

May 27, 2022



### Mission

Preserving, promoting, and celebrating the unique cultural heritage of Ybor City and supporting the Ybor City Museum State Park

## *NEWS BRIEF*

As we approach the Memorial Day weekend, please join the Ybor City Museum Society in remembering the true meaning of the day, and in honoring those who courageously gave their lives for our country. Many in Ybor City's early immigrant community proudly served their adopted country, as have their descendants. It is part of our history. Let's use this holiday to count our blessings and stand proud.

~Chantal Ruilova Hevia, President and CEO

## Why We Observe



Memorial Day is a day of remembrance. Once called Decoration Day, citizens during and after the American Civil War would place flowers on the graves of soldiers who died in battle, and many cities held days of observances for the families of Confederate and Union soldiers killed in battle. It was in 1868 that John A. Logan, the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, pushed for a public holiday to be held on May 30<sup>th</sup> to honor those comrades who died in the defense of their country. As the head of the organization of Union veterans he was more focused on the Union soldiers who died in the “rebellion” they fought for. After World War I, the day was changed from Decoration Day to Memorial Day to honor all those who died in U.S. wars. In 1971 Memorial Day was set aside as the last Monday in May.

*(Picture from of Britannica.com)*

## This is Ybor....

Ybor City has long been a cultural melting pot and at the heart of the community were the social clubs. Each social club offered its members benefits, but one club was unique to the rest. The German-American Club, located at the corner of Nebraska Ave. and 11<sup>th</sup> St., opened on January 1, 1909 offering memberships to all Ybor City residents, regardless of heritage. A cultural and educational hub, the German-American Club boasted membership from well-respected members of the community including George Stecher, Henry Leiman, and Abe and Julius Maas of the Maas Brothers Department Store. The German-American Club was all inclusive until April of 1917, when anti-German sentiment, due to Germany's leadership in WWI, spread through the United States. The club was ransacked by vandals in 1918, despite the club housing a Red Cross Center, and was forced to close. Tampa's Labor Temple Association purchased the building in 1919 who owned it until 1924. The building changed hands multiple times, most recently by Metro Inclusive Health and CAN Community Health.



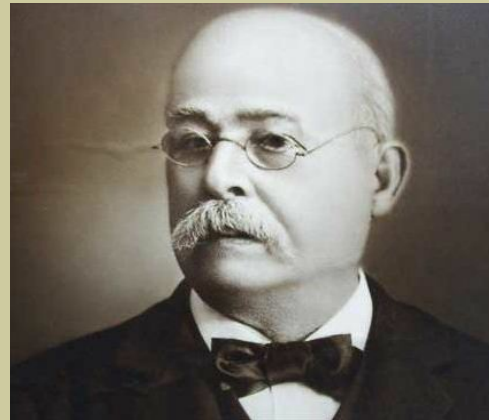
*(German Club 1915, photo courtesy of USF Special Collections)*

## Ybor City in History



*Henry Leiman*

**May 31, 1857**, Henry Leiman was born to German immigrants, Daniel Leimann and Sophia Müller, in New York City. In 1894 Leiman moved to Tampa to manage the William Wicke Company office in Ybor City. On January 6, 1906, Leiman, along with Roland A. Wilson and David Gross, filed the Articles of



**June 2, 1887**, Ybor City was annexed by the City of Tampa. After unsettled relations in Key West and the destruction of his cigar factories, Vicente Martinez-Ybor, was in need of a new location to rebuild. On the recommendation of his friend, Gavino Gutierrez, Ybor visited Tampa and agreed to build a

Incorporation for the Tampa Box Company and took over the business after Wicke's retirement in 1902. Leiman was a prominent member of Ybor City society serving as a chairman for the German-American Club and very active in the Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs.

*(Henry Leiman, tampaboxcompany.com)*

cigar operation. He purchased his first 40 acres of land and began to lay out the plans for the town that would become his namesake. Ybor founded his town in 1885. This initiative began a period of development that ushered in "modern Tampa" and its renown as the "Cigar Capital of the World".



**June 3, 1898**, Teddy Roosevelt and the infamous Rough Riders arrived in Tampa on their way to Cuba to fight in the Spanish-American War. The troops stayed rows of tents, while Roosevelt and other distinguished officers stayed in Henry Plant's Tampa Bay Hotel. On June 13, 1898, the troops departed Port Tampa and arrived in Cuba on June 23, 1898. *(Teddy Roosevelt and soldiers, tamparoughriders.org)*

## Our Heritage ~ This is who we are.



### May ~ Jewish American Heritage

The month of May is celebrated as Jewish American Heritage Month, which began on April 20, 2006. George W. Bush set aside the month to recognize and celebrate the achievements and contributions of American Jews. The Jewish community has deep roots in Ybor City, with many early Jewish immigrants building businesses and distinguishing themselves as important members of the community. After the closing of the German-American club, and the ownership of other businesses, the Young Men's Hebrew Association bought the building and transformed it into an education and recreation center for Tampa's Jewish Community from 1924-1944. *(Logo of Jewish American Heritage, usembassy.gov)*

## COOKING CORNER



## German Potato Salad

Here's an idea for your next gathering of friends and family. This week's recipe is a nod to Ybor City's German heritage and a delicious recipe to take to any cookout.

*(Photo and recipe from [germanfoods.org](http://germanfoods.org))*

[Get the Recipe](#)

## The Ybor City Museum State Park

A visit to the Ybor City Museum State Park is a terrific way to share Tampa's cultural heritage with friends, family, and out-of-town guests.

You can also inquire about renting the Garden, a beautiful 10,000 sq. ft. outdoor space, by [clicking here](#). This unique venue creates its own ambience for your wedding, corporate meeting, or other special event.



**New Hours of Operation :** 9 am - 4 pm Wednesday-Sunday

The "Casita" is currently closed for maintenance.

Admission: \$4 per person, free for children 5 years and younger

1818 E. 9th Avenue, Tampa, FL 33605, 813.247.6323



## Membership

Join or renew your Ybor City Museum Society membership so that you can enjoy free admission to the Ybor City Museum State Park, special events, and discounts.

Membership donations support exhibits and educational programming.

[Join or renew today.](#)

## Our Community

**Tampa Baseball Museum at the Al Lopez House.** Experience 135 years of Tampa's iconic baseball heritage through exhibits, artifacts and interactive displays. Admission is free to all members of the military on Memorial Day weekend. [More Information.](#)

**Saturday Yoga in Ybor, every Saturday at 9:30 am .** Join others in community yoga in the Ybor City Museum State Park Garden. Classes are donation based and proceeds benefit the Park. Learn more at [Yoga in Ybor's Facebook.](#)



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The Ybor City Museum Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization,  
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donations are tax deductible to the extent the law allows.

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