables, a one mile interpretive walking trail, the Fort King Cemetery, a Visitor's Center complete with artifacts and historical displays, and the spring where the soldiers retrieved their drinking water.

More than fifty historical and educational programs are being developed for both adults and children. School field trips will have the added embellishment of period dressed docents escorting the kids along the actual remnants of the historic Fort King Road which connected Fort King with Fort Brook in Tampa.

So what's missing? The Fort! The FKHA, an all volunteer citizen and support group, acquired a \$295,000 Florida Historical Preservation Grant. To receive the funds, FKHA must match the grant.

David Laffey, president of FKHA, said "Everyone sells personalized bricks to raise money. We're selling logs". It took approximately 600 logs to form the 150' by 150' palisades of the fort. "We're building a replica of Fort King, therefore we cannot personalize the actual logs. However, donors will be recognized on plaques inside the Visitor's Center", Laffey added.

(Cont'd)

(Buy A Log Pg 2)

There are three categories of log sales; \$250, \$500 and the \$1,000 Founders Club Log. The Founders Club will be closed once the goal is reached.

“This is a community driven project, and we want the entire community involved. While not everyone can afford a log, we do accept any and all donations. Many groups and civic clubs are purchasing logs in their group name”, Laffey added.

For more information, visit the official website at www.fkha.org, stop in the Visitor Center at the park (3925 East Fort King Street), or call Fort King at 352-368-5533.

###