

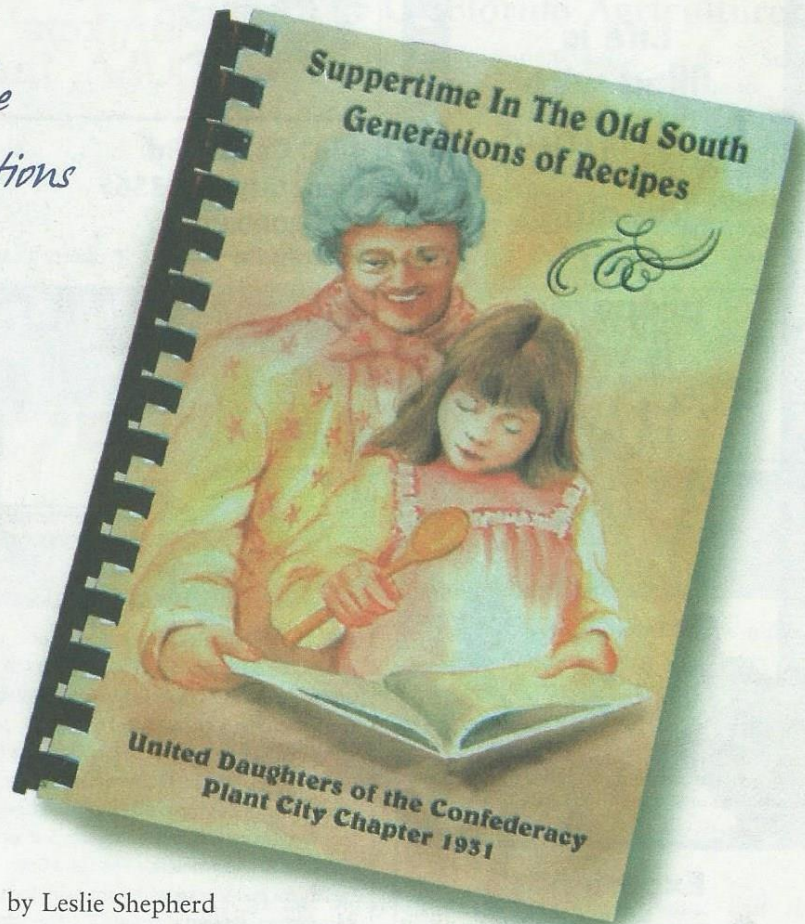
HOMETOWN COOK

The United Daughters of the Confederacy Share Generations of Recipes to Honor the the Florida Cow Cavalry

When the ladies of the Plant City Chapter 1931 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy set their sights on honoring the humanitarian effort of the Florida Cow Cavalry, they did it with the grace, determination and resourcefulness that best defines Southern Belles. For the past several years, the members of the UDC have found numerous ways to raise money for the creation of a memorial honoring the group of cattlemen that provided food for the starving Confederate Army at the end of the War Between the States. "We started by hosting balls and selling T-shirts," explains member and past president, Martha Sue Skinner. "Then we found something that really took off - a cookbook."

Devoted to keeping the past alive for the benefit of the future, the active members of the UDC know the importance of passing down stories, journals, photographs and recipes from one generation to the next. "Throughout the years communication between family members has been an essential form of preserving the past," says member and originator of the cookbook idea, Sally Raburn. "So, to bring together a collection of old time recipes shared throughout the years just seemed to be the solution for our fund raiser." Thus began the effort to compile a unique collection of generational recipes. To insure the authenticity of their project, the recipes submitted had to meet certain qualifications. "To be considered for the cookbook, a recipe had to have been handed down, either through family ties or the bonds of friendship to chapter members," Sally says. "We even had to cut a few recipes that included 'modern' ingredients like packaged cake mixes!"

The result of their labor of love, "Supperime in the Old South," is a treasure trove of favorite southern recipes like Grandma Shuman's Fried Chicken, Leola's Special Zucchini Bread, Mama's Comfort Soup and Cathy's Old Fashion Fudge.



by Leslie Shepherd

Even the book's title brings to mind cherished memories of family gatherings and "secret" ingredients shared between grandmother and grandchild. Member, Carole Shelton, proudly points out one of her family's favorite holiday traditions shared in the book. "Every Christmas, one of us makes a delicious custard passed down from our great grandmother, Mary Noel Moody," she says. Mrs. Moody, the first president of Plant City's UDC chapter, surely would be pleased to know that her great-grand daughters and great-great grand daughters still celebrate this time honored family tradition.

In its fourth printing, the cookbook has been a tremendous success. "We have many people to thank, including Fred's Market for selling our cookbooks from their restaurant," Martha Sue says. Also, the UDC website has received orders from all over the country. To date, sales have almost

covered the expenses incurred in the creation of the sculpted bronze and Georgia gray granite memorial. The members of the UDC will present the memorial as a gift to the Plant City Historical Society on Pioneer Day, November 17th at the 1914 Plant City High School.

With respect for the past, vision for the future and plenty of hard work, the ladies of the UDC have realized their vision of honoring the Florida Cow Cavalry. By preserving the enduring recipes of generations of southern cooks, they have also preserved the memory of brave pioneering cattlemen whose dedication and unselfish sacrifices made a difference.

Cookbooks can be purchased by sending \$14.00 for each cookbook, (Shipping & handling included in this cost.) to "Supperime in the Old South" C/O Martha Sue Skinner 3611 J.L. Redman Parkway Plant City, Florida 33563.