



Washington County Historical Society

P.O. Box 6088, Sandersville, Georgia 31082

Brown House Museum
Washington County Genealogical Research Center & Old Jail Museum

Volume 24, Issue 3 Summer 2021

Upcoming

- Membership Meeting: July 26th 2021
- The Museums are open with COVID-19 precautions in place!
- 2021 Membership Renewal
- Next Membership Meeting: October 25th 2021

President's Message

Dear Friends,

It is the season of fireworks, swimming pools, popsicles, and parades all in honor of America's birthday, but did you know that there is another important date to celebrate this month? The Washington County Historical Society was established on July 4, 1976 making it 45 years old!

A celebration of this momentous occasion would not be complete without recognizing YOU, our loyal members. Your generosity makes it possible for the Society to continue carrying out the work of organization, preservation, and education of the history of our county. Thank you for your continued support!

YOU, our Society members, are the heart of the organization and as such I request your help in spreading the word about the Washington County Historical Society and its work. Please encourage your friends, neighbors, and coworkers, etc... to join our ranks and become part of the exciting work of preserving the stories and artifacts of our county's past for generations to come. The more we grow, the stronger and more diverse we will become.

Thank you again for your contributions and support. Enjoy your summer!

David H. Brooker, President

HISTORICAL SOCIETY T-SHIRTS NOW AVAILABLE

Help support the Washington County Historical Society and look great doing it. Get your very own Washington County Courthouse t-shirt in either Blossom pink or Chambray blue. Designs are printed on high quality Comfort Color shirts and are available in sizes S – XXL.

Visit www.wacohistorical.org to purchase with debit or credit card for local pickup or shipping.

Size Small, Medium, Large & X Large - \$28.00 plus tax
XX Large - \$30.00 plus tax



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Next Society Membership Meeting Program
July 26, 2021

Celebrating 45 Years of the Washington County Historical Society with Mary Alice Jordan: The July 2021 Program

Hand-written minutes by Secretary Mrs. Mary Alice Jordan show that on October 18, 1976, the first meeting of the Washington County Historical Society was held in the Sandersville Public Library on the courthouse square. The country was celebrating its 200th birthday that year, and the Washington County Bicentennial Committee proposed to form a historical society. Their nominating committee chose Cecil Hodges as President, Harold Sheppard as Vice President, Charlie V. Smith as Treasurer, as well as Mary Alice as Secretary. At the first meeting Clifford Bell accepted the post as Program Chair. President Cecil reported a whopping 320 charter members already committed, and he asked for a meeting two days later "to look at the jail building as a possible site for headquarters and museum."

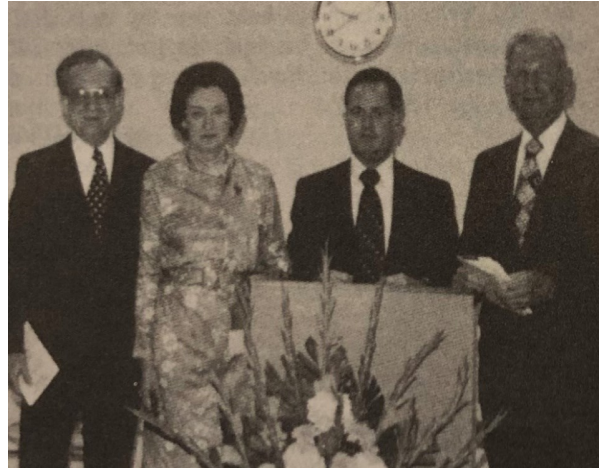
At 100 years of age, Miss Mary Alice is the remaining treasured source of memories of these events. We are fortunate and pleased to show you video clips of a June 2021 interview with Miss Mary Alice regarding the early years of the Historical Society.

Mary Alice Brim arrived in Sandersville in 1945 to teach at the Sandersville High School (SHS), as librarian and director of special projects for the senior class. She had held a similar post in Soperton and was invited to come to SHS by the Superintendent of Schools who had worked with her in Soperton a year earlier. She remembers during her direction, one year the senior class play won 2nd in the state and another year they took 4th place. Miss Mary Alice met Newton Marion Jordan, Jr., known to all as Buddy, when he came home from World War II. They married in 1948, and for the next 27 years, Miss Mary Alice was busy being a librarian and teacher, a mother of two, a partner to her husband in their floral business, and an active member of the Transylvania and Pilot Clubs. And the rest, as they say, is Washington County History!

After helping to establish the historical society in 1976 with headquarters and a museum in the Old Jail, the contributions by Miss Mary Alice continued. She took the lead on the compilation, editing, and publishing of *Cotton to Kaolin, a History of Washington County Georgia 1784-1989*, the society's 590-page history book by eight major authors and numerous others.

Following the purchase of the Brown House in 1989, Miss Mary Alice played a key role in its decade-long restoration project, then served as the Director of the Brown House Museum for another decade until 2010. We thank Miss Mary Alice for the gift of your service toward the discovery and preservation of our county history and for making it available and inspiring to our citizens and children!

Please join us on our website wacohistorical.org for a video presentation featuring portions of an exclusive interview with Mary Alice Jordan about the impressive scope of accomplishments of the Washington County Historical Society during its



The first officers of the Washington County Historical Society in 1976. L-R: Charlie V. Smith, Treasurer, Mary Alice Jordan, Secretary, Cecil Hodges, President, Harold Sheppard, Vice President



Mary Alice Jordan and Cecil Hodges receiving the award for **Excellence in Restoration of the Brown House** from the President of the Georgia Trust, Greg Paxton, in 2000 on behalf of the Washington County Historical Society

Brown House Museum - David Brooker

45 years of existence. The video will premiere on July 26th at 7:30 p.m. on the website and on Facebook. Stay tuned for our October meeting, when we hope to have our first in-person gathering in 18 months to celebrate the 45th Anniversary of our very special Washington County Historical Society!



Jordan and Lewis West opening the 25-year-old time capsule



Jordan giving a talk to school children

African American Committee - Eddie Mae Gilmore

Mrs. Selina Graves, who resides in Deepstep is now a vendor at the local Sandersville Farmer's Market. Selina, a Culinary Chef, has a variety of health and pastry goods for sale. She has organically grown products which includes herbal teas, loaf cakes, ginger candy and much more. Each week Selina and her daughter come to the Sandersville Farmer's Market to display their products. She's very knowledgeable, well versed and takes pride in her products. Selina is currently coming to the market on Wednesdays only.

Mrs. Tiffany Ghert, Selina's sister, grows the variety of organic herbal teas. The name of her brand of teas is called "Star Cast Tea". The brand includes a variety of personally named teas such as "Have a Good Night", "Mint Condition", Poetic Justice, Weight Loss, "The Marley Blend" and many more. If you would like more information about Tiffany's teas and Selina's health products and pastries, please visit the website; www.starcasttea.com or call 470-582-6742. Let's come out and support our local merchants located in downtown Sandersville Square every Wednesday and Saturday mornings!



THE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI “HE RELINQUISHED EVERYTHING TO SAVE THE REPUBLIC.”

By: Mary Murphy

We infrequently hear or read about this patriotic Society; thus, many have no knowledge of /or understanding of its existence or longevity. A fraternal hereditary society with thirteen constituent societies in the United States and one in France, it was formed 13 May 1783. Members of the Society are qualified male descendants of OFFICERS of the Continental Army.

The society goals are to perpetuate “the remembrance of this vast event (referring to the American Independence,) “to preserve inviolate those exalted rights and liberties of human nature, and “to render permanent the cordial affection subsisting among the officers of the Continental Army.”

In actuality their goals were: “to preserve the rights so clearly won promoting the continuing union of the states; to assist members in need, their widows, and their orphans and to maintain camaraderie among the officers of the Continental Army.”

It is the oldest patriotic hereditary society in America. Now in the third century of its existence the society promotes public interest in the Revolutionary War through its library and museum collections, publications and other activities. National headquarters are located at the Anderson House, Washington, D.C.

The Society of the Cincinnati was formed by Major General Henry Knox at Fishkill, N.Y. Knox had served as the army’s chief artillery officer. The village of Fishkill played an important role in the Revolutionary War. George Washington established the largest supply depot and encampment at Fishkill which existed from 1776-1783. A vast military encampment was established to guard the mountain army pass to the south. It was the main supply depot of the northern division for the Continental Army. It would have been a likely site for General Washington to confer with other officers, thus creating an atmosphere of comradeship.



Maj. General Henry Knox

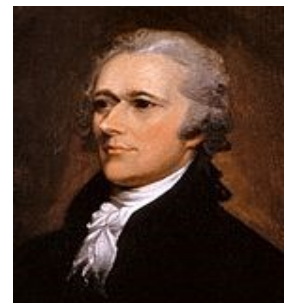


General George Washington

The Society was named after Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus. A Roman patrician, statesman and military leader of the early Roman Republic. He became a legendary example of Roman Virtue-particularly civic virtue. The first meeting of the society was presided by Major General Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben with Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Hamilton “serving as the orator.” The organizational meeting and dinner were held at present-day Mount Gulian, the headquarters of von Steuben.



Maj. General von Steuben



Lt. Col. Alexander Hamilton

Those present agreed to continue to stay in touch with each other after the war (at the time of the meeting the British had not evacuated New York.)

The founders of the Society referred to themselves as “Cincinnati.” This was a plural form of the name Cincinnatus – to indicate their commitment to the virtues of the Roman hero, Cincinnatus.

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The Society if the Cincinnati

(Continued from page 4)

With many prominent officers joining the newly formed Society and with the founders of the *Society of Cincinnati* requiring membership to be based on heredity, negative public opinion was easily formed. However, members and non-members quickly came to the defense of the Society, changing public opinion by proving the new organization was not a threat to the liberty of the country. They worked to encourage membership and fellowship, and the requirement to show proof of heredity stood. Could this have been the predecessor to membership requirements in all other patriotic organizations in the United States?

But, what of the Society of the Cincinnati in the state of Georgia and how does it involve Washington County? The Georgia Society was organized in Savannah 13 August 1784. It weathered a few years of tumultuous existence. General Lachlan McIntosh at Captain John Lucas's headquarters in Savannah assembled the Georgia Society. It was the seventh "constituent society" to be organized.

General McIntosh was elected as the first president; Col. Samuel Elbert, vice president; Capt. John Milton, secretary; Lt. Col. John McIntosh, treasurer; and Maj John Habersham, assistant treasurer. The original members numbered nearly forty but with the association of other constituent societies the membership increased as other Society members moved to Georgia after the Revolutionary War.

Records indicate the last recorded meeting of these original members, of which records have survived, was held in Savannah, 2 March 1822. No further activity seems to have transpired until the Georgia Society was reorganized 4 March 1899 and was readmitted as a constituent society by the General Society, 18 October 1902. The Society held regular meetings through the end of the eighteenth century. "The original records of the Georgia Society have been presumed lost for more than a century and there is little likelihood they will ever be found."

However, Mr. Francis Foster, one of the men instrumental in the reorganization in 1902, was able to research old issues of the Georgia Gazette and using personal journals, letters and files from the Secretary of State, and record reports of early meetings, etc. It seems there was little business to be transacted but a social atmosphere existed at the meetings.

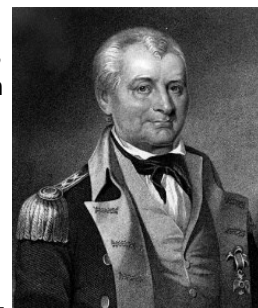
The minutes of the meeting of 4 July 1791 revealed: "after the business of the day [election of officers] was concluded, "The Society dined together, and spent the evening in mirth and harmony, and the following toast were drank: [there were fifteen toast!]."

The Society of the Cincinnati was a very active organization in Georgia until many of the aged members became less active. The Society along with seven others ceased meeting in the early nineteenth century.

As previously noted, seventy-seven years after the last meeting 4 March 1899, the Georgia Society was revived by the descendants of the original members. The organization was readmitted to the General Society 18, October 1902. And since that time, it has continued to thrive.



Mount Gulian



General Lachlan McIntosh

(Continued on page 6)

The Society if the Cincinnati

(Continued from page 5)

The Georgia Society currently has 115 members meeting twice a year in Savannah. As with other organization they are comprised of various committees functioning throughout the year to carry on the responsibilities of the Society. These responsibilities include educating the public on the principal values our forefathers of set forth during the Revolution. It supports the General Society's French Scholar Program, Family Exchange Program, Historical Activities and Cabe Scholarships. The maintenance of the museum housed in the state headquarters in Savannah is another of the society's beneficial services. Since 1985 the Savannah headquarters has been located in the Harper-Fowlkes House which was bequeathed to the Society by Alida Harper Fowlkes.

The Society of the Cincinnati's presence or absence in Washington County seems to go without notice. There are few, if any members left (a role of names is not available) in our county, thus attention to this patriotic organization has not gained the notoriety of the others in the county. It should not be considered "an elite" organization. But across the country it may have gained this title. The stipulation a member must be a descendant of an "OFFICER OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY" may been a dividing line.

There is no known original list of the members who "FORMED" the Georgia Society of the Cincinnati or a roll of those attending the meeting of 1 September 1783. A list of members has been compiled from the minutes of the earliest meetings as published in the Georgia Gazette. From Washington County we find an original member listed: *Lt. Colonel Francis Tennille*

The Society of the Cincinnati whether in Georgia, Virginia, North Carolina or other states, all have a common ground just as other patriotic organizations do. Whether providing education, cultural programs, museums, voting and/or showing respect for the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance, standing for the Star-Spangled Banner, or honoring our forefathers there is a shared "common bond." The bond of human decency, care of their fellow man and the love of their country through patriotic altruism.

Brown House Museum - David Brooker

We are thrilled that two pieces of furniture original to the Brown House have found their way home again. A fainting couch was recently donated to the museum by Mr. and Mrs. Neil Pittman while Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Boatright are donating an armoire that once stood in the house. We are excited to welcome these lovely pieces home and cannot wait to have visitors in to see our new acquisitions as soon as they are in place. Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Pittman and Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Boatright for bringing these pieces home.



Membership Report - Alisa Norris Scott

Please remember that your 2021 membership was due in January regardless of when you paid your membership in 2020. Thank you to those that have paid dues for 2021 and to those that have made donations. **2021 Members Dues are \$30.00 for Individual / Households.** To pay dues for 2021, go online on our website: <https://wacohistorical.org/membership/>

You may also mail your dues payment to:

Washington County Historical Society
PO Box 6088
Sandersville, GA 31082

Membership Listings

Life Members:

Listed only in January letter.

New Members:

Davis, Betty
Greene, Juliet
Miller, Delino

Member Renewals:

Avant, David & Sandra D
Black, Bill & Susan
Brooker, David & Anne
Brookins Jr, C.V.
Brown, Ted & Jody
Carson, Jeanne
Cowan, Mike & Linda
Cummings, Carolyn
Dana, John & Karen
Davis, Betty
Davis, James Mason & Rose Maria
Durden, Clarence & Dianne
Edwards, Patricia
Flanagan, Randy & Rita
Fowler, Zachary & Anne
Franklin, Michael
Gilmore, Eddie Mae Miller
Jackson, Kayla
Mayberry, Randy & Cathy
McMaster, Billy & Faye
McMaster, Paula
Mercer, Sandy & Judy
Miller, Delino
Moore, Readith
Murphy, Mary
Nunnally, Nona Coston
O'Connor, Peggy Wood
Ouzts, Ben
Perry, Leon
Pfeil, Brady & Pat
Pittman, Neil & Penny
Scott, Alisa
Smith, Otis & Anne
Smith, Ricky & Deborah
Storm, Bruce & Carol
Uslan, Jim & Louise
Witter Jr, Edward & Sally
Zaenglein, David
CVB Industrial Contracting Inc

General Fund Donations:

Cummings, Carolyn
Bishop, Lori H
Durden, Clarence & Dianne
Fowler, Zachary & Anne
Garner, JoAnn W.
Jordan, Mary Alice
May, E. K. & Debby
Ouzts, Ben
Smith, Lucy Nell
Storm, Bruce & Carol
Young, Jr, Frank & Louise
Shurling, Jack & Mary
Flanagan, Randy & Rita
CVB Industrial Contracting, Inc.

William H & Gina Wiggins
Mark & Barbara West
Horace & Ann Daniel
Thomas & Karen Joiner
Harry & Joyce Lewis
Susie & Bomi Bilimoria
L.P. Cato
CVB Industrial Contracting

General Fund Memorials:

William Francis
Fowler, Zachary & Anne

Kathleen Brown Edwards
Young, Frank & Louise

Brown House Memorials:

Clifford A. Bell
Jordan, Mary Alice

Cecil Hodges
Jordan, Mary Alice

Benjamin J. Tarbutton, Jr.
Jordan, Mary Alice

Billy Veal
Jordan, Mary Alice

Lewis West
Jordan, Mary Alice

Norma Wright
Jordan, Mary Alice

GRC Memorials:

Edna Huckaby Lewis
Wayne & Joy Norris
Ricky & Deborah Smith
Georgia Farm Bureau
Geo D Warthen Bank
Bennie & Mary Ellen Bussell
Randy & Debbie Bradberry
Billy & Karen Smith
Michael & Donna Borders
Randy & Harriett Pritchard
Tony Marshall



WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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wacohistorical.org
occupationofsandersville.org

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**THE JANUARY 2021 MEMBERSHIP MEETING PROGRAM
WILL BE VIRTUAL VIA FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE**

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The Geo. D. Warthen Bank

2021 Membership
To pay 2021 membership
dues, please visit:

wacohistorical.org/membership/



Georgia Plates

Start or complete
your collection.

Dinner Plates - \$49.95
Salad Plates - \$46.44

Plate sales benefit the
Brown House Museum.



Visit us!



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Membership for 2021 is
January to December.