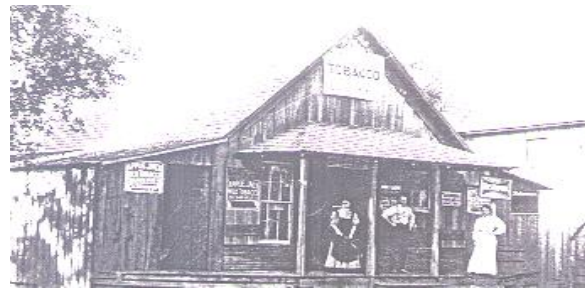


## HISTORY OF MASCOTTE

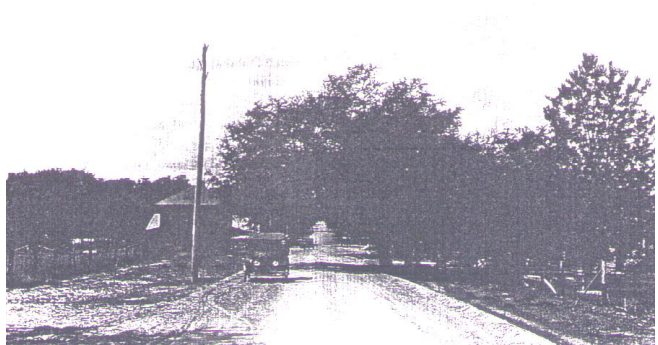
The City of Mascotte was officially chartered by the State Legislature on November 23, 1925. However, the settlement, which became Mascotte, dates back more than 100 years. In approximately 1885, J.W. Payne, who was originally from Baltimore and then St. Petersburg, settled in Mascotte and named the town after a ship, "The S.S. Mascotte", which made regular trips from Boston to St. Petersburg. It was believed that he owned an interest in this ship. The name comes from the French spelling of the word mascot and means, animal or thing supposed to bring good luck.



Mr. William Woods rode horseback to Leesburg to mail the letter to Washington, D.C. petitioning that a Post Office be established and this name given to the town. Mail was carried from Okahumpka by horseback until the railroad was completed in 1887, by the Orange Belt Railway Company. The first station agent was R.H. Whitnall and Theodore Ruff was the first Post Master and also had the first store in Mascotte.

The first teacher in the two story school house was William Tidd, who came to Mascotte in 1885 with his brothers, Frank and Charles. Mascotte's first physician was Dr. John Rosenburg, who also came to Lake County in 1885. Dr. Herman Watson (Founder of The Watson Clinic in Lakeland, FL.) served as a physician in Mascotte immediately after graduation from medical school in 1919. He was in practice with Dr. Devane until he moved to Lakeland.

The Empire Church, which was 4 miles south of Mascotte, was established in 1871 which was the first church in south Lake County. The oldest church in Mascotte was built in 1904 and is the same building now occupied by the Mascotte Methodist Church (corner of West Myers Boulevard and North Bay Lake Ave.) King David Jones was the original pastor of this church.



The early settlers of Mascotte had to go to Leesburg by horseback to obtain supplies and food that they were unable to raise or acquire themselves. It was an overnight trip and it was customary to spend the night at Bug Springs which was just outside of Okahumpka.

In 1925, there were three prosperous fruit and vegetable packing houses in Mascotte.

The first Mayor of Mascotte was George M. Myers. The First Council consisted of Council President O.F. May, Councilmen, H.H.Mallard, A.J. Drawdy, C.S. Bragg, and K. Hankins. The first Town Clerk was E.C.Sohn and the First Town Marshall was C.C. Drawdy.

### **Mascotte's Mayoral History**

1925-1926	George M. Myers
1927-1928	Unknown
1929	G.L. O'Brien
1929-1934	Unknown
1935	Dirk Hankins
1936-1940	Dee Udell
1941-1945	E.L. Puryear
1946-1949	C.W. Porterfield
1950-1951	Robert L. Whilhite
1952	Sam Tulk and Edwin Mattson Jr.
1953-1957	Edwin Mattson Jr.
1958-1963	Fred Thomas
1964	Fred Thomas and R.E.Beekman
1965	Fred Thomas and Kenneth Waters
1966-1970	Fred Thomas
1971	Wayland Divine
1972-1979	Fred Thomas
1980-1987	William Harb
1988-1995	Josh Thomas
1996-2005	Stanley Sloan
2005-2007	Jeff Krull
2007-2009	Feliciano Felix Ramirez
2009-2011	Jeff Krull
2011-2014	Tony Rosado



\*Information was gathered from Mascotte's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary brochure. Accounts by Ila Mae Jones