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# Tarpon Springs Area Historical Society

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160 E. Tarpon Avenue – Tarpon Springs, FL 34689 – 727-943-4624

Visit our website at: [tarponspringsareahistoricalsociety.org](http://tarponspringsareahistoricalsociety.org)

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Newsletter

December 2011

**Happy Holidays!!!!**

*From your President and Board of Directors of the Tarpon  
Springs Area Historical Society*

Memberships to the Historical Society are a great Christmas gift that lasts all year long – gift memberships are available at the Historic Train Depot.

## **125<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Tarpon Springs**

*Plans are moving ahead as we plan our Celebrations for our Community in 2012. Be sure and mark your calendar for attending the Remembrance Tea on Sunday February 26<sup>th</sup> 2012 from 2:00 PM. until 4:00 PM... The history of those families that were here in 1887 will be recognized as a kick off for our 125<sup>th</sup> birthday. A presentation will be given by Elizabeth Coachman Portraying Dr. Mary Jane Safford.*

## **Christmas Parade**

Historical Society members, join us on Saturday December 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM here at the Historic Train Depot to enjoy the Tarpon Springs Christmas Parade. Before and after the parade there will be light refreshments and Christmas music provided by pianist **Mildred Wilson**.



Ella Hope and the “little canoe?”

## Collection Corner **“The Little Canoe”**

Captain Samuel Kendall was a fishing guide out of Tarpon Springs in the mid 1880’s. Although he was known for verifying that there were rare half-beak fish in and around Tarpon Springs and the Anclote River, he was more famous for bringing the “Rushton” canoe to our city. He was remembered as a “tall old gentleman married to Alice Wells “ An article from “The Bucktail in FL” by George W. Sears in Field and Stream (July 16, 1885) mentions Kendall’s ranch and describes Capt. Kendall this way ; “ He was a canoeist, builder and sailor.” Evidently he was also a kind and compassionate man. “Nessmuc” (George Washington Sears’ pen name), suffering from the effects of tuberculosis and needing a place to stay in warm Florida, accepted Sam Kendall’s invitation to camp out in one corner of his boathouse.

Nessmuc wrote, “On May 1885, a large crate was delivered to the Kendall place. Mrs. K was dancing with delight at the little cedar canoe inside. But what interested me was another and lighter canoe nested neatly and safely inside the first. This was the little “*Rushton...*” She weighed less than 10 lbs. and the name was painted on either side in gold and scarlet letters. She was 8 inches rise at the center, weighed 9 lbs. 15 ounces and was 8 ½ feet long. Mrs. K. launched first and as she grew confident, paddled up and down the river and in and out of the bayous, handling the light craft skillfully as a squaw. Finally she lifted the canoe out of the water saying, ”oh, she is lovely: worth half a dozen bonnets.”

S. D. Kendall was also one of the 46 signers to incorporate our city in 1887, therefore becoming a part of Tarpon Springs history and its future.

## Antique Appraisal Fair

Many thanks to **Cindy Comstock** from **Court of Two Sisters**, Bill McCarty, Tom Williamson and Scott Anderson for providing estimates and appraisals at our Antique Appraisal Fair.

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Evelyn Miller, our turkey raffle winner. The winning ticket was drawn at Manola’s Restaurant (next to the Historic Train Depot) by little Gabriela. A big” thank you” to Winn Dixie of Tarpon Springs for donating the turkey.

**For more information on any events call 727-943-4624**