

Koreshan State Historic Site Newsletter

January 2005

This is the first newsletter that we have published and sent to our "list" of people who either have an interest in or are related to Koreshans.

Our reason for sending this newsletter is to let you know what is happening here, at least in terms of the historical side of the Koreshan State *Historic Site*. We also would ask that you let us know what you are doing in terms of your research and if you have any new information about the Koreshan Unity or any of its members. We spend a great deal of time trying to find information, and many times people like yourselves come forward and supply it. If you have any photographs or manuscripts that you would like to share with us, we would be happy to scan the original and return it to you, or if you have the facilities to do that, you could send it to us.

As you may or may not know there are two websites which have information about the park and the history of the Koreshans. The first is the *official* State Park site, at www.floridastateparks.org/koreshan The second is our '*unofficial*' site at koreshan.mwweb.org

The unofficial site has seen a great deal of activity lately. The software that we use to catalog our material is called "Past Perfect" This software has a module which allows us to take the contents of our database and publish it to the World Wide Web. We have done that and you can now view all of the photographs and manuscripts that we have. Each database record is a "work in progress". You may find some spelling errors, etc. but we update the database every two months or so. Check it out and let us know what you think.

There are a number of things going on here at the Park. It is, of course, the "Season" and the park is filled with volunteers from all over the U.S. and Canada. After enduring three hurricanes this past year, the Park looks great. Charley caused the Park to close down for about one week while cleanup was done. No historic buildings were damaged, but we did lose one of the "Monkey Puzzle" trees.



The State Historic Site is working with Lee County to acquire the Boomer house and property which was put up for sale by the widow of

the late George Boomer. The house is of significant historical importance. It was built by Lucius Boomer, the son of Berthaldine, shown in the picture above. (l-r Berthaldine Boomer, Evelyn Bubbett, Imogene Bubbett Rahn, Bertie Boomer). Mrs Boomer lived in the house until her death. Her two daughters, Ruth Boomer Thomas and Bertie lived there as well. There will be more information as details are known.

In our Archives we are continuing to catalog each copy of the Koreshan journal, *The Flaming Sword* which, after 1916 began to run a column called *Community Current Events* which spoke of the coming and going of Koreshan members, family members and visitors. It is a fascinating look at everyday life, which includes both the boring times and the exciting times, such as the time the hurricane struck here in 1921. We are scanning the text and including it in the catalog record which makes it searchable. That in turn makes it easier to find information about individuals and events.

Be sure and let us know what you think of this Newsletter.

